

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Queensland Election

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (22/3/01)—

With reference to the Hon P D Beattie, who on 30 July 1998 at 10.30 am, by leave, without notice moved—

'That this House expresses its confidence in the Beattie Labor Government; and further, the Parliament advises the Governor that no writ should be issued for a general election to be held before 5 May 2001 without express resolution of the Parliament.' and later in his speech supporting this motion, the Premier stated: 'Start as you mean to carry on is my motto, and that was demonstrated very clearly.' and despite this advice to the Governor, Mr Beattie's forty-ninth Queensland Parliament called an election of 23 January 2001 and today, Thursday 22 March, we sit in the first official session of Queensland's 50th Parliament—

- (1) What happened to make him change his promise to the Governor and to the citizens of this great State?
- (2) Does the fact that he broke his promise sit comfortably with his constant undertaking to the electorate that he is the Premier who will tolerate no dishonesty, within his Government?
- (3) Will he be making a similar undertaking to the Governor and the electorate concerning this Parliament which is now in session?

Mr BEATTIE (19/4/01):

1. Queensland needs and deserves stable government, something that we achieved in very difficult circumstances during Queensland's 49th Parliament. But by late last year and early this year this stability, secured in Parliament with the support of the Member for Nicklin, was being jeopardised by the Liberal-National Party Coalition which was demanding an early election in an attempt to take political advantage of ALP discomfort over the so called 'roths affair'. This campaign was undermining confidence in Queensland. Businesses were becoming jittery and there was concern that important investment decisions could be postponed because of the growing climate of uncertainty.

It was always my intention for Queensland's 49th Parliament to run its full term. Despite the hostile political climate of late 2000 and early 2001 I was determined to put Queensland first. There was no doubt Queensland was being hurt by the political uncertainty and political point scoring, so on January 11 I cut short my annual break with my family to embark on a listening tour to find out what Queenslanders thought about the matter.

I travelled extensively to North Queensland, central—western Queensland, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Toowoomba.

There was no doubt where the Queensland Opposition stood. On January 22 the Gold Coast Bulletin carried the headline: Borbidge demands election be called. Business likewise was convinced it was time. The Courier-Mail of January 23 shouted: Bosses demand instant election, the same message they delivered to me personally at a meeting later that morning.

Of the hundreds and hundreds of ordinary Queenslanders I met and listened to as I travelled around Queensland, the overwhelming majority favoured an election. I listened to them, I took their advice.

On Tuesday, January 23, when calling the election I said: The overwhelming message from all over the State, from both battlers and business, from city and country, is that most people want to go to the polls as soon as possible.

On February 17, in the ultimate test of community sentiment, Queensland electors endorsed that verdict, giving my Government an overwhelming mandate to return political stability to Queensland for the next three years.

2. On January 22 this year I stood under the Tree of Knowledge, which marks the birthplace in Barcaldine of the A.L.P. in Queensland, and released details of a two-part reform package targeting A.L.P. Party rules and the electoral system. This reform package fixes many of the problems revealed by the Shepherdson Inquiry. Queensland electors know that actions speak much louder than words. My stand against dishonesty in public life speaks for itself and was overwhelmingly endorsed by Queensland electors on February 17.

3. The purpose of the Motion moved on 30 July 1998 was to ensure stable government in Queensland following a period of considerable political instability that was harming the State. On February 17 Queensland electors endorsed my Government with an overwhelming vote of support that ensures political stability in Queensland for another three years.

2. Reform of Legal Profession

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (22/3/01)—

- (1) As the new Attorney-General, what is his intention for reform of the legal profession following on from his predecessor?
- (2) What is the timeframe for progressing reform of the legal profession, including introduction of enabling legislation?

Mr WELFORD (18/4/01):

(1) Last December, the former Attorney-General announced the proposals arising from the Government's review of legal profession reform issues. A small number of issues remain under review, including the incorporation of legal practices and multi-disciplinary practices. I will be discussing these with key stakeholders.

(2) I anticipate legislation to implement reforms will be introduced into the Parliament later this year.

3. Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Program

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (22/3/01)—

With reference to his employment policy—

- (1) How much money was spent on the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Program in the first term of his Government?
- (2) Of the \$470m he says will be spent on the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Program over the next three years, how much will be spent each year and how much will be allocated to each department?

Mr BEATTIE (19/4/01):

(1) \$170.3m.

My Government achieved its original four-year target of 24,500 new jobs for Queensland in March—18 months ahead of schedule.

The Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative was established in October 1998.

Achieving the four-year target of 24,500 jobs in under two-and-a-half years was a major achievement not only for the government, but also for Queensland's job seekers.

Unemployment in Queensland remains unacceptably high. It remains our single greatest challenge.

We came to office with a commitment to help the people who are most disadvantaged in the labour market—young people and the long-term unemployed.

With our jobs and training strategies we are at least giving the long-term unemployed a means of returning to the workforce and giving young people the skills with which to earn a living.

Since October 1998, under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative:

9,969 extra apprentices and trainees have been employed in crucial, skills shortage industries by 5227 private employers and 30 group training organisations who have received cash incentives totalling \$16.9 million;

6076 extra trainees and 584 extra apprentices have been employed by local and State Government;

4,706 unemployed people have gained paid work and jobs experience on 372 community projects that have received \$54.3 million funding from the Community Jobs Plan;

2905 unemployed people have gained work after receiving training, job search and other assistance from community organisations under 228 projects that received \$12.9 million funding from the Community Employment Assistance Program;

341 people have gained apprenticeships or traineeships under the Housing Industry Trade Training (Plus) scheme; and

318 apprenticeships, traineeships and cadetships have been generated on major State Government infrastructure projects through the 10 percent training policy.

(2) The State Government is now moving to fulfil its 2001 electoral pledge of delivering 56,000 jobs over six years.

This Government has extended the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative to 30 June 2004. The total anticipated cost of the initiative from commencement to 30 June 2004 is \$469.9m. The estimated amount that will be spent over the next three years is February 2001-June 2001—\$33.0m, 2001-2002—\$97.0m, 2002-2003—\$92.3m and 2003-2004—\$77.3m.

The majority of programs under the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle Initiative are directed at local government and community organisations. The only funding that is allocated to government departments is funding for the Public Sector Apprenticeship and Traineeship program. Annual allocations under this program are based on the capacity of Departments to take and train apprentices and trainees. As the numbers of apprentices and trainees for each Department vary from year to year, I am not able to give exact estimates for each year but my Government's record speaks for itself.

We are now also working to implement our election mandate to help the mature aged unemployed, for too long the invisible and forgotten people in the national economic debate.

4. Pest Eradication

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/3/01)—

With reference to the recently detected outbreak of red fire ants and the widespread outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) overseas, both of which have again highlighted the need for effective surveillance and rapid response systems—

- (1) What financial provisions have been made to eradicate the red fire ant incursion and will this be funded from the Department of Primary Industries budget alone?
- (2) What contingency plan is in place and what financial provisions has the Government made in the event of an incursion of FMD?
- (3) Does his department and other agencies conduct simulated exercises to enable them to deal with outbreaks of exotic disease?
- (4) What liaison has occurred with neighbouring countries where FMD occurs?
- (5) What measures are being taken on crown land, national parks and other tenures to eradicate feral pig populations, which would be a major carrier of the disease?
- (6) Has a departmental officer been appointed to take responsibility in the event of an FMD outbreak?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/4/01):

(1) An emergency response to the fire ant incursion has been in place since first detection was confirmed on 22 February 2001. Close to \$400,000 has been expended for this effort. \$350,000 from DPI resources and \$50,000 from other supporting agencies.

Funding assistance is being sought under existing Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management cost sharing arrangements for an initial three month scoping stage to assess what are the best long term options while restricting the spread of ants and undertaking further surveillance.

A submission will be prepared to seek funding from state government for Queensland's portion of any future national program and for the funding of any non-cost shared activities.

(2) Ausvetplan is a national plan which sets out a complete framework for the management of an outbreak in Australia. The Department of Primary Industries is the lead agency for an FMD response under Qldvetplan, a sub-plan of the state

disaster plan. Contingency plans are in place within the department and with other government agencies. These are being even further strengthened given the increasing risk from overseas.

FMD is subject to a Commonwealth/States cost sharing agreement.

(3) Yes.

This is an activity of the department's project on emergency response capability costing \$1m per annum. Most recent exercises include a simulated FMD outbreak in central Queensland in the week of 26 March and a cross state border FMD exercise centred in Cloncurry during the week of 2 April.

In addition to these exercises, three training courses have been conducted for supervisors of infected premises in 2001, four controllers of local disease control centres underwent training in Adelaide late last year. Officers participated in a large exercise northern shield involving the Australian defence forces last July run from Darwin.

(4) Department of primary industries veterinarians have contributed to the international liaison on FMD and other disease risks through recent surveillance activities in PNG and Indonesia. Veterinary officers have conducted international training courses on emergency responses to FMD, the latest in February in Indonesia. Two veterinary officers were sent to UK in March to assist in the response to the FMD outbreak.

(5) Feral pig control is a responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources and Mining. Plans are in place via the Australian veterinary emergency plan (Ausvetplan) to address feral pig control in the event of an outbreak. DNR has been involved in the planning, training and exercising required.

(6) The lead agency role of the department of primary industries carries with it the pivotal decision-making role being that of chief, state disease control headquarters. This role will normally be filled by the State's chief veterinary officer who may be relieved by various other senior department of primary industries veterinary officers.

5. Heavy Vehicle Accidents

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/3/01)—

With reference to Department of Transport reports that indicate a significant increase in heavy vehicle fatalities over the past two years—

What are the statistics to date for accidents involving heavy vehicles compared to the past two years and will he outline what programs the Government proposes to undertake to enhance the safety of heavy vehicles?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/4/01): Queensland's road safety outcomes have improved dramatically in the last ten years. Last year, our road toll of 318 averaged 8.9 fatalities per 100,000 population. This compares with rates of over 13 per 100,000 in the early 1990s.

In line with this, the number of crashes involving heavy vehicles has been declining in recent years. While there was an increase in fatal heavy vehicle crashes last year, the number of heavy vehicle crashes involving serious casualties dropped. For all crashes, the number involving heavy vehicles has dropped from 1,621 in 1996 to 1,545 in 1999 and 1,485 in 2000.

For the period 1 January to 8 April this year, there were twelve fatal crashes involving heavy vehicles, compared with 22 in 2000 and four in 1999 for the same period. Of the twelve fatal crashes this year, the heavy vehicle was considered most at fault in only three of them. Data is not yet available for other severity crashes this year.

The Government has a comprehensive framework for managing road safety in Queensland and this includes specific actions for heavy vehicle safety. This framework includes:

- The Road Use Management Strategy;
- The Road Safety Strategy; and
- The Road Network Strategy.

Examples of specific programs include:

- Performance-based Standards for heavy vehicles which will be presented to the Australian Transport Council in May;
- Queensland Transport (QT) is the lead agency in the National Fatigue Management Program;
- implementation of Chain of Responsibility provisions to ensure that owners, as well as drivers, are liable for non-compliance with road transport laws;
- continuing work with the Road Freight Industry Council on policies to improve road safety in the industry;
- maintaining a strong on-road heavy vehicle compliance presence to encourage safe operations on our roads; and
- active in monitoring and enforcing heavy vehicle road safety by the Queensland Police Service.

6. Mr C. Cox; Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (22/3/01)—

With reference to Mr Cyril Cox who on or about the 27 January 2000 was transported by ambulance from the Nambour Hospital to the Princess Alexandra Hospital for emergency treatment and on arrival at the Princess Alexandra Hospital staff appeared to not know how to care for Mr Cox and on one occasion a nurse arrived at Mr Cox's bed and stated to the present family members that the automatic drip attached to Mr Cox was required by another patient and the equipment was removed and Mr Cox was provided with a hand pump and as staff appeared to experience difficulty in operating the replacement equipment and on another occasion Mr Cox was haemorrhaging and the staff could not locate his file and a short time later, Mr Cox passed away—

In light of the above incidents, will she advise if this type of conduct by staff is tolerated; if not, what action has her department taken to respond to the failings of the health service?

Mrs EDMOND (23/4/01): I am advised that the incident has been thoroughly investigated and the treatment Mr Cyril Cox received was entirely appropriate at all times. It is well documented in his chart that he received appropriate care and

management at all times, and a senior consultant surgeon at the hospital was actually present at the time of his final problems. However I am not at liberty to discuss details to the treatment in order to respect client confidentiality. I can understand that the family may well be upset at the course of events. The misplacement of his file was an unfortunate occurrence. Mechanisms are in place to try and prevent such incidents and there is a sophisticated computerised tracking system that is designed to minimise problems. The staff at the Princess Alexandra Hospital have offered to speak with the family if there are any issues that they would like clarified or if that would help them to deal with their grieving process. I would encourage the family to contact Dr Judy Graves, Deputy Director Medical Services on telephone 3240 7349.

7. Harburg Investments Pty Ltd, Liquor Licence

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (22/3/01)—

With reference to the application for a liquor licence by Harburg Investments Pty Ltd for a Cheers Tavern to be located at 1/9 Marshall Road, Kenmore—

- (1) How many objections have been received by the Liquor Licensing Commission to the application?
- (2) What are the most common reasons given for objecting to the application?
- (3) Over the past two years will she list the five applications that have received the most objections, including the number of objectors, the proposed location of the liquor outlet, the name of the applicant and the decision of the commission?
- (4) What additional steps will the commission be undertaking to obtain community input on the application, in addition to the public meeting held at Chapel Hill State School on 6 February 2001?
- (5) When is a decision on the application expected to be made by the commission?

Mrs ROSE (23/4/01):

- (1) 1386 objections & two (2) submissions on public need have been received.
- (2) The main issues raised by all objectors are as follows:-

the subject premises adjoins residential areas;

there will be an increase in the hours and extent of facilities provided by the existing restaurant;

pedestrian traffic between the applicant premises and the existing tavern, being the Kenmore Tavern, will create amenity and offence problems;

traffic issues such as an increase in the traffic causing congestion in a already congested area due to the ingress and egress for the premises being off Marshall Lane and near the intersection with Moggill Road;

insufficient parking spaces within the premises' carpark, which will lead to street parking, and therefore, causing further congestion;

noise from entertainment and patrons leaving the premises;

increase in vandalism and littering in the nearby creek/parklands;

air pollution from the micro brewery;

the premises is located within close proximity to schools and child care facilities. Marshall Lane is a primary access road for several of the schools;

several churches are located in close proximity to the premises;

an increase in availability of gaming machines in the locality;

the proliferation of dining and liquor outlets in the locality; and

exacerbation of existing problems with juvenile delinquency.

- (3) The Liquor Licensing Division's database does not record applications for liquor licences by the number of objections. It only records applications by licence type, applicant, address, etc. However, a manual search of the records indicate that the following premises, excluding the Cheers Tavern, Kenmore, appear to have had the most objections in the past two (2) years—

- (a) Wetlands Tavern, 107 Stanworth Road, Boondall. The total number of objections received was 1045. No decision has been made due to outstanding town planning issues yet to be resolved.
- (b) Trinity Beach Tavern, 2-4 Trinity Beach Road & 79-81 Vasey Esplanade, Trinity Beach. The total number of objections received was 690, with 15 submissions on public need received. The application was refused by the Chief Executive.
- (c) Beach Hotel Peregian, 221-227 David Low Way, Peregian Beach. Application for a Detached Bottleshop located at Shop 4, 28-34 Duke Street, Sunshine Beach. The total number of objections received was 558, with one (1) submission on public need received. No decision has been made to date.
- (d) Caledonian Hotel, Bell Street, Ipswich. Application for a Detached Bottleshop located at 114 Downs Road, North Ipswich. The total number of objections received was 481. No decision has been made to date.
- (e) Charlie Brown Bistro, cnr Bamford Lane & Mill Drive, Kirwan. The total number of objections received was 409. The application was refused by the Delegate of the Chief Executive.

- (4) The advertising of the application and the subsequent objection conference is the community consultation required by the Liquor Act. If further information or clarification is required, objectors may be contacted on an individual basis.

- (5) It is not possible at this point in time to give a time frame for a decision on the application due to the weight of objections received and the issues involved. However, the Division will continue to process the application expeditiously.

8. Class Sizes

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (22/3/01)—

- (1) Since the start of this year, how many additional teachers have been employed by Education Queensland to reduce class sizes as required under the Enterprise Bargain Agreement?
- (2) What is the new maximum class size for these teachers?

Ms BLIGH (23/4/01):

- (1) The agreement reached with the Queensland Teachers Union (QTU) included the following:

A total package of \$132m over 4 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.

Implementation is to be agreed with the union, through a joint taskforce established to research and consider appropriate strategies and resource allocation possibilities for managing class sizes.

The inaugural meeting of the joint taskforce was recently held and I expect to be able to announce in the near future, the number of additional teachers employed in this year through this initiative.

- (2) Target class size ratios will remain unchanged. The significant investment of the 800 additional teachers will be used in a targeted approach to achieve the best possible outcomes for students. This will include identifying particular sectors or areas where the investment of additional teachers will achieve maximum impact.

9. Tarong North Project

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (22/3/01)—

With reference to the Tarong North project and the statements made that 30 per cent of employees would be locals—

- (1) How many employed on the project in all areas including construction, security, management and ancillary staff have in fact been (a) local residents of the shires of Kingaroy, Nanango and Rosalie for longer than three months prior to the announcement of the project, (b) local residents of the shires of Kingaroy, Nanango and Rosalie for longer than three months prior to the commencement of construction, (c) registered locally as unemployed for more than six months prior to the announcement of the project and (d) registered locally as unemployed for more than six months prior to the commencement of the project?
- (2) How many apprenticeships and traineeships have been made available at commencement and during construction and how many have been taken up by locals?
- (3) What is the expected commencement date of the second unit for the Tarong North project?

Mr ROBERTSON (3/4/01): This is an energy related issue and should be redirected to my colleague, the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport.

10. Mining Exploration Permits

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (22/3/01)—

- (1) What are the latest moves in hand to revoke the Mining Exploration Permits granted to RZM Mines and BHP at Byfield?
- (2) What areas of land are involved with permits issued to RZM and BHP mining companies?
- (3) When will these permits be revoked or surrendered as is the case, I believe, relating to BHP?
- (4) Is he aware that stage 2 of the Byfield National Park is on hold and in fact some of this land is being damaged until such time as these exploration permits are revoked?

Mr WELLS (20/4/01):

(1-3) Questions 1, 2 and 3 would be more appropriately addressed to my colleague the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines.

(4) The department informs me that Stage 2 of the Byfield National Park was completed in 1994 when an area of about 270 hectares was added to the Park.

I am informed that much of this damage the Honourable Member mentions occurred to land within the mining lease recently surrendered by BHP Titanium Minerals Pty Ltd. I am taking steps to include at least 170 hectares of land that was in the mining lease in Stage 3 of the Byfield National Park. This will allow more appropriate management of this significant coastal area.

11. Browns Plains State High School

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Education (22/3/01)—

Is she aware of the need for a special education unit at the Browns Plains State High School; if so, what action is the department prepared to take to help the students, teachers and parents to improve the situation?

Ms BLIGH (23/4/01): I am aware of the circumstances at Browns Plains State High School and of the situation of the Special Education Unit at the school. Browns Plains State High School has converted two change rooms in an amenities block for use as a Special Education Unit and has re-fitted the spaces to meet student needs. This has enabled the school to utilise existing classrooms for other purposes.

I appreciate that the existing environment for the Special Education Unit may not be ideal. However, Browns Plains State High School's enrolments have declined by some 100 students, or broadly the equivalent of 4-5 classes in the past two years. This should provide the school with an opportunity to review the location of its Special Education Unit in 2001.

While the school community may prefer to see a purpose-built special education facility, this will need to be considered in line with state-wide priorities and future funding availability. The Low Incidence Unit has been working with the Facilities

and Services Branch and district offices throughout Queensland to review special education service provision and to prioritise the substantial demand for capital works to support students with disabilities.

12. Counter Disaster and Rescue Services

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (22/3/01)—

With reference to the floods that devastated Brisbane two weeks ago, in which two people lost their lives and many millions of dollars of damage was caused to private property and Government infrastructure—

- (1) Has he moved quickly to reassure Brisbane residents that the Counter Disaster and Rescue Organisation under his control will revise the direction of their operations to ensure this situation does not arise again?
- (2) Will the Counter Disaster and Rescue Service, in conjunction with Brisbane City Council, investigate the role of minimising flooding by the removal of vegetation and clearing silt from drains and creeks so as to allow excess flood water to drain away?
- (3) Will he determine if there are any bottlenecks in the drainage systems and move quickly to eliminate them so that the people of Brisbane can be assured of their safety in any future storm events?

Mr REYNOLDS (19/4/01):

(1) For Brisbane, the 9 March 2001 storm was reported as being a one in 100 year event in certain locations. The cause of much of the ensuing flooding was not river or creek flood related. It had more to do with storm runoff exceeding the design capacity of stormwater drainage systems.

(2) & (3) Brisbane City drainage systems are the responsibility of Brisbane City Council. Neither the State Counter Disaster Organisation nor the Department of Emergency Services have any responsibility or expertise in the design, construction and maintenance of stormwater drainage systems.

The people of Brisbane can be assured that the Brisbane City Council and the Counter Disaster and Rescue Services are working in close partnership to provide the best possible Counter Disaster response to such extreme events.

13. Dairy Industry

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/3/01)—

Now that dairy industry processors such as Pauls and Dairyfarmers are not contributing towards the cost of advisers in the Department of Primary Industries, why is the Government about to implement a policy where advisers will not be visiting farms to give one on one advice to dairyfarmers?

Mr PALASZCZUK (23/4/01): Milk processors Pauls and Dairy Farmers will no longer contribute to the Dairy Extension Service.

However, the Department of Primary Industries will maintain its financial commitment to the service.

I am advised that both processors will increase the number of their advisers and provide additional one-to-one technical advisory service to meet the specific needs of their farmer suppliers.

DPI will provide a redesigned state wide service focused on three areas farmers say are critical in the present climate, namely improving business skills, enhancing feeding systems and reducing the environmental impact of more intensive dairy farming.

14. Stock Squad

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (22/3/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Stock Squad—

- (1) How many officers are currently employed in the Queensland Stock Squad and where are they based?
- (2) How many vacant positions are waiting to be filled and where are they based?
- (3) What specific physical resources such as trucks, horses etc does the stock squad have and where are they based?
- (4) What is the budget allocation for the stock squad this year and how much of that allocation remains to be spent?
- (5) How many incidents of stock theft have been reported to the stock squad in the last two years and what has been the clear up rate for these reported incidents?

Mr McGRADY (23/4/01):

(1) There are 10 separate stock squads in Queensland, each controlled by the Assistant Commissioner of the appropriate region.

Stock Squads are located within:

State Crime Operations Command—Brisbane Stock Squad 2 staff;

Also attached to State Crime Operations Command is Inspector, State Stock Squad Co-ordinator—1; and 2 Senior Sergeant Area Stock Squad Co-ordinators one located at Rockhampton to cover the northern parts of the State and one Senior Sergeant situated at Toowoomba to cover the southern parts of the State.

Southern Region—Toowoomba 2 staff, Charleville 1 staff, Roma 2 staff;

Central Region—Rockhampton 3 staff, Longreach 1 staff;

Northern Region—Charters Towers 3 staff, Cloncurry 1 staff;

North Coast Region—Kingaroy 2 staff;

Far Northern Region—Mareeba 3 staff.

(2) Vacancies exist in the following areas:

Toowoomba—3 (panel has forwarded nominations to fill these positions)

Charleville—1 (officer on long-term sick leave)

Longreach—1 Sergeant

Cloncurry—Stock Squad officer is relieving at Mt Isa CI Branch

Rockhampton—2 constables

Mareeba—1 constable

(3) State Crime Operations Command—2 Landcruisers; 1x2 horsefloat; 2 horses; awaiting delivery of 2 FWD vehicles for newly appointed Area Co-ordinators;

Southern Region—2 Landcruiser Station Wagon; 1 Landcruiser troopcarrier; 1 truck; 1x3 horsefloat; 1x2 horsefloat; 1 single horsefloat; 2 motor cycles; 1x2 bike trailer; 9 horses; sundry tack;

Toowoomba—1 police paddock—58.7 hectares Broxburn with house and 3 vehicle garage; hay and machinery sheds; 2000 bales of forage sorghum hay stored there;

Roma—112.9 hectares Roma Police Reserve with yards and stables;

Charleville—2 police paddocks—525.2 hectares, 12km west of Charleville equipped with windmill and cement tank and steel yards; fences are stock proof. 160 hectares, 2 km south of Tambo.

Longreach—64.8 hectare paddock, fenced, water supply and wiremesh yards.

Central Region—2 vehicles; 4 horses; 2 horsefloats; 1 motorbike; sundry tack

Northern Region—1 Troopcarrier; 1 double horsefloat; 2 horses; sundry tack

North Coast Region—Stock Squad complex 6 km out of Kingaroy; 1 Landcruiser wagon; 1 horse float; 2 horses, sundry tack items.

Far Northern Region—220 hectares improved land Mareeba; Cattle crate trailer; horse float for 2 horses; 2 off-road trail bikes and trailer for bikes; Troop carrier; 4 troop horses; satellite phone etc.

(4) State Crime Operations Command—Budget allocation—\$41400; remaining allocation—\$36211 (NB increased budget allocated March 2001 to accommodate the appointment of two Sen Sergeant Area Co-ordinators)

Southern Region—total Stock Squad expenditure up to 31.03.2001 = \$439660 (including salaries)

Toowoomba budget \$31950—remaining allocation—\$15120;

Charleville budget \$10665—remaining allocation—\$3420;

Roma budget \$16650—remaining allocation—\$3465.

Central Region:

Rockhampton budget \$61065—remaining allocation—\$15256

Longreach budget \$7740—remaining allocation—\$1170

Northern Region:

Charters Towers budget \$31920—remaining allocation—\$14606

Cloncurry budget \$40172—remaining allocation—\$21048

North Coast Region:

Kingaroy budget—\$17449—remaining allocation \$5442

Far Northern Region

Mareeba budget \$44173—remaining allocation \$6845

(5) Based on QPS Statistics the following number of 'stealing or unlawful use of stock' offences have been committed.

Period	Total reports	Total reports cleared	Percentage of reports cleared
1 Jan 99—31 Dec 99	159	27	17%
1 Jan 00—31 Dec 00	147	30	20%
1 Jan 01—31 Mar 01	77	4	5%

It is important to note that different stock related offences, for example 'killing stock with the intent to steal any part of the skin or carcass', are counted separately. These total theft figures represent cattle, sheep, horses, goats and pigs.

15. South Johnstone Sugar Mill

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (3/4/01)—

Will the Government assist cane growers, who supplied the South Johnstone Sugar Mill, to have an Australian Securities and Investment Commission inquiry into large amounts of money allegedly unaccounted for by the Board of Directors of the South Johnstone Mill?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/5/01): The Queensland Government has no role in intervening in such a matter.

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) has a role in ensuring companies act in an honest and fair manner consistent with Corporations Law. However, the Queensland Government is in no position to ascertain whether an inquiry by ASIC is warranted. I am advised that ASIC does have an office in Townsville and I believe it would consider any request of this nature made by an appropriate party.

16. Aquaculture, Longreach

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (3/4/01)—

With reference to the new aquaculture centre at Longreach—

- (1) What capital costs, including purchase and outfitting will be involved?
- (2) What are the projected staff costs?
- (3) How many scientists will be stationed there?
- (4) What will be the centre's primary objective and focus?
- (5) What will be the first research project?
- (6) Will there be a focus on any one species; if so, why?
- (7) In what geographical region are the station's target beneficiaries?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/5/01):

(1) An initial allocation of \$50,000 was made for the new aquaculture facility near Longreach for the purchase of 4 fish cages, 2 pontoon walkways, aerator capacity and 2 small fibreglass ring tanks.

A further \$100,000 was allocated this financial year to enable the facility to commence operation and be linked to a trial sandalwood plantation as part of developing the Integrated Agri-Aquaculture Systems farming approach. Planting of 2,500 sandalwood seedlings was completed in the first week of April.

(2) The project will be serviced by one Technical Officer on a part time basis under the supervision of a biologist from Bribie Island Aquaculture Research Centre who also spend some time on the facility. Support may also be provided from staff involved in other endeavours at Longreach.

(3) At this point in time no scientists are currently programmed to be stationed at the facility on a full-time basis. If demand shows greater servicing is required then this situation will be reviewed.

(4) This is a demonstration site developed for education and extension purposes.

(5) At this stage research will focus on the development of broodstock.

(6) No. All species native to the Eyre Basin can be considered. To date Jade Perch, Golden Perch and Welsh's Grunter have been indicated as demonstration species.

(7) The primary area targeted for benefit is the Lake Eyre Basin. However, interest from as far as Richmond, Hughenden and Muttaborra have been noted by the Longreach office and Bribie Island aquaculture staff.

17. Harburg Investments Pty Ltd

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (3/4/01)—

With reference to the application for 31 gaming machines by Harburg Investments Pty Ltd at a Cheers Tavern to be located at 1/9 Marshall Lane, Kenmore—

- (1) Is the Queensland Gaming Commission aware of the number of objections received by the Liquor Licensing Commission to this application for a liquor licence by the same applicant?
- (2) Is the Gaming Commission aware of how many of those objections also included objections to gaming machines; if so, how many?
- (3) If the commission is not aware of these objections when will this information be obtained?
- (4) What steps will the Gaming Commission be undertaking to obtain community input on the application?
- (5) Over the past two years will he list the five applications that have received the most objections, including the number of objectors, the proposed location of the venue, the name of the applicant and the decision on the application?

Mr MACKENROTH (3/5/01):

(1) The Queensland Gaming Commission is an independent statutory body, charged under the Gaming Machine Act 1991, to determine applications for gaming machine licences. The application by Harburg Investments Pty Ltd has not as yet been submitted to the Commission for consideration.

(2&3) Objections to the installation of gaming machines are, as a matter of course, brought to the attention of the Commission at the time a licence application is presented to the Commission for consideration.

(4) Since the end of 1999, the Commission has had the ability to take into account social and community concerns when determining applications for gaming machine licences and routinely seeks the views of the relevant Local Authority and local State Member.

Amendments to the Gaming Machine Act at the end of last year, required applicants for new sites and significant increases (10 for hotels and 20 for clubs) to seek the views of the general community through public advertising of the application. All objections against a gaming machine licence application are, as a matter of course, brought to the attention of the Commission when the application is presented to the Commission for consideration.

(5) No. The Commission over the last two years has considered a number of applications where objections have been received. In many instances, those objections were in relation to the granting of a general liquor licence. Where the objections were of a substantive nature and related to matters that the Commission had the legislative ability to consider, they did in fact do so.

Details of applications and the Commission's decision on a gaming machine application is now available soon after each Commission Meeting on the Queensland Office of Gaming Regulation web site.

18. Education Department, Strategic Policy Branch

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (3/4/01)—

With reference to the proposed restructure of the Strategic Policy Branch—

- (1) What is the purpose of this restructure?
- (2) What is the estimated cost (including a breakdown of additional accommodation and staff costs) of this restructure and how many additional staff will be appointed?
- (3) What will be the source of funds for this restructure and what departmental budgets will be cut as a consequence?

Ms BLIGH (3/5/01):

- (1) The purpose of the restructure of the Office of Strategic Planning and Portfolio Services (OSPPS) is to ensure that the Office is equipped to drive the implementation of Queensland State Education—2010 (QSE—2010).
- (2) Until the process is complete, the costing cannot be finalised.
- (3) Any cost associated with the realignment of activities will be met within current allocations.

19. Graffiti Convictions

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (3/4/01)—

Since 1 July 1998, how many people found guilty of or convicted of graffiti offences have been given graffiti clean-up orders as part of their sentence?

Mr WELFORD (1/5/01): There is no data available from Department of Justice and Attorney-General databases that provide the information requested. I have been advised that the Department of Corrective Services may have some relevant information.

20. Dairy Industry

Miss ELISA ROBERTS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (3/4/01)—

- (1) Will he explain why, in our democracy when nobody is forced to join a union, dairy farmers are forced to pay Queensland Dairy Organisation (QDO) fees when in a number of cases the dairy farmers feel they have been let down and not been represented by the QDO, in particular in regard to deregulation?
- (2) Would it be possible for an exemption to be made to those dairy farmers who have chosen to take leave of the QDO?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/5/01):

(1) From 1948 to 1999, all Queensland dairy farmers were required to be members of, and pay statutory levies to QDO which was a statutory body established by the Primary Producers Organisation and Marketing Act 1926. In December 1999, the Parliament passed the Primary Industries Bodies Reform Act 1999, or 'PIBR Act', which provides for an orderly transitional period for the five former levy-funded statutory producer representative bodies set up under the Primary Producers Organisation and Marketing Act, including the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, to become incorporated grower owned and controlled bodies with their own non-statutory funding arrangements.

All five bodies have now converted into either a grower controlled company or a grower controlled incorporated association. The former Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation is now Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation Limited, or 'QDO Ltd'.

As an essential part of this transitional legislative arrangement, and as negotiated with the five organisations in question, the Act provides for compulsory membership by the relevant producers for a period of three years, with provision for a further two year extension—but only if that is supported by a majority of the relevant producers.

That is the situation which applies in regard to QDO Ltd.

However, that PIBR Act also allows producers to disband the compulsory arrangements at an earlier date if they can secure sufficient support from their fellow producers to bring about a change in the relevant organisation's 'Constitution'. In the case of QDO Ltd, that means the organisation's registered rules as per its incorporation under the Corporations Law. The procedure for amending the rules of a Corporations Law company body are set out in the Corporations Law and do not involve the PIBR Act.

This is a matter for the dairy producer members of QDO Ltd to determine for themselves.

(2) This is no provision for exemptions under the PIBR Act.

I have outlined in my response to the first section of the question what producers are entitled to do if they are not satisfied with the present arrangements.

21. Children in Care

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (3/4/01)—

With reference to the placement of children in temporary and permanent care—

- (1) Will she indicate on a region by region basis (a) how many children are in temporary care, (b) how many children are in permanent care and (c) how many are waiting to be placed in temporary and permanent care respectively?
- (2) Will she provide a breakdown of the reasons for children being placed in temporary and permanent care?

Ms SPENCE (3/5/01):

Departmental Region	Children under Child Protection Orders in placements less than 2 years at 30 June 2000	Children under Child Protection Orders in placements 2 years and 2000 over at 30 June
Gold Coast	217	149
Ipswich and Logan	280	194
Brisbane City	273	175
Caboolture	96	76
Sunshine Coast	67	49
Toowoomba and South West	69	89
Wide Bay	136	93
Central Queensland	77	53
Mackay	78	30
Townsville	97	56
Cairns and Tablelands	117	63
Remote and North West	45	50
Other		5
Total	1,552	1,082

(1) The table shows on a region by region basis how many children under child protection orders were in placements as at 30 June 2000. Placements are not designated as 'temporary' or 'permanent'. The overall number of children at 30 June 2000 was 2,634. This does not include children not on child protection orders who may be in short term placements with the consent of their parents. All children who need to be placed are placed. There is no 'waiting list' for placements.

(2) A child may be placed in care when, following an assessment, departmental officers have determined that there are concerns about the child's immediate safety or there is a future risk of harm, should they remain in their parent's care.

The level of harm or risk substantiated for a child determines the level and nature of the Department's response. The Department's assessment of the child's protective needs, that is what the child requires to be safe, will determine the level of departmental intervention provided to the child and their parent.

22. Queensland Investment Corporation

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (3/4/01)—

What is the expected dividend to the Government from the Queensland Investment Corporation for 2000-01?

Mr MACKENROTH (3/5/01): The Corporation is currently tracking ahead of budget for the current financial year and we expect that the dividend for 2000-01 will be maintained at around the level provided for in 1999-2000 (\$4.9 million representing 50% of net profit after tax).

It should be noted that QIC's earnings are not directly related to investment performance as it simply receives a fee for service.

23. School Transport Assistance Scheme

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/4/01)—

With reference to Chloe who is a student of Tullawong State High School where she has undertaken years 11 and 12 and as her home town school of Woodford only caters to year 10 and as Chloe's choices were to either attend Kilcoy State High School which has a Government subsidised bus run but not the subjects she requires to pursue her career choice or Tullawong High which has the subjects of her choice but not a subsidised bus and because Chloe chose to follow her career choice subjects and attend Tullawong she has been forced to cover the costs of her bus fare, which is in excess of \$30, by working on both Saturdays and Sundays—

- (1) Does he find it acceptable that a child in this State must work to achieve her education?
- (2) As the distance from Woodford to Kilcoy (the subsidised bus route) is 23.8 klms and the distance from Woodford to Tullawong is 23 klms, will he consider and implement procedures to allow a subsidised bus to Tullawong?
- (3) Has he undertaken a survey as to the true requirements of Woodford students and their need to access the subjects of choice at the school of choice?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/5/01):

(1) While it is the responsibility of parents to make suitable transport arrangements for their children, for many years successive State Governments under the School Transport Assistance Scheme have provided assistance with transport costs for eligible students in some circumstances. This assistance is based on access to the nearest State facility which offers the required year level.

The Government accepts that parents always have the right to enrol their children at the school of their choice. However, where parents elect not to access the educational facility to which subsidised travel is provided by the Government, it is assumed that they make that choice with due regard to the costs and effects of that choice.

(2) While I can appreciate the concerns raised by your constituent, I am sure you would acknowledge that to relax the conditions for individual cases, would result in a precedent which could have the implication of the government being required to fund a large number of similar requests across the State and would effectively change the basis of the scheme to school of choice.

(3) This matter is best addressed by my colleague, the Minister for Education, as school curriculums fall under the control of Education Queensland.

24. Emerald Hospital

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (3/4/01)—

With reference to the operating theatres at the Emerald Hospital—

- (1) How many procedures have been undertaken in the operating theatres in the last six months compared to the (a) previous six months and (b) same period last year?
- (2) What budget has been allocated for visiting specialist services for 2000-01 at the Emerald Hospital and how does this compare to last years budget?
- (3) How much of this years allocation has been committed to date?

Mrs EDMOND (3/5/01):

- (1) For the period 1 October, 2000 to 31 March, 2001 398 cases were undertaken in the Emerald Hospital theatre. This is 35 cases more than for the previous six months and 87 more than for the same period last year.
- (2) An amount of \$86,776 has been allocated for specialist services in 2000-01, an increase on the previous year.
- (3) Expenditure is on schedule.

25. Kilkivan-Tansey Road

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/4/01)—

With reference to the road from Kilkivan to Tansey in the South Burnett—

- (1) Is he aware this road is a much used link to the Bruce Highway for a big proportion of the traffic that uses the Burnett Highway?
- (2) What are his plans to upgrade this road to a standard more suitable to the traffic volume it carries?
- (3) What is his department doing to ensure that the dangers of heavy vehicle traffic are minimised on this clearly substandard road?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/5/01):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Department of Main Roads plans to progressively upgrade the single-lane sections and the gravel section over the Coast Range so that it is suitable for B-double heavy vehicles.
- (3) Until the Main Roads widens the narrow sections and eliminates the gravelled range crossing, it will continue to prohibit B-doubles from using this road. Kilkivan Shire Council will continue to maintain the road to current Road Maintenance Performance Contract standards to ensure the safety of all road users.

26. Power Supply

Mr MICKEL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (3/4/01)—

- (1) Is he aware of reports of power supply interruptions in the Norris Creek Road area of Chambers Flat and Munruben?
- (2) What actions are being planned to ensure residents in these areas have reliable electricity supply?

Mr MACKENROTH (3/5/01):

(1) I am aware that customers in the Chambers Flat and Munruben area have experienced 18 interruptions to their electricity supply since 1 January 2000. The cause of these interruptions has been attributed to:

- 6 (33%) tree related incidents
- 3 (17%) major power outages on the transmission system
- 3 (17%) equipment failures
- 1 (5%) storm activity
- 5 (28%) unknown causes.

Two of the tree related incidents were caused by an unknown person felling trees across the overhead mains.

Unknown causes are where the ENERGEX patrol responding to the fault has been unable to locate the cause of the interruption. However, past experience tends to indicate that these interruptions are usually due to tree branches falling across the overhead wires (and subsequently falling free of their own accord), or wildlife causing the mains to clash.

(2) In an effort to overcome these interruptions, ENERGEX has invested more than \$300,000 in the last three years on vegetation management in this area. In addition, ENERGEX recently awarded a further tree trimming contract in the area. This contractor commenced work in February, and is due to complete this work by the end of June.

ENERGEX trims vegetation in accordance with its 'SafeTree' guidelines. SafeTree is an extensive vegetation management program which ensures trees are cleared from under and around powerlines in accordance with industry policy and environmental guidelines. However, ENERGEX is also required to consider the environmental effects of its activities, and consequently, attempts to achieve a balance between the extent of trimming required for supply reliability and the environmental concerns of an unspoilt area.

ENERGEX has advised that the feeder supplying this area was last patrolled in September 2000, however, due to the recent outages, a further patrol is presently being undertaken to assist in overcoming equipment performance issues.

ENERGEX has assured me that it is doing everything possible to improve the reliability of the electricity supply in this area. However, no electricity distributor can guarantee an electricity supply 100% of the time, as there will always be events such as storms, wildlife, vehicular accidents and the like which will have the potential to impact on power supply reliability in any area.

27. Renewable Energy

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (3/4/01)—

- (1) What moves are in hand to encourage research of alternative fuels to petrol and diesel to drive cars and trucks to avoid pollution?
- (2) Is there any research being done into the hydrogen car, solar cars etc?

Mr WELLS (3/5/01):

- (1) The Queensland Government is very willing to facilitate development of renewable energy sourced transport fuels as a component of an overall strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I am informed by the department that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding was provided to the sugar industry stakeholders within the Johnstone Shire area to undertake a scoping study in relation to ethanol fuel production. The EPA has been actively involved in supporting and facilitating similar initiatives in other parts of Far North Queensland.

Funding under the Queensland Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund can be applied to foster development of new technologies and processes. For example, I recently approved funding of \$75,000 for CSR to build a plant to blend diesel fuel with 15% ethanol and trial the fuel blend in their existing heavy trucks and diesel locomotives. One aim of the trial is to confirm that the diesel-ethanol fuel blend will produce lower emissions of air pollution than diesel fuel.

Several other proposals have been put forward to develop renewable energy alternatives for transport. These include:

Proposals to distil ethanol as a fuel extender:

A proposal to develop a vegetable oil esterification plant to produce 'bio-diesel' as an extender or replacement of diesel; and

Use of compressed natural gas as a transport fuel, or through conversion of natural gas to methyl alcohol, to provide liquid fuel for fuel cell-powered vehicles of the future which could use methyl alcohol as the source of hydrogen.

- (2) I recently had the honour to flag away a petrol/electric hybrid-powered car on a fuel economy test drive from Brisbane to Melbourne. This technology will be available to Queenslanders in the near future from at least two major suppliers of motor vehicles.

The EPA is also sponsoring development of vehicles entering in the Solar Challenge—a reliability trial for solar vehicles travelling from Darwin to Adelaide. These vehicles are being designed and built by students at several schools and universities in Queensland. Technological refinements from trials of this nature may lead to further vehicle development.

The Queensland Government is also keen to encourage the development and commercialisation of new power technologies such as fuel cells, which may be applied to both stationary and vehicle application.

Discussions have been held between the EPA and the Australasian Automotive Gas Converters' Association with a view to promoting the conversion of motor vehicles from petroleum to LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas) fuel.

I am informed that the EPA has no knowledge of research currently being conducted in Queensland into the development of hydrogen cars.

28. School Transport Safety Task Force

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/4/01)—

With reference to the taskforce set up to investigate school bus safety—

Why have members of the Bus Action Committee which initially agitated for change in the Jimboomba/Beaudesert area not been included in the taskforce?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/5/01): Cabinet determined membership of the School Transport Safety Task Force.

The Bus Action Group has been invited to forward submissions to the Task Force by both Queensland Transport, and the Chair of the Task Force, Dr Cherrell Hirst. The Bus Action Group is encouraged to use this opportunity to participate in the Task Force investigations.

29. Gympie Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (3/4/01)—

With reference to the resignations of two surgeons from Gympie Hospital and to the fact that other senior staff have been on stress leave in the last 12 months and to appallingly low staff morale—

Will she order an inquiry into these management issues at Gympie Hospital in order to ensure services are available for local patients?

Mrs EDMOND (3/5/01): Queensland Health, like any good organisation, constantly reviews its operations. The General Manager (Health Services) and the Manager Central Zone have visited Gympie Hospital to personally talk to staff first hand about local workplace issues. A review is under way to see where improvements can be made. Under the Beattie Government, Services have been enhanced at Gympie Hospital.

30. Mrs L. Bondareff

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (3/4/01)—

With reference to complaints by Mrs Liz Bondareff firstly to the department, then the Children's Tribunal and Criminal Justice Commission and as the department initiated an internal review of the complaints—

When will this review be completed and those involved, including Mrs Bondareff, be given access to a full copy of the report?

Ms SPENCE (3/5/01): The review of this matter has commenced and it is expected that a report will be received in June. The outcomes and content of the report will be discussed with Mrs Bondareff. She will be given access to pertinent information so long as it is not personal information about other parties.

31. Gympie Hospital

Miss ELISA ROBERTS asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/4/01)—

How does she plan to rectify and address the concerns and issues outlined by the junior medical doctors at the Gympie hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (4/5/01): Queensland Health, like any good organisation, constantly reviews its operations. The General Manager (Health Services) and the Manager Central Zone have visited Gympie Hospital to personally talk to staff first hand about local workplace issues. A review is under-way to see where improvements can be made. Under the Beattie Government, services have been enhanced at Gympie Hospital.

32. Pork Industry

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/4/01)—

With reference to our pork industry on the Atherton Tablelands which relies on top-up supplies of live pigs from the Proserpine and Gympie districts, the only viable means of transport being by rail and for many years the pigs have been successfully railed through to Innisfail in this manner and since February 2001, Q-Rail has indicated that they will no longer carry the pigs if the journey takes more than 24 hours when the present journey takes approximately 30 hours ex Gympie but includes a stopover of six hours and a change of trains in Townsville and as Q-Rail have run down their rollingstock and this needs to be built back up to previous numbers—

- (1) Is it possible to synchronise the two trains better in Townsville and/or extend the 24 hours to a 30 hour journey for the pigs which have always been well looked after?
- (2) As Mr Beattie in a press statement recently indicated that the Queensland Government would take all steps to take advantage of the present export potential of pork, will the Minister help?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/5/01): The transportation of pigs has been a major issue for QR since its compliance with the guidelines developed by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM). The SCARM guidelines stipulate that pigs cannot be transported beyond a 24 hour period. Regardless of service synchronisation, it is not possible to transport pigs between the Tablelands and Gympie within 24 hours.

QR and the Pork industry have requested special dispensation from the Department of Primary Industry/Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to allow the transit time for pigs to be extended beyond the current 24 hour period. The request has been denied on the grounds of animal welfare.

33. Family Services, Case Loads

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (4/4/01)—

With reference to family service officers within her department—

Will she provide on an office by office basis the average case load for family service officers and the number of staff that have left the department for each of the last 12 months?

Ms SPENCE (4/5/01): The use of caseload figures is considered a crude measure of workload, due to the huge variation in individual cases and the large volume of work that is not captured in the usual notion of what constitutes a case. For example, workload not measured may include the investigation of child protection notifications, activities associated with court attendance for both child protection and youth justice matters and the support of foster carers.

Also caseload data does not usually include other staff involved in the delivery of services such as Team Leaders, Resource Officers, Family Resource Workers and Youth Workers.

The Department has therefore advised that it is currently developing a more sophisticated methodology to measure workload levels in Area Offices. This methodology is being refined to weight all activities currently being undertaken by Family Services Officers (FSO).

In relation to permanent FSOs who have left the department over the last 12 months, details are as follows:

MONTH—No of FSOs

April 00—3
 May 00—0
 Jun 00—4
 July 00—3
 Aug 00—6
 Sep 00—1
 Oct 00—7
 Nov 00—3
 Dec 00—4
 Jan 01—5
 Feb 01—2
 Mar 01—2

34. Toowoomba Range Crossing

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/4/01)—

With reference to the Toowoomba Range second range crossing—

- (1) Is the timing of Federal funding dependent on priority given to the project by the State Government?
- (2) What number does the second range crossing currently rate on the State Government's priority list?
- (3) What percentage of the second range crossing corridor has now been purchased and at what cost?
- (4) What funds have been approved to date for purchase of land within the corridor and for preliminary design work?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/5/01):

(1&2) The State Government prepares various submissions for Canberra outlining the state's requirements for federal funding for the National Highway System throughout Queensland.

A project planning report for the second range crossing requesting \$30 million to allow completion of corridor acquisition, planning and design in 2002-03 was submitted to the Federal Government in June 2000.

The most recent submission—National Highway System Forward Strategy Report Queensland 2001-02 to 2004-05—identifies \$310 million is required for construction of the second range crossing sometime after 2004-05.

This project will cost around twice Queensland's average annual National Highway allocation.

Commonwealth funding and priority for the Toowoomba second range crossing needs to be real additional funding, and not at the expense of all other National Highway projects, maintenance and workforces across the State.

The National Highway Forward Strategy states that due to the significant costs incurred and limited staging opportunities, this is a potential candidate for delivery under a Private Public Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

(3) The Department of Main Roads has purchased land covering about one third of the length of the second range crossing corridor, at a cost of \$11 million.

(4) The federal government has recently increased the approved funding to \$20.25 million to complete corridor acquisition and for planning work only. This is still \$9.5 million short of the State's submission for \$30 million needed to complete corridor acquisition, planning and design activities.

The federal government has not approved funding for detailed design, pending their consideration of proposals for private sector funding for the project.

35. State Penalties Enforcement Registry

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/4/01)—

Will he provide a comparison of the amount of outstanding fine moneys collected to date under the State Penalties Enforcement Registry Amnesty and how does that compare with the amount collected in the equivalent period leading up to the end of SETONS process?

Mr WELFORD (1/5/01):

Period	SETONS/SPER	Outstanding fines money collected
1.8.00 to 26.11.00	Interim Call Centre	\$3,248,852
	SETONS	\$2,408,937
	Total	\$5,657,789
27.11.00 to 27.3.01	SPER Amnesty	\$3,515,629
	SPER	\$4,565,071
	Total	\$8,080,700

36. Tenant Default Databases

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (4/4/01)—

With reference to increasing community concern over the operation of tenancy default databases especially in relation to people being incorrectly listed, listed for trivial matters or in retaliation for asserting their rights under a tenancy agreement—

- (1) How many complaints have been received by her department over the past two years concerning tenancy default databases?
- (2) How many investigations have been carried out as a result of those complaints?
- (3) What was the result of those investigations?

Mrs ROSE (4/5/01):

(1) In the past two years, the Office of Fair Trading has received two complaints involving tenancy default databases.

(2) Both complaints were investigated.

(3) One related to an unfair listing of the spouse of an alleged defaulting tenant and the other involved a complaint about the cost of the interstate call being \$4.95 per minute to communicate with the database operator. An investigation into the first matter established that both partners were occupants at the time when rent default notices were issued. After revealing this information, the complainant decided not to pursue the matter any further. In relation to the second matter it was established that the operator was entitled to charge interstate calls at the rate of \$4.95 per minute.

37. Aged Care Health Services, Kenilworth

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/4/01)—

With reference to aged care health services delivery to rural areas such as the Kenilworth area—

- (1) Does she consider health service delivery to rural areas to be a priority?
- (2) What organisations currently service the Kenilworth area?
- (3) What services do each of these organisations provide in the Kenilworth area?
- (4) How many clients are serviced by each organisation?
- (5) Does she consider the current level of service offered to the Kenilworth area to be of an acceptable standard, or could a more efficient service be provided by a Kenilworth based provider?
- (6) Is she aware that the only meals on wheels service to the Kenilworth area is by way of frozen meals which are delivered in bulk?
- (7) Will she support the funding of an aged care health service for the Kenilworth area; if not, why not?

Mrs EDMOND (4/5/01):

(1) Improving the quality and the quantum of health service delivery in rural areas is a priority for the Government and is evidenced by:

- a) advancing development of Multi-Purpose Health Services (MPHS) in rural areas, which provide flexible care arrangements for clients;
- b) extending the availability of HACC services across the State with more funding being spent on a per capita basis in rural and remote communities than more populous centres; and
- c) improving the quality of State Government Nursing Homes.

(2) The Nambour General Hospital, the Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital and the Caloundra Hospital are three public hospitals, which service the Sunshine Coast region and provide services for people from the Kenilworth area. Additionally, the HACC Program funds a number of organisations which specifically service the Kenilworth area, such as the Sunshine Coast District Home Care Service, the Blackall Range Care Group, Blue Care, St Luke's Nursing Service, Woombye Care and Nambour and District Care.

(3) The HACC Program provides funding for a range of home and community care services designed to provide basic maintenance and support to the frail aged, younger people with a disability, and their carers. Transport services are included in this program.

The Sunshine Coast District Home Care Service provides home care services to a number of residents in the Kenilworth area. Similarly, Blue Care provides nursing care and personal care. Respite services to Kenilworth residents are also available at Nambour, Gympie, Noosa or Maleny.

However, the above service providers have received limited referrals from the Kenilworth area. I am advised that a number of these service providers visited the Kenilworth area in the week of 9 April 2001 to meet with the local community and general practitioners, to determine the level of need in this community and to encourage referrals to their services.

(4) I am advised that four clients are provided with in-home respite services by Blue Care. Two Blue Care registered nurses also visit two clients to provide nursing services.

The Sunshine Coast District Home Care Service is currently servicing six Kenilworth residents to provide home help, personal care and social support.

Respite services are also provided to Kenilworth residents on an 'as needs' basis.

(5) Currently HACC funded services for the Kenilworth area also service the Sunshine Coast and surrounding hinterland to meet identified need. The HACC National Service Standards are being implemented by HACC funded service providers throughout Queensland to address the requirements of delivering consistent and quality services. As there are few referrals from the Kenilworth area, I would suggest that the current level of services offered to Kenilworth residents respond adequately to identified client needs.

The HACC Program conducts an annual planning and funding round that responds to identified client needs. Service providers are encouraged to offer an appropriate service delivery model that addresses the needs of the HACC target population for the local area. As there has not been an application from a Kenilworth service provider, I cannot comment on whether a Kenilworth based provider would be more efficient without seeing a viable business case.

(6) I am advised that Pomona Meals on Wheels services the Kenilworth area. Many of the rural and remote Meals on Wheels providers have little choice but to offer frozen meals to their clients, due to the number and distances required to deliver these to the clients. The new National Food Safety Standards limits the transportation time of delivered meals to ensure these meals are consumed at a safe temperature. The bulk delivery of frozen meals allows for these meals to be heated locally and therefore meet the requirements of the National Food Safety Standards.

(7) The HACC Program identifies regional priorities by holding planning sessions throughout the State attended by service providers, clients and funding agencies. These priorities are listed in the Annual State Plan and considered in the assessment of applications for funding.

Applications for growth funding are advertised on an annual basis, the next round expected to be advertised in late May 2001. Organisations are encouraged to submit an application that clearly demonstrates the demand for services in their specific geographical area. Each application is assessed by a panel and is considered in line with regional priorities and the current level of service provision.

38. Oral Health Services

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/4/01)—

With reference to a recent deputation meeting with her, the Director General of Health said public dental services had to meet cost benchmarks—

Will she table these benchmarks as well as the budgets for the district dental services for 2000-01?

Mrs EDMOND (4/5/01): Sunshine Coast Health Service District has had an increase in its Oral Health Budget for 2000-2001. This has enabled the District to implement extended hours of operation for all of its adult facilities. This overtime has been in operation since October 2000 and is budgeted to continue for the remainder of the financial year.

The costs per patient to provide care are consistent with the State average in both the adult and school programs.

This year the mobile oral health service has extended its service to provide on site oral health care to an additional nursing home not previously visited.

The satellite clinic at Caloundra School, is currently being used to treat adults between school visits.

The Sunshine Coast Health Service District is on target to achieve the completed adult patient target.

39. FarmBis

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (4/4/01)—

With reference to the impending conclusion of the current round of the successful FarmBis program on 30 June unless the Government accepts the Federal Government's offer of a matching contribution to run FarmBis for another three years—

- (1) Will the Government provide any funding to maintain FarmBis; if so, how much?
- (2) Will he also indicate when the State planning group will be appointed so that it can be operative as soon as possible?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/5/01):

(1) The Commonwealth Government has announced funding for a new FarmBis program from 1 July 2001 on a matching basis with the States and the level of State funding for the new program is currently subject to the Budget process.

While the current program ceases on 30 June 2001, applications lodged by that date can include training to be completed and payments processed by 31 October 2001.

(2) I am advised that expressions of interest for members of the State Planning Group, as required by the Commonwealth Government, will be publicly advertised in coming weeks.

40. Kenmore Police Station

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (4/4/01)—

- (1) Is he aware that the Westpac Bank at Kenmore was robbed by armed robbers on Tuesday, 27 March?
- (2) Is he aware that this bank is next door to the Kenmore Police Station, which for all practical purposes is no longer operational?
- (3) When will he ensure that Kenmore has its Police Beat returned to full operation and when will the Kenmore Police Station be reopened in accordance with the precedent set in the northern region with The Gap and Albany Creek stations?

Mr McGRADY (8/5/01):

(1) Yes.

(2) It is acknowledged that the Kenmore Police Station is located in the same block to the Kenmore Branch of the Westpac Bank, although to its rear in a neighbouring street.

(3) Kenmore Police Station, when fully operational up to and including 1993, was staffed by 1 Sergeant and 4 Senior Constables/Constables. A major police complex was established at Indooroopilly, incorporating 98 sworn staff and 13 staff members with the overall responsibility for policing the new Indooroopilly Division which included the suburb of Kenmore, Kenmore Station has operated as a limited counter service since then.

Service delivery to all areas of Metropolitan North Region including Kenmore is a high priority for senior management. Currently a review is being undertaken of all areas of the Indooroopilly Division in respect to calls for service/service delivery and no decision has been taken as to the future operation of the Kenmore Police Station at this time.

41. Kangaroos

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (4/4/01)—

With reference to the seizure recently in Hervey Bay by National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) officers of a 12 month old male red kangaroo—Mitchell—which had been rescued from its dead mother's pouch and reared by an 18 year old girl still suffering the debilitating impact of a stroke which occurred when she was 16 and as the family concerned have asked for some latitude as they are willing to move to acreage in Western Queensland or to South Australia so they can retain Mitchell and Mitchell is highly humanised but the NPWS insist he has to be dehumanised by them and released and further, they and some carers claim Mitchell will become dangerous to its foster mother by exhibiting aggressive or sexual behaviour—

- (1) How many kangaroos have been dehumanised and released and had their successful life in the wild monitored?
- (2) As nature parks often have sizeable populations of grey and red kangaroos which uninformed tourists mingle with and feed, if Mitchell is potentially dangerous to his foster mother, are these zoo roos potentially more dangerous?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/5/01): The management of kangaroos is within the responsibility of the Environment portfolio. This matter should be referred to my colleague the Honourable Minister for the Environment.

42. Heritage Rail Project, Beaudesert

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/4/01)—

What support will the Labor State Government give to the Beaudesert heritage rail project?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/5/01): Queensland Transport has been working with Beaudesert Rail for approximately 18 months facilitating the resolution of accreditation and tenure issues associated with using the existing corridor and Beaudesert Rail's proposed ancillary activities.

The Government continues to support the accreditation of Beaudesert Rail as a Railway Manager and Railway Operator pursuant to the Transport Infrastructure Act. The accreditation process is now at an advanced stage with the formal application being currently assessed.

43. Gladstone, Health Care Services

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/4/01)—

With reference to Gladstone region which is a growing area in both population and industry and necessary Health Care Services are critical including intensive care—

- (1) Has the intensive care unit been downgraded?
- (2) When will services be restored to the 'state of the art' level which existed 10 years ago but has over time, been undermined?

Mrs EDMOND (4/5/01):

1. No.

2. The Intensive Care Unit operates at the same level with the same staffing levels and skills base that have existed for at least the past 10 years.

44. Queensland Ambulance Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (4/4/01)—

With reference to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997—

- (1) Is he aware that Section 23.(2) of the Act applies in instances where harm or potential harm to humans is a risk?
- (2) Has the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) conformed with the Act by installing the required filtered wash down area?
- (3) Is he aware of instances where the QAS are not conforming to the Act?
- (4) Is he aware of instances at QAS facilities where plant room floors, vehicles and equipment are washed down and residue hosed into local storm water drains or gutters, some of which flow into creeks, lakes and other waterways?
- (5) Will he explain why blood, blood products and human fluids are regularly washed from within QAS vehicles and from equipment, then hosed into storm water drainage systems in most areas across the State, thus allowing contaminated body fluids to enter this State's waterways?
- (6) What initiatives are being taken by the QAS and his department to rectify this situation and if accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency, are they being followed throughout the State?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/5/01):

(1) Section 23(2) of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (the Act) provides that the Ambulance Service Act 1991, prevails over the Act to the extent of any conflict.

(2) In new constructions and major refurbishment, grease and silt traps are installed in accordance with local Government requirements (when permitted).

(3) Not all QAS stations have grease and silt traps in place. Officers managing this issue are liaising on a regular basis with the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure compliance with the requirements.

(4) The QAS has initiated an examination of procedures on a station by station basis to ensure compliance, or to establish methods of vehicle washing which comply with the Act and the Policy. As vehicle maintenance is no longer carried out at QAS stations, it is unlikely that oil and grease related residues would contaminate this waste water.

(5) The QAS has extensive infection control policies and procedures and Officer education programs that extend to the physical environment. This includes the cleaning and decontamination of operational vehicles, treatment areas and equipment, management of clinical and related wastes (including sharps) and the safe management of contaminated linen. These policies and procedures have been developed with regard for the relevant provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Environmental Protection (Water Management) Policy 1997 and the new Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000. Compliance with these policies and procedures is a QAS management issue that is managed at the local level.

(6) Section 36 of the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000 provides a two-year period for an organisation to prepare and implement a waste management plan. Persons from within the department are being tasked to:

prepare a waste management plan,

implement the waste management plan, and

establish an evaluation method by which the QAS can monitor compliance with the plan.

The QAS Master Brief already provides for the installation of grease and silt traps where appropriate. Review and monitoring of existing procedures will be conducted for stations on a State-wide basis.

45. Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/4/01)—

Will he outline what work is proposed on the very busy Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road over the next three years?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/5/01): I released the 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 Roads Implementation Program in late 2000. The program's details anticipated road works on the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road over the next five years, with the first two years funding confirmed and the subsequent three years being indicative.

46. Monto-Gladstone Rail Line

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/4/01)—

With reference to the Monto to Gladstone railway line—

- (1) What is the weekly traffic on this line and how much annual income does it generate?
- (2) What is the annual maintenance cost of this line?
- (3) Does the Queensland Government pay Queensland rail a community service obligation to keep this line open; if so, then how much is it?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of realigning this line to account for the raising of Awonga Dam?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/5/01):

(1) Weekly traffic on the Monto to Gladstone line varies depending on the season. During the 1999/2000 financial year Queensland Rail (QR) reported that 135,929 tonnes was carried on this line. A study completed for Queensland Transport in early 2000 estimated annual revenue on this line to be in the order of \$260,000 per year.

(2) In early 2000, Queensland Transport estimated the annual maintenance costs to be \$773,455.

(3) Yes. The line is one of the 82 Track Sections subject to the Transport Service Contract (Rail Infrastructure) between Queensland Transport and QR. The total contract payment to QR in 1999/2000 was \$259,593,000. Payments for each Track Section are not made separately.

(4) In its report on Boyne Valley Infrastructure Relocation, the Gladstone Area Water Board estimated the costs of relocating the rail line in Stage 1 to be \$8,000,000.

47. Education Queensland, Enterprise Bargaining

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (4/4/01)—

With reference to the latest Enterprise Bargaining Agreement between Education Queensland and the Queensland Teachers' Union—

- (1) What is the total cost of this agreement over its lifetime?
- (2) What is the cost in each of the financial years?
- (3) Will this cost increase to Education Queensland's Budget be fully funded by Treasury?

Ms BLIGH (3/5/01):

1. The total estimated cost of the settlement arising from recent enterprise bargaining negotiations with the Queensland Teachers' Union is \$705.8m.

2. The estimated cost in each financial year will be:

2000/01 \$170.2m

2001/02 \$250.3m

2002/03 \$237.5m

2003/04 \$47.8m (to be finalised)

3. In line with existing arrangements, Queensland Treasury has provided Education Queensland with funding for the enterprise bargaining salary increases.

48. Rail Services, Hughenden-Winton and Rockhampton-Yaraka

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (4/4/01)—

With reference to the mixed freight/passenger trains that operate between Hughenden and Winton and Rockhampton and Yaraka—

- (1) Have passengers now been banned from travelling on these trains?
- (2) Is the reason for these bans the application of legislation relating to the discharge of sewerage?
- (3) Does this same legislation apply to other trains operated by Queensland Rail?
- (4) Has Queensland Rail received an estimate to upgrade the passenger safety facilities on TGV vans at more than \$250,000 per van; if so, what are the passenger facilities required and what is the breakdown of these costs?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/5/01):

(1) As both services have carried only three passengers in the last twelve months, Queensland Rail no longer offers a passenger service on these two branch lines.

(2) No.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) Yes. When the TG Vans are taken into the Workshops for any work to be completed, then QR is duty bound to upgrade the vans to comply with current safety management and environment standards.

The estimates for refurbishment costs of the TG Vans:

One off design cost (include monitoring of refurbishment) (eg. 1 van \$100K, 2 vans \$50K per van)—\$100,000

Retention toilets—\$30,000

Bogie upgrade—\$20,000

Cost of fittings—\$10,000

Supply/build new air conditioner and ducting—\$25,000

Supply/build power supply—\$15,000

Workshops

Refurbishment—\$60,000

Painting—\$12,000

49. Cooler Schools Program

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Education (4/4/01)—

With reference to many State Government buildings and even the police lock-up and housing commission houses which are air-conditioned in western communities where the schools are not and following the Country Cabinet meeting in Roma the then Minister for Education, Dean Wells, gave a commitment that should the Labor Government be re-elected they would consider expanding the cooler schools program into the western areas rather than extend the areas south of Gladstone—

Will she honour her predecessor's commitment and when will her department commence the western Queensland air-conditioning program?

Ms BLIGH (3/5/01): I appreciate the impact on students' learning from adverse environmental conditions and am committed to achieving the best possible learning environments in our schools for all Queensland students.

At this stage, however, the Government has no plans to expand the current zones.

50. Police Station, Logan

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (4/4/01)—

With reference to the possibility of a new police station in the Logan area—

- (1) Where is the proposed location for this station?
- (2) What factors were considered when deciding on the location?
- (3) What was the process of public consultation in making this decision?

Mr McGRADY (8/5/01):

(1) Negotiations are continuing with an owner to purchase land in the Loganholme area. As these negotiations have not been completed, details of the location and the purchase details are confidential at this stage. An announcement will be made after settlement has been completed.

(2) The primary factor in determining the location is the operational efficiency of the site. Other factors include exposure of the site, access, land availability and area configuration etc.

(3) Confidential discussions have been held with Redland Shire Council concerning the proposed site and no objection has been raised by Council officers. Regional police officers have also been consulted and they endorse the location of the site under negotiation.

51. Fine Defaulter Amnesty

Mr FLYNN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/4/01)—

With reference to the fine defaulter amnesty which has some merits—

Which quite serious offences can attract fines, as against custodial sentences and will he assure the House that the amnesty will only extend to fines related to simple offences?

Mr WELFORD (1/5/01): The Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 provides that a person convicted of an offence may be fined. Courts have a discretion to impose a fine for both simple and indictable offences. The fine may be in addition to, or instead of, any other sentence to which the offender is liable.

Section 167 of the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, which was passed by the Parliament with the support of all parties, required an amnesty.

The Act provides that the amnesty applies to warrants of commitment issued under the Justices Act 1886 for an infringement notice or under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 for non-payment of a fine. The amnesty is not restricted to fines imposed for simple offences.

52. Prince Charles Hospital and Holy Spirit Northside Hospital

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/4/01)—

- (1) Will she outline the progress of the collocation at Chermside of the Holy Spirit Northside Hospital with the Prince Charles Hospital?
- (2) What are the anticipated benefits to North Brisbane residents of this successful health initiative?

Mrs EDMOND (4/5/01): The collocation project at the Prince Charles Hospital has been under way since the signing of the agreement in April 1999 and Thiess Contractors began construction at a cost of approximately \$70 million in mid September of 1999.

Holy Spirit Northside Hospital intends to operate 100 beds (3x30 bed wards, plus 10 ICU/CCU beds), Emergency Department and Endoscopy Unit from 30 July 2001. There are 162 beds in the new hospital with the remaining beds coming on stream as demand dictates but with all expected to open within a two year period.

Networking and integration groups in the areas of Clinical Services, Nursing Services, Corporate Management, and General Campus Management have already been established between the two facilities. Contracts for the provision of steam and other services from the Prince Charles to the Holy Spirit Northside Hospitals are under negotiation.

Aside from construction benefits, thorough employment opportunities offered to contractors, professional personnel, skilled and unskilled workers, benefits from the collocation include:

- (i) a more extensive range of health facilities and services for the community, than would otherwise be provided;
- (ii) the opportunity to share resources, providing employment for Queensland Health employees and revenue streams;
- (iii) annual ground lease payments of \$240,000.00 to Queensland Health, in addition to other agreed sums for teaching, research and educational purposes.

53. Positive Parenting Program

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/4/01)—

- (1) How many families have accessed the Positive Parenting Program at the health offices at (a) Browns Plains and (b) Logan Central?
- (2) Are there any plans to have Queensland Health conduct these courses at schools in the Logan electorate; if so, which ones?

Mrs EDMOND (4/5/01):

(1a) Browns Plains

During the period January 1999-December 2000, 1758 parents have accessed Positive Parenting Programs. They have been delivered at a number of levels as follows:

Level 2—925 parents have accessed Selected Triple P (Brief single consultation with parent regarding a specific child development or behaviour issue)

Level 3—356 parents have accessed Primary Care Triple P (Four brief consultations with parent regarding a specific child development or behaviour issue)

Level 4—379 parents have accessed Group Triple P (Four 2 hour group consultations followed by four 15 to 30 minute telephone consultations)

Level 5—98 parents have accessed Enhanced Triple P (Intensive 50-60 minute individual consultations for families experiencing child behaviour problems in the context of other family adversity such as marital conflict or parental depression/stress)

(1b) Logan Central

During the period January 1999-December 2000, 1430 parents have accessed Positive Parenting Programs. They have been delivered at a number of levels as follows:

Level 2—766 parents have accessed Selected Triple P (Brief single consultation with parent regarding a specific child development or behaviour issue)

Level 3—525 parents have accessed Primary Care Triple P (Four brief consultations with parent regarding a specific child development or behaviour issue)

Level 4—73 parents have accessed Group Triple P (Four 2 hour group consultations followed by four 15 to 30 minute telephone consultations)

Level 5—66 parents have accessed Enhanced Triple P (Intensive 50-60 minute individual consultations for families experiencing child behaviour problems in the context of other family adversity such as marital conflict or parental depression/stress)

(2) Queensland Health is already conducting Triple P Programs in a number of schools in the Logan electorate. These include: Kingston State School; Crestmead State School; Mabel Park State School; Woodridge State School; Berrinba State School; Waterford West State School; Harris Fields State School

During the next school term, after Easter 2001, the following schools will be offered Triple P Programs: Yugumbir with Park Ridge State School; Woodridge with Berrinba State School; Burrowes with Berrinba State School; Marsden State School; Groves State School; Boronia Heights State School; Regents Park State School.

54. Tarong North Project

Mrs PRATT asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (4/4/01)—

With reference to the Tarong North project and the statements made that 30 per cent of employees would be locals—

- (1) How many employed on the project in all areas including construction, security, management and ancillary staff have in fact been (a) local residents of the shires of Kingaroy, Nanango and Rosalie for longer than three months prior to the announcement of the project, (b) local residents of the shires of Kingaroy, Nanango and Rosalie for longer than three months prior to the commencement of construction, (c) registered locally as unemployed for more than six months prior to the announcement of the project and (d) registered locally as unemployed for more than six months prior to the commencement of the project?

- (2) How many apprenticeships and traineeships have been made available at commencement and during construction and how many have been taken up by locals?
- (3) What is the expected commencement date of the second unit for the Tarong North project?

Mr MACKENROTH (3/5/01): The construction of the Tarong North Project is being undertaken by a consortium of Australian and international companies through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract. This contract places full responsibility for employment with the EPC contractor. The EPC contractor utilises many sub-contractors and these companies also have full responsibility for their own employment. The EPC contractor and his subcontractors utilise a number of methods to recruit people onto the site.

The differing approaches to recruitment has resulted in different employment outcomes between companies and this diversity makes it impossible, without interviewing every employee, to differentiate employment statistics to the level required.

However, the structure of the industrial agreement for Tarong North means that the EPC contractor can monitor the number of local employees as detailed below.

Tarong Energy has worked diligently to facilitate increased local content and local employment for the project, by liaising with the EPC contractor, ISO Queensland, the Tarong Learning Program (TLP) and the Tarong Business Program. The EPC contractor and sub-contractors have been very cooperative in this process. Early in the life of the project, statements were made that it was hoped that up to 20% of employees on site would be locals, and the TLP was set up to help achieve this goal.

The following information has been supplied to Tarong Energy by the EPC contractor through regular reports:

Local employment has been as high as 30% of the total site numbers;

The figure at the end of March 2001 was 25% of a total workforce of 353 people;

TLP has trained 76 local people, of whom all were unemployed prior to the training;

Of those who have completed training with TLP, 54 have since been in employment, with 15 gaining employment on the Tarong North site; and

There are presently five apprentices working on the site, of whom four are under the Wide Bay Scheme and one is under the Hervey Bay Scheme. One of the subcontractors is endeavouring to place an additional third or fourth year electrical apprentice.

Approval was granted on 15 November 1999 for one generating unit to be built at Tarong North. No firm decision has yet been made regarding the construction of a second unit. Any decision on a second unit will be a commercial decision of the Board of Tarong Energy, made with due regard to the State's power needs. At this stage, the Government is confident that additional capacity arising from the commissioning within the next few years of plants currently under construction at Callide, Millmerran and Tarong will adequately meet future demand in the medium term.

55. FarmBis

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/4/01)—

As he has indicated support for FarmBis, will that indication translate to firm action in continuing this vital program?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/5/01): The level of State Government funding for the second round of FarmBis is currently subject to the Budget process.

56. National Competition Policy

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (5/4/01)—

With reference to national competition payments, for each of financial year 1999-2000 and 2000-01 to date—

- (1) What is the total amount of National Competition Policy payments from the Commonwealth to the State?
- (2) What is the breakdown by industry/defined beneficiary/sector for which these payments were received?
- (3) What is the breakdown of outlays by the State in terms of adjustment and restructuring assistance to the industries/defined beneficiaries/sectors specified in (2) above?
- (4) What is the unallocated balance of National Competition Policy payments (total of serial 1 minus total of serial 2)?
- (5) Where is this unallocated balance being held?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/5/01):

(1) National Competition Policy (NCP) payments paid, and anticipated to be paid, to Queensland are as follows:

1997-1998:	\$39.6 million
1998-1999:	\$40.2 million
1999-2000:	\$81.5 million
2000-2001:	\$86.4 million (estimate)
2001-2002:	\$134.0 million (estimate)
2002-2003:	\$138.1 million (estimate)
2003-2004:*	\$142.4 million (estimate)

The total amount paid to Queensland as at 30 June 2001 is expected to be \$247.7 million.

*Queensland will continue to receive an amount of \$108 million in 1994-1995 prices subject to ongoing conformance with NCP reforms.

(2) The Federal Government is the primary beneficiary of NCP through economic efficiencies improving its income taxation revenue. Competition payments were intended to enable the States and Territories to participate in this increased revenue.

The competition payments also in part compensate the States and Territories for exposing government businesses to greater competition.

The payments are not related to specific industry/defined beneficiary/sectors. Rather, payments are being received in three tranches, subject to satisfactory implementation of NCP reforms as set out in the Agreement to Implement the NCP and Related Reforms (11 April 1995).

All payments received to date have been credited to the account of the Consolidated Fund.

The State continues to make payments to local governments under the \$150 million (in 1994-1995 terms) incentive package to facilitate NCP reforms by local governments. These payments recognise that the initial cost of implementing NCP reforms may have prevented some local governments from tapping into the long-term benefits of reform. Payments to date and proposed payments to local governments are as follows:

1997-1998:	\$8.6 million
1998-1999:	\$30.4 million
1999-2000:	\$32.4 million
2000-2001:	\$27.7 million (estimate)
2001-2002:	\$35.6 million (estimate)
2002-2003:	\$20 million (estimate)

(3) As indicated in (2) above, the competition payments are receipted to the Consolidated Fund. Any payments which have been made by way of adjustment and restructuring assistance to industry have been made from the expenditure side of the Budget, and were not as a result of hypothecation of NCP payments.

(4) Because of the structure of the State's finances, there is no unallocated balance of Competition Payments. Refer to answers (2) and (3).

(5) See answer (4).

57. Gore Highway

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/4/01)—

With reference to the Gore Highway, specifically between Millmerran and Toowoomba—

- (1) What is the (a) volume of trucks, (b) volume of other vehicles and (c) number of acceptable passing opportunities?
- (2) If the department plans to construct passing lanes on that section of highway, when will those lanes be constructed?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/5/01):

(1) The traffic volumes on the Gore Highway between Toowoomba and Millmerran are: Section A: Drayton Turn-off to Wyreema Road—8,200 vehicles per day (including 1,150 commercial vehicles) Section B: Wyreema Road to Pittsworth—5,350 vehicles per day (including 1,070 commercial vehicles) Section C: Pittsworth to Millmerran—2,150 vehicles per day (including 750 commercial vehicles) Most of the road within the Toowoomba City boundary is four lanes wide, which provide plenty of opportunities to pass. There are two passing lanes on the steepest sections of the road, at Drayton Hill and just south of Pittsworth. West of Pittsworth the flat grades and lower traffic volumes mean there are adequate opportunities for vehicles to pass. East of Pittsworth there are rolling hills and a higher traffic volume, which restrict passing opportunities.

(2) The Federal Government funds National Highways Works.

The Department of Main Roads has sought funding from the Federal Government to construct three overtaking lanes at a cost of \$1.5m.

58. Coroners Act

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/4/01)—

What is the timetable for legislative reform to the Coroner's Act and to establish the Office of State Coroner?

Mr WELFORD (8/5/01): The former Attorney-General and Minister for Justice released a Consultation Draft of a new Coroners Act in November 2000. That consultation draft seeks to provide the legislative framework to modernise the State's coronial system, including the appointment of a State Coroner.

My department has received approximately 80 submissions on the Consultation Draft. My department is analysing those submissions and will be consulting as appropriate with relevant stakeholders on issues raised. This process will take some time. A timetable in relation to the introduction of the legislation into the Parliament has yet to be determined.

59. Human Organs and Tissue, Illegal Retention

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (5/4/01)—

With reference to alarming interstate reports about illegal harvesting of organs and tissue for research or training in State institutions—

- (1) What are the safeguards to prevent as well as identify abuses?
- (2) What protection will be given to potential witnesses of such practices?

Mrs EDMOND (8/5/01):

(1) I have urged anyone with particular allegations of inappropriate behaviour, to provide my office or my Department with detailed information and I can assure you, these allegations will be fully investigated. As soon as this issue came to light from the Bristol experience in the UK some time ago, I asked my Department to review procedures in this State.

In 1998 all retention of organs or tissue for research was stopped pending clarification of the consent issues.

Queensland Health letters and brochures about these matters highlight the need for the next of kin to be fully informed about the procedures associated with Coroners Reports, which can be particularly distressing, especially in relation to

retention of organ and tissues. Queensland Health also employs a counsellor who is also available for people to have these issues explained to them.

The Coroners Act 1958 (under Justice) requires medical professionals to remove and retain tissues as required for legal reasons—informed consent is therefore not required for Coronial Investigations.

The Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 (under Health) is currently being reviewed and will be strengthened to formalise the policy changes already made by Queensland Health regarding consent into legislative changes.

Therapeutic tissues donated for transplantation and retrieved during coroners autopsies have since 1990 always involved full informed consent.

Queensland Health requires that all research involving humans be approved and monitored by an ethics committee established in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council 'National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans' which was issued in 1999.

(2) There are a number of mechanisms that provide protection to potential witnesses who wish to report improper practices, depending on the nature of the conduct being complained of. A public officer may be able to make a public interest disclosure about someone else's conduct under the Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994. This Act offers protection to persons from civil, criminal or administrative liability for making such disclosures. It also provides reprisal protection and imposes confidentiality obligations on persons who receive such information.

Improper practices may constitute official misconduct under the Criminal Justice Act 1989. This Act enables the Criminal Justice Commission to provide suitable protection for persons who furnish information about improper practices to the Commission. The Act also provides reprisal protection and imposes confidentiality obligations on persons who receive such information.

60. Oxley Secondary College Site

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Education (5/4/01)—

With reference to Education Queensland which recently conducted a consultation on the future use of the Oxley Secondary College site—

What is the current status of this issue?

Ms BLIGH (8/5/01): I have approved that the Oxley Secondary College site be declared surplus to Education Queensland's requirements and that the site be offered for disposal.

Education Queensland will ask the Department of Natural Resources to facilitate the disposal of the site in accordance with Government Asset Management System (GAMS) guidelines.

In light of the strong community interest in the site Education Queensland have asked the Department of Natural Resources to take into account the findings of the community consultation process undertaken in relation to the future use of the site. The Department of Natural Resources have also been asked to consider future site and access requirements of the Yuingi Child Care Centre that presently operates on the site.

During the period leading up to disposal, Education Queensland will continue to maintain the site.

61. Travel Survey

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/4/01)—

With reference to the travel targets established by the Transport 2007 action plan—

What are the latest actual travel percentages for cycling, walking, public transport and private vehicle usage and how do these compare with the actual travel percentages identified in the Integrated Regional Transport Plan?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/5/01): A full Household Travel Survey for south-east Queensland has not been conducted since 1992, and therefore actual travel percentages are not available after 1992. However, transport modelling based on the 1996 Australian Bureau of Statistics Census, which included a Journey to Work question, and the 1992 Household Travel Survey, has been used to predict travel percentages for 1999.

In 1992, cycling mode share was 2% of trips and walking mode share was 13% of trips. Modelling estimates for cycling and walking in 1999 are combined and are estimated to be around 19% of trips, up by around 4%.

In 1992, public transport mode share was 7%. Transport modelling indicated that public transport mode share was 6% in 1999. However, this excluded taxi trips and some school transport services, which are classed as public transport. Based on more accurate patronage data collected by Queensland Transport, public transport mode share was estimated to be 7% in 1999.

The introduction of the TravelSmart campaign in 1998, aimed at enticing motorists out of their cars and onto public transport, combined with an injection of additional ongoing funding by the Beattie Labor Government of \$2.4 million for urban private bus operations has resulted in significant patronage increases in public transport over the past two financial years.

In south-east Queensland for the 1999/00 financial year, patronage on urban bus services jumped by 8.1% compared to a modest increase of 2.5% in 1998/99, which indicates that the Government is making solid progress towards achieving the Integrated Regional Transport Plan patronage targets.

Some urban service contract areas recorded outstanding increases in patronage over recent years. For example, patronage at Cleveland/Redland Bay has increased by 43% over the past two years, while the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba recorded patronage increases of 24%.

Similarly the Gold Coast had an increase of just over 10% while Deception Bay increased by 14% last financial year.

Travel by motorised vehicle in 1992 included private and commercial vehicles and was 78% of trips. The modelling estimates for 1999 predict that around 67% of trips were by private vehicle and 9% by commercial vehicle, a total of 76%. These figures include taxi trips which are classed as public transport, and therefore the vehicle mode share is around 75%, a decline of around 3% since 1992.

Planning for the next Household Travel Survey is currently under way, and surveys are expected to commence in the 2001/02 financial year.

62. Timber Mills, Eidsvold and Theodore

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for State Development (5/4/01)—

With reference to the timber mills at Eidsvold and Theodore which are currently owned by Boral and which as part of the South East Queensland forest agreement the Government has indicated it intends to buy and on sell to another operator—

- (1) Is he aware of the critical importance of these timber mills to the economic base of the communities of Eidsvold and Theodore?
- (2) Will he confirm the commitment given by his predecessor that neither of these mills will close as a result of being purchased by the Government?
- (3) What action has he taken since becoming Minister to ensure that these timber mills will continue to operate and provide badly needed jobs in these communities?

Mr BARTON (8/5/01):

- (1) I appreciate the importance of the timber industry to all rural communities including those at Eidsvold and Theodore.
- (2) Officers of my department meet regularly with the Eidsvold Timber Working Group to ensure these mills continue to operate as going concerns. The most recent meeting of this group was on 10 April 2001.
- (3) See (2) above.

63. Cooler Schools Program

Miss ELISA ROBERTS asked the Minister for Education (5/4/01)—

Does she have any plans to install air-conditioning into the schools within the Gympie Electorate; if so, when?

Ms BLIGH (8/5/01): At this stage, the Cooler Schools zone ends at approximately latitude 24° just south of Gladstone as such these schools in the Gympie electorate are south of the zone and are ineligible for subsidy under the Cooler Schools program.

There are no plans in the immediate future to extend the Cooler Schools program beyond the current zone.

64. BoysTown

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (5/4/01)—

- (1) Since the Australian Labor Party returned to Government in 1998, what has been the monthly enrolment of students at Boystown?
- (2) What has the recurrent expenditure for the Government been during that period?

Ms SPENCE (8/5/01):

(1) The following data in relation to the monthly enrolments of young people placed at the BoysTown Residential Care Program Beaudesert has been provided by BoysTown. It should be noted that BoysTown were not able to provide the monthly figures for the period August 1998 – May 1999*.

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1998	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	42	41	*	*	*	*	*
1999	*	*	*	*	*	29	29	32	31	31	31	22
2000	20	21	25	25	29	30	30	31	31	29	20	17
2001	16	16	16									

(2) The response provided to this part of the question is based on the Department of Families recurrent funding to the BoysTown Residential Care Program Beaudesert. Details of recurrent funding for the last three financial years is as follows:

1998-1999—\$1,667,883

1999-2000—\$1,728,434

2000-2001—\$1,753,816

I have instructed the Department to review the funding formula for BoysTown in light of the decreasing number of boys in residence.

65. Queensland Ambulance Service, Hervey Bay

Mr McNAMARA asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (5/4/01)—

With reference to media reports that the Department of Emergency Services is currently seeking to identify a site for a new ambulance station in Hervey Bay—

Has a preferred site yet been identified; if so, where is it and when will construction be commenced; if not, when does he anticipate the site identification process to be completed?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/5/01): The Queensland Ambulance Service is currently in the process of identifying a suitable site for the new Hervey Bay Ambulance station. Information is being collected with regards to workload patterns, response times and the demographics of the area for identification of future trends. This is being undertaken so that the most appropriate location for the ambulance station is identified ensuring the needs of the community are met.

It is anticipated that the site identification process will be finalised during the 2001/02 financial year.

Following identification of potential suitable sites a community consultation process will commence which will assist in identifying a final favoured site.

66. Kawana Sewage Treatment Plant

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Environment (5/4/01)—

With reference to the millions of litres of treated effluent that has been pumped into the Mooloolah River from the Kawana sewage treatment plant—

Will he investigate if the licence to discharge into this waterway (the Mooloolah River) will be rescinded, thus ensuring a real improvement to water quality?

Mr WELLS (9/5/01): The department informs me that the Kawana sewage treatment plant is operated by Caloundra City Council. The Council holds a licence under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 which allows for a discharge of treated effluent to the Mooloolah River under limited circumstances. The majority of the sewage effluent is discharged to the ocean outfall at Warana Beach. The department informs me that the Caloundra City Council has advised that an upgrade to the ocean outfall is in the planning stage. This project will, when completed, will increase the effluent volume which can be passed through this ocean discharge point. At this point in time the Caloundra City Council has not nominated an expected completion date.

The Caloundra City Council is cognisant of the environmental values of the river. The licence conditions restrict the use of the outfall to the Mooloolah River to times of unavailability of the main release point due to maintenance of the ocean outfall, its pumps and associated infrastructure, or excessive rainfall when storage of effluent is no longer possible. The department informs me that the circumstances in which the outfall to the river has been used have been rare events, with only 7 events recorded since September 1992. The Council is required by its licence to notify the EPA when overflows occur and when possible an officer of the EPA has investigated the impact of the overflow.

67. Pork Industry

Mr ROWELL asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (5/4/01)—

With reference to the Pig Industry Development Strategy announced by him on 30 March 2001—

- (1) Did he consult with pig producers and pig meat processors in the development of this strategy; if so, what recommendations have the various groups made?
- (2) What is the forecasted requirement for grain to support the planned trebling of pig production and has the Government developed any strategies to ensure there will be sufficient supply at economical prices?
- (3) What forecasting and/or market assessment has been done to date on each of the prospective countries the strategy will target?
- (4) Did the Government consider the findings of the ABARE analysis of pork production in Australia, presented at the 2001 Outlook Conference, in preparing the strategy?
- (5) How will the Government's strategy counter the forecasted contraction of pork production from 2001 to 2006 as a result of projected higher feed costs and downward pressure on pig prices from lower world prices, stronger competition in export markets and rising imports?

Mr BEATTIE (8/5/01):

(1) The Queensland Pig Industry Development Strategy is a direct response to issues raised by both the production and processing sectors of the industry and are fundamental elements to stimulate industry growth in order to maintain a sustainable, competitive industry.

The Strategy incorporates a number of the key issues put forward by the Australasian Pig Institute in its submission to the Government last year seeking support for the development of a Queensland Pork Industry Strategic Development Plan.

(2) The availability and price of grain will be addressed as part of the implementation process for the Strategy.

(3) The Government's Overseas Trade and Investment Offices have provided market intelligence with respect to demand for pork product and potential opportunities for attracting investment, particularly as a result of the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak.

The Food and Meat Industries Task Force also has a close working relationship with the Confederation of Australian Pork Exporters.

(4) Yes.

(5) The ABARE Outlook 2001 for the Australian Pig Industry is a forecast. At the time the forecast was made, there was no world-wide epidemic of Foot and Mouth disease.

The enormous shift in global markets as a result of the Foot and Mouth disease crisis was not fully assessed and nor have the impacts yet been fully felt.

The Strategy is a proactive response to the current dilemmas facing some of the world's largest pig producing countries.

68. Dairy Industry

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/4/01)—

With reference to Tableland dairy farmers who are at present receiving an average of 25 cents per litre for milk supplied to the Malanda factory, at which rate they cannot survive long term and as to stay afloat, they must receive at least 35 cents to 40 cents a litre—

- (1) Will the Government assist farmers to reach this level of income; if so, how?
- (2) Will he guarantee the jobs of the two DPI officers at Malanda will stay?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/5/01):

(1) Yes. I support the industry view that increase prices are essential and that the ability for farmers to collectively bargain is necessary to enable better prices to be negotiated.

I have strongly supported the official requests lodged by both Premium Milk, on behalf of suppliers to Pauls Limited, and the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation (or 'ADFF') on behalf of all producers in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (the 'ACCC') for collective price negotiations with processors under the sanction of the Trade Practices Act 1974.

I am pleased to see that the ACCC has in fact announced an interim authorisation for Premium Milk to negotiate with Pauls. The ACCC's interim authorisation ruling specifically mentions my letter of strong support for the proposal. I certainly hope it had some bearing on the Commission's deliberations.

I have also written directly to the Chairman of the ACCC, Professor Allan Fels, in regard to the ADFF authorisation request and have expressed my strong support for the ADFF proposal.

For more than a decade, the Dairy Extension Service has been jointly funded by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and milk processors. This joint funding arrangement will cease on 30 June 2001. The DPI will maintain its financial commitment to the Dairy Extension Service. I would urge the milk processors to support the dairy farmers who have supported them.

(2) There are two dairy extension officer positions based at Malanda. Another staff member based at Kairi is spending 50% of his time involved in dairy extension. I am advised that one of the officers at Malanda resigned recently to take up a position with the Dairyfarmers Co-operative in New South Wales. To date, these positions have been partly funded by the Dairyfarmers Co-operative cost sharing arrangements.

I reaffirm that DPI will maintain its funding support to the Dairy Extension Service. I understand Dairyfarmers Cooperative has advised that it intends to enhance its technical advisory group to meet its commercial needs.

69. Syringes, Queensland Health

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (5/4/01)—

Will she provide a breakdown of unit numbers of syringes ordered and consumed (a) within hospital environments, (b) supplied by Queensland Health through needle availability programs ie, IV drug users and (c) in diabetes programs?

Mrs EDMOND (8/5/01):

(a) Queensland Health hospitals ordered approximately 17.5 million syringes during the 2000 calendar year.

(b) Queensland Health supplied approximately 5 million syringes through the Needle and Syringe Program in the 1999/2000 financial year. While there has been growth in the number of needles and syringes distributed each year, this growth has been slowing. Between 1996/97 and 1997/98, there was a 94 per cent increase compared with a 59 per cent increase between 1998/99 and 1999/00. Current indications are that there will be little if any increase in the numbers distributed this year. The declining trend in the number of needles distributed reflects a cutting back on wastage because of the limits placed on distribution to clients at any one time as appropriate. All workers in needle and syringe programs also undergo comprehensive mandatory training, one of the core components being to provide assessment, information, support and referral to treatment as required. It is not possible to determine how many syringes the Needle and Syringe Program provided to diabetics among other clients. Queensland Health is advised approximately 4 million needles are provided through community pharmacies in the form of sharp kits which come with a disposal container.

(c) Diabetics in Queensland were provided with approximately 4 million syringes through the National Diabetic Scheme during the 1999/2000 financial year. The Queensland Government has been meeting the patient's share of the cost of needles and syringes supplied through the National Diabetic Scheme since 1 January 2001.

70. Transport 2007: an Action Plan for South East Queensland

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/4/01)—

With reference to the recent publication of *Transport 2007: an Action Plan for South East Queensland*—

- (1) What was the total cost of producing the document?
- (2) What were the major cost elements and their amounts included in the total costs?
- (3) How many copies of Transport 2007 were produced?
- (4) What was the cost of distribution?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/5/01):

(1) \$61,150.89

(2) Production and printing of books \$60,518.39. Dye line proof for CD \$33.00. Converting PDFs and burning CDs \$599.50.

(3) 2,500 books and 500 CDs.

(4) Most of the distribution to date has been through internal processes and has incurred no costs. Those copies sent through normal postal services have cost approximately \$170.00. Deliveries to submitters and the broader community have not been completed so costs are not available.

71. National Parks Master Plan

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Environment (5/4/01)—

With reference to the recent publication of Master Plan for Queensland's Park System Discussion Paper—

- (1) What was the total cost of producing the document?

- (2) What were the major cost elements and their amounts included in the total costs?
- (3) How many copies of the discussion paper were produced?
- (4) What was the cost of distribution?

Mr WELLS (9/5/01):

(1) The Government's National Parks Master Plan will guide the development of parks over the next twenty years, and lift the standard of park management to better meet community expectations and needs. The Master Plan discussion paper has enabled a wide range of community groups interested in Queensland's parks to have input as part of the public consultation process. The department informs me that the total cost of producing the document was \$58,233.

(2) The cost of printing, publishing and artwork totalled \$53,233.

(3) The department informs me that it had printed 3,000 copies of the Master Plan discussion paper. These have been distributed to a range of key stakeholders including: Public Libraries, Local Governments, Queensland Government Agent Program Offices located in rural and remote areas, conservation, recreation groups and Native Title claimant groups, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Offices, the Queensland Farmers Federation and other interest groups.

Additionally, copies of the discussion paper are available from the Internet and a series of statewide seminars is currently occurring to ensure that the Master Plan addresses community concerns. This Government is committed to consultation with the community to ensure that the Master Plan will continue to provide Queenslanders with a wide range of benefits.

(4) The cost of distribution was \$5000.

72. National Parks

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (5/4/01)—

What programs has he in mind to uplift the quality of national parks in Queensland?

Mr WELLS (9/5/01): The Beattie Labor Government has initiated a major program to improve the quality of National Parks in Queensland. A key component of this program is the development of the Parks Masterplan. This plan will provide a blueprint for the future management of our protected areas in Queensland.

The Government has initiated the 'Better Parks' program, allocating \$10M to the capital works program. This initiative has been highly successful in injecting capital funding for park management. The department informs me that this financial year \$42.455M has been allocated for the day-to-day management of national parks including the management of visitors, the maintenance of facilities and natural resource conservation such as the management and monitoring of pest plants and animals and fire management.

This initiative is also providing jobs for young unemployed Queenslanders. The department informs me that a total of \$4million has been provided to create 100 traineeships. These traineeships will provide the opportunity for those involved to work on projects in our National Parks. A total of \$5million for the development of capital infrastructure, and a further \$1million has been provided to supplement park infrastructure maintenance.

I am informed that a further outcome of the Better Parks program has been the allocation of \$1million to the development of new information systems for prioritising, managing and monitoring the allocation of resources to strategic Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service outcomes. Major elements of these systems include:

- design of a business system which will facilitate the prioritisation, allocation and monitoring of resources;
- development of a database which will aid in the prioritisation of investment in the control of pest plants and animals, and fire management systems on national parks;
- development of a new system for forward planning of capital works on parks; and
- development of a strategic asset management system for built infrastructure on parks.

More improvements are planned for the future. The Beattie Labor Government has a commitment to the 'Great Walks of Queensland'. This initiative will upgrade access to and enhance the enjoyment of Queensland's national parks. \$10million will be allocated over five years to undertake the planning, construction and promotion of the track network.

The department informs me that it anticipates a further \$10million increase to base funds will be allocated to improve the maintenance of national parks throughout the State. This funding is intended to increase the number of rangers on parks and significantly improve the maintenance of assets, such as visitor facilities, fencing and fire trails.

73. Medical Practitioners, Rural Communities

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (5/4/01)—

With reference to attracting doctors to smaller rural communities which has been an ongoing concern of those communities and Queensland Health alike—

To aid in resolving this issue, will she encourage and actively pursue in both State and Federal arenas (a) the creation of zonal rebate areas whereby doctors in rural areas receive greater assistance and rebates and (b) the establishment of satellite linkups to offer support to those doctors prepared to establish in rural areas and allow them to obtain second opinions and/or specialist consultancy?

Mrs EDMOND (8/5/01):

(a) Until recently, all general practitioners who were not vocationally registered by the Commonwealth attracted a lower Medicare rebate for consultations which meant greater out-of-pocket expenses for rural patients. However, the introduction of the Other Medical Practitioners program by the Commonwealth means rural and remote patients are now eligible for the higher Medicare rebate when they visit their local general practitioner, regardless of whether the general practitioner is vocationally recognised or not.

The Medicare rebate for a consultation with rural and remote general practitioner increased by \$5.10 to \$22.95 where an under supply of general practitioners exists.

Incentives in Queensland for Medical Superintendents with Right of Private Practice (MSR PPs) include accommodation, private use of a motor vehicle, communications equipment and the free use of a private surgery where available and recently, an additional half day off per week.

Incentives created under a Labor Government to attract full-time specialists in Queensland country centres included an option A right of private practice allowance of 45% of base salary compared to 35% for metropolitan specialists; free accommodation, provision of communications equipment and private use of vehicles. As a result of these incentives, full-time specialist vacancies have fallen substantially.

Queensland Health provides access to salary sacrificing and higher commencement pay rates for visiting specialists in rural areas.

The Rural Medical Indemnity Scheme for Rural Private General Practitioners – Medical Defence Rebates provides subsidies of up to \$5,200 (increased from \$3,500 in 1998) to private rural general practitioners who perform procedures such as obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgery, in the 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 general practitioners and support staff such as nurses.

The Doctors in the Bush Scheme, which I introduced about 18 months ago, has resulted in the employment of 25 doctors in rural and remote communities throughout the State. Until this scheme was introduced, many of these communities had tried unsuccessfully for many years to attract and retain a full-time doctor.

(b) A number of initiatives to provide clinical support have been undertaken over the past six years in Queensland. There are currently telehealth facilities available in over 250 locations across Queensland to enable assessment and treatment of remote patients, second-opinion support for isolated clinicians, and delivery of clinical training to rural health professionals, without the need for them to leave the workplace.

Queensland has established an international reputation as a world leader in this area, and has the largest, and most utilised, network of health-based videoconferencing in the World. There are over 2000 hours of health usage per month across Queensland, and up to 250 patients per month receiving care enabled by technology.

74. Queensland Ambulance Service, Staff

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (5/4/01)—

With reference to concerns throughout the Queensland Ambulance Service for the welfare of officers on a region by region basis—

What are the number of personnel who (a) are currently on stress leave, (b) have left the service due to dissatisfaction with the service, (c) have retired from the service under medical direction and (d) are absent from their duties for other reasons?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/5/01):

(a) There are currently 22 QAS employees on stress leave.

(b) An individual's reasons for resigning from the QAS are not currently obtained.

(c) 11 employees were medically retired from the QAS in 2000.

The regional break down of these figures is:

Region	Numbers currently on Stress Leave	Resignations during 2000	Medical Retirements during 2000
Greater Brisbane	6	16	1
South East	1	7	1
South West	1	8	1
Central	4	5	1
North Coast	4	5	5
Northern	2	5	0
Far Northern	2	7	0
AFcom	2	2	0
Head Office	0	15	2
Total	22	70	11

Note: Head Office includes all public sector employees.

(d) On 31/12/00, 414 QAS employees were absent from duties for other reasons

Region	Sick Leave	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave
Greater Brisbane	0	84	6
South East	2	60	5
South West	0	33	0
Central	1	46	1
North Coast	2	56	2
Northern	0	36	1
Far Northern	0	28	1
AFcom	0	12	0
Head Office	0	35	3
TOTAL	5	390	19

Note: Head Office includes all public sector employees.

75. Northern Busway

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/4/01)—

- (1) What is the progress of the Northern Busway project which is planned for Brisbane's inner northern suburbs?
- (2) How does this project fit into the Government's overall plan to improve public transport?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/5/01):

(1) The current program for the Inner Northern Busway is to have the busway between Roma Street and Bowen Bridge Road completed and operational by the end of 2003. Construction of the busway has commenced with the section under the Normanby intersection scheduled to be completed by July of this year. Construction on the section from Roma Street to the Normanby intersection which runs parallel to Countess Street is programmed to start early next year while construction through the Victoria Park Golf Course is programmed to start about September next year.

(2) The development of a busway network is a key recommendation of the Government's Integrated Regional Transport Plan (IRTP) for south-east Queensland which has the aim of encouraging people to use public transport in preference to their car.

This is being done by providing improved infrastructure such as busways and rail upgrades as well as providing additional services, and I am very proud to say that the first element of the busway network, the South East Busway opened in late April, about two months ahead of its original schedule. The South East Busway is a significant achievement and will provide substantial improvements to public transport in the south-east Corridor. The Inner Northern Busway is the second element of the Busway Network and the Premier's recent announcement shows this government's commitment to busways and to improving public transport. The Inner Northern Busway will complement the South East Busway and the combination of these two facilities will provide improved travel for bus passengers by improving the reliability, comfort, speed and safety of bus services.

76. Surf Life Saving Association, Brisbane North

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (5/4/01)—

What is the current status of the application by the Brisbane North committee of the Surf Life Saving Association for a gaming machine licence to operate the maximum number of gaming machines at a proposed site in Strathpine?

Mr MACKENROTH (3/5/01): The approval for a gaming machine licence lapsed on 13 December 2000. No new application has been lodged for the proposed site.

77. Bribie Island-Caboolture Road

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/4/01)—

Will he outline any plans to upgrade the Bribie Island/Caboolture Road?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/5/01): Provision has been made in the 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 Roads Implementation Program for the following works:

\$712,000 for upgrading pedestrian facilities on the Pumicestone Passage Bridge which is due for completion by June 2001.

\$377,000 for a planning study for future upgrading of Bribie Island Road between Browns Road and the Pumicestone Passage Bridge including a possible bypass of Ningi. This study includes full public consultation and is due for completion by September 2001.

The Department of Main Roads monitors traffic volumes, road crashes and other factors on all state-controlled roads and programs upgrading works based on available funding. The need for future works on the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road will be considered in annual reviews of the Roads Implementation Program and projects will be included depending on the availability of funds and the relative priority of other works.

78. Prostitution Legislation

Mr HOBBS asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (5/4/01)—

With reference to the Prostitution Act 1999 under which an exemption is provided to towns with a population of 25,000 or less to prevent a brothel application proceeding, however the legislation only extends to towns of less than 25,000 people and it does not extend to brothels in rural areas regardless of the population size of the shire—

Will he close this loophole in the act with future amendments and give a clear definition of 'town area' to avoid the probability of 'little houses on the prairie' being set up in rural areas of the State?

Mr BEATTIE (8/5/01): The Government made it clear during the debate of this Bill and in the explanatory notes that the intent of this legislation is that local governments with less than 25,000 will not have to suffer brothels being forced on them.

Opposition Members debated clause 64, which includes this provision, and did not divide on it.

The Minister told the House during the debate: 'Small communities that do not want to have brothels should not have brothels forced upon them. That is what this Bill provides for. Clause 64 gives local governments with populations of less than 25,000 people the power to refuse all brothel applications.'

He also said in the debate: 'those local authorities with fewer than 25,000 people have an absolute right of veto.'

Therefore, there are currently no plans to amend section 64 of the Prostitution Act 1999.

79. Mount Lindesay Highway, Middle-Green Roads

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/4/01)—

- (1) When will tenders be called for the Middle Road to Green Road upgrade of the Mt Lindesay Highway?

- (2) What is the anticipated timeframe for the completion of the above project?
- (3) Will he investigate the possibility of having the widening of the highway at Green Road considered as the first stage of the project to alleviate problems for Regents Park residents?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/5/01):

- (1) The design of the Middle Road to Green Road upgrade of the Mt Lindesay Highway is nearing completion. I am aware of the priority of this project. Tenders will be called once land acquisitions and public utility plan relocations have been completed.
- (2) The construction period for the works is expected to be about 18 months.
- (3) The whole of the works between Middle and Green Roads is to be constructed under a single contract. The Contractor programs the order of construction, while subject to Main Roads approval. A direction to the contractor to construct any portion of the works first could result in higher costs. This may be difficult in respect to traffic management and construction sequence. There may not be any early benefits for Regents Park residents because of the impact of adjoining works.

80. Fire Station, Redlands

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (5/4/01)—

As a new fire station for the Redlands has been in the planning phase for some time, will he advise on the current status of the proposed station and the consultation process regarding the location of this proposed station?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/5/01): Currently, the QFRA is undertaking an analysis of the Redlands area, using its latest methodologies and tools, to determine the options for possible locations for the new Redlands Fire Station.

The process involves an analysis of emergency incident data, socio-economic data, structural and environmental hazard data, future growth and response times which are then applied to the data to determine optimal locations.

Once suitable sites have been identified, the QFRA notify the stakeholders, through newspaper notices, in order to commence the consultation process.

Community meetings will be arranged to encourage open discussion and consultation in reaching agreement on a future fire station that best meets the needs of the community.

The acquisition of the land should then commence and the funding has been submitted for the 2001/02 financial year.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is committed to providing high-quality fire and rescue services that meet the needs of the local community.

81. Noise Barriers, Pacific Motorway

Ms KEECH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/4/01)—

What is the timeframe for the construction of sound barriers along the Pacific Motorway between Coomera and Yatala?

Mr BREDHAUER (8/5/01): During the recent election campaign, a commitment was given for the construction of some noise barriers between Yatala and Coomera as part of the Pacific Motorway Project.

The barriers that the project is committed to build in this location are:

- in the vicinity of the Yatala Motor Inn
- in the vicinity of the residences of Pat Breen, Sandra Breene and Bob Nissen at Pimpama Rivers Estate at Hillcrest
- in the vicinity of the residence of John Crouch
- an extension to the barrier in the vicinity of the residence of Kim Bennett
- an extension to the barrier in the vicinity of Patrina Scott's residence.

Designs for these works are nearing completion.

Works are expected to commence in June and completed by October 2001.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

82. Real Estate Agents

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (1/5/01)—

- (1) As Minister for Fair Trading, how many complaints has her department received over the last twelve months regarding either the unscrupulous behaviour of or customer dissatisfaction with Real Estate Agents?
- (2) Does she, as Minister for Fair Trading, have any plans to reduce the current number of such complaints?

Mrs ROSE (5/6/01):

- (1) 731.
- (2) The complaint level for the past 12 months is lower than for the previous twelve months when 821 were received.

It is anticipated the new Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000 will come into effect on 1 July 2001 and this new legislation will provide Queensland consumers with more effective protection. The Act contains several disclosure requirements which will enable consumers to make informed decisions when dealing in real estate transactions. It will also put in place a regulatory regime for property developers designed to avoid problems associated with two-tier marketing of properties. I have requested my Department to maintain the increased focus on compliance activities commenced this financial year to complement the introduction of the Act. The Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) has also been provided with information concerning the nature of complaints raised by consumers to assist the industry in identifying practices which give rise to consumer complaints.

83. Quaid Company; Starcke Station

Ms LEE LONG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (1/5/01)—

With reference to the Quaid Company that held Starcke Station near Cooktown and which was pursuing the Government for compensation over what it believed was inadequate compensation for the forced sale of its holdings—

- (1) Has this legal action been finished; if so, what is the outcome?
- (2) If the Government has been forced to settle, what are the final details of the settlement and what is the monetary amount?

Mr WELFORD (1/6/01): The Starcke claim for compensation commenced in the Land Court on 29 May 2000 and the hearing concluded in mid July 2000 after 28 hearing days. The claim was defended by the Department of Natural Resources. The Land Court's decision has not yet been handed down.

The Government has not settled the claim.

84. Stock Squad

Mr SEENEY asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (1/5/01)—

With reference to the answer to Question on Notice No 14 asked on 22 March 2001 in which the Minister for Police advised that based on QPS figures the following numbers of 'stealing or unlawful use of stock' offences have been committed: (a) January 1999-December 1999, 159 reported with 27 cleared up, (b) January 2000-December 2000, 147 reported with 30 cleared up and (c) January 2001-March 2001, 77 reported with 4 cleared up—

- (1) How many of these offences have been prosecuted to date?
- (2) How many are currently being prosecuted?
- (3) In how many cases have convictions been achieved?
- (4) What were the penalties for each of these convictions?

Mr WELFORD (1/6/01): Based on statistics kept by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General:

The number of 'stealing or unlawful use of stock' offences prosecuted in each of the periods indicated is listed below:

(a) January 1999-December 1999	29
(b) January 2000-December 2000	22
(c) January 2001-March 2001	2

Two matters are currently before the court.

The number of charges where convictions have been recorded for 'stealing or unlawful use of stock' in each of the periods indicated is listed below:

(a) January 1999-December 1999	24
(b) January 2000-December 2000	18
(c) January 2001-March 2001	1

The penalties for the convictions in each of the periods indicated is listed below:

- (a) January 1999-December 1999: 1 Imprisonment, 1 Suspended Sentence, 21 Fined and/or Ordered to pay Restitution, and 1 Convicted and not further punished.
- (b) January 2000-December 2000: 16 Fined and/or ordered to pay Restitution, 1 Community Service Order, and 1 Convicted and not further punished.
- (c) January 2001-March 2001: 1 released on their own recognisance and ordered to pay \$1000 over 12 months.

85. Cunningham Electorate, Schools

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Education (1/5/01)—

- (1) How many schools in the Cunningham Electorate have an acting principal in place?
- (2) Which schools are they?
- (3) When will a permanent appointment be made for each school?

Ms BLIGH (31/5/01): There are 24 schools in the Cunningham electorate.

Of these, six schools—Clifton, Emu Creek, Nobby, Ramsay, Southbrook Central and Darling Heights State Schools—currently have an acting principal in place.

With the exception of Darling Heights, all of these schools do have a permanent principal appointed. However, these five principals are currently either on leave, or acting in a higher-level position.

A permanent appointment has been made to Darling Heights State School and the new principal will take up duties at the beginning of Semester 2 this year.

86. Dingoes, Fraser Island

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (1/5/01)—

What moves are in hand to immediately cull the dingo menace on Fraser Island?

Mr WELLS (31/5/01): Immediately following the tragedy on 30 April this year on Fraser Island, the QPWS destroyed 28 dingoes over a 5 day period. The dingoes were the animals that were displaying habitual behaviour towards humans and were found in areas frequented by people.

The primary concern at that point was visitor safety and this was addressed by removing dingoes at key locations. This cull was completed on Saturday 5 May 2001. Since that cull there has been a major focus on identifying the risks posed by animals, based on their behaviour and proximity to humans. Animals that demonstrate aggressive behaviour towards humans will still be destroyed. However, there is no broad-scale cull of dingoes being conducted.

87. Carbon Credits; Timber Industry

Dr KINGSTON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (1/5/01)—

With reference to his announced intention to legislate to create carbon sinks and to his invitation to Japanese and Korean firms to participate—

- (1) Is this an expression of his confidence in the carbon credit market?
- (2) Considering the potential glut in wood chips, what will the new plantation be used for?
- (3) Has detailed consideration been given to the net economic benefit of subsidising/assisting Queensland farmers to establish small but commercial saw log and fuel plantations on their farms, as part of their efforts to apply sustainable farming techniques, water table and salinity control, responsible control of effluent and presentation of biodiversity and habitat?

Mr BEATTIE (29/5/01):

(1) The Government is proposing to amend legislation to recognise sequestered carbon as a commodity and provide certainty to land holders and investors so that they can own and transfer rights to this commodity. The legislation will provide a robust legal framework for this, by allowing for the interests to be registered on the land title. This proposed legislative amendment responds to demands from potential investors for greater confidence about their ability to own and transfer carbon rights. This will allow investors to take advantage of any national or international carbon credit scheme which might be developed. The Commonwealth Government has advised that it is the responsibility of States and Territories to establish legal mechanisms to recognise rights to carbon commodities and other States have developed or are developing similar legislation. It is not the Queensland Government's role to establish or operate emissions trading or carbon credit markets, which are the subject of international negotiations. However, we believe that it is important to provide a clear legislative framework to facilitate investment in Queensland and position the State to take advantage of opportunities in forestry investment arising from a possible future carbon credits trading system.

(2) I am not aware of any potential glut of woodchips. Potential investors will assess commercial opportunities and risks of plantation investments and the market outlook for forest products. My Government's commitment to the development of hardwood and softwood resources, investment in value adding and downstream processing of forest products has already been expressed by the implementation of the South East Queensland Forest Agreement and other programs. Importantly, the SEQ Forest Agreement will result in hundreds of jobs. We anticipate that carbon credits can and will be generated from environmental plantings and from commercial crops of high value native hardwood timbers.

(3) The range of potential benefits mentioned in the question are reflected in the broad approach taken by this proposed legislative amendment. The amendment supports the objective of my Government to empower landholders to take advantage of emerging market opportunities by removing impediments to diversification of their businesses. This Government is committed to promoting forest establishment, vegetation conservation, sustainable agricultural production and solutions to other natural resource management challenges. Our commitment is illustrated by the introduction of the South East Queensland Forest Agreement and the associated Hardwood Joint Venture Initiative, provision of Natural Heritage Trust programs in relation to private forestry investments and implementation of the national action plan on salinity and water quality.

88. African Lovegrass

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (1/5/01)—

With reference to recent meetings at Kingaroy and Eidsvold which revealed the extent of public concern for African Lovegrass where ninety people representing local government, Government departments, Landcare and farmers travelled

from Crows Nest and Jandowae to Kingaroy to express their concerns regarding this problem plant and seventy people at Eidsvold expressed similar concerns and as the farmers attending the seminar in Kingaroy told of ways they had tried to control the grass, from burning, ploughing, using goats and donkeys to chemicals, the most successful way seemed to be by the use of a couple of different herbicides, however most were disappointed by the lack of action by the local councils to do anything about the spread of the grass along the roadsides and felt that slashing was contributing to the grasses spread—

- (1) What is the Government doing to combat the African Lovegrass situation in the South Burnett region?
- (2) What can the Government do to help local councils' combat the situation?
- (3) Has the Government implemented a primary producer awareness and education program?

Mr ROBERTSON (31/5/01):

(1) African lovegrass is present in Queensland on the Darling Downs, Western Downs and Granite Belt as well as the South Burnett.

The grass is not a declared weed under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1985 because the plant's biology, ecology, current and potential distribution, impacts and practicability of its control are not adequately known.

My Department of Natural Resources and Mines is currently acquiring more information for developing a policy position on African lovegrass by conducting a pest risk analysis. Field staff, in collaboration with Department of Primary Industries (DPI) officers, are collecting information on the current distribution of the weed.

(2) My Department provides publications, policy and technical advice on invasive weeds to local governments, who may declare African lovegrass under a local law. However, any enforcement of control of African lovegrass by local governments ought to be concentrated on preventing spread to new areas rather than, at this stage, expecting landholders to destroy large infestations. My Department will also urge local governments to desist from slashing roadsides where African lovegrass presence is suspected as slashing is a primary means of spreading the weed.

(3) A Department of Primary Industries Note on African lovegrass has been available since November 1999 and has been actively distributed in the South Burnett and further afield. The Note can also be accessed via the State Government's Prime Notes compact disk. Further information on African lovegrass can be obtained from the DPI website (www.dnr.qld.gov.au) which includes a specific site for this weed.

89. Bail

Mr FLYNN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (1/5/01)—

As he would perhaps be aware of frequent public concern with bail being granted in some cases most would consider inappropriate, does he consider it necessary to strengthen legislation in this area, that where persons are clearly at risk, then an offender should not be granted bail; if not, why not?

Mr WELFORD (1/6/01): Section 16 of the Bail Act 1980 sets out the circumstances where it is appropriate for a court or police officer to refuse bail. Section 16 provides—

'16.(1) Notwithstanding this Act, a court or police officer authorised by this Act to grant bail shall refuse to grant bail to a defendant if the court or police officer is satisfied—

- (a) that there is an unacceptable risk that the defendant if released on bail—
 - (i) would fail to appear and surrender into custody;
 - (ii) would while released on bail—
 - (A) commit an offence; or
 - (B) endanger the safety or welfare of a person who is claimed to be a victim of the offence with which the defendant is charged or anyone else's safety or welfare; or
 - (C) interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice, whether for the defendant or anyone else; or
 - (b) that the defendant should remain in custody for the defendant's own protection.
- (1A) Where it has not been practicable to obtain sufficient information for the purpose of making a decision in connection with any matter specified in subsection (1) due to lack of time since the institution of proceedings against a defendant the court before which the defendant appears or is brought shall remand the defendant in custody with a view to having further information obtained for that purpose.
- (2) In assessing whether there is an unacceptable risk with respect to any event specified in subsection (1) (a) the court of police officer shall have regard to all matters appearing to be relevant and in particular, without in any way limiting the generality of this provision, to such of the following considerations as appear to be relevant
- (a) the nature and seriousness of the offence;
 - (b) the character, antecedents, associations, home environment, employment and background of the defendant;
 - (c) the history of any previous grants of bail to the defendant;
 - (d) the strength of the evidence against the defendant.
- (3) Where the defendant is charged—
- (a) with an indictable offence that is alleged to have been committed while the defendant was at large with or without bail between the date of the defendant's apprehension and the date of the defendant's committal for trial or while awaiting trial for another indictable offence; or
 - (b) with an offence to which section 13 applies; or

- (c) with an indictable offence in the course of committing which the defendant is alleged to have used or threatened to use a firearm, offensive weapon or explosive substance; or
- (d) with an offence against this Act;
- the court or police officer shall refuse to grant bail unless the defendant shows cause why the defendant's detention in custody is not justified and, where bail is granted, shall include in the order a statement of the reasons for granting bail.

(4) In granting bail in accordance with subsection (3) a court or police officer may impose conditions in accordance with section 11.'

If there is an unacceptable risk that a defendant, if released on bail, would endanger the safety or welfare of a person who is a victim, or any other person, then bail should be refused.

The Bail Act 1980 also provides for a review of any decision of a police officer or court, except the Supreme Court, to grant or refuse bail. A decision of a Supreme Court judge to grant bail may be subject to an appeal, by the Director of Public Prosecutions, to the Court of Appeal.

I am aware of public concern in respect to the operation of the Bail Act 1980. It is for this reason that I will be undertaking a review of the Bail Act 1980. The principles in the statutory provisions set out above have developed over a lengthy period of experience but if you have any better ideas, your input would be welcome.

90. Detoxification Trials

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (1/5/01)—

With reference to the fact that under the previous Queensland Coalition Government, a scientifically based naltrexone trial was funded and initiated to test the value of this treatment as an additional measure to assist in rehabilitating heroin users and the trial was continued by the Beattie Government—

As this is three years ago, why then has the full research not been published and when will this occur?

Mrs EDMOND (31/5/01): The trial is a randomised clinical trial comparing rapid opiate detoxification under both sedation and anaesthetic with existing treatment.

The Coalition Government made an allocation to fund a trial of rapid opiate detoxification, however only half the necessary money was allocated. The trial was announced by media release but not commenced.

The original proposal was to trial rapid detoxification under anaesthetic at the Intensive Care Unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. This was totally impractical as the Royal Brisbane Hospital is a major trauma centre. As well the proposed trial was to be performed in isolation from other Australian trials which were simultaneously occurring, was of a small size, and had not completed the process for ethics committee approval at the time of the change of Government.

In 1998, the new Labor Government allocated \$480,000 to adequately fund a proper clinical trial of this treatment so it could be trialled safely and effectively. The funding increase was to include a group of clients who would be detoxified under sedation. This revised trial protocol was accepted by the Royal Brisbane Hospital Ethics Committee.

The trial based at the Royal Brisbane Hospital and Greenslopes Private Hospital commenced in March 1999 and has three components:

- rapid opiate detoxification under anaesthesia;
- rapid opiate detoxification under sedation; and
- a control group maintained on standard methadone treatment.

The trial has now recruited and treated the total number of participants (159).

The National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC) is conducting a National Evaluation of Pharmacotherapies for Opioid Dependence (NEPOD), using results from all of the trials which have taken place in the States and Territories across Australia. Queensland Health is contributing the results of this trial to this evaluation. This evaluation will compare the results of all of the trials to establish the most effective treatments for opioid dependence in Australia.

The Coalition's trial proposal did not provide for a proper comparison with the method of detoxification under sedation. This has been shown in several trials to be as effective as detoxification under anaesthetic.

The evaluation will be presented to the next meeting of the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) on July 31, 2001.

The key difference between the Coalition and Labor Government's approach is that the Labor Government:

- insisted that the trial be a proper comparison;
- obtained Ethics Committee approval;
- provided adequate funding;
- removed the potential impact on tertiary trauma patients requiring intensive care at the Royal Brisbane Hospital; and
- allowed for the monitoring of health outcomes of the participants six months after the commencement of treatment.

91. Employment and Training

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (1/5/01)—

With reference to the very high unemployment figures for Queensland youth and noting that facilities such as Team Employment and Training at Moorooka have excellent facilities which are not being used to their maximum—

Why hasn't State Government funding been allocated to support such an organisation to provide assistance to unemployed people?

Mr FOLEY (31/5/01): The Honourable Member appears to have been misinformed. The Department of Employment and Training has provided funding of \$542,058.64 to Team Employment and Training since 1998 and will continue to fund it for training provided under the User Choice contract between it and the Department. The level of this funding will depend on the number of students who choose team Employment and Training as their training provider.

92. Coalmine Dispute; BHP

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (1/5/01)—

With reference to this year's crippling strikes at BHP Queensland Coal—

- (1) What is the expected reduction in royalties to the Queensland Government as a result of the strike?
- (2) What is the expected reduction in rail freight revenue from the loss of coal production and loss of subsequent rail freight?

Mr MACKENROTH (31/5/01):

(1) The full extent of production losses from BHP operated mines is yet to be determined with any certainty due to the ongoing nature of the dispute. Any losses should be balanced against possible increases at other sites.

Any loss of royalties to the Government will depend in large part on how much coal can be mined, railed and at the end of the financial year. It is expected that all participants in the coal chain will be making every effort to make up for lost production.

(2) Due to the ongoing nature of the industrial action at BHP operated mines, an expected reduction in rail freight revenue is difficult to determine at this point in time. QR has attempted to manage the situation to limit the impact on revenue by rescheduling trains and taking other remedial action.

93. National Livestock Identification Scheme

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (1/5/01)—

With reference to the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS) (1/5/01)—

- (1) What has been the uptake of the scheme in Queensland?
- (2) Does the Beattie Government support NLIS; if so, what role is Department of Primary Industries (DPI) playing in promoting the uptake of the scheme?
- (3) Will the Beattie Government provide any incentives or assistance to offset the cost of NLIS and encourage its adoption?
- (4) Will the Beattie Government make adoption of NLIS by livestock producers compulsory?

Mr PALASZCZUK (31/5/01):

(1) The NLIS is considered by the Queensland Government to refer to the whole system of livestock identification in Australia. As a result it may be considered to include systems such as the branding and tattooing systems and the tail tagging system. The application of permanent identification by means of radio frequency identification (RFID) is a particular enhancement of the NLIS. Management of this initiative nationally is by Meat and Livestock Australia. The uptake of this enhancement of the scheme in Queensland has been stimulated primarily by the accreditation requirements for meat products exported to the European Union. Some 474 producers are accredited with 350,000 cattle identified with NLIS RFID.

(2) The Government supports the NLIS through the provision of systems for property identification and subsequently for animal identification. It also supports it through compliance monitoring to maintain a high level of integrity of the Scheme. This has required the introduction of supporting legislation and the provision of ordering systems and administrative support. The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has also been heavily involved in consultation with and the provision of advisory services to the cattle industry, meat processors and livestock agents. The DPI has also supported research and development trials into the introduction of RFID.

(3) The Government has provided assistance to industry by maintaining a nil direct cost for administration of livestock identification services.

(4) Livestock identification requirements are already compulsory in many areas. All cattle sold via saleyards must be identified with tail or ear tags and if greater than 100 kilograms in bodyweight must be branded. All cattle properties holding more than 10 head of cattle must be registered by the DPI. The compulsory use of identification of cattle by RFID in certain circumstances is currently under review. Any changes would require national agreement that such changes are necessary.

94. Road Safety

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/5/01)—

With reference to the recent Easter holiday road toll—

- (1) What television and radio road safety related advertising was undertaken by Queensland Transport in the two weeks prior to the Easter break and over Easter?
- (2) How does this compare to advertising schedules and budgets over the past five years (as a significant amount of advertising has been conducted since the Easter break only the advertising scheduled prior to and over Easter is relevant to this question)?

Mr BREDHAUER (31/5/01):

(1) As in previous years, a road safety public education strategy has been implemented to cover from Easter until the Queen's Birthday weekend. Fatal 4 television commercials have been programmed for this period and billboards have been placed throughout the State as an in-vehicle stimulus for drivers.

Resources have been put into both outdoor and radio advertising to once again remind Queenslanders that seat belts save lives. Radio ads commenced in April and will run through until 24 June. Additional media is running in rural Queensland until after the Queen's birthday weekend to further focus on seat belts and driving tired. These extra radio, billboard and TV ads followed on from the Easter campaign.

(2) Budgets have continued to grow for the Easter period to reflect the additional activity that needs to occur during this time. Budgets have risen from \$285,000 in 1998 to \$558,000 in 2001.

While the road toll for Easter was six (up from four last year), this needs to be seen in the context of the overall road toll. Overall there has been a consistent downward trend in the number of fatalities over the past five years. Easter figures are significantly lower than in the 1980s when the average Easter road toll was 11. As at 23 May the road toll this year was 102, down from 124 last year. This represents a drop of 18%—the largest decrease of any state in Australia.

95. Domestic Violence Protection Orders

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (1/5/01)—

Will he provide details on the number of breaches in Domestic Violence Orders that have been reported to police, in each region and district as well as an overall state-wide figure for each month since January 1999 to April 2001?

Mr McGRADY (31/5/01): Attached is a table detailing the number of reported breaches of Domestic Violence Protection Orders for each region and district and for the State as a total by month from January 1999 to April 2001. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

96. Canegrubs

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (1/5/01)—

With reference to the serious problem of canegrubs that affects the viability of many growers particularly in the Mulgrave, Innisfail and Burdekin areas and integrated pest management procedures which are having limited success because the problem of canegrub infestation has in some circumstances reached plague proportions—

- (1) Will he consider the appointment of Department of Primary Industries (DPI) extension officers to work with the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations to develop a coordinated approach to this problem?
- (2) Will he approach the Commonwealth to develop a process to encourage international chemical companies to fast track the trialling of an effective chemical to combat this pest?
- (3) Will he discuss with his Federal counterpart the feasibility of a financial rebate scheme which will put existing chemicals that are prohibitively expensive, within the financial reach of badly affected growers?

Mr PALASZCZUK (31/5/01):

(1) The Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES) has both the expertise and responsibility to industry to address this issue. The Queensland Government provides a \$3.8 million annual grant to BSES to assist with research, development and extension activities, including grub control projects. Following a number of industry meetings I have convened, BSES has undertaken to ensure that an extension officer in Innisfail, the Herbert and the Burdekin, the highest priority areas, is dedicated to canegrub control. These extension officers will be supported by entomologists in Bundaberg, Mackay, Burdekin and Meringa as well as an Integrated Pest Management Co-ordinator in Mackay.

(2) I am advised that there is currently no single control measure that is likely to achieve effective management. A wider adoption of Integrated Pest Management systems will be critical in achieving effective cane grub control. With regard to chemicals, BSES is working with a number of chemical companies to improve the efficacy of current insecticides for use on canegrubs. For example, the controlled-release formulation of Confidor[®] is being developed by a partnership between Crop Care Australasia Ltd, Bayer Australia Ltd and BSES. I understand that this may eventually require State and Commonwealth Government cooperation with the National Registration Authority in issuing subsequent permits or registration for the new product under a range of cane-growing conditions across each mill area. Both Confidor (the non controlled-release version) and suSCon Plus were made available in 2000/01 under experimental permits. Confidor will again be available under experimental permits for 2001/02 and suSCon Plus is likely to be through the registration process in time for use later this year.

(3) I am advised that Canegrowers has now established a steering committee with grower, miller and government representation to develop an industry agreed position on potential solutions to cane grub control. These outcomes from this process are awaited and the appropriate role for the Federal Government will be considered at that time.

97. Graffiti Offences

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (1/5/01)—

What steps are being taken to address the sale to and use of spray cans by minors involved in graffiti offences?

Mr WELFORD (1/6/01): There are a number of criminal offences that ensure offenders, including young people, who damage property by graffiti receive the appropriate punishment for their conduct when apprehended.

The offence of wilful damage (section 479 of the Criminal Code) includes property damage caused by graffiti. The penalty is increased to seven years imprisonment when the graffiti features obscene or indecent representations. That section also allows a judge to order an offender to perform community service that can include removing graffiti from property.

The possession of a 'graffiti instrument', under certain circumstances, is a criminal offence. Section 37C of the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1931 reads—

'(1) A person must not without lawful excuse, the proof of which lies on him or her, possess a graffiti instrument under circumstances that give rise to a reasonable suspicion that the instrument has been used or is intended to be used to commit a graffiti offence.

Maximum penalty—70 penalty units or 2 years imprisonment.

(2) The court may—

- (a) whether or not it imposes any other penalty for the offence, order the offender to perform community service under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, part 5 division 2 including, for example, removing graffiti from property; or
- (b) whether or not it imposes any penalty for the offence, order the offender to pay compensation to any person under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, part 3, division 4.'

The following definitions apply—

' "graffiti instrument" means a spray-paint can or another applying, scratching or etching implement.

"graffiti offence" means an offence to which the Criminal Code, section 469, punishment in special cases, clause 9, applies.

"spray-paint can" means a container capable of propelling or otherwise applying paint.'

The effect of this offence is that if a person is found with an aerosol spray can in circumstances that give rise to a reasonable suspicion that the instrument is being used to graffiti property, then the person must prove that they had a lawful use for the spray can.

The Government acknowledges that graffiti damage is an important issue in the community. It has a range of strategies to reduce graffiti damage from the punitive (the offence provisions) to innovative projects centred in the community that seek to target the causes of offending. For example—

1. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General produces and distributes a manual called Graffiti Crime Prevention Plan.
2. The Department of Families' Community Conferencing Program increasingly deals with young graffiti offenders.
3. Under the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy—Building Safer Communities, the State Government supports local government crime prevention initiatives through funding Crime Prevention Partnerships in five locations, and another four demonstration projects in areas of need. The Sunshine Coast Crime Prevention Partnership is currently compiling a Legal Street Art Manual
4. Under the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy—Building Safer Communities, the Security Improvement Program, administered by the Department of Local Government and Planning, subsidises local councils to improve physical infrastructure to minimise opportunities for graffiti. This program has also funded some graffiti management projects around the State.
5. The Queensland Police Service, through its Crime Prevention Unit, administers a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Program which offers training for local councils and community groups on ways to reduce crime through changes to the urban environment. This may involve a focus on graffiti reduction.
6. The Department of Families administers a number of recurrent and one-off grants programs to prevent and address youth offending.
7. Crime Prevention Queensland held a graffiti management seminar in May 2000.
8. Queensland Rail is developing a strong strategic response to the issue of graffiti in an attempt to reduce tagging across the Citytrain Network. These initiatives include:

A rapid removal response where Queensland Rail has a team of painters dedicated solely to removing graffiti off trains and repaint graffiti damaged stations and railway corridors.

Developing a reporting system known as Security Information Management System (or SIMS) that has been instrumental in managing graffiti response across the network. In addition Queensland Rail has a widely advertised toll free number through which the public can report incidents such as graffiti and vandalism across the network (known as the Trainwatch initiative).

A Tag Registry is used for retaining photographic evidence of graffiti and for other evidentiary purposes in the prosecution of offenders.

The Queensland Police Service Railway Squad has dedicated officers investigating graffiti offences.

All Queensland Rail Citytrain stations have closed circuit television cameras installed. The outputs from these cameras have been used to help identify and prosecute graffiti offenders.

Upgrades to railway station lighting are currently occurring across the network. Increased lighting has proven to be an effective deterrent against graffiti.

Queensland Rail also conducts a continuing public awareness campaign where it produces a number of brochures and articles aimed at raising public awareness of graffiti problems across the network.

9. As part of the Government's policy commitment made in Tough on Crime, Tough on the Causes of Crime: 2001 and Beyond there will be established a \$300,000 Graffiti Management Fund. Funding will be made available to local groups and councils to establish graffiti management programs including rapid removal, improved security, painting walls with graffiti resistant paint and establishing community service programs where graffiti offenders clean up graffiti.

The question of restricting the sale and use of spray cans by minors is one that has been considered by previous Governments. Previously, consultation on the issue of a Code of Practice was undertaken with major retailing groups and major organisations representing paint manufacturers. While there was recognition that there was a problem, a proposed

code of practice was not widely supported. The retailing groups expressed concerns about the administrative burden on retailers implementing measures like checking age. The effectiveness of the proposal was also questioned. Persons of a legal age making purchases for those who are underage can circumvent any age limitation. Further, restriction of one marking implement, like spray cans, may lead graffitiists to concoct another medium to continue their destruction.

98. Cooler Schools Program

Ms PHILLIPS asked the Minister for Education (1/5/01)—

With reference to the Cooler Schools 2000 Program—

When will schools, such as Kelso State School, who registered their interest twelve months ago to undertake subsidy projects in 2001-02 be likely to hear about the success or otherwise of their application?

Ms BLIGH (31/5/01): Cooler Schools is a popular program, which has led to applications for assistance exceeding annual budgets for the past two years. An additional government commitment to the Cooler Schools program was included in the education election platform. The government committed to an additional \$6.8 million in funding for the program, as well as accelerating expenditure of \$10 million.

Schools will be notified of the success or otherwise of their registration for subsidy in July 2001.

99. Greenbank State School

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Education (1/5/01)—

Do enrolments at the Greenbank State School warrant the need for a music block at the school; if so, what is the timetable for the inclusion of the music block at the school?

Ms BLIGH (31/5/01): Schools have no automatic 'entitlement' to a music block. However, those with a sustainable enrolment in excess of 600 primary students are afforded a higher priority during formulation of the department's draft Capital Works Program. Requests for a music block compete against all other types of capital works requests from schools.

The forward Capital Works Program for next financial year will be outlined in the 2001-02 State Budget.

100. Glasshouse Electorate

Ms MALE asked the Minister for State Development (1/5/01)—

What major projects are being assisted by the Department of State Development in the Glasshouse area?

Mr BARTON (31/5/01):

Infrastructure Projects and Land Management

My Department of State Development is assisting the Local Government Authorities of Caboolture Shire and Caloundra City in the Glasshouse area to identify future industrial land requirements and availability. Specific industrial land planning projects include planning for potential industrial developments at Elimbah West in Caboolture Shire, at Sippy Creek near Glenview and the Caloundra Regional Business Park that includes Department of State Development land at Corbould Park. Through this work, encompassing some 1100 hectares, the future needs of industry wishing to locate or expand in the region will be catered for well into the future.

My Department of State Development is also undertaking broad future land use studies in strategic areas in the region. The Caboolture-Caloundra Corridor Land Use Study is a prime example of my Department's strategic approach to land use planning that is aimed at ensuring the most appropriate use of State land for the benefit of the people of Queensland. It is also working with the private sector to advance projects such as the Caloundra Downs Informal Land Use Investigation and possible acquisition of additional forestry land north and south of the Caboolture River, east of the town of Caboolture. These projects also have the capacity to provide significant public and economic benefits for the Glasshouse region.

Moby Vic's Pty Ltd

In 1999/2000 my Department of State Development provided a Regional Business Development Scheme grant to the Walker family who operate Moby Vic's service areas on the Bruce Highway at Johnson Road, Glasshouse. The grant assisted with a feasibility study into the commercial viability of a major Tourist Attraction/Theme Park on their land adjacent to their service operations. Project development is ongoing with current public consultation through Caloundra City Council and Environmental Protection Agency approval processes. The project has the potential to create some 250 new full time equivalent jobs in the region with estimated private sector investment of some \$30 million.

Sunland Enterprises Pty Ltd

The Queensland Government through my Department of State Development has provided Sunland Enterprises Pty Ltd at Landsborough funding under the Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative. Assistance was provided towards installing an environmentally friendly bio-filter to control odour emission from the plant and providing an effective effluent pondage system. This benefited the local community and assisted the plant in satisfying Environmental Protection Agency requirements. The Queensland Government recognised the importance of this business to the Landsborough region ensuring the ongoing employment of 27 employees.

Maleny Scarecrow Festival

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$4,000 provided by my Department of State Development in 1998 supported the development of a business plan and assisted with the creation of the festival. This grant enabled the first festival to proceed. The event has subsequently grown over the last two years and there are now over 200 entries that attract an estimated 5000 visitors to the region. The festival provides a major boost to the local economy.

Tourism Sunshine Coast

In 1999 my Department of State Development provided a Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$5,000 to Tourism Sunshine Coast as part of the funding of a Regional Tourism Strategy. The strategy confirmed that the value of tourism industry to the region's economy was significant with visitor expenditure across the region estimated to be in excess of \$1.4 billion. The strategy which is being implemented by Tourism Sunshine Coast focused on strengthening peak body and industry leadership, generating adequate funding for regional marketing, establishing a united approach, improving communication and production coordination across the region, and capitalising on the full range of the region's assets.

Sunshine Coast Education Providers Network

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$7,500 was provided by my Department of State Development in June 2000 to assist with a study into the Internationalisation of Sunshine Coast Education Providers. The study has seen the establishment of a marketing group to develop materials and progress the activities of the network which include primary, secondary and tertiary providers from both the public and private sectors throughout the region.

Smart Screen Association Inc

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$10,000 was provided by my Department of State Development in July 2000 for a pre-feasibility study into the establishment of a high technology film industry in the Sunshine Coast region. The study has been completed with the result that further discussions between stakeholders will take place to progress the findings of the report that indicate that the establishment of the industry could be achieved locally as a viable regional location. Several interested parties are now seeking involvement in the project that has the potential to provide significant skilled employment in the region. An estimated investment of \$30-50 million will be required.

Regional Business Clusters

My Department of State Development has provided a Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$55,800 to the University of the Sunshine Coast to prepare a strategic plan for three new industry clusters in the Sunshine Coast region. The project will prepare a regional audit of industry opportunities and identify areas with the greatest potential for 'value adding' to create sustainable employment opportunities. Target areas for cluster development include the Horticulture, Food Processing and the Film and Multimedia industries. The work will be undertaken by the University in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast Business Development Corporation and will extend previous activity on business and industry clustering in the region.

Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast

In August 2000 the former Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development approved a contribution of \$500,000 by the Queensland Government towards the operational costs of a new technology incubator for the Sunshine Coast region.

Located on the campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast, this incubator has been branded the 'Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast'. The Innovation Centre will be part of a network of properly managed business incubators currently being developed within Queensland.

The Innovation Centre will be the key resource in the region for the development of new, largely high technology businesses, and will act as the catalyst for a technology park proposed in the newly planned Sippy Downs township. The business incubator will initially offer 600 square meters of flexible office space capable of supporting up to 15 tenants with some 3 staff each.

The cost of the construction of the Innovation Centre funded by the University of the Sunshine Coast is some \$5 million. Partnership funding of \$2 million divided equally between the Queensland Government, the Commonwealth Government, the University and Maroochy Shire Council has been allocated to assist with the operation of the Centre during the first three years.

The Innovation Centre complex also includes some 2,500 square metres of function space.

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP the Premier of Queensland is scheduled to formally open the complex on 1 June 2001.

101. Retractable Needles

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (1/5/01)—

With reference to community and AWU calls for the urgent introduction of functional retractable needles—

- (1) Were tenders called for the supply of retractable needles for Queensland Health in December 2000?
- (2) Who responded to that tender?
- (3) Do these companies have an approved retractable needle available?
- (4) Is Queensland Health prepared to accept safety syringes via this tender?
- (5) Will the department canvas companies who have demonstrated they have retractable needles for a price?

Mrs EDMOND (31/5/01):

- (1) Publicly advertised offers were invited for the supply of syringes and needles and closed on 30 August 2000.
- (2) The following seven firms in particular submitted a response for needles and syringes:

Terumo Corporation; Tyco Healthcare Pty Ltd; Ausmed Pty Ltd; Safe Practice P/L; Promedica; B.Braun Australia; Becton Dickinson.

- (3) No company tendered to supply retractable needles which are suitable for other than select circumstances. Two firms, Terumo Corporation of Australia and Promedica both have retractable 5 ml size syringes available. The first firm's syringes are not supplied with pre-fitted needles. On completion of use, the needles must be manually retracted into the syringe barrel. The second firm's syringes are supplied complete with pre-fitted needles which are spring loaded for automatic

retraction following use and needles cannot be changed during a procedure which would limit the range of use in Queensland Health facilities.

In the new standing offer arrangement, there will be a 5ml syringe on offer.

In relation to claims by the AWU that three Queensland workers have developed HIV/AIDs from needlestick injury, HIV is a notifiable disease and diagnosis of this infection carries significant confidentiality requirements. Coded notifications of HIV infection and associated information are recorded for Queensland, including exposure category, and this information is reported to the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research which is situated in New South Wales. The Centre has advised that for Australia, the cumulative total of occupationally acquired HIV is five cases. One case has been recorded for Queensland, and that transmission resulted from an incident that occurred over a decade ago.

Princess Alexandra Hospital has been conducting a study looking at follow ups of health care workers who have had a known exposure to a Hep C positive source for several years and as yet there has not been a single transmission. However the risk to health care workers is acknowledged and that is why Queensland Health provides training for staff in the safe use and disposal of all sharps including retractable devices such as needle, scalpel blades etc as required. Staff in high-risk areas have access to a range of these retractable devices.

The Local Government Association of Queensland Inc (LGAQ) and Queensland Health are signatories to the Public Health Partnership Protocol between Public Health Services— Queensland Health, Local Governments of Queensland and the Local Government Association of Queensland Inc. The protocol clearly signals that all parties concerned are committed to improving methods of sharps disposal.

The importance of the issue of unsafe sharps disposal is demonstrated by its inclusion as one of the six action plans contained in the Public Health Partnership Protocol 2000, with the following objectives:

1. Collaborate to achieve evidence-based sharps management.
2. Ensure an efficient process exists to address enquires about sharps management as it relates to public health responsibilities.
3. Seek professional advice on evidence-based sharps management.
4. Ensure education is included as part of comprehensive sharps management.

102. Ayr, Road Funding

Mr RODGERS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/5/01)—

With reference to an article in the Ayr Advocate on 4 March 2001 headed 'Road Funding yet to be confirmed', the Federal Member for Dawson, De-Anne Kelly in February announced \$816,000 funding for a roundabout at the entrance to Ayr at the corner of Bower and Queen Streets, however the Mayor said he did not understand why council was not notified and instead read about it in the newspaper—

Has the Department of Main Roads been given funding from the Federal Government to construct this roundabout?

Mr BREDHAUER (31/5/01): As part of the National Highway program, Main Roads receives limited Federal funding overall. In particular, the Federal allocation for all of North Queensland Region's Safety and Urgent Minor Works projects on the National Highway System currently totals \$3.67 million per annum.

Within the North Queensland Safety and Urgent Minor Works allocation, Main Roads had initially proposed to commence the Bower Street roundabout about June 2001. However, due to other higher safety priorities, including upgrading the Shirbourne Road intersection on the Bruce Highway, north of Ayr (total estimated cost \$1.15 million) and the Mt Low Parkway intersection with the highway, just north of Townsville (total estimated cost \$0.85 million), a construction start on the Bower Street roundabout could not possibly be accommodated for a further twelve months.

Councillor John Woods, Mayor of Burdekin Shire Council, was advised of a proposed construction start of May 2002 by the Department of Main Roads in January this year. Consequently, Mrs Kelly's announcement in March—which was based on inaccurate information about the Safety and Urgent Minor Works Program—led to yet further confusion within Council and the community on the Federal Government's plans for highway upgrades in the Burdekin vicinity.

The Federal roads budget advice I received from Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson on 22 May 2001 indicates that, in addition to the annual Statewide Safety and Urgent Minor Works allocation of \$12.53 million, \$2.5 million will be provided for Burdekin Safety works from the National Highway program (\$0.5 million in 2001-02 and \$2 million in 2002-03).

In addition to covering the cost of a safety audit of the Bruce Highway through the Burdekin region which Mr Anderson had previously ordered, his Federal Budget media release states that 'The Federal Government will fund construction of a new roundabout at Bower Street and improvements to the Shirbourne Road intersection at a cost of \$2 million'.

Main Roads has already called tenders for the Shirbourne Road works. This will allow construction to start in August 2001.

The estimated cost of the Bower Street roundabout project is currently \$950,000, (not \$816,000 as quoted in Mrs Kelly's press release of 14 March 2001).

Main Roads will be in a position to call tenders for this project in June 2001 subject to Mr Anderson agreeing to accelerate the necessary Federal funding and consultation with the Burdekin Shire Council. This would enable construction to start in August/September and finish in December 2001.

Should the Federal Minister not agree to accelerate the Federal funding, Main Roads is likely to undertake the project in mid 2002, following the wet season and busy Christmas trading period.

Main Roads is currently working through these issues with the Federal Department of Transport and Burdekin Shire, but, either way, it will require an early decision of the Federal Minister as to when the Bower Street roundabout works will proceed, and his approval of the necessary Federal funds to coincide with the ultimate construction timeframe.

103. Gifted and Talented Student Programs

Ms LIDDY CLARK asked the Minister for Education (1/5/01)—

With reference to the Gateway Program—

- (1) Will this program be funded until the end of the 2001 school year?
- (2) Will this program be continued after the 2001 school year?

Ms BLIGH (31/5/01):

1. The Learning and Development Centres, Gifted and Talented—formerly known as Gateway or Focus Schools—will be funded until the end of the 2001 school year.
2. Currently an independent review into the outcomes of the Focus Schools and future provisions for gifted and talented education is being conducted and is expected to be finalised shortly. The nature of the future direction of education for these students will be finalised once this report is received and I have had an opportunity to consider its recommendations.

104. Pacific Motorway

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/5/01)—

- (1) What is the total cost of the Pacific Motorway to date?
- (2) What is the total cost of other works associated with the motorway to date?
- (3) What is the amount of money in dispute on these associated works?

Mr BREDHAUER (31/5/01):

- (1) As I indicated in this House on 29 May 2001, the Director-General of Main Roads has successfully negotiated final settlement of all claims on the six major contract packages, resulting in an estimated final cost of \$951 million for the Pacific Motorway project.
- (2) The project basically consists of two key components:
 - the motorway (including contribution to the Logan Motorway interchange)—\$836 million
 - new service roads—\$115 million
- (3) All of the six main construction contracts have been fully resolved through Assisted Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes. The outcome of the ADR processes cannot be released as they are commercial-in-confidence.

105. Ambulance Service, Staff

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (1/5/01)—

With reference to the provision of ambulance services in Queensland—

- (1) What is the location of each ambulance facility (including aerial, water, mining location or honorary station etc) by region, that would be categorised as a Grade 1 or Grade 2 station?
- (2) What is the number of hours per week that each of these facilities is manned by (a) permanent Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) officers rostered on duty, (b) permanent QAS officers on emergency availability and (c) non-permanent QAS staff/other providers?
- (3) What is the average number of hours per week the Officer-in-Charge or primary appointee at each of these facilities (a) is rostered on duty, (b) is on emergency availability and (c) works without another permanent QAS officer?
- (4) How many days has the Officer-in-Charge or primary appointee worked since last returning from rostered days off, including the total number of rostered days off each has worked since 1 January 2000?

Mr REYNOLDS (31/5/01): In relation to Part 1 of the question, I seek the permission of the House to table the attached listing of Ambulance Stations Categories Grade 1 and Grade 2, by Region.

In relation to Parts 2, 3, and 4 of the question, I have been advised by the Commissioner of the QAS that this information is not readily available in the department. To generate the responses would require many hours of staff time in every ambulance station in Queensland and would be unduly onerous. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

106. Nicklin Way, Removal of Vegetation

Mr CUMMINS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (1/5/01)—

With reference to various unsuitable forms of vegetation which were planted wrongly, without forward thinking directly under Energex powerlines along the Nicklin Way throughout Kawana Waters and as these melaleucas (and similar) grow up into the powerlines causing damage to infrastructure and potentially endangering community safety and as I am aware Caloundra City Council has voted by majority to support the removal of inappropriate species many months ago as the present ongoing lopping and severe trimming stunts the growth of the vegetation giving the trees a deformed unnatural, unattractive presentation and the present lopping program is expensive and unsuitable as a long term solution for the original, ridiculous decision of council to have unsuitable vegetation placed under powerlines—

Will steps be taken for the removal of this unwanted vegetation and the planting of more suitable species?

Mr MACKENROTH (31/5/01): The practice of Councils planting unsuitable vegetation under existing powerlines affects both community safety and supply reliability.

Currently, the trees along the Nicklin Way are regularly pruned by ENERGEX as part of its SafeTree program to ensure a safe and reliable electricity supply for customers in the Caloundra City Council area. However, due to the size and type of trees, ENERGEX is unable to prune these trees in a visually appealing manner.

The removal of trees along the Nicklin Way is a matter for the Caloundra City Council. I am advised that ENERGEX has previously worked with the Council to remove some of these trees and that the Council has plans to progressively remove more of these trees in the future.

ENERGEX has advised it will continue to assist the Council with this work and will provide advice on replacement 'powerline friendly' planting.

107. Plantations for Australia—the 2020 Vision

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/5/01)—

With reference to the joint Commonwealth/States policy 'Plantations for Australia—the 2020 Vision', which was launched in 1997 and has the stated aim to treble the area of forestry plantations in Australia by the year 2020—

- (1) What area target has the Queensland Government set for this State and by what time schedule does the Government envisage the progressive expansion in plantation area will occur to meet this target?
- (2) Where in Queensland does the Government expect the plantation expansion to occur?
- (3) How much of the total expansion in Queensland does the Government anticipate will be contributed by the largest forest grower—the commercialised Government entity Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Forestry?
- (4) Why has DPI Forestry not acted more in the spirit of the 2020 Vision by reinvesting its entire profit since 1997 in plantation expansion instead of paying its profits as dividends to Treasury?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/6/01):

(1) The Queensland Government has been an enthusiastic supporter of the 'Plantations for Australia—the 2020 Vision' since its inception. 'Investing in Queensland's Private Plantations' refers to an objective of adding at least 320 000 new hectares to the 1996 plantation estate by 2020 as a compatible vision. In line with 2020 objectives, we would wish to see most of this new investment coming from the private sector. Since 1996, about 25 000 new hectares have been added to our plantation estate, much of it by the private sector. We anticipate that the rate of planting will accelerate in the years ahead as successful silviculture and financial returns are demonstrated.

(2) Studies show that over 4 million hectares of potentially suitable, cleared, freehold land suitable for plantation forestry occurs within 200 km of the ports of Brisbane, Gladstone, Mackay and Cairns. The largest proportion is within 200km of Brisbane and Gladstone where most of the recent private investment in plantations has been concentrated. There are particularly big opportunities in the 800mm to 1000mm annual rainfall zone where we are now focusing much of our research and development to optimise productivity.

(3) During this decade, DPI Forestry is targeting a 15,000 hectare expansion of the State-owned commercial plantation estate mainly through land purchases. In addition, DPI Forestry is managing a program to establish 5,000 hectares of hardwood plantation in South-east Queensland by 2003 through joint venture arrangements with private landholders. This is a key element of the Government's South-East Queensland Forests Agreement with the timber industry and conservationists aimed at transitioning the region's hardwood timber industry from State-owned native forest resources to plantations over 25 years.

(4) DPI Forestry is required to return dividends from profits to the State for reallocation in accordance with Government priorities. DPI Forestry is pursuing a vigorous plantation expansion program at a manageable rate in suitable areas of the State. As only limited areas of suitable unplanted State forest land remain available for plantations, an ongoing program of land purchases is being pursued. Over the last two years, significant commercial capital funds were spent to purchase an additional 3,350 hectares of land for plantation expansion. Further expansion at similar levels is proposed over coming years subject to suitable land becoming available on the market.

108. Vegetation Management

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (2/5/01)—

With reference to the State Government's claimed \$111m budget to administer the Vegetation Management Act—

- (1) Will he provide a complete breakdown of this spending on a year by year, department by department and program by program basis?
- (2) For each of these spending allocations, will he identify how much is additional funding and how much relates to the maintenance of pre-existing programs and departmental activities?
- (3) Will the Government provide any State-funded compensation to landholders adversely affected by the Vegetation Management Act?

Mr ROBERTSON (1/6/01):

(1&2) Based on current budget estimates, a total of \$111.13 million will be spent on vegetation management during the four years 2000-01 to 2003-04:

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Landholder advice and assessment services (a)				
Ongoing funding	10.03	10.1	10.15	10.15
New funding	3.47	3.47	3.47	3.47
Mapping and Monitoring (b)				
Ongoing funding	9.65	9.65	9.65	9.65
New Funding	2.1	2.77	2.77	2.23
Regional Community Consultation (c)				
New funding	2.52	2.52	1.99	1.32
TOTAL	27.77	28.51	28.03	26.82

- (a) 'Landholder advice and assessment services' includes funding for property management planning support and extension services as well as assessment of applications for land clearing. All expenditures are by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
 - (b) 'Mapping and Monitoring' includes vegetation and other land resource mapping as well as land cover monitoring and projects to identify areas of high conservation values and areas vulnerable to land degradation. Thirty-six percent of this expenditure is through the Environmental Protection Agency with the remaining allocations going through the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
 - (c) 'Regional Community Consultation' expenditure is directed to the development of regional vegetation management plans. Twenty Plans will be prepared through community-based Regional Vegetation Management Committees. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines has responsibility for this project.
- (3) The issue of compensation is subject to ongoing discussion between the Commonwealth and the State.

109. Toowoomba Range Crossing

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/5/01)—

With reference to recent negotiations with the Federal Government and private sector regarding the Toowoomba Range crossing—

What is the relative priority and commitment to this project by the Beattie Government?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/6/01): The Federal Government has responsibility for deciding which projects on the National Highway System receive priority for funding. The Queensland Government's role is to provide forward strategy advice to the Federal Government who then determine which projects they will fund.

The simple fact is that the Federal Government does not provide enough money to meet the National Highway needs of Queensland.

To put the Second Range Crossing project into perspective, its current preliminary cost estimate is almost three times the average annual capital works allocation provided for the entire National Highway in Queensland over the past five years.

Any delay in progressing the Second Range crossing project is because the Federal Government has not previously provided the funding needed to do the necessary planning work.

The Queensland Government has made strong representations to the Federal Minister for Transport and his department for over two years to provide sufficient Federal funding to progress the detailed planning and design of this project. As a consequence, and with added pressure from a number of quarters, including Toowoomba City Council and a private sector consortium, the Federal Minister has now agreed to provide the necessary Federal funding to enable completion of detailed planning by 2002-03 and land acquisition processes by 2003-04.

The feasibility of private sector involvement in the Second Range crossing project will be fully explored in parallel with the detailed planning activities being undertaken over the next two years.

Funding and timing for construction of the project remains the responsibility of the Federal Government.

110. South Johnstone Sugar Mill

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (2/5/01)—

With reference to the South Johnstone Mill being placed into receivership and its final sale to Bundaberg Sugar resulting in a number of employees being displaced and as the loss of jobs has placed a serious burden on the individuals concerned and on the community of Innisfail—

What steps has his department taken to assist displaced workers find alternate employment?

Mr FOLEY (1/6/01): 32 permanent jobs were lost as a result of the sale of the South Johnstone Sugar Mill to Bundaberg Sugar. Up to 50 seasonal jobs also expected to be lost. The Government's Immediate Response Group has approved Category 1 assistance under the Worker Assistance Program to retrenched mill workers. Eligible workers are receiving assistance to the value of \$5,000 towards the following:

- Job Preparation (to a maximum of \$1,000);
- Training Assistance (to a maximum of \$3,000);
- Employer Wage Subsidy (\$2,000); and
- Relocation Assistance (to a maximum of \$2,000)

Individual interviews with the displaced workers occurred on 15 March 2001, less than 24 hours after confirmation of their retrenchment. A Coordinator, appointed on Monday 19 March 2001, is maintaining frequent contact with the workers during the intervention period. Local Regional officers facilitated the development of Community Jobs Plan and Community Training Partnerships Programs aimed at assisting both displaced mill workers and other long term unemployed persons in the Innisfail area.

The Innisfail and District Employment Skills Project undertaking work with the Johnstone Shire Council, and the WorkTrack Project for youth sponsored by the Queensland Police Citizens Welfare Association have been approved under the Community Jobs Plan Program.

The Department of Employment and Training is working with the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association to develop a Community Training Partnerships program to address training and employment needs for the banana industry. This will provide additional support for unemployed persons in the Innisfail area.

111. University Funding

Mr COPELAND asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (2/5/01)—

With reference to the State Government's funding of universities within Queensland—

Will he provide details of (a) all funds allocated by the State Government to universities on an individual university and individual project basis, (b) the project/s that are funded at each university and (c) the departmental budget the funds were provided from and, if applicable, the specific funding program?

Mr BEATTIE (29/5/01): (a), (b) and (c) See attached table. These details illustrate the scope of funding allocated by the Government to Queensland universities this financial year, and its strong support for universities. It provides further evidence of the Government's commitment and practical efforts to make Queensland the 'Smart State', and its commitment to work in partnership with the private sector, industry, community, and local and Commonwealth governments to deliver better outcomes for the people of Queensland. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

112. Brisbane-Darling Downs Water Pipeline; Brown and Roots Report

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for State Development (2/5/01)—

- (1) What is the status of the Brown and Roots Report of the feasibility and cost of the recycled water pipeline from Brisbane to the Lockyer and Darling Downs?
- (2) When will this report be made available and what action is planned to get this project under way?

Mr BARTON (1/6/01):

(1) Brown and Root Services Asia Pacific was engaged to cost the infrastructure needed to collect, pump, store, treat, transport, and distribute effluent from a number of waste water treatment plants in South East Queensland for rural and industrial purposes in the Lockyer, Warrill and Bremer Valleys and on the Darling Downs. This study by itself is not a feasibility study but only one of a suite of studies needed to assess the viability of all or part of the proposal.

The Consultant has submitted a draft report that is being reviewed by a number of agencies. It is anticipated that the final report will be completed by June 2001.

(2) Given that the report including appendices and maps is several hundred pages long, I am proposing to distribute both electronic and hard copies of the Executive Summary as soon as possible after the final report is received. The full report will be made available to consortia conducting further investigations into the viability of all or part of the proposal.

My Department of State Development is currently leading an Inter-Agency Committee to identify private sector opportunities in this proposal. This role includes working closely with rural groups such as Darling Downs Vision 2000 and City to Soil Inc, which represent farmers on the Darling Downs and in the Lockyer/Bremer/Warrill regions respectively. Only when this data collection phase has been completed will the State be in a position to determine the best way to deal with the proposal.

113. Springwood Child Health Centre

Ms STONE asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (2/5/01)—

Has the State Government any plans to expand the health services at Springwood Children's Health Centre?

Mrs EDMOND (1/6/01): The Springwood Child Health Centre is fully occupied and, because of these space constraints, there are no immediate plans to expand the services specifically situated at the Centre. Home visiting services are utilised to respond to new referrals.

General child health services provided to the local community through that area are well utilised. Child Health has received increased funding in the current financial year to provide access to the CARE Home Visiting Program and for Positive Parenting Programs (Triple P Program) both of which have had significant uptake from the community in the Logan area including the Springwood area.

Logan-Beaudesert Health Service District is currently reviewing accommodation options for Community Health services in the District, and the needs in the Springwood area will be considered in that process.

114. Redlands, Emergency Accommodation

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (2/5/01)—

What steps are being undertaken to address the shortage or emergency housing in the Redlands?

Mr SCHWARTEN (1/6/01): As at 9 May 2001 there are a total of 27 properties available in the Redlands area for emergency accommodation managed under the Crisis Accommodation Program. These properties are targeted at a range of clients including youth, families and women and children escaping family violence. In November 1999, a property was purchased for Maybanke Association (Redlands Domestic Violence Service), at a cost of approximately \$200,000, as a replacement refuge/office. This property is able to accommodate up to three families and provides office accommodation for the organisation.

The Department of Housing offers Bond Loans, which are interest free loans to enable eligible applicants to access the private rental market. In the Redlands area in 1999/2000, 139 bond loans with a total value of \$84,310 were approved (against 16,443 loans totalling \$8,681,389 throughout the State). In the financial year up to 30 April 2001, 144 bond loans have been approved in the Redlands area, totalling \$91,750 (compared with 14,803 loans totalling \$8,171,695 in the State as a whole).

Officers from the Department of Housing are active participants in the Wynnum—Redlands Housing Focus Group which is made up of local housing providers and meets regularly to discuss local housing issues, and, in particular, the issue of

emergency housing in the area. The focus group is working to develop a proposal for a pilot project to address the need for additional emergency accommodation in the region.

While I recognise the strong demand for crisis accommodation in the Redlands area—and in all other parts of Queensland—the ability of the department to meet such demand is being severely constrained by the inadequate level of funding provided by the Federal Government for housing programs. As an example, the Federal Government's capital funding level has not changed from approximately \$7.3M in five years.

Unfortunately, this attitude towards areas of need by the Federal Government is repeated across the social housing system.

115. Telemarketing

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (2/5/01)—

What steps can be taken to urge the Federal Government to initiate legislation which restricts the hours telemarketing companies can canvass private homes?

Mrs ROSE (5/6/01): The Commonwealth has power to make laws about telecommunications issues, including telemarketing hours. The relevant Commonwealth Minister is Senator the Hon Richard Alston. Letters and petitions should be addressed to Senator Alston as the relevant Minister.

The Ministerial Council of Consumer Affairs (MCCA), of which the Hon Joe Hockey MP is a member on behalf of the Commonwealth, is scheduled to review the Direct Marketing Code of Practice this year and concerns raised by the public will be examined in the review.

116. South East Busway

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/5/01)—

With reference to the promotional activities associated with the South East Busway—

What was the cost incurred by Queensland Transport in relation to promotion of the busway for (a) television advertising, (b) radio advertising, (c) print media advertising, (d) sponsorships and (e) other promotions?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/6/01): The promotional activities associated with the South East Busway related to two discrete components of the communications campaign—

- 1 Public education about how to use the busway; and
- 2 The opening event of Busway Fundays.

The public education component was conducted over several months, with a gradual build-up in the intensity of the program between February and April 2001.

Costs incurred by Queensland Transport in relation to the public education program were:

Television advertising	\$100,000
Radio advertising	\$107,000
Print media advertising	\$187,000
Sponsorship	\$5,000
Other promotions	\$54,000

These costs related to activities designed to inform current public transport patrons and potential new customers about the busway and the improvements to services and facilities that became available after commissioning.

With respect to the busway opening events, Queensland Transport incurred no additional costs, although some public awareness/educational materials also included details about the Busway Fundays festival. The costs of the festival and supporting events were met by the private sector through in kind sponsorship, free publicity, entertainment, fireworks, movie tickets, competition and fun run.

Patronage levels on the busway during the early weeks of operation are very encouraging, and it is clear that the public education campaign has been successful.

117. Bus Shelters

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/5/01)—

With reference to my support for Queensland Transport and the State Government's push to encourage more people to utilise public transport and my belief that many members of the public would appreciate necessary improvements to numerous bus shelters within Kawana Waters, especially those along the Nicklin Way and realising that the ongoing upkeep and repairs come under the control of the local government—

Are State subsidies (up to 50 per cent) for the installation of new shelters dependent on the local governing authority maintaining previously constructed (or installed) bus shelters so that they meet workplace health and safety standards?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/6/01): Presently, the Queensland Government provides funding to Local Governments throughout Queensland for miscellaneous public transport infrastructure, namely, bus stops and bus shelters. Traditionally Local Government provides this funding through Queensland Transport's Public Transport Infrastructure Program on dollar for dollar funding basis with ongoing maintenance and ownership. These arrangements are in accordance with the existing protocol for guiding the dealings between Queensland Transport and Local Governments in respect of the planning, coordination and provision of transport services and associated infrastructure.

118. Sly-grogging, Indigenous Communities

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (2/5/01)—

With reference to each month since July 1999 to April 2001 and for each Aboriginal or Islander community (or region) (2/5/01)—

- (1) How many sly-grogging reports were received and investigated by her department?
- (2) How many incidents resulted in the seizure of alcohol?
- (3) What was the total volume of alcohol seized in each case?
- (4) How many of these resulted in convictions being recorded (and when)?
- (5) Of those that have not resulted in convictions, how many are still being pursued by her department?
- (6) How many vehicles, aircraft, boats and animals have been seized?

Mrs ROSE (5/6/01):

- (1) During this time my Department has been informed of the names of forty persons suspected of being involved in sly-grogging in various indigenous communities. This information has been provided to the Queensland Police Service for investigation.
- (2) On 13 July 2000 during the execution of a search warrant at Woorabinda a quantity of liquor was seized.
- (3) 4 flagons.
- (4) Charges against the Woorabinda resident have not been laid due to the unwillingness of associated persons to provide corroborating statements.
- (5) The names of suspected sly-grog offenders have been provided to Police.
- (6) None.

119. Fire Ants

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/5/01)—

With reference to the fire ant control project—

- (1) How much has the Government budgeted to spend on signage, promotional material, caps, t-shirts and other merchandise?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the outbreak and resultant restrictions on each of the quarantined businesses?
- (3) How much compensation has each of the quarantined businesses sought?
- (4) From which sections of the department have staff been withdrawn to join the fire ant project and how many staff from each section?
- (5) How has the service/role they normally fulfil been provided while they have been seconded to the fire ant project and what impact has their absence had on that section of the department?
- (6) Why weren't temporary or casual staff employed for the fire ant project instead of the Department of Primary Industries staff being seconded from the other sections of the department?
- (7) How widely spread is the infestation at present?
- (8) How successful has the eradication method been?

Mr PALASZCZUK (1/6/01):

(1) The budgeted amount for public awareness in the fire ant program is \$95,000 to 30 June 2001. I am advised that of this amount, \$30,000 will be provided under national cost sharing and \$65,000 from Queensland Government funds. As with the Papaya Fruit Fly campaign undertaken under the Goss, Borbidge and Beattie governments, the success of the DPI eradication program for fire ants will be largely dependent on community support and participation particularly in the identification of suspect fire ant outbreaks. Therefore, it is essential to have a substantive public awareness campaign, particularly in locating suspect ant infestations.

(2) Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management has given in-principle approval of \$0.75M to 30 June 2001 for the scoping stage of the fire ant campaign. This amount has been budgeted for on a cost-sharing basis with other state jurisdictions and the Commonwealth, based on population size. Queensland's share is 8.6%, but the Government is contributing more than this in real terms through staff salaries and associated costs. During the scoping stage, the scientific feasibility and the economic viability analyses of a long term eradication program will be undertaken. The likely cost of such an eradication program is yet to be quantified.

The costs in dollar terms to quarantined premises are not known.

Except for two businesses all quarantined premises continue to trade. DPI has been working with the owners of the quarantined premises currently closed to assist them to re-establish their business.

(3) I am advised that one quarantined business has sought compensation under the Plant Protection Act to the extent of \$131,483. The compensation they are seeking is not provided for under that legislation. The Commonwealth Government has provided an ex-gratia payment of \$105,000 to this business.

I am advised the other quarantined business is currently seeking compensation from the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments and a decision on this matter has not been finalised.

(4) The services of 530 staff from various agencies have been utilised in the fire ant program, the majority of which have come from within DPI's Animal and Plant Health Service (APHS), Farming Systems Institute, Queensland Fisheries

Service and Queensland Horticulture Institute. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Environmental Protection Agency have also assisted in providing staff.

(5) During staff absences from their normal duties, workloads were carried by other staff. The response to the RIFA emergency was given top priority by DPI. Rotation of seconded staff ensured that no other section of DPI was disadvantaged in meeting their client obligations. In general and particularly in the emergency response phase of the program, staff worked on one-week rotational shifts.

(6) I am advised that casual staff are being employed.

(7) The infestation is confined to two main foci, one at the Port of Brisbane at Fisherman Islands, and the other in the Wacol/Ellen Grove/Goodna area. There are also individual or small outlier infestations at Bellbowrie, Moggill, Myrtle town, Pinkenba, Nudgee, Banyo, Pinkenba and at Doonan near Cooroy. This latter site was a result of the earlier movement of contaminated plant material to the site, from a fire ant infested site in Wacol.

(8) The current focus is on delimiting the outbreak. There has been a number of chemical treatments carried out with initial success achieved by baiting. The results achieved at Fisherman Islands in particular have been promising where in one trial the numbers of nests were reduced by 90% following treatment.

The DPI is continuing with trials to determine the most suitable pesticides to be used alongside current available treatment options in the long term eradication program.

120. Cairns Sexual Assault Service

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (2/5/01)—

With reference to the situation in North Queensland where the region's sexual assault service has recently closed—

- (1) When do the expressions of interest for a new service provider close?
- (2) When is it anticipated that Queensland Health will select a new service provider?
- (3) When does Queensland Health anticipate a new service could begin operation?
- (4) In the meantime, what measures have been put in place to handle existing clients and new inquiries for support?

Mrs EDMOND (1/6/01):

(1) The closing date for the Expression of Interest for the Queensland Health Sexual Assault Support and Prevention funding to Cairns and surrounding areas is at 5:00 pm on 25 May 2001.

(2) Finalisation of assessment for funding for a Sexual Assault Service Agreement in Cairns and surrounding areas is estimated to occur within 4-6 weeks of the Expression of Interest closing date.

(3) The successful applicant will be required to enter into a service agreement and funding is available to begin operation immediately following signing of the service agreement by both parties.

(4) Access to counselling services previously available at the Cairns Sexual Assault Service are available in the interim period at the Social Work Department, Cairns Health Service District. In addition, Social Work services are also providing counselling services to recent rape victims who seek assistance at the Cairns Base Hospital.

Women can also continue to utilise the Statewide Sexual Assault Help Line for counselling during crisis. The Sexual Assault Help Line operates from 9:00 am to 1:00 am, 7 days per week. The number is 1800 010 120.

121. Dingoes, Fraser Island

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Environment (2/5/01)—

With reference to dingoes on Fraser Island—

Have any dingoes been relocated from Fraser Island to the mainland, either during this term of Government, or the last term of Government; if so, (a) what criteria was used in identifying which dingoes were to be relocated, (b) has there been any monitoring of the dingoes relocated to the mainland and (c) what areas of the mainland were the dingoes relocated to?

Mr WELLS (1/6/01): The department informs me that at no time have any dingoes been relocated from Fraser Island to the mainland for release. No proposal has ever been formulated or implemented by the Labor Government to relocate dingoes from Fraser Island to the mainland.

Several years ago two dingoes were taken from Fraser Island for exhibition at David Fleay Wildlife Park.

122. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/5/01)—

With reference to this year's crippling strikes at BHP Queensland Coal—

- (1) What is the expected reduction in rail freight revenue from the loss of coal production and the loss of subsequent rail freight?
- (2) What is the expected effect on the profitability of the Ports Corporation of Queensland from this reduction in throughput of coal in each of the Hay Point Coal Terminal and the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal?
- (3) What is the expected effect on proceeds from leasing the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/6/01):

(1) The reduction in Queensland Rail freight revenue as a result of the industrial issue affecting BHP Coal operated coal mines in Queensland is currently estimated to be in the order of \$5.5 million up to the 30 April 2001. Queensland Rail has

attempted to limit the costs associated with the decreased tonnages where possible. As the industrial issue has not yet been resolved, there are likely to be further rail freight revenue implications. It should be noted that these short term impacts are expected to be balanced out by increased revenue from anticipated record tonnages.

(2) The industrial dispute has had no noticeable effect on the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT) throughput, and not expected to affect tonnages through DBCT.

(3) Given the long-term nature of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal lease, there is no anticipated impact on the market price.

123. Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (2/5/01)—

Will he provide a breakdown of ambulance response times, for each region, for each month since January 2000 to April 2001 as well as an overall State-wide figure for each month for the same period?

Mr REYNOLDS (1/6/01): A Code 1 ambulance case is defined as an immediate response/life threatening call for assistance.

The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) performance standard for Code 1 response is an ambulance on-site within 10 minutes of the emergency call.

Currently, the QAS responds to 70% of Code 1 cases within that time frame.

I ask leave of the House to table the detailed month-by-Region report supplied by the QAS detailing response times from January 2000 to April 2001. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

124. Yeppoon, Bypass

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/5/01)—

(1) What moves are in hand to build a by-pass road around Yeppoon to alleviate heavy traffic, especially logging traffic, having to go through the town centre?

(2) What progress has been made and what route or routes are in mind?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/6/01): Main Roads currently has no plans to provide an alternative route to the existing declared road between Yeppoon and Byfield and is investing significant funding into the upgrading of the existing declared road.

There are a number of routes which could bypass the central area of Yeppoon. All of these alternative routes are on roads controlled by Livingstone Shire Council. Council has investigated possible bypass routes.

The issue of a bypass of the Central Business District is clearly one which is in council's area of control.

Main Roads and other state government departments, such as Queensland Rail, Natural Resources and State Development, have indicated to council a willingness to assist that authority in investigating the issues involved.

125. Innovation and Information Economy Department, Budget

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy (2/5/01)—

(1) What is his department's current operating budget?

(2) How much of that budget is allocated to Innovation and Information Technology project development across the State?

(3) How much of the budget is allocated to specific rural technology projects in regional areas?

Mr LUCAS (29/5/01):

(1) The 2000-01 operating budget for the Innovation and Information Economy portfolio areas of the Department of Innovation and Information Economy (excluding Sport and Recreation Queensland) is \$43.647M.

(2) It is unclear what the Member is referring to by 'Innovation and Information Technology project development across the State'. However, there are a number of projects and programs being progressed by my Department which will potentially benefit communities across the State including—

the i-STAR Program which aims to assist industry, educational and training institutions, and State and local authorities to undertake projects that contribute towards overcoming the IT&T skills shortage.

Reef Network—the soon to be launched new \$80 million high-speed backbone communications network, which will significantly improve the quality of life for all Queenslanders, particularly those living in regional and rural areas, by improving access to communications, lowering telecommunication service costs, and stimulating economic development throughout the State.

E-commerce seminars—the first in a series of seminars across regional Queensland, covering technical and business issues such as Intellectual Property Protection laws, e-commerce strategies and business development topics, began in March, with a second series scheduled for August.

Community Skills Development Program—which has been designed to facilitate the provision of IT&T training and technology resource development in small rural and regional communities with populations of less than 10,000.

Queensland Bioindustries Strategy—the Government's commitment of \$270M over ten years to position the State as the centre of excellence in biotechnology in the Asia-Pacific region.

Communities in the Member's electorate will benefit from a number of the Department's programs and initiatives. Some specific examples include:

under the Community Skills Development Program, funding of over \$6000 has been provided to the Inglewood Progress Association for database skills training, to allow members to manage and preserve local history information, and for local business and industry Internet development; and

people living in areas in and around Toowoomba, including Gatton, Clifton, Warwick, Pittsworth, Millmerran and Wambo will have more choice in how they interact with Government, under the Government's integrated service delivery initiative Access Queensland.

Full details on the Department's priorities and deliverables will be available in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement to be released with the Budget Papers on 19 June 2001.

(3) Again, it is unclear what is precisely meant by 'specific rural technology projects in regional areas'. However, I refer the Member to some of the key projects outlined in response to Question 2, as an indicator of some of this Department's activities that will benefit Queensland's rural communities.

126. Graffiti Offences

Mrs LAVARCH asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (2/5/01)—

(1) How many convictions for graffiti have been recorded by Brisbane Courts in the past 12 months?

(2) How many of these convictions for graffiti were given clean-up orders?

Mr WELFORD (1/6/01): There have been 197 convictions of graffiti offences in the Brisbane Magistrates Court and Brisbane Childrens Court, in the past 12 months.

Unfortunately, there is no data available from current departmental databases on the types of orders made. I have had officers within my department contact the relevant officers within the Department of Corrective Services, and can advise that this department may have the requested information.

127. Eulo, Police Resources

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (2/5/01)—

With reference to the 12 month wait the residents of the Eulo district have had to endure for a permanent police officer to be located in the town—

When will this single position be filled?

Mr McGRADY (1/6/01): The position of Officer in Charge, Eulo Station is currently filled by a Senior Constable.

This Senior Constable has been on extended sick leave since March 2000.

The status of the officer's absence is being closely monitored but at this stage it is not possible to indicate when he will be given medical clearance to return to duty. In the meantime, Cunnamulla police attend Eulo station one day per week to attend to policing and administrative matters.

128. Mount Lindesay Highway, Browns Plains-Jimboomba

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/5/01)—

With reference to delays in the construction of the four lane highway from Browns Plains to Jimboomba—

Will he give the details and proposed dates for the program for the four lane highway to Jimboomba?

Mr BREDHAUER (1/6/01): The ongoing four-laning of the Mount Lindesay Highway is one of a number of high priority roadwork needs in the South East Queensland Region, with significant investment in recent years, including upgrading of Browns Plains Road to Vansittart Road which was completed in December 1999 at a cost of \$31 million.

Full details of works proposed on the Mount Lindesay Highway are as outlined in the 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 Roads Implementation Program, copies of which were tabled in Parliament on 10 November 2000.

The Roads Implementation Program reflects a five-year rolling program of works which is reviewed annually. It is approved on the basis that project commitments in years one and two are firm, with years three to five indicative for planning purposes. Works are scheduled in accordance with competing priorities for available road funds.

Within the current Roads Implementation Program, some \$14 million has been provided in 2000-01 and 2001-02 for four-laning and other road improvements on the Mount Lindesay Highway in Logan City and Beaudesert Shires, with significant expenditure foreshadowed for duplication and other works in subsequent years, as funds permit.

Major works currently committed include:

completion of detailed design, land resumption and utility service relocation works on the section between Middle Road to Green/Fedrick Roads by 2001-02, to enable a construction start on this \$24 million project in 2002-03

construction of the Stoney Camp/Granger Roads interchange which has been given priority due to safety concerns, with work to start next financial year.

129. Ambulance Service, Staff

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (2/5/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service's (QAS) implementation of two excellent initiatives for those officers in need of support, being the Priority One Counselling Service and the Peer Support Program—

- (1) Is he aware of issues that impede the effectiveness of either initiative?
- (2) Is he aware of criticisms that issues discussed by personnel using either initiative are not treated with confidentiality?
- (3) Will he identify the protocols that are in place to protect confidentiality for those who use Peer Support, in addition to specifically detailing (a) the selection process used for Peer Support Officers, (b) ongoing assistance provided and (c) by region, the number of current Peer Support Officers and requests for assistance since 1 January 1999?
- (4) Will he assure QAS officers that her will implement an assessment and review of the effectiveness of both Priority One and Peer Support in minimising (a) the perceived stigma/persecution from the use of such programs, (b) premature resignations from the department by officers and (c) exposure of the department to litigation and WorkCover claims?

Mr REYNOLDS (1/6/01):

(1) No. Both initiatives have been designed to minimise impediments to access for assistance.

(2) I am aware of one allegation, which was subsequently shown to be unfounded. The importance of confidentiality, and the fundamental principle of the protection of individual privacy are at the very core of the Priority One Program. The QAS retains approximately 30 professional counsellors throughout the state. These counsellors have associations with professional bodies, which set the standards for the protection of confidentiality and privacy. The QAS goes to great lengths to ensure that both the qualification and the propriety of its counsellors meet the highest standards as set by professional bodies. Individuals who volunteer for the role of peer support officer are carefully screened for their ability to sustain a commitment to confidentiality when dealing with personal issues. A commitment to confidentiality is stressed from the very beginning of their training in the role of peer support. Individuals who apply are also required to sign a commitment to abide by strict confidentiality and a

Code of Ethics.

There is an array of mechanisms within the QAS to deal with grievances, such as breaches of confidentiality. In the life of the Priority One Program only two formal complaints have been lodged concerning breach of confidentiality. One of these matters was resolved at mediation, the other was formally investigated and found to be without substance.

(3a) A statewide memorandum invites 'Expression of Interest' to become Peer Support Officers. Application forms are distributed to individuals. Applicants are then interviewed by the professional counselling supervisor in the relevant region and by the Coordinator Staff Support Services. Attachment 1 shows a list of criteria against which an individual applicant is assessed. Interviews are rigorous and searching and are intended to determine both the motivation of the individual, and his or her capacity to sustain themselves and support others in times of difficulty and distress.

Successful applicants then undertake a six day skills development education program facilitated by the Coordinator Staff Support Services and by three other professional counsellors. During the course of this training program careful scrutiny of the individual's behaviour and interaction with others occurs.

At the completion of the training course the applicant is required to undertake a further interview with the Coordinator Staff Support Services and with one of the facilitating counsellors in order to further evaluate the person's capacity to be an effective Peer Support Officer, and also to provide the person with feedback about his or her strengths or weaknesses.

Applicants are required to sign a Statement of Agreement (Attachment 2) requiring them to maintain strict confidentiality and adherence to the peer support code of ethics. (Attachment 2).

During recruit and ongoing education, Peer Support Officers are instructed on the necessity to observe confidentiality and to seek permission from an individual before disclosing any confidential or personal data. Peer Support Officers take their role seriously and abide by both the spirit and the letter of the statement of agreement when undertaking their role as a peer supporter.

Following the successful completion of the training course the individual is then assigned to a professional counsellor in the region in which he/she works and is required to undertake monthly supervision with the counsellor. They must also attend one three-day Refresher Training Workshop each year, as well as various training workshops conducted regionally.

(3b) Ongoing assistance to Peer Supporter Officers is provided in the form of routine monthly supervision by a professional counsellor, liaising closely with the State Coordinator Staff Support Services, and also with other Peer Support Officers within their region.

(3c) Current number of active Peer Support Officers (PSO) throughout Queensland is 89. The table below lists the number of PSO in each region and the number of requests for assistance.

Region	No. of PSO 1999-2001	Requests for Assistance	
		1999	2000
Q1	9	90	27
Q2	18	68	110
Q3	9	123	149
Q4	15	168	199
Q5	26	176	130
Q6	10	218	251
Q7	11	174	111
TOTAL	98	1017	977

No. of PSO Currently Active—89

(4) An assessment and review of trauma counselling and debriefing has been initiated by the Coordinator Staff Support Services. A committee under the supervision of a senior academic in conjunction with subject experts has been formed.

Studies undertaken in collaboration with the University of South Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology in 1994 and 1997 respectively have indicated high levels of acceptance of the Priority One Program by QAS personnel.

(4a) The QAS has gone to great lengths through education and other services to encourage self-care by utilising the resources available through Priority One. Evidence of this can be seen in the usage of counselling services, (approximately 400 individuals per year), peer support services (approximately 1,000 requests for assistance per year) and the consistent attendance at Critical Stress Debriefing (1200 personnel have attended debriefings since 1994). There is no evidence in support of the assertion that the likely use of these services has created or may create a perception of stigma and or persecution from personnel. I am advised that no such incident has been reported either formally or informally.

(4b) The likelihood of resignations from the service as a result of the sequel of unpleasant traumatic events must be acknowledged. In such an occupation a small percentage of individuals will succumb to the distress associated with this work.

(4c) Ultimately a combination of all these intervention strategies and education initiatives are designed to minimise the likelihood of personnel succumbing to the distress associated with ambulance work. However, should they do so, it is an individual's choice to pursue litigation. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

130. Burnett River Water Resource Plan

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (2/5/01)—

With reference to the Beattie Government which made announcements concerning the availability of additional and more secure water supplies within the Burnett Basin and the infrastructure sitings which were basically in accord with a 170,000M1/a-yield option agreed at a Burnett Development Reference Group meeting held at DNR Bundaberg on 1 September 2000 and were basically in accord with the Burnett Water Development Group submission of 12 October 2000 and the June 2000 Draft Burnett Water Allocation and Management Plan and to the Premier's announcement in December after which a Water Resources Plan for the Burnett Basin was gazetted and contains errors and omissions which do not permit the Government announcements to be implemented and until corrected BWSG does not foresee the Chief Executive of DNR issuing the necessary notice to commence the development of the Resource Operation Plan under the WRP—

Will he review or look into the situation and instruct that the errors and omissions which do not permit the Government announcements to be implemented be corrected?

Mr ROBERTSON (1/6/01): The Premier announced in January 2001 that designs were to be undertaken on infrastructure that could deliver additional water supplies to the Burnett River Basin. The Government intends to proceed with this work and has introduced legislation to ensure that the studies can be carried out expeditiously.

As these studies progress, the need for any amendments to the Burnett River Water Resource Plan will be assessed and if necessary these will be made at the appropriate time.

131. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (2/5/01)—

- (1) Since 1990, (a) what equipment has been upgraded in Gladstone Hospital ICU and (b) what equipment has become or remains obsolete?
- (2) What services were carried out in 1990 but are no longer available in the Gladstone Hospital ICU?
- (3) What implications are there now to the renaming of the ICU to a High Dependency Unit?

Mrs EDMOND (1/6/01):

- (1)(a) Since 1990, the following equipment has been upgraded in the Gladstone Hospital High Dependency Unit:

1993 HP Codemaster defibrillator;
 1993 Spacelabs patient monitoring system (four bedside monitors and central nurses station monitor);
 1994 Puritan Bennett 7200 ventilator;
 1995 Stryker dual control critical care bed;
 1996 Fukuda ECG machine; and
 1999 Marquette signal averaging ECG machine.

A number of IV infusion pumps and syringe drivers and other minor pieces of equipment have been purchased over the years.

- (b) The aforementioned equipment was generally to replace old or obsolete equipment. There is no obsolete equipment currently in use.

- (2) In 1990 the Gladstone Hospital managed patients requiring short to medium term ventilation.

To provide intensive care services at the level expected in 2001 requires 24-hour availability of a range of specialist medical services and support services and also requires a significant throughput of cases to maintain clinical skills in these areas. The small number of cases that the Gladstone Hospital has which require ventilation would not provide adequate caseload for maintenance of contemporary medical and nursing skills.

Currently, emergency short-term ventilation for patients awaiting transfer to a designated intensive care unit is provided at Gladstone Hospital.

To date this financial year 10 patients have been transferred to metropolitan hospitals because they required long term ventilation.

- (3) None.

132. University of Queensland, Fryer Library

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (2/5/01)—

With reference to the Fryer Library at the University of Queensland—

- (1) Is she aware of the following concerns (a) that changes to the staffing of the Library may adversely affect the day-to-day operations of research through the Library, (b) that donations to the Fryer collection may dry up if Queenslanders believe the library is being downgraded and (c) that the collection may not be preserved as well as is the current situation?
- (2) Will she take any steps to ensure that the Fryer Library operates to the maximum benefit of all Queenslanders, in particular, historical researches?

Ms BLIGH (1/6/01): The staffing of the University, and its Library, are the responsibility of the University of Queensland. With respect to the matters raised, I am advised by the University as follows:

In response to budgetary pressures, the University of Queensland Library offered voluntary separation packages and approximately 20 staff from across the Library took advantage of the offer. This resulted in the loss of two staff from the Fryer Library in December 2000. The only implication of this reduction in staffing is that at nights and on weekends one staff member is on duty at the library desk instead of two. As a further efficiency measure, the administrations of the Fryer Library and the University Archives have been integrated, with no adverse effect on the Library. The University Librarian has forwarded a letter to all donors and 'Friends of Fryer' explaining the minimal impact of the changes and assuring that Library services, access to and preservation of the library's collection are not in jeopardy.

133. Burdekin River, Removal of Trees

Mr RODGERS asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (2/5/01)—

With reference to the recent approvals by the Department of Natural Resources of permits for the removal of trees from an area in the Burdekin River—

Will the department approve other similar applications for the removal of trees from other areas of the Burdekin River which are causing silting up and erosion?

Mr ROBERTSON (1/6/01): My Department will consider further applications for such works, with the view to their approval, subject to the submission by the Trust of adequate justification for the proposed works.

Such justification must include the following:

- definition of the specific problem to be addressed and the specific benefits of the proposed works;
- consideration of alternative measures, and the consequences of doing nothing;
- benefit/cost considerations; and
- species composition of vegetation with respect to being 'of concern', etc.

However, future proposals should form part of the Trust's annual works program submission, as has normally been the practice. This will ensure that the full range of Trust proposals are considered when the annual works program is submitted, and also provide that all Trust works proposals can be considered for possible subsidy allocation.

It is understood that this recent application under the Water Resources Act 1989 resulted from an urgent need which was only recognised after the approval of the current annual works program.

134. Pumicestone Electorate, Public Housing

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (3/5/01)—

What are the projects being undertaken with regard to public housing in the Pumicestone Electorate?

Mr SCHWARTEN (4/6/01): In 2000/01, the Department has constructed two, four-bedroom detached houses in the Pumicestone Electorate. Both of these dwellings were constructed to adaptable standards to ensure they can be modified for a client with special needs.

In the draft Capital Works Program for the 2001/02 financial year, the Department is planning the construction of four detached houses. Two of these houses are planned to be constructed to adaptable standards.

The Department proposes to spend \$143,757 in 2000/01 and \$160,000 in 2001/02 on upgrading existing dwellings. The 2001/02 figure includes \$40,000 for disability modifications for tenants with special needs. The upgrade work proposed on public rental dwellings may vary slightly during this time, due to the high demand on a needs priority of other homes managed within the Redcliffe Area office. The upgrade work will consist of several activities, the major ones being kitchens, bathrooms and laundries.

There are no urban renewal plans for the Pumicestone electorate during 2000/01 or 2001/02.

Within the electorate of Pumicestone, the Community Renewal Program operates in Caboolture South. Since it began in early 1999, approximately \$1.2M has been approved for projects in the area. Fifteen projects, totalling over \$977,000 have been approved during 2000/01 for Caboolture South. These include: Caboolture South Public Safety Coordination; the Pathways and Tree Planing Project; Caboolture South Lighting Project; the Learning for Life Pre-Vocational Project; youth entertainment schemes; the Environmental Reserve Master Plan; and employing community-based workers.

135. Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (3/5/01)—

With reference to the recent closure of the Wilson Youth Detention Centre—

- (1) What does the State Government intend to do with the building?
- (2) Will a report on possible uses of the building include consultation with the local Windsor community; if so, how will the community be involved?
- (3) When is a decision anticipated on the future use of the building?

Ms SPENCE (4/6/01): The site of the former Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre is now under the control of the Department of Housing. Inquiries should be addressed to the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing.

136. Biotechnology

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (3/5/01)—

With reference to Government's emphasis on biotechnology—

- (1) What is Treasury's estimate of the percentage contribution of biotechnology to Queensland's Gross State Product (GSP)?
- (2) What does Treasury expect this contribution to be by 2006?
- (3) How many Queenslanders are directly employed in biotechnology?
- (4) How many Queenslanders are expected to be directly employed in the biotechnology industry by 2006?

Mr MACKENROTH (1/6/01):

(1&2) There is currently no generally agreed definition of biotechnology for the purpose of State and national data collection. At present biotechnology activities would be recorded within a range of industries for national and State data collections. Accordingly Treasury does not have an estimate of the contribution of biotechnology to the State's gross State product.

(3&4) For the reasons set out above, it is not possible to accurately estimate the number of persons directly employed in biotechnology from current State and national data collections.

137. Gordonvale Police Station

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (3/5/01)—

With reference to his visit to Gordonvale for the Far North Queensland ministerial regional community forum on 26 March 2001 and to the lack of disabled access to the Gordonvale Police Station and as this State Government facility is the only Government building in the town yet to meet the needs of disabled persons—

Will he give an assurance that this matter will be addressed; if so, will he indicate a time frame for necessary works to be carried out?

Mr McGRADY (5/6/01): I am pleased to advise the Honourable Member that the lack of disabled access to the Gordonvale Police Station is being addressed, and that this access is scheduled to be provided in the 2001-2002 financial year, under the Police Service's Minor Works Program.

138. Water Use Efficiency

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (3/5/01)—

With reference to continual calls to the rural sector to employ more efficient means in connection with their use of water—

- (1) Does the Government consider there is any value in requiring all households to install a personal water tank for such tasks as washing the car?
- (2) Does he consider the practice of business people hosing down the footpath an efficient use of this precious resource?

Mr ROBERTSON (4/6/01): (1&2) The role of the Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative, delivered through my Department of Natural Resources and Mines, is to promote rural water use efficiency. Greater water efficiency can be achieved on-farm, within distribution and storage systems and water planning and management activities of the Department's Service Providers. We have taken a lead role in establishing supportive frameworks and developing partnerships with industries that will improve their ability to deliver natural resource management benefits from rural water use efficiency.

However, urban water use efficiency and the Queensland Water Recycling Strategy are delivered through the Sustainable Industries Program within the Environmental Protection Agency and as the questions relate to urban use they should therefore be directed to my colleague, the Minister for Environment.

139. Fire and Rescue Authority, Staff

Mr RODGERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (3/5/01)—

With reference to the fact that there are a lot of temporary personnel in fire and rescue in the Burdekin region and some of them have been fully employed in some cases for over two years but are still classified as temporary employees—

- (1) What plans are in place to convert some long term temporary employees into full-time permanent, particularly with reference to those employed in the Burdekin region?
- (2) Is the department considering any plans to give preferences to local people filling any local vacancies which occur from time to time?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/6/01):

1. The QFRA believes that the recruitment of auxiliaries from local communities into the permanent ranks is desirable both for the individual and for the QFRA. However, transitioning from an auxiliary to a permanent firefighter requires a process of identifying a career path for auxiliaries and temporary employees to obtain permanent entry requirements and then gain access to permanent vacancies.

The QFRA is currently considering the feasibility of a draft model to achieve the transition from auxiliary and temporary to permanent firefighter. Following an extensive consultation process the model will need to be further developed and negotiated with the Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association Inc and other stakeholders.

The QFRA is unable to address the specific issues in Burdekin prior to the draft model being finalised after consultation with key stakeholders.

2. Yes, it has been recognised that employment of people from the local community has benefits to the QFRA. The QFRA is currently implementing a selection process that has the capacity to achieve local employment through the incorporation of location preferences which will enable the recruitment of firefighters from within the communities in which they live.

Using this process the person would be given preferential consideration to appointment within an area in which he/she currently resides. The only conditions applicable to this arrangement would be that vacancies must firstly occur in the local community and the location must also be included in the applicant's preferences.

Following the Firefighter of the Future 2001 Recruitment Campaign all successful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. This waiting list will be used to determine the allocation of applicants to vacancies subject to their primary location preferences.

140. Graffiti Offences

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (3/5/01)—

Since 1 July 1998, how many people found guilty of, or convicted of, graffiti offences have been given graffiti clean-up orders as part of their sentence?

Mr McGRADY (4/6/01): Queensland Police Service data does not generally include any information relating to sentencing or convictions beyond the record of a community-based order. The specific terms of these orders may be available from the courts. Therefore, it is recommended that this matter be referred to the Honourable Rod Welford, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice for a response to this question.

141. Cassowaries, Mission Beach

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/5/01)—

With reference to a recent article in the RACQ 'Road Ahead' that refers to environmental conservation and ecologically sustainable actions of Main Roads and, in particular, to road signs and other measures in place to conserve cassowaries in the Mission Beach area—

- (1) When and where were road signs erected by Main Roads in relation to cassowaries?
- (2) Has the speed limit been reduced in the area as requested by local residents?
- (3) What habitat protection policies and procedures have been implemented?
- (4) Have any cassowaries recently been killed by motor vehicles in the area?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/6/01):

(1) The RACQ article was incorrect. In the course of collating and condensing information from around Queensland, the writer inadvertently confused the public consultation stage with the implementation stage of a cassowary road management strategy for the Tully-Mission Beach Road. This strategy will be finalised by Main Roads in August 2001, following a review by the local community reference group.

With regard to signs, some additional cassowary warning signs were erected in 1998 at known locations where higher numbers of cassowaries cross the Tully-Mission Beach Road. The draft management strategy includes a new innovative signing approach and recommends that Main Roads erect further signs.

(2) The speed limit has not yet been reduced. The strategy recommends a reduction in the speed limit from 100 to 80kmh. A final decision on this matter will be made following discussion with the local community reference group and the Cardwell Shire Council in the coming months.

(3) The strategy recommends several actions to improve the habitat within the road reserve, including natural revegetation of the road reserve to within 8m of the road and the provision of two road underpasses to improve habitat connectivity across the road.

(4) During the early morning of 23 March 2001, a female adult cassowary was killed by a motor vehicle or truck on the Tully-Mission Beach Road north of the South Mission Beach turn-off. The driver did not report the death.

142. Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (3/5/01)—

Given that the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has been directed to meet the \$10m cost of the East Coast Trawl Management Plan (a) how is DPI funding this expense, (b) which sectors of DPI will have, or have had, their budgets reduced in order to source the required funding and by how much, (c) how many staff will be affected by the budget reductions, (d) will there be, or has there been, a greater use of casual staff rather than full-time staff, (e) will there be, or

has there been, any reduction in research, development and extension programs; if so, which ones and why, (f) will there be, or have there been, any DPI facilities or programs closed, amalgamated or scaled down and (g) what impact has this unbudgeted expense had on DPI's ability to fund pest and disease eradication programs?

Mr PALASZCZUK (4/6/01):

(a) The East Coast Trawl Management Plan is being funded by an additional output appropriation of \$10 million from Treasury in 2000-2001.

(b&c) The additional output appropriation from Treasury will be funded by the Department of Primary Industries from savings in operating expenses across the Department and equity injections in order to assist to negate the impact on other services being delivered by the Department. In a full year, the additional output appropriation from Treasury will be funded at \$2.3 million of which half will be met from output revenue and half from equity sources.

(d) As part of the overall strategy of the Department there has been a greater use of casual staff but only where this has been appropriate for the service being delivered.

(e) The formation of the Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences within DPI has involved a reprioritisation among its research, development and extension activities. This process has resulted in changes in the provision of a range of research, development and extension services.

(f) I am advised none.

(g) I am advised none.

143. Caloundra Hospital

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (3/5/01)—

With reference to her oft quoted statement that the new redevelopment of the Caloundra Hospital, funded by the Coalition, will only be staffed and equipped on a needs basis sometime in the future—

Will she (a) detail on what basis these needs will be calculated and (b) provide a time schedule and details of staff and equipment to be funded on each occasion?

Mrs EDMOND (4/6/01): On 1 April 2001, the Premier, the Honourable Peter Beattie opened the redeveloped Caloundra Health Service. The Caloundra Health Service provides the local community with a health service facility, which has the capacity to progressively meet the anticipated population growth in the Caloundra area. This is what good planning is all about. The antithesis is a new hospital that is at maximum capacity on the day it opens.

(a) A range of standard indicators is currently used to monitor and assess growth demand areas across the Sunshine Coast Health Service District and to assist in planning future service delivery. These include occupancy rates, inpatient activity and acuity data, theatre utilisation rates, outpatient occasion of service data, and waiting times for specialist services and elective surgery.

(b) Initial enhancements include:

appointment of a fourth doctor from 9 July 2001;

appointment of a general physician on a sessional basis to provide inpatient and outpatient services from the end of April 2001; and

expansion of the Department of Emergency Medicine staffing:

a level 3 nurse from 2 April 2001;

additional clerical hours from 2 April 2001;

additional nursing hours in Central Sterilising and Theatre from 30 April 2001; and

BreastScreen Satellite Unit commenced on site from 2 January 2001.

Adult Community Health and Child Health Services have also moved onto the Caloundra Health Service campus to improve access to services for the local community.

Trends of usage and demand for services will continue to be monitored and service enhancements funded and provided in line with service needs and District priorities, as is the case across Queensland.

144. President of the Industrial Court

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (3/5/01)—

How will the President of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission prepare a report if that person has no control over the Commissioner Administrator?

Mr NUTTALL (4/6/01): As President of the Industrial Court and of the Industrial Relations Commission, and as a member of the Commission, the President will be fully aware of the operations of the Industrial Relations Act and the workings of the tribunals to be able to compile the annual report.

Further, I am advised that the extensive statistical information contained in the report is gathered from the information records maintained in the Registry.

145. Illegal Trail Bike Riding, Hillcrest/Park Ridge

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (3/5/01)—

With reference to illegal trail bike riding in the Hillcrest and Park Ridge areas—

- (1) What steps are being taken for the Queensland Police Service officers to work with Logan City Council officers to help moderate the problem?
- (2) Do police officers have the powers to fine offenders who are riding unregistered or noisy trail bikes which are being ridden by under age riders without helmets?

Mr NUTTALL (4/6/01):

(1) Logan Police District has an allocation of two trail bikes which are used to patrol the Hillcrest and Park Ridge areas to address the issue of trail bike riding. Police have also patrolled with the Logan City Council Park Rangers to respond to community complaints in public parks. These patrols have been limited due to the harsh terrain in some areas and a lack of specialised safety equipment.

The Logan City Council and the Queensland Police Service are presently negotiating a sponsorship agreement regarding the purchase of specialised safety equipment to ensure the safety of police officers patrolling on trail bikes. This will allow the joint patrols to safely access areas not ordinarily patrolled.

Preliminary advice from the Logan City Council indicates support for funding of the sponsorship. Once sponsorship is approved, it is intended to increase the frequency of joint trail bike patrols.

(2) In relation to traffic matters Queensland Police draw the majority of their powers from the Transport Operations Road Use Management Act 1995. The Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 1999 provides offences for the riding of unregistered and defective motor cycles, creating undue noise, riding without a helmet and unlicensed driving. Police are authorised to issue traffic offence notices to persons who commit these offences on roadways.

There is no offence committed under the provisions of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 1999 in respect of trail bike riders riding on private property or council parks. Any enforcement action in council parks or private property must be taken under local council by-laws. Riding of a motorcycle in council parks in the Logan City Council area is a breach of Council's local laws. Council officers are authorised to issue on the spot infringement notices of 5 penalty units (\$375).

Joint patrols, between Queensland Police and Logan City Council officers, have been established to address complaints related to these issues. Persons breaching either the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 1999 or Council by-laws may be dealt with by Police or Council officers as is appropriate.

If juveniles are committing offences on a roadway action can be taken by Police Officers.

Queensland Police Service policy states that traffic infringement notices are only to be issued to persons under the age of 17 years after other alternative actions have been considered. e.g. caution, community conferencing.

When an infringement notice is issued the alleged offender is required to pay a fine, as an adult would. If this fine is not paid, however, the issuing officer takes action by way of a Juvenile Attendance Notice or Complaint and Summons rather than referral to the State Penalties Enforcement Registry (SPER).

Relevant legislation also provides that a person under the age of 10 years is not criminally responsible for any act or omission and a person under the age of 14 years is not criminally responsible for an act or omission, unless it is proved that at the time of doing the act or making the omission the child had capacity to know that he/she ought not to do the act or make the omission.

146. Ambulance Service, Internet Access

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (3/5/01)—

With reference to the matter I raised in the Parliament some 18 months ago of Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) officers accessing pornographic material using departmental computers and to the previous Minister's assurance that it could never happen again, however, there has since been a number of cases reported to the QAS—

- (1) In light of this, will he provide information as to the number of these instances reported to the QAS since 1 January 2000, individually detailing (a) date of occurrence, (b) date referred to the QAS Commissioners Office, (c) date referred to the Criminal Justice Commission, (d) date investigated and by whom, (e) summary of investigation findings, (f) date referred to the legal section of the QAS Commissioners Office and (g) date and means of disciplinary action taken if any?
- (2) Will he assure all decent QAS officers that he will intervene to ensure that all outstanding reports are investigated as a matter of priority and that disciplinary action will be taken where appropriate?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/6/01):

In response to question (1)

Since 1 January 2000 the Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service has dealt with a total of 9 complaints relating to alleged inappropriate use of QAS computer assets. (of which 1 was identified in December 1999 and referred to the Commissioner on 1 February 2000)

Case 1

- (a) Alleged misuse identified in December 1999.
- (b) Referred to the QAS Commissioner on 1 February 2000.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services for referral to the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) on 1 February 2000.
- (d) Investigated during May & June 2000 by investigation team comprising officers from the Department's Internal Audit Office, Information Services, and the QAS.

- (e) Report submitted to QAS Commissioner on 2 August 2000. The officer concerned denied inappropriate use, and in view of the finding that other personnel had access to the computer concerned, the investigation could not conclude any wrongdoing on the part of the Officer concerned.
- (f) Referred by the Commissioner for legal advice on 1 February 2000.
- (g) No grounds existed for disciplinary action.

Case 2

- (a) Alleged misuse identified on 25 January 2000.
- (b) Referred to QAS Commissioner on 11 February 2000 with advice that the officer concerned had tendered his resignation.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services on 16 February 2000 for advice regarding referral to the CJC in light of the officer's resignation.
- (d) No investigation conducted.
- (e) Officer admitted to the misuse and resigned from QAS in February 2000. The officer reimbursed the QAS for the cost of the internet connection in which he inappropriately accessed an illicit web site;
- (f) Referred by the Commissioner for legal advice on 11 February 2000.
- (g) No further action taken as officer no longer employed by the QAS.

Case 3

- (a) Alleged misuse identified on 17 January 2000.
- (b) Referred to the QAS Commissioner on 24 January 2000.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services on 17 February 2000 and the CJC on 24 February 2000.
- (d) Investigation conducted during January and February 2000 by a senior officer of the QAS.
- (e) The officer resigned his appointment with the QAS in January 2000.
- (f) Referred by the Commissioner for legal advice on 24 January 2000.
- (g) No further action taken as officer no longer employed by the QAS.

Case 4

- (a) Alleged misuse identified on 12 February 2000.
- (b) Referred to QAS Commissioner on 17 February 2000.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services on 22 February 2000 for referral to the CJC.
- (d) Preliminary investigation conducted by Department Information Services Officer during February 2000.
- (e) Preliminary investigation confirmed inappropriate use on 3 occasions between December 1999 and January 2000. On each occasion, any one of five QAS employees had access to the relevant computer. The team of 5 employees comprised different officers each of the 3 occasions.
- (f) Referred for legal advice on 17 February 2000.
- (g) No disciplinary action taken against any individual officer. All QAS employees counselled regarding the use of QAS computer resources.

Case 5

- (a) Alleged misuse identified on 7 April 2000.
- (b) Referred to QAS Commissioner on 12 April 2000.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services for referral to the CJC on 10 May 2000 and again on 3 July 2000.
- (d) Investigation conducted during April and May 2000 by an officer from Information Services;
- (e) The officer concerned admitted to venturing onto the Internet and inadvertently and unintentionally saving inappropriate files onto the QAS computer.
- (f) Referred for legal advice on 17 April 2000.
- (g) The officer concerned was counselled about the appropriate use of QAS computer resources.

Case 6

- (a) Alleged misuse identified in April 2000.
- (b) Referred to QAS Commissioner on 12 April 2000.
- (c) Not referred to the CJC.
- (d) Investigated during April 2000 by a senior officer of the QAS.
- (e) Investigation concluded that non-QAS software had been loaded onto a QAS computer. The software included games such as Microsoft Golf and Cricket 97. No pornographic material was found and no inappropriate use of the Internet facility was identified.
- (f) Report provided to the Commissioner on 12 June 2000 and legal advice sought on that date.
- (g) No disciplinary action taken against the officers at the Station. All officers counselled about the appropriate use of QAS computer resources.

Case 7

- (a) Alleged misuse identified on 26 April 2000.
- (b) Referred to QAS Commissioner on 27 April 2000.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services for referral to the CJC on 10 May 2000.
- (d) Preliminary investigation in April 2000.

- (e) Preliminary investigation confirmed misuse on an isolated occasion but could not identify the employee responsible for the misuse.
- (f) Referred for legal advice on 27 April 2000.
- (g) No disciplinary action taken against any individual. All officers counselled about the appropriate use of QAS computer resources.

Case 8

- (a) Alleged misuse identified on 30 May 2000.
- (b) Referred to QAS Commissioner on 5 June 2000.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services for referral to the CJC on 9 June 2000;
- (d) Preliminary investigation conducted by Regional Executive Director in June 2000 under the supervision of the Internal Audit Unit. Further investigation conducted by a Senior QAS Officer from outside of the relevant region during September 2000.
- (e) Investigation report provided to Commissioner on 29 December 2000. The report concluded that there was insufficient evidence to support a claim that there was regular and widespread misuse of resources.

Four employees admitted to inappropriate use of computer resources, or knowledge thereof.

One employee no longer works for the QAS.

A second employee admitted to inadvertently and unintentionally gaining access to an inappropriate web site.

A third employee admitted to bringing a floppy disc from his private collection, and using a QAS computer to display the contents of the files saved thereon.

A fourth employee denied any inappropriate use, but admitted to the knowledge of another employee inappropriately using a QAS computer.

- (f) As requested by the CJC, a copy of the investigation report was referred to the CJC before any action taken. The report was referred back to the Commissioner on 5 April 2000 and thereafter, for legal advice on 10 April 2001.
- (g) The officers concerned have been counselled about the use of QAS computers.

Case 9

- (a) Alleged misuse identified on 11 June 2000.
- (b) Referred to the QAS Commissioner on 20 June 2000.
- (c) Referred to Legal & Legislative Services on 3 July 2000 for referral to the CJC.
- (d) Investigation conducted by a senior QAS officer during November 2000.
- (e) The officer concerned made certain admissions to the investigating officer, however, the officer claimed that the misuse of the QAS computer and Internet facility occurred on only 2 occasions, and was accidental. A key witness has not yet been interviewed as she has been on extended leave from the Service. The investigating officer considers that this witness should be interviewed before the investigation is finalised and any action taken in reliance of it.
- (f) Referred back to Legal & Legislative Services and the CJC by way of update on 9 May 2001.
- (g) Awaiting finalisation of investigation.

In all cases, the Commissioner referred the complaint for legal advice and where it was deemed appropriate, to the Criminal Justice Commission. The Criminal Justice Commission reviewed the complaints that were referred to it and thereafter, referred those complaints back to the QAS for investigation and management.

All matters were, in the first instance, investigated by a QAS Manager in the relevant area. In some cases, it was evident that a more detailed investigation was warranted.

I can advise the Honourable Member that no systemic misuse of QAS computers has been identified in any of the Ambulance Stations or Communications Centres referred to in the complaints.

In response to question (2)

The Commissioner has given me his assurance that any outstanding matter will be dealt with as a matter of priority and that disciplinary action will be taken where appropriate.

The QAS Commissioner has taken steps to inform all employees regarding their obligations with respect to the use of QAS computer resources. The Commissioner reissued the Departmental and QAS Policy statements on 'Use of QAS computers and Internet Services', through a Commissioner's Memorandum, No 14/00 dated the 16th May 2000. This information was sent to every QAS employee.

There has not been any complaint of this kind since June 2000.

Finally, I can reassure the Honourable Member that the Department of Emergency Services has implemented measures that will ensure security and integrity of the Department's computer network, and will prevent future instances of inappropriate use of this kind.

Earlier this year, the Department completed the progressive implementation of a statewide communications network to provide access to the corporate intranet and internal email. The network is known as 'DESnet'.

A key security feature of DESnet is a firewall. The firewall enables Department staff to access the Internet and send emails to external agencies and organisations whilst protecting the Department's network and information systems by scanning all inbound and outbound emails for viruses and filtering out inappropriate sites and web content. The Department firewall is now operational.

147. Gladstone Port Access Road

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/5/01)—

With reference to Route D (the Port Access Road) which has been a continuous issue in the Gladstone electorate—

What is his intention with regard to Queensland Government funding of the corridor and it's future involvement in this industry corridor?

Mr BREDHAUER (5/6/01): The Gladstone Port Access Road is a local government responsibility.

In the lead up to the last Federal Election, the Federal Government committed \$6 million to the proposed Gladstone Port Access Road under the Roads of National Importance Program. This commitment was made on the basis of a 50% contribution to the total project cost which Gladstone City Council estimated at the time as \$12 million.

Following representations from the Gladstone City Council, the Queensland Government and Gladstone Port Authority agreed to the following funding arrangements, details of which are outlined in the 2000-01 to 2004-05 Roads Implementation Program:

Federal Government—RONI Program—\$6.0 million

Gladstone Port Authority—\$3.0 million

State Government (through Department of State Development)—\$1.5 million

Gladstone City Council—\$1.5 million

On the 2 April 2001, Gladstone City Council formally advised me of the cost increase from \$12 million to \$15 million and that Council would 'not contribute to the road nor take on ownership'.

I advised Gladstone City Council on 16 May 2001 that the responsibility for ownership of the road must rest with Gladstone City Council and the State Government's contribution is capped at \$1.5 million. Further, the proposed additional commitment by Gladstone Port Authority of \$1.5 million is a matter which shareholding Ministers are yet to consider.

In the recent Federal Budget, an extra \$1.5 million was committed in 2003-04 (taking the Federal Government's contribution to \$7.5 million), on the basis that this was matched by the State Government and the Gladstone Port Authority.

The State Government's contribution towards Route D is capped at \$1.5 million and the Gladstone City Council must accept responsibility for this road. The timing for its construction is an issue for Gladstone City Council to determine.

148. Redlands, Roadworks

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/5/01)—

What is the timeframe for the upgrading and four-laning of the second arterial road out of the Redlands which begins at Boundary Road and extends through to the intersection with Mt Gravatt-Capalaba Road?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/6/01): The section of road between the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road and the Mount Gravatt Capalaba Road is made up of the state-controlled roads of Redland Bay Road and a section of the Redland Sub Arterial Road. The local road names are Mount Cotton Road, Broadwater Road, Duncan Road and Boundary Road.

Duplication of the section of the Redland Bay Road (Boundary Road) between Taylor Road and Panorama Drive was completed in early 2000. That was the section with the highest traffic numbers and the work has removed a major bottleneck in the area.

Timing for completion of duplication of the Redland Bay Road in Redland Shire and the Redland Subarterial in Brisbane City is subject to competing demands of available road funds.

Three projects which will accomplish this aim have been identified in the indicative years three to five of the 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 Roads Implementation Program which was tabled in Parliament on 10 November 2000.

Following the outcome of the State Budget in June 2001, this five-year rolling program of works will be reviewed, at which time the priority of these duplication works will be assessed against other roadworks priorities in South East Queensland. Details will be incorporated in the next Roads Implementation Program which will be published within two to three months of the State Budget.

149. Ambulance Service, Drug Overdose Cases

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (3/5/01)—

Will he provide details on the number of drug overdose calls that ambulances have had to respond to in each region, for each month, since January 1999 to April 2001, as well as a State-wide figure for each month for the same period?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/6/01): The QAS Drugs 'We can help' Project is a joint initiative of QAS and the community group Teen Challenge. Not all QAS regions are participants of the Project and data availability and recording is therefore inconsistent across QAS regions.

The QAS Drugs 'We can help' Project has recorded the following annual figures for pre-hospital heroin (only) overdose cases attended by the Queensland Ambulance Service. It should be acknowledged that not all these patients were admitted to hospital:

Region	Calendar Year	Number
South Western Region	1999	17
North Coast Region	1999	65
Greater Brisbane Region	1999	488
South Eastern Region	1999	150
Far Northern Region	1999	32

There are no reported QAS Drugs 'We can help' Project figures available for the Northern Region and the Central Region. The year 2000 QAS Drugs 'We can help' Project figures will not be available from the Project until July 2001.

The QAS general database did not record these cases on a Region-by-month basis during the period January 1999 to April 2001.

The general QAS case statistical database did not record specific 'drug overdose' casualties as a distinct group within the general poisoning patient category during the 1999 calendar year period. As from 1 July 2000 QAS has been recording drug overdose casualties into Prescribed Drugs, Recreational Drugs and Poisoning categories. However, without an individual audit of each patient record, the Service database does not provide a defined drug agent.

150. Kilkivan Shire, Roadworks

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (3/5/01)—

With reference to the main road that runs from Widgee to Woolooga in the Kilkivan Shire—

- (1) What capital expenditure has been spent on this road in the last three years?
- (2) How much has been spent in maintenance on this road in the last three years?
- (3) What are the recorded traffic volumes on this road for the last three years?
- (4) What are the comparable traffic volumes on the Gympie to Kilkivan Road and the Gympie to Widgee Road?
- (5) What future capital works are planned for this road and when are they anticipated to be carried out?
- (6) What is the budgeted maintenance figure for this road for the next financial year and how will that maintenance budget be allocated to on ground work?

Mr BREDHAUER (4/6/01):

(1) Over the past three financial years, \$1.543m has been spent on the road between Widgee and Woolooga in Kilkivan Shire (part of the Gympie-Woolooga Road). This provided an initial seal on 3.4kms of the road.

(2) Over the past three financial years (up until the end of April 2001), \$197,657 has been spent on maintenance on the road.

(3) Current traffic volumes on the Gympie-Woolooga Road in Kilkivan Shire are as follows:

near Little Widgee Creek: 540 vehicles per day

at junction with Wide Bay Highway: 130 vehicles per day (near substation)

(4) The Gympie to Kilkivan Road is referred to by the Department of Main Roads as the Wide Bay Highway. Current traffic volumes are as follows:

near Widgee Creek: 1610 vehicles per day

near Abels Road: 1420 vehicles per day

near Bongmillerer Creek: 1380 vehicles per day

The question also refers to the Gympie to Widgee Road which is the portion of the Gympie-Woolooga Road located in Cooloolool Shire. Current traffic volumes are as follows:

near Gympie Showgrounds: 7200 vehicles per day

near Jimbour Road: 750 vehicles per day

(5) There are no major works planned for the Gympie-Woolooga Road in the next five years. This takes into account the significant investment in the road over the last few years, the relative priority of other roads in the network and available road funds.

(6) A joint maintenance inspection between Main Roads and Kilkivan Shire Council is undertaken each year during May and June to determine road maintenance funding needs. This is currently under way. It would be reasonable to expect maintenance funds to be similar to previous years, and of the order of \$60,000.

In addition, Kilkivan Shire Council has further maintenance funds available under the Bulk Maintenance Initiative in the Roads Implementation Program commencing in 2001-2002.

The budget would be spent on a road needs basis in accordance with the principles of the Road Maintenance Performance Contracts in operation between Main Roads and local governments.

151. Kingaroy Properties, Johne's Disease

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (3/5/01)—

With reference to a claim by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) that two properties in my electorate are infected with Johne's disease (Rural Weekly 20 April 2001) and as both property owners have done all in their power to assist DPI and informed me that DPI Kingaroy have been exemplary and the owners only reward has been sensationalised stories broadcast throughout rural Australia by the media with misleading statements attributed to Mr John Roberts and Mr John Zigterman, senior staff at DPI at Brisbane and Bundaberg—

- (1) Is he aware that there have been no positive results on either blood or culture tests from one property and only one animal recorded a positive result on the other?
- (2) Is he aware that the infected animal was slaughtered in early September, seven and a half months ago?
- (3) Does he realise the offending comments are worst case scenarios and don't apply to these two producers?

- (4) As there are only two Jersey herds in Kingaroy and the DPI may as well have printed their names, will he ensure that the owners receive a written public apology from Mr Roberts and Mr Zigterman for the extreme embarrassment they have suffered and possible detrimental effects to their business?

Mr PALASZCZUK (4/6/01):

- (1) Yes. I am also aware that this disease has an extremely long incubation period and the confirmation to date of one infected animal has served to demonstrate that the animals have been exposed to infection and all must be considered potentially infected.
- (2) Yes. Again, I am advised the duration of time is of little consequence in an exposed animal as the disease may take many years before manifesting itself.
- (3) The DPI has a duty to make the public aware of the consequences of illegal livestock movements. DPI cannot be responsible for media interpretation of the facts.
- (4) I understand these facts are on the public record. Queensland cattle owners are entitled to know the risks involved to protect themselves against this disease. Any apology should perhaps come from the people who introduced the cattle illegally.

152. Animal Health Research Farm, Rocklea

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (3/5/01)—

- (1) What is the intended future use of the Department of Primary Industries research farm at Rocklea?
- (2) How much land will be available to the community for parkland/recreational use?

Mr PALASZCZUK (4/6/01):

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries is working with the Brisbane City Council and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to develop recommendations for the possible future use of the former Animal Health Research Farm at Sherwood Road, Rocklea.

A number of proposals have been received and there has been extensive community consultation.

- (2) No decision has been taken as yet regarding the future use of this land.

153. Sunshine Coast, Project Assistance

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for State Development (3/5/01)—

What projects are being assisted/or have been assisted during the term of the Beattie Labor Government by the Department of State Development on the Sunshine Coast?

Mr BARTON (4/6/01): My Department of State Development is serious about regional development and in particular opportunities for generating business growth, encouraging trade and investment and creating more regional jobs. During the term of the Beattie Labor Government since 1998, my Department has committed or facilitated access to targeted Queensland Government assistance of some \$2.87 million in the Sunshine Coast region. This assistance has been provided for regional and business development activities to a range of projects, firms, individuals and communities in the region.

My Department provides project support to business, industry and the regional community through departmental service delivery from the State Development Centre, Sunshine Coast located in Mooloolaba. The Centre currently employs a team of 12 officers that promote and support sector and cluster development, encourage the development of value-adding opportunities and facilitate business development through access to information, skilling and advice regarding the streamlining of business operations.

Specific project assistance has been provided on the Sunshine Coast since 1998 through my Department's Queensland Industry Incentive Scheme (\$782,000), Queensland Industry Development Scheme (\$532,000) and the Regional Business Development Scheme (\$464,000). Assistance has been provided through my Department's Management Skills Development Scheme (\$12,223), Organisational Sponsorships (\$32,500), and AsiaLink (\$7,297), Youth Enterprise (\$12,000) and E-Commerce (\$7,563) programs.

Some of the projects that have received assistance include:

Australian Provincial Newspapers

My Department of State Development has assisted Australian Provincial Newspapers to establish a Shared Services Centre in Maroochydore. The company established the Centre on the Sunshine Coast in preference to other areas in Australia due to the assistance provided through the Queensland Industry Incentive Scheme focusing on staff training and payroll incentives.

This Centre has made an important contribution to employment growth in the region by generating 45 new jobs on the Sunshine Coast since 1999 with an expected further increase of similar scale over the next two or three years.

Botanical Food Company

The Botanical Food Company at Palmwoods produces a range of herb and spice cooking products. The company has shown significant growth during the last two years assisted by a tailored Queensland Industry Incentive Scheme package that secured the jobs of 30 staff and has generated some 70 new jobs.

The company has recently secured substantial export orders for their innovative fresh product that will ensure additional investment in their Sunshine Coast operation.

Moby Vic's Pty Ltd

In 1999/2000 my Department of State Development provided a Regional Business Development Scheme grant to the Walker family who operate Moby Vic's service areas on the Bruce Highway at Johnson Road, Glasshouse. The grant assisted with a feasibility study into the commercial viability of a major Tourist Attraction/Theme Park on their land adjacent to their service operations.

This project is currently undersigning public consultation through Caloundra City Council and Environmental Protection Agency approval processes. The project has the potential to create some 250 new full time equivalent jobs in the region with estimated private sector investment of some \$30 million.

Mooloolah River Fisheries Pty Ltd

My Department of State Development has approved a study into the development of a commercial fishing facility providing facilities for processing, storage and sales of seafood.

The study identified opportunities for increased trade through an easy access boat harbour on the Sunshine Coast for South East Queensland's large commercial fishing industry. When implemented the project is expected to generate an increase in trade of some \$4.25 million in the region and generate 40 new local job opportunities.

Country Chef Pty Ltd

My Department is about to finalise arrangements for Food Smart Queensland Initiative assistance to Country Chef Pty Ltd, Nambour in order to accommodate a program of increased capacity and creation of new product production capacity.

Government support will be ongoing with departmental officers providing input in a program of continual improvement and market development.

The Queensland Government recognises the significance of this business development to the Nambour region as it will provide up to 22 new employment opportunities and stabilise existing jobs in the company.

Sunland Enterprises Pty Ltd

The Queensland Government through my Department of State Development has provided Sunland Enterprises Pty Ltd at Landsborough funding under the Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative. Assistance was provided towards installing an environmentally friendly bio-filter to control odour emission from the plant and providing an effective effluent pondage system. This benefited the local community and assisted the plant in satisfying Environmental Protection Agency requirements. The Queensland Government recognised the importance of this business to the Landsborough region ensuring the ongoing employment of 27 employees.

Maleny Scarecrow Festival

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$4,000 provided by my Department of State Development in 1998 supported the development of a business plan and assisted with the creation of the festival. This grant enabled the first festival to proceed. The event has subsequently grown over the last two years and there are now over 200 entries that attract an estimated 5000 visitors to the region. The festival provides a major boost to the local economy.

Wood Fisheries Pty Ltd

My Department of State Development provided a Regional Business Development Scheme grant to Woodfisheries Pty Ltd at Mooloolaba to undertake a feasibility study into the commercial viability of an Ocean Interpretive Centre. The grant funding also assisted the proponent in the production of an Investment Brief for the project that targeted investment of some \$10 million. The long-term project has the potential for significant economic benefit in the region with the development of some 150 new tourism and service industry job opportunities.

Tourism Sunshine Coast

In 1999 my Department of State Development provided a Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$5,000 to Tourism Sunshine Coast as part of the funding of a Regional Tourism Strategy. The strategy confirmed that the value of tourism industry to the region's economy was significant with visitor expenditure across the region estimated to be in excess of \$1.4 billion. The strategy which is being implemented by Tourism Sunshine Coast focused on strengthening peak body and industry leadership, generating adequate funding for regional marketing, establishing a united approach, improving communication and production coordination across the region, and capitalising on the full range of the region's assets.

Sunshine Coast Education Providers Network

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$7,500 was provided by my Department of State Development in June 2000 to assist with a study into the Internationalisation of Sunshine Coast Education Providers. The study has seen the establishment of a marketing group to develop materials and progress the activities of the network which include primary, secondary and tertiary providers from both the public and private sectors throughout the region.

Smart Screen Association Inc

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$10,000 was provided by my Department of State Development in July 2000 for a pre-feasibility study into the establishment of a high technology film industry in the Sunshine Coast region. The study has been completed with the result that further discussions between stakeholders will take place to progress the findings of the report that indicate that the establishment of the industry could be achieved locally as a viable regional location. Several interested parties are now seeking involvement in the project that has the potential to provide significant skilled employment in the region. An estimated investment of \$30-50 million will be required.

Regional Business Clusters

My Department of State Development has provided a Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$55,800 to the University of the Sunshine Coast to prepare a strategic plan for three new industry clusters in the Sunshine Coast region. The project will prepare a regional audit of industry opportunities and identify areas with the greatest potential for 'value adding' to create sustainable employment opportunities. Target areas for cluster development include the Horticulture, Food Processing and the Film and Multimedia industries. The work will be undertaken by the University in conjunction with

the Sunshine Coast Business Development Corporation and will extend previous activity on business and industry clustering in the region.

Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast

In August 2000 the former Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development approved a contribution of \$500,000 by the Queensland Government towards the operational costs of a new technology incubator for the Sunshine Coast region.

Located on the campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast, this incubator has been branded the 'Innovation Centre Sunshine Coast'. The Innovation Centre will be part of a network of properly managed business incubators currently being developed within Queensland.

The Innovation Centre will be the key resource in the region for the development of new largely high technology businesses, and will act as the catalyst for a technology park proposed in the newly planned Sippy Downs township. The business incubator will initially offer 600 square meters of flexible office space capable of supporting up to 15 tenants with some 3 staff each.

The cost of the construction of the Innovation Centre funded by the University of the Sunshine Coast is some \$5 million. Partnership funding of \$2 million divided equally between the Queensland Government, the Commonwealth Government, the University and Maroochy Shire Council has been allocated to assist with the operation of the Centre during the first three years.

The Innovation Centre complex also includes some 2,500 square metres of function space.

The Honourable Peter Beattie MP the Premier of Queensland is scheduled to formally open the complex on 1 June 2001.

Regional Excellence in Business Awards

My Department of State Development has provided sponsorship support for last three years for the AMP (Formerly GIO) Regional Excellence in Business Awards. The awards attract around 200 local entries and some 1000 people attend the official functions related to the awards.

Sunshine Coast Excellence in Export Awards

My Department of State Development has provided sponsorship support for last three years for the Regional Excellence in Export Awards. These prestigious local awards are run in conjunction with the Premier's Export Awards. The 2000 awards attracted over 20 local entries and in excess of 160 people attended the awards presentation event with the local winner participating in the State awards.

Infrastructure Projects and Land Management

My Department of State Development is assisting the Local Government Authorities of Caloundra City, Noosa Shire and Maroochy Shire on the Sunshine Coast identify future industrial land requirements and availability. Specific industrial land planning projects include planning for the Caloundra Regional Business Park (including Department of State Development land at Corbould Park), a potential future industrial estate at Sippy Creek and a development strategy for Departmental land at Coolum. Through this work, encompassing up to 1,000 hectares, the future needs of industry wishing to locate or expand on the Sunshine Coast will be catered for well into the future.

My Department of State Development is also undertaking broad future land use studies in strategic areas of the Sunshine Coast. The Caboolture-Caloundra Corridor Land Use Study is a prime example of my Department's strategic approach to land use planning that is aimed at ensuring the most appropriate use of State land for the benefit of the people of Queensland.

My Department of State Development is also working with the private sector to advance consideration of projects such as the Caloundra Downs Informal Land Use Investigation (covering some 3,700 hectares) and a redevelopment proposal for the Tripcony/Hibiscus caravan park site in the Caloundra Central Business District. These projects have the capacity to provide significant public and economic benefits for the Sunshine Coast Region.

Kenilworth Country Foods Pty Ltd

My Department of State Development has assisted Kenilworth Country Foods through the Queensland Industry Development Scheme by supporting the development of funding options and planning for the purchase of equipment required for increased production and capacity. The grant will assist the company in its growth and enable it to more effectively target Commonwealth Government support such as the Supermarket to Asia Scheme and the Queensland Dairy Regional Assistance Program.

Nambour Arts Incubator

Through my Department of State Development the Queensland Government has committed \$520,000 to assist the Maroochy Shire Council to refurbish the existing Nambour Civic Centre and create an arts incubator for the region.

Maroochydhore Performing Arts and Exhibition Centre

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$153,175 was provided by my Department of State Development to the Maroochy Shire Council in 1998/1999 for the development of a feasibility study into the commercial viability of a proposed Arts and Convention Centre.

The study indicated that a Performing Arts and Exhibition Centre in Maroochydhore could be viable and that construction would cost some \$47 million. Such a facility would provide a focus for local and regional arts and cultural development and would assist in the diversification of the regional economy.

The Maroochy Shire Council is currently following up on the recommendations of the study and my departmental officers are working with the Council to progress options for the development of the Centre in due course.

Sunshine Coast Airport Business Park

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$18,000 was provided by my Department of State Development to the Maroochy Shire Council in 1999 to assist with planning for the development of industrial land at the Sunshine Coast

Airport. The work is part of my Department's strategic approach to land use planning for the development of future business and industry opportunities in the region specifically in this case those associated with the aviation industry.

Rural Futures Centre

My Department of State Development assisted the Noosa Landcare Association with a Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$10,000 for the Rural Futures Centre in Pomona that had been successful in receiving \$300,000 of funding from Education Queensland as a capital expenditure establishment grant.

Officers from my Department of State Development facilitated the preparation of a strategic action plan for the Centre and my Department's grant funding leveraged a matching contribution from the Commonwealth Government, for the development of a feasibility study/business plan for the Centre.

The Centre will focus on fostering employment and career opportunities in the region while contributing to sustainable rural land use. As a model for other rural communities, it will show how ecologically sustainable development can be achieved by working together with the community, industry and government.

Noosa Shire Council-Cooroy & Noosa Hinterland Task Force

My Department of State Development has worked in partnership with the Noosa Shire Council and the Cooroy and Noosa Hinterland Task Force in order to facilitate business and economic development projects in the township as part of the exit of Boral Timber.

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$10,000 was provided by my Department of State Development to the Noosa Shire Council to assist the Cooroy and Noosa Hinterland Task Force with the development and implementation of their three point plan focusing on employment and economic development opportunities for the township.

Nambour Police Citizens Youth Club Refurbishment

A Regional Business Development Scheme grant of \$58,842 was provided by my Department of State Development to the Queensland Police Citizens Youth Welfare Association to undertake a study regarding the possible expansion of the existing centre in Nambour and for the development of a business plan. The study indicated that refurbishment of the Centre to meet a regional need would cost some \$4.2M. The proponent and officers from my Department are actively pursuing opportunities for the refurbishment of the facility.

South East Queensland Forests Agreement

My Department of State Development's Timber Task Force manages the Queensland Government Boral Timber Worker Support Package and the Queensland Forest Industry Adjustment Program. The Queensland Government is providing significant support and assistance measures through these programs for direct employees of Boral Timber, their contractors and the forest and timber industry businesses that were impacted as a result of the agreement between the Queensland Government and Boral Ltd regarding their exit from hardwood processing operations in Queensland.

Specifically in the Sunshine Coast region my Department of State Development established the Cooroy Implementation Centre in September 1999. Targeted Departmental service delivery from the Centre has provided support to local business, industry and the Cooroy community. Since March 2000 a specialist Departmental officer has provided case management support to the 52 employees of Boral Timber in Cooroy that have been made redundant with the closure of the Nandroya sawmill on 29 September 2000 and the Cooroy Board Plant on 30 April 2001. To date 41 of the 52 ex Boral Timber employees have been placed in full-time training or alternate employment. The work of the Employment Services Manager at the Cooroy Implementation Centre is ongoing and assistance measures provided through the Queensland Government Boral Timber Worker Support Package include dislocation assistance, training, employment and relocation assistance, mortgage/rent assistance and income supplementation.

In addition my Department's Timber Task Force has developed and is implementing over three years the \$10 million South East Queensland Hardwood Timber Industry Growth and Development Program. The program provides targeted support for the Crown resource hardwood processing and value-adding industries in the Sunshine Coast region.

Recycling Technology International Pty Ltd

My Department of State Development continues to work closely with Recycling Technology International Pty Ltd, a 'prototype' tyre recycling plant located at Tanawha on the Sunshine Coast that was destroyed by fire company On 1 August 1998. The destruction of the plant threatened the continuation of the business, the jobs of 10 individuals and the future expansion of the operation and the potential to expand to two other planned locations in Queensland.

Under my Department's Firms in Difficulty initiative, the company received a grant of \$5000 for a commercial assessment of the their operations. The assessment concluded that the company required an initial capital injection of \$600,000 and a further \$5 million in due course to fully commercialise their operation. The company has successfully raised the initial capital requirement from internal sources and is still in operation today with 6 employees. The prototype plant has been rebuilt and improved and officers from my Department are working with the company to target an appropriate investor to enable their planned commercialisation and expansion to occur.

154. Retractable Needles

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (3/5/01)—

With reference to Queensland Ambulance workers who currently use retractable needles due to the dangers of accidental needle stick injury and potentially lethal infections, as do a large number of United States health facilities where they are legally required to use the safest needles on the market—

When will she order the use of retractable needles in Queensland Health facilities to protect workers?

Mrs EDMOND (4/6/01): The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) provides retractable needles for their workers based on a number of aspects of that service that makes it different from health facilities. Ambulance officers are operating in a mobile situation and are dealing with emergencies in a largely uncontrolled environment with many unknown factors, which could make needle stick injuries more likely. The QAS workforce is relatively small and the need to use needles/syringes is on a much lesser scale than that used by Queensland Health facilities. The QAS indicate that

they have a current annual usage of 5000 retractable syringes. Queensland Health hospitals ordered approximately 17.5 million syringes during the 2000 calendar year.

Queensland Health is committed to staff safety and provides training for staff in the safe use and disposal of sharps including retractable devices as required. Staff in high-risk areas have access to a range of retractable needles, where there is an identified need, through a standing offer arrangement. In the new standing offer arrangement there is a 5ml syringe on offer. Two suppliers have retractable syringes available. The first company's syringes are not supplied with pre-fitted needles which facilitates reuse where required. On completion of use, the needles must be manually retracted into the syringe barrel. The second company's syringes are supplied complete with pre-fitted needles which are spring loaded for automatic retraction following use and needles cannot be changed during a procedure which will limit the range of use in Queensland Health facilities. Disposal containers for retractable devices are the same as those required for non-retractable devices.

A number of sharp devices are used in delivering health care to which retractable devices cannot be fitted. There are circumstances where needles/syringes must be used and retractable devices would not be appropriate eg when incremental doses of drugs are required, where blood/body fluids must be transferred from a syringe into a specimen container, or during an operative procedure. Even where a retractable device is used, the most common 'needle stick' injury that occurs in a hospital situation is sustained prior to activation of the device. The National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research in New South Wales has advised that for Australia, the cumulative total of occupationally acquired HIV is five cases. One case has been recorded for Queensland, and that transmission resulted from an incident that occurred over a decade ago.

All Health Ministers are expecting a report on a national standard for a retractable needle specifically for injecting drug users at the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy this July.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

144. President of the Industrial Court

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (3/5/01)—

How will the President of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission prepare a report if that person has no control over the Commissioner Administrator?

Mr NUTTALL (4/6/01): As President of the Industrial Court and of the Industrial Relations Commission, and as a member of the Commission, the President will be fully aware of the operations of the Industrial Relations Act and the workings of the tribunals to be able to compile the annual report.

Further, I am advised that the extensive statistical information contained in the report is gathered from the information records maintained in the Registry.

155. Brisbane-Robina Rail Service

Mrs SMITH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/5/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Rail service from Brisbane to Robina, which is now linked to the Airtrain services to Brisbane Airport and is a winner for residents of the northern and central areas of the Gold Coast and with regard to servicing the southern end of the Gold Coast—

- (1) What progress is being made on extending the rail line to Coolangatta?
- (2) What is the current situation with the proposed bus service between Robina, Burleigh and/or Kingscliff?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/6/01):

(1) There has been considerable progress made on the planning for the rail extension to Coolangatta since 1997. An initial investigation called the Southern Gold Coast Tweed Corridor Study investigated land use and transport corridor options in the southern Gold Coast and northern Tweed area. In particular, the major proposals examined were a rail extension from Robina to Coolangatta and a road bypass of Tugun extending into New South Wales. Based on the findings of this study the state government announced its preferred rail corridor in 1998.

In March 2000, Queensland Transport commenced the Robina to Tugun Rail and Road Impact Assessment Study (IAS). This study is considering the environmental, social and economic impacts and benefits of the Queensland section of a rail extension from Robina to Coolangatta Airport.

The section of rail extension within New South Wales is also currently being investigated through an Environmental Impact Study being undertaken by the Queensland Department of Main Roads as part of the Tugun Bypass project.

The study is well advanced with the majority of technical work nearing completion. Following Cabinet's consideration of the IAS recommendations, the next steps in the development of the rail line involves protection of the corridor and detailed design prior to construction.

- (2) Work is progressing on the scheduling and rostering of the service.

The Trainlink service is part of a whole network review of some 23 bus routes for the Gold Coast region. As such, it is necessary for the complete network to be reintroduced as a whole. Consequently, Surfside Buslines has not been able to introduce the Robina Trainlink service independent of other bus routes and services.

The bus fleet in the new livery promoting Robina Town Centre and Queensland Rail Trainlink has been prepared, and ticketing arrangements are well under way in preparing for Surfside's new timetable.

It is envisaged that the new timetable will be implemented in late July 2001.

156. Tablelands, Bypass

Mrs LEE LONG asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/5/01)—

With reference to proposals to build highway bypasses around the Tableland towns of Mareeba, Atherton and Malanda—

- (1) At what stage has each or any of these proposals reached?
- (2) Has any date for commencement been set for any of these bypasses?
- (3) Is he aware that the passage of heavily laden cane trucks, particularly through the township of Malanda, is causing problems?
- (4) Are there any interim measures being considered to alleviate these problems?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/6/01):

(1) The corridors for the Mareeba and Atherton bypasses have been known since the mid 1980s and are shown on the relevant local government planning schemes. A corridor for the Malanda bypass has not yet been identified.

(3&4) The expansion of the sugar industry in the 1990s has placed increased demands on the road network. The state government has already spent more than \$50 million on projects, such as upgrading the rail network to transport sugar syrup from the tableland mill to the coast, to reduce truck traffic and upgrading state and local roads to improve safety and road pavement deficiencies. Main Roads is examining ways to reduce truck-related noise and vibration through towns.

157. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (15/5/01)—

With reference to the Environmental Protection Agency—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff were employed at 1 May 2001, 1 July 2000, 1 July 1999 and 1 July 1998?
- (2) What is the breakdown of full-time equivalent staff within the departmental agencies?

- (3) How many full-time equivalent staff were employed at each national park at 1 May 2001, 1 July 2000, 1 July 1999 and 1 July 1998?

Mr WELLS (14/6/01): The department advises me—

(1)	01/07/1998	01/07/1999	01/07/2000	01/05/2001
Total	1705.6	1793.5	1815.8	2023.4

Notes

The department advises me that the EPA migrated to a new human resource information system (HRIS) in May 1999 and underwent an organisational restructure through the 1998/99 financial year. Consequently, only agency level FTE data for 01/07/1998 is readily available.

(2)	01/05/2001
EPA	897.9
QPWS	1143.5
Grand Total	2023.4

- (3) The department advises me that only details of employees headquarters are recorded, not the national parks they service. The department informs me, that these officers may service more than one park.

158. Dingoes, Fraser Island

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment (15/5/01)—

With reference to the conservation officers who were killing dingoes on Fraser Island using .22 calibre rifles which fire a 25 gm lead projectile which ricochets off bones, thus posing risks to nearby people and moreover, they kill by wounding—sometimes a slow and painful death. It is regulated in Queensland that professional kangaroo shooters have to use high velocity rifles of at least .223 bore. These rifles kill or immobilise an animal by spinal shock, thus their use can rarely cause painful deaths. Additionally, the projectiles are jacketed and rarely disintegrate, thus as long as the officers shooting dingoes on Fraser Island take normal care, such as shooting downwards towards the animal on the sand, the use of a high velocity rifle is safe and more humane and as the Government has access through the police to .223 rifles—Why aren't they being used in the interest of humane killing and public safety in public areas?

Mr WELLS (14/6/01): The department advises that Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers required to use firearms for the humane destruction of animals are trained to make a balanced decision on the type and calibre of firearm to be used. This is based on the objectives of ensuring minimum suffering to the animal and maximum safety for anyone located in the area of operation.

The appropriateness of a calibre for a specific job can vary considerably due to circumstances and does not depend solely on the calibre size but also on the distance between the shooter and the animal.

I am advised by the department that there are no comprehensive national standards on appropriate calibres for humane destruction. The QPWS has adopted the following standards. The .22 calibre high velocity cartridge is appropriate for a close range target. The .22 magnum is specified for medium range and a .223 calibre is specified for long distances.

All of the dingoes culled on Fraser Island have been shot from a distance of less than 20 metres. Rangers are trained to use the smallest calibre capable of effecting a quick and humane death while minimising the chance of follow through or a ricochet. The range of a .22 calibre bullet is 1500 metres compared to the range of a .223 calibre bullet of 2700 metres.

Kangaroos are generally shot at long range, therefore necessitating the use of a .223 calibre firearm.

159. Cunningham Electorate, Police Resources

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (15/5/01)—

With reference to the Toowoomba Police Station and police stations in the Cunningham Electorate—

- (1) How many full-time and part-time positions are in each station?
- (2) By station, what are those positions?
- (3) By station, which positions are filled in a permanent or acting capacity?
- (4) If acting, when will a permanent appointment be made for each position?
- (5) When and where will extra staff be allocated?

Mr McGRADY (19/6/01): The Cunningham Electorate is made up of police divisions in the Dalby, Warwick and Toowoomba Districts.

(1-3) As at 01 May 2001 the approved strength for Toowoomba Station was 91 and the seven police stations in the Cunningham Electorate were Cecil Plains 1, Millmerran 2, Clifton 2, Leyburn 1, Cambooya 1, Drayton 1 and Pittsworth 2.

As at 01 May 2001 the actual strength for Toowoomba Station was 93 and the seven police stations in the Cunningham Electorate were Cecil Plains 1, Millmerran 2, Clifton 2, Leyburn 1, Cambooya 1, Drayton 1 and Pittsworth 2. The only part-time positions are two at the Toowoomba Station.

(4) The filling of vacancies is an ongoing process, and arrangements for the placement of relieving and surplus officers can vary, on a day to day basis, due to operational requirements and personal circumstances.

(5) It is anticipated that additional police positions will be allocated to the Toowoomba Police Station from 01 July 2001.

160. Hotels, Taxation

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (15/5/01)—

With reference to the Government's recent announcement that certain Queensland hotels would pay an additional levy on poker machine earnings—

- (1) Which hotels (with their addresses) are expected to pay the extra 10 per cent levy?
- (2) Which hotels (with their addresses) are expected to pay an extra 20 per cent levy?

Mr MACKENROTH (31/5/01): The list would vary from month to month however, based on March 2001 figures—147 hotels would be expected to pay the extra 10 per cent levy; and, of these 16 hotels would also be expected to pay the extra 20 per cent levy.

In line with the normal confidentiality arrangements applying under the Gaming Machine Act 1991, it would not be appropriate to identify the sites involved.

161. Nurses, Training

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (15/5/01)—

With reference to the current trend to university based training—

Has any survey of nursing staff employed prior and subsequent to this transition been conducted; if so, will she undertake to demonstrate the level of support in both schemes for the continuance of university based training?

Mrs EDMOND (14/6/01): A survey of nursing staff employed prior and subsequent to the transition to university nursing education has not been undertaken.

Complex clinical health care, reduced length of stay for patients and the technological advancement of medical procedures required changes in nursing education. The move from the hospitals to the universities was supported by the nursing profession and provides nurses with a comprehensive education and professional career path necessary for the changing health care environment.

Queensland Nurses strongly rejected the Pauline Hanson's One Nation policy of taking nursing 'training' back into the hospitals.

162. Dingoes, Fraser Island

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (15/5/01)—

With reference to the two year delay in implementing the recommendations of the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy—

- (1) Will he advise the number, details and status of reports that have been drafted as a consequence of Government initiated taskforces, reviews and working groups since the commissioning of the Beattie Government in 1998?
- (2) What is the percentage of recommendations of each of those various reports that have been implemented by the relevant Government instrumentalities?

Mr BEATTIE (14/6/01):

(1) The Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy was forwarded to the Minister for Environment as a final draft for approval in March 2001. The Minister had requested certain changes to the proposed Strategy just prior to the time of the fatal attack on a young boy. Throughout the time that the draft management plan was under discussion, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officers were culling dingoes that were judged to be potentially dangerous to people. Up to 40 dingoes have been culled in the ten years leading up to the attack and since 1995, more than 50 people have been issued with infringement notices for feeding dingoes.

(2) On June 12 I announced that among major recommendations contained in a risk assessment report, people feeding Fraser Island dingoes face fines of up to \$3,000.

We are determined to stamp out this practice. These comprehensive and tough new measures are focused squarely on educating people against feeding dingoes, and punishing those who persist.

On the spot fines for feeding—which currently stand at \$50 and \$75—will be increased dramatically to \$225.

Maximum penalties for feeding offences, which are dealt with by way of complaint and summons through court action, will double from \$1500 to \$3000.

Individuals caught feeding dingoes will be directed to immediately leave the island and commercial operators caught feeding dingoes will lose their commercial tour operator permit.

Cabinet has also endorsed a recommendation of the report to reject a proposal for official food dumps or feeding stations for dingoes, on the basis that such feeding would artificially increase the Island's dingo numbers and alter their natural behaviour.

Other new measures include fencing, greater education of visitors and the practice of 'hazing' which is the use non-lethal methods, such as firing ratshot, to repel dingoes that enter campsites and townships.

Sites to be fenced include the Waddy Point and Indian Head camp grounds and Dilli Village.

A senior conservation officer will be based at Maryborough and four more rangers will be based on the Island, to focus mainly on dingo management.

This management will include hazing, educating the public and enforcing the new fines.

These new positions will be funded from the \$10 million, committed at the last State election for 140 new rangers across Queensland.

Public education will be stepped up even further, with particular focus on publicising the new fines. The report will be tabled in State Parliament in the week starting Sunday June 17.

From the previous consultation, there are seven individual strategies, under which there are 55 recommended actions. The strategy has been undergoing thorough development through community consultation and approval processes. However, those actions that directly affect the risk to humans are being implemented in anticipation of approval of the overall Strategy.

Nine actions have been fully implemented. Actions that have been given priority include those relating to the monitoring of dingo behaviour and incident reporting. Other actions implemented include an extensive and comprehensive public education program and a standing policy of humanely destroying individual animals exhibiting clearly aggressive behaviour towards humans. A further 21 actions are under way. These include actions where the cooperation and support of commercial tour operators, resorts, residents and local governments are required for successful implementation. Some actions have a research focus and have not been implemented at this stage. Other actions relate to ongoing development of new approaches, field trials or modifications to successful existing programs.

163. Courts Modernisation Project

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (15/5/01)—

- (1) What is the extent of the difficulties being experienced across the State in Court Houses and Department of Justice Offices with respect to the Queensland Wide Interlinked Courts System installed at a cost of \$29.6m under the Courts Modernisation Project?
- (2) What action is being taken to remedy these difficulties?

Mr WELFORD (18/6/01):

- (1) There has been some difficulty in obtaining reliable data communications lines with adequate speed, resulting in slower application response and line dropouts. There have also been some minor 'bugs' in software.
- (2) Discussion with telecommunications carriers to upgrade to larger and faster communications lines and to remove technical problems in the set-up of these links, particularly in the more remote areas. Work programs have been established to deal with 'bugs' as they are detected.

164. Mahogany Gliders

Ms PHILLIPS asked the Minister for Environment (15/5/01)—

With reference to the Sugar Coast Environmental Rescue Package which has funded the purchase of about 10,000 hectares of mahogany glider habitat which will be protected within the Edmund Kennedy, Lumbultz and Paluma Range National Parks—

When will the Mahogany Glider Recovery Plan be released?

Mr WELLS (14/6/01): The Mahogany Glider Recovery Plan has been completed. It has also been adopted as a national recovery plan by the Commonwealth Environment Department. The plan is currently being printed and will be released in the near future.

165. Giant Rat-tail Grass; Parramatta Grass

Mr PEARCE asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (15/5/01)—

With reference to the real concern in rural Queensland that Weedy Sporobolus Grasses (giant rats tail grass and giant Parramatta Grass) are destroying both environmental and pastoral lands and as it is acknowledged by rural industries that Weedy Sporobolus grasses are like no other weed in their destructive capabilities and the impact is being felt environmentally, economically and socially and there is a need to act immediately before the problem is completely irreversible—

- (1) What research and extension work is proposed by the Department of Natural Resources for Central and Northern Queensland in the short term (12 months) and long term (five years) that will contain and control these grasses?
- (2) What funds have been allocated to assist departmental officers and landowners in the ongoing control and eradication programs?

Mr ROBERTSON (14/6/01):

- (1) Research

Further testing of the herbicide flupropanate will be undertaken in northern areas due to reports of varying results.

The Giant Rats Tail best practice manual will be updated to include further flupropanate options and options for extensive grazing situations.

A technical subcommittee of the Weedy Sporobolus Grasses Management Group has developed three proposed research projects:

- biological markers (identification of different types by DNA methods);
- biological control; and
- holistic management methods.

These projects will be submitted as a package to Meat and Livestock Australia, Dairy Research and Development Corporation and other funding bodies.

Extension

'Train the trainer' workshops funding is available for another 12 months and is aimed at 'change agents' eg Local Government weed officers; public utilities; State agency extension and environmental staff; agribusiness providers; landcare and catchment care coordinators and members. Individual landholders will be included in smaller centres. Around 30 workshops have already been conducted over the last 12 months (mostly in South East Queensland). The focus for future workshops is Central Queensland, North Queensland and Far North Queensland.

Information is extended to landholders at field days on an ongoing basis.

The community service announcement on television for giant rats tail grass has been extremely successful and will continue to be shown.

Both NR&M and DPI continue to develop, update and distribute a range of extension materials such as NR&M fact sheets, DPI Notes and on-line services.

General

All regions of Queensland will be treated equally in respect of research and extension activities carried out by NR&M and DPI.

Both agencies will continue to support ongoing activities provided industry continues to provide significant supporting funds.

(2) The State Government has expended in excess of \$1 million over the past 5 years in research and extension activities and policy development in relation to giant rats tail grass.

NR&M has supplied pressurised wick wipers for use by Local Governments and landholders.

Giant rats tail has also been one of the main weeds focused on in NR&M's Weed Seed Spread project which has involved:

- development and promotion of voluntary vendor declarations; and
- training and coordination in respect of public utilities, Local Governments and others.

On-ground control is a responsibility of the land manager. However, my Department will continue to provide support through awareness activities and information on best practice control.

166. Carbon Credits

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (15/5/01)—

What planning for future plantation tree farming has been completed, (or is under way) that may identify suitable sites and various species of trees that may utilise the 'carbon credits' system?

Mr PALASZCZUK (14/6/01): The Queensland Government has developed a range of policies designed to encourage the development of a vibrant and sustainable forest industry in Queensland that is able to fully participate in the full range of markets for forest products, including possible trading in carbon sequestered in trees established in plantations. To date these policies have focused on several key areas, which include:

- the removal of legislative impediments constraining the expansion of private forestry in Queensland;
- the introduction of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA);
- funding to set-up Regional Plantation, Farm Forestry Committees, Tree Grower Cooperatives and other self-help groups across the State;
- providing advisory, public information and extension services to landowners and other potential investors in private forestry; and
- a commitment to develop a Queensland Forest Practices System.

The Queensland Government is currently addressing one of the legal issues relating to the recognition of carbon sequestered in forests and other vegetation in Queensland. A legislative amendment is proposed to recognise carbon sequestration rights on freehold land by extending the definition of a profit à prendre to cover 'natural resource products'.

The intent of this proposed legislation is to provide a legal basis for reference to carbon sequestration rights in contracts. As a result, it will facilitate trade in carbon credits sourced from carbon sinks in Queensland, if and when such a market is established.

Furthermore, the South East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA) includes a major injection of Government funding to establish a hardwood timber research and extension program, as well as a joint venture program to establish 5000 hectares of hardwood plantations in South East Queensland. The SEQFA is the Queensland Government's blueprint for the future management of Crown native forests in South East Queensland (SEQ) and the basis for an internationally competitive and ecologically sustainable forest industry.

The Queensland Forestry Research Institute (QFRI), part of DPI's Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences, is developing high-value, short-rotation plantation hardwoods in an \$8 million project called Hardwoods Queensland. In this project, QFRI is using its stocks of genetic material of suitable native tree species and its leading expertise and technology in softwoods to make rotation lengths for high-value timbers economically viable by reducing them to 25 years or less.

Hardwoods Queensland addresses the whole research and development continuum, including genotype selection and mass planting stock production, establishment and management prescriptions, pest and disease protection, processing and marketing, including the possibility of selling the carbon sequestered in the trees.

The Queensland Government is also committed to the development of 5 000 hectares of commercially-focused hardwood sawlog plantations in South East Queensland under its Hardwood Plantation Program.

The Department of Primary Industries, Forestry is coordinating this four-year Hardwood Plantation Program, involving both Government and privately-owned lands, which will provide a vital transition resource for the timber industry. Apart from the parcels of Crown land dedicated to future plantations, the program aims to increase significantly the involvement of landowners and investors in private forestry in Queensland through commercial joint venture arrangements.

167. Mulgrave Electorate, Feral Pigs

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Environment (15/5/01)—

With reference to a trial project to assess the viability of controlling the feral pig problem in the Mulgrave cane area requiring access to certain areas of State forest which has been formulated over a 12 month period between the Mulgrave Cane Productivity Board, the Mulgrave Mill, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Environment, Wet Tropics Management Authority and selected approved hunters and given the enormous damage being done by feral pigs to crops in the Mulgrave Mill area and the limited success of other control programs—

(1) Is he able to advise the current status of this project?

- (2) What will be the start date and will he outline the scope and conditions of the project?

Mr WELLS (14/6/01):

(1) The State Government has given a commitment to convert much of the current State forest areas of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area to protected area status under the Nature Conservation Act. The department advises me that feral pig control will still continue on that land, but with emphasis being placed on the existing trapping program.

I am informed that the areas of the proposed pig hunting trial in the Mulgrave River and Little Mulgrave River area of North Queensland are proposed to be included in this transfer process. Consequently, I am prepared to consider allowing the trial to continue as a one-off exercise on identified State forest land. However, when the land is designated as protected area (national park or conservation park), such an exercise would not be permitted.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service will, however, be working with affected landowners and is committed to supporting the successful Community Based Feral Pig Trapping Program. QPWS is proposing to increase its funding contribution to this program and is keen to work with landowners, the cane productivity board, and land protection officers of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to assist in mitigating the effect of this pest animal. (Note: the proposed combined contribution of QPWS and the Wet Tropics Management Authority for 2001/2002 is \$90,000.) Feral pig control on the protected areas will be enhanced by QPWS and may include other contracted providers for pig trapping programs.

(2) I am advised by the department that no starting date has yet been determined. The scope and conditions of the trial are not finalised, and I shall make a determination when they are presented to me. A number of risk management factors need to be thoroughly considered, particularly in relation to the use of firearms.

168. Primary Industries Department, Staff

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (15/5/01)—

With reference to staffing within the Department of Primary Industries—

- (1) Will he provide a list of (a) staff in each office throughout the State, by position and public service classification, currently and for each year since 1998 and (b) current vacancies in each office, by position and public service classification?
- (2) How long has each of these positions in 1(b) been vacant and when will they be filled?

Mr PALASZCZUK (14/6/01): As the Honourable Member well knows, it is improper under Parliamentary Standing Orders to ask questions of this nature, in particular multi-part questions that would require a significant re-allocation of departmental resources and time to collate the information requested. In this regard I refer the Honourable Member to the response of his former colleague, the Honourable Russell Cooper, to a similar question, Question on Notice Number 1092, asked of him on 8 October 1997 in his capacity as the then Minister for Police and Corrective Services. I believe the community would regard the extraction and collation of such information to be an inappropriate use of departmental resources, particularly given the need for departmental officers to address other matters.

Details of staff numbers by business groups are listed each year in the department's Annual Reports, which are readily available through the parliamentary library service.

169. Ipswich Motorway, Speed Limit

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (15/5/01)—

With reference to the stickers that have been placed on road speed signs on the Ipswich Motorway reducing the speed from 100kph to 80kph—

- (1) Why has the speed on this motorway been reduced?
- (2) As these stickers are non-reflective and are placed on a reflective background, is he aware that these signs are not visible at night?
- (3) Have any motorists been issued with traffic offence notices for exceeding the 80kph limit during the hours of darkness on the motorway since these stickers have been placed?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/6/01):

(1) The speed on the Ipswich Motorway has been reduced to 80km/h in various locations due to the current safety improvement works projects between Granard Road and the Warrego Highway. Localised areas have been reduced to 80km/h in the vicinity of roadworks. As soon as works are finished in a particular area the original speed limit is reinstated.

(2) placing 'stickers' over existing 100km/h signs amended some signs. Some of the 80km/h stickers used were found to be non-reflective and the contractor was ordered to replace all the non-reflective stickers with diamond grade reflective stickers on 11 April 2001. All stickers were replaced by 16 April 2001.

(3) Departmental officers contacted Senior Constable Phillip Boulton of the Queensland Police Services (QPS) Mount Ommaney Traffic Branch and Ben Doorman of QPS Traffic Camera Office. They were advised that no infringement notices for excess speed have been issued during the hours of darkness since February 2001.

170. Dental Services

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (15/5/01)—

With reference to Question on Notice No 38 of 4 April regarding cost benchmarks of public dental services and her statement that 'the costs per patient to provide care are consistent with the State average in both the adult and school programs'—

What is the cost per patient for both the adult and school dental programs?

Mrs EDMOND (14/6/01): The Sunshine Coast Health Service District cost per patient for adult services is the result of aggregation and averaging the cost of treatment items provided for individual patients.

In 1999/2000, the average cost of emergency courses was \$120.88. The average cost for general services was \$311.33. The Sunshine Coast Health Service District notional cost per patient for the School Dental Service is \$46.67.

171. Caboolture Electorate, Crime Prevention

Ms MALE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (15/5/01)—

What crime prevention strategies, particularly programs concerning young people, are being implemented in the Caboolture and Beerwah areas?

Mr McGRADY (14/6/01): In the Beerwah Division there are currently a number of crime prevention initiatives in place or being implemented by local police these include; Ident-a-Bike and Ident-a-Quip, where Beerwah Police Officers engrave or make available engraving equipment; Operation Nutshell which rewards young bicycle riders for wearing their helmets and obeying road rules and drug awareness leaflet drops within the local community.

The Caboolture Police Division is an active participant in the development and implementation of innovative crime prevention strategies which include: The Caboolture Shire Policing Partnership which is a strategic alliance between Caboolture Shire Council and Caboolture Police designed to examine joint crime prevention strategies; Community Renewal Queensland, Adopt-A-Cop and the Targeting At Risk Premises Project (TARP) which educates victims of property crime in crime prevention.

172. Natural Resources and Mines Department, Staff

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (15/5/01)—

With reference to staffing within his department—

Will he provide (a) a list of staff in each office, by position and public service classification, currently and for each year since 1998, (b) a list of current vacancies in each office, by position and public service classification and (c) an indication of how long each of these positions in (b) have been vacant and when they will be filled?

Mr ROBERTSON (15/6/01):

(a) Since public service legislation was amended to allow agencies improved flexibility with managing their workforce, staff numbers and categories within business units within the Department of Natural Resources and Mines are determined according to priorities and budget considerations.

The Department also attracts a significant amount of 'grants' money for specific projects with a limited life, meaning that staff numbers, including temporaries and casuals, will fluctuate markedly for the life of project. Further, on any given day there is considerable movement of permanent employees, due to leave, progression, relieving, appointment to higher classified positions and exiting the organisation.

The result of these is that staff profiles for the Department can vary significantly at any given time.

Accordingly, detailed data as requested is both difficult to collate and will not provide an accurate representation of the employment trends within this Department over the period in question. Aggregated figures on the numbers of staff employed by the Department on an annual basis are available in Ministerial Program Statements and Annual Reports.

(b)&(c) As indicated, there has been a significant shift over recent times away from a fixed establishment. Staffing levels and jobs per se are regularly reviewed and matched against budget, business demands and priorities. Particular efforts are made to leverage the flexibility provided by staff movements to match emerging priorities with desired skills requirements. Accordingly, it is not possible to provide a list of vacancies with the level of detail sought that could provide meaningful and reflective analysis.

The attached table supplies a list of vacancies currently being filled within the Department of Natural Resources & Mines. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

173. Schoolchildren

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Education (15/5/01)—

With reference to some parents who are delivering their children to State Primary Schools at 7.00 o'clock in the morning, well before school is due to start—

When does the parents responsibility for their children end and the Education Department's responsibility for children start?

Ms BLIGH (15/6/01): Parental responsibility for children does not end when children are delivered to school. However, schools are legally responsible for the safety of school children in their care. State Schools take their responsibility seriously to ensure that students are subject to an appropriate level of supervision.

School principals have a responsibility to inform parents and students that schools have no capacity for children if official 'Before and After School Care Programs' are not available.

Similarly, parents have a responsibility in working with school personnel to provide a safe passage for their children to and from school by observing local, school-based policies and procedures.

There is no legislation ordaining set hours for children to attend school. School authorities advise parents of attendance requirements and practices by circulars and other forms of advice.

Schools can manage the risk by conspicuous and constant efforts to prevent early attendance. Alternatively schools should put in place a program of before-school care.

174. Oxley Area, Public Housing

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (15/5/01)—

What plans are in place to increase the availability of housing for seniors in the Oxley/Sherwood/Corinda area?

Mr SCHWARTEN (14/6/01): In the 2000/01 Capital Works Program, the Department of Housing has commenced construction of four one-bedroom and two two-bedroom seniors units in Sherwood.

I approved expenditure of \$962,159 for this project.

This project when complete will take to 66 the number of seniors units in the Oxley/Sherwood/Corinda area.

In addition, the department plans to purchase suitable sites in these areas for the development of seniors units in future years, with costs, of course, yet to be identified.

I would like to be in a position to provide more seniors housing in the local area, however funding cuts to housing programs by the Howard government mean demand will continue to outstrip supply.

The current Commonwealth State Housing Agreement effectively strips Queensland of \$90 million in Federal funding over four years.

That is on top of the \$130 million taken from housing by the previous Borbidge Coalition government in Queensland to help fund the Howard government's deficit reduction program.

The latest federal Budget claims a \$1.5 billion surplus, yet no additional funds were forthcoming in the Howard government's Budget for housing in Queensland to help seniors.

175. Ayr Ambulance Station

Mr RODGERS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (15/5/01)—

Is he aware there is a need to replace two ambulances at the Ayr Ambulance Station; if so, are these vehicles to be replaced as a matter of urgency?

Mr REYNOLDS (31/5/01): Ayr Ambulance Station has a fleet of four vehicles made up of two Ford F250s a Commodore and a Ford Transit. One F250 was commissioned in June 1991, making the vehicle 10 years old this year, and has travelled approximately 105,000 kilometres. The other was commissioned in November 1991, also making this vehicle 10 years old this year, and has travelled approximately 110,000 kilometres. The Ford Transit is four years old and the Commodore is two years old.

The Queensland Ambulance Service has in place a Statewide Vehicle Replacement Strategy which was implemented in 1998 to more closely align vehicle replacement activity with the QAS goal of replacing aged vehicles. A statewide priority list of vehicles is maintained and updated regularly. I am pleased to advise that this strategy has made great inroads into reducing the number of older vehicles in service as well as vehicles with high mileage, and has significantly modernised the fleet currently in use across Queensland.

Both of the F250 vehicles at Ayr have been prioritised against key replacement criteria along with every vehicle in the State.

I can advise that both vehicles are on the replacement priority list for the 2001/2002 Financial Year.

176. Ambulance Service, Funding

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (15/5/01)—

With reference to the appropriate funding for the staffing of ambulance stations throughout Queensland communities and given that station Officers-in-Charge (OICs) have always been funded for 24/7 operations—

- (1) Are stations funded to provide OICs for (a) five days per week or (b) seven days per week?
- (2) If there is any variation between stations, areas and regions, will he further explain (a) why this occurs, (b) how this maintains the Government principle of equitable access to all Queenslanders, (c) is this building Queensland regions when only the populated areas have access to senior staff, (d) what impact this has on career progression and advancement for ambulance officers and (e) how can he justify the use of unqualified honorary officers as acting OICs?

Mr REYNOLDS (14/6/01):

- (1) All stations are funded to provide an OIC for the overall seven day period.
- (2) Even though all stations are funded to provide an OIC for the full seven day period, stations do vary in the number of staff attached and also, have varying ratios of salaried and honorary staff. (a) The staffing mix of an ambulance station is developed and agreed through a consultative process involving the station staff, the QAS Area Manager and the staff Union and is dependent on demonstrated case load experience. (b) You can be assured that this Government is committed to ensuring that the best possible ambulance service is provided to the people of Queensland dependent upon case demand and profile. Equity of service to all Queenslanders is met through the QAS providing standard levels of service throughout the State. Ambulance officer training standards, vehicles, equipment and communications are also of a consistently high standard. (c) QAS staff and honorary officers engaged in our rural and remote ambulance stations have uninhibited access to their respective Area Managers and their Regional operational management and Regional Professional Development staff, (d) all QAS career progression and appointments are guided by the principles of equity and merit and are conducted as an objective and transparent process. Ambulance staff have full rights of appeal. Ambulance experience gained in rural and remote locations can in itself, become a professional attribute, (e) it is not operational practice to deploy Honorary Ambulance Officers as acting OICs, however, there are occasions when these officers may be offered a period of temporary employment, in a relieving capacity.

177. Hotels, Gaming Machine Licences

Mr LINGARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (15/5/01)—

Now that he has made the decision not to approve any further applications for poker machines, what compensation will be given to hotel owners who made significant capital improvements to their buildings so that their applications for an increased number of poker machines would be approved?

Mr MACKENROTH (14/6/01): The decision reflects a change in Government policy. It is a strong response from the Government to community concerns about the growth of gaming machines and correcting the imbalance created by the Coalition. There are never any guarantees that an application for gaming machines will be approved.

Nonetheless, it is recognised that a number of sites had made major financial commitments to new or upgraded facilities and were on the verge of submitting new site applications. Accordingly, transitional arrangements will be incorporated in the legislation to allow sites in this category who have lodged liquor licence applications prior to 8 May 2001 to lodge gaming machine site applications up to 29 June 2001.

178. Smart State; Education Queensland

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (15/5/01)—

- (1) As part of the Premier's commitment to make Queensland the 'Smart State', what steps is Education Queensland taking, together with the Department of Employment and Training and the Department of Innovation and Information Economy in a coordinated effort to achieve the Premier's stated goal?
- (2) What benefits are there for our children if Queensland successfully develops into the 'Smart State'?

Ms BLIGH (15/6/01):

- (1) Education Queensland, in partnership with Queensland Government agencies, the community and local industry are committed to progressing initiatives to achieve the 'Smart State'. Examples of steps taken are—

A range of information technology related projects including—

Establishment of the Minister's Awards for Students Excelling in Information, Communication, Technology (ICT)

Assistance in the creation of the IT&T Careers Kit (Dept of Innovation and Information Economy)

Expansion of the Virtual Schooling Service

Creation of an Interdepartmental Working Party on Information and Communication Technology in Schools

Implementation of the School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeship program in Queensland

Dovetailing EQ's Enterprise Education programs with State Development's implementation of the Innovation Strategy

Expansion of projects within New Basics

Establishment of Centres of Excellence in Maths, Science and Technology in schools and clusters throughout the state.

- (2) Benefits to our children include—

enriched employment opportunities in sustainable, knowledge-based industry base established across Queensland
lifelong education experiences

active citizens in a learning society.

179. Gold Coast and Logan Police Districts

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (15/5/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a month by month breakdown, since January 2000 to April 2001, of all categories of crimes reported for each station area within the Gold Coast and Logan Police Districts?
- (2) In addition, will he provide details on the total number of officer positions each station is allocated as well as details on how many of those positions are vacant or filled with a permanent or acting officer?

Mr McGRADY (15/6/01):

- (1) The attachment is a table detailing the number of reported offences for the Gold Coast and Logan Police Districts by Division from January 2000 to April 2001, by month.

Please note that statistics are only able to be provided for Police Regions, Districts and Divisions. While Divisional statistics approximate the area covered by stations, statistics should not be considered as station statistics.

(2) As at 01 May 2001 the approved strength at the following stations in the Logan and Gold Coast Districts were Beaudesert 8, Beenleigh, 62, Browns Plains 41, Canungra 4, Jimboomba 16, Logan Central 53, North Tamborine 5, Rathdowney 1, Slacks Creek 38, Broadbeach 59, Coolangatta 29, Coomera 20, Mudgeeraba 20, Nerang 21, Palm Beach 36, Runaway Bay 20, Southport 74, Surfers Paradise 73.

As at 01 May 2001 the actual strength at the following stations in the Logan and Gold Coast Districts were Beaudesert 8, Beenleigh, 66, Browns Plains 45, Canungra 4, Jimboomba 16, Logan Central 49, North Tamborine 5, Rathdowney 1, Slacks Creek 44, Broadbeach 65, Coolangatta 30, Coomera 20, Mudgeeraba 20, Nerang 19, Palm Beach 33, Runaway Bay 21, Southport 75, Surfers Paradise 79.

The filling of vacancies is an ongoing process, and arrangements for the placement of relieving and surplus officers can vary, on a day to day basis, due to operational requirements and personal circumstances.

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

180. Sunshine Coast Police District

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (15/5/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a month by month breakdown, since January 2000 to April 2001, of all categories of crimes reported for each station area within the Sunshine Coast Police District?

- (2) In addition, will he provide details on the total number of officer positions each station is allocated as well as details on how many of those positions are vacant or filled with a permanent or acting officer?

Mr McGRADY (15/6/01):

- (1) The attachment is a table detailing the number of reported offences for the Sunshine Coast Police District by Division from January 2000 to April 2001, by month.

Please note that statistics are only able to be provided for Police Regions, Districts and Divisions. While Divisional statistics approximate the area covered by stations, statistics should not be considered as station statistics.

- (2) As at 01 May 2001 the approved strength at the following stations in the Sunshine Coast District were Beerwah 18, Caloundra 29, Coolum 8, Cooroy 5, Eumundi 2, Kawana Waters 19, Kenilworth 1, Landsborough 8, Maleny 2, Maroochydore 85, Nambour 24, Noosa Heads 29, Palmwoods 2, Pomona 2.

As at 01 May 2001 the actual strength at the following stations in the Sunshine Coast District were Beerwah 14, Caloundra 30, Coolum 7, Cooroy 5, Eumundi 2, Kawana Waters 17, Kenilworth 1, Landsborough 7, Maleny 2, Maroochydore 86, Nambour 24, Noosa Heads 28, Palmwoods 2, Pomona 2.

The filling of vacancies is an ongoing process, and arrangements for the placement of relieving and surplus officers can vary, on a day to day basis, due to operational requirements and personal circumstances.

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

181. Gympie Hospital

Miss ROBERTS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/01)—

- (1) Will the Government provide or at least partially subsidise a daily bus service from outside Gympie Hospital to Nambour Hospital, as the current Patient Transit Scheme does not cater to the large proportion of patients who are turned away from Gympie Hospital on a daily basis and told to get themselves to Nambour for treatment?
- (2) If transport is no longer part of his portfolio and now falls under the Minister for Health's portfolio as he stated during Question Time on 15 May 2001, will he advise me on behalf of my constituents.

Mr BREDHAUER (15/6/01): (1 & 2) As stated previously patient transfers are the responsibility of my colleague the Minister for Health and not the transport portfolio, which covers 'public transport'.

182. Dalby Police Station

Mr HOPPER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (16/5/01)—

Has he looked into helping the Dalby Police Station by employing two aboriginal liaison officers, as Dalby Police Station is in desperate need of this to help break down the barriers between our increasing aboriginal population and police officers?

Mr McGRADY (18/6/01): I recently received deputations on this issue at the Community Cabinet meeting held at Highfields. The matters raised during this meeting will be taken into account by the Queensland Police Service in determining any allocation of Police Liaison Officers to Dalby.

There are currently 120 Police Liaison Officer positions statewide. Submissions from a number of Police Regions have been received for additional Police Liaison Officer positions. Any new Police Liaison Officer positions are prioritised on the basis of relative community needs and budgetary constraints.

Police Liaison Officers from Warwick and Toowoomba Police Districts are regularly utilised within Dalby District to address indigenous and multicultural issues.

Dalby Police have implemented a Combined Indigenous Committee Reference Group which meets monthly to maintain Police/Indigenous relations in the Dalby Division.

183. Gallery of Modern Art

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (16/5/01)—

With reference to the proposed Gallery of Modern Art—

- (1) When is the gallery proposed to be built?
- (2) What is the expected budget for construction and the collection?
- (3) When is the design competition to be held?
- (4) What criteria will be used for the design competition?

Mr FOLEY (13/6/01): The Gallery of Modern Art is a major component of the Government's \$260 Million Millennium Arts Project. This Project will provide a major upgrading and expansion of arts facilities throughout Queensland over the next five years. The major components of the Project are:

- Gallery of Modern Art
- Expansion of the State Library
- Regional Arts Initiatives
- Judith Wright Centre for Contemporary Arts
- Musgrave Park Indigenous Cultural Centre

When the Millennium Arts Project is completed, Queensland's Arts facilities will be amongst the best in Australia.

With regard to the specific questions asked:

- (1) An international architectural competition will commence in the near future to select an Architect for the design of the new Gallery, with construction expected to commence in 2002;
- (2) the overall budget is in excess of \$100 million;
- (3) the design competition will commence in the near future; and
- (4) the criteria for selection will be announced at the launch of the competition.

184. Black Sigatoka

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/5/01)—

With reference to the Black Sigatoka outbreak in the Tully region of North Queensland in the banana industry—

- (1) Will he guarantee that sufficient staff will be provided to continue with the eradication program?
- (2) Will he make representation to the New South Wales Minister for Agriculture to add the Stage 2 buffer zones—Mission Beach, El Arish and Kennedy Valley—clear for entry of bananas into the Sydney market?
- (3) Will the Department of Primary Industries accept assistance from other States and the Commonwealth for the eradication of Black Sigatoka?

Mr PALASZCZUK (14/6/01):

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries has put all available resources into the response effort. This is being managed as a joint effort with the banana industry in accord with a predetermined incursion management plan. Resources for the effort will be made available in line with the operational needs.
- (2) I have made representations to the New South Wales Minister for Agriculture. At this time, Queensland and New South Wales industry in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and the New South Wales Department of Agriculture are working on the final details of a plan that will open access to the Sydney markets for these areas.
- (3) Yes. Queensland's proposal for cost-sharing arrangements is to be considered within the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand and Standing Committee of Agriculture and Resource Management protocols.

185. CityTrans Services

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/01)—

With reference to the 'City Trans' coordinated services operated by the Brisbane City Council, Queensland Rail and promoted by Queensland Transport—

- (1) What have the patronage levels been for these services?
- (2) What has been the cost to Queensland Transport for these services?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/6/01):

- (1) I am pleased to advise that each catchment area is showing very positive patronage growth. The Bracken Ridge catchment is smaller than the other service areas.

The following tables are indicative of the patronage levels on the Bracken Ridge, Forest Lake, Riverhills and Upper Kedron services.

Bracken Ridge*	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
Passengers per Month	468	1,025	840	1,005	1,593	2,574	1,719	9,224
Forest Lake*	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
Passengers per Month	1,500	3,552	2,871	3,478	4,624	5,825	4,521	26,371
Riverhills*	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
Passengers per Month	1,645	3,774	2,049	2,456	4,125	5,040	3,839	22,928
Upper Kedron#	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
Passengers per Month	654	1,724	1,248	1,455	1,824	2,319	1,728	10,952
Total Passengers per Month across all services								
Catchment	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	YTD
All areas	4,267	10,075	7,008	8,394	12,166	15,758	11,807	69,475

* Commenced 16 October 2000

Commenced 23 October 2000

Note: Patronage for April decreased from March by 25.1%, against a typical historical trend for public transport (i.e. the combined Queensland Rail Citytrain and BT results for 99/00) of a decrease of approximately 21%. The decrease reflects that the CityTrans patronage market base is more significantly a peak hour commuter market than public transport generally, and therefore the impacts of public and school holidays are more pronounced.

- (2) Queensland Transport contributed \$800,000 to the cost of infrastructure works at CityTrans interchanges at Darra, Ferny Grove and Carseldine (completed in the second half of 2000). QR funded the balance of the capital works with additional contributions from Brisbane City Council for real time information infrastructure.

186. Magistrates Courts, Case Backlog

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (16/5/01)—

- (1) Will he provide an indication of the current backlog of civil and criminal work in our Magistrates Courts, particularly any delays in committal?

(2) Are the delays greater than last year and the year before?

Mr WELFORD (20/6/01):

(1) The following figures are based on the data in the Report on Government Services 2001, 2000 and 1999 published by the Steering Committee for the Review of Commonwealth/State Service Provision.

Magistrates Courts—Committal Matters Finalised

	Unit	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000	
		Qld Average	National Average	Qld Average	National Average	Qld Average	National Average
<3 months	%	63	59	63	55	56	49
<6 months	%	92	85	91	85	89	82

Magistrates Courts—Criminal Matters Finalised

	Unit	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000	
		Qld Average	National Average	Qld Average	National Average	Qld Average	National Average
<6 months	%	98	96	93	94	93	92
<12 months	%	99	99	99	98	97	97

Magistrates Courts—Civil Matters Finalised

	Unit	1997/1998		1998/1999		1999/2000	
		Qld Average	National Average	Qld Average	National Average	Qld Average	National Average
<3 months	%	83	88	84	84	83	85
<6 months	%	93	95	94	96	95	96

(2) For committal and criminal matters there has been a slight decline in the percentage finalised within 6 months. This is due to more of the simple matters now proceeding through the Self Enforcing Ticketable Offence Notification System (SETONS) and more recently the State Penalty Enforcement Registry (SPER). This has meant that the matters being dealt with by the Magistrates Courts are of a more complex nature, which take longer to dispose of causing the disposal percentages to drop. This trend is reflected nationally which is evidenced in a corresponding drop in the national averages. The Queensland averages are generally higher than the national averages with the exception of finalised criminal matters in 1998/99, which had a disposal rate 1% below the national average. This was rectified in the following 6 months when Queensland was again ahead of the national average.

The disposal rates of civil matters within 6 months in the Magistrates Courts have been relatively stable over the last three financial years. While Queensland has been slightly below the national average for all three years there has been continued improvement each year.

187. Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (16/5/01)—

Will he give a direction to Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors directing them in future not to deal solely with management and that they must also speak to workers, without the presence of management, to ascertain any concerns or problems workers may have relating to their employment on that site or work places?

Mr NUTTALL (15/6/01): Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors enter workplaces for a variety of reasons.

In the majority of visits to workplaces, Inspectors approach workers for information and opinions. This recognises the fact that workers are ideally placed to provide an insight into issues that may directly impact on them. Inspectors are very aware of potential influence that may be exerted on workers if required to answer questions in the presence of management.

In the event of workplace incidents or complaints the inspector will gather the appropriate information or evidence as is required. The inspector then comes to an opinion regarding what is the appropriate action or enforcement option to undertake for a particular situation. When gathering information and forming an opinion, the inspector, depending on the circumstances, may or may not require to speak to workers.

Under the provisions of the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 employers are required to inform Health and Safety Representatives (S781(1)) and Health and Safety Representatives are entitled to be told (81(1)) about the presence of an inspector at the workplace if the Health and Safety Representative is at the workplace.

188. Hotels, Taxation

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (16/5/01)—

With reference to the Government's recent announcement that certain Queensland hotels would pay additional levies of either 10 per cent or 20 per cent depending on their monthly poker machine earnings—

- (1) Are the 10 per cent and 20 per cent figures inclusive or exclusive of the GST?
- (2) Is 8.5 per cent of this levy being applied to the Community Investment Fund as established in the Gambling Legislation Amendment Bill passed in November 2000?

Mr MACKENROTH (31/5/01):

(1) GST is irrelevant to the equation, as sites have been fully compensated for this Commonwealth impost by a reduction in their normal tax rate. This levy is applicable to marginal metered win above the specified thresholds and accordingly is in addition to the normal tax payable.

(2) No.

189. Industrial Relations Department, Staff

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (16/5/01)—

With reference to staffing within the Department of Industrial Relations—

- (1) Will he provide a list of (a) staff in each office throughout the State, by position and public service classification, currently and for each year since 1998 and (b) current vacancies in each office, by position and public service classification?
- (2) How long has each of these positions in 1(b) been vacant and when will they be filled?

Mr NUTTALL (15/6/01):

(1)(a) Prior to 22 February 2001 the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) did not exist. It was part of the larger Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations (DETIR). To reconstruct staffing numbers for the present DIR structure from the previously existing DETIR structure would be very time consuming and an unwarranted diversion of resources. Attachment A details the staffing as at 7 June 2001.

(b) The Public Service has changed the way departmental establishments are managed. There is no longer a strict establishment and to establish a vacancy level is dependant on what is defined as a vacancy. Positions are created for a number of purposes, for example, backfilling positions for persons on leave and officers undertaking duties in higher level positions. To assume that the number of vacancies are all funded and able to be filled is not a correct conclusion.

(2) Taking the above comments into account Attachment B provides information sought relating to 1(b) and (2) as at May 2001.

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

190. Dental School

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (16/5/01)—

Does she support previous commitments of her department to shift the Dental School to the Royal Brisbane Hospital complex and how much space has been allocated?

Mrs EDMOND (15/6/01): The concept of an Oral Health Centre involving both Queensland Health and the University of Queensland was endorsed by Queensland Health in December 1995.

However, issues to do with the location, funding, services to be incorporated in the Centre, and the space required have not been able to be finalised.

191. Main Roads Department Land, Kalinga/Wooloowin

Ms LIDDY CLARK asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/01)—

With reference to properties owned by Main Roads in the Kalinga and Wooloowin areas—

- (1) Why is the Department of Main Roads holding the land?
- (2) Will there be a study and public consultation in relation to any proposals for the use of this land; if so, is there a time line for this consultation?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/6/01):

(1) The land was originally acquired by the Department of Main Roads in the 1970s as part of planning for a proposed new road corridor. There are no longer any plans for a road in the corridor. As indicated in the Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland (IRTP), the corridor is being retained for possible future alternative uses of the land, including public transport.

(2) Transport 2007 states that a dedicated corridor must be set aside for future public transport needs. However, Queensland Transport are currently investigating the capacity of Lutwyche Rd to meet these future needs.

192. Capital Works

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (16/5/01)—

Will he detail for the 2000-01 year to 30 April 2001 (a) the total amount expended on capital works on a whole-of-Government basis and the percentage this represents of the total expenditure nominated for the relevant financial year in the 2000-01 State Budget and (b) the total amount expended on capital works on a portfolio basis and what percentage this represents of the total expenditure nominated on a portfolio basis for the relevant financial year in the 2000-01 State Budget?

Mr MACKENROTH (15/6/01): Refer to Budget Paper Four, which will be tabled in the House on Tuesday, June 19, 2001.

193. Police, Clerical Duties

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (16/5/01)—

Are there any strategies being considered to reduce the clerical load of operational police?

Mr McGRADY (18/6/01): In recent years the Police Service has introduced a number of successful initiatives in an effort to reduce the clerical load of operational police. These initiatives include the implementation of computer systems that reduce data entry by operational police and the formation of the Corporate Records Management Project. The Crime Reporting Information System for Police (CRISP) is an information technology strategy implemented within the Service that has reduced significant amounts of time spent on paperwork. This system permits police officers to telephone details to a central data entry section that is staffed by civilian employees.

Civilianisation of non-operational police positions continues to focus on alleviating the need to divert police officers to undertake duties in clerical support roles. Civilian positions have been allocated to perform support functions in a number of areas including dedicated Communication Rooms across the State, property handling positions, Roster Clerks, Computer Training Officers, Intelligence Analyst positions and additional administrative support positions where possible.

The Service is committed to reviewing existing practices and will continue to do so in the future with the aim of maximising all available resources ensuring that an ethical and cost effective policing service is provided to the community.

194. Sunshine Coast, Public Housing

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (16/5/01)—

What initiatives are planned to address the need for public housing on the Sunshine Coast?

Mr SCHWARTEN (15/6/01): In the 2000/01 Capital Works Program, the Department of Housing initiated new accommodation projects for the Sunshine Coast Area Office region at Yandina and Maroochydore.

In Yandina, 22 one-bedroom seniors units are being constructed and in Maroochydore, 30 one-bedroom and six two-bedroom seniors units are being built.

Executive Council Approval of \$8,612,202 has been given for these projects—\$3,151,036 for the Yandina project, and \$5,461,166 for the Maroochydore project.

The department's draft 2001/02 Capital Works Program for the Sunshine Coast region includes constructions in Coolum Beach and Landsborough. Two two-bedroom duplexes and 12 one-bedroom seniors units are planned for Coolum Beach, and eight one-bedroom seniors units are planned for Landsborough.

These projects are still in the design stage with costs yet to be identified.

In addition to Public Housing, the department has a range of other initiatives managed through Community Housing. These include the Crisis Accommodation Program, Long Term Community Housing Program, and the Boarding House Program.

Under the Capital Investment Program for 2001/02, the Crisis Accommodation Program will upgrade 11 dwellings at a total value \$142,000 and commence design of a secure women's shelter, with total project costs yet to be identified.

The Long Term Community Housing Program has an approved carryover project for the Kenilworth Village Units Association to construct four one-bedroom dwellings for seniors in a project totalling \$427,403.

In 2000/01, the Long Term Community Housing Program funded upgrades for three existing dwellings in Maroochydore at a total cost of \$30,000.

In the same year, the Crisis Accommodation Program purchased one five-bedroom dwelling at Sunshine Beach at a total cost of \$263,963. Headlease grants were provided to six organisations to lease 17 properties on the private rental market to the value of \$152,570.

In 1999/2000, the Crisis Accommodation Program constructed a secure refuge in this region for women and children escaping domestic violence, at a total cost of \$911,157. Headlease grants were provided to six organisations to lease 17 properties on the private rental market to the value of \$165,080.

In 1998/99, the Boarding House Program purchased land for future use at Maroochydore for \$319,433. The Boarding House Program also acquired land with six bedsit units and a communal laundry in Nambour from the Department's Public Housing Portfolio at a cost of \$360,000. A 24-room boarding house was then constructed at a total cost of \$2,841,397.

That year the Crisis Accommodation Program provided headlease grants to five organisations to lease 14 properties on the private rental market to the value of \$139,779.

I would like to be in a position to provide more public housing in the Sunshine Coast region. However, funding cuts to housing programs by the Howard government mean demand will continue to outstrip supply.

The current Commonwealth State Housing Agreement effectively strips Queensland of \$90 million in Federal funding over four years.

That is on top of the \$130 million taken from housing by the previous Borbidge Coalition government in Queensland to help fund the Howard government's deficit reduction program.

The latest Federal Budget claims a \$1.5 billion surplus, yet no additional funds were forthcoming in the Howard government's Budget for housing in Queensland.

195. Amby Fire Service

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (16/5/01)—

With reference to the failed attempt by his department to close down the Amby Urban Fire Service and replace it with a Rural Fire Service—

Will he give an assurance that no other similar fire service in south west Queensland will be targeted for downgrading?

Mr REYNOLDS (31/5/01): The QFRA's model for service delivery is dependant on socioeconomic, demographic, structural/environmental hazards and incident data. This modelling can be used across the State of Queensland to allow a comparative assessment of all QFRA Fire Stations and in turn, to provide a statistical profile of each community.

With this data, the QFRA continually reviews its fire stations to ensure the best possible service delivery model is being provided to the community of Queensland.

The QFRA's service delivery models are varied and range from rural volunteer brigades, part time or full time auxiliary stations, a combination of auxiliary and permanent staff, and 24 hour permanently staffed stations. Each model is effective and appropriate for operational response. It would not be fair to our volunteers or career staff to classify any given model as a 'downgrade' or lesser in standing or effectiveness than any other.

The QFRA has not yet finalised its service delivery model for all Queensland fire stations. Further, there are no current plans to transition any fire station in south west Queensland, including Amby, without prior community consultation.

196. Gordonvale Memorial Hospital

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (16/5/01)—

With reference to a study carried out on the future of the Gordonvale Memorial Hospital by Tim Guylar of National Health Scheme United Kingdom on 26 November 1998 on behalf of the Gordonvale and District Health Action Group and the Cairns Base Hospital entitled Review of Gordonvale Memorial Hospital and as the Gordonvale Hospital is situated in a growth corridor—

- (1) Will she give an assurance that services at the Gordonvale Memorial Hospital will not be downgraded?
- (2) Will she provide details of services currently available at and from the Gordonvale Memorial Hospital?
- (3) What plans has Queensland Health for the future direction of the Gordonvale Memorial Hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (15/6/01):

(1) The Cairns Health Service District is reviewing the role of the Gordonvale Memorial Hospital, in line with a study conducted in 1998 and the changing needs of the Gordonvale community. Over the past 12 months the Cairns Health Service District Executive has strengthened the role of Gordonvale Memorial Hospital by providing additional beds for patients awaiting nursing home placement and palliative care.

(2) The hospital has 16 beds for detoxification services, patients awaiting nursing home placement, respite and palliative care. Other activities include general practitioner outpatient services, antenatal care, allied health, women's and children's health programs, optometry prescribing and health promotion activities. Limited emergency, radiology and pharmacy services are also available.

(3) The Cairns Health Service District will continue to provide services at the Gordonvale Memorial Hospital in the most appropriate, cost effective manner. Recent trends in inpatient and outpatient activity demonstrate that more acutely ill patients are choosing treatment at Cairns Base Hospital, with the shift at Gordonvale towards palliative care, respite and aged care. Strategies for developing a new, enhanced role for the Gordonvale Memorial Hospital are currently being explored.

197. Environment Department, Gladstone

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Environment (16/5/01)—

With reference to staffing levels in the Gladstone office—

- (1) How many full-time and part-time staff are allocated to that office?
- (2) How many positions are vacant?
- (3) Are any staff absent on sick leave?

Mr WELLS (15/6/01):

The department advises me:

- (1) There are twenty-four (24) full-time employees and no part-time employees.
- (2) There is one (1) full-time substantive vacancy. Necessary steps to fill that vacancy are being taken.
- (3) There is one (1) employee absent on sick leave.

198. Land Clearing

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (16/5/01)—

- (1) How many permits to clear land have been made under the Vegetation Management Act since its commencement on both freehold and leasehold land?
- (2) What is the total area of land that has been subjected to these permits?

Mr ROBERTSON (15/6/01):

1. Since the proclamation of the Vegetation Management Act 1999 on 15 September 2000, 106 permits have been issued for clearing on freehold land. A further 160 permits have been issued for leasehold and other State lands in accordance with the Land Act 1994.

2. Permits for clearing of remnant vegetation on freehold, leasehold and other State land cover a total of 154,448 ha. Historically, approximately only 30% of land under permit is actually ever cleared.

Clearing of regrowth vegetation on freehold land does not require a permit. On leasehold land, a permit is not required for clearing regrowth that has emerged after clearing under a permit issued since 31 December 1989.

Regrowth vegetation prior to 31 December 1989 on leasehold and other State land accounts for 154,754 ha.

199. Speed Camera Offences

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (16/5/01)—

- (1) What are the total number of speed camera offences that have been recorded for each month for the last 24 months in each police district?
- (2) What is the total level of State revenue collected from speed camera offences for each month for the last 24 months?

Mr BREDHAUER (15/6/01):

(1) The total number of infringement notices issued for speed camera offences for the period April 1999 to March 2001 was 468 594.

A summary of infringement notices by Police Region is provided for the information of the member. The Police Traffic Camera Office does not retain this information by Police District.

(2) Revenue collected by Queensland Transport, for speed camera offences for the period April 1999 to March 2001 totalled \$40,589,067. Revenue collected by the Department of Justice for speed camera detected offences for the financial years 1998/99, 1999/2000 and to 30 April, 2001 was \$7,613,937.

Revenue collected for camera detected offences in excess of the administrative cost of collection is used for road safety education and awareness programs, road accident injury rehabilitation programs, and road funding to improve blackspots on State-controlled roads.

A summary of the revenue collected is provided for the information of the member.

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

200. Drug Squad

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (16/5/01) (17/5/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Police Force and specifically the Drug Squad—

- (1) How many officers are currently working in the Drug Squad?
- (2) How many vacant positions are currently unfilled in the Drug Squad?
- (3) Where are units of the Drug Squad based throughout the State and how many officers are based there?
- (4) What was the budget for the squad for 2000-01 and what has been expended?
- (5) What is the break-up of operational and administrative positions in the Drug Squad and what is the related break-up of expenditure?

Mr McGRADY (18/6/01):

(1) The State Drug Investigative Group is a unit within the State Crime Operations Command and is based in Brisbane. Currently, there are 57 police officers and 7 public servants working in the State Drug Investigative Group, which has State-wide responsibilities.

(2) There are presently 4 unfilled police positions in the State Drug Investigative Group.

(3) No officers of the State Drug Investigative Group are based outside Brisbane. However, Regional Drug Squads have been established by the Far Northern Region in Cairns and the Northern Region in Townsville. Each of these Regional Drug Squads has an allocated strength of 10 police officers and 1 public servant.

(4) The budget allocation for the State Drug Investigative Group is included in the total budget for the State Crime Operations Command, and is managed within the Command's total budget.

The overall budget allocation for the State Drug Investigative Group for the 2000/2001 financial year was in excess of \$5M.

(5) The State Drug Investigative Group has an allocated strength of 61 police officers, and 7 public servants, of whom 2 are Investigative Accountants.

(6) Please note, since the passing of the Police Service Administration Act 1990, Queensland Police have been known as the Queensland Police Service, they are no longer known as the Queensland Police Force.

201. Ambulance Service, Staff

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (16/5/01) (17/5/01)—

With reference to having appropriate staffing levels in the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) Why is the Director-General of the Department of Emergency Services preventing divisional heads from employing staff for periods longer than three months without his authorisation, despite divisional heads having the appropriate mandate to employ?
- (2) Why has a ban been placed on some positions being filled on a permanent basis?
- (3) What plans does he have for addressing the staffing inadequacies within the Queensland Ambulance Service?

Mr REYNOLDS (14/6/01):

(1) I am advised that the Director-General has directed that his approval is required for creation of permanent positions, conversion of temporary positions to permanent positions and for filling of positions in central office, and in the QAS and QFRA Brisbane regions. The decision is in place for a short period until the strategic priorities of the 2000/01 year are confirmed across the Department. This is a prerogative of the Director-General and is by no means unusual across government.

(2) There is no ban on the filling of positions, rather there is an amended approval process in place for a short period.

(3) Overall vacancies are low in the QAS. Since 1998, 156 additional ambulance positions have been created.

202. TARP Program, Beenleigh

Ms STONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/5/01)—

How is the TARPS program, currently being trialled in Beenleigh, progressing?

Mr McGRADY (20/6/01): The At Risk Premises (TARP) Project aims to reduce the incidence of unlawful entry offences. TARP is a staged response to unlawful entry offences. Stage 1 involves police officers conducting a security assessment of a victimised premises. Stage 2 involves Volunteers in Policing providing property security assistance to premises identified as repeat victims. Stage 3 involves the police officers working in partnership with the community to address crime in hotspot areas.

Beenleigh TARP has been operating since 20 December 1999. Key findings of an evaluation of this program include a marked decrease in unlawful entry offences of residential premises while unlawful entry offences of non-residential premises has increased—to date, Beenleigh division has concentrated on delivering the TARP initiative to residential premises.

Members of the Beenleigh community have responded favourably to the TARP initiative with three-quarters of respondents to a victimised premises survey claiming to have made some changes to their property security arrangements after having had a security assessment.

203. Children's Court, Toowoomba

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/5/01)—

With reference to the Children's Court in Toowoomba—

- (1) Over the last three years, how many juveniles have appeared in the Toowoomba Children's Court?
- (2) How many appearances has each child made in that Court and, if applicable, any other Court and which Court was it?

Mr McGRADY (21/6/01): There is no data available from Queensland Police Service databases that provides the information requested. The matter should be referred to the Honourable Judy Spence, Minister for Families for a response.

204. Speed Cameras

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/5/01)—

- (1) Is there any intent for Queensland Transport to take over the operation of speed cameras?
- (2) Are there any plans to introduce such cameras in regional urban areas?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/6/01):

(1) No. The current speed camera program is an integral part of the Speed Management Strategy which is a joint partnership between the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Transport. Prior to the introduction of speed cameras it was decided that in order to maintain the integrity of the system, speed cameras were to be operated by uniformed police officers in specially marked vehicles. Queensland Police Service speed camera operators are required to undertake an extensive speed camera training program and possess experience and qualifications in radar operation. The presence of uniformed police officers at speed camera sites serves as both a deterrent and a road safety reminder to would-be speeders.

(2) The provision for speed cameras to operate on local roads has been in place since 1 June 1999. It is important to note that speed cameras are only able to be operated on roads where a speed limit review has been conducted to determine the appropriate speed limit.

205. Environmental Protection Agency

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (17/5/01)—

With reference to the Environmental Protection Agency—

- (1) How many complaints have been received by the Environmental Protection Agency in regards to water quality, air quality, noise and/or odour?
- (2) How many staff are allocated to investigation and/or monitoring of this issue?
- (3) What is the location throughout Queensland where each of these staff members are allocated?
- (4) Will he provide a list of fines given in the last three years including the organisations fined, the location of the breach and the amount and/or other penalty given?

Mr WELLS (19/6/01):

- (1) The department informs me that the information provided is for the period July 2000-May 2001.

	Water quality	Air quality	Noise	Odour
Complaints received	1496	946	2042	1921

(2) The department informs me that a total of 61 officers in the three regions, Southern, Central and Northern are devoted to complaints and investigations. I am further informed that the information is based on an estimate of full time equivalent officers (FTEs).

(3) See above.

(4) The department informs me that the information the Honourable Member asks about is available in the in the EPA's Annual Report. The information can also be obtained from Magistrates, District and Environment and Planning Courts. Details of the persons issued with infringement notices are not provided as the issuing of an infringement notice is not a conviction and such details are not matter for the public record. The department informs me that 190 Infringement Notices have been issued by the EPA with fines ranging from \$150 to \$1500. While prosecuting alleged offenders is an important

part of the work of the Agency, it is not the only approach taken in safeguarding the environment. In addition to prosecutions, the Agency uses a wide range of enforcement measures available to it under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

206. Hotels, Gaming Machine Licences

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (17/5/01)—

With reference to his announcement that no more applications from hotels for gaming machine licences will be accepted—

- (1) What is the expected capital gain from this restriction that will accrue to hotels that already have gaming machines in each of the following categories: (a) hotels with less than \$100,000 metered win per month, (b) hotels with between \$100,000 and \$200,000 metered win per month and (c) hotels with greater than \$200,000 metered win per month?
- (2) What is the expected capital loss for those hotels that do not currently have gaming machines and will not now be permitted to acquire them?
- (3) What transfer conditions are being put in place to allow the transfer of existing machines among hotels?

Mr MACKENROTH (31/5/01):

(1 & 2) No estimates are available.

(3) Discussions will be conducted with the industry over the coming months to develop a framework for re-allocation of machines which may become surplus to requirements of sites.

207. Eagleby, Urban Renewal Program

Mrs KEECH asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/5/01)—

With reference to the highly successful urban renewal program in Eagleby—

- (1) How many public houses have been upgraded in the suburb?
- (2) How much money to date has been spent in the suburb by his department?

Mr SCHWARTEN (18/6/01):

(1) Since the Eagleby Urban Renewal Program commenced in 1999/2000, the Department of Housing has upgraded 100 dwellings. A further 50 dwellings are planned for commencement in 2001/02. The average age of dwellings being upgraded in Eagleby is 25 years.

(2) The total expenditure to date for the urban renewal program in Eagleby is approximately \$1.66 million with a planned budget of \$2 million for the Eagleby upgrade program for the year 2001/02.

Urban Renewal activities in the Logan area, which includes the Eagleby Urban Renewal Program, provide opportunities for the department to involve community-based organisations such as Boystown Link-Up in job creation for local unemployed people.

For the 2000/01 Urban Renewal Program in Eagleby, Kingston and Woodridge, 32 people have gained meaningful employment in construction work such as fencing, landscaping and concreting.

These 32 employees work across the three project areas to ensure continuity of employment over the 12-month period.

208. Moreton Bay Islands

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (17/5/01)—

Will she outline in detail the measures which are to be put in place to allay the longstanding concerns of landowners/ratepayers with properties on the Moreton Bay Islands?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (14/6/01): On 10 May 2001, the Redland Shire Council approved a broad ranging package of interim actions it will undertake, including:

Establishment of a voluntary land purchase scheme to acquire 511 'Residential A' zoned allotments now known to be drainage problem allotments;

Adoption of the outputs of further detailed drainage mapping for the islands undertaken by the Council, which will result in a number of amendments to the transitional planning scheme to include approximately 511 'Residential A' zoned allotments within the 'Drainage Problem' zone (areas subject to inundation from a Q100 storm event)

Rate reduction for the drainage problem blocks (flat rate of \$100) from 1 July 2001.

Amendments to the transitional planning scheme to include approximately 55 lots currently zoned 'Drainage Problem' in the 'Residential A' zone (on the basis that the further detailed work has 'cleared' these blocks of being drainage affected);

Amalgamation by title of 'Residential A' zoned allotments able to be developed with Council covering survey and conveyancing costs; and,

Introduction of an Interim Vegetation Protection Order to achieve a better match between clearing and building activities on the Islands.

A booklet titled *Moving Forward—Initiatives for a brighter future for the Southern Moreton Bay Island Communities*, and the Council's Southern Moreton Bay Islands Newsletter No. 1, also explain to the community the interim measures in further detail.

These interim actions proposed by the Council follow the release of the draft Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning and Land Use Strategy, and are intended to complement the proposed Southern Moreton Bay Islands Local Area Plan (SMBI LAP). Some of them will however need to follow statutory processes prescribed under various pieces of legislation (eg.

Local Government Act 1993, Integrated Planning Act 1997). At this point the community will have opportunity to input to these processes.

The draft Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning and Land Use Strategy (SMBIPLUS) is the outcome of a joint study between my Department, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Redland Shire Council. The draft Strategy examined options for addressing longstanding land development and servicing problems on the islands caused by inappropriate subdivision approvals.

After detailed consideration and review of the draft Strategy and the issues raised by island residents and landowners, the Government on 29 May 2000, approved a modified implementation strategy to that recommended in the draft SMBIPLUS. This is generally supportive of the broad objectives of the draft Strategy, and reflects the Government's position that current landowners should be able to personally exercise their existing development entitlements.

The key elements of this modified implementation strategy include:

- (1) The preparation, in consultation with landowners, of a statutory planning instrument and associated infrastructure charges plan by Redland Shire Council in accordance with the requirements of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA).
- (2) Special arrangements for existing landowners, through either the statutory planning instrument or specific legislative amendments, to ensure current landowners retain and can personally exercise their existing development entitlements into the future subject to normal engineering requirements if they are changed under the new statutory planning instrument. However, if land is on-sold, the provisions of the new statutory planning instrument will bind the new owner.
- (3) Officers of Government together with Council will provide advice and assistance where requested, to current landowners on choices to either exit the islands or about ways for achieving their development intentions, within the context of the new statutory planning instrument. Options for consideration could include voluntary land amalgamations, restructure and swap options.
- (4) An increased level of Government subsidy in the form of a special purpose Southern Moreton Bay Islands infrastructure subsidy scheme to assist the Redland Shire Council with the provision of water supply, sewerage and wastewater reuse for the Bay Islands.
- (5) Officers of my Department will also work with Council staff to ensure Council is able to introduce a rating regime which supports the final form of development and services expected on the islands.

The modified implementation strategy seeks to achieve sustainable population levels on the islands, but also takes into account the concerns many landowners have raised with the Government in respect of the original implementation measures contained in the draft Strategy.

209. Maroochy Shire, Sewage Pumping Station

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Environment (17/5/01)—

With reference to the recent spillage of hundreds of thousands of litres of raw sewage into Cornmeal Creek by Maroochy Shire Council due to a power failure at a sewage pumping station—

What improved safeguard will be imposed on local governments to decrease the unacceptable health risks to our communities that can occur with such dangerous raw sewage spills?

Mr WELLS (19/6/01): The department informs me that the sewage spill from Maroochy Shire Council's sewage pump station did not discharge raw sewage into Cornmeal Creek. The spill was confined to a section of an upstream flood mitigation drain and golf course lake, which did not allow any of the raw sewage to drain into Cornmeal Creek.

As a result of the sewage pump station overflow an Environmental Protection Order was issued to Maroochy Shire Council on 3 May 2001 by the EPA. The Order required Council to remove all effluent from a drainage channel in Thompson Park and to monitor water quality within a lake system of the area. The Council has complied with all requests made by the EPA with regard to the clean up of the spill. Water quality results are satisfactory and further monitoring is not required.

The EPA licenses Council sewage treatment plants including their pump stations and these licences require Councils to have effective environmental management systems in place to deal with these types of issues. There is a requirement for continual improvement of these systems to incorporate best practice. I am advised by the department that improved safeguards presently being imposed on Councils include improved pump station designs for new pump stations and retrofitting of existing pump stations where problems exist.

To outline this approach, the particular sewage pump station referred to is one of a number of Maroochy Shire Council's sewage pump stations that has a sophisticated telemetry system installed to alert Council of system failures at Council's sewage pumping stations. The telemetry system forwards details of pump station status back to a base station. This also includes a pager alarm system that automatically sends an alarm and message to a rostered Council operator who is on call 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. This sophisticated failure alert system is in line with world's best practice environmental management for sewage pumping stations.

I am advised that the Council in accordance with their 'continuous improvement' philosophy, will implement a number of operational procedures to minimise the risk of a similar type of incident reoccurring. This will include reviews of the Sewerage Overflow Event Management Plan and the Council's Environmental Management System.

210. Kupai Omasker Project

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/5/01)—

What action has been taken to progress the 'Kupai Omasker' project that has been the subject of representations from the Torres Strait Islander Working Party to him and the Premier since Cabinet approval for the project in December 1999?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/6/01): The responsibility for the Kupai Omasker project lies within the portfolio of the Honourable Judy Spence MP, Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services.

You should redirect the question to the Honourable Judy Spence MP.

211. Black Sigatoka

Mr ROWELL asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (17/5/01)—

With reference to the Black Sigatoka outbreak in the Tully region which is impacting very seriously on the banana industry that provides thousands of jobs to North Queenslanders and contributes more than \$200m to the State's economy and as the banana industry has already committed over \$1m from voluntary grower contributions in direct support to the growers who have complied with Department of Primary Industries (DPI) eradication orders as a result of the current outbreak, this in addition to the \$500,000 the industry is providing to the budget of the Banana Industry Protection Board which is operated by and funded to a cap of \$350,000 by the DPI and as I am informed that the DPI has indicated that it has exhausted available funds and is asking the banana industry to contribute a further \$450,000 of grower funds to enable the department to satisfy its commitments to the eradication program—

- (1) Having regard to the significant public interest component of the current Black Sigatoka eradication project, is he prepared to make additional funding available to DPI to enable the department to meet its commitments?
- (2) In the event that the banana industry agrees to provide an additional \$450,000 requested by DPI, will the Government match the additional \$600,000 industry funding on a dollar for dollar basis?

Mr BEATTIE (14/6/01):

(1) The Department of Primary Industries has responded to the detection of black Sigatoka in north Queensland in accordance with the Incursion Management Plan for banana black Sigatoka disease outbreaks in Queensland. This plan was developed in 1999 in close consultation with the banana industry. Senior industry representatives have been involved with the decision making process in the handling of the response. As such, the Government is aware of the significant issues faced by the banana industry in dealing with black Sigatoka and of the flow-on effects to rural communities. Every effort is being made to respond to the current outbreak using resources from both within industry and the government. The Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities has written to his interstate colleagues to seek their support in a cost-sharing arrangement for eradication of the disease, as was the case prior to 1986, so that Queensland does not have to foot the entire bill in the national interest. Obviously, funding contributions from the Queensland Government will be considered in light of national support for the program.

(2) A contribution from the banana industry will be managed in accord with the Banana Industry Protection Act 1989, pursuant to which a grant may be made in aid of the Banana Industry Fund of up to \$1 for every \$1 received in the previous financial year. If the banana industry contributed an additional \$450,000 in the 2000/01 financial year, their total contribution to the Banana Industry Fund would be nearly \$1m, which would be eligible for dollar for dollar funding in 2001/02. The need for this additional funding will also be evaluated in light of national support.

212. Tourism Industry, Goods and Services Tax

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (17/5/01)—

Has she been advised what the expected amount is to be collected from the goods and services tax for the tourism industry in Queensland for 2001-02?

Mrs ROSE (5/6/01): No. Queensland Treasury has advised me that this information is not available.

213. Education Department, Staff

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (17/5/01)—

With reference to staffing within the Department of Education and associated bodies—

- (1) Will she provide a list of (a) acting staff in each office throughout the State, by position and public service classification and (b) current vacancies in each office, by position and public service classification?
- (2) How long has each of these positions in 1(b) been vacant and when will they be filled?

Ms BLIGH (18/6/01): A total of 43 substantive vacancies currently exist in district offices within Education Queensland. The vacancies are due to movements such as transfer, promotion, resignation or retirement of an officer. The majority of these are currently filled with an acting appointment or by assignment.

Such arrangements are temporary and are used to provide opportunities for employees to gain valuable learning experience outside of their immediate responsibility. This in turn, provides the department with an increasing pool of skilled employees to select from when the position is filled substantively.

In addition to acting arrangements in current substantive vacancies, there is a range of additional acting arrangements in place to replace officers who are temporarily absent from their permanent role due to leave, secondment, or acting in another position. These arrangements are regarded as part of normal staffing arrangements that occur in schools, district offices or central office.

To provide the other detail would be an extremely resource intensive exercise which would divert staff of the Department from other important work. If the Honourable Member has a particular district for which he requires the details of staff vacancies identified in his question, I am willing to consider such a request.

214. Cairns South Fire Station

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (17/5/01)—

With reference to the rate of development which is being experienced in the southern suburbs of Cairns and as it is anticipated that under the planning regime set in place by Far North Queensland 2010, the southern corridor will continue to grow in population and as a 24 hour fire service is available to the residents of the northern beaches and also to those people residing in the city of Cairns proper—

Does the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have plans to upgrade the Cairns South Fire Station to be manned 24 hours: if so, will he provide details of how this will be achieved and what is the proposed time frame?

Mr REYNOLDS (31/5/01): The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority is investigating alternative service delivery from Cairns South Fire Station to bring it in line with the service delivery from Cairns and Smithfield. In accordance with the Queensland Government's policy, full community consultation will be carried out.

This proposal addresses an anomaly in the Cairns area, where three permanently crewed appliances operate from two stations at Smithfield and Cairns, leaving the third station at Cairns South with only a five day crewed appliance.

The proposal delivers better use of resources in that a crew can respond both into the city and towards Gordonvale. The day work crew currently at Cairns South would be moved into the Cairns Fire Station at Gatton Street to enable better training, community safety and public education.

It is proposed to move a vehicle and crew from Cairns Fire Station to Cairns South Fire Station and the Acting Chief Commissioner has advised me that he anticipates this could be achieved by 1 July 2002.

215. Townsville Police District

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/5/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a month by month breakdown, since January 2000 to April 2001, of all categories of crimes reported for each station area within the Townsville Police District?
- (2) Will he provide details on the total number of officer positions each station is allocated as well as details on how many of those positions are vacant or filled with a permanent or acting officer?

Mr McGRADY (20/6/01):

- (1) Attached are tables detailing the number of reported offences for the Townsville Police District by Division from January 2000 to April 2001, by month.

Please note that statistics are only able to be provided for Police Regions, Districts and Divisions. While Divisional statistics approximate the area covered by stations, statistics should not be considered as station statistics.

(2) As at 01 May 2001 the approved strength at the following stations in the Townsville District were Ayr 17, Bowen 18, Charters Towers 17, Clare 1, Collinsville 3, Deeragun 18, Giru 2, Greenvale 1, Halifax 2, Home Hill 3, Hughenden 3, Ingham 17, Kirwan 37, Magnetic Island 4, Mingela 1, Mundingburra 15, Palm Island 7, Pentland 1, Prairie 1, Richmond 2, Rollingstone 2, Stuart 8, Torrens Creek 1, Townsville 103.

As at 01 May 2001 the actual strength at the following stations in the Townsville District were Ayr 18, Bowen 16, Charters Towers 18, Clare 1, Collinsville 2, Deeragun 17, Giru 2, Greenvale 1, Halifax 2, Home Hill 3, Hughenden 3, Ingham 17, Kirwan 37, Magnetic Island 5, Mingela 1, Mundingburra 16, Palm Island 8, Pentland 1, Prairie 1, Richmond 2, Rollingstone 2, Stuart 8, Torrens Creek 1, Townsville 110.

The filling of vacancies is an ongoing process, and arrangements for the placement of relieving and surplus officers can vary, on a day to day basis, due to operational requirements and personal circumstances.

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

216. Cairns Police District

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/5/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a month by month breakdown, since January 2000 to April 2001, of all categories of crimes reported for each station area within the Cairns Police District?
- (2) Will he provide details on the total number of officer positions each station is allocated as well as details on how many of those positions are vacant or filled with a permanent or acting officer?

Mr McGRADY (20/6/01):

- (1) Attached are tables detailing the number of reported offences for the Cairns Police District by Division from January 2000 to April 2001, by month.

Please note that statistics are only able to be provided for Police Regions, Districts and Divisions. While Divisional statistics approximate the area covered by stations, statistics should not be considered as station statistics.

(2) As at 01 May 2001 the approved strength at the following stations in the Cairns District were Aurukun 5, Bamaga 5, Cairns 132, Coen 2, Cooktown 6, Edmonton 11, Gordonvale 6, Horn Island 2, Kowanyama 5, Laura 1, Lockhart River 2, Mossman 8, Pormpuraaw 2, Port Douglas 6, Smithfield 21, Thursday Island 13, Weipa 5, Yarrabah 5.

As at 01 May 2001 the actual strength at the following stations in the Cairns District were Aurukun 5, Bamaga 5, Cairns 138, Coen 2, Cooktown 6, Edmonton 15, Gordonvale 6, Horn Island 2, Kowanyama 5, Laura 1, Lockhart River 2, Mossman 6, Pormpuraaw 2, Port Douglas 6, Smithfield 20, Thursday Island 13, Weipa 5, Yarrabah 5.

The filling of vacancies is an ongoing process, and arrangements for the placement of relieving and surplus officers can vary, on a day to day basis, due to operational requirements and personal circumstances.

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

217. Workplace Health and Safety Division

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (17/5/01)—

Will he give an assurance that the current inquiry by John Crittall into the Division of Workplace Health and Safety be expanded to include all workplace related illness as well as accidents?

Mr NUTTALL (18/6/01): The terms of reference of the review were specifically developed to examine and make recommendations about strategic and management issues in the Division of Workplace Health and Safety and the

Electrical Safety Office. Systemic enhancements to the administration of the legislation as a result of the review will help enhance investigation procedures into both accidents and illness in workplaces.

218. Integrated Planning Act

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (17/5/01)—

With reference to her department's 18 month delay on its previously committed schedule of reviewing and amending the Integrated Planning Act 1997 as well as the fact that only five councils have an IPA compliant planning scheme and that no council as yet has an Infrastructure Charges Plan approved by her department—

- (1) Will she give a clear direction to her department to resolve the contentious issue of defining 'State interests' in planning schemes and to develop a workable infrastructure charging regime?
- (2) Given the significant delays caused by the Government's inaction in amending the IPA, will she consider extending the March 2003 deadline for councils to have completed an IPA compliant planning scheme given that both they and the development industry have been left in the dark so far?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (14/6/01):

(1) There are two aspects to this question. The first deals with the issue of State interests in planning schemes. Planning schemes perform an important role in the implementation of the statewide Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS). While under the previous planning legislation every effort was made to have planning schemes have regard for State interest, the legislative system treated planning schemes as separate stand alone regulatory regimes administered by local government. Under IDAS the local government planning scheme, together with the many different State level development related controls, function within a single integrated regulatory system. This means even greater effort is required to ensure the planning controls of local governments are compatible with related State level controls and vice versa. In this regard, Departmental officers have been working with State agencies to finalise a directory of State matters that potentially impact on local plan making. The second phase of this exercise involves the analysis of these matters at a regional level to proactively identify and express what issues have relevance for plan making in those regions. This process is being coordinated by my Department and involves both State agencies and the relevant local governments. A significant workshop to bring the first of these exercises to conclusion is to take place in the Wide Bay area within the next month. This is a major component of the implementation of the overall IPA reform and as with other aspects of the program, such as the consequential legislation program, there is a transition period involved in integrating and coordinating into one framework the different State and local policy regimes.

The second aspect of the question deals with infrastructure charging. I am aware that local governments state they believe the regime is too complex, costly and difficult to implement for the majority of the councils throughout the State. As a result my Department has been working with local governments and the development industry to simplify the charging system to ensure it is workable and fair for all stakeholders. This is a significant task. My Department is working with those local governments currently preparing planning schemes and infrastructure charging plans. Also I have recently written to all local governments about this issue. I outlined likely changes to the regime to simplify the process particularly for smaller local governments. In essence, it is proposed that a simplified conditioning regime be provided for smaller local governments and for infrastructure charging plans to be required for areas experiencing significant growth and change only. It is considered this revised approach will address the complexity and cost concerns raised by local governments. Intensive consultation on the changes will occur over the next few months.

(2) The review of the IPA, commenced by my predecessor the Honourable Terry Mackenroth MP, is focused on operational improvements to the systems created by the Act. It was stressed at the time that the review was not a fundamental rethink of the legislation or the systems underpinning the legislation. The review is at an advanced stage. Detailed consultation about proposed changes were held with stakeholders late last year and since then preparation of a draft amending Bill has been under way. It is intended these changes be intensively discussed with stakeholders over the coming months.

The changes arising from the review are principally about clarifying, simplifying and streamlining operational aspects of the legislation, such as the administrative steps involved in making, assessing and deciding development applications. There is no fundamental rethinking of the role or operation of planning schemes. As a result I believe the policy development work required to be undertaken by local governments in the preparation of their new planning schemes is unaffected by the review. Operational improvements envisaged for IDAS and infrastructure charging will mostly affect the regulatory processes in the Act. The implications for scheme preparation will be limited. My Department works closely with local governments in the preparation of their planning schemes and also has prepared written guidance about IPA plan making. As local governments move closer to turning their policy intentions into drafted scheme provisions, my Department is preparing a range of example scheme provisions to assist local governments in this drafting process. I believe the 2003 target for new schemes remains achievable and the efforts of my Department are focused on assisting local governments meet the target.

219. Fine Defaulters

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/5/01)—

How many fine defaulters were there in Queensland jails at the end of February, March and April and at 17 May?

Mr McGRADY (21/6/01): Prisoners in Secure and Open Custody in Queensland jails for non-payment of fines only, for the periods asked were:

- 7 at the end of February;
- 4 at the end of March;
- 2 at the end of April; and
- 3 as at 17 May 2001.

220. State Government Projects

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (17/5/01)—

With reference to State Government projects undertaken by his department over the last three years and valued at or above \$5m—

- (1) What are the details of all major contracts let for each project for each year?
- (2) Will he provide a list of all successful sub-contractors for each project with details of the contract and price?
- (3) Will he provide a list of all successful sub-contractors for each project whose business address is within the locality of that project?

Mr SCHWARTEN (21/6/01): I am advised that departmental records indicate:

- (1) The major contracts let over the last 3 years, valued at or above \$5M, and for which the Director-General of Public Works was the Principal under the Contract, are as per Attachment 1.
- (2) The list of names of the successful subcontractors and their trade packages, as supplied by the Head Contractor for the relevant projects, is as per Attachments 2A to 2H. However, prices have not been included as these are commercial-in-confidence between the Head Contractors and the subcontractors involved.
- (3) The list of addresses of all successful subcontractors for these individual projects, is also included in Attachments 2A to 2H.

The details provided show that local Queensland firms have benefited from recent major construction projects handled through the Department of Public Works. The information provided underlines the misleading nature of statements made recently by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the Maryborough Correctional Centre project. Opposition claims about local firms missing out on work generated by the Maryborough project are simply not supported by the facts.

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

221. Ambulance Service, Proston

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (17/5/01)—

With reference to ambulance officers and to job descriptions and to the Human Resource Manual (Section: Conditions and Entitlements) Annex C5 to Chapter 13 Short Job Description concerning the transport of patients which states: 'or 2-officer patient transfer units (PTU) when stretcher transfer is required'—

- (1) Why is there only one ambulance officer at Proston who is expected to manoeuvre patients on stretchers on her own?
- (2) Do most other ambulance stations, including Dalby, have two officers?
- (3) Will he explain why the union representative has never seen the above mentioned Human Resource Manual and why the representative was informed by management that there was no written criteria for Ambulance Officers?
- (4) Will this Ambulance Officer be entitled to compensation for the back injury sustained due to the strain of lifting heavy patients single handedly?

Mr REYNOLDS (14/6/01):

- (1) Current workloads indicate that additional staffing is not required. Honorary officers and/or First Responders are available to assist the ambulance officer when required, or assistance is provided from neighbouring stations.
- (2) Several remote rural ambulance stations in the North Burnett area of the North Coast Region operate as a single officer initial response. The QAS has strategies in place to support and assist QAS officers when required, which include the use of Honorary Officers, assistance from neighbouring stations and helicopter response. Dalby ambulance station has a staff establishment of nine officers.
- (3) The QAS Policy Manuals are provided on compact disc to all stations, to the Union, and is also available on the QAS internet site. QAS also provides written criteria for the selection of ambulance officers and management is unaware of any advice to the contrary being passed on to the union representative.
- (4) All QAS staff are fully covered by WorkCover Queensland in the event of injury at work.

222. Preschools, Child Care

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Education (17/5/01)—

With reference to discussions over a lengthy period regarding the use of State Pre-school facilities as part of a whole-of-Government approach to the provision of a wide range of child care services to Queensland families and considering the substantial infrastructure that exists in State Pre-schools and recognising the enrolment advantages that increased numbers would deliver—

What steps are being taken to achieve a coordinated response to this significant social challenge?

Ms BLIGH (18/6/01): Education Queensland is committed to exploring all opportunities for joint development/joint use of facilities that maximise benefits to schools and the broader community. Many schools are already working in partnership with other providers to offer services to the broader community, including out-of-school hours child care services.

Education Queensland is seeking to meet the changing needs of families through a whole of government approach to the provision of a range of child care services. In particular, the Families First whole of government hub strategy encourages communities to make linkages across a range of child care, family support, child health and early childhood education services. State preschools are included in this service mix and in some communities will form the central focus of the hub in conjunction with child care services.

The Aurukun Child Care and Family Support hub is an excellent example of where a State Preschool on Education Queensland land will share a facility with a long day care centre. This facility will also provide space for visiting health professionals, a child protection coordination room, office space for a family support worker and space for community meetings and playgroups.

223. Families Department, Case Loads

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (29/5/01)—

With reference to her answer to Question on Notice No 33 on 4 April 2001 where she refused to give details of average case loads for Department of Family Services officers, I again ask that, despite her calling case loads a crude measure— Will she provide, on an office by office basis, the average case load for Family Services officers?

Ms SPENCE (26/6/01): As I previously indicated, the Department is in the process of developing a more sophisticated and contemporary approach to measuring workload and performance that is inclusive of caseloads. This refined approach will provide a truer picture of activity by Area Office and by Family Service Officer.

A workshop is being scheduled in July 2001 at which Departmental and union representatives will discuss the development of a suitable methodology to assess Area Office performance and activity that, in turn, will adequately inform resource allocation.

The development of this new, more sophisticated framework methodology to assess Area Office performance and activity is currently in the first of three stages, which comprise output measurement; efficiency measurement; and effectiveness/outcome measurement. Until this framework methodology is developed, there is no data currently available which accurately reflects the activity and output levels of Family Service Officers.

224. Rabbits

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (29/5/01)—

As the rabbit population is significantly increasing in the Tablelands area, what action is his department taking to nip the problem in the bud before it becomes more serious?

Mr ROBERTSON (28/6/01): The rabbit population on the Atherton Tableland has been steadily increasing since the late 1970s. Environmental modification is thought to be the major reason for the increase. The introduction of more nutritious grasses for grazing and increased cropping has led to a more 'rabbit friendly' habitat. Since the environment is irreversibly changed, my staff use a range of control tools designed to reduce the impact of rabbits on the environment, agriculture and the public in general.

Over the past 15 years the myxoma virus has been released on an annual basis throughout the Atherton Tableland. It has been effective in keeping the population at a low, minor impact level. However, last year CSL Ltd, a private company, stopped manufacturing myxoma due to the production no longer being commercially viable. Field strains of myxoma will persist and provide some control.

Rabbit Calicivirus Disease (RCD) has also been released in areas of seasonally high numbers, and release will continue with an RCD injection service which is provided to landholders free of charge.

If landholders are suffering economic loss through crop damage etc, a baiting service is available and has been successfully used on horticultural and cropping properties. Baiting is undertaken with either 1080 (free) or Pindone (at cost) depending on the situation. It is also recommended that landholders remove harbour such as logs, weeds and rip rabbit warrens.

Landholders on the Atherton Tableland with rabbit problems are encouraged to contact my Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Land Protection staff in Atherton for up to date advice. On many occasions a clean up of the immediate area to reduce the amount of cover (fallen timber, thick grass, pipes, rubble etc) is all that is required.

225. Public Servants, Performance Agreements

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (29/5/01)—

With reference to the recent announcement that Queensland's top public servants have to enter new performance agreements and meet set targets in order to be paid bonuses of up to 15 per cent of their salary and in the interests of accountability and transparency—

Will he provide details of the performance agreements and the targets to be reached for each Director General and any other Senior Executive involved in these performance agreements and will a similar criteria for performance agreements and targets be set for Chief Executive Officers of Government Owned Corporations?

Mr BEATTIE (22/6/01): The policy for management of the performance of departmental Chief Executives is a publicly available document, as is the template for the performance agreements. The detail of individual performance agreements is a matter that is between myself as employer and the individual Chief Executive. It would not be appropriate for details of specific agreements and objectives to be publicly available as this would inevitably result in public comment on the performance of individual Chief Executives when the accountability to the Parliament for their performance lies with the Premier as employer.

All Government Owned Corporations have been required to submit executive remuneration policies to myself and shareholding Ministers for endorsement. Any payments made to Chief Executives of Government Owned Corporations must be within these approved guidelines. Myself and shareholding Ministers are kept informed of any actual payments of bonuses to Chief Executives. However, providing these bonuses are paid within the requirements of the approved executive remuneration policy, neither I nor shareholding Ministers have a further approval role in this regard.

Management of the performance of Chief Executives of Government Owned Corporations (GOCs) is a matter for the Board of each GOC as the employer. The Chief Executives of GOCs are accountable to the Boards who in turn report to the Parliament on the performance of the GOC.

226. Roadworks Contracts

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/5/01)—

With reference to contracts awarded by Main Roads for road works and associated construction—

In the past 12 months, what was the total number of contracts awarded and how many of these contracts were awarded to private enterprise organisations and how many were awarded to Road Transport Construction Services?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/6/01): The total number of open-tender contracts awarded by Main Roads for roadworks and associated construction activities (including engineering consultancy services and materials supply) from 1 July 2000 to 10 June 2001 is as follows:

Private sector	207
Local governments	11
Main Roads RTCS	31
Total:	249

As illustrated in the current Roads Implementation Program, which was tabled in Parliament on 10 November 2000, this compares with a total of 180 for the 1999-2000 financial year.

227. School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (29/5/01)—

With reference to school-based apprenticeships and traineeships—

What is the (a) number of school based apprenticeships and traineeships currently filled and a regional breakdown of the locations of these positions, (b) the number of vacancies currently available and a regional breakdown of the locations of these vacancies and (c) amount of expenditure on school based apprenticeships and traineeships and a regional breakdown of this expenditure?

Mr FOLEY (28/6/01): I am pleased to advise that the Department of Employment and Training has committed to 60% growth in school based apprenticeships and traineeships over the next three years which will see 10,500 students provided with the opportunity to undertake this form of training. Queensland has currently 55% of all school based apprenticeships and traineeships in Australia.

- At present there are over 3400 school based apprentices and trainees in training in Queensland. The regional distribution is Brisbane North, 505, Brisbane South and Gold Coast, 882, Central Queensland, 229, North Queensland, 412, South West Queensland, 475, Wide Bay Sunshine Coast, 916.
- There is no pool of vacancies that students can access to undertake a school based apprenticeship or traineeship. A number of agencies or organisations including community organisations, New Apprenticeships Centres, Registered Training Organisations, Group Training Organisations, Centrelink, and the Department of Employment and Trainings Employment Taskforce actively promote school based apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities to employers throughout Queensland.
- More than \$4.85M has been provided to assist the 6643 students who have to this date taken advantage of this important training initiative. The regional breakdown of funding is Brisbane North, \$546,440, Brisbane South and Gold Coast, \$900,863, Central Queensland, \$313,232, North Queensland, \$650,942, South West Queensland, \$934,808, Wide Bay Sunshine Coast, \$1,515,569.

228. National Park Estate

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (29/5/01)—

With reference to all expenditure in the past three years for the purchase of land for the National Park Estate—

- What is the (a) location and size of land acquired, (b) outlay and real cost of each above acquisition and (c) conservation reason/s which qualified each above acquisition for the National Park Estate?
- Will he list all land presently held by the National Park Trust?

Mr WELLS (28/6/01):

(1) The department advises me that the following table sets out the areas purchased for National Park purposes since 1 July 1998. Where an acquisition has been jointly funded, only the State funding contribution is shown.

Property Name	Location	Size	Cost \$M	Conservation Values
Nairana	North of Clermont	19,800ha (approx)		\$0.737* Representative of the northern Brigalow Belt biogeographic area
Albinia (part)	Rolleston	9,923ha	\$0.77*	Major native grassland area
Mooloolah River	Buderim	162ha	\$1.5M	Remnant area of lowland forest
Moresby Range	South of Innisfail	272ha	\$1.035M	Rainforest/ Cassowary habitat
Russell River	South of Cairns	705ha (approx)	\$0.762M	Coastal wetlands/Rainforest
Glass House Mountains	West of Beerwah	37ha	\$0.248M	Links Mt Beerwah with Mt Coonowrin
Cammoo Caves	North of Rockhampton	71ha	\$0.265M	Habitat and feeding areas for several bat species
Pumicestone Passage	South of Caloundra	390ha	\$0.464*	Coastal wetlands/remnant vegetation
Auburn River	West of Gayndah	15ha	Resumed. Cost yet to be determined	Expansion of camping area

* jointly funded

(2) As legislation enabling the establishment of the Queensland Trust for Nature has only recently been enacted, there is no land held by this Trust as yet.

229. Gatton Police Station

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (29/5/01)—

What process is presently in hand to provide more suitable and less cramped accommodation for police at Gatton as following a recent visit I was struck with the station's similarity to a rabbit hutch?

Mr McGRADY (28/6/01): The Queensland Police Service has previously identified the shortcomings of the existing Gatton Police Station. This station is collocated in a government building with the Department of Justice. To address this issue this government has secured additional office accommodation from the Department of Justice for the station. I am advised that plans have also been completed to refurbish this facility and these plans are currently with the Assistant Commissioner, Southern Region, for his endorsement.

In addition to this initiative, the long term need for a new station at Gatton has been identified on the Queensland Police Service Capital Investment Strategic Plan. The commencement of this project is dependent on the availability of funding in future years for this plan.

230. Bribie Island, 'Community Options'

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (29/5/01)—

Is she aware of 'Community Options' on Bribie Island; if so, what is its role and how is it funded?

Mrs EDMOND (28/6/01): The Bribie Community Options Program is auspiced by the Corporation of the Trustees of the Roman Catholic ArchDiocese of Brisbane and receives \$390,913 funding per annum through Queensland Health under the Home and Community Care (HACC) Program. The program also received a 'one off' payment for computers and software of \$2,700 in 2000/2001. The auspicing agent for services under the program may also seek client contributions.

The catchment areas within the Redcliffe Caboolture Health Service District, which the Bribie Community Options Program services, include Bribie Island, Sandstone Point, Ningi and Godwin Beach.

The role of the Bribie Island Community Options Program is to provide: domestic assistance; social support; allied Health care; personal care; food services; respite care; assistance in case management; care planning; and transportation.

Community Options programs, like the one funded through the Bribie Community Options Program, are funded to enable the establishment of more appropriate and effective community services to frail aged or younger people with a disability. This is achieved through care plans that respond in a holistic manner to client's stated needs through coordinated and flexible packages of care across the different HACC service types. This gives clients a direct role in determining their care plans.

231. Loganholme Police Station

Ms STONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (29/5/01)—

With reference to the construction of the Loganholme Police Station—

What is the timetable for the building of the complex?

Mr McGRADY (28/6/01): This government allocated funding in the 2000-01 State Budget to purchase land and to design a new police station at Loganholme. The Queensland Police Service has identified a block of land suitable for such a station. Lengthy negotiations have been pursued to obtain this site at an appropriate cost. These negotiations are expected to be completed successfully in the near future.

Funding for construction is to be provided separate from funding for site acquisition and design costs. The timetable for building the complex cannot be determined at this time.

232. Natural Resources and Mines Department, Consultancies

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (29/5/01)—

Will he provide a schedule of all contract/consultancy expenditure during the 2000-01 Budget period which provides the purpose of each contract/consultancy, whether or not each contract/consultancy was publicly advertised, the name of the firm or individual that conducted each contract/consultancy, the current status of each contract/consultancy and the cost of each contract/consultancy?

Mr ROBERTSON (28/6/01): The Honourable member is advised that my Department of Natural Resources and Mines is required to include information about consultancies within the financial year in its annual report, which is required to be provided to me by 31 October 2001.

The Honourable member has sought details for 2000/01 financial year which is not as yet completed.

Accordingly I would refer the Honourable member to seek the consultancy information after the Department's 2000/01 Annual Report has been tabled.

In relation to the Honourable member's question about contractors, as the 2000/01 financial year is not completed, this information should be sought after 30 June 2001.

233. Brisbane Markets, Rocklea

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (29/5/01)—

With reference to the Government decision to privatise the Brisbane Markets at Rocklea—

- (1) Have there been any firm offers for the markets at this time?
- (2) When is the likely disposal of the asset to take place?
- (3) What reserve price has the Government placed on the asset?
- (4) Which department of Government will be the beneficiary of the proceeds of the sale?
- (5) What portion of the proceeds will be directed to the Department of Primary Industries?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01): The lead agency overseeing the sale of the Brisbane Markets Corporation is Queensland Treasury. Accordingly this question should be directed to the Treasurer, the Honourable Terry Mackenroth MP.

234. Elective Surgery Waiting List; Princess Alexandra Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (29/5/01)—

With reference to the elective surgery waiting list for the last quarter for category 1 patients—

- (1) Why, compared to the same quarter last year, has there been an increase of 165 per cent in the number of patients who did not receive their surgery on time?
- (2) Why is there an increase in the number of category 1 patients for vascular surgery and for urology surgery who did not receive their surgery in the designated time?
- (3) Since the last quarter, why has there been an increase of 460 per cent in the number of category 1 patients in the Princess Alexandra Hospital who did not receive their surgery on time?

Mrs EDMOND (28/6/01):

(1) The statewide benchmark of 5% has not been exceeded. The increase of 51 'long wait' patients is largely a result of increases in the number of 'long wait' patients out of a total 1833 category 1 patients at the Princess Alexandra and Gold Coast hospitals (27 and 20 patients respectively). The increase at the Princess Alexandra Hospital is a result of lost theatre time during the move to the new hospital. At the Gold Coast Hospital, the additional 20 'long wait' category 1 patients are primarily vascular surgery patients (see 2 below).

(2) The increase in the number of 'long wait' category 1 patients in vascular surgery at the Gold Coast Hospital follows the loss of a full surgical session in vascular surgery. The Gold Coast Hospital executive is actively attempting to employ additional vascular session. In the meantime, my department is in the process of arranging for the potential transfer of 'long wait' category 1 vascular surgery patients from the Gold Coast Hospital for treatment at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

With regard to Urology surgery, the number of 'long wait' category 1 patients at 1 April 2001 was 15 patients out of a total of 339 category 1 patients, compared with 3 patients out of 277 at 1 April 2000. Both of these results are below the 5% benchmark.

(3) The increase in the number of 'long wait' category 1 patients at the Princess Alexandra hospital is due to lost operating theatre time during the recent shift to the new facility. The normal number of theatre sessions are available at the new hospital.

235. Preschools, Rural Areas

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Education (29/5/01)—

Will she give a commitment that during this term of Government small rural preschools will not be disadvantaged by increasing student number thresholds?

Ms BLIGH (27/6/01): The Government has no intention of increasing student number thresholds.

236. Cairns, Public Housing

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (29/5/01)—

With reference to the growing number of senior citizens seeking public accommodation in the southern suburbs of Cairns—

Is Housing Queensland aware of such demand; if so, has the department established an action plan to meet this demand?

Mr SCHWARTEN (28/6/01): The Department of Housing is aware of the demand for senior's accommodation in the southern suburbs of Cairns. The department has six seniors units in Gordonvale and four in Edmonton.

In 1998 there were two new applicants for Gordonvale and one for Edmonton. In 1999 there was only one new applicant on each list. In 2000/01 10 new applicants listed for the two areas taken together. There are currently five applicants listed for Gordonvale and 15 applicants listed for Edmonton. Consequently wait times are increasing. In 1998 wait times were approximately 19 to 24 months while at the present the wait time is approximately 24 to 30 months.

Department of Housing staff in Cairns have advised that they are not aware of any specific cause of increased demand for seniors units in the southern suburbs of Cairns.

If no suitable seniors accommodation comes available within the usual wait time, there are suitable two-bedroom dwellings in the southern suburbs of Cairns that could be designated for use as seniors accommodation once they fall vacant.

The Department of Housing also provided funds totalling \$388,015 (including GST) to the Far North Queensland Home Assist Secure scheme in 2000/01. To date this year Home Assist Secure has helped 1,294 older people and people with a disability stay in their own homes for longer—relieving some pressure on public housing waiting lists. For 2001/02, the department will provide funds of \$487,300 (including GST) to meet the increasing demand for Home Assist Secure services in this area.

237. Hope Vale Aboriginal Council, Former Chief Executive Officer

Mrs SHELDON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (29/5/01)—

With reference to page 56 of the Auditor-General's Report No 2 2000-01 where comment was made on the 'failure of the Council's corporate governance processes' and its failure to 'exercise proper financial management over its operations and its cash position' which resulted in a shortfall of \$519,421—

- (1) Does the State Government now employ or contract the former Chief Executive Officer who was charged with the administration of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Council in 1999-2000 for which the Auditor-General report relates; if so, what is this persons position and when was the person employed/contracted?
- (2) With which projects is the person associated?
- (3) Does the position involve any administration of finances?

Mr BEATTIE (22/6/01):

(1) Yes, the State Government has employed the former Chief Executive Officer of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Council. The person was employed as a casual project officer with the Cape York Partnerships Office. He commenced duties on 13 March 2000. He left this position on 8 June 2001.

(2) He was a project officer with the Cape York Partnerships Office.

(3) No, the position has no financial responsibilities.

238. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (29/5/01)—

With reference to Queensland Health policy which has allowed Gladstone Hospital management to direct male and female adult patients be moved to paediatric wards during the week-end and as this is not acceptable emotionally, socially or from a security perspective—

- (1) Why was this unacceptable practice allowed?
- (2) What ability have patients to refuse such requirements to shift?
- (3) What security measures are in place to ensure the safety of patients and in particular children?

Mrs EDMOND (28/6/01):

(1) Gladstone is a 93 bed hospital. At weekends, overall inpatient activity drops on average to approximately one third of maximum occupancy. In particular Ward 1B, where surgery cases are accommodated, has minimal activity on weekends. This is due to most surgery being carried out Monday to Friday with a large percentage of these being day surgery cases.

With the need for surgical beds greatly diminished on weekends and to better utilise nursing staff available, any patients remaining in that ward on Friday are transferred to Ward 1A (medical). On occasions it has been necessary due to the mix of patients to utilise a section of the family unit for patients awaiting discharge. In the event of peak workloads, beds can be reopened over a weekend period as an extension of Ward 1A.

Mixed patient wards in hospitals across the state, particularly in rural and most small hospitals, is an acceptable practice. Gladstone Hospital's family unit has the capability and appropriate skill of staff to care for all types of patients ie young, old, child or adult. Patient care is not compromised. With the much reduced activity during weekends efficiency of service delivery is in fact enhanced with the improved utilisation of nursing staff.

(2) If a patient requests not to be moved to, or to be moved from the family unit for any reason, this would be attended to. To date this has not been necessary.

(3) In all Wards, patients are placed in rooms according to sex and age. Some facilities are shared eg showers, kitchen, lounges etc, however, all paediatric patients have their own play room and bathroom/toilet facilities in the family unit. Safety and amenity of all patients is considered in all circumstances.

239. Fire Ants; Brookfield Showgrounds

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (29/5/01)—

With reference to the recently discovered infestation of fire ants on Crown Land at the Brookfield Show Grounds, and to the fact that this land is close to the Brisbane Forest Park lands and shares a common boundary with Brookfield State School—

- (1) Will he guarantee that funds will be allocated to rid the show grounds of fire ants before they migrate into Brisbane Forest Park and the school grounds?
- (2) Why is his department suggesting the fire ants might have been brought in with the landfill used to build the mounds for viewing the show, when the Department of Primary Industries, on 27 March 2001, issued a report indicating no fire ants had been found in samples taken from the site from where the landfill came?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01):

(1) The Queensland Government is taking the matter of Red Imported Fire Ant very seriously, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) being the lead agency.

I am advised that in the case of the fire ant infestation at Brookfield Showgrounds, initial treatment of the public viewing area was done by the Brookfield Show Society engaging a licensed pest controller.

The DPI has since undertaken broad scale treatment of Brookfield Showgrounds with AMDRO® Granular Ant Bait at no cost to the Show Society. Two treatments were applied in late May 2001 and the treatment results are being carefully monitored.

This prompt action by both the Show Society and DPI has ensured that the risk of fire ant infestation in Brisbane Forest Park and environs is minimal.

(2) I understand that DPI surveillance has confirmed a heavy fire ant infestation on land at Wacol from which the soil used to construct the public viewing area at Brookfield Showgrounds originated. This is clearly the way in which fire ant established at Brookfield and rules out the possibility of natural spread.

The report referred to by the Honourable Member should not be interpreted to mean that the site in question was free from fire ant. While the particular ant sample referred to in the report did not contain fire ant, I am advised by officers of the DPI that subsequent surveillance showed the site to be infested.

The situation at Brookfield Showgrounds will be monitored and further action taken as appropriate.

240. Integrity Commissioner

Mr QUINN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (29/5/01)—

With reference to the Integrity Commissioner—

- (1) What is the total remuneration package for the commissioner?
- (2) How many verbal or written references has the commissioner received from Members of Cabinet for each month since his appointment?
- (3) How many hours has the commissioner devoted to consideration of each reference?
- (4) Will he give a breakdown of expenses of office incurred by the commissioner since his appointment?

Mr BEATTIE (22/6/01): Mr Alan George Demack, AO, a retired judge of the Queensland Supreme Court became Australia's first Integrity Commissioner in August last year to confirm the Queensland Government's place as the national leader on integrity and ethics.

His job is to give advice on ethical issues to the Premier, Ministers, Government Members of Parliament and heads of Departments, and raise community awareness of ethical issues.

Mr Demack's appointment fulfilled an election commitment and set this Government apart as the only Australian jurisdiction with an Integrity Commissioner.

- (1) Mr Alan Demack AO was appointed as the first Queensland Integrity Commissioner on 24 August 2000. He is remunerated at 0.4 (two days per week) of the SES 3.5 equivalent, and has been appointed for a three-year term.
- (2) The Commissioner has received six requests by Members of Cabinet from 24 August 2000 to 31 May 2001.
- (3) Time spent on requests for advice varies depending on the complexity of each request. The average time spent providing advice on the above requests was 3.5 hours.
- (4) The breakdown of expenses as provided by Financial Services in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for the office, period 1 July 2000 to 31 May 2001, are as follows:

SALARY

Commissioner:

Salaries	38,403.69
Superannuation	5,022.00
Related on-costs	8,269.89
Subtotal	51,695.58

Executive Assistant

Salaries	31,303.13
Superannuation	1,977.58
Related on-costs	7,805.40
Subtotal	41,086.11
Subtotal	92,781.69

OFFICE

Office Expenses	5,999.42
Domestic travel	3,177.38
Telecommunications	1,082.61
Hospitality	339.04
Production of publications	2,212.83
Computer equipment	1,397.00
Minor capital works	1,189.00
Subtotal	15,397.28
Total	108,178.97

Total budget for 2000/2001—183,000.00

Some recent expenditure made prior to 31 May will not be included in the above figures as Financial Services has not yet debited them to this account.

241. Kawana Waters Fire Station

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (29/5/01)—

With reference to the projected growth within the Kawana area that has been identified in various planning documents including the Kawana Waters Development Control Plan—

Does the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service have any short or long term plans to upgrade, relocate or refurbish the Kawana Waters Fire Station; if so, what is the proposed time frame?

Mr REYNOLDS (28/6/01): The Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has developed service delivery plans that show that the Kawana Waters area of the Sunshine Coast is one of the most comprehensively serviced areas in Queensland. During the last two years the Queensland Government has invested approximately \$2.9m into the construction of new fire stations at both Caloundra and Maroochydore. These stations provide highly professional fire and rescue services throughout the Caloundra, Kawana, and Maroochydore areas. The Kawana Fire Station has provided a very effective fire service since February 1984. Mr Cummins has correctly pointed out that the Sunshine Coast is a high growth area. There are currently no short term plans to upgrade, relocate or refurbish the Kawana Waters Fire Station. The QFRA will continue to monitor trends and patterns in growth and service demand to assess the ongoing suitability of the current service delivery model for the Kawana area and will continue to ensure that the station is maintained to its usual high standard.

242. Brisbane River, Speed Boats

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Environment (29/5/01)—

With reference to residents in my electorate living next to the Brisbane River who often complain about the unnecessary noise emanating from speed boats on the river, particularly at weekends—

- (1) What measures are being considered to impose penalties in relation to excess riverboat noise?
- (2) How will this be monitored?

Mr WELLS (28/6/01):

(1) The Environmental Protection Regulation 1998 ('the Regulation') contains offences for noise from power boat sports. The EPA is responsible for enforcing noise offences from non-domestic sources unless the noise results from a boat race which has been approved by a local government.

Under the Regulation, a person must not make audible noise that affects the same residence for more than a continuous period of 2 minutes—

- (a) on a Sunday or public holiday, before 8 am or after 6.30 pm; or
- (b) on a Saturday or business day, before 7 am or after 7 pm.

A person must not use a power boat for sport at anytime during this period if the noise level is more than 75 dB(A), measured at least 30 metres from the power boat. A person who breaches the Regulation can be issued with a \$150 on-the-spot fine.

However, if a person believes that noise is causing a nuisance outside of regulated times and a nuisance complaint is made, the EPA will investigate. If the EPA considers that a noise offence has been committed, a nuisance abatement notice may be issued. In making its decision, the EPA considers criteria specified in the Regulation.

A person who does not comply with a nuisance abatement notice commits an offence unless the person can offer a reasonable excuse. The penalty for the offence is \$3,000 for an individual.

The EPA has worked closely with the Brisbane River Management Group (BRMG) to find a sensible balance between the community needs of riverside residents and the use of waterways for recreational and transportation purposes.

The department informs me that one course of action being pursued by the EPA is the preparation of a code of practice for various waterway users. The BRMG, in cooperation with key stakeholders, also intends to develop education materials and strategies to promote awareness, tolerance and understanding among river users and local communities.

(2) I am also informed by the department that monitoring is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation. If the complaint is about early morning or late evening power boat noise, then noise monitoring is carried out at the affected residence. If the complaint is about daytime noise, monitoring is conducted at least 30 metres from the shoreline where the boat is being used.

The EPA recently monitored noise from power boats at Fig Tree Pocket and Corinda on 26 January and 25 April 2001. This monitoring was conducted on public holidays because residents commonly report increases in recreational use of the Brisbane River on public holidays and weekends. Power boats monitored on these days were complying with the Regulation.

In response to complaints, the EPA has written to several power boat owners to advise them of the requirements of the legislation and to ensure that they are aware of the need to consider nearby residents. The EPA is also developing an education campaign for boat users, focusing on considerate behaviour.

243. Justice and Attorney-General Department, Legal Services

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (29/5/01)—

What has been the total value of out-sourced legal services for his department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services, including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provider?

Mr WELFORD (2/7/01): The total value of outsourced legal services for this department for the period 1 July 2000 to 31 May 2001 is \$ 870,766.35.

Attachment A lists who provided the services and the value of work undertaken by each legal service provider.

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

244. Public Works Department, Travel Expenditure

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (29/5/01)—

With reference to the Government's travel arrangements—

- (1) What is the 'standing offer arrangement' managed by the Department of Public Works?
- (2) What is the total cost of Government travel by the department to 30 April 1999, 30 April 2000 and 30 April 2001?
- (3) What is the total cost of Government travel by the department to 30 April 1999, 30 April 2000 and 30 April 2001 that is non-conforming (ie without proper warrants and authorisation or falls outside departmental policy)?

Mr SCHWARTEN (28/6/01):

(1) Queensland Purchasing, a Division of the Department of Public Works, has established and manages Standing Offer Arrangement No. 966 Travel Services which is available for the use of State Government Departments, Agencies and approved Non-Government Bodies throughout Queensland. Qantas is the Travel Manager under the arrangement—offering a full range of travel services. The services include:

- (a) Air Travel (domestic and international);
- (b) Accommodation;
- (c) Bus, Rail, Coach, Marine Charter and Charter Flights;
- (d) Short term Car Hire; and
- (e) Group and Conference booking.

(2) The total cost of Government travel by the department as per the requested dates is:

- a. \$1,318,413.05 (1 July 1998 to 30 April 1999);
- b. \$1,753,235.72 (1 May 1999 to 30 April 2000); and
- c. \$1,823,045.83 (1 May 2000 to 30 April 2001).

(3) I am advised that there is no known non-conformity, but directions have been given for a review to be undertaken by Internal Audit, Department of Public Works, as soon as priorities permit. If, however, the Honourable Member has any information or evidence which suggests non-conformity I will ensure that these are promptly and thoroughly investigated.

245. Olive Growers Expo, Parliament House

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (29/5/01)—

When will he be hosting an Olive Growers Expo at Parliament House showcasing Australia's premier olive growing area, the Inglewood Shire?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01): The Inglewood Shire in conjunction with olive producers, processors, and the business community are developing a significant profile for the region as the 'Olive Capital of Australia' and are to be congratulated on taking the initiative promote the development of this growing industry.

I am informed that an olive oil processing plant is under development and a 'working group' has been formed to develop plans to create the 'Inglewood International Olive Training Centre of Excellence'. This Centre will deliver specific 'industry based skills training' for the olive industry of South Queensland and Australia. Officers of the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) are assisting the Queensland olive industry in developing these plans and initiatives.

In addition, DPI officers are planning to develop Quality Assurance Hazard Analysis Critical Control management systems for oil and pickling processes for the olive industry. This research will be critical for the future of the olive industry in the production of high quality olive oil, where the Australian industry may compete domestically and internationally for market share and produce cost-effective returns on investment.

The DPI will continue to work with the olive industry to enhance its development and promotional opportunities, which may include an event at Parliament House.

246. Unfair Dismissal Laws

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (30/5/01)—

With reference to the current unfair dismissal regimes—

How many unfair dismissal applications were taken to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission for each of the last four years by (a) region or locality and (b) size of the business concerned?

Mr NUTTALL (29/6/01): The Registrar of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission informs me that the statistics sought are not kept.

The Registrar has statistics as to the number of applications filed each calendar year, which for the last four years are—

- Year 1997—1970
- Year 1998—1812
- Year 1999—1595
- Year 2000—1713
- Year 2001 (to 31 May)—782

247. Somerset Dam; South East Queensland Water Corporation

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (30/5/01)—

With reference to the South East Queensland Water Corporation's economic rationalisation of closing the Somerset Dam camping grounds—

- (1) As the high cost of waste water removal is the major contributing factor to this closure, in the year 2001, does this seem acceptable that a township should be without adequate waste water treatment facilities?
- (2) Does he consider it imperative that the Government provide the appropriate funding to sewer Somerset Dam, thus ensuring the camping grounds remain open, as well as guaranteeing the water quality for South-East Queensland, a fact which has continued to escape the relevant authorities?
- (3) As the administration of formerly Government owned assets is now the responsibility of the South-East Queensland Water Corporation and the Government still retains 20 per cent ownership of this corporation, why can't the Government honour its community service obligation and contribute to the maintenance of facilities and prevent the introduction of the unjust and discriminatory facility fee (picnic tax)?
- (4) As these facilities have been acquired and developed with taxpayers' money, how many times do the people have to pay for them?
- (5) As it was reported when the land was reclaimed that the camping ground and maintenance thereof was a trade-off for the land that was covered with water, does the Government now revoke that commitment?

Mr ROBERTSON (29/6/01): (1-5) Somerset Dam and the associated facilities are now owned by the South East Queensland Water Corporation (SEQWCo), an entity established under Corporations Law. The company is owned by the Brisbane City Council, surrounding local governments and by the State Government.

The State Government's holding in the company is a minority holding (20%) and therefore the State cannot dictate what the company might or might not do with its camping grounds.

On this basis and because I have only certain regulatory responsibilities under the State's water legislation, it is not appropriate that I respond in detail to these questions.

I can however, make the following comments.

As I understand it, questions of waste water treatment and disposal are essentially matters for the company and for the relevant local government. The State's interests in a regulatory sense rest with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Local Government and Planning administers any applicable State subsidy that might be available to support local government projects of this type.

Additionally, it is erroneous to suggest that the South East Queensland Water Corporation dams were developed with taxpayer's money. The dams, and their associated facilities are in effect being paid for by the water users of South East Queensland through their council water rates and through the bulk water supply charges from the company to its customer local governments.

I can therefore understand that the Board of the company has a priority focus on delivery of bulk water to its shareholding local governments at lowest possible cost. Similarly, I can understand that many in the community have enjoyed the recreational opportunities the company's dams provide.

Ultimately, decisions relating to these facilities rests with the company board, no doubt in consultation with their shareholders 80% of whom are local governments in the region. In other words, the State's role in this instance is limited by its minority shareholder status. Any significant changes to the South East Queensland Water Corporation's operations would need to be agreed by the other shareholders; i.e. the local governments.

248. South East Freeway, Transit Lanes

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/01)—

With reference to the transit lanes on the South East Freeway—

- (1) What was the reason for reducing the standard of the transit lane from the planned T3 to T2?
- (2) When was this decision made?
- (3) Have the T2 transit lane signs been approved in the manual of uniform traffic control devices?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/6/01):

(1) There has been no reduction in the standard of the transit lanes on the Pacific Motorway, but it is true that I approved a joint Main Roads/Queensland Transport portfolio recommendation to introduce the transit lanes as T2 in lieu of T3. The government's preferred long-term strategy is to convert the lanes to T3 usage, at a time when vehicle occupancy rates and the traffic conditions are expected to warrant this management option.

Surveys of vehicle occupancy on the Pacific Motorway in recent times indicated that less than five percent of vehicles fall into the T3 category, whereas approximately twenty percent of vehicles are T2. The motorway currently carries about 4,400 inbound vehicles per hour in the morning peak hour. The T3 lane would carry less than 200 of these, and the general traffic lanes would carry more than 2,100 vehicles per lane. By comparison, the T2 lane carries about 800 vehicles, reducing the loading in the general traffic lanes to a more manageable 1,800 per lane.

I envisage that in the future when traffic congestion increases and the benefits of ride sharing are more widely recognised by commuters, that the adoption of a T3 strategy will become more preferable.

(2) I endorsed the decision to adopt the introductory T2 strategy on the Pacific Motorway in March of this year.

(3) The Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices includes the provision of signage for transit lanes which can be adopted for either T2 or T3 facilities.

249. Hardwood Plantations

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/01)—

With reference to the establishment of hardwood plantations under the Government's purported South East Queensland Regional Forest Agreement—

- (1) How many hectares were established by the State Government in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively?

- (2) How many hectares were established under joint venture arrangements by Government and the private sector in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01 respectively?
- (3) What was the cost of these plantation establishments for each year?
- (4) How many hectares had to be re-established in each of these years, what was the reason for planting failures and what was the cost?
- (5) What are the programmed plantings by area, location and year over each of the next 10 years?
- (6) Will further land have to be acquired; if so, what is the budgeted cost of the new acquisitions?
- (7) What is the availability of suitable land types for hardwood plantations to satisfy the requirements of the Regional Forest Agreement?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01):

(1) The State Government's South-East Queensland Forests Agreement (SEQFA) commenced in September 1999. The following areas have been established since the commencement of the Agreement:

Period—Area (Ha)

1999-2000—297

2000-01 (To 21 May 2001)—994

2000-01 (22 May 2001 to 30 June 2001 estimated)—59

Total—1350

(2) SEQFA Joint Venture arrangements established between the Government and the private sector are as follows:

Period—Area (Ha)

1999-2000—273.6

2000-2001—451.8

Total—725.4

Data includes private, corporate and individual landowner arrangements

(3) The cost of plantation establishment was:

Period—Cost

1999-2000—\$688,135

2000-2001 (Actual to 31 May 2001)—\$1,423,697

2000-2001 (1 June 2001 to 30 June 2001 estimated)—\$129,400

Total \$2,241,232

(4) Re-establishment was undertaken in 1999-2000 due to prolonged wet conditions that impacted on several sites whilst in 2000-01, two (2) projects required re-establishment as a result of wildfires.

Period	Area (Ha)	Cost
1999-2000	16.6	\$9,459
2000-2001	8.0	No funds committed to date. (Estimated cost \$4,800).

There are plant refills in areas where individual trees are lost due to unfavourable climatic conditions following planting. These are considered routine.

(5) The SEQ Hardwood Plantation Program ends on 30 June 2003. To date 2200 hectares have been secured by the program. It is anticipated that the balance of 2800 hectares will be secured through equity, rental and acquisition arrangements by the end of December 2002.

While the program has areas of interest for plantation establishment (Burnett, Mary Valley, Boonah-Beaudesert) it relies on expressions of interest from the public to achieve its targets. It is not practical to detail where each hectare will be established over the next two years.

(6) Additional land will be acquired by the program for hardwood plantation establishment. It is estimated that up to \$4 million could be committed to land in strategic locations however this will reduce if there is strong public interest in land rental and equity arrangements.

(7) The availability of suitable land is driven by market prices and competing land uses. Decisions regarding acquisition either by purchase, Joint Venture or land rental arrangements will be based on commercial principles. In many areas the value of land is such that acquisition for plantations is not a commercial proposition. Also, acquisition strategies seek to optimise the benefits returning to the rural community.

250. TAFE, Training Positions

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (30/5/01)—

Will he provide a detailed breakdown for each TAFE college in Queensland including (a) the number of full-time funded training positions at each college for each of the past three years and (b) the number of part-time funded training positions at each college for each of the last three years?

Mr FOLEY (28/6/01): The information being sought by the Honourable Member is unclear. However, based on the assumption that this question is about trainees employed by TAFE Institutes under the Public Sector Employment Initiative, a breakdown of public sector traineeships at each TAFE Institute in Queensland for 1998-99, 1999-00 and 2000-01 is attached. These figures include trainees who commenced but subsequently cancelled.

TAFE Institutes	Trainees	Trainees	Trainees
	Commenced 1998/99	Commenced 1999/00	Commenced 2000/01
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE	4	10	17
Bremer Institute of TAFE	21	10	17
Brisbane Institute of TAFE	26	21	21
Central Queensland Institute of TAFE	31	26	31
Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE	10	10	12
Gold Coast Institute of TAFE	4	5	6
Logan Institute of TAFE	10	6	7
Moreton Institute of TAFE	20	17	20
Mt Isa Institute of TAFE	5	5	4
North Point Institute of TAFE	6	5	4
Open Learning Institute of TAFE	3	3	1
Southbank Institute of TAFE	12	9	10
Southern Qld Institute of TAFE	12	16	18
Tropical North Qld Institute of TAFE	12	4	2
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE	33	29	33
Yeronga Institute of TAFE	9	6	0
Totals	218	182	203

251. Brisbane River, Pedestrian Bridge; QUT

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/5/01)—

- (1) Will he confirm whether any of the companies contracted by the Queensland University of Technology to undertake associated work on the Brisbane Footbridge were under notice of suspension from the Queensland Building Services Authority at the time they were awarded a contract?
- (2) Will he confirm whether any of these companies subsequently collapsed leaving subcontractors out of pocket?

Mr SCHWARTEN (29/6/01):

- (1) I am advised that the Queensland Building Services Authority has no knowledge of the companies contracted by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) for these works and, as such, cannot provide me with information on their financial position or those of their subcontractors.
- (2) I can only suggest that the Honourable Member seek further information directly from the QUT.

252. 'Growing Tourism' Brochure

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (30/5/01)—

With reference to the colour brochure 'Growing Tourism' which is a summary of the Government's tourism strategy—

- (1) What was the cost of production of this brochure, including cost of printing and preparation?
- (2) How many brochures were printed?
- (3) What was the cost of distribution?
- (4) To whom were these brochures distributed?

Mrs ROSE (2/7/01):

- (1) The Growing Tourism Brochure was produced to inform industry and other stakeholders about the government's strategic direction for growing the tourism industry in Queensland. Total costs associated with producing the brochure amounted to \$5431.00. Costs were minimised through producing a summarised version of the Strategy in an A4 fold out leaflet format.
- (2) 10,000 brochures were printed.
- (3) Total cost of distribution was \$7,681.41.
- (4) The brochures were distributed to Queensland tourism operators and other stakeholders using Tourism Queensland's existing distribution network database. Additional copies have been provided to other interested parties on an as required basis.

253. Drug Rehabilitation and Detoxification Beds

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (30/5/01)—

Will she reveal where and how many drug rehabilitation and detoxification beds are located in the Government and non-Government sector across Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (29/6/01): A wide variety of alcohol and drug treatment services are provided throughout Queensland by a network of agencies located in the government, non-government and private sector. Queensland Health conducts a survey of alcohol and drug services within the State every three years. This information is detailed in the publication 'Alcohol and Other Drug Services in Queensland 1999: Inventory of Specialist Agencies'. The inventory of services includes details of residential/hospital withdrawal programs; assessment and treatment centres; counselling services; health promotion campaigns; community development initiatives; and information, training and research activities. This publication is available on the Queensland Health website.

Since the publication of the document, the Beattie Government has allocated funding for 46 additional residential treatment beds (accommodating approximately 102 clients per year) and 4 detoxification beds (accommodating approximately 200 clients per year based on a 1 week detoxification) for the drug court trial. An extra 41 outpatient places,

(which facilitates 82 clients per year), have also been funded to respond to the needs of clients for whom residential services are not appropriate or preferred.

Funding in the recent State Budget amounted to \$500,000 for additional services in regional areas to provide 40 residential drug treatment beds in North Queensland, including 10 beds each in Cairns and Townsville for Drug Court clients. Ten residential rehabilitation beds have also been identified for Mackay.

The Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) has the most up-to-date database of alcohol and drug programs and services, including contact details. ADIS offers a statewide 24-hour 7 days per week telephone information and counselling service and is a vital link for people in rural and remote communities. It is the first point of contact for many people who can then be referred to the relevant service. ADIS can be contacted on (07) 3236 2414 or for callers outside Brisbane on 1800 177 833. ADIS receives approximately 40,000 calls per year and funding to this service has increased by \$115,000 per year since 1999 for additional counsellors to answer calls at peak times, enhancing services to the Queensland community.

254. Primary Industries Department, Consultancies

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/01)—

Will he provide a schedule of all contract/consultancy expenditure during the 2000-01 Budget period which provides the purpose of each contract/consultancy, whether or not each contract/consultancy was publicly advertised, the name of the firm or individual that conducted each contract/consultancy, the current status of each contract/consultancy and the cost of each contract/consultancy?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01): 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 the financial statements which are included in the Department's Annual Report. The financial statements are required to be completed by 30 September 2001 with the Annual Report to be completed by 31 October 2001, to be tabled in Parliament in early November 2001.

Accordingly, I would refer the Honourable Member to the information contained in the Department's 2000-2001 Annual Report, once tabled.

255. Cairns Bus Services; Sunbus

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/01)—

With reference to traffic congestion being experienced in the Southern Corridor into Cairns and to the Beattie Government which has been proactive in encouraging commuters to take up the public transport option to relieve the pressure on our road networks and as the State Government affords considerable financial support to a private sector provider 'Sunbus' that services the Cairns area—

- (1) What action is the Department of Transport taking to ensure any new contract entered into with Sunbus will result in a service that is accessible to all suburban areas from Whiterock to Gordonvale?
- (2) What mechanism has been put in place to allow for community input into the proposed routes and frequency of service?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/6/01):

(1) I am advised by the Department of Transport that the new contract for bus services in Cairns will ensure that the existing level of service is maintained. The initial contract was issued in June 1995 and since that time patronage on general services (i.e. excluding school-only services) has doubled and there have been very significant improvements to the level of service. For example services for Gordonvale have risen from a handful a day to hourly services from 7am to 10 pm. Services to new areas will be introduced as funding becomes available. In this regard the department is currently undertaking a major public transport study which will look at the existing network of services. One of the issues this study will address is what improvements would need to be made from the areas to the south of Cairns to have an impact on the traffic congestion that occurs in this area. The new contract is structured to easily allow the incorporation of additional services that may be required over the term of the contract.

(2) The public transport study that is currently under way will include major consultation with the community on improvements that need to be made to the existing network of services.

256. Ambulance Service, Warwick

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (30/5/01)—

Have his staff evaluated the gains to local ambulance committees which attended the recent conference in Warwick and will he give details of the conference?

Mr REYNOLDS (29/6/01): The Local Ambulance Committee (LAC) Biennial Conference conducted by the Commissioner of the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) at Warwick on the 6th-8th April 2001 was a primary means of updating the Committees on the policy and operational issues and trends evident in the delivery of ambulance services throughout Queensland. The Conference also provides LAC representatives with the opportunity to meet with the Commissioner and his Senior Officers to provide them with ambulance service performance feedback from the local communities. I consider the LAC Conference to be one of the Department's most important key stakeholder forums on the emergency services calendar.

Three concurrent policy development workshops were conducted as a feature of the Conference. They involved the topics of LAC submissions to the QAS; GST implications for QAS and LACs; and the CPR 2000 Project. General issues which emerged from the floor of the Conference were; Remote Area Staffing; Rural Road Addressing; Drug Awareness Program; and the role of QAS in patient rescue.

The recent Conference at Warwick was well attended with 150 Representatives present and I am advised that the participation and satisfaction with the Conference was high. LAC representatives are currently reporting back to their Local

Committees on the Conference proceedings and will then provide the Commissioner with a formal feedback survey on the benefit of the Conference to them.

I understand that the Honourable Member was present at the Conference and was able to observe the open and full participation of LAC representatives. I was able to attend the Conference on the Sunday and this afforded me the opportunity to personally meet with many of the LAC representatives. The frank communication I received and the obvious high level of enthusiasm and commitment to the ongoing success of our Queensland Ambulance Service was immensely encouraging.

On my behalf and as a component of our International Year of Volunteers program, the Commissioner presented the LAC representatives with a QAS Commemorative Badge and Commissioner's Commendation at the Conference Dinner in recognition of the valuable and necessary support our LAC volunteers provide to the QAS.

257. Drivers Licences; Learners Permits

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/01)—

With reference to the issue and administration of driver's licences, the current practise is for a licence holder requiring authority to drive a different class of vehicle to apply for a Learner's Permit subject to passing the relevant written test—

Will he consider that the issue of an Open Licence for whatever class of vehicle, also be taken to act as a Learner's Permit for all other classes of vehicle, therefore cutting back considerably, I would have thought, on administration costs?

Mr BREDHAUER (27/6/01): Driver licences are issued in accordance with the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) Regulation 1999. This regulation authorises the holder of a driver licence to learn to drive the next class for which they are eligible without having to obtain a learner licence.

The only exceptions to this authority are—

first time licence holders must obtain a learner licence to drive the particular class they are eligible for.

to progress from a class C (car) to class HR (heavy combination), the learner must obtain a learner licence. (This is not in accordance with the national practice and is proposed to be amended this year to give class C licence holders the same authority to learn to drive class HR as for the other classes.)

first time motorbike riders must obtain a learner licence.

This means that the majority of learners do not need to obtain a learner licence but are automatically authorised to learn to drive the next class they are eligible for, without obtaining a learner licence.

This applies to Provisional and Open Licence holders.

258. Glasshouse Mountains; Tourism Queensland

Ms MALE asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (30/5/01)—

With reference to the allocated Budget to Tourism Queensland—

What strategies are in place to ensure that the Glasshouse Mountains hinterland area receives adequate exposure from the advertising Budget?

Mrs ROSE (2/7/01): The Sunshine Coast Hinterland area, including the Glasshouse Mountains, is part of the Tourism Sunshine Coast region. It is an integral part of the overall domestic and international marketing mix and a natural inclusion in Sunshine Coast domestic and international marketing campaigns. The region is also part of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Country program targeting the Brisbane short break market.

Hinterland operators who are members of the regional tourist organisation, Tourism Sunshine Coast, can choose to participate in either or both the Sunshine Coast and SEQ Country marketing programs, depending on individual marketing priorities, and are entitled to access a range of campaign based and cooperative advertising opportunities. The same opportunities are available to Hinterland operators as all other operators who are members of Tourism Sunshine Coast.

259. Kawana Electorate, Crime Prevention

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (30/5/01)—

What crime prevention strategies, including programs targeting young people, are being implemented (or considered for future introduction) in the Kawana, Buderim and Maroochydhore areas?

Mr McGRADY (6/7/01): There are currently a number of crime prevention initiatives in place or being implemented by local police which target young people in the Kawana, Buderim and Maroochydhore areas. These programs include operations aimed at kerbing motor vehicle and theft from motor vehicle crimes though operations such as Bad Behaviour, JUMP (Juvenile Unlawful use Motor vehicle Program), CORE (Car Offences Reduction and Enforcement) and Operation 'Plaza' targeting theft from motor vehicles.

In addition to this, projects such as the Mooloolaba Safe Program, Street Angels, Operation BOOZAK (Targeting underage drinking) and Project 'Physical Safety' (targeting teenagers who are at risk of becoming a victim of crime). There are also a number of proactive programs aimed at offering youth alternative activities such as, Under 18 Dance Parties, a Police Citizens Youth Club (Nambour) and Blue Light Discos being held once a month in the Maroochydhore/Buderim, Nambour, Noosa and Caloundra areas.

260. Premier and Cabinet Department, Legal Services

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (30/5/01)—

What has been the total value of out-sourced legal services for his department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services, including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provided?

Mr BEATTIE (22/6/01): During the period 1 July 2000 to 31 May 2001, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet paid a total of \$103,217.42 for outsourced legal services. The providers and value of these services are as follows: Clayton UTZ—\$2,280.50; G J Gibson, QC—\$2,380.00; G Hiley, QC—\$25,915.00; M Liddy—\$2,112.50; A I Phillippides, SC—\$7,050.00; P Poynton—\$28,872.00; A Preston—\$17,287.00; and Terry Fisher & Co—\$17,320.42.

261. Advanced Health Directive

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/5/01)—

With reference to legislation that commenced on 1 June 1998, allowing residents in Queensland to make an Advanced Health Directive—

- (1) Has his department undertaken any research as to how successful the legislation is in allowing Queenslanders the opportunity to provide instructions about their future health care?
- (2) If research has been undertaken, what was the results of the research, and, in particular, how successful has the Advanced Health Directive been in enabling applicants to ask for only palliative care?

Mr WELFORD (2/7/01):

(1) No research has been undertaken to date. With an initiative such as this, the overall effectiveness is difficult to assess with accuracy until a sufficient time has elapsed to allow people who have made Advance Health Directives to get into a situation where their directions (if relating to end of life care) would have to be acted upon.

(2) Not necessary to answer part (2) given the answer to part (1).

262. HIH Insurance

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/5/01)—

What action can policy holders of HIH take to make their financial commitment on outstanding claims?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/6/01): In respect of the Queensland Compulsory Third Party (CTP) scheme, the Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994 provides that if a licensed CTP insurer becomes insolvent, the Nominal Defendant becomes the insurer under the relevant CTP policies.

CTP policyholders who had policies with FAI General Insurance Company Limited that had expired on or before 31 December 2000 should forward any CTP claims made against them to the Nominal Defendant as the Nominal Defendant is covering their liability.

CTP policies with FAI General Insurance Company Limited which were still current as at 31 December 2000 became part of the Allianz-FAI joint venture and the liability is covered by Allianz.

In relation to other insurance products underwritten by HIH, the Federal Government recently announced a form of rescue package to apply to some 30,000 hardship cases amongst 50,000 HIH policyholders. Under the plan, a non-profit company, HIH Claims Support Pty Ltd has been set up to process selected HIH claims involving individuals and small businesses. Federal government consolidated revenue will fund payments under this plan. The payments may not be to the extent of 100% of the claim. The contact number for HIH Claims Support Pty Ltd is 1800 055 544.

Where policyholders have lost the unused portion of their premiums they should register a claim with the HIH provisional liquidator, KPMG. Larger businesses with claims not covered by the Federal rescue package should also register their claims with the provisional liquidator. KPMG have established a HIH help line on 1800 600 400 to assist claimants, policyholders and shareholders.

263. Drug Education

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (30/5/01)—

With reference to the responsibility for the education system to provide drug education programs in our schools—

What is the amount expended on drug education in Queensland schools for each of the previous four years by (a) school grade delivered to, (b) program, (c) region or locality and (d) breakdown of origin of funding from either State or Federal Budgets?

Ms BLIGH (3/7/01): Drug education in schools has changed significantly over the past four years as the focus has shifted from solely centrally conducted activities to a combination of systemic activities and initiatives to enhance the capacity of schools to plan and deliver effective and integrated drug education.

Drug education once consisted of a visit from an external organisation or a packaged resource. It is now a classroom-based teacher-led approach addressing issues like decision-making, self-esteem and assertion and social skills. This new integrated approach to drug education contributes to the learning outcomes in the Health and Physical Education Syllabus.

This approach is consistent with the National Principles for Drug Education in Schools, a coordinated initiative of the States, Territories and Commonwealth governments—published by the University of Canberra 1994.

These changes in the contemporary approach to teaching and supporting drug education in schools mean that it is not possible to reflect the resourcing of drug education in the format requested. However, significant resources are devoted to the implementation of the Health and Physical Education Syllabus and a range of related programs which includes support from school police, nurses and chaplains.

264. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/5/01)—

With reference to the *Courier-Mail* article relating to the State Government's plan to lease the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal to private enterprise which is set to deliver up to \$600m—

- (1) Will he detail the amount of dividend the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal has returned to the Government through the port corporation for 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000?
- (2) Will he also provide details on the operational costs of this facility for those financial years?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/6/01):

(1) No dividends were declared by the Ports Corporation of Queensland, the owner of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT) in 1997-1998 and 1998-1999. The Corporation declared and paid a dividend of \$18.2 million in respect of the 1999-2000 financial year.

No dissection of the dividend between individual port facilities is available, however, as DBCT is the largest of the Corporation's assets and produces the greater part of its operating revenues, it would be expected that the majority of the 1999-2000 dividend relates to the DBCT.

(2) For 1999-2000, the Corporation entered into a new operating and maintenance contract and new user agreements for the DBCT, which gave the Corporation access to operating expenditure information for the first time. In 1999-2000 operating and maintenance expenses in respect of the DBCT amounted to \$31.9 million, which was directly recovered from port users.

In prior years, as revenue was paid directly to the coal terminal's operator, DBCT Pty Ltd, by port users, operating expenditure details are not available.

265. Employment Programs, Mature Age Unemployed

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (30/5/01)—

What programs, now and in the future, are targeting mature age unemployed people?

Mr FOLEY (28/6/01): Two new programs will complement existing programs under the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative which have already provided jobs and training opportunities for long term unemployed persons over 45 years of age.

However, as experience from existing programs and research undertaken indicates this age group faces particular difficulties in re-entering the workforce, the Government is focusing on this area of specific need.

The Government is committed therefore to provide better support and opportunities for mature aged job seekers and in recognition of this commitment, will introduce two key initiatives from 1 July 2001.

One of these initiatives—Experience Pays—is a wage subsidy to boost job opportunities for mature aged job seekers through the provision of a \$4,400 wage subsidy to private sector employers. This wage subsidy will complement the skills development and employment preparation assistance that is available through other Breaking the Unemployment Cycle programs. It is expected that at least 1,350 eligible job seekers will be assisted in this way over three years.

The other initiative—Back to Work—is a job ready program that will help over-45 job seekers to get a grasp of computers, the Internet and other information technologies—skills that will enable them to return to the workforce. This program is likely to assist 3,000 job seekers over three years. They will also learn new job search skills so they will be better placed to seek job opportunities and to market their experience and skills.

Back to Work will be delivered by Learning Network Queensland during the coming year. They will use the latest communications technology to make this assistance available in 50 locations across the State. This is very exciting especially for those in rural and remote communities who will be able to access this valuable assistance in their own communities.

These two new programs are proof that the State Government is treating mature-age unemployment with the seriousness it deserves.

They are proof of the Government's commitment to helping over-45s regain their position as valued members of the workforce.

266. Primary Industries, Animal and Plant Health

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/01)—

With reference to his department's role in the maintenance of the animal and plant health status of Queensland's primary industries—

- (1) What are the prospects of eradicating the respective outbreaks of black sigatoka, red fire ants, crazy ants and tuberculosis?
- (2) What contingency funds have been set aside to deal with the outbreak of exotic pests and diseases in Queensland?
- (3) Does the Government expect Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to accommodate these costs within its budget or will a special allocation be made by Treasury to meet these?
- (4) What contribution has the Market Access and Development Unit made towards funding DPI's \$10m liability to the East Coast Trawl Management Plan?
- (5) Which programs/services have had to be discontinued, scaled down or amalgamated to accommodate that contribution?
- (6) What impact have those cuts had on the services provided to specific industries?
- (7) What other cost-saving measures have been taken within the Market Access and Development Unit?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01):

(1) In relation to Fire Ants, a national scientific advisory panel meeting held on 30 May 2001 advised that it is considered technically feasible, although difficult and complex, to eradicate this pest given its present distribution. Eradication

measures will depend on SCARM members support for cost sharing arrangements for an anticipated 5-7 year eradication program.

A national scientific panel, DPI and industry representatives have collectively provided an assessment that eradication of the current outbreak of black Sigatoka is feasible, although difficult. A four stage eradication program over 2 years, requiring grower cooperation for success has been identified. SCARM members funding support is being progressed.

I am further advised that national scientific and administrative bodies and DPI are fully confident that the recently detected cases of bovine tuberculosis will be eradicated within the time frames specified by guidelines under the national Tuberculosis Freedom Assurance Program (TFAP)

I am advised that given the current contained distribution in Cairns and the biology of Crazy Ants, eradication of this pest is expected to be quite feasible. DPI is contributing scientific and technical support to the multi-agency Taskforce currently operating in Cairns.

(2) \$0.750m was set aside within DPI at the beginning of 2000-2001 for additional costs relating to emergency responses to pests and diseases. This amount was of course over and above existing departmental costs and resources that are budgeted for and allocated on an annual basis to respond to exotic pests and diseases.

(3) Under standing administrative and inter-governmental arrangements, particularly national cost sharing arrangements, the Queensland Government will fully fund its proportion of costs for any agreed emergency response program implemented as a result of any exotic pest or disease that breaches Australia's quarantine barriers.

(4) In 2000-2001, the Market Access and Development output funded \$0.227m of the East Coast Trawl Management Plan, being approximately 0.5% of the total operating expenses of this output.

(5) I am advised that no programs have been discontinued, scaled down or amalgamated.

(6) See answer to 5) above.

(7) I am advised that operational efficiency savings have been made in such areas as business systems, labour costs, vehicle use, travel, and administration support services.

267. Teachers

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education (30/5/01) (30/5/01)—

With reference to the general perception of the Queensland public that there is a shortage of secondary and primary school teachers in out State and given the State Government's 'Jobs, Jobs, Jobs' policy—

Will she provide for 2000 the (a) total number of education graduates, both secondary and primary, (b) total number of graduates who secured full-time employment in Queensland as teachers in Government schools, (c) total number of graduates who secured full-time employment as teachers in Queensland non-Government schools, (d) number of graduates who are employed in Government schools on a part-time or 'supply teaching' basis and (e) number of graduates who have left Queensland to work as teachers in other States?

Ms BLIGH (3/7/01):

(a) Number of education graduates

The latest verified figures available for graduates from Queensland Universities is 1999 completions data.

There were 3 585 education graduates from Queensland universities who completed their university courses in 1999

Of these, 2 024 completed their initial teacher training with:

771 in primary education

707 in secondary education, and

546 in early childhood, special and other types of education.

(b) Number of graduates employed full-time in government schools

The latest verified figures available for graduates from Queensland Universities is 1999 completions data.

Data available from the department's Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) indicated that the number of teacher graduates who were employed in a permanent full-time or permanent part-time capacity by Education Queensland in 2000, was 1292.

(c) Number of graduates employed full-time in non-government schools

The data available relates only to teachers who first registered with the Board of Teacher Registration in 2000. These are not necessarily all new graduates.

The Board of Teacher Registration has identified 430 teachers who were first registered in 2000, whose initial qualification is from a Queensland university and who advised they were teaching in non-government primary or secondary schools (approximately 181 in the Catholic education system).

(d) Number of graduates employed on a part-time or supply teaching basis in government schools

The latest verified figures available for graduates from Queensland Universities is 1999 completions data.

Data available from the department's HRMIS indicates that:

1 529 graduates have been employed in a temporary (full-time or part-time) capacity on short-term engagements of varying duration during 2000; and

953 graduates have been engaged in casual supply teaching duties during 2000.

(e) Number of graduates who left Queensland to work as teachers in other states

The Board of Teacher Registration identified 160 teachers who were first registered in 2000, whose initial qualification is from a Queensland university and whose postcode indicates that they are living outside Queensland.

These graduates may not necessarily be working as teachers.

Note: The total number of teacher graduates (2000), does not equal the sum of the individual totals due to the overlapping nature of the categories and the fact that some figures represent data outside of the year 2000 period.

268. Malanda, Counselling Services

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Education (30/5/01)—

With reference to representations which have been made to her by Mary Shaw, coordinator of the Malanda-based Dairy Deregulation Strategic Response Group of the Social Strategy Taskforce and I understand that she has pointed out that while the Malanda community will soon have the services of a counsellor funded by the Dairy Regional Assistance Program, grave concern has been expressed about the limited counselling services available to school students at Malanda and as the group fears children are the forgotten ones who quietly try to deal with the many problems that are arising in their homes and that help is needed to cope with these situations—

- (1) Has consideration been given to the group's request for a full-time guidance counsellor to be made available to both primary and secondary schools in Malanda to try to deal with the problem?
- (2) What is the result of that consideration?

Ms BLIGH (3/7/01): Tablelands-Johnstone District personnel, on request from the local District Education Services Reference Committee, (including representatives from school clusters, of which Malanda State High School and Malanda State School are part), continue to aggregate guidance officer and behaviour management positions to maximise guidance officer numbers. This strategy provides enhanced 'on the ground' guidance and counselling services to students in our schools.

As a result of this strategy, Malanda State High School and Malanda State School each receive a 0.5 guidance officer allocation.

269. Riverbanks, Dumping of Gravel

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (30/5/01)—

With reference to constituents in my electorate who have lost a court case because they followed Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advice that the land between the two high banks of a river belongs to the Crown and as the constituents had a DNR permit to dump gravel on that land and the court awarded in favour of the land owner against these constituents, claiming this land belongs to the property owner and as DNR checked and were told that the land is definitely Crown land—

- (1) Does the land between the high banks of a river belong to the Crown, or to the owners of the adjacent properties?
- (2) If it is the Crown, who is responsible for the loss incurred by my constituents through the erroneous court interpretation?
- (3) If it is the landholder, what happens concerning the royalties collected by DNR in the past for gravel dumped on privately owned land?

Mr ROBERTSON (2/7/01):

- (1) The Water Resources Act 1989 provides that:

the bed and banks of a boundary water course is the property of the State; and

the bed and banks of a watercourse is that land on which water flows normally or intermittently.

Consequently, it is a question of fact to be determined in each individual circumstance what the 'normal or intermittent flow' is in the watercourse to establish what land is the property of the Crown and what land is the property of the landowner.

The above principles are also encapsulated within the Water Act 2000.

- (2) In the recent District Court decision in *Dunn v Howard*, Howard was ordered to pay damages to Dunn.

The 'loss' lies with Howard because the Court found that:

the land on which the spoil was deposited was not within the bed and banks of the water course as defined by the Water Resources Act 1989;

Howard had failed to comply with the terms of the permit issued by my Department; and

the area in which the spoil was deposited was Dunn's land and that Howard had trespassed on Dunn's land.

- (3) In the *Dunn v Howard* matter royalties had not been paid to NR&M by either Dunn or Howard.

270. Fuel Subsidy Scheme

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/5/01)—

With reference to the announced changes to the State's fuel taxation regime introduced in October 2000 which forced bulk-end users, including farmers, bus operators and small business people into a cumbersome system where they buy fuel and reclaim the rebate quarterly—

- (1) How many bulk-end users have claimed the rebate?
- (2) How many bulk-end users will benefit from the new arrangements?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/6/01):

- (1) To date, 6,103 licensed bulk end users have claimed a subsidy.

(2) It is estimated that around 50% of licensed bulk end users who have made a claim will benefit from the recently announced new arrangements. These arrangements provide for upfront provisional payments of up to \$500 for eligible bulk end users with annual claims not exceeding that figure.

271. National Parks

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (30/5/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a complete breakdown of capital expenditure in national parks by (a) national park, (b) type of capital work, (c) amount and (d) date completed?
- (2) Will he also provide a list of identified capital works as yet uncompleted or not yet commenced and an estimated cost?

Mr WELLS (2/7/01):

- (1) Given that there are numerous current capital works on National Parks varying from approximately \$1,000—near \$500,000 the table below shows a summary of budgeted and expended funding by QPWS Region.

Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service (QPWS) Region	Budgeted Capital Costs \$'000's	Estimated Expenditure to 30 June 2001 \$'000's
Southern Region	4,126	2,794
Central Region	2,513	1,796
Northern Region	2,084	1,280

- (2) See Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

272. Gold Coast, Education Facilities

Mrs REILLY asked the Minister for Education (30/5/01)—

With reference to the rapid growth of the Gold Coast region which has created an enormous demand for education facilities, particularly in the hinterland area as the Gold Coast expands west of the coastal strip and within my electorate, the primary schools are filled to capacity and there is no high school to service the area and as nearly all the primary and high schools in the neighbouring areas are also at maximum capacity—

As the Government has a proposed plan to address these issues, will she outline this proposal?

Ms BLIGH (3/7/01): In response to increased demand, the Government has opened numerous schools in the Gold Coast region in recent years including Pacific Pines State High School (opened 2000) and Varsity College (opened 2001), with Pacific Pines State School opening in 2002.

Education Queensland is currently developing a Local Area Plan (LAP) for the Gold Coast which will address current and future school provisions.

The key objectives of this Local Area Planning Project are to develop a model for facilities planning for the Gold Coast area for the next ten years and to identify critical short-term facilities planning issues and strategies to address urgent facilities planning needs.

273. Families Department, Staff

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (30/5/01)—

With reference to Family Services officers' leave—

- (1) When an officer is absent for any reason, is relief staff provided?
- (2) In what circumstances is relief not provided?
- (3) Since 1 July 2000, how many occasions and in which offices was relief not provided?
- (4) If relief is not provided, who covers the case load of absent officers?

Ms SPENCE (26/6/01):

(1) Through its budget process, the Department of Families allocates its area offices with a staffing profile, which is inclusive of paid leave requirements. This profile is based on the area office's historical staffing establishment and additional direct service delivery staff. The additional staff are allocated according to a funding methodology agreed to by the Regional Directors.

It is the Director-General's expectation of the Area Managers and Regional Directors that paid leave is planned or rostered and the caseloads of Family Services Officers are cognisant of this planned leave. In some offices, this occurs through the designation of Family Service Officers as relievers.

(2) In circumstances where this has not occurred, any decision in relation to the backfilling of staff who are absent is made by the Area Manager or Regional Director on a case by case basis. The type of leave, length of the absence, case priorities, the capacity of other officers in the team to absorb the caseload and the availability of locums are all relevant considerations.

(3) No records of this nature are kept.

(4) If an area office has not planned for leave requirements and a decision has been made by the Area Manager or Regional Director not to backfill the position, the work normally undertaken by the absent officer might be allocated to other officers or monitored by team leaders and managed according to priority needs within the office, as with any workload.

274. Drivers Licences, Medical Reports

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/01)—

- (1) Is he aware of the practice of some people aged 75 years or older who visit up to four or five different doctors in order to obtain a positive medical report so that they can have their driver's licence renewed?

- (2) Will he consider adding the wording 'Are you the patient's usual doctor?' and 'How long have you known the patient?' on the medical form in order to stop this dangerous practice?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/7/01):

(1) No.

(2) Under Queensland legislation, the Director-General of Queensland Transport has the delegation to refuse to grant or renew a Queensland driver licence, if he believes that a person has a medical or physical incapacity that is likely to adversely affect the person's ability to drive safely. Queensland Transport relies on the evidence of medical practitioners who are qualified to make this assessment.

In view of the ethical and legal responsibilities of medical practitioners to provide accurate assessments of their patient's medical fitness to safely perform the driving task, it is accepted by Queensland Transport that medical practitioners will undertake all necessary measures to provide accurate assessments of their patients medical fitness to safely perform the driving task.

To require a person to provide a medical certificate from a medical practitioner who has known the person for a period of time, is not only outside of the provisions of Queensland legislation but would be unenforceable. It is therefore not considered appropriate that the wording 'Are you the patient's usual doctor?' and 'How long have you known the patient?', be included on the medical form.

275. Dairy Industry

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/01)—

What measures are the Government adopting to assist farmers affected by dairy de-regulation to adopt an alternative focus or at least be able to diversify should that be necessary?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01): For sustainable development of the dairy industry to occur it must be underpinned by a strong foundation of business skills and innovative practices that will enable producers to capture new opportunities. To build a strong business foundation for the dairy industry, the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is providing a range of business services including marketing research and analysis, market information and trade contacts and the provision of business matching services.

In line with our election commitment, the Government will provide \$600,000 over the next three years to help identify and develop trade opportunities.

Already the Department of Primary Industries has undertaken market research that has revealed a potential opportunity for North Queensland dairy farmers to supply, high value fresh milk to Guam. Work is currently under way to assess this market opportunity and to address logistical issues in accessing this potential market.

The DPI is also providing strong business support and networking facility through Agri-Infonet. Agri-Infonet provides market information, trade contacts and a business matching service to agribusinesses.

This service is encouraging dairy farmers who are interested in diversification to look at the demand for Australian products overseas as measured by the trade opportunities that routinely present themselves to the unit.

Agri-Infonet has also provided marketing information to groups who are preparing feasibility studies in the areas of cheese production and other niche market opportunities including goat dairy production.

At the community level, the department will continue to provide liaison and facilitation services to groups wishing to diversify their businesses and establish new industries.

In this regard, departmental facilitation and negotiation has resulted in Queensland rural communities accessing almost \$4m through the Dairy Regional Assistance Program (DRAP) for projects. These include funding for rural support workers; development of an organic milk plant; a goat project; expansion of a turf-farm; further diversification into the herb and squab industries; development of a 'siltstone' quarry; organic duck production; a native flower project; a wormcast fertiliser production plant; a gourmet cheese plant; and tourism and local government infrastructure upgrades.

Affected workers and producers are receiving prompt assistance and consistent, coordinated, and timely advice through the department's Rural Partnership Development Officers located in every dairy region. However there are some areas from which to date no DRAP applications have been put forward.

In order to address this, the DPI in partnership with the Queensland Department of State Development (DSD), the state office of the Commonwealth Department of Employment Workplace Relations and Small Business, and regional Area Consultative Committees in dairy regions, is planning DRAP information seminars in a number of communities in which the level of knowledge about the program is low. Business people will be particularly targeted.

Additionally, DSD's involvement will enable the identification of projects for which DRAP applications cannot progress until feasibility studies have been completed. As DRAP has another two years to run, there is potential for preliminary work to be funded through DSD's Regional Business Development Scheme. Suitable projects will then be implemented with DRAP funding. This will result in more strategic outcomes from DRAP.

This collaboration is possible as a result of the effective working relationships the department has established with key government agencies.

FarmBis is another source of assistance for dairy farmers to improve their business performance. In the period 1 August 1999 to 30 June 2000, a total of \$737,540 was approved to assist the participation of 1,169 dairy producers in training courses. Of these, approximately one third were for the Individual Applications and Professional Advice categories, and the remainder were for the Group Training category. A very significant number of these approvals were made during May/June 2000 with the training undertaken in the 2000/2001 financial year. The DPI expects similar training outcomes for dairy farmers to occur through FarmBis in 2000/2001.

DairyPlan, a FarmBis supported dairy-specific Business Development learning activity, is another initiative designed to assist dairy producers. The DPI expects this initiative will increase Group Training for dairy farmers through FarmBis due to the endorsement of Ruralscope and Regional Financial Services as 'preferred deliverers' of DairyPlan by the Queensland Dairyfarmers Organisation.

Building a strong business foundation for dairy producers and for communities affected by dairy deregulation are high priorities for the Department of Primary Industries. I intend to make sure that these important activities continue over the coming year and in to the future.

276. Powerlink; Power Transmission Cables

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/5/01)—

With reference to the technology that is available to have optical fibres in the earth wire of power transmission cables—

- (1) Does Powerlink have such capabilities; if so, how extensive are these 'networks' and what are they currently used for?
- (2) Do any other electricity companies have such capabilities; if so, which ones and how extensive are their capabilities?
- (3) What other existing or proposed telecommunications network resources do departments or agencies of the Queensland Government have?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/7/01):

(1) Yes Powerlink does have such capabilities. Powerlink's optical fibre network runs along remote inland transmission lines linking substations near Brisbane with major inland power stations at Swanbank, Tarong, Callide, Stanwell and Millmerran. There are also two short sections of optical fibre in earth wire in transmission lines connected to Chalumbin substation in Far North Queensland and the Bulli Creek substation in South West Queensland.

These networks are used to protect and control Powerlink's transmission network and to remotely control major power stations.

(2) ENERGEX

ENERGEX has small sections of transmission line with optical fibre in earth wire. These facilities have been installed for operation and control of the electricity network. There are approximately 35 km of optical fibre in earth wire installed in association with seven network augmentation projects in the Gold Coast area. To date, these facilities have only been used for network control purposes. Most, but not all facilities have spare or contingency capacity. This capacity usually links specific locations and has limited value for other than network control purposes.

Ergon Energy

Ergon Energy has a limited network involving optical fibres in earth wires of power transmission cables.

In the North Queensland region, the network involving optical fibres in earth wire has been installed recently between Dan Gleeson and Peter Arlett Substations for substation protection purposes. In the Far North region, optical fibres in earth wires have been installed between Turkinje and Atherton approximately two years ago and between Cairns Terminal and Cairns City (5 km approximately eight years ago). There are plans being prepared at present regarding the Mount Molloy to Lakeland line (144 km).

Ergon Energy has the capability of performing this work in house.

(3) There are a number of telecommunications infrastructure networks for Government agencies, for example, Queensland Police, Emergency Services, Queensland Rail and Queensland Transport. These are mainly point-to-point microwave radio links, specifically dimensioned for each agency's internal communications requirements.

Queensland Rail has a limited optical fibre network paralleling its rail lines for its signalling and communication requirements. It has also been allocated four optical fibres on the 'Reef Cable' which has been installed by Optus along the Queensland Rail 'Right-of-Way' corridor between Brisbane and Cairns.

QR also leases fibre and capacity from Telstra and Optus in regional centres and commercial bandwidth such as this now comprises one third of the QR Telecommunications network.

277. Yarrabah, Swimming Facilities

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (30/5/01)—

With reference to the Yarrabah Aboriginal Community with a population of approximately 3,000 persons which has no access to public swimming facilities and as one fatality has already occurred at the community when a child was stung by a jellyfish—

Will her department, if approached by the Yarrabah Community Council to develop a joint project to provide public swimming facilities in the community, give assistance to the council to meet this community need?

Ms SPENCE (2/7/01): It gives me great pleasure to see members of this Government actively working towards a better future for their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander constituents.

Staff of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy do provide advice and assistance, often in partnership with other Government agencies, to the State's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

If the Yarrabah Aboriginal Council submits a proposal to the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy regarding the provision of a swimming pool for the Yarrabah community, the Department will work with other Government agencies, such as Sport and Recreation Queensland, to progress the matter.

278. Brisbane City Council, Bus Travel Concessions

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/01)—

With reference to postgraduate students in my electorate who appreciate the continuation of travel concessions on Queensland Rail in 2001—

Will he encourage the Brisbane City Council to extend the concession for bus travel into the second semester 2001?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/7/01): It is presently not a contractual requirement for Brisbane City Council to provide concessional travel to post-secondary and postgraduate students. However, Council has elected to mirror Queensland Transport's Post Secondary Student Concession Travel Scheme for Queensland Rail. A policy change to this Scheme extended entitlement for travel to postgraduate students as from the beginning of the 2001 academic year. It was, therefore, entirely a matter for Council's discretion.

I am advised that Council will continue to reflect Queensland Transport's policy, and provide this concession to postgraduate students during the second semester of 2001.

279. Nelly Bay, Magnetic Island

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Environment (30/5/01)—

With reference to the Nelly Bay Harbour canal estate project on Magnetic Island—

- (1) Why did the Queensland Government grant itself a permit that allows the reclamation of a section of the State marine park, without first excising that area from the marine park as required by Section 22 of the Marine Parks Act 1982?
- (2) Why is the Queensland Government involved in a scheme that destroys public State marine park to create land for the construction of a private luxury residential development when the present public ferry terminal at Picnic Bay could be upgraded at much less expense and with far less environmental destruction?

Mr WELLS (2/7/01):

(1) The department informs me that Crown Law advice was sought on Section 5.2 (b) (xv) of the Zoning Plan and Section 22 of the Marine Parks Act 1982. Crown Law advised that it was possible to issue a permit for the reclamation work to proceed. Given the Crown Law Advice provided the government is of the view that excision under Section 22 of the Marine Parks Act 1982 is not necessary.

(2) The Queensland Government is not destroying a Marine Park, but rather working to protect it as development is undertaken.

280. Public Transport

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (30/5/01)—

With reference to the Beattie Labor Government which is continuing to be proactive in encouraging commuters to utilise public transport to both relieve the increasing pressures on the various road networks and reduce growing pollution—

What mechanism has been put in place to allow for community input into the proposed routes and frequency of service?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/7/01): The government has a strong proactive stance towards public consultation.

For public transport the mechanism which allows the community to input into proposed routes and service frequencies, is set out as a term and condition of second generation of service contracts under which urban bus services are provided.

Under clause 7.5 of the second generation of service contracts, there is a requirement that contract holders consult with the public prior to making alterations to routes or timetables. The public is required to be provided with full details of the proposed changes and given an opportunity to respond for ten business days (excluding school holidays) to ensure they have an adequate opportunity to respond and have an influence on proposed route and timetable changes which affect them.

The second generation of service contracts also requires service contract holders to make a written request to the chief executive setting out full details of the proposed changes, including a written summary of the results of the public consultation which must outline: the details of the parties consulted; the results of the consultation; and the details of any further changes or actions to be taken as a result of the consultation.

The strong terms and conditions of second generation service contracts that relate to public consultation were insisted upon by this government and have been accepted by the Queensland bus industry as a term and condition under which they provide their services.

281. Ergon Energy

Mr HOBBS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/5/01)—

- (1) Is he aware that Ergon Energy has reduced its advertising budget in south west Queensland by 300 per cent for safety advertisements such as 'Look up and live' and is he aware that this advertising reduction is seriously jeopardising the commercial businesses which have been in receipt of this advertising revenue?
- (2) Will he give a commitment that notifications of power outages etc will be given by radio coverage and not by fax which is currently proposed by Ergon Energy?

Mr MACKENROTH (2/7/01):

(1) Ergon Energy advises that it is not planning to reduce its safety advertising in the South-West. In fact it is proposing to increase safety advertising by 60% in 2001-02.

(2) There are two types of power outage notifications—

- (a) Planned outages (usually associated with works to upgrade the supply where there is no alternative feed).

Following the implementation of Ergon Energy's Guaranteed Service Levels (GSLs), planned outages have been communicated directly to the customer by mail. Where a rural property is remote or may not have daily access to their mail service an additional service was being offered for these customers to receive notification of the planned outage by fax.

Prior to the introduction of the GSLs, within the six regions of Ergon Energy one of three methods was used in each region to communicate planned outages to customers – letter, newspaper advertisements and radio announcements. The most common method was newspaper advertising. The only area where a significant use was

made of radio was in the western area of the South West region. The choice to use a personalised communication to each customer impacted by the planned outage was overwhelmingly supported by customers.

- (b) Unplanned outages (usually caused by storm, flora or fauna or equipment failure)

During a significant outage, Ergon Energy will attempt to provide information to customers through a press release to local radio stations. There has been no change to this process.

282. Treasury Department, Legal Services

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/5/01)—

What has been the total value of out-sourced legal services for his department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services, including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provided?

Mr MACKENROTH (4/7/01): The value of outsourced legal services for Treasury Department from 30 June 2000 to 30 April 2001 was as follows—

LEGAL CONSULTANT—AMOUNT

Recoverable Costs

Blake Dawson Waldron—\$192,233.42
 Clayton Utz—\$112,009.24
 Corrs Chambers Westgarth—\$18,200.50
 Minter Ellison—\$46,700.00
 Total—\$369,143.16

Non-Recoverable Costs

Allen Allen & Hemsley—\$21,431.02
 Corrs Chambers Westgarth—\$250.00
 Crown Law—\$202,330.59
 Gilshenan & Luton—\$2,423.80
 Mallesons Stephen Jaques—\$1,558.60
 Total—\$227,994.01

Total of Recoverable and Non-Recoverable Costs—\$597,137.17

Some of the Crown Law fees have been recovered and some of these costs are expected to be recovered when matters are resolved.

The value of outsourced legal services for Sport and Recreation Queensland from 30 June 2000 to 31 May 2001 was as follows:—

LEGAL CONSULTANT—AMOUNT

Peter J Baston, Barrister at Law—\$3350.00
 Flower & Hart—\$3550.94
 Crown Law—\$212,725.41
 Total—\$219,626.35

283. Nurses, Administration and Management

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (30/5/01)—

- (1) How many full-time equivalent staff positions for nurses are there in Queensland Health and how many nurses (full-time equivalent) are working in administrative and management roles?
- (2) Are these positions included in the overall tally of nursing numbers?

Mrs EDMOND (2/7/01):

- (1) The actual numbers of full time equivalent nurses employed by Queensland Health vary on a daily basis.

A snapshot in early February 2001 which accords with nursing professional advice, shows that the following role mix applies:

Clinical stream—95.25%
 Administrative stream—3.5%
 Education/research stream—1.25%

- (2) Yes.

284. Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (30/5/01)—

With reference to his claim during debate on the Fisheries Amendment Bill on 15 May 2001 that 'the State Government kicked in an additional \$10m to be made available to those people who wanted to access concessional loans' under the East Coast Trawl Management Plan—

- (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?

(4) What will any remaining portion of that \$10m be used on?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/7/01):

(1) Two

(2) Two

(3) \$57164.00

(4) Applications under this program can be accepted until 30 November 2001. Unspent funds will be redirected into the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority.

285. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Department, Executive Director

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (30/5/01)—

With reference to a recent motion of no confidence in the Executive Director of the department passed by the indigenous staff of the Department of Aboriginal and Islander Policy—

(1) What were the matters of concern by staff of her department?

(2) What action will she take to see that these concerns are addressed?

Ms SPENCE (2/7/01): The allegation that there has been a motion of no confidence in the Executive Director of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy is refuted.

286. Fire and Rescue Authority, Budget

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (30/5/01)—

With reference to morale in the Queensland Fire Service which continues to deteriorate in part due to continued cuts in operational funds—

(1) What was the budget for all administrative costs for 1985-86, 1990-91, 1994-95 and 1999-2000?

(2) What are these amounts as percentages each year of departmental revenue?

Mr REYNOLDS (5/7/01): I wish to refute your comment that funding for operations has been cut over the period. Funding for the provision of Fire and Rescue Services in Queensland has increased significantly over the years with outlays of \$106m in 1990-91, \$134m in 1994-95 and an operating budget of \$205m in 1999-00.

Morale in the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority has increased through management policies which take an inclusive approach with unions to address concerns identified by fire fighters such as crewing levels, professional training requirements and the age of fire appliances.

Budget information for the year 1985-86 is not available, as those details were held by the state's 81 different fire brigade boards.

The 1990-91 annual report for the Bureau of Emergency Services shows administrative costs for the Queensland Fire Service of \$9.824m. Costs for Corporate administration services were not recorded separately by each division. Administrative costs as a percentage of revenue was 9.2%

In 1994-95 the Queensland Fire Service Budget for corporate administration costs was \$10.275m and as a percentage of revenue was 7.4%.

In 1999-00 the budget for corporate administration costs was \$9.266m and as a percentage of revenue was 4.2%.

It is impossible to do a direct comparison between years due to Machinery of Government changes in accounting policy and costs previously met by central agencies now allocated to QFRA.

Machinery of Government changes which have occurred during this period and impacted on the comparatives include inward and outward movements in corporate administrative costs allocated to the Department which has included Consumer Affairs, Office of Rural Communities, and Sport and Recreation.

Reductions have occurred due to savings in rental charges due to the purchase of the Kedron Park facility. The apportionment method used to allocate administration costs between divisions has changed from a per head percentage basis to activity based costing which better reflects consumption of services by the Statutory Authorities and Divisions of the Department of Emergency Services. Central agency costs are now devolved to agencies on a fee for service basis with revenue supplementation. Costs previously met by central agencies include Queensland Audit Office, Public Works, Crown Law and Treasury financial systems administration costs.

Further difficulties in the comparison of corporate administrative costs for this period include whole of government policy change from cash to accrual accounting which requires the inclusion of depreciation expenses and the introduction of equity returns and interest on Departmental bank accounts.

287. Police Portfolio, Capital Works Projects

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (30/5/01)—

With reference to the police portfolio—

Will he provide, on an electorate by electorate basis, a schedule of all capital works projects for each fiscal year since 1998-99, start and completion dates for each project and the budgeted and actual expenditure for each project?

Mr McGRADY (6/7/01): This government considers the improvement of policing services to be essential in the delivery of the stated outcomes of government which contribute to the continuing development of Queensland. In this regard this government has allocated record levels of funding for the Queensland Police Service (QPS) Capital Investment Plan (CIP) to upgrade, replace or construct new facilities.

I am pleased to advise that in recent financial years the QPS has achieved the annual program expectations of the CIP and delivered police facilities of the highest quality and operational effectiveness. Building design of Police Stations is continually improving through input from operational knowledge and thorough studies of worldwide best practice and legislative requirements.

The CIP relies on an approved Police Building Code which standardises the operational needs of police facilities and streamlines the delivery of projects by minimising the design brief and documentation phase.

The Queensland Police Service has a number of ongoing projects which are yet to be finalised and as such, accurate details of total budget and the relevant completion date cannot be provided. Additionally, the Queensland Police Service does not collect or collate data on an electorate by electorate basis and as consequence, this information has not been provided.

Attachment A details all major QPS capital works projects that have been fully finalised for each fiscal year since 1998-99. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

288. Ambulance Service; Fire and Rescue Authority

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (30/5/01)—

With reference to staffing levels in the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority—

- (1) What is the change in 'on road' staff for both services for the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001?
- (2) How many (a) new officers are trained each year, (b) on road staff have left or resigned in each service in each year and (c) trainees retained for more than one year in each service by year?

Mr REYNOLDS (2/7/01):

- (1) Total QAS onroad staff for financial year 1998-99 was 1753; 1999-2000 was 1674.4 (reflects change in categorisation); 2000-2001 is 1843.5.

QFRA's position is that all uniformed personnel are available for on-road operations. Available records indicate uniformed officers (Commissioners through to Firefighters) have increased from 1904 to 1909 between 1998/1999 and 2000/2001. There has been a redistribution of staff that has seen the assignment of 24 extra staff to deliver community education and an increase in the QFRA's operational capacity to deliver 1 plus 3 crewing from 57 stations prior to January 2000 to 68 stations at present.

- (2)(a) In calendar year 1998 QAS enrolled 95 Student Paramedic Officers; in 1999 QAS enrolled 89 Student Paramedic Officers; in 2000 QAS enrolled 67 Student Paramedic Officers and to date in 2001, QAS has enrolled 50 Student Paramedic Officers. (b) 43 onroad staff left or resigned in financial year 1998-99; 54 onroad staff left or resigned in 1999-2000; 45 onroad staff left in 2000-2001 (to date). (c) QAS staffing records do not separate Student Paramedic resignations from the general staffing resignation records.

The following table provides details with respect to the attraction and retention of permanent firefighters and station officers between 1998 and 2001:

Year	Commencements	Resignations	Retention > One Year
1998	87	24	86
1999	50	22	50
2000	30	62	28
2001	24	17	24

289. Prince Charles Hospital, Cardiovascular MRI

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (30/5/01)—

With reference to the enthusiastic response from health professionals of the Prince Charles Hospital Health District to the Beattie Government's decision to provide a state of the art cardiovascular MRI at the Prince Charles Hospital—

- (1) What is the status of the granting of a licence from the Federal Health Department?
- (2) Is the licence likely to be granted by the Federal department before the new facility is opened later this year?

Mrs EDMOND (2/7/01): The Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care (DHAC) released on 19 May 2001, a Request for Tender for the granting of eligibility for Medicare benefits for services provided by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Units. Up to six additional licences will be granted in areas of need which have been identified by DHAC. Queensland Health will be submitting a tender for The Prince Charles Hospital.

The tender closes on 26 June 2001 and DHAC have not specified a timeframe for evaluation of tenders received or expected date of notification of successful tenderers.

As part of a commitment to invest in advanced hospital medical equipment, the State Government will purchase a cardiac MRI unit to be installed at The Prince Charles Hospital in 2001-02 at a cost of approximately \$3 million.

290. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Acquired Brain Injuries

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (30/5/01)—

Why hasn't the Government made provision at the new Princess Alexandra Hospital for slow stream rehabilitation for acquired brain injured people?

Mrs EDMOND (2/7/01): The redevelopment of the Princess Alexandra Hospital is part of the Statewide Health Building Program. The main focus of the redevelopment project has been the improvement of high quality, acute inpatient and clinical services for the people of Queensland.

Included in the new five story hospital building is a Neuroscience Unit for both Neurosurgical and Neurological conditions with an eight bed high dependency area and a six bed acute stroke unit.

The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit is located in the Geriatric and Rehabilitation Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and is the only service of its kind in Queensland. The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit provides acute, neuro-rehabilitation services for people with a wide variety of different types of acquired brain injury, both on an inpatient and outpatient (Day Hospital) basis. The Unit also provides a comprehensive multidisciplinary neuro-rehabilitation assessment and treatment service. Referrals are accepted from all over Queensland as well as Northern NSW.

With respect to rehabilitation services, the needs of people with acquired brain injury may include: intensive rehabilitation over a short period (fast stream), rehabilitation over an extended period (slow stream), or less intensive rehabilitation in a community based setting.

In an effort to meet the individual needs of people with an acquired brain injury, Queensland Health aims to provide rehabilitation services across this continuum and in the most appropriate environment.

In regard to slow stream rehabilitation for people with acquired brain injury, the appropriate environment is not an acute hospital setting such as the Princess Alexandra Hospital, but a community setting. Slow stream rehabilitation is a service that provides rehabilitation over a longer period of time for slow recovery patients and is geared at a much lower level of intensity of therapy, compared to the acute neuro-rehabilitation service.

Therefore, Queensland Health provides accommodation and support services for the rehabilitation of people with acquired brain injury, in the community, through the 'Jacana Centre' within The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District and 'Casuarina Lodge' within the Bayside Health Service District. The Jacana Centre is a 50 bed rehabilitation facility dedicated for people with acquired brain injury and includes two beds for slow stream rehabilitation. Casuarina Lodge has 20 beds dedicated for people with acquired brain injury, including five slow stream rehabilitation beds.

Under the Queensland Health Capital Works, Mental Health Reform Program, Casuarina Lodge has recently acquired an additional 20 beds specifically to meet the individual rehabilitation needs of people with acquired brain damage or neuro-degenerative disease with an accompanying psychiatric disorder. Under the Mental Health Reform Program, by December, 2001, a further 16 beds will be provided for this group within The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District. These are just some examples in the south-east corner of Queensland.

With the recent opening of the new St. Vincent's Hospital and Health Service at Robina, a further 30 rehabilitation beds are now available, closer to where people live. These beds are for people with neurological problems, including people with acquired brain injury through stroke.

In addition to rehabilitation services, Queensland Health has provided funding for people with disabilities, including funding of \$296,247 for the Brain Injury Association of Queensland Resource Centre which provides information, education and training.

Queensland Health continues to support the Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Support Program, funded by the Accident Insurance Commission, which is currently piloting a new statewide telephone service called the Community Behavioural Consulting Service to further assist people with acquired brain injury and their families.

It is through the provision of this mix of services, in appropriate settings, and the conduct of collaborative initiatives that Queensland Health can demonstrate its ongoing commitment to improving services and the health outcomes for people with acquired brain injury.

291. WorkCover

Mrs SHELDON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (30/5/01)—

With reference to a full-page advertisement appearing in the *Courier-Mail* on 30 May relating to Queensland WorkCover—

- (1) What was the cost of this advertisement?
- (2) How many other newspapers and other publications in Queensland did this advertisement appear in and what was the size and cost of placement in each?
- (3) How many interstate newspapers and other publications did this advertisement appear in and what was the size and cost of placement in each?

Mr BEATTIE (22/6/01):

- (1) The total cost of the *Courier-Mail* advertisement, including production and placement, was \$15,042.96.
- (2) The advertisement appeared in three other newspapers. The cost of placement in *Business Queensland* full-page mono (\$1,864.80); *Gold Coast Bulletin* full-page mono (\$2,312.80); and *Townsville Bulletin* full-page mono (\$1,590.68).
- (3) The advertisement did not appear in interstate newspapers or publications.

292. Environmental Protection Agency; BCC Sewage Pumping Station

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Environment (30/5/01)—

With reference to the number of prosecutions and investigations conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (30/5/01)—

- (1) Is he aware of a major sewage spill that occurred in January 2001 from a sewerage pumping station operated by Brisbane City Council (BCC) involving between one and two million litres of untreated sewage into a suburban creek?
- (2) How often in the past two years have incidents involving the release of untreated sewage occurred within the BCC area?
- (3) What fines and other penalties have been imposed on BCC for these incidents?
- (4) What action has been taken to prevent such incidents from occurring again?
- (5) What was the result of the January incident?

(6) Is it the case that the EPA treats BCC differently from private individuals and companies?

Mr WELLS (2/7/01):

(1) Yes.

(2) The department informs me that overflows from pump stations of this nature are relatively infrequent and are caused by a variety of things such as power failure, blockages, burst rising mains and infiltration.

(3) No fines or penalties have been imposed on Brisbane City Council in the past two years. This is due to the cooperative way in which the Council have dealt with the such overflows and the practical steps that are being undertaken by the Council to remedy these problems.

(4) I am informed that the Brisbane City Council has committed to improved pump station designs for new pump stations, and to retrofitting where problems exist in existing pump stations. The Brisbane City Council has commenced an Overflow Abatement Strategy in conjunction with Griffith University, has carried out negotiations with the power supplier to predict reliability of supply for contingency planning, and through their process improvement group has been reviewing causes of overflows to target the weakest links in their systems.

(5) The department informs me that the Brisbane City Council undertook appropriate clean-up measures to ensure that there was no ongoing impact on the watercourse. I am also informed that there was no evidence of any impact on wildlife from the spill.

(6) No. The EPA has a set of published Enforcement Guidelines. The guidelines recommend prosecution as a last resort. Given the Brisbane City Councils high level of performance and cooperation in this specific instance, prosecution would serve no purpose. These Guidelines are used to determine enforcement action and are designed to ensure the best environmental outcome is achieved, regardless of whether a company, private individual or local government is involved.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

293. Acute Care Spinal Unit, North Queensland

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (19/6/01)—

With reference to the need for an acute care spinal unit in North Queensland—

What steps has the Government taken to plan and fund such a unit and what time frame will there be for implementation?

Mrs EDMOND (19/7/01): Internationally, it is acknowledged that best practice care for acute spinal injury is achieved in a dedicated Spinal Injuries Unit that has highly specialised and multidisciplinary staff available.

Within Australia, every State has adopted the best practice model of having one Spinal Injuries Unit located in the capital city but serving the whole State. A parallel is having the Prince Charles Hospital, for example, as a world recognised centre of excellence for cardiac services. It would not be possible to provide such a high level of cardiac expertise and care if acute cardiac services were fragmented across the state.

The new Townsville Hospital, however, will have a significant Rehabilitation Unit with inpatient and day patient facilities and services which will provide support for the follow-up care of patients from the area who have suffered spinal injuries.

A past proposal to establish a Spinal Injuries Unit in North Queensland was investigated and best practice principles and numbers of patients from North Queensland did not justify the proposal.

However, in view of the commitment made in 1996 to review the situation in five years time, a review will be undertaken shortly in conjunction with a planning exercise on rehabilitation services needs at Townsville General Hospital.

Any recommendations will be based on clinical best practice which in the end is solely aimed at ensuring the best patient outcome.

294. Information Technology, Rural Areas

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy (19/6/01)—

With reference to my question to him regarding access and training assistance to the rural sector in computer technology and noting that the information package available is designed primarily at facilitating community groups to provide advice and training to the end user group—

In areas of sparse population, what can the Government do to supply these facilities to businesses and individuals where the relevant community groups do not exist?

Mr LUCAS (19/7/01): The Queensland Government's "IT&T Skills in the Smart State" policy framework outlines the Government's approach to the development of Queensland's communication and information skills base.

That policy framework, based on the lifelong learning principle, covers a wide spectrum of the Queensland community. The framework addresses school based IT&T careers awareness, women, vocational education and training, higher education, and workforce skills development. The framework also aims to raise IT&T skill levels in rural and regional Queensland through providing equitable access to the opportunities available in IT&T and the information economy.

A key initiative under the framework is the Community Skills Development Program. In 2000-2001 the program provided \$170,000 to 24 community organisations to assist them in training their members to use IT&T to enhance the operation of the group. The intention is to broaden the base of community IT&T awareness and skills.

More formal training programs are also available to individuals living in rural and regional communities via the regional networks of universities and TAFE colleges.

The Commonwealth government is also providing IT&T training to rural and regional areas through the Networking the Nation (NTN) program, resourced under the Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund from the proceeds of the Telstra sale. For example, Bridge-IT is a major NTN community training initiative, which provides in-home training sessions for people and families living on properties where their isolation makes it difficult to access formal training courses. In addition an e-business focused NTN project, QeNET, assists the Queensland Department of State Development to train small business operators to adopt e-commerce as a new aspect of their businesses.

These activities, in some cases assisted by the Queensland Government, help to meet the training needs of businesses and individuals in rural and remote areas. The programs are conducted in such a way as to avoid duplication.

My Department, through the Information Economy Infrastructure division, is able to provide advice on a wide range of information and communication technology issues to people living in rural and remote Queensland, including indigenous communities. Advice is available on issues such as bridging the Digital Divide as well as solutions to service access needs, including mobile telephony and the internet.

In relation to telecommunications infrastructure, the Queensland Government has acted to improve access to bandwidth and to upgrade the overall performance of the telecommunications network in Queensland through:

The Reef Network, which provides additional broadband capacity to regional communities between Brisbane and Cairns. The Queensland Government has committed \$117.5 million of State revenue to leverage private sector investment of \$80 million.

The Connect-ED project, which provides ISDN links for Internet access to all Queensland schools and has delivered reduced Internet access calls for 93% of the Queensland population. The Queensland Government has invested \$42 million of State revenue to accelerate the digitisation of Telstra's statewide network under this initiative.

The Police Frame Relay network, which provides high speed data communications. The Queensland Government has invested \$8 million to enhance network services in remote rural and regional areas.

My Department is also working to improve access to broadband telecommunications services in North Queensland using aggregated Government demand as leverage to obtain improved services for communities. The arrangement is intended to stimulate the telecommunications services market within North Queensland, and has the following key outcomes:

- equitable supply of telecommunications broadband carriage services to remote and regional areas in North Queensland;
- equitable pricing of carriage services for Government (including local government), business and the community;
- economic development through increasing availability of broadband telecommunication carriage across the region;
- appropriate telecommunications infrastructure required to deliver improved Government services; and
- facilitating the establishment of a skilled workforce in each community that is both able and readily available to support information and communications infrastructure.

A key aim of the initiative is better quality telecommunications for those living in remote and isolated communities in the state's north and north west.

295. Capital Works Projects, Aspley Electorate

Ms BARRY asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/6/01)—

- (1) What projects has Q Build managed in the Aspley electorate?
- (2) What has been the cost for each project?
- (3) Will he outline how many jobs have been generated for each project?

Mr SCHWARTEN (20/7/01):

- (1) During 2000/2001, QBuild managed a number of major works that were carried out at the Aspley East State School including:

- service connection to the transportable buildings;
- construction of a new covered link; and
- the construction of additional walls to the Amenities building.

- (2) Costs associated with the Aspley East State School are as follows:

- Service Connection to transportable buildings—\$13,064
- New covered link—\$29,306
- Construction of additional walls—\$9,720

- (3) The jobs generated for the works are:

- two subcontracting firms and one field staff completed works associated with the service connection to the transportable buildings;
- two subcontracting firms and three QBuild Field Staff completed works associated with the covered link; and
- one subcontracting firm and one QBuild field staff completed works associated with the construction of additional walls.

NB: For the purpose of this response, projects have been classified as construction projects.

Please refer to Attachment A for details of the numbers of apprentices employed in the Aspley electorate as well as outlining Disaster Management and Maintenance.

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

296. Q-Ride

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/6/01)—

When will the Q-Ride scheme begin operation in Queensland?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/7/01): When the Q-Ride initiative was announced in December 2000, it was envisaged that the new licensing arrangements would be implemented by March 2001. However, the subsequent election process and delays in amending the regulations have caused a some delay in the timing of implementation. It is anticipated that approval for the regulatory amendments for Q-Ride will be sought in July 2001. A date can only be determined once the regulation amendments have been approved by the Governor in Council. When this date has been determined, Queensland Transport will then call for applications for Q-Ride Service Providers. It is anticipated that Q-Ride will be launched publicly in early August.

297. Drought Assistance

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/6/01)—

With reference to the worsening drought conditions in many areas of Queensland—

- (1) How much funding will be allocated to drought relief in 2001-02?
- (2) How much funding was outlaid on drought relief in 2000-01 on an area by area basis?
- (3) What was the estimated cost to Queensland of drought in 2000-01?

- (4) Will there be any change to the drought relief eligibility criteria?
- (5) Will the same method of assessment apply in determining drought declarations?
- (6) Will the composition of local drought committees be maintained; if not, what changes will be made?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/7/01):

(1) \$1 million for the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme (DRAS). This is a budget allocation, and further funds would be made available if it is required. In addition, concessional loans for drought recovery are available through the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) under the Emergency Assistance Scheme. As at 31 May 2001, through QRAA \$412,056 had been provided in concessional loans for drought recovery for 2000-2001.

(2) A total of \$547,664, in subsidies to Queensland primary producers has been provided through DRAS in 2000-2001.

I am advised the assistance allocated by DPI Regional areas was \$243,494 in the South region, \$141,783 in the South-East region, \$100,491 in the West region and \$61,896 in the Central region.

(3) The DPI recently forecast that the gross revenue for food and fibre production will increase to \$7 billion in 2000/2001 and increase further to \$7.89 billion in 2001/2002. The improvement in Queensland's agricultural performance would have been and could have been expected to be greater but for the drought condition in the Darling Downs and Burnett regions.

(4) No.

(5) Yes.

(6) Individual members on Local Drought Committees (LDCs) may change from time to time. No changes are envisaged to the role or framework of LDCs.

298. Lake Maraboon Holiday Village

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (19/6/01)—

With reference to the Lake Maraboon Holiday Village also known as the Fairbairn Dam Caravan Park—

- (1) Have the proposers for freeholding of this lease been advised that Sunwater will not provide a guarantee of reticulated water and sewerage services to this property?
- (2) What is the reason for this advice?
- (3) Will he have this decision reviewed in view of the likely impact on this important tourist facility that is creating jobs and assisting the economy of the region?

Mr ROBERTSON (19/7/01):

(1) The proposers for the freeholding of the lease have been advised that SunWater will provide services to this property on the same basis as they are currently provided.

(2) The land on which the Lake Maraboon Holiday Village is located is presently leased from the Department of Natural Resources and Mines under a lease agreement that expires in 2006. Under the current arrangement SunWater provides water supply and sewerage services to the Holiday Village on a fee for service basis. The proposed freeholding of the property does not alter this. There is no current agreement between the lessee and SunWater to provide these services on a long term basis. I am advised that SunWater would be willing to negotiate a commercial agreement to guarantee the supply these services on a long term basis. In the absence of such an agreement SunWater will continue with the current supply arrangements.

(3) I do not intend to have this reviewed as I am satisfied that the current arrangements will remain, are no different to those that have existed historically and that there will be no impact on the tourism of the area.

299. Barron Basin Water Resource Plan

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (19/6/01)—

With reference to the development of a Water Management Plan for the Atherton groundwater area (a process which has been running since 1999) (19/6/01)—

- (1) Is he aware that applications for the renewal of existing bore licences have been placed on hold and that this is imposing great uncertainty for farmers in the process of developing or diversifying their farm enterprises?
- (2) When will the Government end the uncertainty by completing the Water Management Plan?

Mr ROBERTSON (19/7/01):

(1) The Water Management Planning process for the Atherton Subartesian Area to which you referred is now part of the Barron Basin Water Resource Planning process. This enables the allocation and management of both surface and subartesian water for an area to be dealt with in a single water resource plan, and is consistent with the framework provided by the Water Act 2000. Considerable technical assessment and community consultation has been undertaken for the Atherton Subartesian Area over the past 2.5 years.

In no way should licensees be concerned about the future security of their water entitlements. All licences awaiting renewal continue to be valid and licensees should continue to operate within the terms on their licences. The water resource plan will provide certainty and security for groundwater users in the area by ensuring that the amount of water allocated from the Atherton Subartesian Area is sustainable. Licence renewals will proceed once the water resource plan is completed in the first half of next year.

(2) I intend to release the draft Barron Basin Water Resource Plan for submissions within the next 2-3 months. I will be considering all submissions made on the draft Plan before the Water Resource Plan is finalised. I therefore would encourage all licence holders in the area and other interested parties to consider the draft Plan carefully when it is released and then provide me with a submission detailing their views.

300. Pig Industry

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/6/01)—

With reference to the progress of the "Queensland Pig Industry Development Strategy" released on 2 April 2001—

- (1) Who has been appointed to the position of State Development Project Manager?
- (2) What action has been taken to review the regulatory jurisdiction in Queensland?
- (3) What regions have been targeted for assistance through the strategy?
- (4) In these regions, what extra assistance has been implemented since 2 April 2001?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/7/01):

(1) Any appointment of staff to Department of State Development is a matter that should be referred to the Minister for State Development.

(2) A consulting firm, with expertise in the meat industry and in environmental management, has been engaged to review the regulatory framework currently affecting the pig industry in Queensland. The report, funded through Department of Primary Industries and Department of State Development, is due for completion in approximately 3 months.

(3) Assistance is to be targeted towards whole of supply chain projects to encourage investment and reinvestment in the pig industry in Queensland.

The traditional pig growing areas in the Wide Bay/Burnett and Darling Downs regions are being analysed for possible further development. Other regions that can offer opportunities for pig industry development will be considered as part of this process.

(4) The Department of State Development and the Department of Primary Industries are currently working with a number of companies in the pig industry in order to facilitate investment and trade development opportunities.

The Department of Primary Industries is increasing the staffing levels of the Intensive Livestock Environmental Management Unit at Toowoomba to expedite the processing of environmental licences.

Pig producing regions will benefit from the trade development mission I led to Japan and Taiwan to assess market opportunities for the pig industry.

301. Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading Department, Legal Services

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (19/6/01)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for her department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services, including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provided?

Mrs ROSE (25/7/01): During the last financial year, I was Minister for Tourism and Racing from 1 July 2000 to 28 February 2001 and Minister for Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading from 28 February 2001 to 30 June 2001. I have therefore provided a breakdown of the cost of outsourced legal services for the department as follows:

Department of Tourism and Racing—Payments for Legal Services 1/7/00 to 28/2/01

Name	Barrister/Solicitor	Amount
Crown Law	Solicitor	\$58,458
Hunt & Hunt	Solicitor	\$1,100
Andrew Herbert	Barrister	\$23,050
Graham Rhead	Barrister	\$2,800
	Total	\$85,408

Department of Equity and Fair Trading—Payments for Legal Services 1/7/00 to 28/2/01 for the Office of Fair Trading

Name	Barrister/Solicitor	Amount
Crown Law	Solicitor	\$335,170
Clayton Utz	Solicitor	\$3,025
Butler, McDermott & Egan	Solicitor	\$1,600
Gilshenan & Luton	Solicitor	\$6,861
Kiernan Dorney QC	Barrister	\$2,130
Helen Bowskill	Barrister	\$1,140
	Total	\$349,926

Department of Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading—Payments for legal Services 1/3/01 to 30/6/01

Name	Barrister/Solicitor	Amount
Crown Law	Solicitor	\$240,221
Freehills	Solicitor	\$5,470
Giudes & Elliott	Solicitor	\$497
Love & Partners	Solicitor	\$3,518
Gareth Beacham	Barrister	\$4,150
Helen Bowskill	Barrister	\$600
Sue Brown	Barrister	\$1,050
Andrew Herbert	Barrister	\$3,070
Richard Lilley	Barrister	\$6,015
Andrew Musgrave	Barrister	\$2,915
Graham Rhead	Barrister	\$1,500
	Total	\$269,006

302. Electrical Safety Office

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (19/6/01)—

With reference to the allocation of the electrical safety office to the Department of Industrial Relations—

Will he provide a list of (a) the organisational changes which have occurred to facilitate this change including, but not limited to, the current structure of the electrical safety office as well as the previous structure and (b) which staff positions were transferred, terminated and any new positions as well as an indication of whether any staff changes have occurred in the above positions?

Mr NUTTALL (19/7/01):

(a) The current structure of the Electrical Safety Office within the Department of Industrial Relations has not significantly changed from its structure at the time of its transfer from the Safety and Health Division of the previous Department of Mines and Energy. The Office reports directly to the Acting Director-General.

(b) One permanent position has been created and none lost since the transfer.

There are currently 31 staff within the Electrical Safety Office, comprising: Electrical Licensing Board staff and two part time workers. These include:

- Director and section managers—5
- Electrical Licensing Section—14
- Electricity Supply—5
- Utilisation—2
- Information Officer—1
- Finance, Administration and secretarial—4.

303. Public Land, Sport and Recreation

Mr LINGARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (19/6/01)—

Will he provide a list of all State public land held for the purpose of sport or recreation by (a) region and (b) use?

Mr MACKENROTH (19/7/01): The attached table details State public land held for the purposes of sport and recreation. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

304. Training Programs

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (19/6/01)—

- (1) What training and employment opportunities are available to young people when they complete Year 12?
- (2) What is the Government doing to encourage students to complete Year 12 with particular emphasis on training programs?

Mr FOLEY (10/7/01):

(1) The Department of Employment and Training operates a range of labour market and training programs that assist young people completing Year 12 and the general population. Specific programs administered by the Department relevant to post Year 12 young people include:

Programs under the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative which has created over 28,000 jobs since October 1998 with young people aged 15-24 filling about 70% of these jobs, namely—

- Public Sector Employment Program
- Private Sector Employment Program
- Community Jobs Plan
- Community Employment Assistance Program

and two new programs the Government has introduced from 1 July 200—

- Youth for the Environment and Local Communities Program
- Get Set for Work Program

Apprenticeships and traineeships provide ideal opportunities for young people to progress from school to the world of work. There are currently in excess of 560 types of apprenticeships and traineeships available as training and employment opportunities for young people when they complete Year 12.

Queensland's 16 TAFE institutes are the major providers of training opportunities to young people completing Year 12. TAFE trains young people in a wide range of industries. In 2001-02, \$537.1 million will be spent on the delivery of 42.19 million Annual Curriculum Hours (including fee for service) in TAFE Queensland Institutes.

Queensland's four Agricultural Colleges provide training to young people seeking employment in the rural industry. Graduates of these courses are highly sought after by the rural industry and colleges have high employment rate for their graduates.

Under contestable arrangements the Department also funds private and public providers to deliver training opportunities to address skills gaps and shortages.

(2) The Department participates in a range of strategies that aim to improve the rate of retention of young people in Year 12 including:

Queensland State Education—2010. The Honourable Member may like to seek further information in relation to this initiative from the Minister for Education.

Nationally, Queensland has one of the highest proportions of vocational education and training in schools enrolments. Approximately 54% of all Year 11 and 12 students in Queensland in 2000 were enrolled in a vocational education and training in schools program involving 95% of all secondary schools throughout Queensland.

School-based apprenticeships and traineeships allow students (typically Years 11 and 12) to achieve a Senior Certificate while they train in an industry to achieve nationally recognised vocational education and training qualifications.

Queensland has led the way in the expansion of school-based apprenticeships and traineeships with approximately 55% of the national total in 2000.

At a cost of \$5 million the State Government will expand the program over the next three years to give 10,500 high school students the opportunity to commence an apprenticeship and traineeship.

During the next three years the State Government will also provide \$7 million to expand the Youth Access Program which gives students at risk of dropping out of school the opportunity to undertake vocational training to gain the skills required to undertake a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship.

305. Eisteddfod, Sunshine Coast

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (19/6/01)—

With reference to the Beattie Labor Government which is continuing to be proactive in encouraging both Queensland residents and visitors to our State, to utilise public transport—

What initiatives are being considered that will complement the Queensland 2002 State Eisteddfod, an event that will be held on the Sunshine Coast attracting competitors from both intrastate and also from other States across Australia?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/7/01): Queensland Transport relies upon agencies involved with special events, including local governments, to provide details of the proposed events and/or seek input in regard to public transport services among other things.

To date no such approach has been made either by the Eisteddfod Council of Queensland, The Heritage 109th Queensland Eisteddfod Caloundra—2002 Committee or the Caloundra City Council.

Primarily, responsibility for the provision of dedicated services to such events rests with the organisers of the event.

Having now been made aware that this event is on the agenda, I have asked that the organisers be approached to determine their specific public transport needs for the eisteddfod.

Once these have been determined, appropriate meetings will be facilitated between the eisteddfod committee and bus service providers.

306. Burnett River, Water Storage

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for State Development (19/6/01)—

With reference to the State Government's intention to extract an additional 170,000ml from the Burnett River catchment through the construction of the Paradise Dam, a weir on the Burnett River north-west of Eidsvold and increased capacity at the Barlil, Jones and Walla weirs—

Will he provide a schedule for each of these projects that includes (a) current status, (b) timeframes for each stage of development to construction, (c) expected water use from the storage and the method of allocating that "new" water, (d) whether each of the projects will be State-owned and operated, or privately owned and operated, (e) any development limits that the State Government will establish for the Kolan and Isis/Elliott/Gregory systems and (f) whether the State Government will raise the Bucca Weir?

Mr BARTON (20/7/01):

(a) The Government has established a State-owned company, Burnett Water Pty Ltd, to undertake the impact assessment for each of the water infrastructure components listed.

(b) The impact assessment processes are at various stages of development but all processes required under Queensland Legislation are expected to be completed by the end of this year. As impact assessment processes proceed, appropriate consideration will be given to development options for each of the water infrastructure components.

(c) Demand for water, and therefore expected water use, will be assessed as part of the impact assessment process for each water infrastructure component. However, water allocation is expected to occur through a competitive market-based process.

In general terms, sectoral demand for additional water is expected to be as follows:

Central Burnett (Eidsvold and Jones Weirs)—irrigation, primarily citrus and horticulture;

South Burnett (Barlil Weir)—irrigation (citrus) and some town water supply;

Lower Burnett (major dam and Walla Weir Stage II)—town water supply, industrial demand, irrigation—primarily sugar cane and horticulture, ground water rescue.

(d) Burnett Water Pty Ltd will operate as a private sector company and will seek to obtain all necessary approvals for private sector development of the water infrastructure. However, once the impact assessment process and feasibility studies are further advanced, the Government will determine for each item of water infrastructure whether development will occur by the public or private sector.

(e) The development limits for the Kolan and Isis/Elliott/Gregory systems are outlined in detail in the Water Resource (Burnett Basin) Plan 2000.

(f) There is no intention to raise the Bucca Weir.

307. Job Creation

Mr QUINN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (19/6/01)—

- (1) Given that population growth continues at its current rate and given that Queensland labour market participation rates continue at their current rate, how many jobs does his department project will have to be created each year (commencing and including 2001-02) to achieve a 5 per cent unemployment rate by the end of 2004-05?
- (2) Will he also include the growth and participation rates that his department uses for its calculations?

Mr BEATTIE (19/7/01): My Department has made no such projection. The only projections are those made by the Treasury in the Budget papers, wherein total employment is expected to grow by 2% this year and 2.5% in the budget outyears, in year average terms. Population is expected to grow by 1.7% over this period. On this basis it can be reasonably expected that the year average unemployment rate will progressively decline over this period.

The Honourable Member should be able to undertake his own calculations through use of ABS statistics if he so desires.

308. Job Creation

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (19/6/01)—

- (1) Given that population growth continues at its current rate and given that Queensland labour market participation rates continue at their current rate, how many jobs does his department project will have to be created each year (commencing and including 2001-02) to achieve a 5 per cent unemployment rate by the end of 2004-05?
- (2) Will he also include the growth and participation rates that his department uses for its calculations?

Mr FOLEY (19/7/01):

(1) My Department has made no such projection. The only projections are those made by the Treasury in the Budget papers, wherein total employment is expected to grow by 2% this year and 2.5% in the budget outyears, in year average terms. Population is expected to grow by 1.7% over this period. On this basis it can be reasonably expected that the year average unemployment rate will progressively decline over this period.

(2) The Honourable Member should be able to undertake her own calculations through use of ABS statistics if she so desires.

309. Job Creation

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (19/6/01)—

- (1) Given that population growth continues at its current rate and given that Queensland labour market participation rates continue at their current rate, how many jobs does his department project will have to be created each year (commencing and including 2001-02) to achieve a 5 per cent unemployment rate by the end of 2004-05?
- (2) Will he also include the growth and participation rates that his department uses for its calculations?

Mr MACKENROTH (19/7/01):

(1) The only projections are those contained in Budget Paper 2, wherein total employment is expected to grow by 2% this year and 2.5% in the budget outyears, in year average terms. Population is expected to grow by 1.7% over this period. On this basis it can be reasonably expected that the year average unemployment rate will progressively decline over this period.

(2) The Honourable Member should be able to undertake his own calculations through use of ABS statistics if he so desires.

310. Harness Racing

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (19/6/01)—

With reference to the control of harness racing—

- (1) When will a Deputy Chief Steward be appointed?
- (2) What action will be taken to reduce the regular re-drawing of fields due to oversights of race conditions?
- (3) What action will be or has been taken on the incident in Redcliffe where a race was started from the wrong starting point?
- (4) Will drivers be policed for the crossing of market pegs?
- (5) Will action be taken to ensure that drivers who go too slow at the tail and lose are also penalised when drivers are fined for going too slow in front?
- (6) Will she ensure that these matters are addressed to ensure public and media confidence in harness racing is restored?

Mrs ROSE (25/7/01):

(1) The Queensland Harness Racing Board have advised that at the same time as the upcoming governance review into the Harness and Greyhound industries, the Board will be carrying out an internal assessment of all its staffing positions. The position of Deputy Chairman of Stewards will be addressed during that process. It is not anticipated that any appointment to this position will take place before the end of the calendar year.

(2) I am advised that the in recent times there have been far too many barrier re-draws. Errors have been isolated to procedural problems and a checklist has now been initiated to be signed off after each list of acceptances is completed. The QHRB will continue to monitor this matter closely.

(3) The race was stopped before it had gone too far and re-started from the correct starting point. The then Board was very aware of the seriousness of this incident and stood the starter involved down from starting duties for six weeks.

(4) Drivers crossing marker pegs was policed from day one of the introduction of the marker pegs. However, for the first six months drivers were given "warnings" and reminded of their obligations without further penalty. This was done in an endeavour to assist with the phasing in of a new initiative.

(5) The rule in relation to the fining drivers for going too slow in front is a necessary rule aimed at avoiding situations where a farcically slow pace is set. Concerning drivers "going too slow at the tail" this would obviously be a matter for the stewards judgment under the rules of racing.

(6) The Queensland Harness Racing Board has the responsibility under the Racing and Betting Act 1980 to control, supervise, regulate and promote harness racing in this State. I am aware that these very issues have been raised with the Board by a harness racing enthusiast and his comments were received with appreciation. I am confident that the public and media confidence in harness racing is of paramount importance to the QHRB and that this body will continue to ensure that this confidence is upheld.

311. Ambulance Service, Defibrillators

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (19/6/01)—

With reference to the equipment in ambulance vehicles—

- (1) How many ambulances per region are not equipped with a defibrillator?
- (2) Of all the defibrillators owned by Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) how many comply with the latest technology, ie automatic operation?
- (3) How many defibrillators are more than five years old?
- (4) How much have local ambulance committees in each region contributed to the purchase of equipment for QAS since 1999?

Mr REYNOLDS (19/7/01):

- (1) Every operational ambulance in every region is equipped with a cardiac defibrillator.
- (2) Every QAS cardiac defibrillator has an automatic function. (3) Of the 819 cardiac defibrillators owned by the QAS, 352 are greater than five years old and some of these are retained as emergency spares. (4) Since 1997, Local Ambulance Committees have contributed the following funds to the QAS:

1997-1998	\$0.816M
1998-1999	\$1.212M
1999-2000	\$1.028M
2000-2001(YTD)	\$0.853M

312. Olive Industry

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/6/01)—

With reference to the only two olive processors that olive growers in the Nanango electorate can sell their olives to who have both stipulated they will not accept olives from anyone not accredited in Olive Care etc and as Government criteria to qualify for reimbursement on Farmbis expenses includes that one has to have been a primary producer previously—

- (1) Is the Government fair dinkum about jobs, jobs, jobs?
- (2) Does the Government encourage new businesses?
- (3) How can olive growers not previously into primary production afford the \$319 for a Farmbis course when they have not yet had any return from their olive trees, which take five years to produce and cost \$20 per tree planted?
- (4) Who decided on that criteria instead of some fairer criteria such as tree plantings and why?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/7/01):

- (1) Yes. The Government welcomes the recent development of the olive industry in Queensland and recognises the opportunity it provides for increased direct employment in the growing and value adding processes, and further multiplier benefits in regional economies and job creation.

The FarmBis program in Queensland has provided assistance to 113 olive growers to assist in this process. I am also pleased to advise that the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA), the administrator of the FarmBis program, has indicated that no FarmBis applications from olive growers have been declined by the QRAA.

In the case of the Burnett Valley Olive Growers, a group application was received by the QRAA on 21 June 2001 for the Olive Care program and assistance for 20 growers was approved on 25 June 2001.

- (2) Yes. The development of strong regional communities is a priority of this government and the Department of Primary Industries works closely with regional communities to identify new business opportunities. DPI rural partnership development officers work with producer groups to assist them to improve existing businesses or establish new businesses through value adding, diversification, developing strategic business alliances, and business and market chain development. The FarmBis program provides financial assistance to producers undertaking eligible learning activities related to business and natural resource management. This is to assist producers in identifying viable and sustainable business opportunities and to develop the skills to take advantage of those opportunities.

(3) Under the first stage of the FarmBis program, producers who have spent at least two years in farming and commit a significant proportion of their time and generate a significant portion of their income from primary production have been targeted. New entry producers, who have not been in primary production for at least two years are therefore ineligible under the current FarmBis program.

Under the second stage of the FarmBis program, producers will still be required to demonstrate they have a major time and financial commitment to primary production. It is acknowledged that there is a considerable lead in time to full production for olives and the QRAA has the flexibility to take this into account within the guidelines of the program.

To be eligible for financial assistance a FarmBis application must identify training that will attract a \$250 minimum subsidy, exclusive of GST. Where an individual is seeking support, the training program can comprise a number of training events to meet the minimum requirement. I am advised that in the case of support for training costing \$319, the learning event would not be supported unless additional training was identified to meet the minimum subsidy requirement.

Alternatively a group application, as in the case of the Burnett Valley Olive Growers, may be submitted which would in most instances resolve the issue regarding the minimum amount of support.

(4) The State Planning Group (SPG) for the FarmBis program which includes primary producers, makes recommendations on eligibility criteria, program, priorities and performance targets within the program framework as defined in the Commonwealth/State agreement. The SPG recommended that eligibility criteria for FarmBis should be common across all industry sectors and as such cannot be linked to industry specific criteria.

313. Genetically Modified Crops

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (19/6/01)—

With reference to community concerns regarding appropriateness of and safeguards for GE and GM crops—

What sites in Queensland are currently testing or proposing to test GE or GM crops and what safeguards are in place to protect neighbouring properties?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/7/01): Following is the list of sites currently trialling GM crops in Queensland, as listed by the Federal Government's Office of the Gene Technology Regulator:

Apples—DPI Applethorpe Research Station

Cotton—Richmond Shire, Waggamba Shire, Emerald Shire, Wambo Shire

Lettuce—DPI Gatton Research Station

Papaya—DPI Redlands Research Station

Pineapple—DPI Redlands Research Station, DPI Maroochy Research Station

Sugarcane—DPI Redlands Research Station, BSES Research Station, Kalamia Mill Estate (Ayr), Townsville

When proposed trials are approved the full details of locations will be available to the public from the Gene Technology Regulator's web site and neighbours are notified.

All the above trials have been approved by the Federal Government's Gene Technology Regulator after thorough risk assessment and follow recommended risk minimisation protocols to prevent gene flow. These protocols vary for different crops, depending on the nature of the trial, trial size and risks identified. Some examples of safeguards in place include:

Appropriately sized buffer zones between trials and commercial crops

Contained transport mechanisms

Destruction of any volunteer plants after trial completed for 3 years

Bagging of flowers to prevent pollen release

Pruning wood is collected and burned

Fruit collected and burned

Caging of trees

Destruction of plants before flowering.

314. Capital Works Projects, Glass House Electorate

Ms MALE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/6/01)—

Since the Beattie Government was first elected in June 1998, will he outline how much funding the Department of Housing has allocated to projects and programs in the Glasshouse electorate?

Mr SCHWARTEN (20/7/01): Department of Housing services are delivered to clients in the Glasshouse electorate through the Sunshine Coast Area Office and the Redcliffe Area Office. Since 1 July 1998, the Department of Housing, under the Public Rental Capital Works Program, has constructed six detached houses within Glasshouse, for an approved budget of \$1,152,300. As part of the Government's Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative, apprentices working for Sunshine Coast Regional Group Apprentices Ltd constructed all six homes. The houses were all constructed to adaptable design standards.

The department has also purchased a block of land in Maleny for \$90,000 with the intention of constructing three seniors units on the site in future. Since 1 July 1998, Breakthrough Community Housing Association has received \$1,199,762 funding (including GST as applicable) to deliver the Community Rent Scheme to assist public housing applicants with a severe and immediate housing need. In 2000/01, the department also granted conditional funding of up to \$420,000 to Breakthrough Community Housing Association under the Long Term Community Housing

Program to purchase one, four bedroom detached house and two, two bedroom units to accommodate families and singles.

The Beattie Government has invested around \$2.6 million maintaining and upgrading properties in the Glasshouse electorate. More than \$393,000 has been spent for minor works and upgrades to public housing accommodation (including security, smoke detectors, disability modifications, and kitchen and bathroom upgrades). A further \$18,334 has been allocated for similar works to community housing accommodation. Three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing dwellings have been upgraded for \$65,104, while \$2,021,309 has been spent on general maintenance for public housing, \$23,240 maintaining community housing properties and \$72,848 on general maintenance work for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing properties.

In the Glasshouse electorate, Mortgage Relief Loans totalling \$15,621 have been granted, to assist home-owners experiencing financial difficulties to stay in their own homes. Rental Grants (for two weeks rent) of \$8,750 have been allocated to assist people leaving correctional facilities, women's shelters, mental health institutions and others to access the private rental market. Area offices in the Glasshouse electorate have issued \$668,300 in Bond Loans to assist people into the private rental market.

Since the Beattie Government was elected, Tenant Participation Funding (including the Garden Award Funding) has increased substantially. In 1998/99, the two Glasshouse electorate Area Offices spent \$6,621 on Tenant Participation Funding, and this increased to \$11,233 in 1999/2000 and to \$31,036 in 2000/01.

315. Capital Works Projects, Burnett Electorate

Mr STRONG asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (19/6/01)—

- (1) What projects is Q Build managing in the Burnett electorate?
- (2) Will he outline any Q Build initiatives that are designed to generate training and employment opportunities for apprentices?

Mr SCHWARTEN (20/7/01):

(1) QBuild is currently managing the construction of a new Police Station at Kolan South within the Burnett electorate*. This project is valued at \$245,199.00.

(2) QBuild is a major employer and trainer of a large number of engineering and building trade apprentices. Currently QBuild has 385 apprentices who are employed in twelve different trades and are located in thirteen trading centres across Queensland. Thirteen apprentices and one construction worker trainee are employed in the Electorate of Burnett.

As part of its 2001 intake QBuild engaged 106 apprentices and trainees. Of this group, there were fifteen school based apprentices, two horticultural trainees and six construction worker trainees.

QBuild commenced its school based apprenticeship initiative in 1999 with a pilot of five secondary school students. All five are now full time apprentices with QBuild. Last year an additional eight were included in the 2000 intake. QBuild currently has twenty-two school based apprentices undertaking training.

QBuild has actively sought to participate in new training initiatives such as the employment of the Horticultural and Construction Worker Trainees (Civil). The horticultural trainees are being fully trained in all aspects of horticulture and are currently working at Government House and the Roma Street Parkland. The construction worker trainees are being trained under the Civil Construction Stream which will develop their skills not only in building but also civil works such as, traffic control, pavement repairs, manual excavation and the operation of work platforms.

In the Burnett area, QBuild is supporting the Department of Housing's Housing Industry Trade Training Scheme. A partnership exists between QBuild and the Bundaberg Area Community Apprenticeship Scheme (BACAS) Training Limited. QBuild's partnership with BACAS guarantees that apprentices are fully utilised, supervised and provided with a wider variety of experience in the construction industry.

* For the purpose of this response, projects have been classified as construction projects.

316. Cairncross Dockyards, Asbestos

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (19/6/01)—

With reference to his response to my Question on Notice No 187 wherein he responded that in the majority of visits to workplaces, inspectors approach workers for information and opinions—

- (1) Is he aware of a recent incident at the Cairncross Dockyards involving asbestos, where the inspector who visited the site spoke only to management and did not approach the workers who were the ones who originally lodged the complaint?
- (2) Will he issue a direction to Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors to speak to workers in confidence and without the presence of management at every site?

Mr NUTTALL (19/7/01):

(1) The Division of Workplace Health and Safety has received two complaints regarding asbestos at Forgacs Cairncross Dockyards in 2001.

The first complaint made on 2 May 2001 was anonymous.

The second complaint was made on 15 May 2001 by the Union Representative at Forgacs Cairncross. A Workplace Health and Safety Inspector visited the site on 15 May 2001 and spoke to management and then spoke with the Union Representative at the site.

(2) My Department has confirmed that in the case you reference where the complaint was made by the union representative at Cairncross Dockyards, the Workplace Health and Safety Inspector spoke in confidence to that representative.

Workplace Health and Safety Inspectors enter workplaces for a variety of reasons. It is the view of the Department that Inspectors need to use their discretion to determine which workplace participants can provide relevant information regarding the case at hand.

In the majority of visits to workplaces, Inspectors approach workers for information and opinions. This recognises the fact that workers are ideally placed to provide an insight into issues that may directly impact on them. Inspectors are very aware of potential influence that may be exerted on workers if required to answer questions in the presence of management.

317. State Government Land, East Trinity

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (19/6/01)—

With reference to the purchase by the State of land formally held by Natwest Finance as mortgagees in possession and to large sections of the property which have been seriously affected by a build up of acid sulfate—

- (1) What procedures will be employed to remediate degraded land?
- (2) What is the timetable for such a process?
- (3) What measures are being taken to manage feral flora and fauna?

Mr ROBERTSON (19/7/01):

(1) My Department of Natural Resources and Mines has allocated approximately \$700,000 in 2000/2001 to combat the affects of acid sulfate soils on the Government owned East Trinity site. This is part of a four year commitment by the Government to spend \$2.8 million to rehabilitate acid sulfate soils at the site.

The Government's foresighted commitment has many benefits including preserving Cairns' "green backdrop" and image for important tourist markets. I also acknowledge the efforts of the local member in achieving this significant outcome.

The acid sulfate soil remediation plan is being led by the Queensland Acid Sulfate Soils Investigation Team (QASSIT) from my Department of Natural Resources and Mines. QASSIT is also drawing on other support from within NR&M, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency.

The innovative remedial action involves controlled re-flooding the affected area with seawater and neutralising acidity with agricultural lime in the more severe areas. This is a cost effective option that will provide substantial savings over conventional treatments (estimated to be approximately \$62 million) but involves progressive expert evaluation and adjustment to achieve project outcomes.

This plan utilises the mechanism of tidal exchange as an additional buffering agent. The intention is to progressively and cautiously replace the existing acidified freshwater/brackish water unmanaged wetland with a managed tidal wetland system. Tidal exchange is expected to hydraulically suppress acid export from the soil and assist with neutralising existing water acidity. Ultimately, a restored wetland environment is expected to inhibit further acid production and return it to a more natural system. Hydrated lime or agricultural lime treatment is proposed to assist the process and reduce the risk to the surrounding environment.

The plan will be implemented and monitored initially in the Hills Creek catchment. In the light of the knowledge gained for Hills Creek, other catchments will be progressively restored.

The proposed approach includes the assessment of the natural resources of the site, progressive review to evaluate the level of risk and reduce the proposed approach's level of risk. This cautious approach complies with a general environmental duty of care and is intended to deliver a substantial reduction in the existing environmental risk exhibited by the site.

Scientific data on soils, hydrography, stratigraphy and water quality are being collected in order to minimise the risk. The tidal exchange strategy is also considering the risk of possible intrusion of salty groundwater into adjacent low-lying farmland, and this is being assessed.

(2) The rehabilitation of acid sulfate soils at the site is a cautious and staged process that commenced early in 2001. Being a low-lying, wet, overgrown and degraded site, much of the site is inaccessible for long periods, particularly during wet weather and this may affect the timing of on-site activities.

In the next 12 months the following actions are being progressed:

Complete assessment of the Hills Creek catchment such as:

- Detailed topography assessment on which to base a flood model to predict tidal inundation and flooding patterns;
- Upgrading of acid sulfate soils information;
- Mapping of stratigraphic layers; and
- Investigation of groundwater pathways.

Commence strategic application of lime to hotspot acid areas.

Install automated water quality monitoring stations on Hills Creek.

Design and modify floodgates to manage the tidal exchange process.

Similar investigations, monitoring and tidal exchange are planned in the other creek systems on the site for a further three years.

(3) Mapping of the site has been undertaken and declared pest plant species recorded. Herbicide treatment of some species has commenced in readily accessible areas. Areas previously affected by waterlogging will be accessed in July/August 2001 with a view to continuing the control effort, however ready access to all areas is a major challenge to be addressed.

Slashing operations have been undertaken to reduce general weed load, and provide a buffer for rats between the East Trinity site and adjacent cane lands.

NR&M in conjunction with the Community Based Feral Pig Trapping Program is encouraging local landholder groups to participate in a coordinated pig-trapping program in the region. Controlling feral pigs only on the site in question would be counter productive and have little impact on that areas feral pig population.

It is envisaged that a major "post sugar cane harvest" trapping program, after the major food source has been reduced, will result in a more effective control program being implemented.

318. East Timor

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (19/6/01)—

With reference to the important role that Australia has played, and continues to play, in assisting the people of East Timor to develop a free and democratic society and acknowledging the increasing partnerships in so many different areas between Australia and East Timor—

- (1) Will he detail the interactions between State Government departments and agencies and the people of East Timor?
- (2) Is he aware of the many community and church groups who are developing "training" arrangements with communities in East Timor?
- (3) Are there other ways Queenslanders can help our friends in East Timor?

Mr BEATTIE (19/7/01):

(1) Following my visit to East Timor in September 2000, the Department of State Development established an East Timor Project Team to coordinate the Queensland Government's interaction with East Timor and to establish a long-term cooperative relationship. Apart from the humanitarian aspects of this relationship, the intention is to facilitate access to business opportunities in East Timor for both Queensland businesses and government agencies.

The Department of State Development has brought together an Interdepartmental Working Group to provide a coordinated cross-agency approach to business opportunities as they arise. The Department of State Development has also arranged briefings for Queensland industry on business opportunities in East Timor. In conjunction with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, a briefing by the Head of the Australian Mission in East Timor will take place on 4 July.

Department of State Development representatives have travelled to East Timor on three occasions and have devoted considerable effort to establishing a network of contacts with both the emerging East Timor and the current United Nations administration. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of State Development and the Division of Trade and Investment in East Timor is currently under negotiation. As a result of my Government's initiatives, six East Timorese public servants participated in a ten week intensive English language program at Griffith University and a two week secondment within the Departments of State Development and Primary Industries, and Tourism Queensland in April/May of this year.

Queensland Government agencies have donated goods that have been freighted to East Timor. Education Queensland (including their partner organisations Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and Queensland Catholic Education) as well as Sunshine Coast Cooloola TAFE, and the Departments of Public Works, Primary Industries and Emergency Services have provided advice and assistance to similar organisations in East Timor.

These goodwill initiatives include:

- the Department of Public Works donated \$5,000 worth of school supplies;
- Education Queensland provided \$5,800 of school equipment and two volunteer teachers to teach English to the staff of the East Timor Education Department and secondary teachers;
- the Department of Emergency Services facilitated 13 volunteer paramedics to work in East Timor and the provision of \$100,000 worth of emergency medical equipment donated through industry suppliers;
- the Department of Police provided a total of 30 police on a rotational basis to take up duty in East Timor; and
- Queensland Rail freighted 45 tonnes of goods donated by Queenslanders.

Queensland businesses and government departments have won projects worth a value of \$12 million dollars. These include:

- Ausco Building Systems securing a major contract for the construction of Australian Defence camps;
- South East Power winning contracts for the supply of generators and electrical panels;
- Energex supplying a one megawatt generator;
- the Queensland Ambulance Service providing emergency equipment;
- the Department of Public Works winning an AusAid tender for school equipment; and
- Education Queensland being contracted directly by the East Timor Transition Government to conduct a needs analysis for Education Policy Development.

To reinforce my Government's commitment to assisting our neighbours, it is proposed that the Minister for Education, Ms Anna Bligh MP will visit East Timor in late July.

(2) My Government is aware of the good work that is being done by various community and church groups in Queensland in assisting urban and rural communities in East Timor. These groups are undertaking a number of initiatives ranging from the provision of school books and furniture to volunteer support for agriculture and sanitation assistance schemes.

(3) Queenslanders can continue to help the people of East Timor by supporting the many initiatives sponsored by their local community and church groups. These groups are listed in the attached table.

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

319. Private and Public School Partnerships

Mr SHINE asked the Minister for Education (20/6/01)—

With reference to an article and editorial appearing in the Toowoomba Chronicle on 12 June 2001 dealing with the subject of private and public schools forming partnerships—

Does she see any merit in the proposal; if so, will she indicate what, if any, steps will be taken to explore the possibility of such partnerships operating in Queensland?

Ms BLIGH (23/7/01): I am keen to explore any avenues that may be available to improve the delivery of education in this State.

As Minister, I have a broad commitment to seeking joint development opportunities that provide benefit to students and the wider community.

To that end, when opportunities arise, departmental representatives will assess the interest of the relevant education community and actively seek the involvement of the broader community in the delivery of high-quality education and the facilities necessary for that to occur.

To date, there are some examples of partnerships occurring in Queensland. One such arrangement is occurring between Education Queensland and EDUCANG Ltd in relation to shared facilities at Forest Lake.

Forest Lake State School and the Forest Lake P-6 College, that are physically adjacent to each other, formally share a resource centre, music facilities, a multipurpose covered area, and a sports store. In addition, facilities such as ovals and classrooms are also shared via local agreement.

If the Member is aware of any proposals in his region, I would be happy to discuss the opportunities.

320. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Agency Queensland, Legal Services

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (20/6/01)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for her department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services, including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provided?

Ms SPENCE (20/7/01):

Department of Families

Clayton Utz—\$2,500.00

Total—\$2,500.00

The total value of outsourced legal services for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy for the 2000/2001 financial year is as follows:

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Legal Providers (Non-Government)—2000/2001 Financial Year

Company—Amount

Gayler, Cleland, Towne—\$8,000.00

Reidy and Tonkin—\$5,100.00

Lagois, Magoffin, Rose—\$510.00

Total—\$13,610.00

The total value of outsourced legal services for Disability Services Queensland for the 2000/2001 financial year is as follows:

Disability Services Queensland Legal Providers (Non-Government)—2000/2001 Financial Year

Company—Amount

Minter Ellison—\$230,609.99

Sue Brown, Barrister—\$6,500.00

Hugh Fraser QC—\$6,200.00

Total—\$243,309.99

321. Ramsay State School

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/6/01)—

With reference to the application currently being assessed by his department for a school bus for the Ramsay State School—

When will a response be given to the school community to begin the school bus run given the application meets the criteria set down by his department?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/7/01): There are several factors that have to be considered when implementing a new service, including the number of students/families that will benefit, the number of eligible students more than 6.4 kilometres from the school, the per capita costs and the impact on existing services. Staff in the Toowoomba public transport office have reviewed the application and while it meets the per capita costs and student eligibility numbers, the proposed service would have a negative effect on the existing service in the area and would adversely impact on some families currently accessing Toowoomba schools. The application does not meet all of Queensland Transport's criteria and a letter will be sent by 15 July 2001 advising the applicants that the service has not been approved.

322. Centres of Excellence

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (20/6/01)—

With reference to the Centres of Excellence program of this Government—

Will she provide information on the (a) capital expenditure to present at each centre, (b) total other expenditure to present at each centre, (c) staff allocations to each centre, (d) any staff vacancies at each centre, (e) outputs achieved by each centre, (f) number of students served by each centre and (g) status of online learning programs for each centre?

Ms BLIGH (23/7/01): The Technology, Maths and Science Centres of Excellence will be located at school sites. The school sites will provide opportunities for best practice in Technology, Maths and Science. Each Technology, Maths and Science Centre of Excellence will house the physical resources, and the human resources associated with its management and operation.

The Technology, Maths and Science Centres of Excellence will be established in term 3, 2001 and will be operational by term 4, 2001. Detailed information relating to capital expenditure, staff allocations, staff vacancies, outputs achieved, number of students served and online programs is not available at this stage for each centre as they are not yet operational.

\$3.3 million will be allocated to the Technology, maths and Science Centres of Excellence. Each centre will receive a base allocation of funding for staff and running costs associated with professional development and training. Additional funding will be negotiated according to the centre's curriculum area focus ie maths or science, and other functions undertaken in relation to on-line learning material, student residential workshops and intervention programs. Each Technology, maths and Science Centre of Excellence will have a negotiated resource agreement for three years.

323. Sly-grogging, Aboriginal Communities

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (20/6/01)—

With reference to an article that appeared in The Courier Mail on 1 September 2000 where it is reported that a 'blitz on sly-grog dealers in remote Aboriginal communities has netted one at Woorabinda outside Rockhampton, and two who had 64 litres of wine and spirits at Aurukun on Cape York"—

Given that in response to a recent Question on Notice she said that only four flagons of alcohol had been seized as part of the Government's so-called blitz on sly-grogging, will she explain the whereabouts of the entire 64 litres of wine reported and will she give an assurance that it was not returned to the two people reportedly apprehended for possible resale in indigenous communities?

Mrs ROSE (25/7/01): The Liquor Licensing Division does not have a presence in Aurukun and was not involved in any roadblocks at Aurukun in the second half of 2000.

324. Dental Services

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (20/6/01)—

Will she provide details relating to dental waiting lists at all hospitals and health services throughout Queensland (including the Caloundra Hospital dental service) including (a) waiting times for each category of dental care, (b) the number of dentists allocated to each facility compared with the actual number at present and (c) funds allocated to each facility, including for each of the last four years, to alleviate waiting lists?

Mrs EDMOND (20/7/01):

(a) Waiting times for dental care vary markedly across the state. Since January 1999, the number of eligible card holders has increased by approximately 100,000, due largely to changes in Commonwealth eligibility criteria. This has created a heavy demand for public oral health services available to eligible card holders, however, the demand for prosthetic services is generally decreasing. Persons requiring emergency dental care are normally able to access care within one working day. As an example, Caloundra Dental Clinic waiting times are currently 91 weeks for general dental care and 30 weeks for prosthetic services (down from 121 weeks in 1997).

(b) Queensland has the largest public oral health service in Australia with a budget in 2000/2001 of approximately \$100 million and a staff of 1500. There are approximately 300 dentists employed with a vacancy rate of less than 10 per cent. The overall oral health workforce has grown by 15 per cent over the last four years. Since 1997/98 the number of courses of care have increased from 647,311 to 720,559, an increase of 73,248.

(c) To address the increased demand the Government in the recent budget committed an additional \$5 million to address oral health waiting lists. The clinics that are to receive additional funds include: Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Noosa, Redcliffe, Caboolture, Pine Rivers, QE II, Redlands, Logan, Beenleigh and the clinics of the Gold Coast.

The Oral Health program is a fully state funded program following the cessation of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in December 1996. Queensland was the only state to provide full supplementation of the cancelled Commonwealth Dental Health Program. The majority of oral health funding is within each district's base budget and it is the district's responsibility to allocate funds to meet local health needs. This in turn affects staffing levels of each facility. The Federal Labor Party has undertaken to provide Commonwealth funding for dental services if it wins government at the upcoming Federal election.

325. Pine Rivers, Bus Service

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/6/01)—

With reference to the proposed takeover by the Brisbane City Council of the Brisbane Buslines service to Pine Rivers—

- (1) What is the expected total subsidy being provided to the Brisbane City Council for this service?
- (2) What is the expected subsidy per kilometre?
- (3) How is this level of subsidy calculated, including the component costs per kilometre (eg wages, fuel, other operating costs, overheads)?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/7/01):

(1) The services being provided by Brisbane Transport in the Arana Hills/Albany Creek service contract area are provided under a temporary service contract which was issued to ensure the continuity of services in that area.

All service contracts entered into by Queensland Transport, on behalf of the state, contain a confidentiality clause which requires that "each party shall keep confidential the contents of this contract and all books, documents and information made available to that party for the purposes of entering into this contract or in the course of the performance of this contract ..."

Therefore, while the government has no objection to the disclosure of this information, a contractual obligation exists for both the state and Brisbane City Council to maintain the confidentiality of the business arrangements relating to the Arana Hills/Albany Creek service contract.

Due to this I am unable to disclose the total amount of subsidy being paid for the Arana Hills/Albany Creek service provided by Brisbane Transport as requested, however, I can advise that payment is being made at the same rate as for the previous operator Brisbane Bus Lines.

(2) For the same reason I am unable to disclose the amount of subsidy being paid on a per kilometre basis.

(3) Again I am unable to disclose these details due to the contractual obligation to maintain confidentiality.

However, I am able to report that Brisbane Transport were required to complete their offer to provide services to ensure continuity of service in the Arana Hills/Albany Creek service contract area using the costing methodology set out in the recently negotiated second generation service contracts.

The costing methodology set out in the second generation service contract requires contract holders to account for the cost of providing services so that the individual component cost can be identified. These costs include drivers wages and oncosts, distance related costs such as fuel, oil, tyres and maintenance, vehicle costs such as depreciation, interest, registration and insurance.

Overhead costs are to be separately identified and are to be allocated under a formula which is sensitive to the acquisition of additional vehicles and extending depot operating hours. Under this formula overheads are calculated as a percentage of direct operating costs.

326. Coastal Management Plan

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for State Development (20/6/01)—

With reference to the Draft Coastal Management Plan—

- (1) Has a full assessment been carried out by the Department of State Development on the impact of the Draft Coastal Management Plan now being considered by both State and Federal Governments?
- (2) Is he aware that the excesses of a range of proposals in the plan will have severe constraints on development?
- (3) What level of involvement will the Department of State Development have with the plan?

Mr BARTON (20/7/01):

(1) The Department of State Development has contributed extensively to the policy development process on the State Coastal Management Plan. Officers from divisions within DSD including project and infrastructure, industry development and innovation and strategies have continuously reviewed the Plan, identified impacts on the future economic development of Queensland and sought to resolve these issues with the EPA. The Department has noted that the Urban Development Institute of Australia and industry stakeholders, particularly aquaculture, have raised concerns and issues. DSD has subsequently raised these issues with the EPA.

(2) DSD considers that this initiative is of particular significance in terms of the Plan's capacity to influence a large proportion of the State's future economic development in high growth coastal regions. It is paramount that the Plan's principles and policies foster sustainable development outcomes for the benefit of all Queenslanders. DSD has liaised with industry representatives and the EPA to ensure the Plan reflects appropriate development principles balancing economic, social and environmental outcomes. As a result of these negotiations the Plan no longer takes a prescriptive approach, but focuses instead on environmental objectives. This provides flexibility for applicants to generate innovative solutions that address the desired outcomes of the Plan rather than compliance with process requirements.

(3) Input to the EPA on the preparation and implementation of the Draft State Plan will continue to be a priority focus of the Department, including contributions to the development of regional coastal management plans which are intended to implement the policies from a regional perspective.

327. Health Department, Legal and Compensation Costs

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (20/6/01)—

What is the cost of litigation and compensation for the Queensland Health Department for 1999-2000 and what is the estimated amount for 2000-01?

Mrs EDMOND (20/7/01): The cost of legal claims for the Queensland Department of Health for the financial year 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 is \$14,822,661.00. The cost of legal claims for the period 1 July 2000 to 24 June 2001 is \$12,010,000.00. It is estimated that the cost of legal claims for the financial year 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 will be \$12,768,494.00.

These figures are a total of compensation payments and legal costs.

328. Rail/Road Tunnel, South Brisbane-Bowen Hills

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (20/6/01)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice in June 2000 in relation to a proposal by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane regarding a rail/road tunnel from South Brisbane to Bowen Hills and his advice that the proposal was then being considered by his department—

Will he now advise if he supports the Lord Mayor's proposal?

Mr BREDHAUER (19/7/01): As Mr Johnson has rightly pointed out, this infrastructure proposal is being promoted by the Lord Mayor on behalf of the Council. It is not a state government initiative. The strategic transport plan for the region, Transport 2007, which I launched earlier this year, does not establish a need for this tunnel, or any other new river crossings for Brisbane, in the immediate future. This is not to say however that this and other proposals may not have some merit.

I have indicated to Council a willingness to consider the proposal and to evaluate it. As you would appreciate a proposal of this magnitude, costing in excess of \$800 million, raises significant issues in relation to need, impacts and sources of funding. The information provided by council to date though has not been sufficient to allow a comprehensive assessment to be carried out. Consequently, the state government is not in a position to support or reject this proposal. I understand Brisbane City Council is funding a feasibility study to justify the project.

As I have communicated to council, the ultimate test for any major transport infrastructure proposal such as this will be to demonstrate its consistency with the objectives of the Integrated Regional Transport Plan for south-east Queensland.

329. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Agency Queensland, Legal Services

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (20/6/01)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for her department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services, including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service provided?

Ms SPENCE (20/7/01): I refer the Honourable Member to my response to Question on Notice No. 320.

330. Purpose Built Housing

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/6/01)—

With reference to the high community need for purpose built housing—

What is the (a) total yearly expenditure on purpose built housing for the past three years by regions, (b) total number of purpose built houses constructed each year for the past three years by region and (c) number of people currently on waiting lists for purpose built houses by region?

Mr SCHWARTEN (20/7/01): An estimated 18.7% of the Queensland population have a disability and 95% of all people with a disability in Australia live in the community, with the remaining 5% living in institutions.

The department's approach to the housing needs of people with a disability ensures that they are housed as part of, rather than separate from, local communities.

During the period 1998/99 to 2000/01, to address this high demand for 'adapted' housing (purpose built housing), the department, under the public rental new construction program, commenced a total of 394 'adapted' dwellings or 22% of the total 1,768 public rental new construction commencements.

As well as 'adapted' dwellings constructed for the individual needs of disabled clients, the department commenced a further 657 adaptable houses or 37% of the total new construction commencements for this period.

'Adapted' and adaptable commencement totals for this period are 1,051 dwellings or approximately 60% of the total new public rental construction program. This growing demand for specialised accommodation highlights the problem inherent in the federal government's swing away from capital funding to rent assistance. The added cost of adapting dwellings for special needs is not widespread in the private sector market and the burden falls largely on public housing authorities. The trend can only continue as the more affordable segments of the private market shrink.

Refer to Attachment A ('adapted' dwellings) and Attachment B (adaptable dwellings) for details of estimated project cost, numbers of commencements by region and wait list details.

Notes to Attachments A and B:

(a) An 'adapted' dwelling refers to those dwellings where specific features, such as grab rails, and other specialised fittings have been incorporated to meet the particular needs of a specific tenant.

(b) Individual dwelling costs for 'adapted' and adaptable housing is not able to be provided as some projects comprise of more than one dwelling, and costs such as levelling sites for individual needs of clients are absorbed over the total project.

(c) Cost estimates for 'adapted' dwellings are based on estimated cost of a three-bedroom detached house in Brisbane including a \$50,000 estimated average land component and 14% service provider fee.

(d) Cost increase from 1999/2000 includes 10% GST and additional costs associated with revised departmental design standards.

(e) 'Adapted' and adaptable houses commenced during 1998/99 and 1999/2000 differ from reported purpose built housing in departmental Annual Reports due to revised internal data and includes 'adapted' dwellings for clients under the Institutional Reform Program.

(f) Any average of additional costs associated with providing 'adapted' housing for additional clients would not reflect an accurate cost on a project-to-project basis, as specific needs may require no additional features or

extensive changes such as sound insulation, air conditioning or safety components. Cost estimates data for 'adapted' housing has therefore been assumed to be the same as adaptable dwelling estimates for a three-bedroom detached house in Brisbane.

(g) In 1998/99, the department incorporated 'adaptable design' standards within its Residential Design Requirements. Adaptable design refers to the inclusion of specific design features in new construction, which can be readily adapted to suit a tenant with a disability. For example, bedrooms are designed with minimum width dimensions to accommodate wheelchair circulation around a double bed. As adaptable housing often requires minimal additional work to be 'adapted' to meet the particular needs of a specific tenant, the department aims to design all ground floor units and dwellings to Adaptable Design Standards wherever possible. This initiative has greatly reduced the need for purpose built accommodation.

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

331. Living Away from Home Allowances Scheme

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Education (20/6/01)—

With reference to her departments current review of policy of the Living Away from Home Allowances Scheme (LAFHAS) (20/6/01)—

- (1) How many scholarship survey forms were returned to her department?
- (2) What is the total number of students her department believes to be in receipt of part or full scholarships?
- (3) Of these survey forms how many students were receiving full scholarships?
- (4) How many students were receiving part scholarships?
- (5) What is the total value of Remote Area Tuition Allowance paid by her department to students who are receiving a full scholarship?
- (6) What is the total value of scholarships provided to students who are in receipt of a full scholarship?
- (7) What is the total value of Remote Area Tuition Allowance paid by her department to students receiving part scholarships?
- (8) What is the total value of scholarships provided to students who are in receipt of a part scholarship?

Ms BLIGH (23/7/01): The Queensland Government Living Away From Home Allowances Scheme (LAFHAS) is not under full review. Data is being collected on tuition fee scholarships being offered to parents to ensure that the policy of the LAFHAS treats scholarships appropriately. This applies to only one of the four component allowances of LAFHAS.

Entitlements of the Remote Area Tuition Allowance component are based on the basic tuition fee charged by boarding schools for particular year levels. Information on tuition scholarships has not been collected in the past.

Prior to 2001 full tuition fee scholarship students would not receive Remote Area Tuition Allowance if the department became aware of the existence of such a scholarship. Similarly, part tuition fee scholarship students would have their Remote Area Tuition Allowance based on the balance of fees payable by parents.

As anecdotal evidence in 2000 indicated that there was a growing prevalence of scholarships available, it was considered appropriate to collect information on the extent of scholarship availability and the impact of these benefits on the objectives of government assistance for students from geographically isolated areas.

Data collection is nearing completion. Final analysis is yet to be completed. Preliminary discussions have been held with representatives of the Isolated Children's Parents Association, the Association of Independent Schools in Queensland and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. The results of the data collection will be shared with these bodies and any resulting policy options will be developed collaboratively and consultatively.

Answers to specific questions as at 4.7.01 are as follows:

1. 91 survey forms.

Only parents who indicated on their 2001 LAFHAS application forms that a part scholarship had been awarded, received survey forms.

2. 143 students.

Application forms indicate 143 scholarship holders but ineligibility of applicants has reduced this number to 140.

3. 27 full scholarships.

Based on application forms.

4. 113 part scholarships.

Based on survey/application forms.

5. \$77 384 is expected to be paid in 2001.

In 2001, full scholarship holders are receiving Remote Area Tuition Allowance based on the full basic school tuition fee. (\$38 692 paid to date.)

6. \$141 056 for 2001.

These scholarship values have been derived using the basic school tuition fee charged by the school for the year level involved. This information is collected annually by the department. Actual scholarship values have not been verified with parents or schools.

7. \$319 945 is expected to be paid in 2001.

In 2001, part scholarship holders are receiving Remote Area Tuition Allowance based on the basic school tuition fee. (\$159 972.50 paid to date.)

8. \$222 794 for 2001.

These scholarship values are provided by parents on survey/application forms returned to date. They include a range of different scholarship types. For example, tuition, boarding, music, sport and hardship scholarships. Actual scholarship values have not been verified with schools.

332. Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists

Mr FENLON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (20/6/01)—

With reference to "training positions" in the medical specialty of ear, nose and throat—

- (1) How many positions have been appointed in the Queensland Health system in the past 10 years?
- (2) When and to which institutions were they appointed?
- (3) What is the criteria for deciding whether an appointment should be made to a particular institution?

Mrs EDMOND (20/7/01):

- (1) Nine accredited training positions in total.
- (2) There is currently one accredited training position at each of the following hospitals: Gold Coast, Ipswich, Mater Misericordiae Public Hospital, Princess Alexandra, Royal Brisbane, Royal Children's, and Toowoomba Hospitals. The two additional positions recently agreed on will be based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and Townsville Hospital.
- (3) The accreditation of training positions in ENT is determined by the service needs of tertiary hospitals and the accreditation criteria of the College. The College considers the supervision requirements of trainees in relation to the full range of modalities required for Fellowship of the College. As there are no full-time ENT specialists with the Australian Fellowship working in Queensland Health a minimum of three visiting consultants are required to supervise trainees.

333. Security Alarms

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Environment (20/6/01)—

- (1) As more residential businesses are installing security systems, is there any regulation which sets the maximum decibels and the length of time the alarm may ring; if not, why not?
- (2) What recourse do local residents have when faulty security alarms ring for sometimes up to seven hours in the late evening/early morning ensuring them of a sleepless night?
- (3) How many inspectors are on call at any one time on the southside of Brisbane at night when these incidents occur?
- (4) Is there a hotline number which will be answered by an inspector, or will it be an answering service?

Mr WELLS (20/7/01): (1) & (2) There is no regulation under Queensland environmental legislation which sets specific maximum noise levels in decibels or acceptable lengths of time for which a residential alarm may ring. The powers necessary to deal with complaints of noise nuisance arising from electrical devices (such as security alarms) rest with the Department of Police under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

334. Taromeo Creek, Blackbutt

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (20/6/01)—

With reference to Taromeo Creek at Blackbutt for which the following have been approached with regard to keeping it in such condition that it doesn't present a problem to residents by backing up to the steps of their houses in times of heavy rainfall (a) the local council, (b) Department of Natural Resources, (c) Peter Shoecraft of Water Resources at Gatton and (d) the local Land Care Group—

Which, if any, of these is responsible for this maintenance and how does one get them to accept that responsibility and take the appropriate action and; if none of these, who?

Mr ROBERTSON (20/7/01):

(a) The construction of housing in the Taromeo Creek area at Blackbutt is subject to approval of the Nanango Shire Council. If housing has been placed upon land that is normally flood prone, the residents should make approaches to the land developer or to the Local Authority for assistance in correcting the problem.

Should changes to the profile of the creek be contributing to the flooding, eg silt deposition at Council road culverts, then Council could seek approval from my Department to remove the siltation from the bed of the watercourse. Individual persons can also make application for approval to conduct flood mitigation works in a watercourse.

(b) My Department of Natural Resources and Mines administers the provisions of the Water Resources Act 1989. The Act provides for the granting of approval to carry out works such as removal of silt deposits and reshaping the creek profile to improve stream flow, where it is considered that such works will not adversely effect the integrity of the watercourse. Such approval can be granted to persons such as landowners and Local Authorities. It is not within the charter of my Department to conduct such works.

(c) Mr Peter Shoecraft is my Department's Senior Technical Officer at Gatton. His duties include the investigation and approval of applications from persons for various forms of authorisations under the provisions of the Water Resources Act 1989. All inquiries concerning approval to carry out any form of works within Taromeo Creek at Blackbutt should be directed to the Department's Office at PO Box 321 Gatton Qld 4343 ph 07 5462 3000.

(d) Landcare groups are active in projects involving the rehabilitation of degraded riverine environs. The projects are usually of benefit to the community and to the landowners in the vicinity. Such groups may seek the approval of my Department to conduct various works within a watercourse.

The maintenance of Taromeo Creek is primarily the responsibility of landowners and the local community. My Departmental officers are available to provide advice to landowners and the community on the requirements of the Water Resources Act 1989 and on the practical aspects of proposed projects.

335. Mining Leases, Bracewell

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (20/6/01)—

With reference to leases held by Queensland Cement for areas around Bracewell—

- (1) Have all leases now been renewed; if so, when were they renewed and for what period; if not, which leases remain to be renewed?
- (2) What additional conditions, if any, have been imposed on the company?

Mr ROBERTSON (20/7/01):

(1) There are seven mining leases that make up the East End Mining Project. Applications for renewal of the terms of five of the mining leases were duly lodged with the Mining Registrar on 23 December 1996. Processing of the applications for renewal of Mining Leases Numbers 3629, 3630, 3631, 3632 has been completed and I will consider the recommendations for grant by the Governor in Council in due course. The application for renewal of Mining Lease Number 7629 is still being processed.

(2) Special Lease Conditions currently applying to the mining leases are being recommended to carry over on renewal under the Mineral Resources Act 1989. There are no additional conditions recommended to apply to the renewal of the mining leases under the Act.

336. Public Housing

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (20/6/01)—

Will he provide some statistical information which compares the success of public housing tenancies with private rental agreements?

Mr SCHWARTEN (20/7/01): It is difficult to define what makes a "successful tenancy". Arguably, a key measure of a tenancy's success lies in its contribution to improving the tenant/s' wellbeing and life chances. From a private market perspective, however, it may be simply meeting the legal requirements of the tenancy (including rent payments) within the period of the tenancy agreement.

Potential indicators of "success" of public housing tenancies include the average length of tenancies, arrears and eviction rates, and overall tenant satisfaction with public housing services. Unfortunately, statistics are not readily available from the private rental sector.

Average length of tenancies

Departmental data shows that the average length of tenancies of public housing tenants in Queensland at 31 May 2001 was about six years.

In comparison, data from the Residential Tenancies Authority shows that three-quarters of private sector tenancies in Queensland last for less than two years, and half of private sector tenancies last for one year. The latest data available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicates that 10% of private rental households had not moved in the five years from 1989 to 1994; 60% had moved three times or more; and 20% five times or more. These trends indicate that private rental households are very mobile and have little residential stability. While flexibility is important for many private renters, this level of mobility is a major problem for many others who need stable housing.

Arrears Management

Public rental housing arrears statistics have fallen to historically low levels due to proactive arrears management. For the last four years, the percentage of public housing accounts in arrears by four or more weeks rent has been consistently below the target level of 4%. Departmental data shows that at 31 May 2001, only 1.3% of accounts were in arrears by four weeks or more.

No statistics are available concerning arrears rates in the private rental market.

Evictions

Approximately 7,600 tenants leave public housing annually, and less than 5% are the subject of warrants of possession. Only about half of the warrants approved result in physical evictions being carried out. Anecdotal evidence suggests that procedures employed by the Department of Housing leading up to the termination of tenancies are more rigorous than those employed by the private sector.

There has been a 22.9% decrease in eviction approvals from 1999/2000 which is indicative of area office efforts to sustain tenancies and avoid the eviction process whenever possible.

No statistics are available concerning eviction rates in the private rental market.

Tenant satisfaction with public housing services

In the 2000 National Customer Satisfaction Survey, 72% of Queensland respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the overall public housing service (including 28% very satisfied). Both results were significantly higher than the national average for public housing.

That Survey indicated 34% of Queensland respondents had rented in the private market in the last five years and rated public housing more favourably than private rental housing on the following attributes: overall condition of the home, location of the home, quality of maintenance services, overall service received from the landlord, rent paid for the home, and security of the home. Only 2% of respondents expected to move to the private sector in the next five years.

No statistics are available concerning tenant satisfaction in the private rental market.

337. Planning and Environment Court

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (20/6/01)—

With reference to many councils across Queensland which are concerned about legal challenges that have increased and are continuing to arise against Local Government's following decisions made on planning applications and as numerous councils are struggling with increasing legal costs—

Has an arbitration or dispute resolution process been considered, similar to those that exist in other States and countries that could ensure that challenges to planning decisions do not end up in court unnecessarily?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (18/7/01): The existing appeals system is essentially the same system that has been in place since the 1960s. It is very thorough and the Court is highly regarded for the quality and thoroughness of its judgments.

However, as it is a court-based system, costs can be high. This is particularly so for complex, large-scale development proposals such as regional scale shopping centres and some large tourist developments.

There was a proposal under the former Goss government to reform the Planning and Environment Court to create a combined tribunal and court similar to the NSW system. While the proposal had reached an advanced stage under the Goss government before the change of government in 1996, the Borbidge Coalition government did not continue it and the focus since commencement of the Integrated Planning Act has been on refining the operation of the existing system and completing the consequential amendment program, rather than reopening the court reform debate.

Even though there has not been a reform of the current appeal system, the IPA currently contains a number of processes designed to reduce unnecessary court actions and streamline dispute resolution processes.

The IPA now provides for negotiated decisions notices for development approvals, which are a means of resolving disagreements between applicants and councils about development conditions before a final decision is issued and outside formal appeal processes.

The powers of the Court have also been expanded to make declarations and issue orders, which can be used to resolve specific points of law without having to resort to a full-scale appeal. Alternative dispute resolution procedures applying to the District Court now also apply in the Planning and Environment Court jurisdiction.

The IPA also provides for a Building and Development Tribunal, the jurisdiction of which is currently limited to building matters. In this regard, the tribunal has proved to be an effective low cost "referee" for straightforward technical disputes.

More reforms are planned and will be contained in the package of proposed legislative amendments resulting from the IPA operational review. This package will be released shortly for stakeholder consultation, prior to being finalised by the Government.

338. Work Trials

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (20/6/01)—

As many employers are increasingly asking prospective employees to donate time for the purpose of a work trial or assessment, are these workers performing unpaid duties at the direction and guidance of an employer protected by the workers compensation legislation?

Mr NUTTALL (20/7/01): WorkCover advise that each case would be considered individually on its merits taking into consideration all the facts and circumstances of the employment arrangements to determine whether or not a bona fide contract of service existed and the worker therefore had an entitlement to workers compensation.

If the employer intimated that the worker would be employed at the end of the work trial and was essentially 'on the books' during the trial then it could be said that there was some 'offer and consideration' and that a bona fide contract or 'contract of service' existed. If this is the case the person would be covered by workers compensation.

I reiterate that WorkCover would consider each situation individually on its merits, taking into consideration the facts and circumstances of the employment arrangements.

An employer has a duty of care for persons who are performing duties under work trials. While, in some cases, there may not be coverage under the workers compensation scheme, the employer would be liable for any injuries these persons suffered and would be indemnified under their public liability insurance.

339. Ambulance Service, Pensioners

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (21/6/01)—

Will he provide details on the number of pensioners accessing free ambulance services for each month in each region since the scheme's introduction?

Mr REYNOLDS (23/7/01): Tabulated data from the Ambulance Information Management System for the seven Queensland Ambulance Service regions is provided for the Honourable Member's information.

340. Drug Rehabilitation Facilities, Toowoomba

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (21/6/01)—

With reference to drug rehabilitation beds—

- (1) How many beds are available for drug rehabilitation in Toowoomba and on the Darling Downs?
- (2) Where are they located and how many are in each location?
- (3) How many dedicated places are available for people under the age of 18 in each location?

- (4) How many dedicated places are available for people over the age of 18 in each location?
- (5) Are there separate facilities for people over and under the age of 18 in each location?
- (6) If there are no facilities, when, where and how many dedicated facilities will be made available for people under the age of 18 and for people over the age of 18?

Mrs EDMOND (23/7/01): (1-6) Queensland Health recently assisted Teen Challenge set up a residential treatment service in Toowoomba with the objective of providing long term assistance to young people seeking to change their drug using behaviour. While the centre is still in the early developmental stages, Teen Challenge is working toward providing a 32 bed residential program and an outpatient therapy program.

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services (ATODS) within the Darling Downs Health Service District provides a community service, which offers medical and outpatient detoxification, relapse prevention, group therapy, an opioid treatment program and a liaison service to all government and non-government services in order to provide a client focused service.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Services in Toowoomba has recently employed a full time dedicated Medical Officer to the service to complement the existing multidisciplinary team. The service has developed close cooperation with Mental Health Services to address the needs of clients presenting with dual diagnosis, such as mental health and drug use problems. The Opioid Treatment Program (formerly known as the Methadone Program) will be enhanced with the introduction of Buprenorphine. In addition, two outreach clinics and a drug assessment service seven days a week will also be incorporated.

The Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Service has also increased the current staff establishment by two full time Medical Officers, together with a Psychologist and Social Worker, to provide a comprehensive service for the community in addressing drug use and addiction issues at all levels and ages.

The State Government has allocated more than \$5.37 million over the next two years to community organisations, who provide residential care, with \$2.87 million in 2001-02.

Young people may be referred to any of these programs, which are not restricted to adults.

There is a widely held assumption that residential treatment is better treatment, however, the evidence indicates that inpatient treatment confers no particular advantage over outpatient treatment.

The Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS) provides a 24-hour 7 days per week telephone information and counselling service, and has the most up-to-date database of alcohol and drug programs and services. The contact details are (07) 3236 2414 or for callers outside Brisbane on 1800 177 833. ADIS receives approximately 40,000 calls per year and funding has increased by \$115,000 per year since 1999 for additional counsellors to answer calls at peak times.

341. State Development Department Assistance, Callide Electorate

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for State Development (21/6/01)—

What assistance has his department provided and to whom in the Shires of Monto, Eidsvold, Mundubbera, Gayndah, Biggenden, Kolan, Perry, Wondai, Murgon and Kilkivan which make up the south eastern portion of the Callide Electorate?

Mr BARTON (20/7/01): (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

342. Gympie Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (21/6/01)—

With reference to the review into the Gympie Hospital and the seven recommendations contained in the report—

- (1) When will she be providing her response to the report?
- (2) Will that response provide timeframes for recommendations?
- (3) Does she agree with the comments by the AMAQ that "Queensland Health is simply moving from one bush fire to the next?" and that "the crisis situation in Gympie which only after emergency visits to the region by the AMAQ, constant media attention and lobbying from local politicians, managed to force Queensland Health to act"?

Mrs EDMOND (23/7/01):

- (1) I am supportive of all the recommendations made.
- (2) The District Manager is developing an implementation plan which includes timeframes.
- (3) No.

343. Railway Level Crossings

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/6/01)—

With reference to a recent accident between a car and the Sunlander approximately 1km south of the Ingham station—

- (1) Does the crossing involved have no warning lights or boom gates?
- (2) How many such crossings exist between Rockhampton and Cairns along the route of the proposed high-speed diesel tilt train and what funds and timetable apply to the upgrading of these crossings?

Mr BREDHAUER (26/7/01):

(1) This collision occurred at Cooper Street in Ingham. There is a STOP sign at this crossing. There are no warning lights or boom gates.

(2) There are 225 open level crossings and 236 private occupation crossings between Rockhampton and Cairns.

The government has made available \$17 m over 5 years from 31 August 2000 for the upgrading, where necessary, of public level crossings on the rail lines included in the Transport Service Contract (Rail Infrastructure) with Queensland Rail (QR). The North Coast line between Rockhampton and Cairns is one of these lines.

At present, risk assessments of these public level crossings are being undertaken. Where identified, proposed upgrading works are to be prioritised using a risk based framework and undertaken as a joint initiative between the relevant road authority, Queensland Transport and QR.

344. Education Department, Legal Services

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (21/6/01)—

What has been the total value of the outsourced legal services for her department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service?

Ms BLIGH (23/7/01): The total value of outsourced legal services for the department since 30 June 2000 was \$66,017.59 (GST exclusive). These services were provided by Minter Ellison and Clayton Utz which are broken down as such:-

Minter Ellison—\$46,786.09 (GST exclusive)

Clayton Utz—\$19,231.50 (GST exclusive)

345. Centenary Ambulance Station

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (21/6/01)—

With reference to the staff at the Centenary Ambulance Station who are doing an excellent job in my local community—

(1) Which health funds provide full cover for the cost of the use of the ambulance service for both emergency (Code 1) and non-urgent (Code 2 and 3) accident cases?

(2) What financial or other incentives are provided for people to take out ambulance subscriptions with the Queensland Ambulance Service?

Mr REYNOLDS (23/7/01):

(1) Various arrangements exist in the private health insurance industry with respect to ambulance cover and there is considerable confusion in the community about exactly what people are covered for, when they take out private health insurance.

There are 38 separate health funds operating in Queensland with the two largest health funds, MBF and Medibank Private, covering around 76% of the market. Most funds provide cover for emergency ambulance transports (Code 1 & 2) and a small number provide cover for both emergency and non-emergency transports (Code 3 & 4).

Emergency only ambulance cover is usually offered by health funds as an add-on in their comprehensive hospital and/or extras cover products although a small number also offer ambulance only cover as a stand alone product. For instance, MBF, provides 100% emergency ambulance cover only as part of most of its hospital and extras coverage and also offers ambulance only coverage.

Those funds which do provide cover for non-emergency transports usually provide this cover subject to conditions and limitations. For example, Medibank Private provides 100% cover for ambulance services including non-emergency services but only for those services considered medically necessary. Other health funds place specific limits on the amount of benefits payable for ambulance services. These limits can vary from between \$5,000 to \$10,000 per year.

There are a number of health funds which do not provide any type of ambulance coverage as part of their range of insurance products. For example, NIB offers a refund to certain members if they join the Queensland Ambulance subscription scheme rather than providing its own insurance product.

While most health funds provide cover for ambulance services, they are not paying out significant amounts to the Queensland Ambulance Service for the use of ambulance services by their members. This is because an estimated half of the number of people with private health insurance are also subscribers and/or pensioners who are covered for the costs of ambulance services under alternative arrangements.

My Department is currently looking at options to establish partnership arrangements with private health funds to assist in addressing community confusion about the level of coverage provided for ambulance services by private health funds.

(2) The Ambulance Service Act 1991 and Regulations provides for people to take out an ambulance subscription with the QAS and thereby avoid an account for the use of ambulance services. The benefits for QAS subscribers include emergency, pre-hospital care, anywhere, anytime; specialised ambulances and crews for special conditions; regular transfers for authorised medical conditions and reciprocal rights with other State and Territory ambulance services. QAS subscriptions go directly towards providing these vital ambulance services in the local community. QAS subscribers are eligible to join Local Ambulance Committees and/or participate in the voting process to elect Local Ambulance Committee members. There are currently 176 Local Ambulance Committees throughout Queensland.

346. Brisbane Magistrates Court

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (21/6/01)—

With reference to the Attorney-General's claim that the Brisbane Magistrates Courts Project will "contribute to minimising delays in the long term"—

- (1) Will he advise of the size of the decrease he expects in the Magistrates Courts waiting times when the new Brisbane Magistrates Court is fully operational?
- (2) Further, will he advise what his department is doing at present to decrease the backlog of cases that exist within the Magistrates Courts system?

Mr WELFORD (26/7/01):

(1) The new Brisbane Magistrates Court building will have a capacity of 33 courtrooms, compared to 18 in the present building. This additional capacity will help to meet any future increases in the workload of the Brisbane Magistrates Court.

(2) The Chief Magistrate is responsible for managing the caseload for Magistrates Court hearings. The estimated projected hearing dates figure for 2001-02 is 8 weeks. This is well within the target of 12 weeks used by the Chief Magistrate as a benchmark to manage the resources of the magistracy and meet peaks in workload. The Department of Justice monitors lodgements to ensure performance standards are maintained at an appropriate level.

The performance of the Magistrates Courts in Queensland compares very favourably to other states and territories. The most recent published comparisons are noted in the Report on Government Services 2001 covering the period 1999-2000. This provides an analysis of comparative statistics on the performance of the courts in all States, Territories and the Federal and Family Courts. In regard to our Queensland Magistrates Court, it indicates that: Magistrates Court finalisation of committals within 6 months was 89%, better than the national average of 82%; in finalising matters under 6 months in the criminal jurisdiction, the Magistrates Courts figure of 93% was again better than the national average of 92%.

347. Public Reserves

Mrs LEE LONG asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (21/6/01)—

- (1) What is the general purpose of repealing public reserves where they then become "unallocated state lands" and are therefore liable to other claimants?
- (2) How long has this policy been operative?
- (3) What prompted this action and why has there been no public consultation?

Mr ROBERTSON (23/7/01): There is no general policy for revoking public reserves. Historically reserves have been set apart for designated public purposes such as parks, camping, water etc. In the course of its normal business my Department may consider proposals to use reserved land for other purposes. If after investigation it is found that the whole or part of the reserve is no longer required for a designated purpose, then in accordance with the provisions of the Land Act 1994 consideration is given to revoking the whole or part of the reserve. Following revocation, the land can be further dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Land Act 1994. For instance the land may be set apart as a reserve for a different purpose or leased for economic endeavours.

As my Department cannot deal with land in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth Native Title Act or the Queensland Native Title Act, it must ensure that native title issues, if any, are properly addressed before further dealings involving reserved land can proceed.

348. Treasury Department, Legal Services

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (21/6/01)—

What has been the total value of outsourced legal services for his department since 30 June 2000 and who provided the services including the value of legal work undertaken by each legal service?

Mr MACKENROTH (19/7/01): Please refer to my response to Question on Notice No. 282.

349. Child Protection

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (21/6/01)—

- (1) Why is it deemed acceptable for funding for material objects such as Lang Park Stadium and the Foot Bridge to blow out by millions of dollars but not so the funding for the protection of children?
- (2) Is it because both the stadium and bridge would be very visible testimonies to her success/failure, whereas children at risk in our society are hidden behind closed doors?
- (3) Does the Government feel an extra \$18.5m is adequate, considering we needed \$104m to bring us into line with other States and the Government gave \$45m over five years (\$45m plus 18.5m amounts only to \$63.5m)?
- (4) Is it correct that Queensland is the second lowest funded State in terms of child protection; if so, why?

Ms SPENCE (23/7/01): The Beattie Labor Government has provided far more funding for areas of child protection, family support and juvenile justice than any previous Government in Queensland.

To try to suggest that this Government places greater emphasis on capital works than child protection is to completely misunderstand the comprehensive reform process which has been under way in the Department of Families for the past three years.

It is for this reason that the Department received one of the biggest increases in this year's State Budget, taking it to \$335 million, an increase of \$36.6 million or 12.2 percent over last year.

The State Budget is similar to household budgets in that it has to be divided up among a large number of competing interests instead of all the money being spent in one area to the neglect of others.

On the weekend of June 30/July 1 nearly 120,000 people watched three football games in Brisbane, injecting an estimated \$20 million into the economy.

Queensland needs that sort of money injected into the economy on a regular basis to help create more jobs, which in turn adds to the overall economy and makes more money available for areas such as child protection, family support and juvenile justice.

That is why infrastructure such as Lang Park Stadium is needed. It will be able to host important international games that at the moment are often held in Sydney or Melbourne because Queensland does not have a suitably large stadium.

For further details on the public benefits of these works, I would refer the Member to direct further questions to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport and the Minister for State Development respectively.

The sufferings of children at risk receive high priority in the Department, in terms of service delivery and ongoing policy formulation.

The 2001-2002 Budget provided for the recruitment of a further 50 service delivery staff and further eight support staff.

This is 24 more than originally planned, and adds to the 169 new staff already in place. The State Government is committed to providing 250 additional service delivery staff by 2003.

If the Member had read the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions, she would have understood that we inherited a system under stress from decades of underfunding by successive governments.

We have accepted the challenge of rebuilding Queensland's child protection system. The 2001-2002 Budget increases funding for Child Protection by \$18.2 million.

It includes the third instalment of \$10 million recurrently committed in the 1999-2000 State Budget, and the election commitments which deliver another \$5.7 million on a recurrent basis for child protection, family support and youth justice services.

As well, the Budget contained \$2.5 million on a non-recurrent basis towards the Forde Foundation and youth crime prevention programs.

Both the real and comparative levels of funding for child and family welfare in Queensland are the result of years of underfunding by conservative Queensland Governments.

The 1999-2000 State Budget allocated \$10 million increasing to \$40 million over the next four years.

In 1999-2000, Queensland's per child figure for child protection and supported placements expenditure was \$112.09.

Queensland's expenditure was fourth on the table compared to other States and Territories.

For Queensland, these figures do not include expenditure on family support services provided through non-government agencies, which in 1999-2000 was approximately \$7.5 million.

Furthermore, there is the issue of comparability of the expenditure due to the inclusion/ exclusion of certain items (eg. workers compensation or payroll tax) and the effect of the basis of apportionment of umbrella department costs by different jurisdictions.

350. Kawana Ambulance Station

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (21/6/01)—

With reference to the projected growth within the Kawana area that has been identified in various planning documents including the Kawana Waters Development Control Plan—

Does the Queensland Ambulance Service have any short or long term plans to upgrade or relocate the present Kawana Waters Ambulance Centre?

Mr REYNOLDS (19/7/01): The current ambulance station was built in 1982 on land partially donated by the Kawana Waters Estate. The station was upgraded in 1999 to provide improved facilities for additional staff. The QAS has no short term plans to relocate the Kawana Ambulance Station as it is ideally located to meet the current service needs of the community.

In the longer term, the QAS will continue to monitor trends and patterns in growth and service demand to assess the ongoing suitability of the current service delivery model for the Kawana area.

351. Industrial Relations Department, Ombudsman Investigations

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (21/6/01)—

- (1) How many investigations into the Department of Industrial Relations and its instrumentalities has the Ombudsman undertaken so far in 2000-01?
- (2) What action has the department or its instrumentalities taken as a result of these investigations?

Mr NUTTALL (23/7/01):

General Response

(1) The Ombudsman makes no discrimination between what constitutes a major investigation carried out by that office and relatively minor complaints that are referred back to the appropriate agency for resolution. In this regard the Ombudsman's office has advised that for the 2000-01 financial year 274 investigations were conducted into the former DETIR portfolio:

DETIR/DIR—53; WorkCover—211; QIRC—3; TAFE—7

(2) The results to the investigations are as follows:

- (a) The Department and its instrumentalities have enhanced their issues management procedures to address and minimise complaints in line with its ongoing commitment to improved service delivery.
- (b) WorkCover Queensland has advised that the majority of investigations involved informal contacts. In 2000-01 the Ombudsman undertook four formal investigations, which have all been brought to a satisfactory conclusion.
- (c) TAFE is not in the industrial relations portfolio. As a result the nature of the complaints is unknown.
- (d) In relation to the Ombudsman's investigations into 13 electrical fatalities that form part of the Electrocutation Project involving 10 investigations. I have implemented a number of initiatives that result from the recommendations of the Ombudsman's first two reports, see attached.

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

352. Bicycle Helmets, Special Circumstances Permits

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/6/01)—

With reference to representations I have made to his office seeking exemptions from the wearing of bicycle helmets for persons practising the Sikh religion and to the fact that persons following the Sikh religious faith are prohibited from removing their headwear and as such a requirement to wear bicycle helmets is both impractical and a denial of their rights to practice their faith—

Will he give consideration to providing exemption for such persons who are in strict adherence to the requirements of their religion?

Mr BREDHAUER (26/7/01): There is no provision in the current road rules for exemption of a person from the requirement to wear a bicycle helmet on religious or cultural grounds. A person may be exempted from wearing of a bicycle helmet if the person is carrying a doctor's certificate stating that, for a specified period, the person can not wear a bicycle helmet for medical reasons; or because of a physical characteristic of the person, it would be unreasonable to require the person to wear a bicycle helmet.

A person may also apply in writing to Queensland Transport for a Special Circumstances Permit.

The responsibility for determining applications for Special Circumstances Permits rests with the chief executive of Queensland Transport.

353. Dawson Highway

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (21/6/01)—

With reference to continuing concerns regarding the Dawson Highway (Calliope, Biloela) (21/6/01)—

What is the department's timetable for upgrading this highway and what funds are allocated to each stage?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/7/01): The current Roads Implementation Program lists the following projects on the Gladstone to Biloela section of the Dawson Highway:

An \$18.9m allocation for widening and rehabilitation of the Gladstone-Biloela section of the Dawson Highway is currently proposed in the 2000-2001 to 2004-2005 Roads Implementation Program over the five years. This funding does not include an additional \$2.4m allocated for bridge repairs or replacements.

A \$3.3m project to upgrade 2km of the Dawson Highway in the Calliope township is currently under construction.

A \$2.6m duplication project from two to four lanes between Breslin Street and Blain Drive in Gladstone City is nearing completion.

The following Dawson Highway upgrading projects have indicative allocations shown for the later years 2002 to 2005:

\$4.25m project to rehabilitate and strengthen the pavement between Monto Turnoff and Scrubby Creek, a total of 10kms in length

\$2m project to widen and strengthen 5.3km of highway east of Oaky Creek

\$1m for the construction of overtaking lanes between Gladstone and Calliope

\$1.3m project for the widening and rehabilitation of 1.9km of the highway from Leixlip Creek to Monto turn-off

\$4.3m project for widening and rehabilitation of 13.3km of the highway from Scrubby Creek to Branch Creek.

A total length of 32.5km of the Dawson Highway will be widened and strengthened over the next five years between Calliope and Biloela.

Regular maintenance will also be carried out to ensure this highway is kept in a safe and trafficable condition.

354. Penalties and Sentences

Mr PURCELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (21/6/01)—

With reference to the cowardly attack on an 84 year old gentleman in his home at Cannon Hill on Sunday 10 June—

- (1) Is there an automatic sentence set down for crimes of this nature where an offender breaks into a home with a view to theft and in the process assaults an elderly, defenceless victim?
- (2) If there is no set sentencing, will he seek to introduce same?

- (3) Is it a fact that if the offender is a juvenile, they are not given a jail sentence if it is their first offence for a crime of this nature?

Mr WELFORD (26/7/01):

(1) There are no automatic or 'mandatory' sentences for offences of this kind. The Criminal Code provides for a maximum sentence of life imprisonment where an offender breaks into premises and commits an indictable offence in the premises.

In addition there is power to declare that a person who commits such an offence has been convicted of a serious violent offence, which results in the offender having to serve 80% of the sentence imposed before being released.

In sentencing any offender, judges are required to have regard to the nature of the offence and how serious it was, including any physical or emotional harm done to the victim.

(2) I believe the courts have been provided with appropriate powers and jurisdiction to impose appropriate penalties (maximum sentence of life imprisonment) after having regard to the particular circumstances of a case.

(3) Juvenile offenders are not exempted from detention simply because they are first offenders. The relevant legislation requires sentencing courts to have regard to the protection of the community and the nature of the offence committed.

355. Fireworks Licences

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (21/6/01)—

With reference to the fact that all applications for short fire/firework licences were placed on hold pending the outcome of a coronial inquest into the death of a young girl in 2000 involving fireworks—

Is he able to indicate when qualified industry applicants can expect the processing of licenses to recommence and is he in fact not only awaiting the coronial result but the result of any safety audit?

Mr ROBERTSON (23/7/01): The issuance of fireworks licences was placed on hold after the tragic accident at Bray Park on 20 May 2001. This did not affect the issuance of other explosives licences such as shottirers which have continued without interruption. The reason for the delay in processing licences was that training of fireworks operators was to be reviewed as part of the investigation. The investigation is now virtually complete and the final report will be provided to the Coroner shortly. Among the recommendations in this report will be several which address training and licensing matters, including the competency of operators, both existing and new applicants. I believe that it is very proper to allow the Coroner to consider these recommendations as part of his findings. In the meantime, my Department is preparing a proposal for new fireworks training courses which could be implemented following the Coroner's report.

There is no other safety audit being undertaken or contemplated at this stage.

356. Fisheries Infringement Notices

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (21/6/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol which is responsible for apprehending persons who break the law in relation to activities in which they are involved within the Queensland Fishery—

- (1) How many illegal acts were registered over the last five years?
- (2) Will he differentiate the number of illegal acts that were perpetrated by commercial operators and those that were carried out by other fishermen or recreational fishermen?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/7/01):

(1) During the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 2001 breach reports were received for 3884 offences under fisheries legislation. In addition to these, 734 fisheries infringement notices have been issued since their introduction in July 1999.

(2) Of the above offences, excluding the fisheries infringement notices, 1119 or 29% were committed by commercial fishers. Forty-four fisheries infringement notices were issued to commercial fishers.

357. Imported Green Prawns

Mrs KEECH asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (21/6/01)—

With reference to the electorate of Albert which is fortunate to have a number of prawn farms which contribute significantly to Queensland's aquaculture industry—

- (1) What are the dangers posed to these existing prawn stocks by the importation of green prawns?
- (2) What is his department doing to ensure that this valuable industry, which employs a large number of people in the areas of Alberton and Rocky Point, is protected and encouraged?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/7/01):

(1) Imported green prawns permitted for human consumption under Federal Government protocols may be diseased or contain exotic disease organisms which could infect existing Queensland wild or farm prawn stocks if the imported product was to come in contact with live wild or farmed prawns.

In practical terms, the importation of green prawns for human consumption presents little risk to Queensland prawn stocks unless green processing waste from these prawns is dumped indiscriminately and enters waterways, or the prawns are diverted from human consumption to the bait market.

I have urged the Federal Government to ensure its import protocols did not expose our live wild and farmed prawns to the risk of exotic diseases, particularly the white spot syndrome virus.

(2) Within the Department, the Queensland Fisheries Service and the Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences devote considerable resources to supporting the development of a sustainable aquaculture industry in Queensland, including the prawn farms in the Member's electorate. This work includes licensing and management of the industry, research into new production technologies and extension of this work onto farms, marketing and product development, disease diagnosis and support.

In addition, officers of the Queensland Fisheries Service are working in cooperation with fish health specialists from the Commonwealth to maintain the exotic disease free status of Australian prawn stocks, both wild and farmed. The measures in place include active surveillance of wild and farmed prawn stocks for the presence of exotic disease organisms.

358. Nelly Bay Harbour, Magnetic Island

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for State Development (22/6/01)—

With reference to the Nelly Bay harbour canal estate project which is being constructed in the State marine park on Magnetic Island—

- (1) Have progress payments been made to Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd (NBH) for the public works component of the project; if so, what is the total amount that has been paid to NBH to date and what items of public infrastructure have been paid for?
- (2) Given that NBH is required to provide a statutory declaration to the effect that all sub-contractors have been paid in full before receiving a progress payment, what verification mechanism is in place to ensure that the sub-contractors have in fact been paid?

Mr BARTON (20/7/01):

(1) The State entered into a commercial Agreement with Nelly Bay Harbour Pty Ltd and Curtain Bros (Qld) Pty Ltd on 24 August 2000 for the development of Nelly Bay Harbour. Subsequently on 6 September 2000 the State entered into two construction contracts with Curtain Bros (Qld) Pty Ltd, a licensed contractor, for the construction of the public infrastructure. The first contract is for the development of the harbour and the second for the development of the ferry terminal. At this time the initial Stage 1 contract for the harbour works is 77% complete and no work has yet been accepted by the State as completed. The Stage 2 contract for the ferry terminal and carpark is only 23% complete. The total paid by the State to the companies for public infrastructure as progress payments to 27 June 2001 is \$3,516,854.35.

(2) A condition of the contracts is that the contractor must provide a Statutory Declaration that all the subcontractors have been paid. The latest one received was dated 8 June 2001 and was provided in conjunction with the June claim for a progress payment. In addition, the contractor has to submit a Statement notifying which subcontractors are employed on the site. The current Statement is dated 14 June 2001. In addition, the contractor is required under the conditions of the contract to provide a Record of Payment form signed by each subcontractor to confirm that the subcontractor has been paid. Eleven subcontractors submitted their Record of Payment forms in June 2001. The contractors progress payment was not paid until the subcontractors forms had been received. Sinclair Knight Merz has been contracted by the State as the construction Superintendent for the project. The Superintendent inspects all work to verify that it is to the quality required and certifies that the work that is claimed for within the progress payment has in fact been completed. The Superintendent also checks that the subcontractors Record of Payment forms have been submitted prior to certifying that the claim is ready for payment.

359. School-based Apprentices and Trainees

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (22/6/01)—

With reference to school based apprenticeships and traineeships—

What is the (a) number of school based apprenticeships and traineeships currently filled within the Kawana Electorate, (b) number of present vacancies currently available within the Kawana Electorate and (c) amount of expenditure allocated to school based apprenticeships and traineeships across the Kawana Electorate?

Mr FOLEY (10/7/01):

(a) At present there are nineteen (19) school-based apprentices and trainees in training in the Kawana Electorate. The Department of Employment and Training has committed to 60% growth in school based apprenticeships and traineeships over the next three years which will see 10,500 students provided with the opportunity to undertake this form of training. Queensland currently has 55% of all school based apprenticeships and traineeships in Australia.

(b) There is no pool of vacancies that students can access to undertake a school based apprenticeship or traineeship. A number of agencies or organisations including community organisations, New Apprenticeships Centres, Registered Training Organisations, Group Training Organisations, Centrelink, and the Department of Employment and Training Employment Taskforce actively promote school based apprenticeships and traineeships.

(c) In excess of \$18,800 has been expended on school based apprenticeships and traineeships in the Kawana electorate.

360. Food Safety Standards

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (22/6/01)—

What effect will the proposed new National Standard for Food Preparation have on school tuckshops in the future?

Mrs EDMOND (23/7/01): To comply with the Food Safety Standards, there will be some changes required by food businesses, however these are expected to be minimal. The main focus is on ensuring that food is produced and handled safely. There will be basic requirements that tuckshops will have to follow such as how the premises

are designed and cleaned, the temperature of food and the hygiene of food handlers. Most tuckshops will probably find that they already comply, and meeting with these standards will be an easy task. To assist tuckshops, the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) has produced a range of fact sheets that are available on the ANZFA web site (under 'food safety') at www.anzfa.gov.au.

There are certain elements of the national food safety reforms which each State or Territory will have some discretion over their implementation. Late last year the Queensland Government established the Food Safety Stakeholder Forum to consider how Queensland might implement these discretionary elements. Both the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizen's Associations and the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops have representatives on this Forum. Therefore, the concerns of schools tuckshops will be well represented as these possible reforms are considered. In addition, individual school tuckshops will have the opportunity to comment on how they would like the discretionary elements implemented through Queensland Health's standard public consultation mechanisms.

361. Pine Rivers, Bus Service

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (22/6/01)—

With reference to the proposed takeover by Brisbane City Council of the Brisbane Buslines service to Pine Rivers—

- (1) Is this proposed subsidy to the Brisbane City Council from the Queensland Government in conformity with national competition guidelines; if so, given Brisbane City Council transport has acknowledged it has a higher cost structure than private competitors, how has this been determined?
- (2) Will Brisbane City Council need to subsidise the service; if so, by how much?

Mr MACKENROTH (19/7/01):

(1) The Brisbane City Council's bus service provider, Brisbane Transport is taking over the Arana Hills/Albany Creek urban service previously provided by Brisbane Bus Lines (BBL), following a BBL request to withdraw from the routes. BBL is retaining its provision of certain school bus services. Brisbane Transport won the service in a competitive bid against another operator according to Section 62B of the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

The National Competition Policy's Competition Principles Agreement, as amended by CoAG on 3 November 2000, specifically provides for there to be no requirement for parties to the agreement to undertake a competitive process for the delivery of Community Service Obligations (CSOs). By way of further clarification, which supports the Government's ability to provide a subsidy as a CSO to the Brisbane City Council, the above agreement stipulates that parties are free to determine who should receive a CSO.

(2) The services which Brisbane Transport provide in the Arana Hills/Albany Creek service contract area are provided under a temporary service contract to ensure continuity of service in that area. All such service contracts entered into by Queensland Transport on behalf of the State contain a confidentiality clause which places the parties under a contractual obligation to "keep confidential the contents of this contract and all books, documents and information made available to that party for the purpose of entering into this contract or in the course of performance of this contract ..."

On the basis of this contractual obligation to maintain confidentiality, it is not possible to provide a definitive answer to the Honourable Member's question.

362. Sly-grogging, Aboriginal Communities

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (22/6/01)—

With reference to an article that appeared in The Courier Mail on 1 September 2000 where it is reported that a "blitz on sly-grog dealers in remote Aboriginal communities has netted one at Woorabinda outside Rockhampton and two who had 64 litres of wine and spirits at Aurukun on Cape York"—

Given that in response to a recent Question on Notice the Minister responsible for licensing said that only four flagons of alcohol had been seized as part of the Government's so-called blitz on sly-grogging, will he explain the whereabouts of the entire 64 litres of wine reported and will he give an assurance that it was not returned to the two people reportedly apprehended for possible re-sale in indigenous communities?

Mr McGRADY (25/7/01): In 1998 two persons were summonsed to appear on matters involving sly grogging at Woorabinda. In July 2000 a small number of flagons of wine were seized at a Woorabinda house. The flagons are presently being held in police custody. Investigations to date have been unable to link the wine seized with any person. The liquor presently in custody of police will be disposed of according to legislative and Queensland Police Service policy requirements.

In June, August and September 2000 roadblocks were conducted at Aurukun for approximately 5 days at a time to detect sly grogging. Queensland Police Service members were not actually involved with the staffing of the roadblocks. However, when offenders were found contravening the alcohol limits, the sworn police officers at Aurukun seized the alcohol, conducted the interviews and later instituted summons action.

The matters proceeded through the Magistrates Court with "guilty" pleas entered. \$300 fines were imposed. All liquor seized was treated as exhibits. The liquor was subsequently destroyed according to Queensland Police Service policy requirements. No alcohol was returned to the community members.

363. Queensland Rail Staff, Roma

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/6/01)—

As I have been advised that up to fourteen jobs will be lost from the Roma, Queensland Rail maintenance gang, will he give an assurance that these jobs will not be lost from either the maintenance gang or Queensland Rail personnel based in Roma?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/7/01): Queensland Rail currently has eleven staff who were employed for a specific term for some project work which was to be completed at the end of June 2001. In the normal course of events, employment for these staff would have ceased, however, Queensland Rail has found an additional five months of work for these employees enabling their employment contracts to be extended.

364. Q-Ride

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (22/6/01)—

With reference to his proposed introduction of the Q-Ride motorcycle licensing scheme which was scheduled to commence early this year—

- (1) What has been the delay in introducing this scheme and when will it commence?
- (2) Has the Motorcycle Training Program conducted by the department ceased operation on the assumption that Q-Ride would be in place?

Mr BREDHAUER (25/7/01):

- (1) The regulatory amendments for Q-Ride have been approved by the Governor in Council. Applications for registered service providers to provide Q-RIDE training to motorbike learner riders are currently being sought.
- (2) Due to the development of Q-Ride, Queensland Transport has decided to no longer contribute to the Motor Cycle Training Program (MCTP).

365. School Chaplains

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Education (22/6/01)—

With reference to the fact that many schools are now employing, or would like to employ, the services of a chaplain to assist with the all round care of students—

- (1) How much money does the Department of Education, or other Government departments currently give to schools to employ chaplains?
- (2) Which schools have received funds for each of the last three years and how much did they receive in each of those years?
- (3) How do schools access funds to employ a chaplain?
- (4) Are there any other grants provided by any State Government department that may be used by schools to employ a chaplain, what are they and how do schools access those funds?

Ms BLIGH (23/7/01): Chaplaincy Services is an optional program available for state schools and is not a service requirement or financial responsibility of Education Queensland. As such, it does not receive targeted funds and will not be found to be operating in all schools.

This service needs to be understood as an opportunity, provided by Education Queensland, to local school communities to work in partnership with others to respond to both the short and long term spiritual, ethical and religious needs of students. This additional program is offered at particular schools where the local community has determined that the students involved require a service beyond that which is delivered by Education Queensland. Resources allocated to such services would vary between schools and between the various partnership arrangements through which the service operates.

The current departmental Chaplaincy Services Guidelines inform schools of a range of avenues for financial resources. As the provision of this service is a local decision with local consensus and support it is also predominantly reliant on local funding. General practice has been that the participating religious societies and denominations make the major financial contribution.

Additional contributions are received from individuals, school budgets, Parents and Citizens Associations and local fund raising. Some schools have also gained broader community support by receiving contributions from government grants, service organisations and donations from business and industry.

Current arrangements for the service require that it is the initiative of the school and the established Local Chaplaincy Committee to identify sources of funds within and beyond their local area.

366. Hospital, Capricorn Coast

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (22/6/01)—

What moves are in hand to build a new state of the art hospital for the Capricorn Coast in view of the rapidly expanding population growth in the area?

Mrs EDMOND (23/7/01): There are currently no specific plans for the redevelopment of Yeppoon Hospital. However, the redeveloped Rockhampton Hospital will adequately serve the needs of the local region for the foreseeable future.

367. WorkCover, Legal Services

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (22/6/01)—

With reference to his department's intention to reduce the WorkCover panel of solicitors across Queensland from 50 firms to 40 individual solicitors—

What transitional arrangements have the department adopted to allow firms who have relinquished client lists against WorkCover (as required by WorkCover) several years ago to re-establish their business particularly in rural and regional Queensland?

Mr NUTTALL (23/7/01): WorkCover Queensland is seeking to rationalise its existing panel of legal providers in response to estimates of reduced claims.

The Rockhampton/Gladstone region is currently serviced by four law firms, however WorkCover's business requirement is for only one.

WorkCover considers that only one lawyer is required in the Rockhampton/Gladstone region based on:

- estimates of future claim numbers;
- a caseload efficiency model;
- the outcome of WorkCover's legal audit program; and
- WorkCover's service requirements.

While the number of new cases each year has not changed dramatically, as a result of the above changes, cases on hand have reduced from more than 7,000 in 1997 to approximately 2,800 in 2001. The number of cases on hand will reduce further in the future.

WorkCover has in place a transition plan to facilitate the handover of matters to the new panel of legal service providers after 1 July 2001. As part of its transition plan, WorkCover will allow firms which are not on the new panel up to three months in which to complete matters which they currently conduct. During this period there will be no restriction on these firms seeking instructions from injured workers.

WorkCover will also make incentive payments, over and above normal fees, to firms which finalise matters during this three month period.

368. Ambulance Service, Subscriptions

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (22/6/01)—

With reference to some additional funding in this year's budget for ambulance services, nonetheless the Queensland Ambulance Service suffers an on-going shortfall owing, I understand, to dwindling subscriptions—

What steps will be taken to rectify this situation?

Mr REYNOLDS (19/7/01): The Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) will continue its program of targeted marketing for the retention of the existing 637,000 prime subscribers as well as targeting potential markets of non-QAS subscribers.

In the environment of continued aggressive marketing by the Health Funds, QAS plans to continue with its community education highlighting the value of subscribing direct to the QAS.

369. Mareeba Dental Clinic

Mrs LEE LONG asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (22/6/01)—

With reference to publicity in our local papers recently about the difficulties in obtaining a dentist for the Mareeba clinic—

- (1) When did she last advertise this job?
- (2) What medium was used?
- (3) Was it advertised in Queensland, interstate and/or internationally?

Mrs EDMOND (23/7/01):

(1) The position of dentist, Mareeba Clinic was last advertised the week beginning the 2 July 2001.

(2) The medium used included:

newspapers—*Weekend Australian, Courier-Mail, New Zealand Herald*

recruitment agencies, specifically Dental Job Search and Australian Health Sector Recruiting were used.

(3) It was advertised in Queensland, interstate and internationally.

370. Juvenile Offenders

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (22/6/01)—

With reference to the Government's election promise of Juvenile Justice reforms under the 'Juvenile Naming Strategy'—

- (1) What is the timetable for the implementation of these reforms?
- (2) Under the reforms, will the naming of a juvenile offender be entirely at the discretion of the Court or will the legislative amendments prescribe circumstances in which the offender must/may be named?
- (3) Will she outline how an 'Intensive Supervision Order' will operate?
- (4) In preventing 'forum shopping', under what circumstances will an offender be dealt with by a higher Court?

Ms SPENCE (23/7/01):

(1) The draft Bill has recently been forwarded to stakeholders as part of a targeted consultation process. With the Government's policy now settled, the purpose of the targeted consultation process is to identify areas of the draft Bill that could be improved to better realise the policy intent. Stakeholders have until 10 September 2001 to provide comments on the draft Bill. It is intended that the draft Bill will be introduced into Parliament later this year.

(2) The naming of a young offender will be at the discretion of a judge of the Children's Court of Queensland (the Children's Court) or the Supreme Court. The circumstances in which a young offender can be named are:-

- the child has been found guilty of a serious life offence and sentenced to a period of detention;
- the offence involved personal violence;
- the circumstances of the offence were particularly heinous;
- the court considers that it is in the interests of justice to do so; and
- the time limit for appeal has expired or any appeal proceeding has been finalised.

(3) An intensive supervision order will provide intensive program support to a child under the age of 13 years, who is at risk of receiving a detention order. An intensive supervision order can be ordered for a maximum period of six months and requires that the child abstain from violations of the law for the program period. The court can impose conditions on the order that it considers necessary to avoid the commission of another offence by the child.

(4) Under changes proposed by the draft Bill, all prosecutions will continue to commence in the Children's Court before a Children's Court Magistrate. A child will then be dealt with by a higher court where:

- the child is charged with an indictable offence for which an election exists and the election is made to have the matter dealt with in the Children's Court before a judge sitting with or without a jury;
- the child is charged with an indictable offence for which no election exists and therefore must be dealt with in the Children's Court before a judge sitting with or without a jury; and
- the child is charged with an offence that can only be dealt with in the Supreme Court by a judge and jury.

371. State Government Land, East Trinity

Mr PITT asked the Minister for State Development (22/6/01)—

With reference to the establishment of a working group to consider the future use of land formally held by Natwest Finance as mortgagees in possession and purchased by the State in 1999 and to public submissions closed on 23 February 2001—

When will the Government make public its proposal for future use of this valuable environmental tract?

Mr BARTON (20/7/01): The Government completed the acquisition of the East Trinity land in 2000 and set up a Working Group to develop a Project Plan in consultation with stakeholders, including the scientific and Cairns communities. The Project Plan was distributed to the public with comments closing on 23 February 2001.

The Project Plan provides that, during an initial short-term period expected to take three years, the Government will gain a clearer understanding of the attributes and final uses of the property while taking the opportunity to better appreciate community views and expectations. This period will also be used to undertake necessary maintenance on the property including implementation of an acid sulfate soils remediation action plan, repairs to the bund wall and caretaker's house, replacement of floodgates and a vehicular bridge and erect security fencing, signage and gates.

The Government intends to rehabilitate the site and return it to a healthy environmental level prior to determining, in consultation with the community, final long-term uses. The Government, therefore, does not propose to finalise its long-term strategies for the area of lowland west of the Yarrabah-Pine Creek Road during this short-term management period.

However, the long-term use of the natural vegetation area to the east of Yarrabah-Pine Creek Road can be determined now. This area has a common property boundary with a State Forest Reserve and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. This section of the property has significant conservation values in terms of vegetation, landform and scenic amenity and is also the most visible from the Cairns CBD. On 26 November 2000, my colleague the Honourable Rod Welford, the then Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources, announced the Government's decision to retain this area, known as the Hill Slopes section, in its natural state. This will maintain the green backdrop of Cairns. The Hill Slopes section will also be considered for addition to the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.

Those parties who provided comment on the Project Plan have been informed that the Government has not altered its view on this proposed timing. The Government believes that this Plan will result in the best options for the future land use of this valuable site.

372. Barramundi, Nodavirus

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (22/6/01)—

With reference to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) releasing Barramundi fish which are infected with the Nodavirus as part of the Government's fish restocking program—

- (1) Will he provide funding for an assessment of the effects the fish infected with the Nodavirus is having on the environment?
- (2) Will the DPI complete, then introduce its PCR test as a diagnostic tool into a regular screening program for the disease?
- (3) Will the DPI fill the position of a key fish pathologist in the Townsville DPI Laboratory, which was made vacant when a doctor retired in 2000?
- (4) Will the DPI amend policy that allows fish to be released into the wild that are infected with Nodavirus, a National reportable disease that is internationally listed?

Mr PALASZCZUK (24/7/01):

- (1) The matter has been referred to the DPI's Agency for Food and Fibre Sciences.

(2) The DPI's Queensland Fisheries Service has developed a decision-making protocol in relation to the release of barramundi produced by the DPI into Queensland waters.

The protocol clearly distinguishes between waters that have been previously stocked with barramundi and waters that have not been stocked. Under the protocol, for previously unstocked waters, histological testing of barramundi will occur to determine the presence or absence of Nodavirus. Fingerlings carrying Nodavirus will not be permitted to be released into these previously unstocked waters.

A new test, reverse transcriptase nested polymerase chain reaction (RTNPCR) is being developed which will detect the presence of the Nodavirus where histological changes have not occurred.

(3) Yes.

(4) The DPI will ensure its policy takes into account any industry concerns.

373. Public Works and Housing Departments, Legal Services

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (22/6/01)—

(1) What is the total value of outsourced legal services for each of his portfolio responsibilities in 1999-2000 and 2000-01?

(2) Who provided those services, including legal work undertaken by each legal entity?

(3) What is the total value of Crown Law advice provided in 1999-2000 and 2000-01?

Mr SCHWARTEN (3/8/01): The total value of legal services provided by a variety of firms together with Crown Law for my departments for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 is set out below:

	1999/2000	2000/2001
Department of Public Works	\$919,844.81	\$1,433,895.95
Board of Architects of Queensland	\$18,109.32	\$20,073.90
Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland	\$52,306.30	\$75,176.00
Department of Housing	\$166,998.70	\$165,855.57
Queensland Building Services Authority	\$1,097,484.64	\$1,409,403.65
Residential Tenancies Authority	\$35,945.61	\$21,417.98
TOTAL	\$2,290,689.38	\$3,125,823.05

374. Drivers Licences, Medical Tests

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (22/6/01)—

With reference to the requirement whereby people who need to be tested medically to ascertain their 'fitness to drive', must be referred to a medical specialist or allied health professional such as an occupational therapist and as for such residents of the South Burnett this necessitates engaging someone to drive them to the nearest examiner who is in Toowoomba, a trip of approximately 2 hours and there is no bus or train service available to them—

Will she review the current situation and make provision for local Government doctors in remoter areas to be trained to assess these particular cases?

Mrs EDMOND (23/7/01): Under current legislation local general practitioners are able to ascertain a persons fitness to drive. Whether a person is referred to a specialist or allied health professional would be a clinical decision, made on the basis that further investigation is necessary, and not a legal requirement.

My Department is currently working with Queensland Transport to produce material, which will enable general practitioners to be more informed in relation to decisions on a person's fitness to drive.

375. Transcripts of Court Proceedings

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (22/6/01)—

With reference to the extremely limited public access to transcripts of Court proceedings—

(1) What are the policies and practices in other developed nations regarding public access to Court proceedings?

(2) As most Court proceedings in Australia are recorded in an electronic form similar to the recording of Parliamentary sittings (whereby Hansard transcripts appear on the Internet within a couple of hours of Parliament rising), what steps are being taken in various Australasian legal jurisdictions to provide similar free, timely, public access to judicial hearings?

Mr WELFORD (20/7/01):

(1) Courts in the United States and the United Kingdom provide transcript through contracted reporting firms at varying costs, electronically or in hard copy. Transcript is not provided free on the Internet.

In New South Wales and Victoria there is a charge for hard copy transcript but the public may read transcript free of charge.

Supply of transcript in the Supreme and District Courts in Queensland is governed by provisions of the Recording of Evidence Act 1962 and the Recording of Evidence Regulation 1992. Transcript is provided free to parties in criminal proceedings and is available to the public for a fee set at much less than full cost. The Attorney-General may waive the fee for needy applicants. Transcript may be read free of charge by members of the public at any of the nine offices of the State Reporting Bureau.

(2) New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland do not, and have no immediate plans to make transcript available free on the Internet.

376. Business Enterprise Centre, Bribie Island

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN asked the Minister for State Development (22/6/01)—

Is there any evidence to suggest that there is a need for a Business Enterprise Centre on Bribie Island even though there is one that services the area in Caboolture some 20 kilometres away?

Mr BARTON (20/7/01): The new State Development Centre (SDC) in Caboolture is compiling information on registered businesses in the Caboolture region, which covers the Shires of Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Kilcoy and the city of Redcliffe.

The information shows that there are approximately 4,000 businesses in Caboolture Shire, which includes Bribie Island.

There are approximately 490 businesses in Bribie; 80 in Ningi and 25 in Sandstone Point. Based on this information the Bribie area encompass about one seventh of the registered businesses in the Caboolture Shire.

SDC Caboolture is currently servicing clients in Bribie along with other areas of the Shire and region.

While Caboolture proves to be an accessible central business location for the Shire, I am aware that the State Development Centre Caboolture is responding to an invitation from you to visit Bribie on a regular basis to promote and deliver the Department's services to local businesses on the Island and adjacent areas.

The increased presence of State Development personnel on the Island will take place for a trial period of up to three months. An evaluation of this trial will determine whether a recurrent State Development Centre presence is warranted on Bribie Island.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

377. Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (31/7/01)—
What is Queensland Health's attitude to the ongoing treatment and maintenance of facilities and skilled staff for Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, also known as Complex Regional Pain Syndrome?

Mrs EDMOND (30/8/01): Royal Brisbane Hospital offers a tertiary specialist pain service which is fully accredited by the Australian College on Healthcare Standards. The Pain Clinic budget for staffing and drugs in 2000/01 was \$492,061.

The service supports and complements pain management programs offered at other sites around the state. At these sites, clinicians with an interest in the area see pain clients and single multidisciplinary pain management services in various forms are offered.

In 2000/01 and 2001/02 additional resources have been directed to expanding the network of dedicated pain services, through the establishment of chronic pain services at Gold Coast, Princess Alexandra and Townsville hospitals.

Gold Coast Hospital has received \$183,000 in recurrent funds and \$65,000 one-off in set-up costs.

Townsville Hospital has been allocated \$193,000 in recurrent funds and the Princess Alexandra Hospital has been allocated an additional \$200,000 recurrent funds.

378. Personalised Number Plates

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (31/7/01)—

With reference to his answer to a question during Estimates Committee C regarding the revenue derived from the sale of personalised number plates—

What is the anticipated revenue from these sales in 2001-02 and what are the programs and allocations that this revenue will be allocated to?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/8/01): The anticipated revenue returned to Queensland Transport for the 2001-02 financial year is \$3.2 million.

The revenue is to be directed to fund road safety initiatives and education programs with the major allocations for the coming year as outlined below:

- Seatbelt campaign—\$550,000
- Pedestrian safety campaign—\$300,000
- Campaign to address the issues of driving tired and drunk—\$900,000
- Additional sundry public education activities—\$200,000
 - 6 monthly tracking of attitudes, behaviours and campaign success
 - Ongoing Road Sense 2001 campaign with Courier Mail
 - Motor Show displays and various material
 - Printing of standard drinks cards, brochures, posters
- Road Crash database—\$230,000
- Fatigue Management Projects—\$395,000
- Mt Cotton Training Activities—\$390,000
- New Car Assessment Program—\$135,000
- Regional Road Safety Initiatives—\$100,000

379. Queensland Fisheries Management Authority; Dr R. Crossing

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (31/7/01)—

With reference to the termination of Dr Richard Crossing from his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority—

- (1) Why was Dr Crossing issued with an incorrect Group Certificate and an \$88,000 increase in the reportable fringe benefit payments by his department?
- (2) Why did his department delay informing Dr Crossing of the correct position for nearly two years, making it necessary for him to employ legal and accounting representatives at considerable cost to obtain the correct information?
- (3) What steps has he taken, if any, to ensure Dr Crossing is not disadvantaged through further omissions related to his contract of employment and termination agreement?
- (4) Has he reviewed this matter to ensure that the Government's obligations have been met and that problems arising from the errors and delays of his department are addressed?
- (5) Have there been any other cases where errors have been made by his department in the calculation of FBT and other tax liabilities to the Australian Taxation Office?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/01): I am advised of the following information.

- (1) Dr Crossing left the then Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) in July 1999. The 1999/2000 Group Certificates issued to him were prepared and produced by the QFMA and their payroll services provider at that time – not by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). The 1999/2000 certificates were legally required to be produced by the QFMA as they were still in existence at 30 June 2000. Subsequent to the merger between the QFMA and DPI Fisheries, and over a year since he had left the QFMA, Dr Crossing contacted officers of the

Department requesting that it confirm some of the aspects of the termination agreement. A comprehensive review of the legal and taxation issues surrounding the termination was then conducted by officers of the Department and the Corporate Services Agency. This was done to ensure that the QFMA had complied with the relevant legislation (Income Tax and Fringe Benefits Tax Acts) and that the details previously provided to Dr Crossing were correct. The review identified a number of inaccuracies in the details produced by the QFMA and its payroll services provider to Dr Crossing. As a result the DPI issued Dr Crossing with replacement certificates (in accordance with the legislation), which included a revised figure for Reportable Fringe Benefits. Since this matter was finalised in late May 2001, the DPI has not been contacted by Dr Crossing or his representatives to question the documents that have been provided.

(2) I am advised that Dr Crossing took over 12 months to raise this issue with the Department. When the issue was raised, a comprehensive review of the legal and taxation issues surrounding the termination was conducted. The review took some months because of the complex legal and taxation issues involved, and because the Department completed all necessary steps in ensuring it complied with the relevant taxation laws. The Department apologised for any inconvenience this caused Dr Crossing, however a thorough examination was necessary and was to the ultimate benefit of both parties.

(3) I am advised the Department has finalised this matter in accordance with applicable legislation and the terms of the agreement.

(4) See answer to question (3) above.

(5) I understand the Department has had an exemplary record of taxation compliance across the range of taxation dealings with the Australian Taxation Office. I am advised that there have been no material errors or penalties of any nature imposed upon my Department in the last five years. My answer to this question does not cover the QFMA, because as previously mentioned the QFMA did not join with the Department until 1 July 2000.

380. Nambour Hospital; Gold Coast Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (31/7/01)—

(1) How many emergency medicine occasions of care, as well as the total number of non-in-patient occasions of service (including emergency medicine) were recorded for 2000-01 for Nambour and Gold Coast Hospitals respectively?

(2) How does this compare to 1999-2000?

(3) How did these hospitals perform against the emergency benchmarks?

Mrs EDMOND (30/8/01):

(1) Data for 2000/01 is as follows:

Hospital	Emergency Medicine Occasions of Service 2000-2001	Outpatients Occasions of Service 2000-2001*
Nambour	29,123	106,067
Gold Coast	47,551	119,833

* Does not include Pathology, Radiology or Pharmacy occasions of service

(2) Data for 1999/2000 is as follows:

Hospital	Emergency Medicine Occasions of Service 1999/2000	Outpatients Occasions of Service 1999/2000*
Nambour	27,836	97,323
Gold Coast	46,652	116,861

* Does not include Pathology, Radiology or Pharmacy occasions of service

(3) Performance against the benchmarks for percentage of emergency patients (triage category 1) seen within the recommended time for 1999/2000:

Hospital	Triage Category	Performance targets	1999/2000 % seen within time
Nambour	1	100%	96%
Gold Coast	1	100%	94%

381. Yeronga TAFE Institute

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (31/7/01)—

With reference to concerns from residents of suburbs including Yeronga, Annerley and Fairfield who state that they are affected by vented emissions from the new (June/July 2000) refurbishment of Block D situated on the Park Road side of Yeronga TAFE and also the vented emissions from existing C Block—

What is being done to overcome their concerns?

Mr FOLEY (30/8/01): Buildings at Yeronga Institute of TAFE are being refurbished and upgraded to meet modern safety standards. For example, the stacks used to vent emissions are designed to increase community safety by removing contaminants. I have been advised that exhaust from the new stacks in Block D complies with the standards set down by the Environmental Protection Agency and comprises no dust particle threat.

However, to fully allay local resident concerns the Department of Employment and Training has ordered emission tests on the exhaust stacks to ensure that there are no environmental hazards. I am advised that emission tests in relation to the Block C stacks were completed on 30 August 2001 and that the Block D stacks will be tested on 31 August 2001. I will advise the Honourable Member of the results of these tests in due course.

I have also been advised that ambient monitoring of ground level concentrations of iron, copper and manganese described as by-products of welding in Park Road, next to Yeronga Institute of TAFE, did not detect any significant levels of these contaminants during stack emission tests from Block C.

382. Children's Court, Toowoomba

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (31/7/01)—

With reference to the Children's Court in Toowoomba—

- (1) Over the last three years, how many juveniles have appeared in the Toowoomba Children's Court, per month, per year?
- (2) How many appearances has each juvenile made in that court and, if applicable, any other court and which court was it?
- (3) By year, how many custodial sentences have been issued for male offenders?
- (4) By year, how many custodial sentences have been issued for female offenders?

Ms SPENCE (30/8/01):

(1) During 1998-99, 138 juveniles appeared in the Toowoomba Children's Court for offences. During 1999-00, 166 juveniles appeared, and in the first 11 months of 2000-01, 183 juveniles have appeared. Table A provides details of the number of young people who have appeared in the Toowoomba Children's Court for offences, on a month by month basis. In the table, a young person is counted only once for each month in which they have appeared. Therefore, the individual monthly figures cannot be added to obtain the total number of young people per year, as some young people appear more than once. For example, juveniles a, b and c appear in court in July, juveniles a, b and d appear in August and juveniles b, c, d and e appear in September. The monthly figures will show three young people appearing in July, three in August and four in September. However (assuming there were no other juveniles appearing in the year), the annual count would be five individual young people (juveniles a, b, c, d and e).

(2) During 1998-99, the 138 juveniles who appeared in the Toowoomba Children's Court for offences were responsible for 210 finalised appearances. Of these 138 young people, 103 had one appearance, 15 had two appearances and 20 appeared three or more times. Twenty-four of the 138 young people also appeared in other courts throughout the State during 1998-99. These court locations and the number of finalised appearances (in parentheses) were:

Brisbane (6), Bundaberg (1), Dalby (1), Gympie (1), Maroochydore (2), Maryborough (1), Oakey (4), Petrie (3), St George (2), Southport (2), Townsville (4), Toowoomba higher courts (10) and Warwick (2).

During 1999-00, the 166 juveniles who appeared were responsible for 269 finalised appearances. Of these 166 young people, 117 had one appearance, 22 had two appearances and 27 appeared three or more times. Thirty-two of the 166 young people also appeared in other courts throughout the State during 1999-00. These court locations and the number of finalised appearances (in parentheses) were:

Atherton (1), Beenleigh (1), Biloela (1), Brisbane (12), Gatton (1), Gladstone (1), Goondiwindi (2), Ipswich (1), Kingaroy (1), Maroochydore (2), Maryborough (1), Millmerran (1), Stanthorpe (10), Townsville (3), Toowoomba higher courts (7) and Warwick (4).

During the first 11 months of 2000-01, the 183 juveniles who appeared were responsible for 277 finalised appearances. Of these 183 young people, 127 had one appearance, 31 had two appearances and 25 appeared three or more times. Thirty of the 183 young people also appeared in other courts throughout the State during the first 11 months of 2000-01. These court locations and the number of finalised appearances (in parentheses) were:

Beenleigh (3), Brisbane (18), Bundaberg (1), Caboolture (1), Charleville (2), Dalby (1), Goondiwindi (2), Hervey Bay (2), Ipswich (3), Kingaroy (1), Maroochydore (4), Maryborough (1), Murgon (1), Rockhampton (4), Roma (1), Stanthorpe (1), Toowoomba higher courts (2) and Warwick (3).

During 1998-99, there were three finalised appearances by male offenders in the Toowoomba Children's Court that resulted in a detention order being made. During 1999-00 there were seven such appearances and in the first 11 months of 2000-01, there have been three such appearances.

Over the last three years, the Toowoomba Children's Court has given no young female offenders a detention order.

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

383. Brisbane Transport, Bus Subsidy

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (31/7/01)—

- (1) Will he confirm that as part of the subsidy arrangement with Brisbane Transport, that Brisbane Transport had to lower the cost per kilometre from approximately \$3.10 in 1997-98 to \$2.90 by 1998-99 and then to \$2.70?
- (2) Has this been achieved; if not, what is the current cost per kilometre and when is it expected the cost will decrease to \$2.70?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/8/01):

(1) Officers of Queensland Transport advise me that the contract with Brisbane City Council for the provision of bus services requires the achievement of a significant reduction in unit operating costs. This reduction is to be achieved over the term of the contract and there are no interim targets. The specific details of these arrangements should be sought from the Brisbane Council.

(2) The return for the 2000-01 year will not be available until the end of the calendar year. However, based on the previous returns provided I am advised that significant progress towards meeting the contract requirements has been achieved.

384. Karramen Brothers; Crown Land, Royalties

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (31/7/01)—

With reference to Karramen Brothers who have been involved in sand and gravel extraction on what has been deemed by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff as Crown Land and as such Royalties have been paid to DNR and since the case of *Dunn v Howard* whereby although following DNR advice that the land was Crown Land the judgment found Howard had been on private land, under this judgment therefore many excavators are/would also be deemed to be on private land—

- (1) In light of this case, will DNR repay all such royalties?
- (2) What guarantee have property owners that advice given by DNR officers is accurate?
- (3) What onus of responsibility is placed on DNR staff to in fact give accurate legally correct information?
- (4) If the seeker of information is verbally instructed by the DNR officer whilst in the field to do other than is on the written permit, is it now necessary to ignore that instruction?
- (5) What legal/moral obligation has the Government to ensure that the advice given by any staff qualified to do so is legally correct?
- (6) Have DNR staff been instructed as to the courts interpretation of Crown Land/private land which has obvious differences as to that currently held by DNR?

Mr ROBERTSON (30/8/01):

(1) In the case of *Dunn v. Howard*, royalties were not applicable and had not been paid by either *Dunn* or *Howard*. On the subject of any wider implications, the *Dunn v. Howard* decision by the Court was based on evidence provided in that particular case. Because of the nature of the evidence presented in that case my department does not see implications for its approval for quarry material permits in general. Therefore my department maintains that all Controlled Quarry Material activities in boundary watercourses that are currently authorised by my department and are subject to royalty payments will continue to incur royalties. My department will not repay royalties.

(2) Officers of my department who make decisions or provide advice on the extraction of quarry material from watercourses have experience in such matters and take all reasonable steps to ensure that their advice is accurate.

(3) Officers of my department have a duty to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the advice they give is accurate.

(4) If an officer of my department gives a lawful instruction, verbal or otherwise, within the lawful scope of the officer's delegation, it must be complied with. If applicants have concerns they should seek confirmation in writing.

(5) Officers of my department are required to administer the legislation and make decisions in accordance with the legislation based on the information before them.

(6) My department has reviewed the *Dunn v. Howard* decision and is satisfied that it is a question of fact to be determined in each individual circumstance what the "normal or intermittent flow" is in the watercourse to establish what land is the property of the Crown and what land is the property of the landowner.

385. Damage Mitigation Permits

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (31/7/01)—

With reference to Damage Mitigation Permits issued by his department—

- (1) Will he provide the number of permits and targeted animals by (a) species targeted and (b) region each in (a) was issued for the last four years?
- (2) Will he also include the reason the above level of permits for each species was issued?

Mr WELLS (3/9/01):

1. The department informs me that each permit issued relates to the location of the property and the species impacting on crops. Damage mitigation permits have been issued for the following: 4 species of flying-foxes; 9 species of macropods; 4 species of rodents; estuarine crocodile; 26 species of birds; common wildlife (issued to the Cairns Port Authority for airport safety)

The department informs me that during the calendar year of 1/1/2000 to 31/12/2000 the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) issued approximately 669 damage mitigation permits, using both lethal and non-lethal control methods. Detailed statistics are not compiled by QPWS as a matter of routine and therefore a breakdown of regional figures is not available on damage mitigation permits. However, the total number of permits issued for the past four years was as follows:

Year—Quantity
2000—669
1999—621
1998—582
1997—486

2. All permits have been issued under the guidelines of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and all applications were assessed in accordance with the Nature Conservation Regulation 1994.

The department informs me that assessment of each application utilises available information on species at the time the application is lodged. Permits are issued to take protected wildlife if the assessing officer is satisfied the provisions of the legislation relating to damage mitigation have been met. As far as possible the numbers of permits issued represents the demands for these permits. There is no preconceived level on the number of permits issued. All permits are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

386. Criminal Courts, Toowoomba

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (31/7/01)—

Will he provide the increase/decrease of criminal matters that have come before the (a) Supreme Court, (b) District Court and (c) Magistrates Court in Toowoomba over the past two years?

Mr WELFORD (30/8/01): The following figures show the number of indictments presented and percentage decreases for the Toowoomba Supreme and District Courts over the past two years.

	1999/2000 Indictments	2000/2001 Indictments	% Change
Supreme Court	20	18	10% decrease
District Court	165	151	8% decrease

The following figures show the number of charges and percentage decrease for the Toowoomba Magistrates Court over the past two years.

	1999/2000 Charges	2000/2001 Charges	% Change
Magistrates Court	12,293	9,722	21% decrease

387. Education Queensland; Smart State

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Education (31/7/01)—

- (1) As part of this State Labor Government's commitment to continue to make Queensland the "Smart State" in Australia which will become the "Knowledge Nation", what initiatives is Education Queensland taking, in consultation with the Department of Employment and Training and also the Department of Innovation and Information Economy in a coordinated effort to achieve the Premier's stated goal?
- (2) What benefits are there for our children when Queensland becomes the "Smart State" in the "Knowledge Nation"?
- (3) What specific initiatives are being implemented, or are being planned for the State Electorate of Kawana on Queensland's Sunshine Coast?

Ms BLIGH (30/8/01):

- (1) Education Queensland, in partnership with Queensland Government agencies, the community and local industry are committed to progressing initiatives to achieve the "Smart State". Examples of steps taken are—

A range of information technology related projects including—

Establishment of the Minister's Awards for Students Excelling in Information, Communication, Technology (ICT).

Assistance in the creation of the IT&T Careers Kit (Dept of Innovation and Information Economy)

Expansion of the Virtual Schooling Service

Creation of an Interdepartmental Working Party on Information and Communication Technology in Schools

Implementation of the School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeship program in Queensland

Dovetailing EQ's Enterprise Education programs with State Development's implementation of the Innovation Strategy.

Expansion of projects within New Basics.

Establishment of Centres of Excellence in Maths, Science and Technology in schools and clusters throughout the state.

Represented on the interagency Jobs Policy Council, which oversees the Breaking Unemployment Cycle initiative. The Council considers research on labour market conditions and supports programs such as the Kickstart for Youth Program and the Youth Action Program.

Deliver an international consultancy service through the Queensland Education Consortium, which is made up of TAFE Queensland, QUT and Education Queensland. The consortium bids to deliver international aid and development programs offshore.

- (2) Benefits to our children include—

enriched employment opportunities in sustainable, knowledge-based industry base established across Queensland

lifelong education experiences

active citizens in a learning society.

- (3) Education Queensland: Mooloolaba District

Chancellor State School is a State Winner of the Education Queensland's Showcase 2001 Awards. The school has been recognised for improvements in student learning outcomes in the areas of literacy and numeracy. The school program has resulted in strong community support.

Mountain Creek State High School is one of only two Queensland schools chosen to participate in an international accreditation process and is expected to join just 120 accredited schools around the world such as the United Nations School in New York and the International School in Geneva.

A delegation from the European Council of International Schools who visited in May acknowledged the innovation observable within the school and noted such initiatives as the split-shift approach to timetabling, the use of information technology, the academic programs and the very positive nature of the student community. Mountain Creek SHS is a new Basics Trial school.

Kawana Waters State High School is a Soccer School of Excellence and has strong links with the Brisbane Strikers.

51 Chinese students and a Japanese student are studying years 11 and 12 as part of the Kawana Waters State High School international program. Prior to coming to Australia the Chinese students boarded at the Qi Lu Training College in Jinan and are taught year 10 English, Maths, Science and Geography by Queensland teachers.

A Learning and Development Centre (Gifted and Talented) has been established at Caloundra SHS supporting a network including Banksia Beach S.S, Buddina S.S, Chancellor S.S, Golden Beach S.S and Talara Primary College.

Over 300 students are undertaking School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships in Mooloolaba District.

388. Queensland Rail, Graffiti

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (31/7/01)—

- (1) What steps are being taken to clean graffiti from Queensland Rail carriages and near stations in Brisbane suburbs?
- (2) What would be the cost of such an exercise?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/8/01):

(1) Queensland Rail (QR) gives graffiti removal from carriages a very high priority. Rarely does graffiti remain on a carriage to the next day. There are limited resources available for the removal of graffiti on buildings, structures and freight wagons. However it should be noted that priority is given to the removal of obscene graffiti. Priority is also given to station buildings over sound barriers.

Station Masters report any graffiti incidents at stations at the start of their shifts. Painters are then assigned to the most serious/obscene objects for immediate removal. All other graffiti damage is treated when resources/funding becomes available. On a monthly basis staff are rostered to cover as much of the rail corridor as possible cleaning all other graffiti.

QR reports graffiti incidents to the police and takes photographic evidence to assist in police investigations.

QR has implemented an initiative to reduce the incidence of graffiti through the involvement of local communities. At Landsborough, Lawnton and Caboolture, local school children have designed tiles that are incorporated into the external wall finishes to lift shafts. This has resulted in a reduction in the incidences of graffiti at those stations. At Woodridge, Queensland Transport, QR, the Department of Housing and the Logan City Council are involved in a project to deliver spaces for inclusion of community art along the rear walls of a new bus interchange. Removable panels will be delivered to local schools for the preparation and fixing of suitable art which can be returned and fixed in a permanent position.

(2) QR currently spends approximately \$1 million a year to clean up graffiti.

389. Racecourses

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (31/7/01)—

With reference to her review of key racing property assets and racecourse tenure arrangements for three race tracks in Queensland—

- (1) What clubs were reviewed?
- (2) What findings have been made to date?
- (3) Have full financial audits been carried out at each of the courses?
- (4) Has existing infrastructure been adequately maintained?

Mrs ROSE (30/8/01):

(1) I presume your question revolves around the policy endorsed by Cabinet last year on ownership of key racecourses of economic significance to the Queensland Racing Industry. As a logical step to help position key Queensland race clubs in meeting the challenges of the post-privatised TABQ environment, the Government endorsed a policy to assist them in becoming more commercially focused. The policy is:

Freehold title shall vest in the incorporated race club freehold and free of charge, subject to voluntary surrender of Deeds of Grant in Trust (DOGIT) held by trustees, and on condition:

That the land is released from all encumbrances and interests; and

That the incorporated race club enters into a statutory covenant registrable under the Land Title Act 1994 requiring that the land must only be used as a racecourse and for sport and recreation purposes.

Seven (7) main racecourses were then held under a DOGIT arrangement—Bundamba, Callaghan Park (Rockhampton), Clifford Park (Toowoomba), Gatton, Cluden Park (Townsville), Bunya Park (Dalby) and Oorlea Park (Mackay).

(2) Under this policy, Clifford Park Racecourse was transferred to the Toowoomba Turf Club Inc during December 2000 and Bunya Park Racecourse was transferred to the Dalby and Northern Downs Jockey Club Inc in June 2001. Gatton Racecourse was the third asset expected to be transferred under this policy during last financial year.

However, as the trustees need to release the land from a mortgage, it is now expected the transfer of the property to the Lockyer Race Club Inc will be finalised in this current financial year.

(3) Arrangements for transferring the properties to the State were made under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources after I had received confirmation from the trustees that they were prepared to voluntarily surrender their leases over the racecourses. The subsequent transfer of the properties from the State, to the incorporated race club, was effected via a Contract of Sale prepared by the Official Solicitor to the Public Trustee of Queensland acting on behalf of the State. This process ensured that property was transferred to the verified incorporated race club.

Queensland Racing Industry ownership and control of these racecourses has streamlined their development and management. Under the Racing and Betting Act 1980 and the Land Act 1994 both the race club and trustees had responsibility for their racecourses. The removal of duplication of management and legislative responsibilities has reduced bureaucratic requirements that had been detrimental to encouraging progressive club management. It has now directly aligned a club's operational responsibilities with the management of their venue providing them with greater commercial flexibility and control over revenues and costs.

390. United States, Free Trade Agreement

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (31/7/01)—

- (1) What action is the Queensland Government and himself, as Trade Minister, taking to protect the interests of the State in the developing of any free trade agreement between Australia and the United States?
- (2) What advice has he received on this issue from the Queensland Trade Commissioner in North America?
- (3) What direct contact has the Queensland Government and/or its representatives had with American Proponents of the free trade agreement proposal?
- (4) What advice has he received from Queensland business and industry bodies as to the effects on Queensland of an Australia-USA free trade area?

Mr BEATTIE (21/8/01):

- (1) The jurisdiction for international trade agreements lies with the Commonwealth Government. There is currently no agreement between the Australian and United States Governments to enter into negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement. The Queensland Government has been briefed by the Commonwealth Government regarding proposals for a free trade agreement with the United States.
- (2) The Queensland Trade Commissioner has provided advice on the general trading environment that affects Queensland's trade performance with the Americas on a regular basis, including advice on the impact of the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on Queensland's export industries.
- (3) The Departments of State Development, and Primary Industries and Rural Communities in conjunction with the Queensland Farmers' Federation, will host a seminar on the proposed free trade agreement in Brisbane, in late August 2001. An officer from the United States Embassy in Canberra will participate in this event.
- (4) The Queensland Government works to ensure that the views of Queensland business and industry bodies on the proposed free trade agreement are conveyed to the Commonwealth Government as part of the policy development process.

391. Irrigation Schemes

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (31/7/01)—

With reference to the five year price paths determined by the Government and now being implemented by SunWater—

- (1) Will he provide a breakdown of the costs used to establish the price paths for each scheme?
- (2) Will he explain the discrepancies between the lower bound cost set in the Government's price path for the Mareeba Dimbulah Irrigation Area (MDIA) and the report prepared by the MDIA irrigators on that scheme's revenue streams, which senior SunWater staff have reviewed and have largely agreed with?
- (3) How much money is outstanding in each of the irrigation areas where irrigators have withheld part of their water payments in protest against the price paths?
- (4) Given that the Third Tranche Assessment Framework under the COAG agreement endorsed the principle that "constituents be given a greater degree of responsibility for the management of irrigation areas" what steps has he taken to facilitate local management of irrigation schemes?

Mr ROBERTSON (30/8/01):

(1) General cost information has already been provided to irrigators in all areas leading up to the development of the rural water price paths. Irrigators received itemised actual costs for each scheme for 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99. They also received information on the level of benchmarked efficiencies that were used to determine the final gazetted price paths. The cost recovery position, which was used to categorise each scheme, has also been provided to irrigators.

(2) As you are aware, the Mareeba irrigators have produced two reports. Unfortunately only one of these has been made available to SunWater. As such I cannot be sure that your question refers to the report that has been made available. Nevertheless, in the report that has been reviewed, the only aspect of the report SunWater agreed with was the water allocation and use data contained in the report. The report, which was reviewed, does not dispute the lower bound benchmark for the Mareeba Scheme. Rather, the report identifies potential future revenue sources for the scheme principally from urban and industrial customers. The underlying thrust of the report is that the irrigation price should be subsidised by other customer sectors.

Cross-subsidisation between rural irrigators and urban/industrial customers is not acceptable since 'the removal of cross-subsidies which are not consistent with efficient and effective service, use and provision' is a relevant and key requirement in the National Competition Policy for water pricing.

(3) SunWater operates 27 Water Supply Schemes, which supply water to 6,500 irrigators, 50 local communities, and 62 major industrial and mining enterprises across Queensland.

Some irrigators in 3 of the 27 Schemes are withholding money.

In Mareeba it is less than \$50,000.

In Proserpine the amount is \$51,000.

In the Burdekin it is \$1.9 million.

(4) Firstly, the Third tranche Assessment Framework under the COAG agreement indicates a commitment to that principle "subject to appropriate regulatory frameworks being established".

Local management has been an issue since it was endorsed by the previous Coalition government in the policy document Rural Water: Pricing and Management in 1996. Since that document was released, Interim Local Management Committees (ILMCs) were established in all State-owned schemes. These committees were provided with SunWater revenue cost data and participated in the price path consultation process.

From the date of corporatisation of State Water Projects on 1 October 2000, irrigators had 9 months to make a submission to SunWater's shareholding Ministers on local management. We received three submissions before the deadline, two of which are still being processed.

Irrigators will have a further opportunity to make submission for local management in 2004/05. In the meantime, SunWater is finalising the establishment of Customer Councils in 14 areas, which will provide a forum for all customers, not just irrigators to be involved in the management of the schemes.

Irrigators, industrial users, power station representatives and local government representatives make up the Customer Councils.

392. Ambulance Service, Communication Centres

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (31/7/01)—

With reference to problems being experienced with the Queensland Ambulance Service's communication systems—

- (1) When will the findings of the report commissioned into the problems be made available?
- (2) What level of training do communications' officers in the various communication centres receive?
- (3) Will this report be made public?

Mr REYNOLDS (3/9/01):

(1) A number of incidents alleging communication system deficiencies resulting in late arrival of ambulances responding to calls for emergency assistance have received media focus in recent times. In accordance with normal QAS operational procedures, formal investigations into each of the incidents has been instigated. The investigation report into the incidents is expected to be finalised by the end of August. Executive Management will then closely examine the results of the investigations, as they become available. If necessary, formal disciplinary processes and/or remedial performance management plans will be commenced.

(2) Ambulance Communication Officers undertake the Certificate IV in Ambulance Studies Course. The course is accredited by VTEC and is conducted by the QAS Education Centre and South Bank Institute of TAFE. The course takes approximately twelve months to complete. It includes a structured training phase of four weeks followed by a period of supervised work experience in a Communications Centre and the completion of assignments. It is finalised by a summative practical examination.

(3) The investigation reports may not be made public as there are prescribed statutory processes to be followed in matters involving disciplinary processes and/or performance management plans involving individual QAS Officers.

393. Indigenous Police Liaison Officers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (31/7/01)—

With reference to Indigenous Police Liaison Officers—

- (1) How many liaison officers were employed by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) at 30 June 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998 and 1997?
- (2) How many additional liaison officers does the QPS intend to employ during 2001-02?
- (3) What in-service training has been provided to Police Liaison Officers and QATSIP officers for each of the last three years and what has been the budget for this training for each of those years?

Mr McGRADY (30/8/01):

(1) The number of gazetted Police Liaison Officer (PLO) positions with the Queensland Police Service at the 30 June each year was as follows:

Year—Number
1997—96
1998—98
1999—118
2000—124
2001—124

(2) Two Police Liaison Officer positions have been allocated to the Bundaberg District. One PLO has been appointed and will commence an orientation program at the North Coast Regional Office on 29 August 2001. It is expected that a second suitable applicant will be appointed in the near future.

No further additional Police Liaison Officer positions have yet been allocated for the 2001-02 financial year.

(3) Over the past three years Police Liaison Officers and Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police (QATSIP) have received training in a wide range of skills, including:

Capsicum spray course; Code of conduct; Community by-laws; Community Watch programs; Computer skills; Counselling skills; Custody awareness; Domestic violence; Driver training; Drug and alcohol management; First aid; Group behaviour; Indigenous domestic violence; Interpersonal communication; Legislation; Negotiation & conflict resolution; Non-verbal communication; Police powers; Problem-Oriented and Partnership Policing; Police Operational Skills and Tactics (POST) training; POST maintenance training; Radio procedures; Train the trainer; Using Interpreters; Vehicle maintenance; Warrants and summonses; Working with ethnic community groups; Working with Indigenous community groups

PLO training is undertaken within the context of each police region's general training program and budget. There is no separate budget for PLO training.

Training of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police (QATSIP) officers commenced with their employment in February 2000. The cost of QATSIP training in 2000 was \$59,000. Between January and 31 July 2001, the Service has expended \$48,000 on QATSIP training.

394. Police Service, Building Rentals

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (31/7/01)—

Will he detail the total cost to the Queensland Police Service for rental of buildings during 2000-01, in particular, what is the (a) physical address of each building, (b) rent paid for each building and (c) activity carried out on each of the premises?

Mr McGRADY (30/8/01):

(a) For the 2000-2001 financial year, the total cost to the Queensland Police Service for the rental of buildings was \$4.1M. This cost includes the rental of police residences, police beats and police shopfronts, police stations housed in Court buildings, and general operational and administrative accommodation.

The number of properties, operational requirements and sensitivities, and privacy considerations preclude the listing of the physical addresses of all properties rented by the Police Service. The addresses of major establishments are listed in the relevant public directories.

(b) Disclosure of rentals for individual properties is not possible, because the information is regarded as commercial in confidence.

(c) The activities carried out at properties rented by the Police Service range from purely residential to fully operational, and in many instances, a variety of activities are carried out from a single property. This range of activities, and the number of properties, precludes a listing showing the functions carried out at individual premises.

395. Black Sigatoka

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (1/8/01)—

With reference to the Black Sigatoka outbreak in North Queensland which is of great concern to the \$200m Queensland banana industry and as one of the major initiatives in the eradication campaign is to destroy the feral bananas that could be a host for the disease and I understand that he has provided a special Ministerial allocation of \$57,000 to clear up these feral bananas which have the ability to harbour Black Sigatoka—

Will he provide a progress report on this program which is so critical for a successful campaign?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/01): I refer the Honourable Member to the Ministerial Statement the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities, the Honourable Henry Palaszczuk MP, made on this matter to Parliament on 9 August 2001.

396. Vegetation Management Legislation

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (1/8/01)—

With reference to the Regional Vegetation Management Committees which were formed to reach a consensus with Government and to eventually issue recommendations for the implementation of the vegetation legislation, recommendations which had been agreed after extensive and genuine consultation and recently, when a Department of Natural Resources officer encountered a difference of opinion from some graziers at a vegetation legislation meeting, he told the graziers concerned that they would never understand the Government's point of view, prematurely packed up his papers and went home—

(1) Does this signal the type of genuine consultation landholders can expect from the representatives of the Government?

(2) Will such behaviour build confidence and trust in the legislation and in the Government?

Mr ROBERTSON (31/8/01): The general nature of the question makes it difficult for my department to identify the event to which you refer; however, I can assure you that the events as you describe them do not typify the consultation process employed in the vegetation management planning.

397. Police, Crowd Control

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (1/8/01)—

What is the actual number of police officers who were trained in specific crowd control techniques in 2000-01 and where are each of the officers based?

Mr McGRADY (31/8/01): Queensland Police Service (QPS) policy states that all sworn members, up to and including the rank of Inspector, are to undertake Police Operational Skills and Tactics (POST) training on a six-monthly basis. POST training includes specific training in crowd control techniques, handcuffing, firearm retention and Oleoresin Spray techniques.

The QPS maintains a full-time Public Safety Response Team (PSRT) of 38 officers. These are specifically trained, centrally-based police who are equipped to respond in the interests of public safety to instances of confrontation, violence and other specialist taskings which are beyond the capabilities of standard policing.

398. Felton-Pittsworth Road

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/8/01)—

With reference to the Felton Pittsworth Road, which has had both fatal and non-fatal accidents and to advise that it would be upgraded last year—

- (1) When will that road be upgraded?
- (2) How much money will be spent?
- (3) What sections of the road will be upgraded and what works will be completed?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/8/01):

1. Work has commenced on one section of this road and additional works are planned at two other locations to commence this financial year. Some of the works may carry over to next financial year.

2. A total of \$2.6m has been programmed for these jobs.

3. The Felton-Pittsworth Road commences at the Gore Highway and comprises Helens and Yandilla Streets in the town of Pittsworth. The Pittsworth-Felton Road extends in an easterly and southerly direction and terminates at the Toowoomba-Karara Road. Total length is 22.7km.

Work includes:

The new connection from the Gore Highway to Helens Street (associated with the realignment of Oakey-Pittsworth Road to the north) is currently under construction and should be completed late 2001.

Work on the realignment of the railway crossing in Helens Street is programmed 2001-02 to 2002-03.

The project to widen the only remaining narrow section of the road between McLeans access and Long Road also includes upgrading of the Broxbum Road intersection. This project should be completed during the 2001-02 financial year.

399. Asian Police Liaison Officers

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (1/8/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Police Service (QPS) which intends to raise the number of Indigenous Police Liaison Officers, however, given the increasing number of other races settling in Queensland particularly of Asian origin—

Does his department intend to address the engagement of Asian Liaison Officers to help address some undoubted communication gaps between the QPS and our Asian immigrants?

Mr McGRADY (31/8/01): The Queensland Police Service employs 124 Police Liaison Officers from a variety of cultural backgrounds throughout the State, including Aboriginal, Torres Strait Island, South Sea Islands, Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam and China.

The Service currently employs five Asian Police Liaison Officers specifically for their cultural knowledge and language fluency in the Brisbane Metropolitan North and Metropolitan South Regions. Three of these officers are Vietnamese and two are Chinese.

It is widely acknowledged that because of their cultural knowledge and language skills these Police Liaison Officers provide an excellent level of service to the Asian communities, the community in general and the Police Service.

More Police Liaison Officers from Asian backgrounds may be employed according to QPS staffing allocations, operational priorities and the identified needs of the various communities.

400. Beechmont School Site

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for State Development (1/8/01)—

With reference to the work the Beechmont Community Association is doing in regards to the development of the old Beechmont School site and as funding of \$7,100 is required to develop a master plan for development of this site of which the group have raised \$3,550 from private funding and as this is an important part of the plan to develop the community centre at Beechmont—

Is funding available from the Department of State Development to assist in the preparation of this master plan?

Mr BARTON (3/9/01): The Beechmont Community Association has held meetings with officers from my Department's State Development Centre Gold Coast regarding possible assistance for the development of a master

plan for the old Beechmont School Site. Assistance through my Department's Regional Business Development Scheme was discussed however there has been no formal approach from the Beechmont Community Association for assistance in this regard. I understand that this project was to originally receive 50% funding from the Beaudesert Shire Council and that this funding is no longer available.

I have been informed that this project commenced in early July and is expected to be completed by 11 September 2001. Under the guidelines of the Regional Business Development Scheme there can be no retrospectivity with regards to funding however my Department would consider any future applications for assistance from the Association.

In this regard, I understand that officers from the Gold Coast State Development Centre are in regular contact with the Association to assist them with their plans for the old school site.

401. Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (1/8/01)—

With reference to the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme—

- (1) What is the breakdown of expenses on various types of aids?
- (2) Has there been an increase in costs; if so, where?
- (3) Are there any backlogs being experienced under this scheme; if so, where?
- (4) How many electric wheelchairs were issued last year and how does this compare to the year before and what are the time delays in chairs being issued?

Mrs EDMOND (31/8/01):

(1) Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) purchases the majority of its aids and equipment through Standing Offer Arrangements established with commercial equipment suppliers/distributors. MASS subsidises the purchase cost of the aids and equipment for its clients with disabilities. For the 2000/2001 financial year, the approximate breakdown of purchase costs for its major types of aids/equipment categories is as follows:

Type of Aids/Equipment—Approximate Cost Range

Contenance Aids

- Disposable Catheters—\$30 to \$40 (50/box)
- Indwelling Catheters—\$40 to \$45 (10/box)
- Penile Sheaths—\$20 to \$50 (30/box)
- Night Bags—\$25 to \$170 (10/ctn to 65/ctn)
- Leg Bags—\$35 to \$65 (4/ctn to 15/ctn)
- Bed Sheets—\$25 to \$30 (per sheet)
- Stretch Pants—\$10 to \$25 (10/ctn)
- Disposable Pads
 - Light —\$30-\$35 (95/ctn)
 - Medium—\$50 to \$90 (50/ctn to 220/ctn)
 - Heavy—\$60 to \$90 (100/ctn to 115/ctn)
 - All-In-One—\$60 to \$105 (85/ctn to 95/ctn)
 - Pull-Ups—\$70 to \$120 (60/ctn to 80/ctn)
 - Nappies—\$55 to \$115 (120/ctn to 195/ctn)
- Reusable Pads—\$20 to \$25 (per pad)

Orthoses—\$190 to \$1,500

Oxygen

Various costs dependent on combinations of oxygen equipment required and 'disabled' client's location throughout Queensland. Samples of major type of oxygen equipment types:

Approx monthly rental

- Oxygen Concentrator Machines—\$110
- Filled E sized oxygen cylinders for paediatrics—\$150-\$270

Mobility Aids	Approx Cost Range	MASS Subsidy
Manual Wheelchairs	\$300 to \$2,200	To \$1,200
Powerdrive Wheelchairs	\$3,300 to \$5,900	To \$5,100
Wheeled Walkers	\$150 to \$650	Fully Funded
Infant Child Mobility Devices	\$1,100 to \$1,750	To \$1,200
Pressure reduction cushions	\$200 to \$950	Fully Funded
Approved Modifications Mobility Devices	\$50 to \$2400	Fully Funded
Daily Living Aids		
Hoists	\$1,350 to \$4,850	To \$2,000
Non Folding/Reclining		
Mobile Over Toilet Shower Commode	\$400 to \$2,550	Fully Funded
Bedside Commodes	\$180 to \$850	Fully Funded
Approved Modifications Commodes	\$20 to \$1,300	Fully Funded
Pressure Reduction mattresses	\$200 to \$2,000	To \$2,000
Transfer Benches & bathboards	\$150 to \$550	Fully Funded
Communication Aids		
Servox	\$975	Fully Funded
Electronic	\$208 to \$3,600	To \$3,000

(2) There is provision within the MASS Standing Offer Arrangements for suppliers to negotiate for adjustments for rise and fall in costs that must be substantiated with satisfactory documentary evidence. For aids and equipment items not on Standing Offer Arrangements, increase in costs are negotiated with individual supplier in the market on a value for money basis. During 2000/01 there have been general increase costs adjustments negotiated across the broad range of brands and categories of equipment provided through MASS.

(3) There is no waiting list for urgent aids/equipment. However, the Government has allocated a further \$1million in this year's budget to respond to the demand for non-urgent aids.

(4) The number of electric wheelchairs supplied by MASS in 2000/2001 was 180 and in 1999/2000 was 132. The current waiting time is approximately two months.

402. Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (1/8/01)—

With reference to his statement that the change in staff in the Darling Downs Regional Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is due to staff being temporarily transferred elsewhere—

- (1) Will he provide a list of all such transfers across Queensland with respect to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, including the length of time that these staff have been transferred to date and when they are due to return to their regular location?
- (2) Will he provide the cost involved to the office or department in the transfer of these staff including, but not limited to, relocation subsidies, rental allowances, living away from home allowances and so on?

Mr WELFORD (31/8/01):

(1) There has been no temporary transfer of staff within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Staff work elsewhere regularly as part of the normal 'circuit process'.

(2) Accordingly, there has been no cost from temporary transfers to either that Office or the Department.

403. India-Queensland Trade

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (1/8/01)—

For each of the preceding three financial years (1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01) will he detail the (a) level of two-way trade between Queensland and India, (b) balance of trade between Queensland and India, (c) commodities and services that form the top five Queensland exports to India, (d) commodities and services that form the top five Indian imports to Queensland and (e) number of trade missions to India conducted with direct Government involvement?

Mr BEATTIE (21/8/01): I fear that Federal Government immigration changes for overseas students are costing Queensland's higher education facilities millions of dollars and putting at risk their future links with India. I have called on the Federal Government to urgently revisit the visa application rules because it is putting up to \$11 million a year in export revenue at risk. It has reached the point where major English-speaking daily newspapers in India are printing headlines such as Indian students least desired in Australia. Australia has already dropped from second to third most popular destination for Indian students behind the USA and the UK and will soon drop to fourth behind Canada. I'm told that one of our State's institutions approved 160 Indian students as eligible and only 16 could get visas. That's 144 lost opportunities.

(a) The level of two-way trade between Queensland and India for the financial years 1998-1999: Exports—AUD \$739,398,809; and Imports—AUD \$93,341,038; 1999-2000: Exports—AUD \$738,012,056; and Imports—AUD \$104,038,593; and 2000-2001: Exports—AUD \$995,284,850; and Imports—AUD \$115,142,566. Note that for exports, state of origin Queensland is used, and for imports, state of lodgement Queensland is used.

(b) The balance of trade between Queensland and India for the financial years 1998-1999 was AUD \$646,057,771; 1999-2000 was AUD \$633,973,463; and 2000-2001 was AUD \$880,142,284.

(c) As service data is collected nationally, and State estimates are generated by service type (but these estimates are not generated by country) only data for commodity exports has been provided.

Commodities that formed the top five Queensland exports to India for the 1998-1999 financial year were: coal; metalliferous ores and metal scrap; confidential items of trade; textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric); and fruit and vegetables. Commodities that formed the top five Queensland exports to India for the 1999-2000 financial year were: coal; metalliferous ores and metal scrap; textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric); fruit and vegetables; and crude animal and vegetable materials. Commodities that formed the top five Queensland exports to India for the 2000-2001 financial year were: coal; metalliferous ores and metal scrap; textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric); fruit and vegetables; and fertilisers (excluding crude). Note that state of origin Queensland is used for exports.

(d) As service data is collected nationally, and State estimates are generated by service type (but these estimates are not generated by country) only data for commodity exports has been provided. However, education has been a major export earner for Queensland.

Commodities that formed the top five Queensland imports from India for the 1998-1999 financial year were: organic chemicals; manufactures of metals; textile yarn, fabrics and made-up articles; road vehicles; and articles of apparel and clothing accessories. Commodities that formed the top five Queensland imports from India for the 1999-2000 financial year were: manufactures of metals; organic chemicals; non-metallic mineral manufactures; textile yarn, fabrics and made-up articles; and articles of apparel and clothing accessories. Commodities that formed the top five Queensland imports from India for the 2000-2001 financial year were: petroleum, petroleum products and related materials; textile yarn, fabrics and made-up articles; non-metallic mineral manufactures; organic chemicals; and articles of apparel and clothing accessories. Note that state of lodgement Queensland is used for imports.

(e) The number of trade missions to India, that have been conducted with direct Government involvement for the financial years 1998-1999 was one; 1999-2000 was two; and 2000-2001 was two.

404. Vegetation Management Legislation

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (1/8/01)—

With reference to statements by Dr Lavery, a leading environmental scientist and economist who has come forward and is now discrediting the locking up of large tracks of land in national parks and describes the practise as 'well meaning but, it's mismanagement by neglect' and as Dr Lavery has questioned the high public cost of weed and vermin control and argues that landowners leasing the land can do it far more cheaply and far more effectively than Government departments and as the benefits of re-opening these areas has been 'discovered' to be true in America also—

Where does the Government stand on re-evaluating or rolling back this legislation?

Mr ROBERTSON (31/8/01): This question should be redirected to my colleague the Minister for Environment, as national parks are his portfolio responsibility.

405. Racing Industry

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (1/8/01)—

With reference to the evaluation of the annual service level agreement for delivery of drug testing and other scientific services to the racing industry and as negotiations regarding the future method are ongoing—

What future method of delivery of these services is being negotiated with the industry?

Mrs ROSE (30/8/01): Since the privatisation of the TAB, drug control and integrity services have been provided to the Queensland Racing Industry ('the industry'), via a service level agreement, by the Racing Science Centre (RSC), which is a part of the Department of Tourism, Racing and Fair Trading. The service level agreement between the State of Queensland and the industry is currently negotiated on an annual basis.

During 1998/99, my Department undertook a review of the role and effectiveness of the RSC in delivering services to the industry. The review identified that the industry was satisfied with the level of services that is provided by the RSC, which enjoys a world-class reputation.

However, there are always possibilities for improvements to established service delivery arrangements and my department is working with the industry with a view to developing a more commercial focus at the RSC and broadening access to other potential clients for RSC services (eg, clients in other racing jurisdictions), which could lead to the provision of a more cost-effective service to the industry.

406. Rural Fire Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (1/8/01)—

With reference to the rural fire brigades—

- (1) What is the Rural Fire Service budget in total for 2001-02 for recurrent and capital equipment?
- (2) What was the actual spending in 2000-01?
- (3) Is he aware of how this compares with the New South Wales and Victorian Governments' contribution to their equivalent fire service and will he detail these comparisons?

Mr REYNOLDS (3/9/01):

(1) The total modified cash funding for the Rural Fire Service for 2001/2002 is set at \$14.16 million. This amount comprises \$10.67 million for operating expenses (excluding depreciation) and \$3.49 million in Capital Expenditure.

(2) The financial statements are still being progressed for the Department and the final report will not be signed off by the Auditors until late September. Accordingly, the interim modified cash spending by the Rural Fire Service totals \$14.1 million for 2000/2001 comprising \$10.35 million for operating expenses (excluding depreciation) and \$3.75 million in Capital Expenditure.

(3) The Country Fire Authority in Victoria supports 64,340 volunteers as well as some 838 full time paid career staff. Of the volunteers – some 57,718 have responsibility for fire protection in rural areas and 10,622 have responsibility for fire protection in urban/rural areas.

Predominantly a fire suppression organisation, the CFA is responsible for structural fire suppression in sections of metropolitan Melbourne and all provincial cities and towns in Rural Victoria.

It's clear that the organisation does not undertake hazard reduction burning as we do in Queensland.

In 2001/02, Queensland will expend almost \$148M in providing fire suppression and prevention services to Regional and Rural Queensland (excluding the Brisbane Metropolitan and Gold Coast areas). These services are provided by Queensland's system of urban and rural fire brigades.

Victoria's CFA is also responsible for :

Statewide fire and related emergency coordination services including wildfire suppression;
structural fire suppression; transport related fire suppression; road accident rescue; hazardous materials transportation and storage incidents; technical rescue; Forest Industry Brigades; Industrial accident response; and other emergency activities including storm and flood assistance.

Technical services including building code related inspections and post incident investigations;

Fire safety input into fire prevention and land use planning at municipal level;

Community awareness, education and safety programs.

Many of these functions in Queensland are undertaken by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority whose Budget this year is \$239.43M

By comparison, CFA operations cost around \$90 million a year. Funds are provided through fire insurance premiums (77.5 per cent) and the State Government (22.5 per cent).

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service is a designated combat agency for all fires occurring in its district which includes the provision of fire protection to some 1,200 towns and villages throughout the State.

The New South Wales Rural Fire Service provides a range of services from firefighting and prevention to community education and support to other emergency services.

The Service supports approximately 70,000 volunteers (2,301 brigades) and 116 permanent staff (1999/2000 Annual Report).

The operating expenditure (including capital under depreciation) for the New South Wales Rural Fire Service for 1999/2000 was \$84.1M (1999/2000 New South Wales Rural Fire Service Annual Report).

407. Crown-of-Thorns Starfish

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (1/8/01)—

What is the status of the Crown-of-Thorns eradication program of the State Government and the planned progress on this issue in the coming year?

Mr WELLS (30/8/01): There is currently an outbreak of the crown-of-thorns starfish on reefs in the Cairns area. Tourism operators have undertaken control measures at some of the most important tourism reefs, and I understand that over \$2 million has been spent by the tourism industry on crown-of-thorns control in the last two to three years.

There have been recurrent outbreaks of the crown-of-thorns starfish since 1962, when an outbreak at Green Island led to major concerns over impacts on the Great Barrier Reef.

Scientists still are uncertain as to what causes these outbreaks, but there are suggestions that pollution from the mainland is implicated. The Government has implemented a Reef Protection Plan which will address the problem of coastal run off and its effects on the reef, and will also provide direct assistance to the tourism industry in crown-of-thorns control measures.

The Government has made a commitment of \$1 million towards crown-of-thorns control on the Great Barrier Reef. A pilot project has been conducted to determine the most effective control methods. This has cost around \$300,000. The report on the pilot project has only just been compiled.

The balance of the funds, which will amount to a minimum of \$700,000, will be allocated to control measures over the next two years. The deployment of the funds will be strongly guided by the tourism industry and by the results of the pilot project.

Senator Robert Hill, as the Commonwealth Minister responsible for the protection and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, made a commitment at a recent meeting of the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Council, that Commonwealth funding will be provided to match the funding provided by Queensland.

408. Beenleigh, Pedestrian Bridge

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/8/01)—

With reference to the construction of the footbridge and associated works between Holmview Station and Grove Road at Beenleigh which the Minister for State Development promised after a fatality, was to have been in operation in 2000-01—

Has the footbridge and associated works been constructed as promised; if not, when will this work be completed?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/8/01): The construction of a bikeway, which minimises the risk of trespass on the rail corridor and provides for flood-free pedestrian access, has commenced.

The bikeway has required the acquisition of land adjacent to the northern side of the railway. This process has involved extensive negotiations with six property owners and two mortgagees. These negotiations were concluded on 12 June 2001 with the formal acquisition of the land gazetted on 6 July 2001.

Construction commenced immediately after this gazettal and is due for completion by the end of 2001, subject to the weather.

409. Sunshine Coast TAFE Institutes

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (1/8/01)—

(1) Will he provide a breakdown for TAFE colleges on the Sunshine Coast including (a) the number of full-time funded training positions since the Beattie Labor Government came to power and (b) the number of part-time funded training positions for the same?

(2) Will he outline how this Government intends to cater for the projected growth and thereby ongoing needs to further provide TAFE services on the Sunshine Coast both short and long term?

Mr FOLEY (29/8/01):

(1) The Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE's full-time equivalent students are 1,414 (1998), 1,249 (1999), 1,329 (2000), and 1583 (projected 2001). The Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE's part-time equivalent students are 6,200 (1998), 9,036 (1999), 9,217 (2000), and 9,275 (projected 2001). These figures are for "funded training positions" and do not include fee for service and international students.

(2) The Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE's Mooloolaba Centre Redevelopment Stage 2 project is due for completion in November 2002 and will be used by up to 1,000 students each day. The \$14 million facility will cater

for an increased range of training and will include a hospitality and tourism wing comprising kitchens, training cafe, bistro, restaurant and classrooms, together with an information technology wing comprising laboratories and computer classrooms. Also included will be a tiered lecture theatre seating 160 people, a video conferencing room, and a learning resource centre offering students 24 hour internet access. Ministerial approval has been given for the development of a new Noosa Centre for the Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE. Due for completion in mid-2004, the main training areas will be in the arts, ecotourism and information technology and will be used by up to 300 students each day. The proposed development site will be on the Cooroy-Noosa Road at Tewantin. Construction is due to commence in 2002-03 with a budget allocation of \$2.40 million, with a further allocation of \$3.65 million in 2003-04.

410. Keep Australia Beautiful Campaign

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/8/01)—

How can residents and businesses become involved in the "Keep Australia Beautiful Campaign" in relation to keeping State roads tidy?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/8/01): On 19 June 2001, I endorsed the "Adopt-a-Road program for implementation on state-controlled roads throughout Queensland.

Adopt-a-Road is an initiative of Keep Australia Beautiful Council in cooperation with Main Roads. The program involves local community groups "adopting" a section of road.

Adopt-a-Road activities may involve litter collection, graffiti removal, landscaping, and beautification projects. Litter collection and graffiti removal are road maintenance activities performed by Main Roads and local governments and represent a costly burden upon the community.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council is the program manager for Adopt-a-Road, program and is responsible for ensuring that participants in the program receive appropriate safety training, are suitably equipped and adequately insured

This enjoyable and educational program will commence this year and will provide people from a range of communities, the opportunity to participate and receive recognition while saving taxpayers to a cleaner healthier environment. It will also contribute to the wealth of Queensland by helping to promote tourism through presenting clean and tidy cities and roadsides to visitors.

Main Roads is the major sponsor for Adopt-a-Road during the first three years of the program.

411. Police Resources and Budgets

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (1/8/01)—

Will he detail the Queensland Police Service non-wage budgets, by region and command, since 1998-99 and provide details on the number of staff assigned to each region and command at 30 June for each year?

Mr McGRADY (31/8/01): The Service does not allocate regional and non-regional budgets on the basis of labour and non-labour and as such, this information is not available. The global budget allocated to each region and command since 1998-99 is outlined in Table 1.

The relevant Executive Officer for each region and command is responsible for the delivery of services within their budget allocation and exercises discretion in applying these funds to various labour and non-labour items.

Table 1: Operating Budgets—Regions and Commands

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Far Northern	31,150,000	35,822,000	39,278,000	39,995,000
Northern	31,953,000	35,210,000	39,528,000	41,249,000
Central	34,926,000	38,744,000	41,295,000	42,947,000
North Coast	45,690,000	55,494,000	58,606,000	62,857,000
Metropolitan North	50,740,000	57,482,000	60,802,000	63,486,000
Metropolitan South	41,573,000	48,249,000	49,498,000	53,482,000
South Eastern	49,167,000	58,124,000	62,497,000	65,313,000
Southern	40,507,000	46,583,000	48,649,000	50,981,000
State Crime Operations	33,932,000	37,732,000	39,262,000	41,724,000
Operations Support	43,938,000	48,295,000	51,940,000	58,467,000
Ethical Standards	4,123,000	4,905,000	5,468,000	5,531,000

The staff allocation outlined in Table 2 is for police and civilian staff in each of the regions and commands as at 30 June of each year.

Table 2: Staffing Allocation by Region & Command as at 30 June

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Far Northern	629	679	684
Northern	645	713	742
Central	695	720	739
North Coast	1,018	1,061	1,119
Metropolitan North	1,078	1,106	1,139
Metropolitan South	903	905	998
South Eastern	1,090	1,173	1,169
Southern	845	832	868
State Crime Operations	573	601	630
Operations Support	772	781	858
Ethical Standards	81	80	91

412. Townsville Police Academy

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (1/8/01)—

Will he provide a monthly breakdown, from 1 July 1999 to 31 June 2001, of the costs associated with accommodation for police cadets associated with Townsville Police Academy including the (a) total cost for each month, including accommodation and meals, (b) total number of cadets being accommodated each month, (c) total cost, including accommodation and meals, that the Queensland Police Service budgets for, for the duration of a cadets training at the academy and (d) location of accommodation?

Mr McGRADY (31/8/01):

(a) The total cost of accommodation and meals for recruits at the North Queensland Academy for the period 1 July 1999 to 20 June 2001 was \$1.26M. Over this period, the average monthly cost for accommodation and meals was \$52,556.

Costs for accommodation and meals are paid on a monthly basis, on invoices presented by the supplier. However, the monthly payments vary widely, depending on the periods and charges covered by each invoice, and monthly totals are not meaningful or comparative.

(b) The number of recruits accommodated each month during the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2001 ranged from 37 in July 1999 to 19 in June 2001. The average per month for the period was 25.

(c) The total budgeted cost for recruits at the North Queensland Campus in the 2000-2001 financial year was \$1.508M.

(d) Since the opening of the North Queensland campus, recruits have been accommodated at the Mercure Inn, Townsville.

This accommodation is provided through a Standing Offer Arrangement, established following a competitive tendering process (by way of public advertisement) in 1996. The arrangement is reviewed annually to ensure that the ongoing requirements of the Service, with regard to recruit accommodation, are being met.

413. Condamine-Balonne WAMP

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (1/8/01)—

With reference to his department's surrender of its opposition to the amalgamation of water licenses at St George in the Land Court because, in his words, "the way the court case was proceeding and the evidence that was being adduced may not have been in the long-term interests of maintaining the integrity of the moratorium"—

- (1) Given the Government's position was based, in part, on the draft Condamine Balonne WAMP, will he explain what modelling techniques were used in developing it?
- (2) What sampling techniques were used?
- (3) Were the same techniques and methodology used in the development of other WAMPs already completed, such as the Fitzroy and Burnett?
- (4) Which departmental staff and consultants were used in developing the Condamine Balonne WAMP?
- (5) Were the same staff and consultants used to develop each of the other completed WAMPs?
- (6) Given that the Department of Natural Resources surrendered the case before a judgment was made and his fears about maintaining the integrity of the moratorium, how can the community have confidence that the scientific basis upon which the Condamine Balonne was based is rigorous?
- (7) When will the socio-economic study to support the Condamine Balonne WAMP be completed and released?
- (8) What implications does the Land Court case have for the already completed WAMPs?
- (9) What implications does it have for water users in those catchments?

Mr ROBERTSON (31/8/01):

(1) The hydrologic modelling has involved extensive collection of water licensing data and the undertaking of basin-wide hydrologic investigations at an unprecedented scale. My Department has been at the forefront of developing IQQM hydrology models that are customised to represent the unique characteristics of each of the Queensland catchments where water resource planning has been initiated.

(2) There are nationally accepted protocols that guide the way in which specific ecological data (such as fish and macro-invertebrates) is sampled, assessed and reported. By following protocols such as "AusRivAS" for sampling and analysis of macro-invertebrates, and the "IBI Index of Integrity" for other biological indicators such as fish, scientists are able to use the results of sampling to assess the condition of various environmental attributes, as well as make comparisons between the conditions of different locations and/or times.

(3) The environmental flow assessment methodology used by my Department in the development of water resource plans is one of the most advanced and comprehensive applied to water planning in Australia to date. The development of each basin's water resource plan has involved extensive hydrologic and ecologic studies that have been based on the best science available at the time.

Many of the techniques and methodologies pioneered in Queensland catchments have recently been picked up by the southern states in their attempts to move their water management approaches to a more scientific basis. The River Murray Environmental Flows Project and the Murray-Darling Basin Sustainable Rivers Audit are two examples of significant projects under way that build on the scientific approaches pioneered by Queensland. Further, we continue to lead this field with new and innovative research projects that are designed to enhance the understanding of the relationships between flows, land management and other catchment-wide influences, and their effects on riverine health.

(4) The scientific professionals working in this area for my Department are acknowledged experts in the river ecology and hydrology of Queensland's western streams.

It is interesting to note that the proceedings demonstrate that the opinions of scientists from both sides of that debate—both for my Department and the appellant—essentially agree on the basics, namely that: (i) my Department's hydrology modelling is the best presently available for assessing impacts; (ii) the ecological condition of the Lower Balonne distributary streams is degraded with sites that are in biologically poor condition; and (iii) the Lower Balonne is overcommitted with water harvesting licences and requires remedial action. Importantly, the experts agree that, having regard to the degradation present in the Lower Balonne system, there is an appropriate case for the application of the precautionary principle in managing the system.

(5) One of the strengths of Queensland's water resource planning process is that it has drawn on the best scientific expertise available, and uses experts with relevant experience in each catchment being studied. This means that the teams of experts and consultants may differ in their composition in each part of the state in order that the special ecological characteristics and requirements of each catchment can be assessed when preparing a water resource plan.

(6) My department did not "surrender" the case nor was there any "decision" of the Land Court. The two parties involved in the case reached an agreed settlement in relation to this matter. The community can be reassured that, as mentioned earlier, the science being used and pioneered in Queensland by my Department in its water resource planning is acknowledged as amongst the best in Australia.

(7) The Government has been looking at the social and economic implications of various water allocation scenarios within the Condamine-Balonne and Border Rivers catchment. This work is being coordinated through the department of State Development in cooperation with the Department of Primary Industries, my Department and other relevant agencies.

(8) None.

(9) The Government remains committed to working through the range of complex issues associated with developing a water resource plan for the Condamine-Balonne basin, and ultimately delivering the benefits for water users and the environment that such a planned approach will bring. One of the most likely options being considered that my department is presently working on is to release a revised draft Water Resource Plan for the Condamine-Balonne Basin later this year. This would provide the opportunity for all interested people to make submissions to the Government outlining their views about the proposed revised draft Plan.

414. South Burnett Health District

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (2/8/01)—
With reference to the South Burnett Health District—

How long has the district been without a permanent district manager and when will one be appointed?

Mrs EDMOND (3/9/01): The District Manager resigned after a period of extended leave on 29 April 2001. During his leave and since then the position has been filled very competently on a temporary basis.

Applications for the position closed on Monday, 20 August 2001. Interviews are expected to be held in mid-September and an appointment announced shortly thereafter.

415. Aquaculture Industry

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/8/01)—
With reference to the allocation of \$6m over three years for the aquaculture sector announced on 19 June 2001—

- (1) How much of this money will be available to individual aquaculture farmers for development of their aquaculture enterprise?
- (2) Has any of this money already been allocated to individual aquaculture farming enterprises; if so, what enterprises are these?
- (3) How much of this money will be put towards research and development of aquaculture farming, broken down into Government and non-Government allocation?
- (4) What action has taken place to utilise this \$6m in the aquaculture sector since its announcement on 19 June 2001?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/01):

(1) These funds were an election commitment and were allocated to four defined and vital areas of strategic research that will improve the sustainability of the aquaculture industry and in turn individual aquaculture farmers in the long term. These are:

- Sustainable water use and remediation of discharge;
- Biotechnology, breeding and genetics;
- Development of alternative feeds; and
- Soft shell crustacean production technology.

(2) No. Detailed project proposals have been prepared for each of the four areas or research referred to in the answer to question (1).

(3) The \$6.1 million allocated is entirely from State Government funds. It is expected that this funding will leverage either or both Research and Development Corporation Funds or Private Sector funds.

(4) Detailed project proposals have been prepared for each of the four areas of research referred to in the answer to question (1).

416. Pain Clinics

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (2/8/01)—

- (1) How many pain clinics are operative and competently staffed in Queensland?
- (2) Do any of these pain clinics have a guaranteed future?
- (3) Is it true the Royal North Shore Pain Clinic has an annual budget of \$750,000 from the New South Wales Government and more from the Federal Government?

Mrs EDMOND (3/9/01):

(1) Pain services run at many sites throughout Queensland Health meeting particular needs of post operative patients and palliative care patients. A formal pain clinic operates at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. This multidisciplinary and comprehensive pain service has been fully accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards. New services have been funded at Princess Alexandra Hospital, Townsville Hospital and Gold Coast Hospital. At these three centres, recruitment of staff is currently under way.

(2) Yes.

(3) The operations of the Royal North Shore Hospital are outside the jurisdiction of Queensland.

417. Sir David Longland Correctional Centre

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (2/8/01)—

With reference to a memorandum from Michael Costa concerning correctional officers no longer being allowed to use the amenities block to sleep over after a 12-hour shift, before travelling long distances home—

- (1) Is this Government policy, as claimed by Michael Costa in the memo?
- (2) Why can't the staff amenities building outside the perimeter of the Sir David Longland Correctional Centre be used for this purpose?
- (3) Should correctional officers, who have completed a 12-hour shift, be forced to drive home, some as far as 120 klms when truck drivers are forced to take a half-hour break from driving every 5 hours?
- (4) With people now having to travel far afield to find work, is this new arrangement at Sir David Longland fair, or is it discriminatory towards those who have been willing to travel long distances to find work?
- (5) What happens to people who have purchased houses or have other heavy commitments and can't move closer to their place of work?
- (6) What can he do to either reverse this decision by the new management of Sir David Longland, or provide an alternative for people who can't afford to pay \$30 per day in travel costs?
- (7) Is this to be a problem in every Queensland Correctional Centre?

Mr McGRADY (3/9/01):

(1) It is not Government policy. It is a centre policy based on the building not complying with the Building Code of Australia for residential purposes. The amenities building is required for operational purposes.

(2) The staff amenities building is used for operational purposes.

(3) Staff have a 12-hour break between shifts. It takes two hours to drive 120 kilometres. It may be considered unreasonable for staff who choose to live excessive distances from their place of work to seek additional support from the department.

(4) Staff were not approved to use the amenities building for accommodation purposes.

(5) It is not possible to comment on the circumstances of individuals, however, it would be assumed that reasonable proximity to the place of work is the responsibility or choice of the individual.

(6) There is no decision to reverse. The staff did not receive permission to use the amenities building for accommodation purposes. It is an operational building.

(7) No. Correctional centres are located in, or close to, Brisbane or major regional centres and staff are able to reside in close proximity to their place of work.

418. Stock Inspectors; Tick Clearance Service

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/8/01)—

With reference to the one-day strike held in July by Department of Primary Industries stock inspectors and the tick clearance service—

- (1) What action has he taken to address the stock inspectors' concerns?
- (2) Will he consider remunerating stock inspectors for overtime commensurate with the remuneration provided to other Government employees such as Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers?
- (3) What is the current status of the Government's review of the tick clearance service?
- (4) What are the hours of operation of the tick clearance service and fees charged at the current time?
- (5) Will any changes be made to the hours of operation and/or fees charged this year?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/01): I am advised the premise of the Member for Hinchinbrook's question and the reference to "the one-day strike" is false.

Regarding the specific points raised in reference to a staff meeting organised on 4 July by DPI management:

(1) A range of issues were discussed with staff, some of which could be resolved locally, while others required further attention by management. These latter issues are currently being addressed.

(2) Staff at Mt Isa, Cloncurry and Julia Creek are already being paid overtime for necessary work on weekends and public holidays. Consideration is currently being given to extending this to all tick clearance centres.

(3) I am currently considering a number of options put forward by industry and the Animal and Plant Health Service.

(4) The service generally operates on an 8.00 am to 5.00 pm basis on normal week days. However a service is also provided on weekends for necessary stock movements such as competition stock, saleyard cattle meeting curfews and export cattle meeting shipping deadlines. Cattle dipped at government owned clearing dips are charged \$1.23 per head (combined dipping and yard fees). People who use privately owned clearing dips pay nothing to the government but pay a yard and dipping fee to the owner of the dip. There is currently no fee for the actual inspection of cattle at a clearing dip.

(5) This will depend on decisions related to the previously mentioned reviews. I am hopeful that under any new system, a more flexible service will be available for industry.

419. School Teachers

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (2/8/01)—

With reference to approaches to me by many primary school principals who are concerned that many P & C Associations have to fund teacher relief for teachers who are absent because of sickness—

Will the Government review the policy of teacher relief to ensure that this cost is not forced on P & C's and local fundraising activities?

Ms BLIGH (4/9/01): Education Queensland provides an allocation to schools to cover the absence of teachers on sick leave for any continuous period of up to five consecutive days.

If necessary, schools are provided with additional funding for teacher relief as situations arise where overexpenditure of the allocation occurs due to circumstances beyond the control of the school.

The provision of teacher relief for Education Queensland teachers on sick leave is the responsibility of Education Queensland.

If there are specific cases where a P&C is bearing the cost of payment for teacher relief for illness, I would ask that these details be provided to me.

420. Boyne Valley Rail Line

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (2/8/01)—

With reference to concerns which have been expressed that the Awoonga Alliance in conjunction with the Gladstone Area Water Board intend to re-use old rail supplies (spikes, sleepers etc) when relocating affected sections of the Boyne Valley Railway Line—

Will the line be relocated using approved standard materials to ensure a quality line is handed back to Q Rail for future use?

Mr BREDHAUER (30/8/01): Queensland Rail (QR) has essentially completed successful negotiations with the Awoonga Alliance in relation to track standards to be applied to the reinstated track. After raising three kilometres of embankments and one bridge on the same alignment as it is now, track work will be reinstated. New timber sleepers and fastenings will be used throughout.

However, the 63lb rail will be stockpiled and reused, as it is sufficient for the current axle loads and annual tonnage, which the corridor carries. Most of the 128km corridor from Taragoona to Monto is currently 63lb rail. If any damage occurs to small lengths of the rail during construction, sections may be replaced as required with suitable cascaded rail from existing stocks.

QR has a robust post-construction audit regime, which will be applied to the completed works before traffic is run.

421. Tourism Industry, Sunshine Coast

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (2/8/01)—

(1) What strategies are in place to ensure that the Sunshine Coast receives adequate and positive exposure through advertising that will benefit the local tourism industry that is widely recognised as a major employer and a clean industry?

(2) Is Tourism Queensland assisting Tourism Sunshine Coast in addressing concerns that are being touted that may lead to a name change of this regional tourist authority?

(3) Will a name change affect long term branding?

Mrs ROSE (30/8/01):

(1) Tourism Sunshine Coast is the regional tourist organisation for the Sunshine Coast. The region is also part of the South East Queensland (SEQ) Country program targeting the Brisbane short break market.

In 2000-2001 Tourism Queensland and Sunshine Coast operators spent approximately \$1.4 million under the "Sunshine Coasting" brand.

A full-time journalist is employed by Tourism Queensland to look after the destination media. This includes writing and distributing press releases, helping operators access media and encouraging the media to visit the Sunshine Coast by supplying airfares and "free of charge" accommodation. All this activity complements the advertising spending of Tourism Queensland and Tourism Sunshine Coast.

To ensure Tourism Sunshine Coast continues to meet industry's needs, a draft three-year Strategic Leisure Marketing Document 2001 – 2004 has been prepared. It reinforces the research data commissioned by Tourism Queensland in the past 12 months. From this research (valued at approximately \$100,000), the destination's

strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats have been identified—from a consumer's perspective—and strategies have been developed to follow up with actions.

On 30 August, Tourism Queensland will hold a free tourism workshop to provide Sunshine Coast tourism operators with information on how to effectively market online using the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse, the largest database of tourism destination and product information in a common format in Australia. Being part of the Warehouse gives operators access to the enormous marketing clout of www.australia.com and its extensive promotional program.

(2) The Sunshine Coast Business Development Corporation has developed a Sunshine Coast Tourism Strategy. Meetings with the Mayors and Chief Executive Officers of the Cooloola, Noosa, Maroochy and Caloundra Shires and Tourism Queensland's Chief Executive Officer have been held to discuss the strategy. The commitment and involvement of the various Sunshine Coast Councils will establish a better framework for future negotiations. There is no move to change the name of the regional tourist organisation from Tourism Sunshine Coast.

(3) Any name change would not affect the branding of the Sunshine Coast. The branding initiatives put in place by Tourism Queensland and supported by industry are based on extensive consumer research and industry consultation.

422. Low-Cost Housing

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (2/8/01)—

What options are available to families with low incomes and no savings to gain low-cost rental or to purchase their own home?

Mr SCHWARTEN (3/9/01): The Department of Housing provides public housing assistance for families and individuals with low to middle incomes. Unlike private rental, the department does not charge applicants a bond before they are allocated housing. Public housing has accommodation to suit particular needs, e.g. seniors units, detached housing, units and townhouses.

Wait times for assistance are subject to the number of properties in an area and to the applicant's choice of location and type of accommodation requested. Queensland public housing applicants must satisfy eligibility criteria for assistance.

Public housing is usually provided on a wait-turn basis. However, under some specific circumstances, an offer of accommodation may be made ahead of turn – this is known as priority housing. Applicants approved for priority housing must have no other appropriate, affordable and accessible housing options available to them.

As allocations of accommodation can only be made when a property becomes available, priority housing is not intended to provide immediate solutions to a housing crisis.

However, people in severe and immediate housing need who are waiting for public housing may be offered transitional housing through the Department of Housing—funded Community Rent Scheme. The Community Rent Scheme is managed by not-for-profit community organisations which provide subsidised accommodation for eligible applicants. The housing is primarily in properties head-leased through the private rental market, although some department-owned properties are also used.

The Department of Housing also manages two home lending products:

The Queensland Housing Loan is a loan that is designed to assist Queenslanders who are experiencing difficulty in saving a sufficient deposit to obtain a loan from a bank or building society to buy a home.

The Queensland State Housing Loan has been specifically designed to assist public housing tenants and other eligible applicants to purchase available state housing rental properties. The loan has been designed with special interest rate concessions and safeguards against steep rises in interest rates for the full term of the loan.

For these home loan products the applicant will need to contribute some level of their own savings as a deposit to be eligible.

423. Primary Industries, Assistance Programs

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (2/8/01)—

With reference to concerns in rural communities that the average age of farmers is increasing, ranging from 53 years of age in the broadacre industries to 58 years in the dairy industry, to quote some examples—

- (1) What is his department doing to reverse this trend, if anything?
- (2) What programs have been put in place State-wide to encourage young people to work in primary industries, detailing each different sector?
- (3) What is the participation rate of these programs on a targeted and actual basis?
- (4) How much funding has been allocated for these programs?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/9/01):

(1) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is aware of the problems associated with the ageing farming population and it is working on a number of fronts. However, it is not an isolated occurrence, more a subset of the systemic issues associated with the way farm businesses are operating in an era of ongoing structural reform and falling return on investment. As Minister for Rural Communities as well as Primary Industries, I am also concerned about the much broader problem of declining rural communities caused in part by the lack of opportunities for rural youth in those communities.

(2) and (3) DPI has maintained an emphasis on rural youth as a component of its statewide activities such as Futureprofit, Building Rural Leaders, and Rural Partnership Development, and Rural Women and Youth.

In particular, Futureprofit is targeted at farm families and encourages the participation of all generations in the farm business to be involved in decision-making. By assisting farm families to identify the goals of each family member, the goals and aspirations of younger people involved in the operation of the farm are made explicit. This often produces dramatic changes to the business structure, and improves succession planning and intergenerational communication. Because of this success, forty five special purpose succession planning workshops have been run since 1997 involving 550 farm families.

The Building Rural Leaders program encourages involvement of the younger generation and over the last four years 200 participants have been under thirty five, and a further 251 have been under forty five.

The Positive Rural Futures Conference is a key activity within Rural Partnership Development and aims to motivate rural communities to take local action to address their issues. Conference participants are provided with practical information about how to enhance social infrastructure, improve education resources and involve all sectors, ages, genders and cultures in community economic and social life. This conference has a strong youth focus.

As well as the conference Rural Partnership Development officers located across rural Queensland provide capacity building services to rural communities which assist them in defining ideas and strategies and implement actions to address local concerns. Following a series of 'The Future Not What It Used To Be' workshops in communities such as the Atherton Tablelands and Longreach, issues relating to rural youth in those communities were identified as a priority. As a result projects such as the Dimbulah Mareeba Youth Initiative, Herberton Shire Youth Development initiative, Mareeba and Dimbulah Young Guns, and Longreach Multi Youth and Sports group, have been initiated to improve the social infrastructure in those community as well as engage youth in business concepts and provide them with an opportunity to participate in ongoing economic development.

More recently, DPI has sponsored initiatives such as the Young Achiever Australia Program designed to develop entrepreneurial and business skills, and the Youth People in Rural Industries Initiative which encourages young people to nominate for courses, scholarships and awards. In addition to a financial contribution, DPI also provides mentoring assistance to students of participating schools. There are also many other projects in which DPI is engaged with education sector promoting agriculture to young Queenslanders.

Building on these initiatives, DPI is also working collaboratively with its interstate counterparts and the Commonwealth Government to develop a national strategy focusing on rural youth. The Rural Advisory Committee, a subsidiary of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Resource Management (SCARM) met recently to identify rural youth issues at a national level and commence the process of defining strategies for a more coordinated and holistic approach to dealing with these issues.

A further program that encourages young people to work in primary industries is the First Start Farm Program. This Program, which is administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA), provides finance on a concessional basis to help applicants acquire their first viable rural property. Applicants can borrow up to a maximum of \$300,000.

Assistance is available to eligible producers to meet the cost of attending the training programs offered through the provision of subsidies under the FarmBis program. FarmBis is jointly funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments. Youth is one of the key target areas of the FarmBis program.

(4) There is no specific funding allocation for any of the above programs. The Futureprofit, Building Rural Leaders and Rural Partnership Development activities are funded from the Rural Community Development output. For 2001-02, this output has a budget allocation of \$30.045 million. The First Start Farm Program is funded by QRAA based on demand and approvals. There is \$30 million allocated to FarmBis in Queensland over the next 3 years.

424. Water Supply, Cairns

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (2/8/01)—

With reference to the proposal that Cairns City starts accessing water for its supplies from the Barron River only during high flows—

- (1) Is it the case that such periods largely coincide with high sediment loads?
- (2) What would the water treatment costs be under this proposal compared to those for water from the current sources?
- (3) What is the estimated pumping cost under the proposal and what charges, if any, would SunWater require?
- (4) Will the ratepayers of Cairns have to foot the bill for the increased costs?

Mr ROBERTSON (3/9/01):

- (1) It is true that high sediment loads are associated with the first flush of high flows.
- (2) The analysis of water treatment costs is a matter for Cairns City Council.
- (3) Until the nature of any water entitlement for Cairns City is clarified, it is not possible to determine if SunWater would be in a position to seek to charge for supplies.
- (4) Given the preliminary nature of the proposal, it is premature to conclude if prices would rise or fall.

425. Exports

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (2/8/01)—

With reference to the June 2001 edition of the Treasury publication Queensland Economic Update which carries a table, sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics data, detailing Queensland Overseas Merchandise Exports (12 months ending April 2001, nominal), listing commodity groups and destinations by nominal (ie, \$A) value and destination and the percentage increase (decrease) over the previous year in each group and destination—

Will he provide, for each of these commodity groups and destinations, a calculation for the year to April 2001 by volume of exports and the percentage increase (decrease) over the previous year?

Mr BEATTIE (24/8/01): My Government has increased the focus on the need to export in order to create new jobs and improve our standard of living. As Minister for Trade I have vigorously promoted Queensland products and services to overseas markets and have personally led trade missions which have opened up new markets for our products and services. These missions have been particularly successful in exploring new openings for our beef and cattle, especially in Vietnam, Egypt and Mexico.

Queensland's trade performance was impressive in terms of growth in both the value and volume of exports over the 12 months to April 2001. The latest revised ABS unpublished trade data indicate that the value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports rose 27.6% over the 12 months to April 2001, compared with a year earlier (see Table 1).

Growth in the nominal value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports has been assisted by sustained weakness in the \$A exchange rate and solid increases in world prices of Queensland's major export commodities over the past year. Growth in the volume of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports over this period was also strong though, at 11.1%, although considerably less than that of nominal exports (see Table 2).

The value and volume of overseas merchandise exports increased to most major trade destinations and across most major commodity groups over the 12 months to April 2001. The major exception was Cereal exports which fell over the period due to unfavourable weather conditions across the State.

See Tables 1 and 2 for more detail. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

426. Petrol Price Watch Committee

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (2/8/01)—

With reference to the Government's Petrol Price Watch Committee—

- (1) What is the amount and nature of the work that the Petrol Price Watch Committee has undertaken since its inception last year?
- (2) What action has the Petrol Price Watch Committee taken in its own right or the number and nature of any referrals it has made to the ACCC with respect to exploitation of fuel prices, including evidence of price exploitation or collusion by fuel suppliers, service stations and fuel companies generally?
- (3) What benefit does she believe Queensland has derived from the Petrol Price Watch Committee and its activities over the past 12 months?

Mr BEATTIE (31/8/01):

(1) The Petrol Price Watch Committee has done considerable work to ensure that Queenslanders receive fair treatment on petrol prices. This has included the setting up of an interactive web site so that consumers can lodge their complaints online and representations are being made to various authorities on the issues raised. The website has received 674 hits in the last 12 months and around 260 consumer calls have been responded to by the Office of Fair Trading.

(2) The Petrol Price Watch Committee has referred all relevant material it has received to the ACCC. The Committee applied considerable pressure on the Federal Government to not increase the excise on petrol in February 2001. After initially refusing to do this, the Federal Government reversed its decision. The 'backflip' occurred after the Queensland State election result with petrol prices as a prominent issue in the minds of voters. The Petrol Price Watch Committee has also made representations to the Queensland Minister for Fair Trading and direct to the Commonwealth Government regarding reported fluctuations and disparities in fuel prices as well as concerns about short measure petrol deliveries to service stations resulting from temperature variations. Fair Trading Ministers from Queensland and other States have also canvassed these issues with the Commonwealth through the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs. The Commonwealth has since announced two separate major inquiries, one into reducing fuel price variability and the other into fuel taxation. Also, there has been national agreement that Queensland will develop model legislation ensuring fuel deliveries from refineries and terminals across Australia are not short measure because of temperature changes.

(3) The Petrol Price Watch Committee has achieved significant benefits for Queenslanders. Petrol excise did not rise in February and it will not rise this August, as it would have done if the Federal Government had implemented its previous policies. Also, because of the work of the Petrol Price Watch Committee and many other organisations and individuals, inquiries by the ACCC and the Commonwealth Treasury will now look at ways of reducing price fluctuations as well as the impacts of the existing Commonwealth tax structure for fuel.

427. Security Intelligence Branch

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (2/8/01)—

What was the budget allocation for the Security Intelligence Branch for 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 as well as the total number of officers assigned to the branch at 30 June for each year?

Mr McGRADY (3/9/01): The allocated budget and total number of officers assigned to the Security Intelligence Branch for the three financial years in question is outlined below:

Year	Budget Allocation	Officers Assigned as at 30 June
1999-2000	\$1,000,000	19
2000-01	\$1,330,000	21
2001-02	\$1,450,000*	21

* Projected expenditure for 2001-02.

428. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Agency; Ms K. Tim

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (2/8/01)—

With reference to the recent departure of Kerrie Tim from her position as executive director of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (DATSIP) to take up a secondment as the acting executive director, Office for Women, Department of Premier and Cabinet—

- (1) Since taking Government in 1998, how many staff restructures and/or 'realignment' processes have been undertaken within DATSIP, including all of the department's regional offices?
- (2) As a result of these restructures/realignments', how many selection processes for staff selection within DATSIP have been deferred, suspended, cancelled or repeated?
- (3) Will she provide details as to exact staff numbers (including details as to the numbers of temporary, part time and FTEs) currently existing within all program areas within the department?
- (4) How do current staffing levels within DATSIP compare with recommendations under these various restructures /'realignments'?

Ms SPENCE (14/9/01):

- (1) Since 1998, only two major changes to the structure have been proposed.

The first restructure occurred with the creation of the Department in 1998. The second alignment process is currently under way in line with building the capability of the Department. This alignment has involved the senior management structure and senior positions within Central Office.

(2) For the 1998 restructure process, departmental records do not show that any staff selection was deferred, suspended, cancelled or repeated as a specific result of these restructures or realignments. In relation to the current realignment, there has been one selection process cancelled for a senior position. At the time, a new Director-General had recently been appointed and wished to undertake a strategic review of senior positions in Central Office.

- (3) The following tables show departmental staff numbers:

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Headcount, as at 3 September 2001.

Directorate	Permanent		Temporary		Casual	Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time		
Office of the Executive Director	8		2		4	14
Strategic Policy Directorate	31	2	8	1	2	44
Strategic Projects and Service Directorate	30		5	2		37
Community Development Directorate	71	6	28			105
Total	140	8	43	3	6	200

Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions, as at 3 September 2001.

Directorate	Permanent	Temporary	Casual	Total
Office of the Executive Director	7	2		9
Strategic Policy Directorate	29.3	8.6	0.1	38
Strategic Projects and Service Directorate	29	6.1		35.1
Community Development Directorate	68.4	28		96.4
Total	133.6	44.7	0.1	178.5

Note that with FTE calculations, permanent and temporary employees are calculated as at the effective date. Casual employees are calculated as an average of the hours worked in the last two pay periods. All figures are rounded to the first decimal place.

Note also that differences in headcount and FTE position reports can be attributed to job sharing arrangements with two people assigned to the single FTE position, that people on leave without pay are not included in the FTE report, that people on long service leave are not included on the FTE report, or people seconded to other Government departments are not included in the FTE report.

- (4) The consultant who was engaged to consult with key stakeholders in the community and across Government and make recommendations about the general structure of the new Department in 1998 did not make specific recommendations about numbers of staff.

429. TAFE Institutes

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (2/8/01)—

With reference to a memo sent to TAFE directors from his Director-General dated 22 June where he states that some TAFE institutes and their divisions have not operated within their allocated budgets—

- (1) Which TAFE institutes and which divisions in each, have not operated within their allocated budgets over the past 12 months?
- (2) What was the budget for each of these institutes and their divisions and by how much was each overspent?
- (3) What is the allocated budget to each of these institutes and their divisions for the forthcoming year?
- (4) What is the total full-time equivalent of staff employed at each?
- (5) Will he give a guarantee that there will be no full-time equivalent staff reductions at each of these institutes over the forthcoming year as a result of his Director-General's memo that says each "General Manager and line Manager must be personally accountable for managing their operations and managing within their allocated budget"?

Mr FOLEY (29/8/01):

(1) Thirteen institutes have not operated within their allocated budgets during 2000/01. These were Southbank Institute of TAFE, Brisbane Institute of TAFE, North Point Institute of TAFE, Moreton Institute of TAFE, Open Learning Institute of TAFE, Logan Institute of TAFE, Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE, Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE, Central Queensland Institute of TAFE, Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE, Mount Isa Institute of TAFE, Wide Bay Institute of TAFE, and Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE. With regard to divisions, the Department does not specify a divisional structure for institutes, and each institute director has discretion as to how to organise the institute for best outcomes.

(2) See Table 1 for the 2000-01 budgets of each Institute. The end of year result has not been finalised and will be reported in the Department's Annual Report.

TABLE 1

INSTITUTE—2000/01 Revenue Budgets¹ (Note 1)

Southbank Institute of TAFE—\$71.03m
Brisbane Institute of TAFE—\$32.35m
North Point Institute of TAFE—\$28.53m
Moreton Institute of TAFE—\$42.83m
Open Learning Institute of TAFE—\$20.08m
Logan Institute of TAFE—\$14.55m
Southern Qld Institute of TAFE—\$35.52m
Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE—\$29.58m
Central Qld Institute of TAFE—\$43.00m
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE—\$30.80m
Mount Isa Institute of TAFE—\$6.66m
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE—\$26.51m
Tropical North Qld Institute of TAFE—\$29.97m

Note 1: Non-profile and systemic items have been removed from these budget figures.

2: These figures include estimates of revenue to be earned through activities such as fee for service and international students.

¹ Data drawn from the TAFE Queensland 2000-01 Budget Allocation (prepared by Financial Management Services, Business Development Division)

(3) Table 2 shows the allocated revenue budgets for 2001/02.

TABLE 2

INSTITUTE—2001/02 Revenue budgets (Note 1)

Southbank Institute of TAFE—\$70.1m
Brisbane Institute of TAFE—\$34.0m
North Point Institute of TAFE—\$31.4m
Moreton Institute of TAFE—\$43.2m
Open Learning Institute of TAFE—\$24.9m
Logan Institute of TAFE—\$14.9m
Southern Qld Institute of TAFE—\$37.7m
Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE—\$31.3m
Central Qld Institute of TAFE—\$41.9m
Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE—\$32.2m
Mount Isa Institute of TAFE—\$6.3m
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE—\$28.6m
Tropical North Qld Institute of TAFE—\$33.2m

Note 1: Non-profile and systemic items have been removed from these budget figures

2: These figures do not include ANTA growth funding available for distribution across the vocational education and training sector in 2001.

(4) Table 3 shows the total 2000-01 average full time equivalent (FTE) staff employed at each Institute.

TABLE 3

Institute—Average² FTE Staff for the financial year 2000-01³

Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE—\$429m
Northpoint Institute of TAFE—\$393m
Brisbane Institute of TAFE—\$461m
Open Learning Institute of TAFE—\$308m
Central Queensland Institute of TAFE—\$599m
Southbank Institute of TAFE—\$903m
Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE—\$392m
Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE—\$488m
Gold Coast Institute of TAFE—\$356m
The Bremer Institute of TAFE—\$299m
Logan Institute of TAFE—\$214m
Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE—\$397m
Moreton Institute of TAFE—\$610m
Wide Bay Institute of TAFE—\$405m
Mt Isa Institute of TAFE—\$87m
Yeronga Institute of TAFE—\$316m

2 The average to 30 June 2001 has been calculated from the fortnightly figures to retain overall accuracy

3 Data drawn from Information Business Improvement Services using MPS methodology

(5) No. It is my responsibility to ensure that TAFE Institutes operate within their budgets. It is a fact that TAFE Institutes have been operating at staffing levels beyond the funding capacity of the system. I have implemented a short-term strategy to improve the financial viability of the TAFE system and ensure the correct staffing mix at institutes. However, funding for TAFE has increased significantly as outlined in the 2001-02 budget. This is in stark contrast to the massive funding cut of \$125 million and staff reduction of more than 900 FTE's made by the Borbidge Government when the Member for Caloundra was Treasurer.

430. Helensvale Police Station

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (2/8/01)—

Is a proposal to construct a police station at Helensvale on the QPS ten-year rolling capital works program; if so (a) within what time frame is its construction proposed, (b) what is its foreshadowed budget and (c) how long has it been on the proposed ten-year rolling capital works program?

Mr McGRADY (3/9/01): The provision of a new police station at Helensvale was identified by the Assistant Commissioner, South Eastern Region, in 1999 and the project is included in the Service's Rolling 10 Year Rolling Capital Works Program. The construction of the station will be considered in accordance with the regional and statewide priorities of the service and the community. Based on current day costs, the estimated budget for the project would be around \$2M (exclusive of GST).

431. Ambulance Service, Drug Overdose Cases

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (2/8/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service—

- (1) In 2000-01 how many call-outs were to drug overdose patients?
- (2) What is the estimated cost for these drug related call-outs for 2001-02?

Mr REYNOLDS (3/9/01):

- (1) The QAS Drug Project recorded 691 QAS responses to heroin (only) overdose cases in the 2000-2001 period.
- (2) The current approved fee for service is \$706. Based on 2000-2001 figures, the estimated cost for call-outs to heroin overdoses in 2001-2002 will be approximately \$0.5m.

432. Australian Tropical Dairy Institute; DHI Forage Laboratory

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (7/8/01)—

With reference to the tendering process for feed and fodder testing for the Australian Tropical Dairy Institute, worth \$30,000 and successfully won by DHI Forage Laboratory, Dairy One, of Ithaca, New York—

- (1) How many and which businesses competed for the tender?
- (2) What method of assessment was applied to determine the successful tender?
- (3) How did DHI Forage Laboratory win the tender given the exchange rate advantage of domestic firms?
- (4) Are DHI Forage Laboratory's NATA accredited?
- (5) How is the awarding of this tender consistent with the Government's "A Fair Go for Queensland" initiative, Queensland's Local Industry Policy and the State Purchasing Policy?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/9/01):

- (1) As required by the State Purchasing Policy, three companies were invited to tender. Two companies provided tenders – Dairy One, Ithaca, New York, USA and Agrifood Technology Pty Ltd, Toowoomba, Qld.
- (2) I am advised tenders were assessed by an evaluation process that complies with the State Purchasing Policy and DPI procedure. DPI officers conducted a formal evaluation of the tenders against criteria from the tender documents on behalf of the Australian Tropical Dairy Institute.
- (3) I am advised Dairy One was assessed as the better tender and all price comparisons were made in Australian dollars.
- (4) The tender required suppliers to have in place a certified Quality Assurance system or equivalent laboratory Quality Assurance system to AS/NZ ISO 9002.
- (5) I am advised the invitation and evaluation process complied with the State Purchasing Policy, which contains the Government's policies for Government agencies.

433. Brisbane Transport, Bus Subsidy

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/8/01)—

With reference to the Output Statement on pages 1-35 of his Ministerial Portfolio Statement and, in particular, to quantity measures "number of passenger trips taken" and "number of vehicle kilometres"—

Will he provide the estimate for each of Brisbane Transport (Brisbane City Council) and "All Other Bus Companies in the SEQ" for 2000-01 and 2001-02 for each of these quantity measures?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01): The actual figures for each quantity measure are only available for 2000-01.

2000-01	Number of passenger trips taken	Number of vehicle kilometres
Brisbane Transport	42,722,554	39,150,124
All other Companies in the SEQ	20,934,200	22,141,422

The estimates for the period 2001-02 have not yet been revised and remain as per the Ministerial Portfolio Statement.

434. State Emergency Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (7/8/01)—

With reference to State Emergency Services (SES) funding—

- (1) What is the current funding per SES unit per local government area?
- (2) What is the amount of the subsidies paid to local government areas for the construction, extension and maintenance of SES headquarters?
- (3) What is the amount of the subsidies paid to local government areas to assist with the provision of vehicles for SES units?
- (4) Are local governments required to pay for the replacement of major items such as outboard motors and chainsaws that are required by SES units?
- (5) What is the breakdown of funding paid to each local government area for SES units in 2001-02?

Mr REYNOLDS (5/9/01):

(1) My Department supports Local Governments with an annual grant to facilitate and support the development of SES Units across the State. The grant is paid to offset administration costs incurred in providing an SES support program for the community by Local Governments and ATSI Community Councils. This comprises \$3,000 for the first SES Unit, with an additional \$100 paid for each subsequent Group. The total funding available for Local Government Grants in 2001-02 is \$495,000.

(2) An Accommodation Subsidy Scheme to assist Local Governments in the provision of accommodation for the SES is available. A maximum amount of \$15,000 is payable to Local Governments and ATSI Community Councils for a building costing \$20,000 or more to construct or purchase. Payment is subject to availability of funding. The total funding available in 2001-02 is \$130,000. The responsibility of maintaining SES Headquarters rests with each Local Government. If the facility is shared by the Rural Fire Service further funding may be available.

(3) My Department assists with the purchase of a replacement vehicle for SES Groups with the provision of a motor vehicle and accessories subsidy up to an amount of \$8,800 (if the value of the vehicle is over \$10,000), subject to available budget funding. SES Groups also receive a subsidy for the costs of registration and insurance of official SES vehicles. The purchase and allocation of vehicles operated by the SES is a decision for Local Governments. The total funding available in 2001-02 is \$175,000.

(4) Where an item is either purchased by the Local SES Unit's community or Local Government, a subsidy payment may be provided, subject to available budget funds. Assistance is in the form of a \$1,000 subsidy for replacement, in the case of an outboard motor. Subsidy payments are approved as applications from Local Governments are received throughout the year. In 2001-02, as part of the Floodboat Replacement Program, consideration will be given to the full cost of replacing outboard motors on those floodboats which are otherwise in sound condition.

(5) The only available breakdown of funding paid to each Local Government area is for the specific grant and subsidy programs. In addition to the payment of these grants, many SES Units and Groups throughout Queensland receive support by way of provision of major equipment including Road Accident Rescue, as well as provision of red lights, Floodboats, Vertical Rescue, communications and personal protective equipment. In 2001/02 the Government has again provided additional special funding of \$1M to support SES Volunteers.

435. Police Housing; Q-Build

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (7/8/01)—

With reference to statements by the Vice President of the Queensland Police Union on ABC radio on 3 August that maintenance work on police housing in North West Queensland has not been conducted for many years and that, and I quote, "not only can you not get tradesmen to go up there, the cost is exorbitant because the Government has done this deal with Q-Build and they are the only ones that are to do the maintenance on the houses. So consequently the maintenance is only being done when Q-Build's available to go up there, which may be once every six months."—

- (1) What is the deal that the Government has done with Q-Build?
- (2) Why have there been such prolonged delays in responding to the obvious maintenance needs in this area?
- (3) What are the costs charged by Q-Build to provide this service?
- (4) Has any consideration been made to identifying the cost of using private contractors; if so, how do these costs compare with Q-Build's costs?
- (5) If Q-Build is unable to fulfil these needs in an acceptable and timely way, why aren't private contractors utilised so that police and their families do not have to live in the appalling conditions that many currently do?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/9/01): (1-5) The Honourable Member would be better off if he devoted even a small amount of effort to acquaint himself with a few relevant facts before taking the word of others who are running a political campaign against the government. For example, in managing the needs of the Queensland Police Service in Northern Queensland, all planned maintenance works are approved by the Queensland Police Service, and

Department of Public Works records do not reflect that there are any prolonged delays in providing requested services.

The volume of work that can be approved is relative to the funding available through the Police Service for this region. In addition, on occasions funds become available through the Department of Public Works which are used by QBuild to reduce backlog maintenance lists for the property assets of various government agencies. An analysis of QBuild records over the previous six months indicates that no formal complaints have been made in relation to:

- inadequate response times for urgent works; and/or
- 'exorbitant' costs, within QBuild's Far West and Cape York Regions.

The Honourable Member's suggestion that private contractors be used instead of QBuild is based on complete ignorance of the facts. The work to which the Honourable Member refers is managed by QBuild and carried out either directly by QBuild staff or by private contractors engaged by QBuild. In fact, QBuild outsources approximately 60% of all maintenance works to private contractors.

Contractors are often used to provide services in remote areas, however in some instances a private contractor is not available, requiring QBuild travelling to deliver services. Perhaps the Honourable Member might like to explain how maintenance work would be carried out in centres without an adequate pool of contractors, if QBuild did not carry that responsibility?

The arrangement with QBuild for managing maintenance on police property flows from a decision in April 1999 by the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. The committee decided that as at 1 July 1999, maintenance funding would be devolved to all state agencies. The Cabinet Budget Review Committee further resolved that agencies would remain tied to QBuild for the provision of maintenance services.

QBuild charges an agreed program management fee to manage the agreed maintenance program. For services provided on site, QBuild prices are based on selling rates that are competitive with industry average rates. A contract management fee of 7.5% is charged to cover the cost of arranging and guaranteeing service delivery. When contractors are used, QBuild charges the contractor's price plus the 7.5% contract management fee. Under this arrangement QBuild guarantees the contractor's work and accepts risk on behalf of the client.

In relation to cost comparisons, QBuild has recently undertaken a benchmarking exercise comparing selling rates to that of private contractors. The outcome of this exercise was that QBuild compared favourably against industry averages.

As the Honourable Member should be aware—but more than likely is not—QBuild is the largest employer of apprentices in the State, and Government maintenance work provides valuable training opportunities for young Queenslanders.

In QBuild's Capricornia region—covering the Honourable Member's own electorate—there are 24 apprentices on staff in a variety of trades. In the Far West region there are eight apprentices based in Mt Isa, but redeployed throughout the region when needed. In its Burdekin (Northern) region, QBuild has 31 apprentices on staff including four in Charters Towers, four in Ayr and two in Ingham. In the Cape York region there are 30 apprentices including five on Thursday Island.

Once again, the Honourable Member might like to explain to those young people where they would secure an apprenticeship if QBuild did not exist or did not have a steady stream of work?

Many of these facts have been stated on the public record several times by myself or representatives of QBuild and the Department of Public Works. But it seems the Honourable Member takes so little interest in these issues that he is completely unaware of the basic piece of information. It appears he is more interested in lodging misleading and politically loaded questions written by others.

436. Juvenile Detention Centres

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (7/8/01)—

With reference to juvenile detention services—

- (1) Which facilities can cater for female juvenile offenders?
- (2) How many female juvenile offenders can be housed at each of these facilities?
- (3) How many female juvenile offenders are currently in detention?
- (4) How many male juvenile offenders are currently in detention?

Ms SPENCE (6/9/01):

(1) The Brisbane Youth Detention Centre at Wacol, is the only facility which can accommodate young female offenders in Queensland who have been refused watchhouse bail, remanded in custody or placed on a detention order.

(2) 20

(3) 4, as at 23 August 2001

(4) 82, as at 23 August 2001

437. Maryborough Skate Bowl

Dr KINGSTON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (7/8/01)—

With reference to the need for the provision of suitable amusement and sporting facilities for youth and as the problems of skate boarders riding on public footpaths and parking areas are the same in Maryborough and Hervey Bay—

- (1) Why was (a) the funding application for the long planned skate bowl submitted by the sports and recreation staff and the Maryborough City Council rejected, (b) the similar application from the Hervey Bay Council granted, (c) the positive response to Hervey Bay made rapidly and (d) the negative response to Maryborough delayed?
- (2) Why did his department refuse to advise the Maryborough City Council why their application was refused?
- (3) Will he assure the residents of Maryborough that the decision was made objectively and was not influenced by political bias?

Mr MACKENROTH (3/9/01):

1(a) & (b) The Maryborough application was assessed and identified as requiring further development in regard to the size and scope of work that could be carried out for the amount of funding requested. The application for a skate bowl in Hervey Bay was assessed as being in a better position to proceed to construction phase.

(c) & (d) In relation to advising organisations of the success or otherwise of their funding application, correspondence to successful applicants was forwarded on 16 July 2001. This advice to successful applicants was sent first so work could begin on preparing contracts and other documentation related to the approvals. All unsuccessful applicants were forwarded advice of the outcome of the assessment process on 24 July 2001.

(2) Sport and Recreation Queensland (SRQ) did not refuse to provide feedback to Council on the application. In fact an officer from the Maryborough SRQ office met with Mr Andrew Jackson, Grants Officer, Maryborough City Council, on 27 July 2001. At this meeting formal feedback on the Council's application, including advice on where the application could be improved for future consideration, was provided.

(3) There is no discrimination whatsoever in the allocation of money out of the Sport and Recreation Minor Facilities Program. The decision relating to this project was made as a result of recommendations provided to me following an assessment of the applications, in accordance with the Program's objectives and guidelines.

438. Noise Barriers, Bulimba Electorate

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/8/01)—

- (1) What progress has been made in the construction of sound barriers for rail noise in the suburbs of Morningside, Cannon Hill and Murarrie?
- (2) Has a date been set for community consultation with regard to the installation of these barriers?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01):

(1) Queensland Rail (QR) has previously constructed approximately 2.8 kilometres of noise barriers in the Morningside, Cannon Hill and Murarrie area, out of a total of 7.3 kilometres of barriers constructed on the highest priority sites on this line.

In addition to those barriers already constructed, QR is currently implementing a further noise reduction program under its Network Noise Management Plan.

The Network Noise Management Plan is funded through the Transport Service Contract (Rail Infrastructure). This contract provides funding of \$18.5 million for noise amelioration works on the rail network, the majority of which will be spent on the Metropolitan section of the network.

The Morningside to Cannon Hill area is one of the highest priority locations designated for noise barrier construction within this program. As a result, these additional barriers have been assigned for construction within the first two years of QR's current six-year implementation program.

QR has completed its acoustic design phase and is currently developing civil design layouts for consultation. Depending on the outcomes of community consultation, final detailed design will be followed by the commencement of noise barrier construction in early 2002.

QR expects that noise barriers will be constructed in the Cannon Hill to Murarrie area when implementing the next phase of the Network Noise Management Plan project.

(2) QR intends to commence community consultation in late September/early October of this year in the Morningside to Cannon Hill area.

Timeframes for community consultation in the Cannon Hill to Murarrie area will be set at a date closer to the detailed design phase.

439. Employment Strategy

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (7/8/01)—

What progress has been made in connection with the launch this year of an employment strategy entitled 100 Jobs in 100 days?

Mr FOLEY (29/8/01): '100 jobs in 100 days' is a campaign that commenced on 27 June 2001 and conducted by the Ipswich Area Consultative Committee in response to a need to increase the awareness of Job Network Provider services to employers and job seekers in Ipswich and surrounding areas.

As at 22 August 2001, there were 44 days left in the campaign. To date 160 jobs have been lodged on the campaign's database and 86 of these jobs have been filled. In total there has been 260 inquiries from employers and job seekers through telephone or by the Internet.

Promotion of the campaign has been ongoing with twice-weekly advertisements on positions available appearing in the Queensland Times.

440. Queensland Health, Patient Data Collection

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (7/8/01)—

- (1) What records does Queensland Health collect on different patient outcomes for procedures and treatments in the health districts throughout the State?
- (2) Will she publish these figures?

Mrs EDMOND (6/9/01):

- (1) Queensland Health through the Health Information Centre maintains four major data collections of relevance:
 1. Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection
 2. Queensland Cancer Registry
 3. Perinatal Data Collection
 4. Mental Health Data Collection.
- (2) Much of the data is disseminated and made publicly available through a range of publications. The Client Services Unit of the HIC also provides a data inquiry service.

441. Beaudesert Police Station

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (7/8/01)—

With reference to the Beaudesert Police Station for which the Queensland Police Union has stated that an upgrade is desperately needed—

Will he give a commitment as to when an upgrade will occur?

Mr McGRADY (7/9/01): The need for a replacement police station at Beaudesert has been identified in the Queensland Police Service's Forward Capital Works Plan. The provision of a new facility will be progressed in accordance with needs and priorities as identified by the Queensland Police Service.

However, I am advised that the Service has undertaken a number of minor works projects to upgrade facilities at the station. In 2000-01 cell monitoring equipment and smoke detection systems were provided for the station's holding facility at a cost of \$26,000 (including GST).

In 2001-02 an additional \$52,585 has been committed for further upgrading works to ensure that the custody facilities at the station comply with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, and provide a safer environment for detainees and officers alike.

To further improve conditions at the station the Service is currently planning the upgrading of office accommodation under the QPS Minor Works Program. This will include the provision of new work stations to provide more open space and improved work spaces for officers.

The Assistant Commissioner, South Eastern Region, has indicated that the upgrade will be progressed as a matter of priority.

The upgrading work will extend the operational life of the building until its eventual replacement under the QPS Capital Investment Strategic Plan.

442. Public Servants

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (7/8/01)—

With reference to the Division of Public Sector Industrial and Employee Relations and any other function of his department involved in the current claim by the Public Service Union for a 35 hour week for public servants—

- (1) What would be the projected cost to Government of this claim?
- (2) How many additional public servants would have to be employed?
- (3) Will there be any effect on service delivery if this claim is delivered?

Mr NUTTALL (6/9/01): The Government is yet to formally receive from the Queensland Public Sector Union a claim for a 35-hour week. The recent publicity about a 35-hour week union claim was due to a resolution at a recent union conference.

Consequently, the Government is yet to be informed about which employees could be covered in the union's claim, or the union's proposed method of implementation of the shorter working hours—including the level of cost offsets. A more detailed response would be subject to receiving this information from the union.

443. Criminal Courts, Southport; Director of Public Prosecutions

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (7/8/01)—

- (1) How many criminal matters have come before the (a) Supreme Court, (b) District Court and (c) Magistrates Court in Southport in 1999-2000 and 2000-01?
- (2) Was the increase of one staff member in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions at Southport achieved by the transfer of a staff member from another area?

Mr WELFORD (6/9/01):

(1) As anyone with a working knowledge of the Queensland legal system would know, the Supreme Court of Queensland does not sit in Southport. I am sure most Queenslanders would find it remarkable that the Opposition Justice spokesman is not aware of this fact.

The following figures show the number of criminal matters (based on the number of indictments) presented in the Southport District Court over the past two years.

District Court: 1999/2000—1065; 2000/2001—739

The following figures show the number of criminal matters (based on the number of charges) presented in the Southport Magistrates Court over the past two years.

Magistrates Court: 1999/2000—30,529; 2000/2001—28,689

(2) No. As the Honourable Member should be aware, the number of matters is only one of the factors affecting the regional staffing needs of the DPP.

444. Water Supply, Townsville/Thuringowa

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (7/8/01)—

With reference to North Queensland Water's \$16m Mount Jack project to extend water supplies to areas south of Townsville and to the Member for Thuringowa's statements in Parliament on 17 May that the "State Government continues and will continue to assist with infrastructure costs related to the provision of water for the people of Thuringowa" and also, that "next week, funds will be provided under the Capital Works Program for the upgrade of the Paluma Dam and pipeline."—

- (1) Why was a 40 per cent State Government subsidy provided for the first stage of the project, but no funding provided for the \$3.2m second stage of the project?
- (2) For what specific reasons has North Queensland Water's application for State Government funding for the second stage been rejected to date?
- (3) Why wasn't the Member for Thuringowa's promise honoured in the State Budget?
- (4) Will she now agree to provide the State funding so that the residents of Townsville and Thuringowa do not have to pay for the Member for Thuringowa's broken promise?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (6/9/01):

(1) I presume the first stage referred to here is for that section of the Mount Jack Pipeline project estimated to cost \$5.7 million, with actual costs totalling \$7.142 million. A 40 percent subsidy of \$2.28 million was approved on 26 November 1996, as it was incorrectly thought the pipe was a delivery main. In relation to the second part of this question, I am not clear on which project Mr Hobbs is referring to, as the Department has no record of an application for funding toward a \$3.2 million stage.

(2) An application for 40 percent subsidy of \$4.32 million toward the second stage of the Mt. Jack Pipeline project, estimated to cost \$10.8 million, was rejected on the 15 May 2000 as the pipeline was considered to be a reticulation main and therefore ineligible for subsidy under the program guidelines.

(3) The Honourable Member appears to have misunderstood the Member for Thuringowa's comments in the House on May 17, 2001. The Member for Thuringowa did not make any promise but pointed out the State Government continues to support the provision of water infrastructure. She is correct.

(4) The Member's question is based on a mistaken understanding of the Member for Thuringowa's comments (see answer to part three of the question, above).

445. Stretch Limousines

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/8/01)—

- (1) Will he confirm that following a review of Transport Legislation in relation to the National Competition Policy that Cabinet has now endorsed the deregulation of stretch limousines?
- (2) In view of previous examples of these vehicles illegally competing with taxis, what controls does the Government propose to implement to ensure that these deregulated vehicles do not destabilise the taxi industry?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01):

- (1) Stretch limousine operations have not been deregulated.
- (2) Not applicable.

446. Police Air Wing

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (7/8/01)—

Will he provide details of each occasion where he or the Premier has used the police air-wing as follows (a) place of departure and destinations, (b) reason why domestic travel could not be used and (c) total cost of running aircraft for each journey including a breakdown of wages, allowances, fuel, maintenance, meals and accommodation for police air-wing personnel?

Mr McGRADY (10/9/01):

(a) On a number of occasions the Commissioner of Police authorised the use of Police Service aircraft and I accompanied him. These occasions were as follows:

28 February 2001—Brisbane/Maryborough/Townsville/Rockhampton/Brisbane

Upon appointment as Minister for Police and Corrective Services on 22 February 2001 following the State Election, it was necessary to visit major regional centres to inspect Police Stations and Correctional Centres in each of the centres listed above. Meetings were held with staff at each centre.

17 & 18 March 2001—Mt Isa/Mornington Island/Mt Isa/Winton/Cloncurry/Normanton/Brisbane

This trip was arranged to visit remote area Police Stations and meet with members of the police community (visit was on a Saturday and Sunday).

25 March 2001—Brisbane/Cairns

This trip was arranged to meet with Mrs Steinhardt (mother of Kerya Steinhardt) to inspect plans of new Rockhampton North Police Station where a memorial for her daughter is to be erected.

Visit to Cairns was to meet with local police community in Cairns, Edmonton and Gordonvale.

Also included attendance at the Regional Communities Forum at Gordonvale.

24 April 2001—Brisbane/Mt Isa.

25 April 2001—Mount Isa/Doomadgee/Mt Isa (accompanied by the Commissioner on the return leg from Doomadgee following Anzac Day services)

Visit to Mount Isa to meet with local police community.

Visit to Doomadgee to attend the first Anzac Day Dawn Service held in the Aboriginal Community.

24 July 2001—Brisbane/Bundaberg/Brisbane

Visit to Bundaberg to discuss appointment of Police Liaison Officers.

Meet with police service staff at Rosedale Police Station (one person station between Bundaberg and Agnes Waters).

Meet with police service staff at Agnes Waters Police Station to discuss refurbishment and upgrade of police station.

On another occasion the Commissioner of Police authorised the use of the Police Service aircraft and was accompanied by the Premier and, on the return leg of the journey, myself. This occasion was as follows:

15 July 2001—Brisbane/Ayr (Premier Beattie); and

16 July 2001—Ayr/Brisbane (Premier Beattie and myself).

Police jet used by Premier (with Commissioner) for Community Cabinet in Burdekin (Ayr and Home Hill)

On another occasion I utilised Police Service aircraft at the invitation of the Commissioner in relation to official Police Service business as follows:

5 July 2001 Brisbane/Gladstone/Brisbane (accompanied Mr R S Warry, Deputy Chief Executive (Resource Management), Queensland Police Service

Visit to Gladstone to meet with Mayors of both Gladstone City Council and Calliope Shire Council and Mrs Liz Cunningham MP, Member for Gladstone to discuss Tannum Sands police station.

Visit to Tannum Sands police station and meet with staff.

The Premier utilised Queensland Police Service aircraft in relation to Government business on two occasions under reciprocal arrangements with the Government Air Wing, whilst the Government jet was out of service. These occasions were as follows:

22 June 2001—Brisbane/Sydney; and

Police jet used by Premier and party to fly to Sydney to meet up with International flight where Premier was leading a trade mission.

21 and 22 July 2001—Brisbane/Hamilton Island/Brisbane.

Police jet used by Premier and party to fly to Hamilton Island. Premier was keynote speaker and presenter of awards at the 2001 Australian Tourism Awards Ceremony.

(b) The Police Air Wing is used for official purposes at times when commercial services are not available, suitable or cost effective. The cost of equivalent commercial travel using economy class and charter fares is \$47,293.02.

The number of passengers ranged between 4 and 8 for each trip.

(c) The total cost of this travel, including all running costs (wages, allowances, fuel, maintenance, meals and accommodation for Police Air-Wing personnel) was \$25,342.61.

The Engine reserve figure for all these flights is \$10,916.40. This is not a regular maintenance charge but is a provision for future engine overhaul.

Costs associated with the running of the Police Service aircraft are broken down as follows:

	Police Air Wing	Commercial option
TOTAL for 28.2.01	\$3410.81	\$7134.60
Wages	399.16	
Travel Allowance	0.00	
Fuel	1,909.46	
Maintenance	663.71	
Air Services charges	438.48	
TOTAL for 17/18.3.01	\$4643.41	\$10734.35
Wages	594.26	
Travel Allowance	403.20	
Fuel	2311.45	
Maintenance	803.71	
Air Services charges	530.79	
TOTAL for 25.3.01	\$ 2572.84	\$7332.27
Wages	303.93	
Travel Allowance	366.80	
Fuel	1,205.98	
Maintenance	419.19	
Air Services charges	276.94	

TOTAL for 24/25.4.01	\$ 3255.76	\$8031.05
Wages	491.73	
Travel Allowance	372.40	
Fuel	1478.89	
Maintenance	575.91	
Air Services charges	336.83	
Note: The Minister and the Commissioner travelled to Mt Isa on 24.4.01. The Commissioner continued to Doomadgee for the Anzac Day dawn service the following day (the aircraft would have been unable to land in the dark the following morning). The aircraft returned to Mt Isa overnight as no secure hangar accommodation was available in Doomadgee. The Minister travelled on the aircraft when it returned to Doomadgee on 25.4.01 for Anzac Day services. The Commissioner and the Minister returned to Mt Isa on 25.4.01. The Commissioner continued on to Brisbane the same day.		
TOTAL for 22.6.01	\$ 2550.25	\$2398.44
Wages	331.14	
Travel Allowance	0.00	
Fuel	1406.97	
Maintenance	489.05	
Air Services charges	323.09	
TOTAL for 5.7.01	\$1517.57	\$2475
Wages	249.52	
Travel Allowance	0.00	
Fuel	803.98	
Maintenance	279.45	
Air Services charges	184.62	
TOTAL for 15/16.7.01	\$ 3428.37	\$4576
Wages	499.04	
Travel Allowance	393.20	
Fuel	1607.97	
Maintenance	558.91	
Air Services charges	369.25	
TOTAL for 21.7.01	\$ 2790.24	\$3207.60
Wages	478.63	
Travel Allowance	13.25	
Fuel	1457.22	
Maintenance	506.51	
Air Services charges	334.63	
TOTAL for 24.7.01	\$ 1173.36	\$1403.60
Wages	222.31	
Travel Allowance	\$ 0.00	
Fuel	602.99	
Maintenance	209.59	
Air Services charges	138.47	

447. Disposal of Syringes

Mr QUINN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (7/8/01)—

With reference to the State Government's announcement on 18 April 2000 that it would impose a maximum fine of \$3,000 on people who discard used syringes in public places—

- (1) From what date did the new increased maximum fine take effect?
- (2) How many people have been convicted of this offence since the increased fine took effect?
- (3) How many of these people have received the maximum fine?

Mr WELFORD (6/9/01):

(1) The new increased maximum fine was introduced by the Environmental Protection Agency as the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000 and came into effect on 1 July 2000.

(2 & 3) In relation to enforcement, questions should be directed to the responsible Minister.

448. Logan Electorate, Funding of Organisations

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for State Development (7/8/01)—

- (1) How much money was approved for firms in the Logan electorate from his department in 2000-01?
- (2) What are the names of the firms who received funding?

Mr BARTON (7/9/01):

(1) The total amount of funding approved by the Department of State Development for firms in the Logan Electorate in the 2000/2001 financial year was \$8,232,1775.

(2) I am unable to provide details regarding funding assistance provided to individual firms in the Logan Electorate due to the commercially sensitive nature of the information. However, the funding amount provided was shared between 6 different firms.

449. Taxi Rank, Noosa Heads

Ms MOLLOY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/8/01)—

Will he reconsider funding of an up-grade to the taxi-rank at Noosa Heads for which council has offered \$5,000 for the \$10,000 project as Noosa Council needs this support as they spend heavily and generously in the community?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01): Funding for the provision of public transport infrastructure is provided through Queensland Transport's Public Transport Infrastructure Program on an equal contribution basis via capital grant. The government acknowledges the ongoing cooperative working relationship between Queensland Transport and Noosa Shire Council in providing the people of Noosa with quality public transport infrastructure.

Noosa Shire Council's commitment to the program in past years is recognised.

I advise that officers from Queensland Transport will liaise with Noosa Shire Council and public transport service providers in the Noosa area in determining the most suitable allocation of funding. If the upgrade of the taxi rank is determined by Queensland Transport (in liaison with Noosa Shire Council) to be the highest priority, it will be funded.

450. Hotels, Gaming Machine Levy

Mr CUMMINS asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (7/8/01)—

With reference to the Government's recent legislation that will see those Queensland hotels with the higher monthly poker machine earnings/turnover pay additional levies—

What number of hotels on the Sunshine Coast may be affected (on most recent figures)?

Mr MACKENROTH (6/9/01): Eight (8).

451. Property Values

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (7/8/01)—

How is the unimproved value of commercial and residential properties determined?

Mr ROBERTSON (6/9/01): Registered valuers generally inspect recent sales of vacant or lightly improved properties to determine current market values for differing classes of property.

The sales are analysed by deducting the added value of the improvements from the sale price. These improvements may include fencing, land clearing, levelling, filling or the depreciated value of structures. The added value of the improvements is not necessarily the replacement cost.

Comparing the analysed unimproved values, derived from the sales, with the existing unimproved values, derives market movement in land values.

This analysed market movement may be applied to current unimproved values to arrive at predicted values. These are reviewed by a registered valuer who may confirm, increase or decrease the predicted amounts to reflect values disclosed by the analysed sales.

452. Vegetation Management Legislation

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/01)—

With reference to statements by Dr Lavery, a leading environmental scientist and economist who is discrediting the locking up of large tracks of land in national parks and describes the practise as "well meaning but it is mismanagement by neglect" and as Dr Lavery has questioned the high cost to the public of weed and vermin control and argues that landowners leasing the land can do it far more cheaply and far more effectively than Government departments and as the benefits of re-opening these areas has been 'discovered' to be true in America also—

Where does the Government stand on re-evaluating or rolling back of this legislation?

Mr WELLS (7/9/01): The Government has no intention of rolling back our national park legislation to downgrade these valuable conservation and recreation areas. More than 12.5 million people visited Queensland parks last year. The tourist industry, and the broader community, benefit immensely from these parks. Reputable studies have determined that spending by park visitors contributes more than \$1.2 billion each year to the Queensland economy, and supports more than 6000 jobs directly and many more indirectly.

The primary purpose of our national parks is to protect representative samples of Queensland's plants, animals and landscapes, while allowing people to experience and enjoy these outstanding features in a way that is not detrimental to the parks' continued existence in as natural a state as possible. Considerable emphasis is now being placed on forging partnerships with private landholders to ensure that conservation benefits can be achieved hand-in-hand with other productive uses of their land.

Pest control is a matter for a coordinated effort by all landholders. National park rangers (QPWS) operate in close contact with their neighbours on these and other issues. Simply shifting the responsibility for pest species on national parks from the State to private landholders is no solution to the problem and would effectively create a whole suite of new problems, not only for the parks but also for those private landholders.

453. Brisbane Transport, Bus Subsidy

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/8/01)—

With reference to the Output Statement on pages 1-36 of his Ministerial Portfolio Statement and, in particular, to the location measure—

Will he provide for this measure for each of Brisbane Transport (Brisbane City Council) and "All other SEQ Bus Companies" for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 the cost of the subsidy per passenger per kilometre and the component figure for "per passenger per kilometre"?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01): With regard to the 2000-01 year the information is as follows—

Contract	Passenger Kms	Subsidy per Passenger Km
Brisbane Transport	273,424,346	10.4 cents
All other Companies in SEQ	152,689,022	10.8 cents

Figures for 2001-02 will not be available until the completion of that year. It should be noted passenger kilometres are calculated by estimating the average trip length (based on the average fare) and applying that distance to patronage. The figures relate to cash fare passengers only. School children carried under the school transport assistance scheme are not included. One-off subsidies such as the additional assistance provided for 12 months to smooth out the GST and fuel price impacts are also not included in the calculations.

454. West Indian Drywood Termites, Maryborough

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/8/01)—

With reference to West Indian termites in Maryborough and as good epidemiologists recognise that more efficient and less costly eradication of such infestations is achieved by thoroughly identifying the infested sites and then treating the total number of infested sites in the one year, during one concentrated program, before their propagation cycle and to do less is to risk further spread of the infestation and is definitely not cost efficient—

Will he give the people of Maryborough a firm undertaking that during the next few months he will commit to a complete eradication program thus giving Maryborough residents some security and using public money efficiently?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/9/01): The Department of Primary Industries is organising to treat the remaining known infestations of West Indian Drywood Termites by the end of October 2001. This will be before the next flight season of the termite.

455. Gympie Hospital

Miss ELIZA ROBERTS asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (8/8/01)—

What is the percentage of patients who are sent from Gympie Hospital to Nambour Hospital for treatment?

Mrs EDMOND (7/9/01): The latest statistics for combined admitted patients and presentations to the Accident & Emergency Department at Gympie Hospital from 1 January to 30 June 2001 show that less than 2% of these patients were transferred to Nambour Hospital for further treatment.

456. Special Needs Teachers

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Education (8/8/01)—

What plans are in hand, if any, to improve access by State schools to special needs teachers, to supplement the skills of main stream teachers now required increasingly to cope with special needs students?

Ms BLIGH (7/9/01): Education Queensland currently has in place a range of programs to support Special Education needs within state schools. These include:

The employment of Advisory Visiting Teachers throughout the state in the range of disability areas to support teachers of students with disabilities.

83 Education Queensland teachers receiving support through the Tertiary Inservice Support project to gain qualifications in disability through university studies

Introduction of a new course in educational provision for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder

The continued use of the self study package for teachers entitled "Teaching Students with Disabilities Kit" distributed to schools in 1998/1999.

Physical Impairment Training Kit:

Education Queensland has just completed an interactive multimedia package for professional development in physical impairment developed by personnel within LIU. The course will be offered in partnership with Griffith University where successful participants will be accredited with a Graduate Certificate in Special Education or 10 points credit toward further study in Masters of Special Education. The core subjects are curriculum access and participation, movement and learning, understanding the learner; and electives such as conductive education, augmentative and alternative communication, assistive technology for learning and living.

Schools currently access learning and development programs focused on locally identified needs through the array of 14 staff colleges located around the state. These staff colleges broker services through a range of providers, including tertiary institutions.

457. Q-Build

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (8/8/01)—

With reference to QBuild—

Will he provide a breakdown of the expenditure per electorate for QBuild for 1999-2000 and 2000-01 and the budget for QBuild per electorate for 2001-02?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/9/01): QBuild's expenditure relates to the cost of labour and material involved in the provision of services to client agencies, plus running expenses. The geographic pattern of expenditure is dependent on client agency requests for service. QBuild captures financial data in relation to the activities of each of its Regions. Expenditure for 1999/2000, 2000/2001, and budgeted for 2001/2002, is set out in Attachment 1. Central Office and Building Services expenditure is not included. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

458. Nambour Hospital; Caloundra Hospital

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (8/8/01)—
With reference to the ongoing, planned growth that is proposed for the Sunshine Coast—

What plans has Queensland Health for the future direction and planned expansion for the next 10 years to (a) the Nambour Hospital, the Sunshine Coast's main public hospital and (b) the Caloundra Hospital?

Mrs EDMOND (7/9/01): The redevelopments at both sites have been based on a 10 year planning cycle and are expected to accommodate future growth within that timeframe.

(a) The Nambour Hospital redevelopment will improve service delivery through:

- the introduction of new medical technology (advanced imaging capacity, clinical measurement facility etc);
- five modern theatres;
- an expanded ICU service (from seven beds to 10 beds with a capacity to go to 16 beds); and
- an expanded Department of Emergency Medicine.

(b) The Caloundra hospital has been expanded to include:

- an additional operating theatre;
- additional beds;
- a satellite breast screening unit,
- an expanded Department of Emergency Medicine; and
- a community health service.

As planning has taken into account population projections for the future, not all new facilities will be fully utilised immediately. Poor planning is indicated when a new facility is at full capacity on the day of opening.

459. Airtrain Citylink

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/8/01)—

With reference to the operation of the Air Link train connection between the airport and the Queensland Rail system and as the Premier has reported to this House that the service carried 30 thousand passengers in the first three weeks of operation and today marks three months of operation—

Has the patronage been maintained at the average of 10 thousand per week and will the initial projections of 2.3m passengers in the first year of operation be met?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01): The Brisbane Airport Rail Link (BARL) project has involved a private company, Airtrain Citylink Ltd, developing a rail link to provide passenger services from Brisbane Airport to the central business district and the Gold Coast. This project was undertaken at no cost to the state government under a 35-year Build, Own, Operate and Transfer (BOOT) arrangement.

Airtrain has accepted all patronage and other risks in respect of the project. Hence they are not obliged to provide details of their patronage in their reports to government. If patronage or revenues from the project prove to be less than anticipated, Airtrain has no recourse to government. Airtrain has indicated that patronage numbers will not be released because of commercial considerations and thus I am not able to confirm the level of patronage.

In the initial weeks, Airtrain provided a large number of free tickets in a promotion in conjunction with "The Sunday Mail" newspaper. This inflated the patronage numbers for that period.

Airtrain's base case financial model for the project anticipated that patronage numbers would be most problematic during the early years of the 35-year concession period, but patronage would improve steadily thereafter.

Airtrain has stated that, like all new businesses, management would like patronage to be higher and has confirmed that it is below the forecast of an average of 6,000 per day. However, passengers have indicated that they are generally happy with the service.

460. Health Services

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (8/8/01)—

- (1) To meet public expectations of efficient delivery of health services, what targets and timeframes has she set for elective surgery categories 1, 2 and 3?
- (2) To fulfil her 1998 election promise, what targets is she prepared to set and publish for initial specialist consultations?

Mrs EDMOND (7/9/01):

(1) The targets for elective surgery waiting lists have remained unchanged for 4 years. They are:

- Category 1—not more than 5% of patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended time of 30 days;
- Category 2—not more than 5% of patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended time of 90 days; and
- Category 3—maintenance of the proportion of patients waiting longer than one year.

(2) Labor has fulfilled its commitment to publish waiting lists for elective surgery through quarterly reports which are available via the internet.

After Labor assumed government in 1998, a Specialist Outpatients Clinic Working Party was formed to identify best practice standards in the management of waiting lists in specialist outpatient clinics. The Guidelines for the Management of Specialist Outpatients Clinic Waiting Lists was developed and distributed in late 1999 to provide a consistent approach to managing these clinics.

461. Renewable Energy Plant, Maryborough

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/8/01)—

With reference to the proposal to establish a renewable energy plant at Maryborough using sugarcane waste, as well as waste wood and sawdust from the district's timber mills in periods outside the sugar season—

- (1) Why has the Government stalled the application by Maryborough Sugar Mill to install the renewable energy plant?
- (2) Why has the Government opposed the development of an important new industry and much-needed new jobs this project would bring the Wide Bay region?
- (3) What is Queensland Labor's policy on renewable energy and the use of waste wood for generating renewable energy?
- (4) Is this policy consistent with the Federal ALP, which has twice voted in Parliament in favour of the use of waste wood for renewable energy generation?
- (5) Will the Government now support Maryborough Sugar Mill's project and allow it to install and operate the renewable energy plant?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/9/01): This question should be directed to the Hon Terry Mackenroth MP, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport, whose portfolio responsibilities include Energy.

462. Road Safety Management Committee

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/8/01)—

How is the Department of Transport's Road Safety Management Committee constituted and what is their role in determining speed limits on major roads and highways?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01): The Queensland Road Safety Committee comprises various stakeholders, but this committee does not determine speed limits on major roads and highways.

However, there have been established throughout Queensland a number of Speed Management Committees for the purpose of overseeing proposed changes in speed limits.

The Department of Main Roads and each local government has the responsibility for setting speed limits on major roads and highways under their control. When setting speed limits, these authorities must comply with the requirements of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Before a speed limit is changed, the road authority must carry out a Speed Limit Review to determine the appropriate speed for the road. The role of the Speed Management Committees is to check the speed limit reviews and ensure compliance with the requirements of the MUTCD. These committees are formed on an "as needs" basis and normally comprise a Department of Main Roads engineer, an engineer from the relevant local government, a Queensland Police Service officer and a Queensland Transport Road Safety Consultant.

This membership is intended to ensure technical integrity of speed limits and to ensure that other safety issues are not overlooked in the review process, hence attaining consistent and credible speed limits throughout the state.

If agreement about a speed limit review cannot be reached by a Speed Management Committee, the review is forwarded to Queensland Transport's Road Safety Policy and Advanced Technology Group for resolution.

463. Premier and Cabinet Department, Community Engagement Division

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (8/8/01)—

With reference to the Community Engagement Division newly established by his Government within the Department of Premier and Cabinet—

What is the total staffing of this output (at 31 July 2001) broken down by SES, SO and AO grades (and any equivalent specialist grades) by number and job description?

Mr BEATTIE (31/8/01): The Community Engagement Division incorporates and unites under a new focus several units already in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, including: the Office for Women; Premier's Council for Women; Regional Communities; Multicultural Affairs Queensland; Cape York Partnerships; and Crime Prevention Queensland.

In addition, the division will drive two projects that will strongly influence consultative processes and behaviours across the public sector—the Public Consultation Project and the E-Democracy Project.

Through this new division, Queenslanders will be given an unparalleled opportunity to contribute to Government decision-making which will ensure that the public can inject community ideas into Government services.

The division is another first for Queensland. There is no other unit of its kind in Australian public administration. It will draw from overseas experiences in consultation and embrace opportunities for genuine engagement provided by new and emerging technologies. I am determined that during this term the Queensland public sector will focus far more on working with each other and building productive and trusting relationships with business, community and industry stakeholders across the State.

My Government has already put in place highly successful programs to involve Queenslanders such as Community Cabinet meetings, Regional Community forums and Ministerial forums.

The division incorporates the Office for Women; Premier's Council for Women; Regional Communities; Multicultural Affairs Queensland; Cape York Partnerships; and Crime Prevention Queensland and as at 31 July 2001, there were 128 full-time equivalents comprising by grade, number of full-time equivalents (FTE) and job description:

SES3, FTE 1, Acting Deputy Director-General (1); SES2, FTE 4, Executive Director (4); SO1, FTE 2, Director (2); SO2, FTE 6, Director (3), Manager (3); AO8, FTE 13, Manager (12), Principal Analyst (1); AO7, FTE 13, Principal Liaison Officer (4), Principal Coordinator (1), Principal Policy Officer (7), Evaluation Officer (1); AO6, FTE 27, Senior Project Officer (6), Regional Communities Officer (7), Senior Policy Officer (5), Public Relations Officer (1), Senior Training Officer (1), Policy Officer (2), Community Facilitation Officer (1), Coordinator (1), Project Officer (1), Communication Officer (1), Media and Project Officer (1); AO5, FTE 15, Senior Information Officer (2), Information Management Officer (1) Policy Officer (5), Training Officer (1), Research Officer (2), Regional Coordinator (2), Executive Officer (1), Principal Executive Assistant (1); AO4, FTE 15, Management Support Officer (7), Management Systems Officer (1), Liaison Officer (2), Database Administrator (1), Research Officer (2), Information and Referral Officer (1), Project Officer (1); AO3, FTE 15, Executive Assistant (5), Administration Officer (2), Support Officer (2), Information Officer (6); and AO2, FTE 17, Administrative Officer (17).

464. Police Radar Devices

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (8/8/01)—

With reference to the use of radar devices by the Queensland Police Service—

- (1) Is he aware that since 1992, radar devices used to breach motorists in Queensland for alleged speeding offences have not complied with Australian Standards 2898.1 and 2898.2?
- (2) Is he aware that the author of these Australian Standards has given evidence to this effect and that police officers have given evidence in Court that devices are operated in a non-compliant form?
- (3) Why have the Police Service been authorised to continue to use non-compliant radar devices given the above in parts (1) and (2)?
- (4) What action will he take to ensure that radar devices are made compliant with these Australian Standards?

Mr McGRADY (7/9/01):

(1) The Queensland Police Service utilises four different types of radar-based speed detection devices, each of which is compliant with the relevant Australian Standard (2898.1 and 2898.2-1992).

(2) The Australian Standard 2898 was first drafted and released in 1986. The standard was reviewed and redrafted in 1992 (the current version) and is currently undergoing another review. The standard is continually reviewed to ensure it reflects changes in technology.

There is no single author of the standard. Standards are drafted through a formal committee process and are made available for public comment before final drafting and subsequent release. The committee comprises representatives from several Australian police jurisdictions, including the Queensland Police Service; the National Standards Commission; the Australian Road Research Board; the commercial vehicle industry; suppliers of electrical equipment; and the Australian Automobile Association.

The police officer in question exercised his right to contest a speed camera infringement notice issued to him, arguing that the device was operated incorrectly. However, the officer was convicted of the alleged speed offence and a subsequent appeal against the conviction was dismissed.

(3) The radar devices used by the Service are compliant with the Australian Standard 2898.1 and 2898.2-1992. The same devices are used by other police jurisdictions within Australia, North America and several European countries.

(4) Supply contracts for the speed detection devices used by the Service specify that the devices must be compliant with the relevant Australian Standards. The QPS is committed to ensuring that the devices remain compliant through its continuing involvement in the relevant Australian Standards committee.

465. Unlicensed Motor Dealers

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (8/8/01)—

- (1) What is the number of unlicensed motor dealers (a) reported to her department in 1999-2000 and 2000-01, (b) penalised by her department in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 and (c) investigated or checked for compliance by her department without an initial consumer complaint in 1999-2000 and 2000-01?
- (2) Of those dealers that have been penalised for unlicensed operations, how many have continued to illegally operate a motor dealership in any form?
- (3) In what way does she believe the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act will reduce the number of unlicensed motor dealers in the marketplace?

Mrs ROSE (7/9/01):

1(a) 78 in 1999-2000 and 164 in 2000-2001

(b)	1999/2000	2000/2001	Total
Prosecutions	13	15	28
Warnings	23	73	96
Total	36	88	124

(c)

Compliance Spot Checks	1999/2000	2000/2001
Visits to Motor Dealers premises	106	266
Road side vehicles displayed for sale	-	182
Suspected Unlicensed Traders operating through motor auction houses	-	199
Total Checks	106	647

(2) With the exception of one core matter that is currently before the court, the Office of Fair Trading has not received any complaints or detected any instances of unlicensed operators continuing to illegally operate a motor dealership.

(3) The Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000 ('the Act') provides for harsher penalties for unlicensed motor dealing. Traders can be subject to a maximum penalty of \$15,000 or two years imprisonment. Previously under the Auctioneers and Agents Act 1971, the maximum penalty for this offence was \$3,000 or 6 months imprisonment.

The Act has expanded the enforcement powers available to the Office of Fair Trading inspectors through provisions such as the ability to obtain search warrants to access and seize records associated with unlawful conduct and the ability to obtain court injunctions to restrict or prohibit particular trading behaviour.

466. State Development Department, Caboolture

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN asked the Minister for State Development (8/8/01)—

What has State Development achieved in the Electorate of Pumicestone since it opened its new office in Caboolture?

Mr BARTON (7/9/01): The Caboolture State Development Centre opened on 31 January 2001. It services Caboolture, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe and Kilcoy. As the Electorate of Pumicestone covers Bribie Island, Ningi, Beachmere, part of Caboolture East, Morayfield and Upper Caboolture, businesses in this region are direct beneficiaries of any programs or activities offered by Caboolture SDC.

Since opening, a number of significant outcomes have been achieved in the region. These have included processing 105 SmartLicences and the delivery of business skilling workshops at different locations throughout the region attended by 183 businesses. To assist exporters a series of workshops has also been run. Feedback from participants attending all of these programs has been excellent and a number of ongoing client support activities are currently under way to assist their business development. In March, 2001 a business seminar on the benefits of business networking hosted by the Centre attracted 130 local business people. The Caboolture State Development Centre has extensively promoted the Enterpriseangels program which is an investment assistance program for small business. Businesses in the Pumicestone Electorate have been represented in these programs and services.

It is important to note that a number of activities have been focused particularly on the Pumicestone area. Currently a State Development Officer visitation program is being trialled on Bribie Island. Since the commencement of this program on 12 July 2001, 21 businesses have been visited by a business adviser. An additional seven visits have involved significant one on one consultation on issues ranging from business planning, intellectual property, market research, business expansion and employee entitlements. As part of the Bribie Island trial a four workshop "Marketing Snapshot" business skilling series is being planned for the period 24 September – 5 November 2001.

State Development Centre Caboolture has played a major role in facilitating the SeaTech Park (Bribie Island) project to the point where Caboolture Shire Council has now taken it over and commissioned a consultant to start preparing a master plan for the site. The plan will determine the optimum mix of activities and opportunities to maximise the investment and employment outcomes for the Shire. The work of the State Development Centre will assist the delivery of economic benefits and employment for the Caboolture region.

Other activities from which the Pumicestone electorate gains flow-on benefits include the Caboolture Shire Excellence of Business Awards, which are supported by the State Development Centre Caboolture both through sponsorship dollars and a presence on the steering committee. The Awards night held on 18 August at the Bribie Island RSL is in the heart of the Pumicestone electorate.

The Caboolture State Development Centre is also an active supporter of Community Renewal in Caboolture South and Deception Bay. The SDC is the lead agency for a \$70,000 economic development strategy for Deception Bay. State Development Centre Caboolture is an active member of the Employment Taskforce, in particular the 1,000 jobs in a 1,000 days campaign.

State Development Centre Caboolture is also an ex officio member of the Moreton Bay Coast & Country Area Consultative Committee (ACC) and assists the ACC in many of its business development activities and referrals for our mutual clients in the Pumicestone electorate. SDC Caboolture has, in the capacity as ex officio, contributed to the development of the draft strategic plan for the Tourism and Recreation statement of Moreton Bay.

These activities have resulted in the identification of issues and opportunities in the Pumicestone electorate which are being incorporated in the State Development Centre Caboolture's Operational Plan. Through this process, business and industry sectors are being targeted for both economic sustainability and business expansion programs to be implemented over the next 12 months.

467. South East Queensland Waterways

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (8/8/01)—

With reference to the recent South East Queensland Waterways Health Report Card and the deteriorating state of waterways in the region—

- (1) Will he provide for each of the testing sites (a) what the main pollutants were, (b) what actions/strategies are being taken to improve these results and (c) when it is projected that each of these regions will be up to a "good" B grade?
- (2) In relation to sites which have failed, ie got a D or F grade, will he commit to making their improvement a Government priority?

Mr WELLS (7/9/01):

1. The science behind the Report Card is amongst the best in the world and places importance on ecological indicators as well as chemical pollution levels. The Report Card ratings are not generally based on a single pollutant but on a combination of pollutants and ecological indicators

A number of actions and strategies are being implemented to improve the Report Card results. The Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership was established in July 2001. This Partnership, between State and Local Government, industry and the community is focused on improving the health of south east Queensland's waterways. The Partnership builds on the strong foundation provided by the Brisbane River Management Group and the South East Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy.

A Waterways Management Plan and a Regional Water Quality Strategy is in place for south east Queensland. Significant progress has already been made towards implementing the actions from these initiatives.

In excess of \$270 million (\$66,500,000 from industry and \$205,656,725 from State and Local Government) has been committed between 1997-2005 towards reducing discharge to waterways, upgrading sewage treatment plants and waste water recycling projects across the south east Queensland region. This has resulted in a reduction of 1000 tonnes of nitrogen and 250 tonnes of phosphorus being discharged to our waterways over the past year.

In addition a number of significant riparian rehabilitation research projects have commenced to provide information on the development of streambank stabilisation and riparian management strategies.

2. The commitment to improving water quality is a Government priority. This has been reaffirmed with my launch of the new Moreton Bay Waterways and Catchments Partnership at Parliament House on 16 August 2001. There has been significant progress by the partners in the South East Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy (SEQRWQMS) in improving water quality.

The next stage (stage 3) of the South East Queensland Regional Water Quality Management Strategy (SEQRWQMS) is in the final phase of development and is scheduled for release in the near future. This strategy will provide a comprehensive set of management actions to improve the quality of the marine, estuarine and freshwater waterways of South East Queensland.

The SEQRWQMS sets out a series of milestones which must be achieved between now and 2020 to restore the ecological functions and processes of all waterways in South East Queensland. In particular the management actions in the strategy aim to halt the decline and reverse the current trends by 2007. By 2020 the SEQRWQMS aims to restore the ecological functions and processes of all waterways and protect the natural values and biological diversity of the waterways.

468. Adoption Legislation

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (8/8/01)—

With reference to adoptions and to Estimates G Committee during which she said that she had a bit of a time line for working on new adoption legislation—

- (1) What is the time line of this legislation?
- (2) What groups will be consulted about this legislation?
- (3) Will she outline the Government's existing policy on local and overseas adoption?
- (4) How many applications for adoptions locally and for overseas have been received by her department for each of the last three years?
- (5) How many adoptions have proceeded both locally and from overseas in the last three years?

Ms SPENCE (7/9/01):

(1) As Cabinet has not considered this matter it is premature to identify a time line.

(2) The Department will consult with key individuals and stakeholders including Queensland adoption support groups and relevant government and non-government agencies about the legislation.

(3) The Department of Families is committed to supporting local and overseas adoptions in accordance with the legislative provisions of the Adoption of Children Act 1964.

(4) The number of applications received by the Department locally and overseas in each of the last three years are as follows:

	Local Adoption			Overseas Adoption
	General Children's Adoption Applications	Special Needs Adoption Applications	Relative Adoption Applications	Foreign Children's Adoption Applications
1998-99	31	15	60	123
1999-00	19	6	46	171
2000-01	37	10	45	152
Total	87	31	151	446

(5) The number of adoptions that have proceeded, both locally and from overseas, in the past three years is as follows:

	Local Adoption			Overseas Adoption
	Adoption Orders made for General Children's Adoption	Adoption Orders made for Special Needs Adoption	Relative Adoption Orders made	Adoption Orders made for Foreign Children's Adoption
1998-99	20	4	35	41
1999-00	19	5	21	60
2000-01	8	1	13	40
Total	47	10	69	141

469. Residential Land, Russell Island

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (8/8/01)—

With reference to a residential block of land owned by Mrs S Papali at 9 Baguette Street, Russell Island that has been down graded from Residential A to a drainage problem zone—

Will she provide detailed evidence that this land has a drainage problem and has been downgraded in accordance with State planning laws?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (6/9/01): The problems which exist on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, being Russell, Macleay, Karragarra and Lamb Islands, including a lack of infrastructure and impacts on the Moreton Bay Marine Park, stem from a history of undesirable subdivision and development extending back to the 1960s. In 1996 the State Government and Redland Shire Council, in recognition of these problems, jointly funded the Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning Study to examine the future development of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, at an approximate cost of \$500,000. This planning study ultimately resulted in the release in late 1998 of the draft Southern Moreton Bay Islands Planning and Land Use Strategy (SMBIPLUS). After its release, the draft SMBIPLUS was the subject of extensive community comment particularly from island landowners.

After considering the submissions received in respect of the draft SMBIPLUS, Cabinet in May 2000 adopted a modified package of implementation measures to those proposed in the draft SMBIPLUS. These measures were in response to the issues raised by the community and specifically provide for, amongst other things, protection of existing owners' development entitlements (as they currently exist under the Redland Shire Planning Scheme), increased subsidies for infrastructure provision, preparation by Redland Shire Council of a statutory land use planning instrument for the Islands, and establishment of a rating regime which supports the implementation of the statutory planning instrument.

Redland Shire Council (Council) has responsibility for planning including administering and enforcing its planning scheme for its local government area. This responsibility also extends to the preparation of the amendments to its transitional planning scheme. Whilst Council has the power and autonomy to undertake these initiatives, Council is required to follow the statutory process prescribed under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA) in relation to any proposed planning scheme amendments.

Redland Shire Council's package of interim measures include the amendment of the transitional planning scheme to rezone 511 Residential "A" zoned allotments to the Drainage Problem zone, on the basis Council has identified these as having insurmountable drainage constraints. The subject land owned by Ms Papali is one of these allotments.

The interim measures also include the rezoning of 55 Drainage Problem zoned lots for inclusion in the Residential "A" zone, as these have been identified as not being affected by insurmountable drainage constraints and suitable for development of a dwelling house.

The proposed amendments to the transitional planning scheme for the Shire are required to follow the statutory plan-making process under Schedule 1 of the IPA. I have recently received a copy of the proposed amendments and will consider whether State interests would be adversely affected by the proposed amendments, prior to the community having the opportunity to input to the statutory plan-making process.

Departmental officers have requested further technical information from Council prior to my consideration of the proposed amendments. Council officers have indicated this information will be provided in the near future.

Following my consideration under section 11, Schedule 1 of the IPA, Council will be advised whether the proposed amendments may be publicly notified (with or without conditions). At this point in the plan-making process, the community will have a minimum of thirty (30) business days, following the publication by Council of a public notice in a locally circulating newspaper, in which to consider the proposed amendments and lodge a properly made submission direct with the Redland Shire Council. Council is then required to consider every properly made submission about the proposed transitional planning scheme amendments. After considering every properly made submission, Redland Shire Council must decide whether to proceed (with or without modifications) or not proceed with the proposed amendments.

470. East Timor

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (8/8/01)—

With reference to the current wide variety of contact between the people of East Timor and Queensland agencies (both Government and non-Government) (8/8/01)—

(1) Is there a role for the Parliament of Queensland, as a unicameral legislature, to provide information, advice and support to the emerging Government of East Timor?

- (2) What would be the appropriate course of action to ascertain whether East Timor would welcome Queensland Parliamentary and departmental staff sharing their knowledge and experience to support the emerging nation close to our northern shore?

Mr BEATTIE (31/8/01):

- (1) Yes. Last year I led a successful trade and friendship mission to East Timor because Queensland has an obligation to do what it can in helping to rebuild this shattered nation. A quick comparison between the gross domestic product of each person in the two communities shows why we must help. For Queenslanders it is \$27,538. For East Timorese it is just \$100. We have the expertise and experience to help with the legislative, administrative and infrastructure needs.

The objectives of my mission were to:

- Demonstrate our support for the people of East Timor
- Promote Queensland's capability in areas such as infrastructure, governance and energy sectors
- Provide business delegates on the mission with me with an insight into the work being undertaken and planned in the rebuilding of this nation
- Promote and support the activities of Queensland companies in East Timor
- Strengthen future economic and business relationships by promoting Queensland products and services and encouraging Queensland organisations and businesses to participate in the rebuilding of East Timor
- Provide mission delegates with opportunities to meet East Timorese public and private sector leaders
- Reveal to mission delegates potential areas of business opportunity and procedures they may need to follow if they decide to seek business in East Timor.

Since then the Queensland Government has developed close relationships with East Timorese leaders and the United Nations Transitional Administration. Queensland is well placed to provide support for the East Timorese government.

- (2) The elected government will be required to prepare a constitution within ninety days of the August 30 election. Directly after the elections, my Government will consult with the newly elected leadership in East Timor, to ascertain what assistance is required. In this context, there may be a role for the Parliament of Queensland to provide information, advice and support.

471. Motor Vehicle Registrations

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/8/01)—

With reference to information I have received that there have been changes made regarding vehicle registrations—

- (1) Why has "registered owner" become "registered operator"?
- (2) If the owner is no longer recognised as such, who does the Government deem to own a vehicle?
- (3) Why must a person state where their vehicle is garaged, if not at their home address?
- (4) What business is this of the Government?
- (5) How will this information be used and how can it be used, potentially?
- (6) Why is this information needed and how is it justified?
- (7) What penalties, if any, will apply for not supplying that information?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01):

- (1) The term "registered operator" was adopted to clarify misunderstandings that the "registered owner" was the legal owner of a vehicle. The registered operator is the person in whose name the registration is recorded. The registered operator is responsible for the operation or use of the vehicle on the road and will receive registration notices. The term registered operator was agreed upon nationally and has been adopted by all states and territories.

(2) The government has no jurisdiction to determine the legal owner of a vehicle, however the Register of Encumbered Vehicles (REVS) provides information in relation to clear title which may assist. Legal opinion should be sought if doubt exists.

(3-7) Garage address was introduced to support a national agreement that a vehicle should pay registration in the state where it uses the road. Under the national standards which were adopted, garage address became the basis for determining in which state a vehicle should be registered, instead of residency of the registered operator. If a vehicle's garage address is in Queensland it should be registered in Queensland. If the garage address is in another state then the vehicle should be registered in that state. If a Queensland registered vehicle's garage address changes permanently, notification must be provided to Queensland Transport within 14 days. Failure to notify a change of garage address could result in a fine of \$60. If the garage address changes to an interstate address then registration in that state should be obtained. Interstate registered vehicles being moved permanently to a Queensland garage address, should be reregistered in Queensland within 14 days. These vehicles could be considered unregistered if Queensland registration is not obtained. Visiting interstate vehicles are recognised as such and are not required to be reregistered in Queensland. Information in relation to the garage address is not used for any other purpose.

472. Inquest Into Death of Benjamin Sugars

Mr BELL asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/8/01)—

With reference to a letter written by the Attorney-General on 22 May 2001 (his ref COR 00/1479) to Mr P and Mrs G Sugars of Nerang concerning the death of their son Benjamin in which the Attorney-General indicated that he was awaiting the outcome of reconsideration by the Officer in Charge of the Gold Coast Accident and Investigation

Squad before determining whether the inquest concerning the death of Benjamin Sugars should be reopened and in which letter the Attorney-General indicated that a request made by Mr Sugars for copies of documents had been referred to the Freedom of Information Manager of the department for urgent attention, and also with reference to a letter dated 26 April 2001 written by the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions (Mr M J Byrne QC) to Mrs Phyl den Ronden of CARRS concerning the death of Benjamin Sugars in which the Deputy Director stated inter alia "It was the opinion of this Office that there was clear evidence of dangerous driving and it was recommended that Robert Verhoef be charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death."—

- (1) What progress has been made towards determination as to whether the inquest should be reopened?
- (2) When will a decision be made as to whether the inquest should be reopened?
- (3) When will the copy of documents requested by Mr Sugars be available to him?
- (4) Will Robert Verhoef be charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death; if so, when?

Mr WELFORD (10/9/01):

(1) The issue of whether an inquest should be held will be determined after the criminal proceedings in this matter are finalised. This accords with section 42(2) of the Coroners Act 1958 which provides that where a person is charged with causing the death of a person, the coroner shall not, in the absence of reason to the contrary, commence to hold an inquest into that death until after the conclusion of the criminal proceedings.

(2) The decision as to whether an inquest will be held will be determined after the criminal proceedings in this matter are concluded.

(3) By letter dated 15 May 2001, the Manager of the Freedom of Information Unit informed Mr Sugars that access to the documents was refused on the grounds that they are exempt under section 42(1)(d) of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 because disclosure could reasonably be expected to prejudice a person's fair trial. Copies of the documents may be provided to Mr Sugars after the criminal proceedings are concluded should he still want them.

(4) A Notice to Appear in the Southport Magistrates Court on 26 September 2001 on a charge of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing the death of Benjamin Sugars was served on Robert Verhoef on 5 September 2001.

473. Brothels, Role of Local Government

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (9/8/01)—

With reference to statements by the Premier about how our system of local government is enshrined in the constitution however increasingly we see evidence of the State Government side-stepping local government input for example, council's inability to disapprove the establishment of brothels in their shires—

Can she demonstrate that the Government does not further intend to neutralise local government's role by legislative means?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (6/9/01): The question posed by the Member for Lockyer is based on the erroneous proposition that this Government is 'sidestepping local government input' and goes on to assert 'councils' inability to disapprove the establishment of brothels in their shires' as the main example to support his proposition.

However, contrary to the proposition suggested by the Member for Lockyer this Government and in particular my Department is not 'sidestepping local government input' but embracing local government input by consistently promoting the enhancement and empowerment of local governments' role.

Local government is currently recognised in the existing Constitution of Queensland. In January 2001, the Government released an Exposure Draft on the proposed new Constitution of Queensland. The Premier has recently given an assurance that the equivalent of the existing provisions concerning the recognition of local government will be retained in the draft of the new Constitution of Queensland.

This empowerment of local governments can be further demonstrated through many initiatives but I must first address the assertion that Councils have an inability to disapprove the establishment of brothels in their shires.

The legislation of brothels in Queensland has resulted in them being one of the most stringently regulated uses in the State.

There are two main regulatory components to establishing a lawful brothel in Queensland. One deals with the licensing of brothel operators and is determined by the Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA). The other component deals with the development assessment of sites and this is the responsibility of local governments. In addition, unlike any other use the Prostitution Act contains strict siting provisions for brothels away from residential premises and other community facilities whereby local governments are required to refuse any application that fails to meet these criteria.

Further, a local government can, with the agreement of the Minister for Police ban brothels in towns with populations of less than 25,000 persons.

The fact is that since 1 July 2000 this regulatory system has resulted in only one (1) brothel obtaining both its development approval and operating license. These figures hardly support the proposition that local governments possess an inability to disapprove of brothels.

In fact, this Government has further enhanced local governments' role through other initiatives, including:

The broadening of the role and regulatory scope of local government planning schemes such that they incorporate both State and local issues.

The Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) which integrated State and local government development approvals into a single assessment process with local government as the Assessment Manager for the majority of development.

The Regional Organisation of Councils program whereby local governments through cooperative planning deal with cross local government boundary matters such as infrastructure items (eg. water catchments) and environmental issues.

474. Police Resources, Mount Ommaney

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (9/8/01)—

How is the Queensland Police Service contributing to jobs for Queenslanders, particularly for the electorate of Mount Ommaney?

Mr McGRADY (10/9/01): In April 1998 a new police station was completed at Mount Ommaney. The final cost of the station was \$2.07M (exclusive of GST). The construction of this new facility generated approximately 1,479 person weeks of employment.

In addition to this initial capital injection, the QPS now has around 67 officers and nine staff members attached to the facility.

475. Education Department, Surplus Land

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (9/8/01)—

Will she list the addresses of all land which the department has deemed as surplus to requirements and intended for disposal and the date on which each piece of land was placed on the list?

Ms BLIGH (7/9/01): The following is a list of Education Queensland's surplus assets for disposal in the 2001-2002 financial year.

GLR No.	PROPERTY	ADDRESS	MIN APPROVAL
7521	Alsace SS	Alsace Rd, Alsace	10-03-1991
7108	Bracken Ridge SS site	210 Telegraph Rd, Bracken Ridge 4017	12-05-1998
4922	Bunerba SS	Bunerba School Rd, via Dululu	08-07-1997
6894	Calliope SS site	Tarrowonga Dve, Calliope 4680	24-09-1998
8538	Charleville Preschool site	201 Alfred St, Charleville, 4470	04-07-1997
5954	Highfields SS site	Borghardt Rd, Highfields 4352	08-07-1998
10198	Ilfracombe SS (part only)	Flinders Street, Ilfracombe 4727	02-04-1996
22242	Laidley Central SS	19 Hope Street, Laidley 4341	09-03-2001
144330	Laidley North Preschool	17 Campbell Street, Laidley 4341	09-03-2001
8404	Lowood Res 4 site	16 Daniel Street, Lowood	21-12-1999
9047	Macleay Island Res 1 site	30 Jane Street, Macleay Island 4184	12-07-2001
98889	Milford SS	Milford Rd, Milford 4310	28-06-1987
6659	Nambour SHS (part only)	Howard Street, Nambour 4650	29-06-2000
13717	Normanton SS (part only)	58 Thompson Street, Normanton 4890	02-04-1996
4740	Ogmore SS	Wilangi St, Ogmore 4706	26-02-2001
5705	Ooonoona SS site	22-30 Shannon Street, Ooonoona 4811	03-10-1999
6294	Oxley Secondary College	81A Seventeen Mile Rocks Rd, Oxley 4075	04-05-2001
5753	Redcliffe West SS/SHS site	Nathan Road, Kippa-Ring 4020	01-07-1992
9232	Rothwell SS site	Higgs Rd, Rothwell 4022	02-12-1999
6746	South Burnett District Office (part only)	Harris Rd, Kingaroy 4610	28-11-2000
8396	Stanthorpe Res 14 site	2 Sheahan Street, Stanthorpe 4380	09-03-2001
7919	Tooloolah SHS (part only)	Philip Street, Gladstone 4680	30-06-1998
7481	Windemere Rd SS site	46-68 Windemere Rd, Alexandra Hills 4161	02-12-1999
144558 -			
144563	Wishart SS site (part only)	Monte Carlo St, Wishart 4122	25-10-1999
1462	Windsor SS (Office Works)	270 Lutwyche Rd, Windsor 4030	06-07-2001
72233	Dalby SSC	133 Cunningham St, Dalby 4405	16-10-1997
12757	Cambooya SS Res	6 Harrow Street, Cambooya 4358	11-07-2000
99134	Cooran Res 1	22 James Street, Cooran 4569	01-05-2001
9645	Macleay Island Res 2	83 Hamilton Pde, Macleay Island 4184	29-06-2001
12488	Mt Chalmers SS Res	18 School St, Mt Chalmers 4700	22-02-2001
721	Mutchilba Res 5A/B	Tait Street, Mutchilba 4872	14-09-2000
6799	Ridgeland SS Res	Dalma Ridgeland Road, Ridgeland 4702	22-12-1999

476. Art Exhibitions

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (9/8/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Art Gallery—

- (1) How many regional centres hosted travelling art exhibitions last year?
- (2) Where were these centres and what was the duration of exhibitions in each?
- (3) How many centres are planned to host travelling art exhibitions this year?
- (4) Where are these centres and what is the proposed duration of exhibitions in each?

Mr FOLEY (29/8/01):

- (1) 11 in 2000-01
- (2) 2000-01

Location	Exhibition	Duration
Blackwater	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	28/4/01-20/5/01
Bundaberg	Lines of Descent: The Family in Contemporary Asian Art	6/12/00-14/1/01
Cairns	Lines of Descent: The Family in Contemporary Asian Art	11/8/00-24/9/00
	Terra Cognita: The land in Australian Art	10/11/00-4/2/01
Gladstone	Terra Cognita: The land in Australian Art	9/2/01-17/3/01
	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	25/5/01-30/6/01
Hervey Bay	Luminous: Glass from the Queensland Art Gallery Collection	21/7/00-27/8/00
	Terra Cognita: The land in Australian Art	23/3/01-29/4/01
Mackay	Luminous: Glass from the Queensland Art Gallery Collection	8/9/00-15/10/00
Noosa	Lines of Descent: The Family in Contemporary Asian Art	16/6/00-30/7/00
Rockhampton	Lines of Descent: The Family in Contemporary Asian Art	19/1/01-28/2/01
Townsville	Lines of Descent: The Family in Contemporary Asian Art	29/9/00-12/11/00
	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	16/2/01-25/3/01
Warwick	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	31/3/01-22/4/01
Winton	Terra Cognita: The land in Australian Art	19/5/01-15/6/01

(3) 13 in 2001-02

(4) 2001-02

Location	Exhibition	Duration
Gladstone	Otherworlds. Images of Fantasy and Fiction	24/5/02-29/6/02
Gold Coast	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	1/3/02-7/4/02
	Otherworlds. Images of Fantasy and Fiction	12/4/02-19/5/02
Hervey Bay	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	26/10/01-25/11/01
	Otherworlds. Images of Fantasy and Fiction	8/3/02-7/4/02
Ingham	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	7/7/01-5/8/01
Logan	Terra Cognita: The land in Australian Art	7/9/01-14/10/01
Maroochydore	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	11/8/01-2/9/01
Mt Isa	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	12/9/01-7/10/01
Noosa	Terra Cognita: The land in Australian Art	27/7/01-2/9/01
	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	1/12/01-13/1/02
Redcliffe	a day at the beach. an exhibition for children	18/1/02-24/2/02
Surat	Terra Cognita: The land in Australian Art	22/6/01-22/7/01
Toowoomba	Northern Journey. Conrad Martens in Early Queensland	28/11/01-20/1/02
Townsville	Otherworlds. Images of Fantasy and Fiction	1/2/02-3/3/02
Warwick	Northern Journey. Conrad Martens in Early Queensland	25/1/02-24/2/02

477. Brisbane Transport, Bus Subsidy

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/8/01)—

- (1) What is the total amount of the subsidy being paid to Brisbane Transport (Brisbane City Council) for buses?
- (2) What is the value of each element of this subsidy (ie passenger subsidy, bus acquisition subsidy etc)?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01):

- (1) In the 2000-01 financial year the funding provided to Brisbane Transport under its contracts totalled \$31,108,976.
- (2) The breakdown of this amount is as follows:

Contract funding—\$27,582,621
 Pinkenba Rail bus—\$526,355
 Interest Subsidy (vehicle purchases)—\$1,000,000
 Accessible bus funding—\$1,000,000
 Additional fuel support—\$1,000,000

478. Ipswich Regional Family Resource Centre

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (9/8/01)—

With reference to Crisis and Transitional Housing and as he advised in an Estimates Question on Notice that \$43,000 has been allocated to the Ipswich Regional Family Resource Centre Inc—

- (1) Is this funding for youth, women or men who required crisis or transitional housing?
- (2) Is the Ipswich Regional Family Resource Centre Inc a church based centre?
- (3) What is the address of the Ipswich Family Resource Centre Inc?

Mr SCHWARTEN (10/9/01):

- (1) The funding is used to accommodate families who require crisis or transitional housing.
- (2) The Ipswich Family Resource Centre Inc is not a church based centre, it is an incorporated organisation.
- (3) Ipswich Family Resource Centre Inc is located at 14 South Station Road, Booval.

479. Drug Courts

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (9/8/01)—

With reference to accommodation for drug addicts taking part in Drug Courts trials—

- (1) In which cities or towns will the accommodation be located?
- (2) Where in those cities or towns will the accommodation be located?
- (3) When will each of those facilities be completed and in use?

Ms SPENCE (10/9/01):

- (1) Ipswich, Beenleigh and Southport.
- (2) There will be no purpose built facilities for the Drug Court program participants. They will be provided with support to live in properties acquired under rental arrangements by the Department of Housing.
- (3) It is expected that the supported accommodation component of the Drug Court Pilot Project will commence in late October or November 2001.

480. Central Highlands TAFE Institute

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (9/8/01)—

- (1) Will he give a guarantee that the Central Highlands TAFE College has not and will not have any reduction of course offerings and/or available places?
- (2) Will he also guarantee that the promised electrical training block and the metal fabrication-training block will be delivered?

Mr FOLEY (29/8/01):

(1) There is currently no intention to reduce training offered through the Central Highlands College of the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE. Rather than reducing programs, the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE is undertaking a project to increase training services in the Central Highlands and Central West. For the last semester, the Central Highlands campus delivered almost 6,500 more hours of training than at the same time the previous year.

(2) I am pleased to advise that the electrical and metal fabrication training blocks are currently being delivered, with blocks going ahead in September and October. The TAFE campus is still taking bookings for the electrical block in November 2001.

481. Road Surfacing Contracts

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/8/01)—

With reference to road surfacing contracts let in the south-east region, zone 1 open competition area—

- (1) How many and what was the value of contracts that have been let each year for the last three years?
- (2) How many and what was the value of these contracts that have been awarded to RTCS?
- (3) How many and what was the value of contracts let to the Brisbane City Council?
- (4) How many and what was the value of these contracts that have been awarded to the private sector?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/9/01):

(1) 36 contracts totalling \$20,982,693 awarded in 1998-1999; 26 contracts totalling \$26,678,014 awarded in 1999-2000; 37 contracts totalling \$29,269,359 awarded in 2000-2001

(2) 32 contracts totalling \$1,627,240 awarded to RTCS.

(3) 6 contracts totalling \$7,260,871 awarded to Brisbane City Council.

(4) 61 contracts totalling \$68,041,955 awarded to the private sector.

482. Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Department Grants

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy (9/8/01)—

- (1) What are the details of all grants of money, equipment or other resources from the Department of Innovation and Information Economy since its creation, including the value of grants (a) distributed, to whom they were distributed and when they were distributed, (b) partially distributed, to whom they have been distributed, when they were distributed and when and to whom they are to be further distributed in the future and (c) promised, to whom they have been promised and when they are to be distributed?
- (2) Will he provide an outline of the criteria used to determine how grants from his department are to be awarded or distributed?

Mr LUCAS (10/9/01):

(1)(a) See Attachment A.

(b) See Attachment B.

(c) There are currently no grants of money, equipment or other resources from the Innovation and Information Economy portfolio promised to individuals or organisations.

(2) The allocation of grants under the Department's funding programs is based on an assessment of each application received against the relevant program's guidelines. A copy of each of these guidelines is available from my Department.

A summary of the selection criteria which applicants must meet when applying for funding under each of the programs listed is provided in Attachment C.

Other grants of money, equipment or resources allocated outside of the Department's funding programs are assessed on a case-by-case basis against a business case in accordance with Government priorities and the objectives of the Department.

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

483. Butchers, Apprenticeship Training

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/8/01)—

With reference to the commitment by the then QLMA, now Safe Foods, to provide Queensland Country Meat Processors funding for training apprentices in meat safety and microbiology testing and as funding was to be provided as a refund to butchers who firstly paid for this training—

What funding has been provided to butchers to date and what outstanding claims remain?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/9/01): I understand the premise of the Member for Warrego's question is false.

I am advised that at no time has there been a commitment made by either the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority (QLMA) or Safe Food Production Queensland (which now replaces QLMA), to provide funding to Country Meat Processors for training in meat safety or microbiological testing.

I understand the National Meat Association (NMA) applied for funding assistance for the small country meat processors for microbiology workshops and meat inspection training. Assistance was provided to the NMA through the Government's Queensland Meat Processing Development Initiative.

484. Kareeya-Innisfail Transmission Line

Mr ROWELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (9/8/01)—

With reference to the residents and landholders of the Tully and Innisfail valleys who have waited for two years for their concerns to be addressed by the Queensland Government in respect of the Powerlink proposal to remove existing Kareeya-Innisfail high voltage transmission line infrastructure to the scenic coastal freehold valleys—

- (1) Has the coastal Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) been completed; if not, why not?
- (2) What planning studies were carried out prior to determining that the coast was a prudent and feasible option by Powerlink?
- (3) Two years into this study, new properties are now facing the prospect of having this high voltage line built over them and considering this direction, is the Government committed to a route other than the existing lawful alignment?
- (4) Powerlink has insisted that the cheapest route must be chosen because of NEMCO regulations, yet the previous costings have proven to be incorrect and as the coastal option is now significantly longer, with towers being an additional 30 metres higher than originally priced, (a) what is the price of this project and (b) if this costing has not yet been arrived at, when will Powerlink advise Treasury of the overall cost of this project?
- (5) As the preliminary EIA document was provided to Treasury in January, the community is concerned there is still no access to the findings, despite environmental and technical difficulties being identified in the Basilisk ranges, can Treasury now provide an indication of the estimated figures of the coastal route and associated ongoing costs?
- (6) What level of support has been forthcoming from the community with the change of the proposed route and is it consistent with the promise espoused by the Government prior to the 17 February election?

Mr MACKENROTH (6/9/01): Before answering the specific questions which are set and numbered from (1) through to (6), it is noted they are being asked on the premise Powerlink Queensland proposes to move the existing Kareeya to Innisfail electricity transmission line, "to the scenic coastal freehold valleys". No decision has been made by any party regarding the replacement Innisfail transmission line. This matter is under active consideration through a fully inclusive community consultation mechanism which seeks the participation of all stakeholders in the decision-making process.

(1) No. The scope of the initial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the coastal route was changed by the then Minister for Mines and Energy in January 2001 to accommodate the existing Kareeya-Innisfail alignment. This was to ensure that all options were fully and properly assessed. As both Environment Australia and the Wet Tropics Management Authority support the publication of one document for both options (coastal or inland), the draft EIA will be released when all studies have been completed, which is likely to be in late 2001.

(2) Planning studies do not determine if particular route options are prudent and feasible alternatives. That is done by an EIA. Planning studies have been carried out on the future loads in far north Queensland with details in Powerlink Queensland's Annual Planning Statement which is a public document.

(3) No commitment has been made to any alignment. A preferred option will be chosen after all studies during the course of the draft EIA have been completed.

(4) Original cost estimates made available to the public in May 2000 have been confirmed by independent engineering consultants. They were based on the best information available at the time and were accurate to accepted engineering tolerances. Costing of the coastal route option has always included an allowance for a number of extra tall towers for over-the-canopy construction. Powerlink Queensland will carry out final estimates on both alternative route options, coastal and inland, once the requirements of external agencies such as Environment Australia and Wet Tropics Management Authority are known in detail through the EIA and Environmental Management Plan process.

(5) A preliminary EIA has not been prepared. No EIA documentation has been provided to Treasury.

(6) The Government has consistently proposed to await the EIA. Furthermore, Powerlink Queensland has sought the views of the local community through the planning for this project and will continue to actively seek input from all stakeholders in this important infrastructure project for the people of north Queensland.

485. Equestrian Facility, Gold Coast

Mr LINGARD asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (9/8/01)—

With reference to the four applications for equestrian centre funding from the National Standard Sports Facility Funding Program for which Warwick, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast received funding—

Why does the State Government continue to support and encourage the development of an all-weather equestrian facility on an undetermined site on the Gold Coast when Beaudesert is the site preference for the majority of the country's equestrian organisations and has the largest horse concentration in Queensland?

Mr MACKENROTH (3/9/01): The proposed equestrian facility on the Gold Coast forms part of the State Centre Strategy to cater for State and higher level equine events. A State Centre venue requires appropriate competition facilities, spectator areas and surrounding infrastructure and a proven management capability. The Gold Coast City Council was approved funding for development at the Carrara site based on these criteria.

My Department has received no formal request to change the proposed siting of the Centre. Should the Gold Coast City Council formally propose an alternative site, it would have to demonstrate that the proposal is of the same standard as the Carrara proposal and be endorsed by the Equestrian Federation of Australia, Queensland Branch (EFAQ).

The EFAQ, as representative of the majority of disciplines for equestrian sport, continues to endorse the selection of the three sites, including the Gold Coast, for the State Centre Strategy. The EFAQ has indicated the majority of horse sports, that is, both the western and equestrian disciplines, support the selection of the three locations for development.

486. Cape York Peninsula, Statement of Significance

Mrs LEE LONG asked the Minister for Environment (9/8/01)—

With reference to his statement that the EPA "Statement of Significance" on Cape York Peninsula has been completed but he will only release the report at an 'appropriate time'—

Will he advise what he calls an 'appropriate time'?

Mr WELLS (10/9/01): Once the relevant stakeholder groups have been fully briefed.

487. Premier and Cabinet Department, Community Engagement Division

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (9/8/01)—

With reference to the newly established Community Engagement Division—

What is the (a) number of staff, by grade and job description, employed within the division on pamphlets and other publicity, including staff not necessarily employed full time on such duties, (b) number of pamphlets and other printed media produced by the division up to 31 July 2001, by; topic, cost and distribution, (c) estimated total number of pamphlets and other printed media expected to be produced by the division in 2001-02 and (d) estimated total cost of this part of the division's operations for 2001-02?

Mr BEATTIE (31/8/01): In the past, many of Queensland's widely-dispersed 3.5 million people felt forgotten by governments. My Government has already put in place highly successful programs to involve Queenslanders such as Community Cabinet meetings, Regional Community forums and Ministerial forums. Through this new division, Queenslanders will be given an unparalleled opportunity to contribute to Government decision-making which will ensure that the public can inject community ideas into Government services. The division is another first for Queensland. There is no other unit of its kind in Australian public administration. It will draw from overseas experiences in consultation and embrace opportunities for genuine engagement provided by new and emerging technologies. I am determined that during this term the Queensland public sector will focus far more on working with each other and building productive and trusting relationships with business, community and industry stakeholders across the State.

(a) The following staff are currently employed within Community Engagement Division on the production of pamphlets and other printed material for the purpose of informing the public about policies, programs and activities that fall under the responsibilities of the division (these staff are not necessarily employed full-time on such duties):

1xAO6—Media and Project Officer (Office for Women);

2xAO5—Senior Information Officers (Office for Women—Women's Infolink);

1xAO6—Public Relations Officer (Multicultural Affairs Queensland); and

1xAO6—Communication Officer (Regional Communities)

(b) The number of pamphlets and other printed media produced by the division up to 31 July 2001 (ie. from the division's establishment date of 2 April 2001 until 31 July 2001) is as follows:

For wide distribution by Office for Women—

3,000 copies of register of Indigenous Women brochure and infosheet—\$2,215; and 10,000 Women and Work brochures and 5,000 posters—\$6,300.

For distribution to women's service organisations and Government agencies by Office for Women—

500 copies (plus 2,000 Executive Summaries) of "Beyond the Pink Collar: Towards Strategies to Respond to Women and Work Issues in Queensland, a priority project of the Premier's Council for Women"—\$23,000.

For distribution to women's service organisations and to individuals upon request across Queensland (including domestic violence resource centres and health services) by Women's Infolink—

20,000 Domestic Violence Infosheets—\$2,105; 60,000 Multi-language Infosheets—\$3,989; 30,000 Women & Counselling Infosheets—\$2,213; 30,000 Women & Eating Issues Infosheets—\$2,213; 30,000 Supporting a Rape Survivor Infosheets—\$2,213; 30,000 Beyond Incest Infosheets—\$2,012; and 20,000 Property Settlement Infosheets—\$2,500.

Distributed to schools and women's organisations throughout Queensland by Women's Infolink for International Women's Day—

60,000 Women's Infolink stickers—\$5,000; and 20,000 Posters and 40,000 Postcards—\$18,000.

Distributed widely by Multicultural Affairs Queensland—

7,200 copies of Diversity Matters Magazine—\$15,000; 2,000 copies of Multicultural Assistance Program—\$6,700; and 5,000 Queensland Interpreter Card Kits (and reprints)—\$18,250.

Distributed widely by the Cape York Property Planning Technical Group—

1,500 copies of Property Planning News newsletter—\$2,068; and 1,000 Cape York Property Planning Process pamphlets—\$1,265.

Distributed to Indigenous organisations by Crime Prevention Queensland—

1200 copies of "Yaldilda" Aboriginal crime prevention resource manual—\$30,000 (including 800 posters and 1,500 work sheets).

(c) The current estimated total number of pamphlets and other printed media expected to be produced by the division in 2001-2002 for the purpose of informing the public about policies, programs and activities that fall under the responsibilities of the division, is approximately 557,600. There could, however, be additional brochures and printed media required to be produced throughout the year that have not been identified at present.

(d) The current estimated total cost of pamphlets and other printed media, expected to be produced by the division in 2001-2002 for the purpose of informing the public about policies, programs and activities that fall under the responsibilities of the division, is approximately \$340,538. This figure does not include any potential requirements currently not identified.

488. Fire Ants

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/8/01)—

With reference to the location of the Fire Ant Taskforce Headquarters at the Oxley Secondary College—

- (1) Will the headquarters be developed to quarantine standards?
- (2) Will live Fire Ants be kept in any unsecured facilities?
- (3) Will current and new chemicals be stored and tested for use in Fire Ant eradication?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/9/01):

(1) The former Oxley Secondary College will primarily act as the administration base for approximately 400 staff employed in the fire ant eradication campaign.

(2) No. There will no live queen ants kept on any part of the site. Without queen ants, colonies of fire ants cannot survive. The only live fire ants to be held at the Oxley site will be female workers for display purposes. These are not capable of reproducing and will be held in secure containers. A laboratory to complement the facilities at the existing Fire Ant Control Centre is planned elsewhere in Brisbane, but not at the former Oxley Secondary College.

(3) Bulk storage of the low toxic chemical bait will be off-site. Testing of the bait will be undertaken at the existing facility at Wacol.

489. Caloundra Regional Centre Development Control Plan

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (9/8/01)—

- (1) Is she aware of allegations raised in the most recent edition of the Caloundra City News that claims that the Caloundra Regional Centre Development Control Plan documents that were placed on public display are different to those submitted to her department?
- (2) As the newspaper claims that the document recently adopted by councillors and now with the State Government for gazettal was different to the one shown to the public and 19 property residential owners, (many of which are owner occupiers) may now discover that their properties presently zoned residential will change to parkland without their notification, is there any way these property owners may alter the process?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (6/9/01): The Caloundra Regional Centre Development Control Plan has been submitted by the Caloundra City Council to my Department so that I can consider whether or not the proposed Development Control Plan adversely affects State interests before the Council adopts the Development Control Plan under the Integrated Planning Act 1997.

The Development Control Plan as submitted to my Department is substantially the same as that publicly advertised over 2 months from December 2000 to February 2001.

In relation to allegations of changes to the zoning of certain land from residential to parkland under the Development Control Plan, the Plan does not have any effect on the zoning of land within its area. The Plan merely identifies the Council's future intentions and does not affect any existing zonings or use rights.

The Plan as publicly notified indicated that the land in question was designated for community purposes. I am advised that it is the Council's intention that this land will be progressively acquired by the Council over time to provide community facilities.

I am also advised that following concerns that these land owners were not aware of the provisions of the draft Plan when it was advertised, the Council is currently providing these land owners with the opportunity to make further submissions to the Council.

The Council has properly followed the plan making process under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 and any persons who reviewed the draft Development Control Plan when it was publicly notified would have been aware of Council's intentions for the area.

The designation of land under the Development Control Plan is essentially the responsibility of the Caloundra City Council which is accountable to the community for its planning decisions.

490. Fruit Industry

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for State Development (9/8/01)—

With reference to the fruit industry in Queensland—

- (1) Has his department provided any financial assistance in the last three years to any enterprise to assist with the production of fruit juices; if so, which enterprises have received assistance?
- (2) How much did they receive and for what purpose?
- (3) Who are and were the directors of the companies that received assistance from his department?

Mr BARTON (7/9/01):

- (1) I am unable to provide the names of individual firms which received funding assistance due to the sensitive nature of the information. However, two firms received assistance with the production of fruit juices.
- (2) I am unable to provide details in relation to the amount of financial assistance due to the sensitive nature of the information. However, one firm was provided financial assistance for "in-line treatment to kill pathogenic infections in fresh orange juice" and another firm was provided financial assistance for the "establishment and operation of a Fruit Processing Plant".
- (3) I am unable to provide the names of the directors of the companies that received assistance from my department, as this would enable the identity of the companies to be established.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

491. Goodwill Games

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (11/9/01)—

- (1) Was the Queensland Government's financial commitment to the 2001 Goodwill Games \$30m, as reported?
- (2) How was that money spent?
- (3) What are the details of expenditure on lasting infrastructure at the following Goodwill Games venues (a) Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, (b) QE II Stadium, (c) Chandler Velodrome, (d) Boondall Entertainment Centre and (e) South Bank Parklands?

Mr BEATTIE (2/10/01): It was estimated the Goodwill Games would inject about \$170 million into the Queensland economy. An immediate indication of the Games' success was hotels in Brisbane reporting a bed occupancy level of 94 per cent.

The Games were shown on worldwide television. In the United States three minutes out of each and every 170 hours of telecast was devoted to highlighting Queensland, our physical beauty, our beaches, the reef and our people. That is eight and a half hours of free commercials for Queensland—a level of exposure that will provide positive results for our tourism industry for the next five years. It is a level of exposure that Queensland has never had before. It means that when these viewers think of a holiday in Australia, they don't just think of Sydney.

In addition, ticket sales for the Games exceeded budget projections by nearly \$3 million.

- (1) The Queensland Government made a direct financial contribution to the 2001 Goodwill Games Brisbane of \$30m spread over the four financial years of the project.
- (2) This money was used as the State Government's contribution to meeting the operating costs of the Games.
- (3) The Goodwill Games were a major international sporting event which required facilities of international standard. Significant improvements were made to Goodwill Games venues—the Brisbane Entertainment Centre, Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Sleeman Sports Centre and ANZ Stadium. The improvements amounted to \$4.68m on lasting infrastructure.
 - (a) Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre—\$450,000 to upgrade the seating capacity of the Centre.
 - (b) QE II Stadium—\$3.3m on the construction of an Olympic standard nine-lane synthetic athletics track in the main arena with associated field upgrades, installation of timing and scoring equipment, a new scoreboard and improved communications equipment, and the upgrading of lighting.
 - (c) Sleeman Sports Centre—\$885,000 to install timing and scoring equipment and improved communications, upgrade sound, ventilation and seating at the Aquatic Centre, and refurbishment of the Velodrome.
 - (d) Brisbane Entertainment Centre—\$45,000 towards the upgrade of communications.
 - (e) South Bank Parklands—nil.

492. Goodwill Games

Dr WATSON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (11/9/01)—

With reference to the Goodwill Games and Queensland Government Agencies support for the Games—

- (1) What was the financial contribution of each agency (including but not limited to Government departments, statutory authorities and GOCs) to the Games from each of Government grants, sponsorships, purchasing of goods or services from the Games organisers and the purchasing of goods or services used to support the Games (eg buses) and other services?
- (2) What non-financial or "in kind" contribution was made by each Government agency to the running of the Games?

Mr BEATTIE (2/10/01):

(1) A number of Government Departments, Government Owned Corporations and statutory authorities were involved in the planning of the 2001 Goodwill Games, and the financial contributions are currently being assessed.

(2) As stated in the previous question, the in-kind or non-financial contributions, like cash contributions, are currently being assessed.

493. Traffic Accidents, Motorcyclists

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/9/01)—

What results have ensued from any study of the possible effect of wire rope barriers in traffic incidents involving motor cyclists?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/10/01): In 1998, the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Development directed the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) to examine motorcyclist concerns about wire rope safety barriers (WRSB). A working party comprising representatives from ATSB, the Australian Motorcycle Council, the New South Wales Motorcycle Council, the Motorcycle Riders Association Queensland and the Ulysses Club was subsequently formed to assemble and review available evidence.

The broad aim of the project was to collect and examine information concerning the safety implications of wire-rope safety barriers.

The ATSB report concluded that:

WRSBs are not currently a significant motorcycle safety problem. In Australia to date, there has been only one recorded motorcycle casualty and no fatalities involving WRSB. By contrast, in 1996 alone, over 70 riders lost their lives after losing control of their bikes and striking a roadside object or oncoming vehicle.

From the available evidence, it cannot be concluded that WRSBs are inherently more dangerous to riders than other treatment options. Where the other option is no barrier at all, WRSBs may have significant safety benefits for riders.

494. Watsonville-Irvinebank Road

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/9/01)—

With reference to the road between Watsonville and Irvinebank and as it is now five years since the last bitumen was laid—

When does he propose to further upgrade this road with additional bitumen and visibility benching to improve its current poor condition?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/10/01): The Department of Main Roads recently completed a link study of the Herberston-Petford Road, which includes the road between Watsonville and Irvinebank.

The link study found that a major upgrade of the road could not be justified in the context of other priorities on the state-controlled road network. Based on the findings of the study, Main Roads has adopted a strategy of targeted minor works on this road and is committed to maintaining the road at an acceptable level for current traffic volumes.

In line with this commitment, the state government spent \$140,000 upgrading the crossing at Corduroy Creek last year; a project that was identified by the community as a priority.

An additional \$50,000 has been allocated for a project to be carried out this financial year. Consideration will be given to incorporating visibility benching and bitumen sealing.

Main Roads will continue to consult with the community on project priorities and to carry out minor targeted works as funding permits.

495. Road Surfacing Contracts

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/9/01)—

With reference to the answer provided to Question on Notice No 481 in relation to contracts let in the south east region zone 1 open competition area—

- (1) Of the 36 contracts awarded in 1998-99, how many and what were the value of contracts let to RTCS and the Brisbane City Council?
- (2) Of the 26 contracts awarded in 1999-2000, how many and what were the value of contracts let to RTCS and the Brisbane City Council?
- (3) Of the 37 contracts awarded in 2000-01, how many and what were the value of contracts let to RTCS and the Brisbane City Council?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/10/01):

(1) Of the 36 contracts awarded in 1998-99, 8 contracts valued at \$529,062 were let to RTCS and 2 contracts valued at \$815,064 were let to Brisbane City Council.

(2) Of the 26 contracts awarded in 1999-2000, 9 contracts valued at \$511,838 were let to RTCS and 1 contract valued at \$1,987,460 was let to Brisbane City Council.

(3) Of the 37 contracts awarded in 2000-01, 15 contracts valued at \$586,340 were let to RTCS and 3 contracts valued at \$4,458,347 were let to Brisbane City Council.

496. Drought Assistance

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (11/9/01)—

With reference to the current severe drought conditions across the Darling Downs and Western Downs and if individual properties or whole shires are declared drought stricken—

What forms of assistance are provided by the various State Government departments and agencies?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/01): The Department of Primary Industries (DPI), through the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme provides subsidy assistance to primary producers for the transport costs of fodder and water and the return of stock from agistment and/or the transport of stock purchased for restocking purposes. This assistance is available to producers who are in a drought declared area or whose property is individually drought declared.

DPI Farm Financial Counselling is a free and confidential service which helps producers understand their financial position and identify a range of options and strategies that may improve their situation.

DPI assists primary producers to become better prepared for drought. The Queensland Centre for Climate Applications undertakes research, development and extension into climate applications and forecasts. The DPI also provides a range of workshops and information products to help producers better manage climate and other risks.

The DPI Feedlink service is a new facilitation tool for producers to find fodder for their livestock, and for suppliers to find customers for their fodder. Access to Feedlink and information on this pilot project can be obtained through the DPI's website, or by contacting the DPI call centre.

The DPI also works with industry organisations in applying for Exceptional Circumstances assistance from the Federal Government.

Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA)

The Drought Crop Loan Scheme is a concessional loan scheme that assists primary producers involved in the broadacre, grain and fodder industries to purchase seed, chemicals, fertiliser and fuel to enable the planting of a successful post-drought crop.

The Drought Restocking Loan Scheme is a concessional loan scheme that assists primary producers who have been affected by drought to gain access to concessional loans to cover restocking requirements.

QRAA administers Exceptional Circumstances business assistance.

The QLD Small Business Emergency Assistance Scheme is designed to assist locally owned small businesses whose enterprise has been affected by the drought or other significant events beyond normal risk management. Eligible businesses must be located in, adjacent to or dependent on Exceptional Circumstances designated areas.

Drought affected primary producers also have access to the other concessional loan schemes that do not require the producer to be drought declared. These include the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Schemes (for Productivity, First Start and Land Care).

FarmBis grants are available for approved training.

I am aware that a number of other agencies and Departments such as Education Queensland, Queensland Transport and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines also provide assistance in time of drought.

497. Penalties and Sentences

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (11/9/01)—

- (1) How many people for each year since, and including, 1998-99 have been sentenced in Queensland Courts for each of drug trafficking, production of dangerous drugs, supply of dangerous drugs, rape and attempted rape, armed robbery, unarmed robbery and serious assault?
- (2) For each of the above categories of offence, how many people sentenced have received the maximum allowable jail term for each year since, and including, 1998-99?
- (3) For each of the above sentences, how many have received some term of imprisonment as part of their sentence (this does not include suspended custodial sentences) for each year, and including, 1998-99?

Mr WELFORD (15/10/01):

(1) The number of defendants sentenced, on the specific offences stated in the question, in the Supreme and District Courts, Brisbane is set out below. Information for the Supreme and District Courts located outside Brisbane is more difficult to obtain because only Brisbane Supreme and District Courts have access to a computerised information system. It has not been practical to undertake manual searches of all criminal files in the 31 regional centres.

Offence—Brisbane Higher Courts	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
Drug Trafficking	66	58	62
Production of Dangerous Drugs	109	113	126
Supply of Dangerous Drugs	177	140	124
Rape	21	16	21
Attempted Rape	6	3	3
Armed Robbery	132	126	93
Unarmed Robbery	60	86	63
Serious Assault	66	44	60

The number of defendants sentenced, on the specific offences stated in the question, in the Magistrates Courts are set out below. For the period 1998-99 to 1999-00, information is only available for the ten major Magistrates Courts that had access to a computerised information system. It has not been practical to undertake manual searches of numerous files in over 70 other registry locations. For the period 2000-01 figures have been provided for all Magistrates Courts due to the introduction of the Queensland Wide Interlinked Courts system (QWIC). The figures pertain to courts on and from the period they were computerised. This varied from court to court, as there was a continuous rollout from July 2000 to March 2001. Again, it has not been practical to undertake manual searches of files, processed in courts, prior to the introduction of QWIC.

Offence—Magistrates Courts	Ten Major Magistrates Courts		All Mag. Courts
	1998-99 (a)	1999-00 (a)	2000-01 (b)
Drug Trafficking	0	0	1
Production of Dangerous Drugs	646	584	1180
Supply of Dangerous Drugs	277	206	326
Rape	n/a	n/a	n/a
Attempted Rape	n/a	n/a	n/a
Armed Robbery	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unarmed Robbery	10	5	3
Serious Assault	271	257	567

(a) Major Magistrates Courts—Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Brisbane, Southport, Ipswich, Beenleigh and Toowoomba.

(b) All Magistrates Courts.

(c) n/a—Not applicable as the offence cannot be dealt with in the Magistrates Court.

(2) In regard to the number of people sentenced who have served the maximum allowable jail term, these records are kept by the Department of Corrective Services.

(3) Below are the number of defendants referred to in (1) where the court did impose some term of imprisonment (wholly suspended custodial sentences are in brackets).

Offence—Brisbane Higher Courts	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
Drug Trafficking	61	57	56
Production of Dangerous Drugs	33	30	31
Supply of Dangerous Drugs	93	86	72
Rape	21	15	21
Attempted Rape	6	3	2
Armed Robbery	104	78	74
Unarmed Robbery	32	47	44
Serious Assault	44	26	36
	Ten Major Magistrates Courts		All Mag. Courts
Offence—Magistrates Courts	1998-99 (a)	1999-00 (a)	2000-01 (b)
Drug Trafficking	0	0	0
Production of Dangerous Drugs	5	11	44
Supply of Dangerous Drugs	18	16	45
Rape	n/a	n/a	n/a
Attempted Rape	n/a	n/a	n/a
Armed Robbery	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unarmed Robbery	1	1	1
Serious Assault	49	61	176

(a) Major Magistrates Courts—Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Brisbane, Southport, Ipswich, Beenleigh and Toowoomba.

(b) All Magistrates Courts.

(c) n/a—Not applicable as the offence cannot be dealt with in the Magistrates Court.

498. Schools, Commercial Projects

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (11/9/01)—

With reference to concerns from a constituent that State high schools are taking projects that are funded by Government and initiated within the schools into the commercial market place to be in direct competition with private enterprise—

Will she outline the legalities regarding such a practice?

Ms BLIGH (11/10/01): The Queensland Government recognises that schools have a key role to play in fostering attitudes and skills in relation to enterprise. Experiences involving the creation and running of business activities are an effective way to encourage the development of such skills. This approach is consistent with the National Goals for Schooling endorsed by State, Territory and Commonwealth Ministers for Education in 1999.

All school-based commercial projects must operate within the parameters of the law. This includes conducting any business in a way that is fair to its competitors and in compliance with all relevant legislation, including the Trade Practices Act 1974.

499. Primary Industries Department, Vacancies

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (11/9/01)—

With reference to staffing within his department—

Will he provide a list of vacant positions by office, position and classification at 30 July 2000 and a list of vacant position by office, position and classification at 30 July 2001?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/01): The following table is a list of current vacancies in the process of being filled.

Classification—Number

Administrative Officer 1/2—3; Administrative Officer 2—5; Administrative Officer 3—6; Administrative Officer 4—9; Administrative Officer 5—6; Administrative Officer 6—4; Administrative Officer 7—4; Administrative Officer 8—3; Boating Patrol Officer 2—7; Boating Patrol Officer 3—1; Forestry Employee 7—2; Operative Officer 2—9; Operative Officer 4—9; Professional Officer 2—5; Professional Officer 2/3—5; Professional Officer 3—8; Professional Officer 4—7; Professional Officer 5—1; Professional Officer 6—2; Senior Executive Officer 2—1; Senior Officer 1/2—1; Technical Officer 2—11; Technical Officer 2/3—2; Technical Officer 3—2; Technical Officer 4—2; Technical Officer 5—2

Total—117

Thirty vacancies (included in the total above) are in the Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Project and are expected to be filled in the near future.

500. Gene Technology

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (11/9/01)—

With reference to the issue of research involving human embryos and human stem cell "lines"—

- (1) What legislation is there to regulate the use of human embryos and human embryonic stem cell lines and foetal stem cell lines in research in Queensland?
- (2) How does this compare with legislative frameworks in other States?
- (3) What research involving human embryos and human stem cells (whether from embryos, foetal tissue, umbilical cords or adults) is under way in Queensland?

Mrs EDMOND (11/10/01): No Australian jurisdiction has legislation which deals specifically with research using human embryonic stem cell lines or foetal stem cell lines. In those states where research on human embryonic stem cell lines is undertaken, legislation which deals with research on embryos, and the provisions of the Ethical Guidelines on Assisted Reproductive Technology would apply.

At the 8 June 2001 meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), the Council committed itself to achieving nationally consistent provisions in legislation to prohibit human cloning. It also agreed that jurisdictions would work towards nationally consistent approaches to regulate assisted reproductive technology and related emerging technologies. All jurisdictions are currently examining existing legislation and ethical guidelines in light of the COAG decision.

Queensland is participating in this national approach to the regulation the use of human embryos, human embryonic or foetal stem cell lines.

I am not aware of any research in Queensland involving human embryos, human embryonic stem cells or human foetal stem cells.

501. WorkCover

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (11/9/01)—

With reference to the many small businesses that have recently received drastically increased WorkCover premiums despite not having had any claims against them—

- (1) What is the reason for these increases in premiums?
- (2) Have some industries experienced greater increases in premiums or rates than others?
- (3) Will he provide a copy of the "rates" of all industries for the past five years?

Mr NUTTALL (11/10/01):

(1) The WorkCover Queensland Board has approved an increase in the minimum premium payable for a workers' compensation policy for the first time in five years from \$60 (pre-GST) to \$120 (GST inclusive). The last increase was from \$40 to \$60 on 1 July 1996.

The \$120 figure is inclusive of both GST and stamp duty. The net \$60 figure attracted GST of \$6 and stamp duty of \$3.30, making the actual amount payable \$69.30. The net increase in premium is therefore only \$43.90, to \$103.90. Adding GST of \$10.39 and stamp duty of \$5.71 makes \$120 the actual amount payable.

During WorkCover's annual review of the Experience Based Rating system and associated consultation with industry and policyholder representatives in 2000, it was identified that in today's market the \$60 minimum premium has proven insufficient to cover the administrative costs of writing and maintaining a workers' compensation insurance policy. During this consultation there was strong support from employer groups and industry associations for an increase as a way of reducing the level of cross subsidisation by larger employers of administration costs associated with the establishment and maintenance of policy records.

Following investigation, the cost of providing a workers' compensation policy regardless of the amount of premium was estimated to be at least \$120. This was the figure recommended by the Kennedy Inquiry five years ago. Even without indexing this amount to today's prices the new minimum of \$103.90 is still below the 1996 estimate.

WorkCover advise that the new minimum price of \$120 is still lower than most other Australian jurisdictions and is not an unreasonable amount to charge for a full year's cover. The increase was approved by the WorkCover Board and notified to me in accordance with section 58 of the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996.

Other reasons for increases in premium relate to the individual claims history of policyholders. Premium increases can also occur due to an increase in gross wages paid.

(2) No WorkCover industry rate released this year increased from the previous year. WorkCover Queensland uses 452 industry rates called WorkCover Industry Classifications as base rates to calculate premiums. In 2001 and 2002, there has been an average reduction of 2.5% across all industry rates. These rates apply retrospectively for the premium year 2000-01 and are locked in for the current assessment year.

However, as stated above in (1) each policyholder has their own unique premium rate based on their claims experience and wages. As a result an employer's premium will only go up if the premium rate goes up due to claims experience and/or the employer has declared an increase in gross wages.

(3) All WorkCover industry rates are published in the Industrial Gazette, in accordance with section 58 of the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996, at the following pages:

Date	Vol.	No.	Pages
Friday, 27 June 1997	155	16	804—844
Friday, 31 October 1997	156	10	486—496
Friday, 29 May 1998	158	6	114—158
Friday, 26 June 1998	158	11	232—299
Friday, 29 January 1999	160	4	73—78
Tuesday, 1 April 1999	160	13	285
Friday, 28 May 1999	161	5	84—104
Tuesday, 29 June 1999	161	10	178—184
Friday, 16 June 2000	164	8	163—189
Friday, 29 September 2000	165	5	102
Friday, 22 December 2000	165	21	802
Friday, 29 June 2001	167	10	213—244

Prior to the introduction of the WorkCover Queensland Act 1996 and the Experience Based Rating premium calculation system, industry rates may be found in Schedule 1 of the Workers' Compensation Regulation 1992.

Under the Beattie Government the average premium rate has been reduced each year since 1998, when it was at a high of 2.145. The current rate of 1.55 is the lowest of any State. The reduction in the average premium rate has meant savings in excess of \$120 million per annum for employers across Queensland.

502. Coolum Police Station

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (11/9/01)—

With reference to a decision by the previous Borbidge-Sheldon Government (27 April 1998) to allocate \$600,000 for the purchase of a site in Perry Street for a new Coolum Police Station—

- (1) Is this site still owned by the Queensland Police Service; if not, when was it sold, to whom and at what cost?
- (2) What time frame is in place to construct the new police station?
- (3) Where is it proposed to be sited?

Mr McGRADY (11/10/01): As the member would well know, being the Treasurer at the time, the 1998 Borbidge-Sheldon budget was never passed by this Parliament.

Notwithstanding this fact, no \$600,000 allocation was even proposed in that budget for the purchase of land in Perry Street Coolum.

The Police minister at the time, Russell Cooper MP did release a media statement on 27 April 1998 in which it was claimed that:

"Minister for Police Russell Cooper and Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry and Member for Noosa Bruce Davidson, said they were confident funding for construction of the new station would be included in the May 14 State Budget.

As no allocation was made, it appears that Ministers Cooper and Sheldon were incapable of fulfilling the Borbidge-Sheldon government's election promise.

- (1) The land at Perry Street Coolum, has never been owned by the Queensland Police Service.
- (2) The provision of a new Police Station at Coolum has been identified by the Queensland Police Service, and is on the Service's forward plan for capital works.
- (3) At this stage a site has yet to be identified for purchase.

503. Disposal of Syringes

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Environment (11/9/01)—

With reference to the Government's announcement on 18 April 2000 that it would impose a maximum fine of \$3,000 on people who discard used syringes in public places and since this maximum fine took effect on 1 July 2000 as part of Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000—

- (1) How many people have been convicted of this offence?
- (2) How many of these people have received the maximum fine?
- (3) What resources has his department allocated to policing this regulation?
- (4) What campaigns have been undertaken to publicise the increased fine?

Mr WELLS (31/10/01):

(1) & (2) A person who commits this offence can be prosecuted by the courts. The courts can record a conviction and impose fines on any person who is found guilty by the courts of the offence. I am advised by the department that it has not been necessary, at this stage, to take enforcement action under the provisions of the Waste Management Regulation as the Police have been able to use the provisions of the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 (Section 10) to prosecute offenders who have improperly disposed of needles.

(3) The Environmental Protection Agency has officers across the State who enforce the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and associated regulations. I am advised that it is not possible to provide a breakdown of resources to every individual offence provision.

(4) A media statement on the introduction of the Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2000 (Waste Reg) was released on 13 July 2000. State-wide training was conducted in August 2000 for local government and industry providing information on the introduction of the Waste EPP and Waste Reg.

Advertisements were placed in all regional papers and a media statement was released on 4 March 2001, in conjunction with Clean Up Australia Day, regarding the introduction of infringement notices for littering and waste dumping and the delegations to local government.

504. Ambulance Service

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (11/9/01)—

With reference to Local Ambulance Committees which provide incredibly valuable assistance to this well respected and appreciated emergency service right across our great State—

- (1) Are there any health funds that provide full cover for the cost of the use of ambulance services for all (or any) emergency codes or non-urgent cases?
- (2) When residents take out ambulance subscriptions with Queensland Ambulance Services, what financial or other incentives are provided?

Mr REYNOLDS (11/10/01): The 176 Local Ambulance Committees (LACs) currently in existence in Queensland provide an invaluable community support network for the Queensland Ambulance Service.

Following the implementation of the Federal Government's Total Lifetime Cover policy initiatives, there has been an increased number of persons who have taken up Private Health Insurance and an increased number who now rely on their private health insurance for ambulance coverage.

As a result the number of subscribers to the QAS Subscription Scheme has declined.

(1) There are a number of health funds that claim to provide full ambulance cover to their members, however, the level of coverage varies with the particular fund. With some funds, if the members use the ambulance and receive an account for services then the Health Fund will pay the full account. Some funds provide "emergency only" coverage. Other funds have been working in partnership with the QAS to provide coverage either by rebating the ambulance subscription or by paying the QAS subscription on behalf of their members.

(2) The incentive for residents to subscribe to the QAS is that for an investment of \$60 for a single subscription and \$95 for a family subscription they are provided with all emergency and non-emergency ambulance services free of charge, instead of being charged the fee of \$706.00 for emergency transport and \$263.00 (for first 50 kilometres and \$1.10 for each kilometre thereafter), for non emergency transport. By paying a subscription to the QAS, subscribers are also helping to maintain a service which benefits all the people of Queensland.

505. Central Queensland TAFE Institute

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (11/9/01)—

What changes are proposed for Central Queensland TAFE Institute in the following areas (a) staffing (per campus), (b) course offerings (per campus) and (c) course cost to students (per campus)?

Mr FOLEY (11/10/01):

(a) As is the normal practice, the institute is staffed in accordance with training demand. Casual and temporary staff will continue to be recruited on an as-needs basis, according to the training demands of Central Queensland's community and industry.

(b) The institute will continue to offer courses in accordance with training requirements. As is the standard practice, courses are run subject to minimum enrolment numbers.

(c) Central Queensland Institute of TAFE advises there are no changes proposed to current course costs. The current fee arrangements are to be maintained for the foreseeable future.

506. Blackbutt Range; D'Aguilar Highway

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/9/01)—

With reference to the continuing deterioration of the Blackbutt Range section of the D'Aguilar Highway and the deteriorating banks and cuttings—

- (1) When was the last qualified geological inspection undertaken and by whom, what was the outcome and what recommendations were made?
- (2) What contingency plans has he in place to address the possibility of a major landslide in recognition that this route is the only access road for the delivery of goods and services for many towns?
- (3) With reference to the vehicle counts on this road, what are the figures recorded over the past ten years per count and when were these done?
- (4) What plans have been adopted for the upgrade of this road?
- (5) Has consideration been given to that which is commonly called the 'coach' route; if so, what?
- (6) Will he acknowledge that he has been made aware of the concerns of the users, rescuers and businesses with regards to the Blackbutt Range's condition and ensure that it does receive due consideration to avoid any detrimental effects on the communities and businesses which rely heavily of this road?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/10/01):

(1) The Department of Main Roads has an engineering geologist located at the Southern Queensland regional office in Toowoomba.

He inspected this section of road during February and July this year. No major signs of distress were reported and no special action was recommended.

(2) The likelihood of a major landslide is linked directly to severe and prolonged rainfall. Main Roads considers it unlikely that the road would be totally closed by either an embankment failure or a debris slide onto the road. The department has maintenance arrangements in place with local government and its own construction workforce RTCS to respond quickly and clear any incidents.

(3) The department has a systematic approach to traffic counting and the monitoring of traffic growth. This involves both permanent and temporary counters. These records show that, over the past 10 years, average daily traffic has grown from approximately 2000 to 2400 vehicles per day with about 20% commercial vehicles. This represents approximately 2 percent growth per year.

(4) Main Roads has no current plans to upgrade this section of road.

(5) Main Roads considered and rejected the old "coach" road as a preferred alternative when the department built the current route in 1975. The coach route is steeper and longer than the existing route, as well as having numerous creek crossings.

(6) Main Roads certainly takes notice of concerns expressed by the community about road issues and is aware of the importance of this road to the region. The department believes it has put in place the appropriate inspection, monitoring and maintenance procedures for this road.

507. Ambulance Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (11/9/01)—

- (1) Will he detail by Queensland Ambulance Service district the amount of overtime paid to officers?
- (2) Will he name regions that are over budget and by what amount expressed in both dollar and percentage terms of total region budget?

Mr REYNOLDS (11/10/01):

(1) Queensland Ambulance Service officers perform overtime for a number of reasons including various commercial activities that are offset by additional revenue generation. These activities include attendance at sporting and community events.

Overtime payments by QAS Regions for the 2000-2001 financial year were as follows:

Northern Region

Northern/Southern Area—\$559,281.04
 Western Area—\$231,943.56
 Headquarters—\$71,396.67
 Total Northern Region—\$862,621.27

Central Region

Northern Area—\$552,580.90
 Capricorn Area—\$534,258.71
 Western Area—\$480,833.86
 Headquarters—\$284,217.89
 Total Central Region—\$1,851,891.36

South West Region

Central Area—\$124,482.63
 Eastern Area—\$180,451.76
 Southern Area—\$215,450.22
 Western Area—\$201,146.52
 Headquarters—\$86,330.69
 Total South West Region—\$807,861.82

North Coast Region

Wide Bay—Burnett—\$471,450.50
 Sunshine Coast—\$679,307.37
 Headquarters—\$1,656.92
 Total North Coast Region—\$1,152,414.79

Greater Brisbane Region—

Northern Area—\$396,353.35
 Central Area—\$402,995.03
 South Eastern Area—\$339,585.83
 South Western Area—\$353,939.48
 Headquarters—\$31,054.26
 Total Greater Brisbane Region—\$1,523,927.96

South East Region

Southport Area—\$349,717.86
 Beenleigh Area—\$433,392.96
 Ipswich Area—\$514,633.42
 Headquarters—\$210,385.15
 Total South East Region—\$1,508,129.39

Far Northern Region

Tablelands North—\$229,507.97
 Tablelands South—\$183,068.22
 Cairns—\$396,532.07
 Coastal North—\$163,805.39
 Coastal South—\$114,417.60
 Headquarters—\$85,473.67
 Total Far Northern Region—\$1,172,804.92

Central Office—

Kedron—\$88,336.31
 Ambulance & Fire Communications Centre (Afcom)—\$210,945.95
 Total Central Office—\$299,282.26

TOTAL QAS—\$9,178,933.77

(2) QAS regions over budget (expenditure) at the end of the 2000-2001 financial year are as follows:

Northern Region	\$248,658	1.48% over
South West Region	\$255,639	1.49% over
North Coast Region	\$501,141	1.90% over
South East Region	\$474,901	1.59% over
Far Northern Region	\$368,006	2.14% over

Note: Northern Region and Far Northern Region exceeded revenue targets for the year which more than offsets the over budget expenditure for the region.

QAS is currently undertaking a review of budget allocations across regions. A Resource Allocation Project is in progress with the aim of ensuring the appropriate allocation of resources to all regions.

508. Toowoomba Service Station; Fuel Pricing

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (13/9/01)—

With reference to the plight of a Toowoomba independent service station proprietor whose sublease arrangements tie the proprietor into purchasing all fuel and oils from the local BP distributor at an inflated price compared to the BP owned and controlled service stations which operate in close proximity and in the past two weeks the independent proprietor has had to endure a price increase of 5.423 cents per litre while the BP owned and controlled sites have reduced their retail price for fuel—

- (1) Does she consider this purchasing and pricing system to be fair-trading?
- (2) What can the Queensland Government do to help this Queensland small business proprietor?
- (3) What will the Queensland Government do to stop this predatory price fixing within the Queensland fuel industry?

Mrs ROSE (15/10/01):

(1) I am aware in this instance, that the operator is an independent and the service station displays BP signage. The operator has entered a contractually binding arrangement to be supplied exclusively by a BP distributor. Therefore, the pricing of wholesale supplies to the service station will be subject to the commercial terms of that agreement.

The concerns raised relate to alleged predatory pricing policies of the major oil company and possible abuse of market power. These matters fall within the ambit of the Commonwealth Trade Practices Act 1974 and should be investigated by the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission (ACCC). The operator has recently written to the ACCC regarding this matter.

The major oil companies are forbidden by Commonwealth law from setting retail prices at service stations except at their own company-operated sites. At other types of service stations such as franchised operators and independent brand and supermarket operated outlets, the proprietor sets the retail pump price by adding an operating margin to the wholesale price paid to the supplier. Retailers compete with very small profit margins on their sales and hope to make up their incomes with a higher turnover in fuel and through other sources such as fast food.

The essence of the complaint is that the wholesale supply price has risen by about 5 cents per litre over a 2-week period while local company owned stations of the same brand have not suffered a price rise. Pricing of petroleum products is a very complex issue as there are many factors which influence the wholesale and retail price of petrol. Underlying factors affecting broad fluctuations are the OPEC barrel price for oil and the exchange rate of the Australian dollar. Local prices in regional areas are additionally influenced by the differing transport and storage costs of wholesale supplies, ownership structures, contractual arrangements and the level of competition.

(2) The Queensland Government will be referring this matter to the ACCC for investigation. In broader terms, the Queensland Government has made a number of representations to the Commonwealth through the Council of Australian Governments and the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs to introduce measures to address community concerns about fuel pricing.

(3) The ACCC has recently commenced an inquiry into Reducing Fuel Price Variability which will examine industry pricing structures. The Queensland Government has made a submission to this inquiry suggesting that the Commonwealth nationally trial a restriction against retail prices fluctuating over a 24-hour period, which is imposed in Western Australia, and requirements for transparency of dealings at the point of supply through Terminal Gate Pricing, which occurs in both Western Australia and Victoria. The submission also suggested a national consumer education program so that consumers can make more informed purchasing decisions and this would enhance competition on prices. Other matters raised included the question of the Commonwealth establishing a petrol price relief fund, reducing Commonwealth excise, rebates for the rural sector and changes to the off-road diesel subsidies.

509. State Administrative Review Tribunal

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (13/9/01)—

- (1) Will he outline his proposal for a State Administrative Review Body or Tribunal?
- (2) What is the expected cost of this proposal?
- (3) To what degree will this body reduce the backlog of cases presently before tribunals and awaiting judicial review?
- (4) Will any new body that is created retain as a minimum the existing powers of any tribunals that will be incorporated into it?
- (5) In what ways will the powers of those tribunals be expanded if incorporated into the new body?

Mr WELFORD (15/10/01): No decision has been made to establish a State Administrative Review Body or Tribunal. I have asked my Department to consider whether any efficiencies of administration can be achieved by consolidating some of its Tribunals. In addition, my Department is also considering whether a better system can be introduced for merits review of departmental decisions.

The review is in its early stages and will consider a range of issues such as enhancing access to justice and cost benefits.

510. Cape York Peninsula, Statement of Significance

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/01)—

With reference to his statement that the EPA "Statement of significance" on Cape York Peninsula has been completed but will be only released once the relevant stakeholder groups have been fully briefed—

- (1) When will the stakeholder groups be briefed?
- (2) Will he detail a full list of the stakeholder groups?

Mr WELLS (15/10/01):

(1) Stakeholder groups are expected to be briefed progressively following the Cape York Regional Advisory Group meeting in mid October 2001.

(2) The Government is providing copies of the report to the Cape York Regional Advisory Group, the Property Planning Technical Group, the Cape York Land Council, and the Cape York Regional Assessment Panel for the Cape York Natural Heritage Trust, as well as conservation groups on the steering committee and other interested groups and individuals on the Peninsula.

511. Toowoomba Turf Club

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (13/9/01)—

With reference to her strident criticism of the Queensland Principal Club's (QPC) handling of the Toowoomba Turf Club in answer to my question without notice on Tuesday 11 September and given the QPC has kept her fully briefed and further sought her advice and as the chairman of the QPC has consistently stated that racing in Toowoomba would continue—

- (1) How can she justify her criticism of the QPC?
- (2) What action should the QPC have taken?
- (3) Did she advise the QPC of the action she believed should be taken?
- (4) What action will she now take to address the allegations regarding the Toowoomba Turf Club and ensure that any illegal activities that have occurred are referred for prosecution?
- (5) What assurances has she given the Toowoomba racing community regarding the future of the Toowoomba Turf Club?

Mrs ROSE (15/10/01):

(1) The actions of the Queensland Principal Club (QPC) regarding the Toowoomba Turf Club, were deserving of the highest level of criticism. Members of the Toowoomba Racing Industry awoke one Monday morning to be informed by a newspaper, that the Toowoomba Turf Club faced closure. At 6.00pm the next night, the Chairman of the QPC issued a statement confirming that Toowoomba racing would continue. The following Monday morning, statements attributed to the Chief Executive Officer of the QPC in the Courier Mail said that the issue of closure of the Toowoomba Turf Club would be discussed by the QPC committee. The contradictory statements attributed to the Chief Executive Officer and the Chairman of the QPC have resulted in members of the Toowoomba racing industry fearing for their livelihood.

(2) The QPC should have immediately informed the Toowoomba Turf Club and the Racing Industry, via a press release, that racing in Toowoomba would continue.

As soon as the QPC received an audit report suggesting that the Toowoomba Turf Club may have breached section 134 of the Racing and Betting Act 1980 (the Act), it should have taken action. I understand the current allegations concerning the Toowoomba Turf Club may relate to activities which occurred five years ago.

The QPC should have afforded the Toowoomba Turf Club natural justice, by informing the Toowoomba Turf Club of the allegation and requesting their response.

It should then have obtained independent legal advice on the application of section 134 of the Act to the particular circumstances of the Toowoomba Turf Club.

Finally, the QPC should have awaited a determination as to whether sufficient evidence existed to prove a breach by the Toowoomba Turf Club of section 134 of the Act, before speaking to the press and threatening the livelihood of members of the Toowoomba Racing Industry, with threats of closure of the Toowoomba Turf Club.

(3) By letter dated 13 August 2001, I explained to the QPC that a relevant factor to be taken into account when deciding whether to initiate a prosecution under the Act, is whether the evidence establishes beyond reasonable doubt, that a club has breached section 134 of the Act.

I also explained to the QPC the consequences of a proven breach of section 134 of the Act, the procedure to initiate a prosecution under the Act and that time limits applied to prosecutions under the Act.

I also informed the QPC in writing that, as its decision is likely to receive widespread media attention and be the subject of a judicial review application, it would be prudent for the QPC to obtain independent advice from a barrister experienced in administrative and criminal law.

(4) The QPC committee has adopted my recommendation to obtain independent legal advice and has instructed senior counsel to advise the QPC in relation to their obligations under section 134 of the Act and whether it is appropriate for action to be taken against the Toowoomba Turf Club.

The QPC is yet to utilise its power to issue a direction to all race clubs, clarifying what expenditure of club funds is considered legitimate. I informed the QPC of this power in my letter of 13 August 2001.

If evidence is brought to the attention of the QPC which tends to prove beyond reasonable doubt that a breach of section 134 of the Act has occurred, then the QPC has an obligation to refer the matter to the police for investigation.

(5) The Toowoomba Turf Club will remain in operation for as long as it wishes, provided that the club and its members comply with the requirements of the Act.

512. Goodwill Games

Mr FLYNN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (13/9/01)—

What expressions of interest have been made to his Government to hold major public functions in Queensland as a direct result of the Goodwill Games?

Mr BEATTIE (2/10/01): The 2001 Goodwill Games has already proven to be the catalyst for a number of approaches to Queensland Events Corporation, which comes within my portfolio responsibility.

During the 2001 Goodwill Games, the Chairman and Chief Executive of Queensland Events Corporation, were approached by the President of a major national sporting Federation advising that as a result of the success of their involvement in the 2001 Goodwill Games, the international Federation was keen for Brisbane to consider a bid for a major international sporting Festival. Queensland Events Corporation is currently assessing the viability of this proposal.

In addition, the Chief Executive of Queensland Events Corporation had formal meetings with the Executive Director of a major American sports commission who was in Brisbane to observe the 2001 Goodwill Games. As a result of that meeting, there has been agreement in-principle between Queensland Events Corporation and the United States based commission to proceed to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding which will include collaboration on the development of events to rotate between the United States and Queensland.

513. Goodwill Games

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Education (13/9/01)—

With reference to the tickets obtained for Queensland school children to attend the Goodwill Games—

- (1) Did her department purchase these tickets; if so, how much did the department pay for the tickets?
- (2) Was any of the cost of transporting the children to the Games paid by the department; if so, what was the cost?

Ms BLIGH (15/10/01):

(1) Education Queensland did not purchase any entry tickets to the Goodwill Games. All tickets were provided free of charge through the generosity of the Goodwill Games organisers.

(2) In general, individual schools met the costs of transporting students to the Goodwill Games

However, Education Queensland and Q-Rail assisted approximately 100 students and supervisors from remote school communities to participate in the event.

Education Queensland provided transport for the students from the remote communities to the value of \$17,746.56.

514. Regent Taxis

Mr LAWLOR asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/9/01)—

What action has been taken to resolve the problems created for disabled and elderly people by the decision by Regent Taxis (Gold Coast) to no longer carry motorised scooters in maxi taxis?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/9/01): Following the issue being raised on the Gold Coast, Queensland Transport has sought information from the manufacturers of restraint systems and various types of scooters in order to make an assessment of the safety implications associated with the carriage of scooters in taxis.

On the basis of these investigations, it has been determined that, provided the appropriate restraint system is available in the taxi, the scooter has appropriate anchorage points and the scooter is small enough to access the vehicle, they may be carried in taxis.

However, at no time will the passenger be permitted to remain seated in the scooter. The restraint devices in taxis are not tested to withstand the combined weight of a scooter and its user and, whilst I am concerned at the difficulties users face should their travel options be restricted, I cannot allow people's lives to be put at risk by endorsing an unsafe mode of travel.

I have asked Queensland Transport to give further consideration to the carriage of those people who are unable to transfer to a fixed seat in the taxi and they will be investigating options to resolve this issue.

This matter has also been raised at a national level with a view to developing standardised advice for users of scooters on appropriate devices for carriage in vehicles.

515. Fire Ants

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/9/01)—

With reference to fire ants which have been recognised as highly mobile and given this recognition in relocating the Fire Ant Taskforce Headquarters to Oxley Secondary College—

What precautions have been put in place to ensure those of the 400 staff who commute from infested to non-infested areas do not bring fire ants into clean areas?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/01): All newly appointed staff have undergone an intensive induction process which includes training in awareness of these risk factors. Furthermore, all staff have been instructed to be alert to situations that might result in accidental spread.

For a queen and sufficient workers to start a colony to be transported via vehicles or other personal possessions, an amount of soil or organic matter would need to be present for nesting material. All staff have been directed to inspect personal and government vehicles on a regular basis to ensure that deposits of soil or organic matter are cleaned from the internal and external surfaces of vehicles.

516. Cressbrook Creek Dam; Perseverance Dam

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (13/9/01)—

With reference to the Cressbrook Dam/Perseverance Dam/proposed Cressbrook recharge weirs and the ongoing concerns by the Cressbrook Creek Water Advisory Committee whereby the building of Perseverance Dam and Cressbrook dam has seriously diminished water availability—

- (1) As the Water Infrastructure Taskforce in 1997 gave the recharge weirs the highest priority and stated these were due to be completed in 1999 and as one has been completed and proven effective, when will the others be constructed; and if they won't be constructed, when was that decision made and by whom?
- (2) As the construction of Perseverance Dam has had a major effect on the water entering Cressbrook Creek and the continuing stopping of the flow of the once strong flowing creek (a) what plans have been made to sell water from Perseverance Dam by the Toowoomba City Council to other shires, (b) what are these shires, (c) what quantities are being/have been discussed or agreed to, (d) what investigations were undertaken to ensure further deterioration of the water course doesn't occur and what effects this action may have downstream and (e) by whom was this investigation undertaken?

Mr ROBERTSON (15/10/01):

(1) The first of six proposed recharge weirs named the Lower Cressbrook Weir, was constructed in 1997. The five remaining proposed weirs are not scheduled for construction at this point in time. The weirs were incorporated in the Water Infrastructure Planning and Development 1997-98 to 2001-02 Implementation Plan of the last Coalition Government. The first weir was an initiative of the Goss Government. It was already under construction when the Implementation Plan was produced and was completed several months after the Implementation Plan's release.

While planning has been undertaken on the five additional weirs to the point that an Initial Advice Statement was prepared, it is important to establish a water basin framework for any further new developments.

Consequently, the Government considers that a water resource plan, under the Water Act 2000, for the Brisbane River catchment and the broader Moreton region streams (to be called the Moreton Water Resource Plan (WRP)) should be completed before considering further whether the five weirs should progress. The government is in the process of collecting all relevant water use and other data to assist in the preparation of such a plan. Further progress would require social, economic and environmental impacts to be evaluated through an appropriate impact assessment study. Accordingly the government has made no firm decisions at this stage on the appropriateness of the proposed five recharge weirs.

(2) In reference to your second question, Perseverance Dam was built in 1965 and Cressbrook Creek Dam was built in 1983. When Cressbrook Creek Dam was built by the then Coalition Government, a condition of the development was a requirement to make available water releases depending on storage volume. This requirement continues under current licensing arrangements, although I understand water users in the lower Cressbrook area continue to be concerned about the quantities of water released under this arrangement.

The Cressbrook Creek Weir was built in 1984 and as mentioned previously the Lower Cressbrook Weir was constructed in 1997.

In the late 1990s, my Department held discussions with the Toowoomba City Council with a view to reviewing current water release rules for replenishing of downstream groundwaters. This matter will now be addressed as part of the Moreton water resource planning process.

In respect of water sales from either the Perseverance or Cressbrook Creek dams, this is a matter for the Toowoomba City Council which is the commercial operator of both dams.

Finally, I advise that I intend to formally commence a water resource planning process under the Water Act 2000 for the Moreton Basin next year, and as part of this process, environmental flow requirements for the Brisbane River catchment, including Cressbrook Creek, will be determined. Work has already commenced on the hydrologic modelling necessary to support the work.

517. RSPCA

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/9/01)—

With reference to the RSPCA which has an annual expenditure of more than \$1m of which the State Government contributes \$165,000 and given that the RSPCA is responsible for enforcing the Queensland Animal Protection Act—

Is the specified amount of funding enough to allow the RSPCA to properly do its job?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/01): The annual grant of \$165 000, which will continue, is an important contribution to the RSPCA for its role in enforcing the Animals Protection Act 1925—a role that it wishes to continue to undertake.

The government also provides other funding to the RSPCA where there is an identified need. For example the Department of Primary Industries has recently given the RSPCA \$90 000 towards a mobile education unit. This unit will tour the state, to increase community awareness and knowledge of animal welfare.

518. Flying Foxes, Electric Grids

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/9/01)—

With reference to the methods used to control flying foxes and to evidence which shows a significant increase in their numbers and given the RSPCA's advice to the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency of the inhumane practices of using electric grids—

- (1) Has Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service sought advice other than that provided by the RSPCA on the use of electric grids to control flying foxes?
- (2) Has Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service sought the advice of the Department of Primary Industries?
- (3) What scientific evidence has his department considered in assessing the use of electric grids?
- (4) If there is concern with the spectacle bat becoming a threatened species will he be issuing Pest Mitigation Permits for the grids for flying foxes other than that species?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/10/01): These questions relate to the Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and accordingly the questions should be directed to my colleague the Honourable Dean Wells, MP, Minister for Environment.

519. Mental Health Community Development Officers

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (13/9/01)—

With reference to Mental Health Community Development officers who have been told their funding ceases at the end of 2001-02—

- (1) Why is this happening?
- (2) Are there alternatives being put in place?
- (3) Will she review this decision given the potential impact on clients, particularly on the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast and in the Kingston/Logan area?

Mrs EDMOND (15/10/01):

(1) The funding for Community Development Officers (CDO) is allocated from the Second National Mental Health Plan, which receives funding from the Commonwealth until June 2003. The CDO projects were established under a community development model which would see sustainability of the project in the community without the involvement of the actual community development officer. The CDO projects therefore were not funded on the proviso of recurrent funding.

(2) The current service agreement for each organisation was extended to 30 June 2002 and their performance schedule has been refocused on the need to provide evidence of the health outcomes expected from the projects.

Community development, by its very nature is a program that should become less reliant upon distinct project staff and have developed greater community capacity. Each CDO project has provided Queensland Health with an outline of their work up to June 2002 with a view to project sustainability in the community.

(3) Not applicable given answers to previous questions.

520. Mooloolah River

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/01)—

What recent steps have been taken to ensure the water quality of the Mooloolah River is improved?

Mr WELLS (15/10/01): Since 1994 a collaborative recreational monitoring program has been undertaken with the Maroochy Shire Council. The Environmental Protection Agency has undertaken ambient water quality monitoring in the Mooloolah River for a long period of time and, in 1999, published data in a comprehensive technical report. The data indicated that the Mooloolah catchment was impacted upon largely by upper catchment sources of pollution.

As part of the South-East Queensland Regional Water Quality Strategy a recent study was undertaken to provide information to assist with Strategy development. This study quantified the pollutant loads and impacts for the catchment. The results of this study will be available at the end of the year. The results from many other studies and monitoring programs, undertaken as part of the Strategy development will be used to develop management strategies to protect and enhance the water quality of the Mooloolah River. State and Local Governments have made a commitment to the implementation of the Strategy.

Results from all of these studies and monitoring programs will be used to develop management strategies to protect and enhance the water quality of the Mooloolah River. State and Local Government agencies have made a commitment to implement the South-East Queensland Regional Water Quality Strategy.

The Strategy will outline requirements for upgrading existing wastewater treatment plants. A number of additional conditions have already been included in the draft development approval for Caloundra City Council. These include the approval of third party reuse of treated wastewater to reduce the effluent discharging via the Kawana outfall and the blocking of the emergency discharge pipe from the treatment plant to the Mooloolah River at all times except during emergency situations.

In early 2002, the estuarine ecological health monitoring program, undertaken as part of the South-East Queensland Regional Water Quality Strategy (the Strategy), will be expanded to include the Mooloolah River estuary. A freshwater ecological health monitoring program for south-east Queensland is currently being developed.

521. Natural Resources and Mines Department, Vacancies

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (13/9/01)—

With reference to staffing within his department—

Will he provide current vacant positions by office, position and classification at 30 July 2001?

Mr ROBERTSON (15/10/01): I note that Mr Seeney lodged an almost identical request for details on job vacancies in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines back on Tuesday 15 May 2001.

I refer the Honourable Member to my response to that question which outlined the departmental procedures and protocols for recording and managing its workforce establishment. I will however take this opportunity to reiterate my advice on the significant shift over recent times away from a fixed establishment.

Staffing levels and jobs per se are regularly reviewed and matched against budget, business demands and priorities. Particular efforts are made to leverage the flexibility provided by external grants of moneys and staff movements to match emerging priorities with desired skills requirements.

Jobs that are identified by the agency as being required to be filled and do not have an incumbent are declared to be vacancies and advertised in the government gazette. The attached table provides a list of vacancies that were advertised in the government gazette during the period 13 July to 10 August 2001.

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

522. Ambulance Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (13/9/01)—

With reference to the provision of ambulance services in Queensland at 31 August 2001—

- (1) Will he detail by region and central office the staff establishment of each ambulance facility or functional area, by classification?
- (2) By station and classification, will he specify which positions are currently filled by permanent staff?
- (3) By station and classification, will he specify which positions are currently filled by some other form of staff coverage ie casual, part-time etc?
- (4) Will he identify any vacancy?

Mr REYNOLDS (11/10/01): The QAS measures its full-time equivalent (FTE) staffing levels using a mixture of permanent, temporary, casual and part-time employment to maintain a high level of pre-hospital patient care to the community.

The QAS has an establishment of permanent positions and has been provided with a budget for salaries and associated costs based on this establishment.

When an appointed full-time officer vacates a position, the position is filled through a variety of avenues eg casual, temporary, overtime or on-call arrangements until a selection process appoints another officer to this position. Accordingly there is no reduction in the number of positions providing high quality service delivery. In this manner, FTEs will generally equate to establishment numbers at any point in time. It may be noted that there are positions that appear not to be filled by casual, temporary or part-time staff. These positions are covered by overtime or on-call arrangements. In essence, all permanent positions are filled either through casual, temporary, overtime or on-call arrangements.

As at 31 August 2001 there were 67 positions advertised throughout the state progressing through a selection process for permanent appointment. Currently 32 of the 67 positions are in the process of being filled on a full-time basis.

The QAS employs over 300 temporary and casual staff, these staff are employed to fill a number of positions throughout the state and are not engaged at a particular station but utilised at various locations on a needs basis.

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

523. Fraser Island, Vehicle Access

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (13/9/01)—

With reference to his recent decision to close vehicular access to certain roads and beaches on Fraser Island—

- (1) As a result of the recent death of a stranded Minke Whale in the Platypus Bay area, what action is being taken to ensure access for rescuers to these areas?
- (2) Have the concerns that the Wathumba Creek region is unsuitable to be advocated as a recommended track been addressed, considering local residents believe it is a dangerous stretch to travel and that recently a four-wheel drive was submerged on this stretch?

Mr WELLS (15/10/01):

(1) When I announced implementation of these closures from the 1994 Great Sandy Region Management Plan, I indicated that access to these areas would still be possible for emergency services, and that Platypus Bay Road would still be maintained as a firebreak. Such emergency use includes whale strandings. I am advised that in the particular case to which the Honourable Member refers, the vet and QPWS staff used Platypus Bay Road to access the stranded whale. The department informs me that whale strandings in the Platypus Bay area at Fraser Island do not occur often.

(2) The department informs me that at no time has QPWS advocated the use of the western beach to visitors. When giving information to visitors about this area, Rangers warn of the hazards of the beach and the creeks.

The fact that the western beaches of Fraser Island are considered potentially dangerous has been publicised in Fraser Island Recreation Area brochures since August 1986. Currently two brochures in the information kit given to visitors when they obtain their permits illustrate that the beach between Moon Point and Wathumba has 'soft boggy sand and is potentially dangerous'. In addition, the Fraser Island maps produced by both Sunmap and Hema maps

contain warnings of the hazards of the western beach. The recent closures have not required any changes to the advice or information presented to visitors to Fraser Island.

524. Police Air Wing

Mr QUINN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (13/9/01)—

With reference to Question on Notice No. 446 where the Minister for Police was asked to detail use of the Police air-wing and in his response the Minister advised that on 21 and 22 July the Premier and party flew to Hamilton Island where the Premier was a keynote speaker and presented awards at the 2001 Australia Tourism Awards and to use of the Police air-wing on 22 June where the Premier flew to Sydney to meet-up with an international flight—

- (1) Will he provide details of who was in his party, the purpose each person was travelling and the expenses incurred by each person?
- (2) What are the details on the international flight he was connecting with, including the scheduled time of departure, as well as the flight schedules to Sydney offered by Qantas and Ansett on that day, nearest to the international flight's departure, which his office obviously would have assessed before making a decision to use?

Mr BEATTIE (11/10/01):

(1) 21 & 22 July 2001 (a) Premier, keynote speaker and presenter of awards at 2001 Australian Tourism Awards, \$304.80 (b) Premier's wife, accompany Premier, Nil (c) Media adviser, media advice, \$164.00 (d) Pilot, \$234.50 (e) Pilot, \$234.50 (f) Security, \$288.90

22 June—Premier, trip to United States to promote Queensland—No expenses were incurred

(2) Qantas Flight QF11 which departed Sydney for Los Angeles at 1.55pm, my office no longer has the Qantas and Ansett flight details for June 22, however I understand they were checked and there were no flights available that would have allowed me attend Parliamentary Question Time on that day and also catch the flight. I assume the Member shares my view that it is important for the Premier to attend question time.

525. Government Air Wing

Mrs SHELDON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (13/9/01)—

Will he provide details on each occasion that the State Government's air-wing has been utilised by Ministers since the re-election of his Government including (a) name of Ministers and staff travelling, (b) place of departure and destinations, (c) purpose of travel, (d) reason why domestic travel could not be utilised and (e) total cost of running aircraft for each journey including a breakdown of wages, allowances, fuel, maintenance, meals and accommodation for Government air-wing personnel?

Mr BEATTIE (15/10/01): Use of Government aircraft is reported each year to Parliament. I will be reporting on this travel in the near future in the annual report of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

526. Road Funding; Public Transport

Ms PHILLIPS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/9/01)—

With reference to the 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 State Budgets—

- (1) What was the per capita expenditure for Road Network Planning and Management and Road Asset Maintenance for each of the regions separately?
- (2) What was the per capita financial assistance provided for public transport (bus and rail separately) for each of the regions?

Mr BREDHAUER (23/10/01):

(1) Construction Works, Road Network Planning and Management (including TIDS)

Region	Population	Road klms	1999-2000 (\$ per capita)	2000-2001 (\$ per capita)	2001-2002 (\$ per capita) (estimated)
South East ^a	2,300,000	2,872	242	190	143
Southern	464,000	11,950	245	230	252
Central	320,000	9,940	350	323	284
Northern ^b	470,000	8,840	302	373	367

Road Asset Maintenance

Region	Population	Road klms	1999-2000 (\$ per capita)	2000-2001 (\$ per capita)	2001-2002 (\$ per capita) (estimated)
South East ^a	2,300,000	2,872	30	33	35
Southern	464,000	11,950	107	112	114
Central	320,000	9,940	139	151	153
Northern ^b	470,000	8,840	109	122	129

^a expenditure in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 reflects impact of Pacific Motorway project.

^b expenditure reflects higher cost of constructing and maintaining roads in wet tropical areas.

(2) Bus

Financial assistance for urban bus services is not provided or allocated by region but by contract and have been grouped into major centres:

Major centre	1999-00	2000-01
Bowen	\$3.39	\$7.67
Brisbane City	\$40.20	\$40.20
Brisbane Statistical Division (excluding BCC)	\$20.56	\$20.82
Bundaberg	\$6.58	\$9.65
Cairns	\$12.89	\$15.62
Gladstone/Rockhampton	\$8.17	\$10.17
Gold Coast	\$18.94	\$23.02
Gympie	\$10.46	\$11.07
Innisfail	\$9.98	\$19.45
Mackay	\$7.27	\$13.85
Maryborough/Hervey Bay	\$10.43	\$10.98
Sunshine Coast	\$12.10	\$15.34
Toowoomba	\$9.78	\$10.52
Townsville	\$14.45	\$12.09
Warwick	\$1.87	\$2.70

These amounts are inclusive of accessible bus funding. The major component of this funding is provided specifically for reimbursement of prescribed concession fares and as such a breakup for 2001-02 cannot be provided until the completion of the year. The decline in per capita funding in Townsville is a reflection of the timing of the payments under the contract. There was no real reduction in funding support.

Rail

	1999-00 actual	2000-01 actual	2001-02 forecast
Citytrain per capita approx	\$125	\$124	\$124
Traveltrain/XPT per capita	\$17	\$17	\$18

The per capita expenditure estimates have been calculated by dividing the expenditure by the population for those Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistical Divisions affected. Therefore, Citytrain per capita expenditure equals payments to Queensland Rail for Citytrain services divided by the population of the Brisbane and Moreton statistical divisions. Traveltrain per capita expenditure equals payments to Queensland Rail for Traveltrain services (and expected payments to CountryLink for EPT services in 2001-02) divided by the population of Queensland (since Traveltrain services extended into every ABS statistical division in Queensland).

527. Metropolitan North Police Region

Mr TERRY SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (13/9/01)—

With reference to the recent review of the Metropolitan North Police Region—

- (1) What advantages will the new police divisions have for my constituents in Stafford?
- (2) Is the Police Union spokesman correct when he claimed in the local newspapers that "the new districts would force police off the streets and add to their paper work"?
- (3) Is the Police Union spokesman correct in stating "we certainly won't see more police on the road. The advantages are negligible, the cost, great"?

Mr McGRADY (15/10/01):

(1) The unprecedented growth in Brisbane City and the Pine Rivers Shire is significantly straining the ability of "clustered" policing to deliver a quality policing service. In particular, Stafford, which is presently serviced from either Ferny Grove or Hendra Police Stations.

The new Stafford Police Division will significantly improve police services to the Member for Stafford's constituents with a new Police Station in Stafford. This will prevent delays associated with police travelling from either Ferny Grove or Hendra to service Stafford.

(2 & 3) The Police Union spokesman is not correct in his statement. The truth is that the relevant police divisions, as they currently exist, tend to duplicate roles, in particular administrative and support functions, diverting police officers from operational duties. This tends to waste police resources and reduces their cost-effectiveness. The District restructure will take a broader perspective and rationalise administrative and support roles to prevent overlap or duplication of functions by divisions and unnecessary diversion of police officers from operational policing.

The District restructure is expected to increase numbers of police "on the road" and I expect this will promote an improved feeling of safety for constituents in the Stafford electorate.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

528. Bellbowrie, Liquor/Gaming Licence

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (16/10/01)—

With reference to the application for a liquor licence by Family Assets Pty Ltd—Rix Family Trust for a tavern to be located at 3262 Moggill Road, Bellbowrie—

- (1) How many objections have been received by the Liquor Licensing Commission to the application?
- (2) What are the most common reasons given for objecting to the application?
- (3) Since this is the second application for a liquor licence in the Kenmore-Moggill area in the past year that has drawn overwhelming opposition to the presence of liquor licensing outlets as indicated in community response forms sent to my office and communicated to the commission, what additional steps will the Liquor Licensing Commission be undertaking to obtain community input on the application?
- (4) When is a decision on the application expected to be made by the commission?

Mrs ROSE (19/11/01):

- (1) The Liquor Licensing Division has received:

546 objections addressing amenity and public need issues;
one petition with 23 signatures; and
two public need submissions.

- (2) The main issues raised by objectors are as follows:

undue offence, annoyance and disturbance;
amenity, quiet and good order would be lessened;
licence is not necessary to provide for the reasonable requirements of the public;
inappropriate use of the land which is zoned rural residential;
increased traffic flow, traffic congestion and safety issues, noise levels, lighting levels and extended hours of operation;
adverse affect on house and land values;
sports club and attached bottleshop are adequately servicing the area;
trading hours until midnight will disturb the area;
nearest police station is at Indooroopilly;
negative impact on the viability of Bellbowrie Sports and Recreation Club;
does not have local authority approval; and
school children will walk home past the site.

- (3) Following the closing period for objections on 24 October 2001, officers of the Liquor Licensing Division will convene an objection conference between the applicant and all valid objectors. All objectors will be individually contacted regarding details of the conference. At this conference objectors will be allowed to question the applicant on issues of concern in relation to the application and the applicant will be provided with an opportunity to explain various aspects of the proposed operation and construction of the premises. A report on the outcome of the conference will be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer for consideration in the decision making process.

The advertising of the application and the subsequent objection conference is the community consultation required by the Liquor Act 1992. If further information or clarification is required, objectors may be contacted on an individual basis.

- (4) It is not possible at this point in time to give a timeframe for a decision on the application because the Chief Executive Officer is precluded from making a decision until the applicant has obtained a development approval under the Integrated Planning Act 1997. Furthermore the weight of objections received and the issues involved will require due consideration.

529. Water Reform; National Competition Policy

Ms LEE LONG asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (16/10/01)—

With reference to the National Competition Council which I understand provided him, some months ago, with their report on compliance with National Competition Policy—

What were the report's findings as they relate to COAG Water Reform issues?

Mr MACKENROTH (16/11/01): The National Competition Council has provided the Commonwealth, State and Territory Treasurers with a copy of its "Assessment of Government's Progress in Implementing the National Competition Policy, June 2001". However, under the process agreed by the Commonwealth Heads of Governments, the Assessment is to remain confidential until the Commonwealth Treasurer has had an opportunity to review and make a decision on whether to accept or reject, in full or in part, the Assessment's findings and recommendations.

As the Commonwealth Treasurer has not yet made a decision on the Assessment, I am not able to reveal any details of the Assessment's findings with respect to the water reform process.

530. Drug Diversion Program

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (16/10/01)—

With reference to the new Drug Diversion Program to be run from the Brisbane Magistrate's Court—

- (1) How many places will be available in the program for offenders?
- (2) What is the eligibility criteria for the program?
- (3) Will he outline the sort of treatment that offenders will be diverted into?
- (4) What is the maximum quantity of illicit drugs that an offender can be caught with to still be eligible for participation in the program?
- (5) Will the program only apply to offenders coming before the Brisbane Magistrate's Court itself or will it operate across the whole of the Brisbane Metropolitan area?

Mr WELFORD (15/11/01):

- (1) At this time, no set number of places has been determined. Places will be available for all people referred for treatment under the scheme. As an indication of the likely number, there are currently approximately 1650 people charged each year in the Brisbane Magistrates Court with possession of illicit drugs. The number of participants in the trial will be less than this depending on their compliance with the eligibility criteria.
- (2) In accordance with the National Illicit Drug Diversion Framework, the Drug Diversion Program is available for drug offences that are essentially victimless in nature. Eligible offenders will be those people (including juveniles) who: are charged with possessing a personal use amount of an illicit drug under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986; appear before the Magistrates Court in central Brisbane; and admit guilt to the offence.
- (3) Offenders diverted under the Court Diversion Program will have access to an accredited drug intervention session in accordance with the National Illicit Drug Diversion Framework.
- (4) Only those offenders who plead guilty to possession of an amount of illicit drugs that equates to personal use will be eligible for the program. The legislative framework to implement this will be finalised before the trial commences, after consultation with the Magistracy and the Minister for Health.
- (5) The program will only apply to offenders coming before the Brisbane Magistrates Court.

531. Gladstone Hospital

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (16/10/01)—

With reference to the Gladstone District Hospital—

Will she advise in relation to (a) medical staff (doctors and nurses) and (b) administrative and all other staff what absences were recorded during 2000 and separately during this year to date for (i) sick leave and (ii) stress leave?

Mrs EDMOND (15/11/01): Sick leave for the calendar year 2000 was as follows:

doctors and nurses—8165 hours; and
all other staff—6452 hours.

Sick leave for the calendar year 2001 to date is as follows:

doctors and nurses—6160 hours; and
all other staff—7066 hours.

Over the two-year period 2000/2001 to date, there has been one nursing claim supported for stress leave by WorkCover.

532. Cool Schools Program

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (16/10/01)—

With reference to the Cool Schools Program—

Will she list (a) the schools which have in the last three years been assessed as meeting the criteria for the Cool Schools Program by date, (b) the approximate latitude of each of the above schools, (c) how many classrooms are to be air-conditioned in each of the above schools, (d) the date of or the anticipated date of commencement of construction for each of the above schools, (e) the date of or the anticipated date of completion for each of the above schools, (f) the amount, or anticipated amount, of funding from the State Government for each of the above schools and (g) the amount, or anticipated amount, of funding from the school community for each of the above schools?

Ms BLIGH (16/11/01):

- (a) See Schedule 1 (attached)
- (b) See Schedule 1 (attached)
- (c) The work is not recorded by classroom on our databases, so this item of information is not readily available, and is not able to be included at short notice.
- (d) See Schedule 1 (attached)
- (e) See Schedule 1 (attached)
- (f) See Schedule 1 (attached)
- (g) See Schedule attached

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

533. Families Department, Vacancies

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (16/10/01)—

With reference to staffing within the Department of Families—

Will she provide (a) a list of staff in each office (including funded agencies), by position and public service classification, currently and for each year since 1998, (b) a list of current vacancies in each office, by position and public service classification and (c) an indication of how long each of these positions in (b) have been vacant and when they will be filled?

Ms SPENCE (15/11/01): The provision of this detailed information would be an extremely resource intensive activity that would direct service delivery staff away from existing work priorities.

I can inform the Member that the Department of Families has a complement of 2790 staff. Vacancies occur as a result of transfers, promotions, resignations and retirements of permanent officers.

534. State Emergency Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (16/10/01)—

With reference to the allocation of funding to local governments for State Emergency Services—

Will he provide (a) the amount of funding for SES units per local government area for 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000, (b) the amount of funding for the construction and extension of SES headquarters for 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000 and (c) the funding for the provision of vehicles for SES units for 1988, 1992, 1996 and 2000?

Mr REYNOLDS (15/11/01):

(a) The annual grant paid to Local Governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Community Councils is provided under the provisions of the State Counter Disaster Organisation (SCDO) Act 1975. The purpose of the grant is to provide financial assistance to Local Governments and ATSI Community Councils in defraying administrative costs incurred in providing a disaster management program for the community.

In the 1994/95 financial year, the Goss Government provided additional funding to increase the annual grants from \$1,700 to \$3000 per Local Government (176% increase). The Borbidge Government didn't increase this grant and allowed the iniquitous contribution to ATSI Community Councils to continue. The Beattie Government corrected this inequity in 1999 and increased the annual grant to ATSI Community Councils from \$1,700 to \$3,000.

The criteria used to ensure an equitable distribution of funds and to recognise the additional financial burden of administering an increasing number of groups established within a Local Government area is as follows:

A base grant of \$3000 is paid to each Local Government for the first SES Unit or Group operating within the Local Government area.

Local Governments that have in excess of one Group receive an extra \$100 for each additional active Group, introduced by the Goss Government in 94/95.

Local Governments with a population in excess of 45,000 having only one Unit receive an additional \$500 as compensation for the operation of a single, large unit in a complex environment, introduced by the Goss Government in 94/95.

An amount of \$300 per Unit is paid to those Local Governments that have a Local Government SES Cadet Group in their area of responsibility. The former Deputy Premier Tom Burns established SES Cadet Groups and this additional amount in 1995.

Given the above policy and the growth of SES Units and Groups it is not possible to break down specific amounts which were requested but the above formula has been applied since 1994/95 using \$3,000 as the base grant plus extra dollars for each additional group and prior to this, using \$1,700 as the base grant.

(b) Total funding expended on Accommodation Subsidies for the requested years is as follows:

1976 start—\$86,592
 1979/80—\$41,901
 1983/84—\$103,900
 1987/88—\$122,412
 1991/92—\$123,018
 1995/96—\$92,100
 1999/00—\$221,620

(c) The information for Motor Vehicle subsidies paid for the 1987/88 and 1991/92 financial years is not available from the current financial information system.

Total funding expended on Motor Vehicle Subsidies (including accessories) for the 1995/96 and 1999/00 years is as follows:

1995/96—\$115,361
 1999/00—\$168,605

In addition to the above amounts and significant increases under the Beattie Government, our Government has provided 'extra over' funding to the SES as follows:

The Beattie Government dedicated a total of \$1.5 million over 4 years to support the repair and replacement of the floodboats; and

An extra \$940,000 in 2001-2002 on top of the \$1 million extra in 2000-2001, allocated towards personal protective equipment, communications equipment, safety at height equipment, SES Cadets, training, counselling and equipment management support.

535. Fruit Industry

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for State Development (16/10/01)—

With reference to his answer to my Question on Notice No 490, as to whether his department provided any financial assistance in the last three years to any enterprise to assist with the production of fruit juices—

- (1) Will he confirm that the firm provided with financial assistance for the 'establishment and operation of a fruit processing plant' is Berri Limited as reported in the Department of State Development's Annual Report 1999-2000?
- (2) When did each company apply for the financial assistance and when was that assistance provided?
- (3) What were the criteria that these companies had to satisfy to receive this assistance?

Mr BARTON (14/11/01):

(1) I can confirm that financial assistance for the 'establishment and operation of a fruit processing plant' is Berri Limited as reported in the Department of State Development's Annual Report.

(2) I can confirm that:

'for the establishment and operation of a fruit processing plant' the initial application was received on 3 December 1999 and that the formal agreement for the assistance package was signed on 19 February 2001; and

that the second company made an application for assistance on 15 June 2001 and that the project is anticipated to be completed in the first quarter of 2002.

(3) I can confirm that the criteria that the companies satisfied were as laid down in the Queensland Investment Incentive Scheme (QIIS) guidelines and the Queensland Industry Development Scheme (QIDS). The 'establishment and operation of the fruit processing plant' will provide a significant net economic benefit to the State and promote the competitive base of the state economy with the majority of product being manufactured for export and retention and creation of new jobs. The establishment and operation of the plant demonstrated no significant detriment to existing businesses in Queensland. The second company met the criteria of QIDS that is there to support the growth and development of Queensland industries.

536. Police Resources

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (16/10/01)—

How many police personnel are employed at this present time in the Ipswich and West Moreton region and how many personnel are employed across the State as compared to 1998 under the Borbidge Government?

Mr McGRADY (15/11/01): As at 1 October 2001 there were 285 police employed in the Ipswich District and surrounding Laidley and Gatton Divisions. There were 7861 police in the State.

As at 30 June 1998 there were 241 police employed in the Ipswich District and surrounding Laidley and Gatton Divisions. At that time there were 6833 police in the State.

537. National Park Estate

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (16/10/01)—

With reference to the National Park Estate—

- (1) What is the total land held by the Government as protected area by (a) hectare, (b) region and (c) type of protected area?
- (2) What is the total of expenditure by type of protected area?
- (3) What is the total management (operations budget) (a) for protected areas and (b) by type of protected area?
- (4) What is the total maintenance budget (a) for protected areas and (b) by type of protected area?

Mr WELLS (15/11/01):

(1) The department informs me that as at September 2001 the area and type of tenure of lands dedicated as protected areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 within each region are shown on the attached schedule.

(2) The department informs me that expenditure is not recorded by type of protected area. The lands detailed on the attached schedule are managed by several management units within each District regardless of tenure type.

(3) Expenditure on management operations for all lands dedicated as protected areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 for the period ending 30 September 2001 is \$10.7M. The total management operations budget for 2001-2002 has been established at \$52M which includes the \$10M Park Management enhancement.

(4) The department informs me that the maintenance budget for protected areas management is not distinguished from the management operations budget.

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

538. Rural Fire Brigades

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (16/10/01)—

With reference to Maidenwell and many similar Rural Bush Brigades in low socio-economic, limited populated areas which are continually forced to raise funds to be able to attend fires as is their purpose, often bleeding already poor communities and as levies collected by council for Maidenwell raised \$2,800 approximately per annum and as in 10 days of fire fighting alone, a fuel bill in excess of \$500 was realised—

- (1) Does he feel it is acceptable that volunteers are forced to raise funds to fight fires?
- (2) In areas where brigades cannot access the BP card and pay up to 95 cents per litre or more, will he assist with full or partial subsidising of fuel costs?

- (3) Will he review the current policy whereby these struggling brigades are forced to raise funds to make up the difference between the Government subsidy and costs of vehicles etc and evaluate brigades individually as to need?

Mr REYNOLDS (15/11/01):

(1) Queensland's Rural Fire Brigades are community self-help organisations. Communities that choose to establish a volunteer rural fire brigade also accept the need to financially support the brigade. Brigades are asked to fund their own operations, purchases and expenses. The Government contributes, via the Rural Fire Service (RFS), to more than 1,600 brigades by providing grants for specified projects, supplying fire appliances and equipment at subsidised prices. It also provides training, administrative support, and Personal Protective Equipment free of charge to volunteer firefighters.

The Local Government Act allows individual councils, after consultation with the Rural Fire Brigades within their shire boundaries to collect a Rural Fire Levy. The funds collected are disbursed to individual brigades to assist them purchase firefighting equipment and fund their annual operating expenses. The quantum of each levy is determined during the consultation process. This support mechanism, which was introduced in the early 1990s, has proven a very successful means of gaining financial support for many of the state's volunteer Fire Brigades.

In this current financial year the Beattie Government will spend \$148M providing fire services to Queensland's regional and remote communities.

(2) Last year my predecessor formed a Task Force to investigate claims of financial hardship experienced by some brigades as a result of extreme activity rates in Queensland during August, September and October 2000. This initiative resulted in rural fire brigades being authorised to access the Government fuel standing offer arrangements. In circumstances where the current supplier, BP Australia, does not have a supplier BP will arrange for a second company (e.g. Shell) to provide fuel at the contract price. This arrangement was advertised to brigades through the Rural Fire Bulletin, October 2000 edition. This quarterly Bulletin is circulated to all Chief Fire Wardens, Fire Wardens and Rural Fire Brigades. I have asked the Commissioner of Rural Operations to make contact with the brigade and assist them with this further information. Numerous brigades have taken up the offer. Maidenwell and Districts Rural Fire Brigade should contact BP to explore this option. Rural Fire Brigades can also recover the GST component and access the Diesel and Alternative Fuel Subsidy. In addition, a training package is being developed to assist brigades enhance their financial management skills particularly in the areas of budget planning and contingency planning. There are no plans to introduce a fuel subsidy scheme.

(3) Fire management services in rural and remote areas of Queensland are provided through a partnership between government and the community. This partnership represents the involvement of some 44,000 volunteers in the provision of these very important services. The Beattie Government acknowledges the level of service and commitment this represents by these volunteers and communities.

To assist communities better prepare themselves the Rural Fire Service has developed a risk management approach and Brigade Classification System for the management of Rural Fire Brigades, which is intended to focus on the actual needs of brigades to effectively manage the risks in their area.

In addition to accessing RFS subsidies Rural Fire Brigades encountering difficulty in raising funds for the purchase of an appliance or firefighting equipment are able to apply for grants from the Gaming Machine Community Benefit Fund. Since 1994 GMCBF has granted \$2.05m to rural fire brigades in Queensland. There are no current plans to review the existing policy.

Last year the Haley Creek Rural Fire Brigade, which is located in Mrs Pratt's electorate, acquired two mop up units valued at \$5,560. The GMCBF gave the brigade a grant that equalled the total cost of purchasing this firefighting equipment.

May I take the opportunity to restate this government's demonstrated commitment and continuing support for what is a longstanding and very successful partnership between government and the community.

539. Graffiti

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (16/10/01)—

What funding assistance is available to the Brisbane City Council to help fight graffiti in Brisbane during the next 12 months?

Mr FOLEY (14/11/01): The Department of Employment and Training does not have any projects which are specifically aimed at graffiti management, though some Community Jobs Plan projects have involved graffiti removal. However I am advised that the Minister for Families has recently announced the availability of graffiti reduction and prevention grants to provide funding up to a maximum of \$10,000, for projects which might cover a range of responses including:

- the purchase of supplies and equipment for rapid graffiti removal teams;
- community arts programs and other alternative activities for young people;
- community awareness programs to reduce graffiti; and
- sponsored clean-ups.

Closing date for applications is 30 November 2001. Community based, incorporated not-for-profit organisations and Local Government Authorities are eligible to apply for grants under this initiative.

The State Government has already contributed \$356,690 under the Community Jobs Plan to three Brisbane City Council projects for graffiti removal.

540. CHOGM

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (16/10/01)—

With reference to the proposed 2001 CHOGM and retreat which has been postponed until 2002—

How has the Queensland Police Service benefited by gaining valuable experience in the training and exercises that it participated in during the lead up to those proposed events?

Mr McGRADY (15/11/01): Despite the postponement of CHOGM 2001 on 28 September 2001, the Queensland Police Service (QPS) has acquired a valuable strategic legacy in terms of skills acquisition from training programs implemented for both sworn and non-sworn personnel.

The CHOGM Planning Unit coordinated the design, development and implementation of sixty (60) categories of CHOGM-related training in preparation for the event. Each individual category of training comprised between one and thirteen individual courses of training.

A number of new skills categories within the QPS were created to meet the unique policing requirements for CHOGM 2001. For example, a total of 176 officers were trained and qualified in the new operational role of Motorcade Driver to facilitate the safe and secure movement of dignitaries between venues.

Skills maintenance programs were also developed and implemented by the CHOGM Planning Unit, including a major motorcade exercise program for motorcade and dignitary protection officers in both regional and Brisbane metropolitan areas.

Other exercise programs conducted included QPS command and control exercises and national and state anti-terrorist exercises under SACPAV arrangements.

Joint-service training initiatives were also developed and implemented, including four Chemical Biological and Radiological Command and Control courses conducted by the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority to meet the needs of Queensland Police Service Officers.

All of these training initiatives combined provide a major and unprecedented increase in the operational preparedness of the Service in terms of operational skills and competencies.

541. Domestic Violence

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (16/10/01)—

Is her department able to ensure an increase in funding to groups combating domestic violence, commensurate with their budget estimates?

Ms SPENCE (15/11/01): The Department of Families provides funding of some \$6.3M for a range of domestic violence prevention services that operate across Queensland through 44 community organisations.

It is not practical to simply provide funding on the basis of the budget estimates of community organisations. The fiscal limits of the budget do not allow this. The Government, through the Department of Families, specifies the level of outputs it requires, based on the level of funding available. A funding agreement and service plan are negotiated with the organisation specifying outcomes to be purchased with available funding.

Over the past three years in Queensland, funds specifically for Indigenous family violence have already more than doubled. In addition to this, in July this year, I announced \$2.25M over three years to establish healing centres in Indigenous communities. At least four centres will be established. Indigenous women have told us that they want whole-of-family responses, acknowledgment of traditional approaches to healing and locally developed initiatives. The establishment of these healing centres will embrace these principles and deliver meaningful and appropriate services where they are most needed.

542. St Vincent's Hospital, Robina

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (16/10/01)—
With reference to St Vincent's Hospital at Robina on the Gold Coast—

- (1) Will the Government be entering into negotiations with St Vincent's Hospital with a view to establishing an Accident and Emergency Section at the hospital to service the central Gold Coast area; if so, during what time frame will this occur?
- (2) What will be the anticipated cost of providing such a service?

Mrs EDMOND (15/11/01): Queensland Health and the Sisters of Charity Health Service do not consider an emergency department at St Vincents Hospital and Health Service, Robina, to be a realistic proposal at present.

543. Bidunggu Aboriginal Corporation; Wills Development Road

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for State Development (16/10/01)—

With reference to Clause 38 of the Century Zinc Mine Agreement, in which the State Government agreed to upgrade the Wills Development Road between Fiery Creek to Gregory, including access to the alcohol-free Gregory out-station development in the gulf-country—

- (1) Has the State Government met with the Bidunggu Aboriginal Corporation in relation to its claims that the State Government did not build the out-station access road in accordance with the agreement?
- (2) Will the State Government meet its obligation as specified in the agreement and reimburse the Bidunggu Aboriginal Corporation the sum of \$478,846.25 plus interest to cover the expenditure outlaid by the corporation for the construction of the access road to the Gregory out-station?

Mr BARTON (14/11/01):

- (1) The State Government has not met with the Bidunggu Aboriginal Corporation in relation to the claim being made. However officers from my Department have had extensive communication with the Bidunggu Community

Development Adviser and with officers of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy. DATSIP who are managing the Gregory outstation development program being funded through the Century Agreement.

(2) The State Government has met fully, indeed gone beyond, its financial obligations for the Gregory outstation development as specified in the Century Agreement. The assertion that the Bidunggu Aboriginal Community has outlaid \$478,846 of their own funds to develop the Gregory access road is not correct.

Under Clause 39 of the Agreement the State committed \$15 million to seal the Wills Development Road from Fiery Creek to Gregory. This was completed for a cost of \$16.05 million and provided a sealed road to the Gregory outstation boundary.

All development inside the boundary was specified in the development plan developed by DATSIP and approved by the Burke Shire Council. Clause 43 of the Agreement provided \$3.0 million for contributing to outstation development following approval of the project by the Burke Shire Council.

The internal access road was a part of the development plan for the outstation and was funded and constructed in accordance with the Century Agreement.

544. Radiation Health Unit

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (16/10/01)—

With reference to the Radiation Health Unit—

- (1) What is the amount of annual funding awarded to the unit for 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02?
- (2) What was the number of full-time equivalent staff working in the unit for the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02?

Mrs EDMOND (15/11/01):

(1) The annual funding of Radiation Health, Environment Health Unit, during the financial years in question is as follows:

1998-1999 Allocation: \$979,425
 1999-2000 Allocation: \$955,500
 2000-2001 Allocation: \$981,914
 2001-2002 Budget allocation is yet to be finalised.

(2) Radiation Health has 15 permanent full-time equivalent staff positions. This has been the case during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2000-02.

During the 2000-2001 financial year the Radiation Health had the assistance of an additional officer to assist with the additional workload which came about as part of the implementation of the Radiation Safety Act 1999.

545. Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Meat and Livestock Industries

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (16/10/01)—

With reference to Kim Beazley's pre-election promise to ratify the Kyoto protocol on climate change should the Labor Party win office on 10 November—

- (1) Does the Beattie Government support Mr Beazley's policy?
- (2) What action will the Beattie Government take to fulfil Mr Beazley's promise to achieve emission reductions from sectors relevant to his portfolio such as the livestock industries?
- (3) Will he rule out the imposition of any form of financial penalty for greenhouse emissions on Queensland livestock producers?
- (4) Will he rule out the imposition of any form of financial penalty for greenhouse emissions on the Queensland meat and livestock industries?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/11/01):

(1) The Queensland Government released its policy Framework on climate change in September 2001. It is titled *Queensland greenhouse policy framework: a climate of change*. Copies may be requested by contacting the Environment Protection Agency.

(2) There is no reference in Federal Labor policy to greenhouse gas emissions from livestock and any financial penalties for such emissions. However, I note the Honourable Member has previously raised concerns that the Howard Government was considering such a penalty.

The Department of Primary Industries is undertaking research to find solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in agricultural activities. We are looking at the management of protein and nitrogen in animal diets and new feed additives to improve feed conversion and reduce gas production.

The Queensland Government is also looking at the opportunities for agricultural activities to offset greenhouse gas emissions by undertaking carbon sequestration or sink activities.

(3) The Commonwealth Government will determine this issue not the Queensland Government.

(4) See answer to Question 3.

546. Local Government, Brothel Applications

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (16/10/01)—

With reference to the proposed appointment of a position to assist in the processing of brothel applications through local government—

What will be the remuneration paid to this appointee and for what period and how many brothel applications have been refused by local government to date?

Mr McGRADY (15/11/01): The Prostitution Amendment Bill 2001 will create the role of an independent assessor.

The independent assessor will be appointed by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services upon the recommendation of the Prostitution Licensing Authority.

The function of an assessor will be to determine appeals arising from brothel development applications that have been made for a material change in the use of land (code assessment).

The remuneration of the independent assessor is to be determined by Cabinet.

Advice from the Prostitution Licensing Authority is that for the last twelve months there have been a total of five refusals, five applications have been withdrawn by applicants and there have been eight approvals by local government authorities.

547. Energex; Ergon Energy

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport—

With reference to Energex and Ergon Energy—

- (1) How much has each utility budgeted to spend on advertising, promotion and sponsorship in 2001-02 and how much did they each spend in each of the last five years?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of the cost of each utility's current advertising, promotion and sponsorship arrangements?
- (3) Now that full retail contestability will not be introduced, will Energex and Ergon maintain their advertising, promotion and sponsorship budgets?

Mr MACKENROTH (16/11/01): Details regarding ENERGEX and Ergon Energy's advertising, promotion and sponsorship budget are commercially sensitive information. Such details are commercial-in-confidence and thus are not able to be publicly released. Customers consuming greater than 200 mWHrs are already contestable and both ENERGEX and Ergon Energy compete with other retailers for these customers. Further, full retail contestability is scheduled to commence in the southern states on 1 January 2002. ENERGEX and Ergon Energy will be seeking to compete in these markets.

Advertising budgets also include funding for electrical safety campaigns in order to meet these organisations' obligations to communicate core safety and operational information to customers of their network services. This year expenditure has been allocated for safety promotion campaigns dealing with:

Educating the public on the planting of "powerline friendly" trees to reduce power interruptions from vegetation and to help minimise safety risks.

Storm Safety—educating on the dangers of fallen power lines as well as a campaign to prepare the public for the storm season.

Home Repairs—warning on the dangers of home electrical repairs (one of the highest causes of deaths/accidents from electricity) and encouraging people to use an authorised repairer.

Damaged/worn electrical appliances—encouraging people to replace worn or damaged electrical appliances (another of the highest causes of deaths/accidents from electricity).

548. School Nurses

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (17/10/01)—

As a result of the proposal to establish school nurses in State Schools within Queensland, what is the number of school nurses that will be appointed to schools within the Ipswich West Electorate within this current term of Government and which schools will these be?

Mrs EDMOND (16/11/01): The state high schools in the Ipswich West Electorate are: Lowood State High School, Rosewood State High School, and Ipswich State High School.

Lowood State High School has received the services of a youth health nurse six days each fortnight since August 2001. Rosewood State High School has received the services of a youth health nurse three days each fortnight since February 2001. Ipswich State High School has received the services of a youth health nurse six days each fortnight since July 1999. This makes a total of three youth health nurses for the Ipswich West Electorate.

The number of youth health nurses across Queensland is currently 113 with the final intake of three more nurses scheduled for February 2002.

In line with the Beattie Government commitment, all Queensland public schools with secondary students will have access to a youth health nurse.

This program is aimed at helping students avoid problems or preventing their problems from getting beyond their control. The Government is committed to helping prevent the students of today from becoming future victims of drug abuse or other forms of self-harming behaviour.

The categories of issues that youth health nurses have addressed include: health issues, medical problems, psychosocial issues, risk-taking behaviour and sexual issues.

The most common issues addressed are the category of psychosocial issues, which include abuse and neglect, body image, bullying, depression, domestic violence, eating disorders, educational concerns, relationships, stress and suicide.

549. Medical Workforce Advisory Committee

Miss ELISA ROBERTS asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (17/10/01)—

With reference to their endeavours to maintain high tuition fees, certain medical colleges are restricting intake numbers of specialists, despite a number of existing vacancies—

- (1) What steps is she taking to really make this the "Smart State" by preventing these restrictions?
- (2) What is she doing to ensure that the Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee remains accountable to the ACCC?

Mrs EDMOND (16/11/01):

(1) Queensland Health has established a Medical Workforce Advisory Committee to meet regularly with the specialist colleges to ensure appropriate medical workforce planning in Queensland. This committee reports to the Queensland Health—Medical Specialists Joint Consultative Group.

Funding has been provided to support additional training positions in radiation oncology, paediatric radiology, medical haematology, rehabilitation and anatomical pathology, to commence in 2002.

(2) The Australian Medical Workforce Advisory Committee (AMWAC) reports to, and is accountable to, the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council (AHMAC). If the ACCC is concerned with AMWAC, such concerns can be dealt with through AHMAC.

550. Regional Parliament

Mr FLYNN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (17/10/01)—

With reference to the Government's declared intent to hold regional Parliament—

What is (a) the budget estimated for this exercise and (b) what area of Parliament's existing budget will be used to fund this or is the money being appropriated from elsewhere?

Mr MACKENROTH (16/11/01): Preliminary preparations have just begun to hold for the first time ever the Queensland Parliament outside of Brisbane. At this time it is too early to estimate the exact cost of such an historic event as a number of important decisions have yet to be made in relation to the arrangements that will need to be put into place. I will advise Parliament of the estimated costs once they have been determined.

Some of the existing budget for Parliament will be used for expenditures which would normally be incurred in the sitting of Parliament in Brisbane. Funds were set aside in the 2001-02 budget as part of the allocations of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet for any additional costs involved in a regional sitting.

551. Bellbowrie, Liquor/Gaming Licence

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (17/10/01)—

With reference to the application for 40 gaming machines by Family Assets Pty Ltd—Rix Family Trust at a tavern at 3262 Moggill Road, Bellbowrie—

- (1) Is the Queensland Gaming Commission aware of the number of objections received by the Liquor Licensing Commission to this application for a liquor licence by the same applicant?
- (2) Is the commission aware of how many of those objections also included objections to gaming machines; if so, how many?
- (3) If the commission is not aware of these objections when will this information be obtained?
- (4) Since this is the second application for gaming machines in the Kenmore-Moggill area in the past year that has drawn overwhelming opposition to the presence of gaming machines as indicated in community response forms sent to my office and communicated to the commission, what additional steps will the commission be undertaking to obtain community input on the application?

Mr MACKENROTH (16/11/01):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The number of submissions is a matter for the Commission's consideration.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) The Commission is well aware of the issues and the requirements of the Gaming Machine Act 1991 in this regard.

552. Fraser Island, Administration Expenditure

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment (17/10/01)—

With reference to 1999-2000, in which the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board collected \$3,170,287 from permits to visit Fraser Island and the board reported that their major achievements with that income were information shelters and interpretive displays at Eli Creek and Middle Rocks, a display at the Mary River Heads, liaison with the 4WD and backpacker industries, education on minimal impact camping and dingo smartness and upgrading the road and the walking track from Kingfisher Resort into the recreation area, presumably at Central Station—

Will he supply the detailed break-up of the expenditure of the \$3,170,287 to each of the above achievements and to administration?

Mr WELLS (15/11/01): The achievements referred to by the Member for Maryborough are only a sample of the many achievements of the Queensland Recreation Areas Management Board within the Fraser Island Recreation

Area during 1999-2000. The department informs me that the financial system used by the Environmental Protection Agency does not report on expenditure at minor project level.

However, the total Queensland Recreation Areas Management expenditure on Fraser Island during 1999-2000 was \$3.280M. This included expenditure from funds carried forward from the previous year.

553. Electrical Safety Office

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (17/10/01)—

With reference to the Electrical Safety Office (ESO) (17/10/01)—

- (1) What changes have been implemented?
- (2) What changes are yet to be implemented?
- (3) Has the budget for the ESO been increased; if so, by how much?
- (4) What is the funding source for an increase in (3)?
- (5) How many inspectors are presently employed?
- (6) What is the total staffing for the ESO?

Mr NUTTALL (16/11/01):

(1) Recommendations of the Ministerial Review of the Electrical Safety Office already implemented relate to improving the investigation and management of Priority One incidents, and includes the authorisation of inspectors from the Division of Workplace Health and Safety to investigate both workplace and domestic electrical fatalities and serious incidents.

(2) All other recommendations are being progressed, including a complete review of electrical safety legislation, examination of the scope of safety switches in domestic premises and workplaces, examination of reporting processes for electrical incidents, determination of the role and function of authorised persons, development of key performance indicators for the Electrical Safety Office and the examination of funding arrangements for the electrical safety regulator.

(3) The Electrical Safety Office budget has been increased by \$79,000 this financial year.

(4) The \$79,000 was additional funding in the 2001/02 budget.

(5) Four electrical inspectors are currently employed within the Electrical Safety Office. Three additional electrical advisers and 12 electrical inspectors are currently being recruited from funding allocated to enhance workplace health and safety services, which includes electrical safety services. In addition, there are 137 active authorised persons engaged by electricity distributors who are appointed under the Electricity Act 1994, with legislated functions to carry out activities in relation to regulatory compliance.

(6) There are currently 31 staff employed in the Electrical Safety Office.

554. Suncorp Metway Stadium-Roma Street, Pedestrian Bridge

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (17/10/01)—

With reference to the transport infrastructure that will be required to service the new stadium that will be constructed as part of the Lang Park Redevelopment Project—

- (1) Are there drawings, schematics and other plans that have been prepared by and/or for QRail in relation to future land use requirements for a fourth and fifth track through to Roma Street Station from the Ipswich line?
- (2) What development impacts will the Queensland Government's plans to construct a pedestrian bridge from the new stadium to the Roma Street Transit Centre have on current QRail land holdings?
- (3) What restrictions will these plans to construct a pedestrian bridge from the new stadium to the Roma Street Transit Centre have on future development in this area?

Mr BREDHAUER (21/11/01):

(1) There are no plans for extra tracks to Roma Street Station from the Ipswich line beyond the existing four tracks. However a potential future rail pressure point has been identified east of Petrie Terrace Overbridge at the junction with the two tracks from South Brisbane. Planning for the Stadium transport infrastructure therefore allows for the provision for extra freight tracks for a short distance towards the approaches to Normanby to allow for simultaneous freight and passenger train movements in the future.

(2) West of Petrie Terrace Overbridge a pedestrian walkway will be constructed within the rail corridor but this will not compromise current or future strategic requirements as there are none for this track section.

East of Petrie Terrace any impacts will mostly involve rail corridor airspace.

(3) The impact of the walkways and footbridge are only likely to be on the Police Barracks site. The Government is working with the developer and Brisbane City Council to achieve an outcome that will still provide for any future appropriate development of that site.

555. Brisbane Fruit and Vegetable Markets

Mr ROWELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (17/10/01)—

With reference to the five months which have elapsed since the Government announced that the Brisbane Fruit and Vegetable Markets would be privatised—

- (1) What progress has been made with the sale of the markets?
- (2) If this has been concluded what price was received for the asset and were there any special arrangements made for the disposal of the markets?

- (3) Will the Department of Primary Industries be receiving the proceeds of the sale; if not, why not?
- (4) If the sale hasn't been concluded now that the decision has been made to sell off the markets, when will it occur?
- (5) Has any interest been shown in the facility?

Mr MACKENROTH (16/11/01):

- (1) A dedicated project team has been established within Treasury and is working with specialist advisers and consulting with stakeholders to progress the sale process.
- (2) Refer to response Number (1).
- (3) I previously informed the House of this matter in a Statement on 1 May 2001.
- (4) It is intended that the sale will be concluded in the current financial year. However, the sale of this business will only occur if satisfactory terms can be achieved.
- (5) Final public details of a process for the proposed sale of the Brisbane Markets are still being finalised. Until this occurs the Government is unable to accept any offers.

556. Terrorism, Civil Defence

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (17/10/01)—

With reference to the current concerns about terrorism—

What plans does the State Government have regarding (a) civil defence within the community, (b) intelligence training among emergency service workers and (c) preparations for the evacuation of residents?

Mr REYNOLDS (15/11/01):

- (a) The function of Civil Defence is managed within Queensland through our State Counter Disaster Arrangements.

Dealing with terrorism requires activation of two separate but inter-related systems. They are: arrangements under the National Anti Terrorist Plan; and the management of 'community consequence' as described in our State Counter Disaster Plan.

The National Anti Terrorist Plan reinforces the role of our State Police Service as the lead agency in responding to acts of terrorism. The plan also details the arrangements that allow the Commonwealth to provide support to the State in combating terrorism.

Our State Counter Disaster Plan details the whole of government arrangements for the management of 'community consequence' resulting from any event that has a severe impact on the community. Such events may be natural phenomena, technological failures (such as chemical spills or a major industrial accident), or the consequences of a terrorist attack.

Together, these arrangements provide appropriate plans to deal effectively with any acts of terrorism within Queensland.

- (b) I assume that the reference to 'intelligence training' in the question refers to 'awareness training'. Significant resources have been allocated to increasing the awareness and preparedness of emergency services workers. These include:

A series of Joint Emergency Service Training CBR (Chemical, Biological, Radiological) Command and Control Courses have been conducted recently. These courses are aimed at senior officers from emergency services and relevant Queensland Government departments.

A one-day 'First Responders Joint Emergency Service Training' (JEST) course has been delivered to approximately 1500 emergency services workers at station-level in South East Queensland.

A Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Incendiary and Explosive (CBRIE) Awareness CD has also been developed and distributed to all Communication Centres and Stations.

Continuing with the Joint Emergency Services Training (JEST) with the next training session scheduled for 11-13 December, 2001 in Townsville.

Practical exercises at station-level and Table Top exercises for senior State Government personnel have been conducted.

We have conducted extensive training for all relevant emergency services staff on new personal protective equipment (PPE), detection equipment and decontamination facilities.

In addition, arrangements have been put in place for a Liaison Officer from the Department of Emergency Services to be in the State Crisis Centre when it is activated. This will ensure effective working relationships between the Crisis Management System and the Community Consequence Management System represented by the State Disaster Management System.

- (c) The evacuation of residents of a community following a terrorist incident (if necessary) will be managed by the Queensland Police Service under the Public Safety Preservation Act, 1986.

The State Counter Disaster Organisation Act, 1975 provides for similar powers once a State of Disaster has been declared.

Either of these acts may be used for the compulsory evacuation of residents of an area affected by terrorist action.

Support to evacuated residents will be provided through our State counter disaster arrangements. Local Government plays a key role in the provision of appropriate support and facilities to their affected community. State Government support can also be provided to affected communities through the Queensland disaster management system.

Many plans for the evacuation of residents are in place for a range of natural phenomena within Queensland. These plans, developed and maintained by Local Governments, are able to provide the basis for any evacuation needed as a result of terrorist action.

557. Brisbane River, Speed Boats

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Environment (17/10/01)—

What measures will be put in place to police excess noise and hours of operation of speed boats on the Brisbane River near the Jindalee boat ramp?

Mr WELLS (15/11/01): The EPA administers and enforces noise regulations for speed boats.

If residents are able to report boat registration details, the EPA will seek to resolve the problem by informing the boat's owner of the noise regulations and residents' concerns.

EPA officers can also conduct noise monitoring in response to complaints received. If breaches of the noise regulations are detected, on the spot fines can be issued.

558. Sunshine Coast, Police Resources

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/10/01)—

What strategies are being considered or implemented to ease the clerical duties of operational police on the Sunshine Coast?

Mr McGRADY (20/11/01): Sunshine Coast District submitted a comprehensive needs analysis report for additional support (new positions) and increase in the number of hours performed by existing part-time administration officers during the 1999/2000 period.

As a result of this analysis the Sunshine Coast District received one administrative assistant at Maroochydore Station in 1999.

From the funding allocation in 2000/2001 the new Beerwah Police Station was granted two new administrative officer positions and the Landsborough administrative officer position was increased from 20 hours a week to a full time position.

One administrative officer has been appointed as a regional Intelligence Data Entry Operator.

Recently approval was given for two additional administrative officer positions for the North Coast Region. The exact location of these officers is yet to be determined.

559. Hospital Waiting Lists

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (17/10/01)—

With reference to one of my constituents who has a heart complaint diagnosed two years ago and was placed on a waiting list for a heart operation that required a two-year waiting period—

Will she explain why (a) when he contacted Prince Charles Hospital in January 2001, he was told the operation wasn't scheduled for some time, (b) when he contacted them again on 22 August 2001, he was told that his name no longer appeared on the waiting list, (c) when the hospital later told him his treating doctor was no longer employed there and no replacement specialist was available, measures weren't taken to transfer him to a hospital where he would be treated, (d) he was told he would have to wait another three years, bringing the waiting time to five years, (e) he wasn't notified in the first place that the waiting time would be five years, (f) how many lives are presently jeopardised by these sorts of delays and (g) she hasn't responded to my letter on this matter written 28 August 2001?

Mrs EDMOND (16/11/01):

(a) Waiting list management for an electrophysiology procedure is on the basis of clinical need so as to ensure that those patients who have the greatest need are treated as a priority.

(b) All patients awaiting surgery remain on the waiting list.

(c) This patient remains on the waiting list. A new specialist has been appointed to this area.

(d) Should a patient's condition deteriorate at any time, a review of the patient's clinical category would be undertaken.

(e) With the additional medical staff recently appointed for these highly specialised procedures, a review of non-urgent patients on the waiting list is being undertaken.

(f) Patients are managed on the basis of clinical need. All urgent cases are prioritised and attended to accordingly.

(g) Responses to these issues were sent from my office to the patient's mother and yourself on 17 October 2001.

560. Freedom of Information Applications

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (17/10/01)—

- (1) How many Freedom of Information (FOI) applications have been received per year since 1995-96?
- (2) What was the cost to Government for each of these periods of the processing of these applications?
- (3) What revenue was received in each of these periods from any fees associated with the lodging of an FOI application?
- (4) How many hours were spent processing the applications in each of these periods?

- (5) What are any future projections that his department may have prepared as to the number of FOI applications expected to be received?
- (6) What is the anticipated revenue to be received by the Government under the Government's new plan to charge by the hour for processing of applications?
- (7) If the revenue from fees exceeds the cost to Government, what does the Government plan to do with the excess revenue?

Mr WELFORD (16/11/01):

- (1) 1995-96—7837
1996-97—7098
1997-98—6885
1998-99—6520
1999-00—9286
- (2) 1995-96—\$6,331,568
1996-97—\$5,819,632
1997-98—\$5,723,720
1998-99—\$5,493,560
1999-00—\$7,748,924
- (3) 1995-96—\$105,683
1996-97—\$108,953
1997-98—\$111,886
1998-99—\$116,880
1999-00—\$183,132

- (4) The Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not collect this data.
- (5) No predictions have been forecast.
- (6) Anticipated revenue has not been forecast.
- (7) The recent FOI amendments implement a framework for the recovery of some FOI expenses relating to the cost to government in processing non-personal FOI applications. As there remains no fees or charges associated with processing personal applications, the revenue gained from FOI will not exceed those overall FOI costs to government.

561. Weapons Licensing Division

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/10/01)—

With reference to the Weapons Licensing Division—

- (1) What is the average timeframe for issuing permits to acquire a firearm for each financial year since the introduction of this requirement?
- (2) What is the average timeframe for the division to process Permit to Acquire applications currently?
- (3) How many vacant positions are there by rank and/or classification within the division for police and civilian staff?
- (4) Are the 27 additional civilian staff required to deal with the licensing process existing or staff yet to be appointed?
- (5) How many of these additional staff are police officers and how many are in the civilian ranks of the police?
- (6) What is the total number of staff in the division prior to and after the addition of 27 civilian staff?
- (7) What are the ranks of the police in the division?

Mr McGRADY (20/11/01):

- (1) The average time frame for the issuing of Permits to Acquire a firearm since the introduction of the Permit to Acquire process is approximately seven days.
- (2) The current average time frame for the issue of Permits to Acquire is currently 7-10 days. This figure is subject to variation depending on client demands and the accuracy of information provided by applicants.
- (3) All unsworn staff member positions are currently filled. There is currently one Police Officer position vacant for a Senior Constable at the Weapons Licensing Branch.
- (4) The additional civilian staff which are required for the relicensing process have not yet been selected or appointed. Advertisements were placed in the Queensland Police Gazette for AO5, 2 x AO4 and 10 x AO2 positions. The AO5 position within the relicensing unit at Weapons Licensing Branch has been filled. The 10 AO2 positions have had applicants nominated. The selection process for the 2 AO4 positions is currently under way.
- (5) All of the additional 27 positions which have been approved for Weapons Licensing Branch are for unsworn staff members only.
- (6) The total staffing numbers for Weapons Licensing Branch as at 23 October 2001, including both sworn and unsworn personnel is currently 52.

Following the employment of the additional 27 unsworn staff members this figure will increase to 79.

- (7) The Weapons Licensing Branch is managed by an Inspector of the Police. This officer is assisted and supported by one Senior Sergeant (Administrator) and four Sergeants.

There is currently one vacancy for a Senior Constable position at the Weapons Licensing Branch.

562. Youth Accommodation Centres

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (17/10/01)—

With reference to accommodation in regional Queensland for young people in care of the department or on Youth Justice Orders—

- (1) What accommodation is available in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Innisfail, Mount Isa, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Roma, Ipswich, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Longreach, Emerald and any other centre?
- (2) For each centre, please specify the hours accommodation is available?
- (3) For each centre, what is the client to staff ratio for this accommodation?
- (4) For each centre, where are young people placed when there is no crisis accommodation available?

Ms SPENCE (16/11/01):

(1) Specific placement needs of a young person in care of the Department are met through a range of alternative care options, including family-based alternative care placements and non-family based, licensed, residential care facilities. Family-based alternative care placements include approved departmental foster carers; approved non-government carers through a Shared Family Care Service or Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Service; relative carers; or individuals with limited approval for a particular child or young person. Family-based alternative care placements are located throughout Queensland.

There are 22 non-family based, licensed, residential care facilities in Queensland. These are based in: Townsville, Rockhampton, Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Ipswich, Woorabinda, Goodwood, Cherbourg, Maryborough, Southport, Bardon, Manly, Norman Park, Virginia, Bracken Ridge, Bohle Plains, Gympie, Regents Park, Springwood, Bundamba, Beaudesert, and Logan City.

Young people remanded in custody or sentenced to detention are placed in a youth detention centre in either Brisbane or Townsville. There is no legal right for the Department to place young people subject to other Youth Justice Orders in accommodation. A young person, subject to a Youth Justice Order, who is homeless or in need of stable accommodation is assisted by the Department to address their accommodation needs. Options such as extended family or independent living are examined. Where these are not viable, the young person is linked with services under the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP).

The Department provides funding to 70 services under SAAP for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These services are based in: Alderley, Brendale, Camp Hill, Carina, Carole Park, Fortitude Valley, Inala (2), Sandgate, Lutwyche, Mount Gravatt, Kelvin Grove, Northgate, Stones Corner, Toowong, Windsor (3), Woolloongabba, Woolloowin, Wynnum, Mooloolaba, Redcliffe, Strathpine, Bungalow, Cairns (2), Earlville, Innisfail, Gladstone (2), North Rockhampton (2), Rockhampton (3), Beenleigh (3), Burleigh Heads (3), Southport (2), Browns Plains, Goodna (2) Ipswich (2), Woodend, Woodridge, Mackay, Mount Isa (3), Golden Beach, Gympie (2), Mooloolaba (2), Tewantin, Toowoomba (3), Aitkenvale, Townsville (2), Bundaberg, Kingaroy, and Pialba.

(2 & 3) Operating hours and the client to staff ratio varies depending on the client's level of need and resource availability.

(4) All accommodation options are examined for each young person on a case-by-case basis.

563. Gun Control Laws

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (17/10/01)—

Will he provide details on how many people for each year (from 1998-99 to 2000-01) have been charged with breaches of the Weapons Licensing provisions, the nature of the breach, the number of prosecutions that have resulted and how many of these resulted in (a) weapons confiscation, (b) fines and/or (c) a term of imprisonment?

Mr McGRADY (20/11/01): Attached is a table detailing the number of offenders of weapon-related offences for Queensland for the 1998/99 to 2000/01 financial years. Please note that the offence classification provides detail of the nature of the breach. Please also note that these statistics do not and cannot refer to unique individuals.

Queensland Police Service data sets do not generally include any information relating to weapon confiscation, sentencing, fines or convictions. Therefore, it is recommended that this matter be referred to the Honourable Rod Welford, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice for an adequate response to this question.

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

564. Algester Tavern, Liquor/Gaming Licence

Ms STRUTHERS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (17/10/01)—

With reference to the application for a liquor licence by GJB Pty Ltd for a tavern proposed for the corner of Nottingham and Algester Roads, Algester—

- (1) How many objections have been received by the Liquor Licensing Commission to this application?
- (2) Given that in excess of 150 local people attended a protest meeting in September 2001 to object to the liquor licence and in excess of 200 petitioners signed a petition objecting to this liquor licence, will the commission take full account of the strength of these objections?
- (3) Further, will the commission be seeking further community input on the application and when is a final decision likely?

Mrs ROSE (19/11/01):

(1) The Liquor Licensing Division has received: 13 objections addressing amenity issues only; 844 objections addressing amenity and public need issues; and one petition with 260 signatures addressing public need issues.

Advertising of the application inadvertently invited submissions on public interest instead of public need. Applications lodged prior to 1 July 2001 still need to be considered on public need rather than under public interest as defined in the amended Liquor Act 1992. Consequently this application will need to be readvertised calling for further public objections. However, this will not occur until the applicant can obtain a Development Approval under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 from the Brisbane City Council. All current objectors on amenity and public need will be contacted to ensure their objection rights are protected.

(2) The only objections that can be considered by the Chief Executive Officer in determining this application are those that are lodged with the Liquor Licensing Division within the prescribed time frame for the calling of objections. These will include all the objections which I have mentioned previously as well as any new objections that may be lodged through the readvertising process. Issues discussed at a protest meeting cannot be considered by the Chief Executive Officer in the decision making process.

Issues raised through valid objections which the Chief Executive Officer can consider are whether the granting of the application will cause undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to persons who reside or work or do business in the locality concerned or to persons in or travelling to or from an existing or proposed place of public worship, hospital or school or that the amenity, quiet or good order of the locality concerned would be lessened in some way.

(3) If and when the applicant obtains the appropriate Town Planning Approval from the Brisbane City Council, the Liquor Licensing Division, following the readvertised process, will convene a meeting of all objectors and the applicant to allow discussions between the parties on the relevant matters concerning the application. All objectors will be individually contacted regarding the details of this objection conference. If further information or clarification is required, objectors may be contacted on an individual basis.

It is not possible at this point in time to give a timeframe for a decision on the application because the Chief Executive Officer is precluded from making a decision until the applicant has obtained a development approval under the Integrated Planning Act 1997. Furthermore the weight of objections received and the issues involved will require due consideration.

565. Emergency Services Department, Aircraft Hire

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (17/10/01)—

Will he provide information of all aircraft hire within his department, detailing each instance since 1 July 1999 specifically by (a) division or agency, (b) regional location, (c) reason for use, (d) total cost per flight, (e) passengers on board and (f) landing details?

Mr REYNOLDS (16/11/01): I thank the member for his question which I will answer from the following table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

Counter Disaster and Rescue Services on behalf of the State Counter Disaster Organisation, provides coordination of whole-of-government support to disaster stricken communities. A part of this support is the resupply of isolated communities which often involves the charter of aircraft.

Chartering of aircraft to carry out resupply operations is done under the auspices of the State Counter Disaster Organisation and is jointly funded by the agency requesting the resupply (normal transportation costs) and through Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements (transportation costs in excess of normal resupply means). Details of each aircraft charter conducted by the State Counter Disaster Organisation are provided on the following table. Costs associated with this resupply have not been included as the funds are provided (other than those provided by the agency requesting this resupply) through Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements and not from Departmental budget funds. (Department of Emergency Services provides no funding for resupply purposes.) (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

566. Tourism Industry

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (17/10/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Government's rescue package for the Queensland tourism industry—

- (1) Of the \$3.3m, how much was provided by the Queensland Government as new funding?
- (2) Of the \$3.3m, how much was provided by Tourism Queensland as existing funding?
- (3) If the \$3.3m has been provided by Tourism Queensland's existing budget, what programs have been affected to allow for this re-allocation of funds?

Mrs ROSE (19/11/01):

- (1) \$1M was provided to Tourism Queensland as special initiative funding.
- (2) Of the remaining \$2.3M, \$1.5M constitutes pre-existing domestic marketing initiatives which are now part of the *Make Time* campaign and \$800,000 cooperative support from industry. Given the overwhelming success of the *Make Time* campaign, cooperative support will exceed the initial estimate of \$800,000 when the campaign concludes in December.
- (3) No programs have been affected by the campaign as all pre-existing domestic marketing initiatives have continued with added support from the *Make Time* campaign.

567. Land and Resources Tribunal

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (17/10/01)—

With reference to the Land and Resources Tribunal—

- (1) What funding has been allocated to the tribunal since its inception?
- (2) What funding has been expended by the tribunal on legal costs?

- (3) What funds were allocated for 2001-02 for (a) administration and (b) legals?
 (4) How many small mining claims remain unresolved?

Mr ROBERTSON (16/11/01): This question should be directed to my colleague the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice of Queensland, as the Tribunal falls within his portfolio responsibilities.

568. Aboriginal and Islander Councils, Outstanding Debt

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (17/10/01)—

With reference to the Auditor General's Report No 1 2001-02 section 4.1.2 where the Auditor General has only had a response from 16 Aboriginal and Island Councils out of 32 on the question of councillors debts outstanding at 30 April 2001 and in view of the fact that this outstanding debt has not reduced since 30 June 2000—

What is she doing to recover these outstanding debts?

Ms SPENCE (16/11/01): As Minister, I have no authority under the Community Services legislation to order Councillors to repay outstanding debts. However, Aboriginal and Island Councils are local governments and Councillors are obligated by virtue of their office to act in the interest of their constituents.

I recently wrote to the Chairpersons of those Councils where Councillors were indebted to the Council and made clear my dissatisfaction. I requested them to advise me what the current level of Councillors' outstanding debt was and further, what action they were taking to recover this outstanding debt. Many Councils have responded to my letter advising that action had been taken and in some cases such as the Saibai Island Council, the outstanding debts have been completely repaid.

In June 2001, the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984 and the Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984 were amended to regulate the loan making powers of Aboriginal and Island Councils. The amendments restrict each Council to making loans to adult residents of its Council area and then only if the Council has an adopted lending policy that has been approved by the Minister. The amendment further provides for the regulation of the content of Council lending policies by Aboriginal and Island Council Accounting Standards.

The Accounting Standards are currently being drafted by the Office of Parliamentary Counsel and will also require each Council to have a policy on the collection of housing rents.

To improve levels of accountability in relation to Councillors' debts the Department has since 1999-2000 required disclosure in Councils' annual financial statements of loans made to Councillors, immediate past Councillors, and members of their immediate families.

The audited financial statements of each Council are required to be tabled at a Council meeting. The disclosures are intended to assist scrutiny by both the Auditor-General and community members.

I have recently approved a \$170,000 training program in the principles of community governance for Island Councils and I expect to approve a similar program for Aboriginal Councils in the near future.

Over the past 12 months I have appointed financial controllers under the legislation in two Aboriginal Councils and I shortly intend to appoint another two financial controllers to other Councils. This is a practical and positive response to those Councils that are having difficulties with their financial management.

569. Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (18/10/01)—

With reference to the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme—

What are the restrictions on the number of incontinence pads parents can access for severely disabled children and is there flexibility in the scheme to take into account individual needs?

Mrs EDMOND (19/11/01): The Beattie Government has injected an extra \$3.197 million into the Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) in response to increased demand for non-urgent aids.

The Medical Aids Subsidy Scheme (MASS) provides both eligible children and adults access to subsidisation for the supply of continence products, including continence pads.

Levels of subsidy provided by MASS are calculated according to age, type of continence aids chosen which depends on how the incontinence is managed, commercial packaging arrangements of the continence product and resupply periods.

Flexibility is incorporated into the scheme to assist parents of disabled children by using age as part of the determinant of the quantity of pads subsidised by MASS. Children from five to 15 years of age inclusive are subsidised up to a maximum four pads per day. In general, this level of subsidy is double that of other age groups. In addition, as children's developmental needs change, the type and appropriateness of continence products supplied may be reviewed with the MASS Continence Adviser to ensure the products continue to meet a child's needs.

At the present time, younger disabled people with incontinence who access products from MASS may also access the Commonwealth funded Continence Aids Assistance Scheme (CAAS) in order to supplement their level of continence aids.

570. Vessel Monitoring System

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/10/01)—

With reference to the sinking of the fishing trawler, Hironelle, off the coast of Bundaberg on 19 April 2000 and the failure of the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) to send out a distress signal, and as 18 months have passed since the incident, there is a major concern that the system is still defective—

- (1) What action did his department take to inform Queensland trawl operators of the necessary equipment required to meet the standard imposed by these new laws?
- (2) What steps were taken by the department and the Queensland Fisheries Management Authority (QFMA) to ensure the satellite technology was operational in the event of a distress call?
- (3) What advice did his department receive from the QFMA, now Queensland Fisheries and the Queensland Commercial Fisherman's Organisation (QCFO), now the Queensland Seafood Industry Association (QSIA) on why the distress system failed?
- (4) How many prosecutions have been launched where the VMS has identified infringements?
- (5) Given that it has been 18 months since the sinking of the vessel, what steps has his department taken, if any, to ensure that as a safety device the VMS is operating as a dependable emergency system for commercial fishing vessels?
- (6) What timeframes has his department set for the operation of this system as a dependable emergency device for commercial fishing vessels?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/01):

- (1) All trawl operators were advised as to their obligations under the Fisheries Act 1994, in regard to the installation and operation of VMS equipment. Letters were sent to all fishers with a license to operate in the East Coast Trawl Fishery.
- (2) The Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) ran tests on the equipment, both attached to a portable computer and stand alone. All tests were successful. Feedback was received from both the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and AusSAR as to the effectiveness of the system. Following the 'Hirondelle' incident, QFS did further tests with QSIA involvement. In all instances the distress message was received by AMSA.
- (3) No advice was provided by either the QFMA or QSIA as the failure could not be replicated. Factors which may have been involved include a hardware problem specific to the unit involved or failure of the operator to hold the distress button for the required amount of time. As the vessel sank the unit could not be examined.
- (4) QFS does not normally maintain statistical information on prosecutions based on issues such as VMS. Instead, prosecution statistics are normally based on breaches of particular sections of the Fisheries Act 1994. However, as far as can be ascertained, there have been 137 prosecutions initiated in situations where fishers have entered scallop replenishment zones, since August 1999. I understand most of these prosecutions would involve VMS detection.
- (5) Additional testing has been performed and the system has worked as expected. VMS equipment suppliers were contacted and they confirmed that the units had distress message capabilities. Distress procedures for each unit were provided by the suppliers and were published in the VMS Newsletter. The QFS has also written to:
 - The relevant State and Commonwealth authorities for maritime safety, and examined with those authorities ways of enhancing the safety capability of VMS units.
 - VMS owners in Queensland to advise them of manufacturers' specifications to optimise the different capabilities of the units.
 - The manufacturers of approved VMS equipment asking them to review their operational manuals and information and, where possible, to highlight the procedures for activating the VMS units' distress signal. Information provided by the manufactures was sent to all operators via several VMS newsletters.
- (6) Although introduced for fisheries purposes, the VMS units do offer an additional safety capability that individual operators may choose to use. VMS units are not a compulsory safety device for commercial fishing boats, as are Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRBs), and maritime safety is not a legal responsibility for QFS. Marine safety issues for Queensland commercial fishing boats are prescribed under the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 administered by the Queensland Department of Transport. However Inmarsat-C distress features are dependable and are used by the maritime industry throughout the world.

571. Positive Parenting Program

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (18/10/01)—

With reference to the Positive Parenting Program which has been of significant benefit to families in Queensland—

What progress has been made and what are the future plans for this program in the Ipswich and West Moreton district?

Mrs EDMOND (19/11/01): The West Moreton Health Service District has been funded since 1998 to provide the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) as part of the Early Intervention and Parenting Support Initiative. This initiative is one of a range of programs that provide support for parents in the Health District. Triple P incorporates individual interventions (Level 2/3) and/or group (Level 4) programs aimed at supporting parents in their role.

Staff of the West Moreton Health Service District have been trained and accredited in the implementation of this important program, participate in ongoing peer review and contribute to the integration of Triple P into the core business of the Health District. Further training and accreditation is planned for November 2001.

Level 2, 3 and 4 Triple P is offered from child health centres in Ipswich, Laidley and Goodna, and to date, more than 16,000 interventions have been given, and 778 families have accessed 73 groups across these areas of the Health Service District.

Community response to the Triple P Program has been positive and demand for the service is high. This requires innovation in practice and best use of available resources. District staff are employing several strategies to facilitate access for parents to Triple P Programs. These include: provision of after hours services; running programs within Child Care Centres; and hosting a seminar in a large local shopping centre. Each of these approaches is evaluated as part of program management and used for future planning.

The suite of early intervention strategies comprising The Early Intervention and Parenting Support Initiative, Early Intervention for Safe and Healthy Families (EISHFI) and Expanded Child Health Centres are significant innovations to support families, increase parental confidence and improve specific health outcomes for children in Queensland. The West Moreton Health Service District continues to receive funding in 2001/2002 for the Early Intervention and Parenting Support Initiative at the level of \$159,534.

In addition the District is allocated resources in 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 to implement these programs as follows:

Early Intervention for Safe and Healthy Families—\$156,700
 Enhanced Child Health Centres—\$63,084
 Non-recurrent allocation for EISHFI—\$45,000.

The funding has been earmarked specifically to enhance the range of services for infants, children and their families.

As part of this enhancement, the West Moreton Health Service District will become one of the trial sites for EISHFI which integrates the Family CARE Nurse Home Visiting Program and the Domestic Violence Initiative.

572. Bellbowrie, Proposed Tavern

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (18/10/01)—

With reference to the proposed tavern to be located at 3262 Moggill Road Bellbowrie and its impact on Moggill Road, a Main Roads Department (MRD) responsibility—

- (1) Is he aware of the danger and confusion that can arise at the intersection of Livesay Road and Moggill Road where this tavern is to be located, particularly for motorists wishing to turn right onto Moggill Road from Livesay Street?
- (2) Has any proposal been made by this applicant for the proposed tavern for MRD to alter the intersection of Livesay Street and Moggill Road?
- (3) Will he assure the residents of Moggill that scarce MRD resources will not be spent upgrading the intersection of Livesay Street and Moggill Road for the private benefit of a liquor applicant before urgent work on Moggill Road in Kenmore and the scheduled upgrading of Moggill Road from Pullenvale Road to Kenmore Road are completed?

Mr BREDHAUER (21/11/01):

(1) The Department of Main Roads' records indicate the intersection of Livesay and Moggill Roads currently operates safely and efficiently. Within the past five years, there has been only one reported accident involving the right-turn onto Moggill Road from Livesay road.

(2) On 4 June 2001, an application for a tavern at the intersection of Livesay Road and Moggill Road was referred by Brisbane City Council to Main Roads as a Concurrence Agency under the Integrated Planning Act 1997.

Main Roads assessed the proposed development in terms of its impact on the safety and efficiency of operation of Moggill Road and advised council on 12 October 2001 of the department's approval, subject to the applicant upgrading the intersection to the department's requirements.

Should the development proceed with council town planning approval, the intersection upgrading required, at the applicant's cost, will include lighting, pavement works, improved line marking and signs as well as traffic islands and turning lanes, all to be compatible with possible future signalisation of the intersection.

(3) I can assure the residents of Moggill that no Main Roads funds will be spent on the intersection works required in association with the proposed tavern development. This development would in no way affect the delivery of works proposed for Moggill Road as indicated in the current Roads Implementation Program.

573. Port Douglas, Crocodile Attack

Mr PITT asked the Minister for Environment (18/10/01)—

What action has the Government taken following a recent crocodile attack on a young girl at Four Mile Beach, Port Douglas?

Mr WELLS (5/12/01): I would like to acknowledge the long-term interest and commitment by the Honourable Member for Mulgrave on crocodile management. I recently announced the Queensland Government's tougher approach to the threat posed by problem crocodiles.

Following consultation with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) the Douglas Shire Council closed the southern end of Four Mile Beach where the attack occurred. QPWS staff have carried out spotlighting at night, and daytime patrols of the areas most likely frequented by the animal suspected of being responsible for the attack. A floating crocodile trap has been set at the mouth of the Mowbray River which is in close proximity to the southern end of Four Mile Beach. To date the offending animal has not been sighted or caught.

The QPWS has written to the Douglas Shire Council suggesting they mount a campaign to encourage the public to swim at the northern end of the beach where there is a stinger net and lifesavers on patrol. It is proposed to conduct a joint audit involving both the Douglas Shire Council and QPWS staff to consider the adequacy of existing QPWS crocodile warning signs in the area.

I will be writing to all the relevant councils to ensure that the State Government and Local Governments continue to work closely together on this matter

To increase QPWS's commitment to problem crocodile management in North Queensland the following measures are to be implemented:

relocation of problem crocodiles into captivity, not into National Parks;
 aerial surveillance;
 removal of any crocodiles found at popular beach locations;
 monitoring of popular beaches between Port Douglas and Townsville to detect the presence of any crocodiles, including aerial surveillance;
 setting of traps at beaches near river mouths;
 amendment of the Crocodile Conservation Plan to no longer relocate problem crocodiles but to allow for their removal to crocodile farms;
 amendment of the Crocodile Conservation Plan to increase the allowable take of problem crocodiles;
 negotiation of agreements between the QPWS and local authorities on crocodile management measures;
 increased and improved signage on beaches and in public places warning of the risks and dangers associated with crocodiles;
 additional information on crocodiles for tourists arriving in north and far north Queensland;
 an awareness campaign for local residents through radio and television community service announcements and continuation of a crocodile awareness program in schools;
 the appointment of three additional wildlife rangers in North Queensland, whose duties would include public safety and management measures relating to crocodiles;
 training of lifesavers at patrolled beaches in response procedures relating to crocodiles;
 use of aversion devices to drive off crocodiles that evade capture;
 intensive training for rangers involved in crocodile trapping and removal activities; and
 involvement of traditional owners in crocodile management programs including training for aboriginal community rangers.

574. Kalamia State School

Mr RODGERS asked the Minister for Environment (18/10/01)—

With reference to a school in my electorate which has started a wonderful environmental project named BARKS which stands for Beautification and Revegetation of Kalamia School and as the aim of the project is to turn an overgrown dumping ground back into an area that can be used as an environmental training centre for other schools and the community—

Will he and his department provide assistance to Kalamia School to make their environmental project a reality?

Mr WELLS (15/11/01): The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) would be able to assist in plant identification and preparation of naming plaques. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) Regional Extension Officer would also be available to provide technical advice and assistance as required.

The department informs me that the Lower Burdekin Landcare Group has provided Kalamia School with advice and support with funding applications. They have also suggested CSR may be able to apply for NHT funding in support of this project as they are a neighbour of the school.

575. Morayfield, Police Shopfront

Mrs CARRYN SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (18/10/01)—

With reference to the proposed Morayfield Police Shop Front—

When is it anticipated to be operational?

Mr McGRADY (20/11/01): Discussions have been held between the Queensland Police Service and management of the Morayfield Shopping Centre since the announcement of a Police Beat Shopfront at this location in early July, 2001.

Over this period, the management of this centre has changed the nominated site for occupancy. The latest site was nominated by the centre on 28 August, 2001. The Queensland Police Service developed draft plans to ensure that a Police Beat Shopfront could be established within the available area and confirmed the site's suitability with the management of the centre on 3 September, 2001.

The Queensland Police Service has been waiting since this date for final confirmation and a formal offer to lease from Leda Commercial Properties Pty Ltd, the owners of this centre. Despite regular discussions with the centre management on this issue, construction of the Police Beat Shopfront cannot commence until this formal offer has been received. A lease can then be finalised.

The management of the Morayfield Shopping Centre have indicated that they are strongly committed to this project and although discussions are continuing, an anticipated commencement date for this Police Beat Shopfront cannot be determined until the formal offer has been received.

576. Eprapah Creek

Mr ENGLISH asked the Minister for Environment (18/10/01)—

With reference to the proximity of Eprapah Creek to the land in Beveridge Road, Thornlands contaminated by Universal Abrasives—

What steps are being undertaken to clean up and remediate this land and protect Eprapah Creek?

Mr WELLS (15/11/01): The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating options to contain the material on the site.

Further, the EPA is advised that Universal Abrasives Pty Ltd's creditors have listed the property for sale, and the EPA will work with any new owner to assist in remediating the property.

The EPA has registered the property on its Environmental Management Register. The Register serves to inform prospective purchasers of the contamination or potential contamination of the property.

577. Police Prosecutors

Mr FLYNN asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (18/10/01)—

With reference to a push to civilianise the positions of Police Prosecutor and to civilian lawyers refusing to take on the number of briefs handled by police for the same money which highlights the woeful remuneration currently received by Police Prosecutors, many of whom could earn far more at the Bar, commensurate with the high qualifications some hold—

Does he still consider there is a case for expanding the number of Crown Prosecutors or is this concept still dollar driven?

Mr WELFORD (19/11/01): I am putting into place a program to revitalise the DPP, to attract senior prosecutors and to enable junior legal officers to develop a career path. This includes determining the appropriate number of Crown Prosecutors needed to meet caseloads in the future. People of the highest calibre are needed to prosecute criminal cases before the courts in our state.

I intend to ensure that Queensland has the best Office of Director of Public Prosecutions of any jurisdiction in the country.

578. Bush Fires; Controlled Burning

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (18/10/01)—

With reference to the bad bush fires being experienced throughout Queensland at present—

- (1) How many staff of the Department of Environment were allocated to the oversight of controlled burning in Queensland?
- (2) How many applications were made for controlled burning in the last twelve months by source?
- (3) What was the average turnaround time for such applications?
- (4) How many are still to be processed?
- (5) How many controlled burn offs have been undertaken by Department of Environment staff in protected areas and what was the average time for approval?
- (6) Is he satisfied that the program of controlled burn offs in Queensland is up to standard and at best practice?

Mr WELLS (15/11/01):

(1) The department informs me that currently the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) has 530 personnel trained and equipped to undertake fire management on the park and forest estate in Queensland.

(2) I am also informed that for the calendar year 2001, approval has been given within QPWS to undertake planned burning on almost 913,500 hectares of the park and forest estate. Planned burning is undertaken across all sectors of the estate. For areas dedicated under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 or the Forestry Act 1959, there is no requirement to apply to the honorary Fire Warden for a permit to burn under the Fire and Rescue Authority Act 1989.

Each planned burn is formulated by field staff in consultation with surrounding landholders, any lessees on the park or forest estate involved, natural resource management specialist staff, and other interested parties. If agreement is reached, the burn is approved by QPWS.

Before any burning proceeds, landholders, the local Fire Warden and other interested stakeholders are informed and in many cases are involved in the planned burning.

(3)&(4) Consultation and consensus with all interested parties, is carried out in the early part of the year before most fire management activities are required to be undertaken. As previously outlined, the process within QPWS allows for approval at District level with appropriate stakeholder contact and consultation. The process of formulating and approving annual burn plans, can take between four to eight weeks to co-ordinate.

(5) For the 2001 calendar year, 913,500 hectares of the park and forest estate are approved for planned burning. Until 30 September 2001, almost 725,000 hectares have been successfully burnt. The department informs me that planned burning is still proceeding in areas where weather conditions including the Drought Index (measure of fuel moisture load) are suited to planned burning. Some wildfires have also occurred in areas planned for burning.

(6) The program of planned burning for 2001 has been successful despite the drought conditions and extreme dryness in many areas. There are still plans for further burning if prevailing conditions allow. All programs are undertaken with the involvement and consultation of neighbouring landholders and other stakeholders in the process.

579. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Lease

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (18/10/01)—

- (1) What amount of recurrent income has been factored into the State Budget forward estimates process from the sale of a 99 year lease on the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal?
- (2) Has this income stream or any part of it been earmarked, as windfall funds from an off-budget sale, for specific purposes; if so, what are these purposes?

Mr MACKENROTH (16/11/01):

- (1) The proceeds from the sale of the lease are in the form of an upfront payment. As such there is no recurrent income stream from the lease.
- (2) The upfront proceeds form a general funding source for the Government's capital program.

580. Mr M. Johnson; Alleged Break-In, Milton

Mr MICKEL asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (18/10/01)—

- (1) Did a Mr Michael Johnson lodge a complaint with the Police Service earlier this year concerning an alleged break-in at his office located at Suite 4, 18 Kilroe Street, Milton; if so, did he allege that the break-in could have political implications?
- (2) What was the outcome of the investigation?

Mr McGRADY (20/11/01):

- (1) Mr Johnson did lodge such a complaint, and in the course of doing so did mention to police that the theft could be politically motivated.
- (2) No suspects have been nominated and the matter remains under investigation.

581. Freedom of Information Applications

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (18/10/01)—

- (1) How many Freedom of Information (FOI) applications have been received across whole of Government per year since 1995-96 that were in the "large scale and voluminous" category referred to by him?
- (2) What does he consider to be "large scale and voluminous"?
- (3) For each year since 1995-96, what is the proportion of FOI applications that are in respect of the applicant's personal affairs?
- (4) What is the total cost to Government of processing FOI applications in respect of the applicant's personal affairs?

Mr WELFORD (19/11/01):

- (1) The Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not collect this data.
- (2) Section 28 of the FOI Act allows an agency or Minister to refuse to deal with an application if, having regard only to the number and volume of the documents requested and to any difficulty that would exist in identifying, locating or collating the documents, would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency or Minister. What is large and voluminous pursuant to section 28 will depend on the agency concerned and the nature of the documents sought.
- (3) 1995-96—61.9%
1996-97—56.4%
1997-98—51.2%
1998-99—46.1%
1999-00—49.8%
- (4) 1995-96—\$3,509,952
1996-97—\$2,898,896
1997-98—\$2,552,824
1998-99—\$2,176,344
1999-00—\$3,347,052

582. Alternative Schools

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (18/10/01)—

With reference to recent media stories on the successful alternative schools such as Tallebudgera and Kingston College—

- (1) Will she provide (a) a complete list of these alternative schools and (b) the annual budgetary figures to run these schools?
- (2) Will she also advise the degree of success these schools are having with students?

Ms BLIGH (19/11/01): Education Queensland is currently conducting a trial of alternative schooling provision at five sites. The five sites are located at Woodridge, Capalaba, Ipswich, Deception Bay and Cairns.

Education Queensland provides funding at each site for 2 full time equivalent teaching positions and an annual per capita student grant of \$4650.

Currently an external evaluation of the alternative schooling provision is being conducted with a report expected to be available early next year. Once this report is available, I will be in a position to consider the success of the program and the possibility of establishing additional sites.

Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School, while not one of the above designated sites mentioned before, operates an alternative education program using some of the principles of the alternative education provision sites. The 3R Program at Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School specifically caters for students who have been suspended or are identified as being at educational risk.

The funding for this program is provided by Gold Coast South Principals who have pooled some of their Behaviour Management resources to establish the Alternative School at Tallebudgera Beach Outdoor Education School.

Though in the early stages the 3R program is making a difference in terms of attendance and successful reintegration.

Kingston College operates a very different program. The school has three campuses. Both the state high school and Centre for Continuing Education are totally funded via the usual school funding grants.

The Community Education Centre offers a variety of training, life skills and literacy programs to young people who have left school and to community members. Although located within the grounds of Kingston College, the Community Education Centre has been designed to be seen more of a community centre rather than a part of the High School. The programs provided at the Centre encourage its clients to gain new skills to improve chances of gaining employment or progressing to further training opportunities. The number of enrolments and the community support for this program is a measure of its success.

583. Harness Racing

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (18/10/01)—

With reference to the financial difficulties facing the Harness Racing Industry in Queensland—

- (1) What is being done to revive the industry?
- (2) Will she give an assurance that no closures of Harness Racing Clubs will occur?

Mrs ROSE (19/11/01):

(1) The Queensland Harness Racing Board (QHRB) is responsible under the Racing and Betting Act 1980 to encourage, control, supervise and regulate harness racing in this State. I would refer the Honourable the Member to the QHRB's 2001 Annual Report, which catalogues the QHRB's efforts during 2000/2001. The QHRB is also developing a strategic plan, in close consultation with industry stakeholders, to ensure that harness racing continues to be conducted with integrity and increases its attractiveness to existing and new participants.

(2) It would be neither appropriate nor responsible to give any such assurance which could pre-empt the outcome of the Harness Racing Board's process which will objectively determine the roles for clubs and venues to best serve the sustainable development to harness racing.

584. Gifted and Talented Students

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Education (18/10/01)—

What opportunities and support is available for the number of gifted and talented students in State schools?

Ms BLIGH (19/11/01): Queensland state curriculum is designed to allow students to progress at their own rate and allows extension for gifted students. The New Basics Project incorporates Rich Tasks which tie a transdisciplinary range of knowledge, skills and problem-solving into activities with the capacity to challenge and enrich the educational experience.

Funding currently supports seven Centres for Learning and Development—Gifted Education and Talent Development in Queensland.

Each of these schools supports other schools that want to develop policies and programs in gifted education. The schools conduct in-service training such as the successful vacation school in Mackay in September 2001. They are developing on-line learning modules for teachers, the first of which is entitled "An Exploration of Giftedness".

Education Queensland is currently finalising its consideration of a recent review of the seven Centres.

A number of related initiatives include programs for students who excel at music, art and information technology.

Central Office has a position dedicated to this area of education. The officer's role includes support for teachers wishing to provide opportunities for gifted students.

585. Oral Health Waiting Lists

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (18/10/01)—

What would be the estimated impact on oral health waiting lists if the Commonwealth Government were to show the same commitment as this State Labor Government?

Mrs EDMOND (19/11/01): Queensland provides the largest and most comprehensive oral health service in Australia with a budget of \$107 million and a workforce of over 1,500 staff. It accounts for one third of all adult public dental services provided in Australia. Following the termination of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in 1996, Queensland was the only state to provide full supplementation of the cancelled Commonwealth Dental Health Program.

Despite increases in the workforce, together with increases in productivity for both school and adult services, public demand for services remains high. The Beattie Government has committed an additional \$5 million, effective this financial year, to provide enhanced public dental care in areas of high demand with long dental waiting times.

If the Commonwealth Government were to match the State commitment to oral health then the number of courses of care would double to over 700,000 adults and 680,000 school students. This would require enhancing the workforce and infrastructure to deliver the additional care. However, it would significantly improve waiting times for care and allow for a stronger preventive focus.

586. Sexual Abuse of Children

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (18/10/01)—

With reference to prioritising cases of sexual abuse offences against children—

- (1) Will she define (a) a priority one classification, (b) a priority two classification and (c) a priority three classification?
- (2) What criteria is used to prioritise cases into each classification?
- (3) How are cases assessed?
- (4) What and how much assistance is given to each classification?
- (5) What is the procedure for dealing with these cases?

Ms SPENCE (19/11/01):

(1) A Priority 1 Rating is applied when a child is identified as being in immediate danger and is considered to be at high risk of the alleged harm continuing. A Priority 2 Rating is applied when a child is not in immediate danger but there is a high risk that the child may be harmed in the future. A Priority 3 Rating is applied to a child not in immediate danger and the risk of future harm is low.

(2) The following criteria are used when assessing a case:

information about the alleged concerns, eg. severity, previous departmental involvement;

the child's vulnerability due to age or disability;

behaviour of the perpetrator of the alleged abuse and the capacity of the other parent to protect the child; and the family environment, eg. support networks and stresses within the household.

(3) Sexual abuse cases are jointly assessed by departmental and Queensland Police Service staff trained in interviewing children who have allegedly been sexually abused. To ensure a thorough assessment, children and their parents must be interviewed. Assessment information can also be gathered from other appropriate agencies or professionals.

(4) A range of assistance is made available to the child and family ranging from advice, activating community and family support as well as formal statutory intervention.

(5) Once an assessment has been finalised, the family is given information about the conclusions reached and the outcome that will be recorded. If further departmental contact is necessary, information is given to the family about what action is to be taken to protect the child, and the reasons for this action. Families are entitled to receive in writing, the reasons for any departmental decisions. If the child's parents disagree with the outcome of the assessment or any departmental decisions made about their child, they are entitled to request a review of the decision. The parent can contact the Team Leader or Manager of the office, who will arrange a meeting with relevant staff to discuss the decision with the client. The parent can also contact the Manager to specifically request an internal review of this decision through the department's client complaints system.

587. Farmers, Interest Subsidies

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/10/01)—

With reference to many rural landowners who receive necessary interest subsidy relief administered via QRAA and as this subsidy is subject, in part, to farm viability confirmation by banks who hold financial interests in the respective properties—

What audit processes are in place within the department to review appeals by applicants whose financial institutions indicate non-viability where farmers question the bank's assessment?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/01): I am advised that when assessing applications for Exceptional Circumstances (EC) interest subsidy, Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA) must be satisfied that the enterprise has prospects of viability in the long term.

When assessing the long-term viability of an enterprise, the Authority looks at the last three years' financial statements (profit & loss accounts, balance sheets, depreciation schedules) and the cash flow estimates for the current year, which is based on the current seasonal conditions;

The above information is analysed thoroughly in conjunction with telephone discussions with the producer and the producer's banker. Whilst it is important to obtain the opinion of the banker towards the viability of an enterprise, it is QRAA's independent analysis that ultimately determines the viability decision.

If a situation arises that the banker's opinion of viability differs from that of QRAA, the difference will be discussed in detail during the assessment process. If the differences remain, QRAA would carry out an on-farm assessment of the enterprise, following which the matter would again be discussed with the banker.

I understand there have been no instances, to date, where a banker has not been prepared to commit to 12 months support of an enterprise that has been approved interest subsidy.

In the reverse situation, where the bank sees viability and QRAA does not, the same procedure would be followed.

Applicants who have been declined have the opportunity to appeal, firstly to a QRAA internal Appeals Committee and, finally, to the QRAA Board of Directors.

All of QRAA's assessment processes are subject to audit by both the contracted internal auditors of the Authority and the external auditors.

588. Residential Land Development, Water Supply

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (18/10/01)—

With reference to councils who apparently have the authority to open up blocks of land for sale as residential blocks and I believe a dam has to be constructed on each block to supply water before these blocks can be sold—

- (1) Is there any law that requires councils to ensure that a clean and healthy supply of drinking water is available on these blocks, as there are reports that some inhabitants are becoming ill through drinking dirty dam water?
- (2) How is it that Government is able to find apparently endless resources to pay for frivolities such as the Goodwill footbridge and the extensions to Lang Park, but can't make it their business to supply clean drinking water to people in certain areas?
- (3) If it's true that blocks of land can't be sold unless a dam is installed, is it possible for her to consider amending legislation to ensure that blocks of land are not to be inhabited unless fresh drinking water is available?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (12/11/01):

(1) In most cases blocks of land coming onto the market are as a result of a private developer obtaining a development permit for residential development from a council. In some instances a council may acquire a block of land in lieu of rates arrears and subsequently sell the land, but it is unusual for a council to acquire land and open up blocks of land for sale.

Generally a dam is not used for drinking water because the water tends to become stagnant, and run-off into the dam can potentially pollute the water. Dam water is usually used for irrigation, sanitary or fire fighting purposes. It is common to obtain drinking water by collecting rainwater off the roofs of structures on the block, and storing the water in tanks. Where local circumstances allow it may also be possible to use bore water.

(2) Australia's Constitution divests the powers to manage water to individual states. In Queensland water is managed under the Water Act 2000. This legislation sets the rules by which SunWater and all other water service providers operate, and defines the role of the government in water resource management and regulation. The systems and institutional frameworks used to manage and allocate water resources in Queensland are among the most advanced in the world.

Water use throughout Queensland is controlled by water management plans that cover entire river basins. These plans, which undergo extensive community consultation, include an assessment of total water availability and set water allocations for all requirements including environmental needs. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines administers the system, which is also responsible for resource management issues and water service provider regulation.

Such infrastructure and management represent a huge investment by the Government for the public benefit of all the state. Allocating funding to supply water to isolated residential blocks would represent a huge investment that is both uneconomic and be of very limited public benefit.

(3) The health and amenity of occupants of a dwelling is currently addressed in the Building Code of Australia (BCA). The BCA is a uniform set of technical provisions for the design and construction of buildings. When assessing a development application for a dwelling on a block, a council or a private certifier must consider whether the dwelling complies with the BCA. In relation to facilities, the objective of BCA is, amongst other matters, to safeguard the occupants from illness caused by infection. For example, a food preparation facility must be provided which includes a means for food rinsing, utensil washing and wastewater disposal. The supply of water from a dam may not meet the BCA objective since an occupant may become ill from drinking the water unless it has been adequately treated.

A council does not have a statutory responsibility to provide reticulated water to a block of land remote from water supply infrastructure. However to introduce new or amended legislation to require a dam on every new residential block would not ensure fresh drinking water is available to the inhabitants.

If reticulated water is not feasible to a proposed residential development, a council could decide to impose a condition on the development permit to provide alternative water supply to the block, such as a rainwater storage tank.

However the preferred approach would be for a council not to allow residential development to occur in locations where it is not possible to provide reticulated water in a cost effective and efficient manner. The key mechanism to achieve this outcome is through the council's planning scheme under the Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA). A council must have regard to their planning scheme in assessing and making a decision on a development application.

All councils are now required to have new IPA planning schemes in place before March 2003. The government is encouraging each council to ensure their planning scheme's strategic framework and measures manage the effects of development, including the allocation of land for residential use in relation to the desired water supply infrastructure provision. If a residential development is in accordance with a council's priority infrastructure plan, the council should be able to supply reticulated water.

589. State Government Projects

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for State Development (18/10/01)—

What major infrastructure projects are being pursued by his department that are to be constructed during this term of Government?

Mr BARTON (21/11/01): The Department of State Development is currently working on a number of major projects which will be progressed during this term of Government. The extent of involvement of the Department in the projects varies. It ranges from facilitation of some private sector projects with no financial involvement, through financial support for infrastructure packages for major private sector projects such as the Comalco Alumina Refinery, to complete project responsibility for the Property Services Group's activities. For all of these projects, both publicly and privately funded, the exact timing of delivery is dependant on satisfactory outcomes of commercial feasibility studies, engineering design, environmental impact assessment, public consultation and market conditions. For the privately sponsored projects, the decision to commit is one for the company concerned.

In preparing this response, I have identified projects that go beyond the traditional view of infrastructure, to include infrastructure that supports research and innovation, and community development. Consequently, no financial criterion has been applied in determining what is 'major'. The projects listed are considered to make an important contribution to the State's economic development, or the economic development of the region in which they are located.

The Department is currently actively pursuing the following projects:

- Burnett Water Infrastructure Project
- Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre
- Brisbane Cruise Terminal
- Brisbane Marine Industry Park
- Infrastructure associated with the Comalco Alumina Refinery
- Infrastructure associated with the AMC—Stanwell Magnesium Project
- Mackay Multipurpose Centre
- Nelly Bay Harbour Development
- Process Engineering And Light Metals Centre—Central Queensland University, Gladstone Marina Campus
- Creative Industries Precinct, Kelvin Grove
- Queensland Manufacturing Institute Visualisation Centre
- Sustainable Minerals Institute
- Qantas Heavy Maintenance Facility Brisbane Airport
- Cairns CBD Revitalisation Project
- Food for Life Centre of Excellence
- Australian Institute for Commercialisation
- The Property Services Group has a Capital Works Program for the acquisition of land and the development of its industrial land holdings of approximately \$30M annually. Significant current activities include Bundaberg Industrial Park, Synergy Industrial Park (Carole Park) and Murrarie Industrial Estate
- Gladstone Multipurpose Centre

590. Trade Commissioner

Mr QUINN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (18/10/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a break down of the following expenses incurred by Bob Gibbs for each month since his appointment as a Trade Commissioner on (a) entertainment (including who was entertained, the venue, total costs including food and drink and reason for entertainment, (b) travel and motor vehicle hire (including class of travel and reason for travel) and (c) living expenses including accommodation assistance?
- (2) Will he also detail the extent and cost of office and secretarial support provided to Mr Gibbs?

Mr BEATTIE (14/11/01):

- (1)(a) Expenses incurred by Mr Gibbs since his appointment as a Queensland Government Commissioner to 30 June 2001 (which is the latest information currently available) for hospitality and official functions is A\$8,650.
- (b) Travel and motor vehicle hire expenses incurred by Mr Gibbs over the same period amount to approximately \$75,321. The class of travel taken by Mr Gibbs is prescribed in the Department of State Development's Financial Management Practices Manual.
- (c) Mr Gibbs has been allocated the following living and accommodation expenses: Overseas Living Allowance A\$28,000 per annum; Living Away from Home Allowance—limited to A\$81,000 per annum; Utility Expenses up to A\$23,000 per annum; and Housekeeper reimbursement of up to A\$3,000 per annum. On 10 January 2001, a 4.17% (Los Angeles CPI) increase was applied to these amounts as provided for in Mr Gibbs contract of employment.
- (2) Nil. Mr Gibbs has the support of five highly skilled professionals in the Los Angeles Office, however he has no dedicated office or secretarial support as such.

591. Ambulance Service, Vehicle Usage

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (18/10/01)—

With reference to the use of vehicles within the Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) (18/10/01)—

Will he detail (a) the QAS policy on vehicle usage (operational and administrative) including the procedure and requirements for home garaging and (b) which QAS officers and/or positions are currently required to home garage and why?

Mr REYNOLDS (19/11/01):

- (a) Queensland Ambulance Service observes the provisions of Chapter Thirty Five of the Logistics Manual, Home Garaging of QAS Vehicles. Extracts of the policy state:
 - 3503 This policy applies to all QAS owned and leased vehicles but excludes vehicles allocated to Senior Executive Service Officers or equivalent.
 - 3504 QAS vehicles should be routinely garaged at official premises.
 - 3505 Approval for the garaging of Departmental vehicles at private residences should not be given unless:
 - (a) it can be clearly demonstrated that improved operational effectiveness for the QAS will result; or
 - (b) no suitable garaging facilities are available at official premises.

- 3508 Under certain circumstances local authorisations may be given for temporary home garaging, eg:
- where the vehicle has an association with the work to be performed (eg. use for on call duties); and
 - where a duty officer requires the use of a vehicle outside normal hours for emergency and other official purposes.
- 3513 Vehicles garaged at home are not available for private use. Permanent home garaging requirements are reviewed annually, usually at the end of November each year.
- The following positions have been approved for home garaging.

Q1 Northern

Area Manager Townsville—On Call
 Area Manager Mount Isa—On Call
 Regional Manager, Staff Development—On Call
 OIC Townsville—On Call
 Regional Community Education Officer—On Call
 Regional Marketing Manager—On Call, No garaging available at office, Media Liaison at incidents
 Regional Communications Manager—On Call

Q2 Central

Area Manager, Rockhampton—On Call
 Area Manager Mackay—On Call
 Area Manager Barcaldine—On Call
 Manager Technical Communications—On Call
 Manager Communications Centre—On Call
 Regional Fleet Coordinator—On Call
 Auto Technician Rockhampton—On Call
 Auto Technician Mackay—On Call
 Auto Technician Central West—On Call
 Regional manager Operational Support—On Call, No garaging available at office
 Regional Marketing Manager—On Call, No garaging at office, Media Liaison at incidents
 Regional Manager Staff Development—On call, ICP

Q3 South Western

Regional Marketing Manager—On Call and Use after hours regularly
 Regional Manager, Staff Development—After hours, no garaging at premises
 Regional Manager, Operational Support—Attends LAC meetings/ home garaging improves productivity
 Regional Manager, Community Ed—Lectures nights and mornings
 Regional manager Communications—On Call
 Area Manager Eastern—On Call
 Area Manager Western—On Call
 Area Manager Southern—On Call
 OIC Toowoomba—On Call
 Clinical Support Officer—On Call
 Regional Fleet Coordinator—On Call
 Community Education Trainer—Lectures nights and mornings

Q4 North Coast

Area Manager SSC—Approved Operational effectiveness
 Area Manager WBB—Approved Operational effectiveness
 Comms Manager—Approved Operational effectiveness
 Manager RSDU—On Call ICP
 RAE SSC—On Call ICP
 Manager Operations Support—On Call as required
 Clinical Support Officer SSC—On Call as required
 Clinical Support Officer WBB—On Call as required
 Airport Heli Intensive Care Paramedic—On Call as required
 Group OIC Fraser Coast, and WBB—On Call as required
 Group OIC, Noosa Maroochy, Caloundra—On Call as required
 Aerial Ambulance Pilot—On Call as required
 Aerial Ambulance Pilot—On Call as required
 Aerial Ambulance Pilot—On Call as required
 Regional Marketing Manager—On Call Media Liaison

Q5 Greater Brisbane

Area Manager—Northern—On call
 Area Manager—Central—On Call
 Area Manager—South West—On call
 Area Manager—South East—On call
 Regional Manager Operational Support—After Hours response
 Regional Manager Staff Development—Available for ICP
 Clinical Support Officer—North—Available for ICP
 Clinical Support Officer—Central—On call for ICP helicopter response
 Clinical Support Officer—South West—On call for ICP helicopter response
 Clinical Support Officer—South East—Available for ICP
 Clinical Support Officer RSDU—On call for ICP helicopter response
 Clinical Support Officer RSDU—On call for ICP helicopter response

Regional Fleet Coordinator—On call for after hrs breakdowns
 Manager Patient Transport Services—After Hours response
 Regional Manager Asset Services—No suitable garaging
 Workplace Health & Safety Officer—No suitable garaging
 Employee Liaison Officer—No suitable garaging
 Regional Information Manager—No suitable garaging
 Regional Marketing manager—No suitable garaging
 Special Project Officer—No suitable garaging

Q6 South Eastern

Area Manager South—On Call
 Area Manager North—On Call
 Area Manager West—On Call
 Regional Manager Operational Support—On Call
 Manager Communications Centre—On Call
 AutoTechnicians and Fleet Co-ordinator—On Call
 Manager Asset Services—On Call
 Regional Marketing Manager—On Call
 Regional Manager Staff Development—On Call
 Workplace Health & Safety Co-ordinator—No Secure parking Regional Office
 Community Education Co-ordinator & Community Education Officer—Many evening meetings & secure parking
 Three Duty Officers (OICs)—On Call
 Clinical Support Officers—On call
 One Employee Liaison Officer—On Call

Q7 Far Northern

Area Manager Cairns and Costal—On call
 Area Manager Cape and Tablelands—On call
 Regional Manager communications—On call
 Regional Manager Operational Support—On Call & no secure garaging
 Regional Manager Staff Development—On Call, Start Early & after Hrs meetings
 Statewide ATSI Coordinator—No secure garaging at office
 Regional Marketing Manager—On Call, Media Liaison

Q9 Directorate (Central Office)

Manager QEMSAC—No secure garaging
 Major Incident Operational Support—On Call & Incident response
 QASEC Drug Unit—On call ICP After hours activities
 QASEC ICP—On call for ICP helicopter & Incident response
 Corporate Development—Operational effectiveness & Incident response
 Manager Subscriptions & Debt—No secure garaging
 Manager Technical Services—Operational effectiveness & Incident response
 Media Manager—On Call, Media Liaison at incidents
 Radio & Electronics—On Call technician
 Manager Marketing—No secure garaging
 CAD/AVL—Operational effectiveness
 Manager Executive Support—No secure garaging
 Manager Community Services—Available for ICP & Incident response
 Manager Radio & Electronics—On Call Engineer
 Manager Business Services—Operational effectiveness
 Major Incident Operations—After Hours response
 QASEC—Pool. As required authorisation
 Workplace Health & Safety Officer—Operational effectiveness & Incident response
 Radio & Electronics—On Call technician
 Manager Staff Development QASEC—On call for ICP helicopter & Incident response

592. Vessel Monitoring System

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (18/10/01)—

With reference to the sinking of the fishing trawler, Hironnelle, off the coast of Bundaberg on 19 April 2000 and the failure of the Vessel Monitoring System to send out a distress signal and as 18 months have passed since the incident, there is a major concern that the system is still defective—

- (1) Is a tracking report detailing the accurate records of all vessel movements openly available to the owner?
- (2) Is the small electronic box known as the Automatic Location Communicator that sends out the distress signal operable if it is not connected to a lap top computer or personal computer on the vessel?
- (3) How many of the 134 search and rescue incidents involving commercial fishing vessels during the period of July 1999 to December 2000 were caused by a failure of the distress signal to transmit to mobile satellite communications?
- (4) What advice has the Australian Search and Rescue, a Division of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority provided to his department, to overcome deficiencies in the system and has the advice been implemented?
- (5) Is the demand by the system excessive; if so, what investigations have been carried out to identify the cause of high power consumption as there have been a number of complaints regarding heavy drain on batteries in a fishing trawler when anchored and unable to connect to mains power and solar panels are barely able to supply sufficient current?

- (6) What other impediments have been found in the system and what action has been taken to rectify them?
 (7) What expenses are likely to be incurred by fishermen who now have to use this device as part of their operations and will any compensation be offered by his department?

Mr PALASZCZUK (19/11/01):

- (1) Data is supplied to the owner on request at a fee. Owners can also arrange to track their own vessels through a third party service provider.
 (2) Yes. This capability has been tested successfully.
 (3) The 'Hirondelle' incident is the only case of which the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) is aware where an Inmarsat-C unit is alleged to have failed to send a distress signal.
 (4) I understand the Australian Maritime Safety Authority has not provided advice on "deficiencies" in the system.
 (5) The power consumption of VMS units has been evaluated by the School of Electrical and Electronic Systems Engineering of the Queensland University of Technology and the results have been provided to fishers via the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) newsletter. Advice has been given to fishers regarding wiring configuration and the possible use of solar panels.
 (6) Following the 'Hirondelle' incident, the QFS instigated a number of tests to check the distress signal capabilities, using both QFS Inmarsat-C units and those of a number of boats, both with and without portable computers attached. All units worked correctly.
 (7) Fishers each received Government rebates of between \$1,000 and \$2,000 when VMS was introduced, to assist them with purchase and installation costs. No further assistance is envisaged. The ongoing expense to fishers will be the depreciation and maintenance of the units and other enhancements they consider necessary to keep the units functioning.

593. Capital Works Expenditure

Mrs SHELDON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/10/01)—

With reference to page 5 of the Capital Works Statement in the 2001-02 State Budget which projected capital works expenditure for each department was projected to total \$5,115,028,000—

Will he provide details as to whether each department is currently on track to reach its capital works expenditure goals including (a) whether the estimated capital works expenditure for any department has been revised since the State Budget was delivered; if so, what is the revised figure for the department/s in question, (b) what are the reasons, including details on the individual projects responsible for the revision, for a revised estimate and (c) what impact is this expected to have on the number of jobs created for each departmental area of responsibility?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/11/01): The projected capital works expenditure by portfolio quoted on page 5 of the 2001-02 Capital Statement includes Departments, Government Owned Corporations, Commercialised Business Units and some Statutory Authorities. This presentation is compiled only once a year in the course of the delivery of the Budget.

The entities included in the Capital Statement have different reporting requirements and obligations during the year. Questions regarding the progress of portfolio capital programs and individual projects should be directed to the Minister responsible for those portfolios.

594. Prostitution Licensing Authority

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (30/10/01)—

With reference to the Chairman of the Prostitution Licensing Authority, Bill Carter—

What is (a) the total remuneration package for the Chairman, (b) the number of applications the authority has received for each month since the Chairman's appointment, (c) the number of hours the Chairman has devoted to consideration of each application, (d) the costs associated with running the authority including staff and salaries, office rental, equipment hire and purchase, phone accounts etc and (e) the breakdown of expenses incurred by the Chairman since his appointment?

Mr McGRADY (29/11/01):

- (a) The total remuneration for the Chair of the Prostitution Licensing Authority is \$32,000.00 per annum.
 (b) The total number of applications received each month by the PLA is as follows:

Month—Applications

July 2000—3

August 2000—2

September 2000—2

October 2000—1

November 2000—2

December 2000—0

January 2001—5

February 2001—1

March 2001—1

April 2001—2

May 2001—1

June 2001—2

July 2001—5

August 2001—4

September 2001—0

October 2001—1

Total number received—32

(c) The Chair has considered 10 applications in total at an average of 120 hours per application.

(d) Costs associated with the operation of the Prostitution Licensing Authority for the year ended June 2001 are contained within the Prostitution Licensing Authority Annual Report 2000-2001, tabled in the Parliament on 13 November 2001.

(e) Breakdown of expenses incurred by Chairman since 1 July 2000:

Airfares: Brisbane-Rockhampton-Mackay-Townsville-Cairns-Brisbane (21-25.01.01)—\$1,262
 Accommodation (21-25.01.01)—\$352
 Meals—\$200
 Total—\$1,814

(Over 4 days from 22-25.01.01 the Chair attended 12 meetings, gave 4 media conferences and 8 interviews.)

595. Rural Fire Brigades

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (30/10/01)—

With reference to the increasing number of bushfires that occur with the onset of warmer weather—

Is there foundation to rumours that additional training might be provided to State Emergency Service personnel to assist rural fire brigades?

Mr REYNOLDS (29/11/01): Both the Rural Fire Service and the State Emergency Service have very different roles and are trained and equipped accordingly. Both roles are complimentary and allow each organisation to support the other.

The State Emergency Service regularly supports the Rural Fire Service with the provision of communications, welfare, traffic control, smoke hazard monitoring along roads, catering and occasionally first aid. It is a partnership approach. During the recent fires at Caboolture and Mapleton, the State Emergency Service provided support to the local Rural Fire Brigades.

Many State Emergency Services volunteers are also members of Rural Fire Brigades and vice-versa.

Where joint facilities are established between State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Service members receive multi skill training to support both services. This training occurs in small towns and in indigenous and remote communities.

SES Volunteers are trained in support roles as above, However, there is no intention to provide additional training to SES volunteers in fighting of fires.

596. Cairns Convention Centre

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (30/10/01)—

With reference to the recently requested and completed special inspection of the Cairns Convention Centre by Project Services, the inspection by the Parliamentary Works Committee and considering the visible bowed cross ties in the main stadium—

Is he satisfied that the Cairns Convention Centre will withstand a severe cyclone, or should restrictions be imposed on its use during cyclones?

Mr SCHWARTEN (30/11/01): I note that prior to this question being formally lodged and received by my office, I was advised by The Cairns Post that they had also recently received an inquiry of this nature.

Either staff at The Cairns Post are psychic or the Honourable Member provided the question to the newspaper prior to tabling it in Parliament.

If the latter is the case, then clearly the Member is more interested in alarmist media coverage than in seeking a genuine answer.

Nevertheless, I can advise that the all-party Parliamentary Public Works Committee has recently held an inquiry into this issue and recommend that the Honourable Member obtain a copy of the findings of that inquiry when it is publicly available.

In addition, this matter was raised during the Estimates Committee hearing and I further draw the Member's attention to answers provided to that committee at the time.

The Member is no doubt well aware that the person who has made allegations along the lines of the question he has asked.

That person and his claims have been treated with due seriousness.

In fact the Director-General of Public Works arranged to fly that person to Cairns to inspect the building and discuss his concerns.

The Director-General advises me that he is completely satisfied with all independent engineering reports pertaining to this building and its safety.

Furthermore, Stages 1 and 2 of the Cairns Convention Centre have been designed, built and engineer certified to withstand a Category 3 Cyclone, in accordance with the Australian Standard Wind Loading Code requirements.

There have been four (4) cyclones to date in the Cairns area since the completion of Stage 1 of the Centre, i.e. Cyclone Justine in March 1997, Cyclone Katrina in January 1998, Cyclone Rona in February 1999 and Cyclone Steve in March 2000. Cyclone Steve, which occurred after the completion of Stage 2 of the Centre, was a strong Category 2 cyclone with wind gusts in the order of 160km/hr being recorded at Green Island. No structural damage occurred at the Cairns Convention Centre.

The recent inspections carried out by Project Services in company with an independent structural engineer and the project's structural design engineers, confirmed that the Stage 2 roof is structurally sound. Some construction issues of a minor nature were identified during these inspections and these were rectified. The issues had no bearing on the structural soundness of the roof.

Both the structural design engineers and the independent engineer have confirmed that the bowing of some of the Stage 2 roof truss cross tie members is not detrimental to the structural adequacy of the roof. The bowing is purely a visual issue. No further action is proposed on this issue.

The Cairns Convention Centre management has documented cyclone procedures in place as part of the Centre's operational risk management process. These procedures include evacuating and securing the building when a cyclone warning occurs. This is to ensure that the Cairns Convention Centre staff and patrons have adequate time to return to their home or accommodation safely.

597. Land Valuations

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (30/10/01)—

With reference to unimproved values on land—

- (1) Is he aware that unimproved property valuation in several south east Queensland shires have risen in excess of 45 per cent in one year?
- (2) Did the Government instruct the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to increase unimproved property values substantially and exclude homestead blocks in rural areas, particularly small grazing blocks in south east Queensland?
- (3) Is he aware that several councils in the South Burnett have put a 5 per cent rate cap in place for the current financial year until the unimproved value and rate issue can be sorted out?
- (4) Is he prepared to examine the proposition that a rate cap should apply throughout all shires in the State of Queensland in one year?
- (5) Will he examine the proposition that unimproved land value rises have a cap, given that these values are re-appraised every three years from the DNR computer system?

Mr ROBERTSON (29/11/01):

(1) The aggregate unimproved value in any south east Queensland shire has not risen over 45% in one year. Some individual property valuations have increased over 45% in the year prior to 1 October 2000.

(2) No.

(3) Rating is the responsibility of local governments. Councils have a number of mechanisms to ameliorate the impact of valuation increases on rates including setting the actual rate in the dollar, averaging valuations or capping the increase in rates.

(4) The use of mechanisms for setting local government rates in the dollar and capping rates are a matter for the elected representatives of local governments, not for the State Government.

(5) Unimproved land values may be reappraised annually, bi annually or triannually. The valuations are based on sales of properties and should not be capped. The matter of valuations is currently subject to a fundamental review being formulated by my Department in consultation with stakeholders and interest groups.

598. Energex and Ergon Energy

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/10/01)—

With reference to Energex and Ergon—

During 2001 has Energex or Ergon contributed financially to sporting events held inside or outside of Queensland, including but not limited to, sponsorships, purchase of tickets or the purchasing of advertising; if so, which events and how much has been spent on, or is committed to, each event?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/11/01): ENERGEX and Ergon Energy have contributed financially to a number of sporting events in 2001. This support includes one or more of the following activities: sponsorship; ticketing; advertising; and ground signage.

Events supported to date in 2001 by ENERGEX and Ergon are: Goodwill Games; Australian Rugby Union; ENERGEX Reds Rugby College; University of Qld Rugby Club; 2001 Honda Indy 300; Bowls Australia; Test Series—Cricket; ABC Learning Centre Pro-Am Golf; National Rugby League events which included the Brisbane Broncos and the North Queensland Cowboys; Queensland Surf Life Saving; Cairns Amateurs; and there are a small number of very small sponsorships by Ergon Energy of regional sporting teams that are arranged locally. This is not a focus of Ergon's community sponsorships which target community initiatives more focused at Green, Education, Youth and community development (including RFDS and Tidy Towns).

Expenditure is primarily associated with the contestable part of the Corporations' businesses and is aimed at attracting and keeping National Electricity Market contestable customers in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Full retail contestability is programmed to commence in the southern states on 1 January 2002 when ENERGEX and Ergon will be seeking to attract new customers in these market sectors. Appropriate budget allocations for these types of expenditures have been made.

This expenditure relates to commercial activities, actual outlays remain commercially sensitive information.

599. Great Barrier Reef Area, Water Quality

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment (30/10/01)—

With reference to Senator Bolkus' promise to deliver enforceable water quality standards throughout the Great Barrier Reef area while boosting monitoring of on-shore activities—

- (1) What level of involvement has the Minister had with this proposal, as there is a clear message that the Queensland State Government is to be party to this process?
- (2) Will the requirement of this plan have more stringent conditions than the 30—60 per cent cuts to pollutants over 10 years, as proposed by Senator Hill?
- (3) What aspects of the Bolkus proposal are mandatory and what consideration will be given to voluntary targets, as the Premier has said he would work with Federal Labor on the issue if they are elected?

Mr WELLS (29/11/01): The Howard Government was returned on 10 November. The Australian Labor Party did not win the Federal election and therefore will not be implementing any policy at a Federal level.

600. Arson, Maximum Penalties

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (30/10/01)—

Since 1990, how many people found guilty of the crime of arson have received the maximum penalty prescribed in the Criminal Code?

Mr WELFORD (29/11/01): This is a stupid question relating to absolutely nothing of policy significance.

As you and I well know, the judiciary in all states, including Queensland, is bound by principles authoritatively stated by the High Court of Australia regarding the imposition of maximum penalties. Specifically, a maximum sentence should only be imposed in the very worst category of cases.

In Queensland, since 1990, I am not aware of any person found guilty of the crime of arson that has received the maximum penalty prescribed in the Criminal Code. This does not mean sentences are inadequate or any of them has been inappropriate.

In any case where the adequacy of sentence is an issue, the Attorney-General reserves the right to appeal according to law. This is as it should be.

601. Suncorp Metway Stadium; Major Facilities Levy

Mr JOHNSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (30/10/01)—

With reference to the major facilities levy that was introduced by amendments made to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 by the Gaming Machine Amendment Bill 2001—

- (1) What time frame is necessary based on projected revenue from the major facilities levy to service the debt incurred by the Lang Park Stadium Redevelopment Project and how was this assessment determined?
- (2) What revenue has the Government collected under the major facilities levy since its introduction?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/11/01):

(1) Revenues generated by the redeveloped stadium will service a debt of \$45M, leaving a \$235M loan portion to be serviced by the Major Facilities Levy.

The Major Facilities Levy has been structured so that ample funds will be raised to meet this requirement over the term of the loan without any need to draw on the consolidated fund. (Modelling has been based on a 20 year loan term.)

(2) In the four months to 31 October 2001 the Major Facilities Levy has raised \$2.5M.

602. Public Hospitals, Bed Capacity and Occupancy Rates

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (30/10/01)—

Will she detail for each Queensland public hospital, on a monthly basis for the last six months, (a) total bed capacity and (b) the bed occupancy rates of those hospitals?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/01): Contemporary health care services are judged not on the number beds existing in an acute facility but on the number and quality of services provided. I refer the Member to a statement by the Leader of the Opposition when he was Health Minister: "It must be understood that using numbers of beds to judge the adequacy of health services is an outdated concept. The critical question is the quality and quantity of services provided, not the number of beds. Best practice in health care is increasingly focused on the use of day surgery and other ambulatory care services as an alternative to overnight admission to hospitals, thus significantly reducing the requirements for inpatient beds."

603. Drug Court Pilot Project, Supported Accommodation

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (30/10/01)—

With reference to accommodation for drug addicts taking part in Drug Courts trials—

- (1) Has the supported accommodation component of the Drug Court Pilot Project commenced; if not, when will it commence?
- (2) What constitutes "supported accommodation component"?

Ms SPENCE (27/11/01): The service at the Gold Coast is ready to take referrals from the Drug Court now and the service at Ipswich expects to take referrals by mid-December. The service at Logan may not be ready to take referrals until late December/early January.

The supported accommodation component of the Drug Court pilot project will provide support for drug court participants in houses provided through rental grants from the Department of Housing.

604. Police Resources

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (30/10/01)—

- (1) What are the total attrition rates for the Queensland Police Service by cause and for each year from 30 July 1998 up to 30 July 2001?
- (2) Will he also provide a breakdown of the cause of attrition by division, rank and sex in the Queensland Police Service for each year?

Mr McGRADY (29/11/01):

(1) A display of attrition data for the period 1 July 1998 up to 30 June 2001 is provided in a table at Appendix A.

TABLE 1 For the period 1 July 1998 up to 30 June 2001 the total annual separations by cause is provided.

(2) The following information is provided for each year 1 July 1998 to 30 June 2001. Tables indicating breakdown of the cause of attrition by rank and sex are provided at Appendix A. Data relating to the cause of attrition by division is not readily available.

TABLE 2 For the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 a breakdown of the cause of attrition by rank and sex is provided.

TABLE 3 For the period 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 a breakdown of the cause of attrition by rank and sex is provided.

TABLE 4 For the period 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 a breakdown of the cause of attrition by rank and sex is provided.

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

605. Code of Ethical Practice for Biotechnology

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (30/10/01)—

With reference to the Code of Ethical Practice for Biotechnology in Queensland and related documents recently released by the Department of Innovation and Information Economy—

- (1) What impact will this code have on environmental practices in Queensland?
- (2) To what extent will Department of Environment staff be involved, including development, enforcement and/or regulation of this code or associated Governmental activities?
- (3) What total expenditure will be allocated to any activities or processes in reference to this code and associated documents?
- (4) What impact will these changes have on the management and/or development of biological resources in Queensland and the ability to keep such discoveries in Queensland?

Mr WELLS (29/11/01):

(1) The Code of Ethical Practice for Biotechnology in Queensland (the Code) will have a positive impact on the environmental practices of organisations engaged in biotechnological activities in Queensland.

In particular, entities endorsing the Code will undertake to ensure biodiscovery activities have no adverse impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity; ensure that the production of genetically modified organisms do not diminish natural ecological capital; and conduct long term ecological monitoring of the impact of biotechnology.

(2-4) The Department of Innovation and Information Economy is responsible for the implementation of the Code and all matters relating to this issue should be referred to the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy.

606. Yeronga TAFE Institute, Exhaust Stack Emissions

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (30/10/01)—

With reference to the emission tests that were carried out on Yeronga TAFE's exhaust stacks in August, of which the results have not been released—

Will he provide the full report of the emission tests?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/01): The Honourable Member has been misinformed. This is the text of the letter that I sent to almost 200 people explaining the results of the tests referred to:

"You may recall signing a petition in relation to concerns about suggested pollution by Yeronga Institute of TAFE and a proposal to relocate the TAFE to Salisbury and/or Rocklea. The chief petitioner is C. Crowther of Park Road Yeronga.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information that I hope will address your concerns.

It is my understanding gained through quite extensive correspondence with the chief petitioner, that these concerns primarily relate to emissions from training activities associated with metal fabricating, machine grinding, welding and steel cutting at the Institute. The chief petitioner has suggested that the emissions may breach relevant Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) thresholds.

Firstly, and most importantly, I assure you that current practices undertaken at the Yeronga Institute of TAFE fully meet the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

The Yeronga Institute of TAFE has a general environmental duty under the Environmental Protection Act not to cause environmental harm. The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the refurbishment of Block D, and has advised that the environmental controls currently in place are satisfactory and should ensure that environmental harm does not occur. The Department of Employment and Training is conscious of the need to provide facilities which are compliant with current Acts and Regulations, and every effort is made to ensure that

where refurbishment or construction of facilities is planned, development plans are fully compliant with those Acts and Regulations.

I believe that it is also important to advise you that there is only a relatively low use of welders, cutters and grinders at the Institute. Most of the students' time is spent preparing and learning about the operation of the equipment, rather than actually using the equipment. The institute is a student learning facility, not an industrial production facility.

To allay community concerns, independent assessors were engaged to conduct tests on related activities at the Yeronga Institute of TAFE, Blocks C and D. These tests were carried out under the auspices of the Environmental Protection Agency by the Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station and were specifically based on odour complaints received from Yeronga residents. I am advised that in all instances the results of these tests show that the extraction and ventilation systems are fully compliant with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act. In fact, in many instances the emissions were below detection levels.

I understand that the Environmental Protection Agency has provided advice to the chief petitioner that it has monitored the environmental performance of the Yeronga TAFE and found it to be compliant with the conditions of its licence and has taken steps with its non foundry operations to demonstrate compliance with its general environmental duty.

In fact, the EPA stated that it has found Yeronga TAFE to be cooperative and aware of its environmental responsibilities, to the extent that it engaged independent stack testing of stacks not covered by its environmental authority. The EPA also stated that the results of this monitoring had been made available to the EPA and clearly demonstrates emissions from the metal trades buildings (blocks C&D) are in compliance with relevant guidelines and are unlikely to pose a risk of environmental nuisance.

I assure you that my department would act promptly to rectify any environmental hazards should testing have shown that residents were being compromised in any way. To this end, I trust that the results of these tests have in some way allayed your concerns in relation to any potential pollution hazards for residents of the surrounding area.

I note your associated request to relocate certain Yeronga training activities to the Construction Training Centre at Salisbury on the basis that these premises are owned, controlled and managed by TAFE. I wish to advise that this is a misunderstanding, and as a result it is not possible for me to consider your request in relation to this matter. The Centre is not owned, managed or controlled by the department or TAFE, but rather by the Construction Industry Skill Centre Pty Ltd (CISC).

The primary role of the Construction Training Centre is to provide skills and enhanced training to the building construction industry and related trades. The centre is predominantly a private provider of training services. Training currently being undertaken at the Yeronga Institute of TAFE in relation to metal fabricating is not directly related to construction, and is therefore being appropriately provided by the Institute.

I trust that this information has clarified the situation for you and other residents. Please be assured that the Institute would be happy to provide you with further information if you have any remaining concerns. I would therefore like to extend to you an invitation to make contact with Mr Brian Hutchison, Institute Director on 3892 0438 if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for bringing the matter to my attention. Your concern for your local community is to be commended."

In addition the department has provided a copy of the full report of the emission tests to any person who asks for it.

607. Comalco Alumina Refinery, Gladstone

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (30/10/01)—

With reference to the State Government's support for the development of stage one of the Comalco alumina refinery at Gladstone—

- (1) What is the total value of the State Government's support?
- (2) Will he provide a complete breakdown, including description, cost and conditions of each of the incentives/support initiatives provided by the State Government?
- (3) What arrangements and/or concessions have been provided to the company for the supply of energy/electricity and what is their value?
- (4) What undertakings, commitments or assurances has the State Government secured from the company in return for the support provided?

Mr BEATTIE (28/11/01):

(1) The total value of the State's infrastructure commitment is \$150m. This is a large infrastructure package, but the project is clearly seen as a catalyst for other major projects in Queensland to provide even more jobs. Confirmation of the \$1.54 billion first stage of the Comalco Alumina Refinery in Gladstone means that Queensland has embarked on a new era of industrial development creating thousands of sustainable jobs. It follows the Sun Metals zinc refinery in Townsville, the AMC magnesium refinery near Rockhampton and a proposed extension of aluminium smelter capacity in Gladstone

These developments are the direct result of the Queensland Government's deliberate strategy towards value-adding of our natural resources, which includes concessional mineral royalties if further processing is conducted in Queensland, and investment incentive packages.

The \$1.54 billion project is the first of three stages in the \$4 billion alumina refinery complex planned by Comalco in Gladstone, which will provide a major foundation for the growing economy of Central Queensland over the coming decades.

Comalco's decision earlier this year to switch from importing modular components for the plant to a construction plan using up to 80% local content will also ensure jobs spin-offs for Queensland engineering and supply firms.

There will be up to 1500 jobs during construction and more than 400 permanent jobs.

(2) The State commitment arrangement was formalised in the Agreement that was signed on Friday, 26 October 2001, by Mr Sam Walsh, Comalco's Chief Executive Officer. The State will only provide the Project with one support initiative, namely access to infrastructure totalling \$150m. The main item of this infrastructure package is port works at Fishermans Landing, north of Gladstone.

(3) The State has no direct arrangement with Comalco in relation to the supply of energy or electricity to the refinery project, as part of this package.

(4) The Infrastructure Commitment Agreement contains detailed Performance Conditions which the Government requires Comalco to adhere to. Comalco's performance of its obligations will be secured by a bank guarantee and underwritten by Comalco's parent company, Rio Tinto Limited.

608. Police Housing, St George

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (30/10/01)—

With reference to the shortage of police housing in St George—

- (1) Is he aware that a housing shortage exists?
- (2) Will he advise what plans he has to provide adequate housing in St George?

Mr McGRADY (29/11/01):

(1) The Queensland Police Service recognises the requirement to provide additional housing in St George and funds were identified in the 2000/2001 Capital Works Program for this purpose. Late in the 2000/01 year (approximately April/May 2001), the QPS was involved in extensive negotiations for the acquisition of a residence in St George. I am advised that the vendor withdrew at an advanced stage of these negotiations and the property was not acquired.

(2) I am advised that inquiries are currently being made to identify a suitable residence and it is expected that a Queensland Police Service representative will be in St George in the coming weeks to evaluate available purchase options. As a result of the acquisition not proceeding in the 2000/01 year, funds for acquisition of a house have been identified in the 2001/02 year.

609. Queensland Ambulance Service, Hervey Bay

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (30/10/01)—

Will he detail any investigation into, and any action taken, on all motor vehicle accidents involving Queensland Ambulance Service vehicles in Hervey Bay?

Mr REYNOLDS (29/11/01): There has only been one motor vehicle accident involving a QAS vehicle in Hervey Bay in the past 12 months. In this accident an ambulance officer driving the vehicle whilst off duty left the road and struck a tree. The officer in charge of the vehicle was breath tested and returned a reading of 0.052% and in accordance with policy the incident was reported to the Criminal Justice Commission. The matter was referred back to the Commissioner QAS for a full investigation to be carried out. This investigation has been completed and the QAS is awaiting further advice from the Criminal Justice Commission prior to taking any disciplinary action.

610. Health Rights Commission; Medical Assessment Tribunal

Mr PURCELL asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (30/10/01)—
With reference to the Health Rights Commission and the Medical Assessment Tribunal—

- (1) Will she explain the different roles of the Health Rights Commission and the Medical Assessment Tribunal?
- (2) What is the procedure that constituents are asked to follow in making a verbal or written complaint to either the Commission or the Tribunal?

Mrs EDMOND (29/11/01):

(1) Health Rights Commission

The Health Rights Commission is established under the Health Rights Commission Act 1991 to provide for the review and conciliation of health services provided by health service users, and to provide information, education and advice in relation to health rights and responsibilities and the resolution of complaints about health services.

Medical Assessment Tribunal

The Medical Assessment Tribunal is constituted under the Medical Act 1939 by a Judge of the Supreme Court who is assisted by two medical practitioners acting as assessors. The role of the Tribunal is to hear and determine charges made against medical practitioners under the Act, and to hear and determine appeals by practitioners whose names have been removed from the Register, who have been suspended or who have had conditions imposed on their registration.

I would point out however, that effective from 7 February 2000 with the commencement of the Health Practitioners (Professional Standards) Act 1999 the Medical Assessment Tribunal has effectively been replaced by the Health Practitioners Tribunal. The new Tribunal has replaced the jurisdiction of the Medical Assessment Tribunal but a number of matters which had been commenced under the repealed disciplinary provisions of the Medical Act 1939 may continue to be heard in the Medical Assessment Tribunal under transitional arrangements.

(2) Health Rights Commission

A person may make a health service complaint to the Health Rights Commissioner either orally or in writing. Oral complaints must be confirmed in writing unless the Commissioner is satisfied that there is good reason not to.

Medical Assessment Tribunal

It was never competent for a complainant to initiate a case alleged against a practitioner directly before the Medical Assessment Tribunal. In circumstances where the Board, following investigation of a complaint, was of the opinion that a medical practitioner was guilty of misconduct in a professional respect, it could charge the person accordingly before the Medical Assessment Tribunal and have conduct of the charge as prosecutor.

611. Cardiac Infarction

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (31/10/01)—

What is the rate of cardiac infarction in each of the State's health districts and what is the survival rate?

Mrs EDMOND (30/11/01): I am advised that data on the incidence of cardiac infarction are not routinely available in any Australian State or Territory or overseas. Accordingly, we do not currently have data on survival following cardiac infarction for each district.

612. Numberplates

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (31/10/01)—

With reference to the Premier's announcement on 30 October that as of 1 January, 2002 licence plates will be produced with slogans Sunshine State or Smart State—

- (1) How many licence plates are currently produced per annum with the Sunshine State slogan and what is the average cost per plate?
- (2) What are the expected set up costs for producing an alternative licence plate with Smart State as the slogan?
- (3) What is the expected average cost per plate and expected production run per annum of each licence plate for each plate type?

Mr BREDHAUER (29/11/01):

(1) 378,000 pairs of plates with the Sunshine State slogan (green characters on a white background) were produced during the year 2000.

270,000 pairs of plates with the Sunshine State slogan (green characters on a white background) were produced from January 2001 until October 2001 inclusive.

The current cost of Sunshine State plates to customers is \$17.70 per pair.

(2) The production of the alternate Smart State plate has been accommodated within existing contract arrangements.

(3) \$17.70 per pair will continue to be the cost to customers for both Sunshine State and Smart State plates. Production runs for each type of plate will be determined once a clear trend has developed from customers indicating their preference.

613. Queensland Fire and Rescue Service

Mr HOPPER asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (31/10/01)—

With reference to concerns that have been raised about aspects of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority's Firefighter of the Future Recruitment campaign, particularly the requirements of the psychometric assessment component and as it is my belief that too many good men (I believe 60 per cent) are failing this test, thus keeping them from being employed as full time firemen—

Will he investigate this situation?

Mr REYNOLDS (30/11/01): The use of psychometric assessments is already well entrenched in business and industry sectors throughout Australia, including corrective services and police services. In the implementation of such assessments, it is also common practice for organisations to outsource this function to established experts.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) has adopted a psychometric assessment standard to ensure the identification of the most suitable applicants for firefighting and the progression of these applicants through the remainder of the selection process. The revised selection process includes a comprehensive sequence of assessments, of which the psychometric assessment is one component. Other components include: submitting a number of current mandatory requirements, including a medium rigid licence, senior first aid certificate, advanced resuscitation certificate, birth certificate/permanent residency documentation, pre-medical form and indemnity form; undertaking and passing the physical abilities assessment; undertaking the behavioural assessment; undertaking an interview and referee checks; passing a thorough medical examination; and undergoing a criminal history check.

The QFRS has spent considerable time and resources in validating the effectiveness of the tests used in the psychometric assessment. In fact, I am aware that the validation process undertaken by the QFRS has significantly exceeded the standards of those undertaken in other organisations currently using psychometric assessments. As the acknowledged expert in this field and acting as consulting psychologist to QFRS, Mr Owen Pershouse of Pacific Behaviour Interventions has consistently advised the QFRS that the various cut-offs used in determining applicant suitability and non-suitability were extremely liberal and fair. In terms of psychometric testing, generally the success rate of tested groups is 33%. QFRS has achieved a success rate of almost 44%, which is well above average.

The QFRS conducted an extensive review of the recruitment and selection process over the past two years. Throughout the review, representatives from the United Firefighters' Union attended a series of meetings of the

psychometric assessment committee. At these meetings, the sequencing of the selection process in the context of the management of a large-scale and competitive selection process was discussed in detail.

The QFRS receives approximately 2,000 applications for each campaign and can only offer approximately 100 positions over a two year period. There is a significant need to ensure that suitable applicants are selected through a process that identifies candidates who will meet the needs of the QFRS well into the twenty first century.

It would appear that a significant proportion of applicants who have been unsuccessful in the psychometric assessment have failed to meet the aptitude component of the assessment, that is, the required standards for numeracy, literacy and problem solving skills.

I would like to stress that the result of the psychometric assessment does in no way impact upon the ability of auxiliary staff to continue to serve their community. The current selection process does not assess the ability of an auxiliary firefighter to perform his/her existing role nor does this process inhibit the recruitment and selection of interested persons wishing to participate in this community activity. The QFRS values the skills and abilities of auxiliary firefighters and will progress the development of a transitional program for auxiliary firefighters to enter the career rank of firefighter.

The QFRS will continue to investigate strategies which will ensure that the best possible people are employed as firefighters of the future. I have requested that a comprehensive review be undertaken and findings are to be incorporated into the next recruitment campaign. I have directed that this review should be conducted in close consultation with the Auxiliary Firefighter's Association as well as the United Firefighter's Union.

614. Dog Control Laws

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (31/10/01)—

With reference to the proposed new dog laws—

- (1) Will she supply the Gold Coast dog attack statistics so everyone can know how dangerous the four proposed restricted dog breeds have been shown to be?
- (2) If the Government believes banning a breed will ensure public safety, why has it not placed a ban on the breeds occurring most often in the Gold Coast statistics?
- (3) Will the Government consider doing so?
- (4) How will the Government guarantee public safety from those breeds not banned but which caused over 98 per cent of the attacks in the statistical period?
- (5) Aren't the four prescribed breeds already restricted and declared dangerous dogs through local government powers and local laws?
- (6) What evidence is there that these new proposals will be more effective?
- (7) Is it fair to penalise innocent dogs amongst the prescribed breeds more harshly than non-prescribed breeds more likely to offend?
- (8) How fair is it to expect owners to prove the unprovable, placing the onus on them to prove their dogs' parentage when a non-expert can declare a dog as a banned breed and confiscate it?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (30/11/01):

(1) Mrs Pratt has misunderstood the intent and purpose of the legislation. The purpose of the legislation is not to focus on the breeds of dog most represented in attack data, but rather to deal with the issue of regulating the breeds of fighting dog banned from importation by Commonwealth legislation (referred to as "restricted dogs"). The aim of the legislation is to create a State regulatory framework to provide a minimum standard for the keeping and control of these restricted dogs.

While the Commonwealth legislation is intended to prevent new dogs of these breeds from being brought into Australia, the purpose of the proposed State legislation is to regulate the dogs of these breeds that are already here.

The control of dogs that behave in ways that are dangerous to the public is a matter that is dealt with by councils through their local laws.

Since the scope of the proposed legislation is the four breeds that are banned by the Commonwealth from importation to Australia, the control of dogs that behave dangerously is beyond the scope of the legislation and is a matter for local government to address.

(2) The government is not banning these breeds of restricted dogs. The State regulatory framework will place controls and conditions upon the keeping of the breeds of dog prohibited from importation by the Commonwealth, in the interests of the health and safety of members of the community.

Currently, the main control on dangerous dogs in Queensland is through local government local laws. A model local law, Model Local Law No. 4 (Keeping and Control of Animals) 2000, has been approved to facilitate local government regulation of dangerous dogs. Model Local Law No. 4 provides a framework for the regulation of dogs declared dangerous on the basis of behaviour or breed. Under the Model Local Law, a local government can declare dogs that attack, threaten attack or exhibit other behaviours that threaten public safety, to be dangerous dogs, and apply conditions on the keeping of such dogs. Under the Model Local Law, a local government may by subordinate local law prohibit the keeping of a specified breed of dog.

All local governments, except one, have adopted a local law which is either the Model Local Law, or is substantially similar in terms to the Model Local Law.

(3) Local governments have autonomous responsibility for the good rule and government of their areas. Local governments have jurisdiction to make laws on matters necessary for the maintenance of good rule and government in their area. Currently, local governments are largely responsible for animal management issues in their communities; and the main control on dangerous dogs in Queensland is through local government local laws (as noted above in answer 2).

Given that councils have been willing to exercise jurisdiction on this matter, it is intended that the proposed State legislation would provide minimum standards for the regulation of restricted dogs. This would mean local governments could prescribe higher standards through existing or new local laws, but local governments would have to apply at least the minimum standards prescribed by the State legislation. There is no intention to alter the longstanding autonomy of decision-making and law-making powers of local governments in this regard.

(4) The main control on dangerous dogs in Queensland is through local government local laws. All local governments, except one, have adopted a local law to regulate the keeping and control of dogs and other animals in their area. These local laws give councils power to declare a dog to be dangerous on the basis of behaviour or breed. The issue of controls on these dogs is therefore, a matter falling within the jurisdiction of local government, and each council will decide the most appropriate regulatory framework for their area.

(5) A number of local governments in Queensland have local laws or subordinate local laws which declare the breeds of dog banned from importation by the Commonwealth to be dangerous dogs, and have prescribed conditions for the keeping and control of these dogs. Further, some local governments have local laws or subordinate local laws which prohibit the keeping of these breeds of dog in their local government area.

The making of such laws dealing with animal management issues is within the jurisdiction of local governments. Further, under Model Local Law No. 4 (Keeping and Control of Animals) 2000, a local government may by subordinate local law prohibit the keeping of a specified breed of dog.

There are 125 local governments in Queensland, and not all councils currently have local laws or subordinate local laws which specifically regulate the breeds of dog banned from importation by the Commonwealth. Therefore, it is proposed that the legislation will provide minimum standards for the regulation of restricted dogs. This would mean local governments could prescribe higher standards through existing or new local laws, but local governments would have to apply at least the minimum standards prescribed by the State legislation.

(6) The aim of the State legislation is to introduce a minimum standard across Queensland for the keeping and control of the breeds of dog prohibited from importation by the Commonwealth in the interests of public health and safety. It is not possible to prohibit the movement of these dogs from interstate, because of the Commonwealth Constitution. However, the legislation will provide a minimum standard for the keeping of restricted dogs once they are in Queensland. Other States have either introduced similar legislation or are in the process of doing so.

(7) The legislation provides for the keeping and control of restricted dogs already prohibited from importation by the Commonwealth. The conditions on the keeping of restricted dogs promote responsible pet ownership in the interests of public health and safety. Other breeds of dog, and dogs declared dangerous on the basis of behaviour will continue to be regulated by local government local laws.

(8) If a council obtains expert advice as to the breed of a dog, the council must notify the owner of this advice, and provide the owner with 14 days to make written representations regarding the breed of the dog. The written materials may include, for example, a breed certificate, a statement from the pet-store where the dog was purchased, or a certificate prepared by a veterinarian.

The Council must then consider all the evidence before them in making their decision to declare a dog to be a restricted dog. If the dog is declared to be a restricted dog, the owner must obtain a permit for the keeping of the dog, and comply with the conditions for the keeping of the dog. The conditions of the permit include keeping the dog in an adequate enclosure, and ensuring the dog is muzzled and under effective control, that is, on a leash, when in public.

The declaration of a dog to be a restricted dog will not result in immediate seizure of the dog. Rather, the declaration requires the owner to obtain a permit for the dog and to comply with the conditions for the keeping and control of the dog.

The legislation provides that a council can only seize a dog in specific circumstances. The legislation also contains requirements to notify the owner of the seizure of the dog, and preserves an owner's right to the review of council decisions and actions in the appropriate administrative and legal forums.

615. CHOGM

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (31/10/01)—

With reference to CHOGM which is likely to be relocated outside Brisbane—

- (1) Will he provide an estimate of the revised police budget, as no doubt considerable additional costs will be incurred?
- (2) Will this relocation impact on police staffing levels at police establishments?
- (3) Is there any intention to use uniformed recruits from the Police Academy to bolster security personnel?

Mr McGRADY (30/11/01):

(1) I am advised that full details of operational requirements are yet to be received from the CHOGM Task Force in Canberra; therefore details of expenditures are unable to be estimated at this time.

(2) The concept plan for CHOGM 2002 has not been provided to the Queensland Police Service at this stage, however, I am advised that the relocation of CHOGM to the Sunshine Coast is not anticipated to result in an increase on the CHOGM 2001 staffing projections.

(3) I am advised that there is no intention to use uniformed recruits from the Police Academy to bolster security personnel, however, approval has been granted in principle to enable further negotiations on a range of duties that could be considered appropriate for Police Recruits. These include:

- Logistical functions (e.g. driving mini buses delivering sworn officers to venues);
- Administrative roles within venues; and
- Station duties in line with present arrangements.

616. Energex; Ergon Energy

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (31/10/01)—

With reference to expenditure by Ergon Energy and Energex over the last 12 months to 31 October 2001—

- (1) How much did each corporation spend on sporting, entertainment and corporate events?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of sporting, entertainment and corporate events attended or held, including all expenses accrued by each corporation and each corporation's chairman, board members and senior executives in relation to each of those events?
- (3) Have the chairmen, board members and/or senior executives of either corporation attended any overseas sporting, entertainment and corporate events in the course of their duties; if so, what were those and what was the cost accrued?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/11/01): Given that a significant portion of the costs identified relate to commercial activities undertaken in the sections of the National Electricity Market that have already been deregulated, expenditure on sporting, entertainment and corporate events is confidential because it is commercially sensitive information.

Whilst full retail contestability is not being introduced into Queensland, the expenditure is primarily associated with the contestable part of the Corporations' businesses and is aimed at attracting and keeping National Electricity Market contestable customers in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. Further, full retail contestability is programmed to commence in the southern states on 1 January 2002 when ENERGEX and Ergon will be seeking to attract new customers in these market sectors. Appropriate budget allocations for these types of expenditures have been made.

Events supported to date in 2001 by ENERGEX and Ergon are Goodwill Games; Australian Rugby Union; ENERGEX Reds Rugby College; University of Qld Rugby Club; 2001 Honda Indy 300; Bowls Australia; Test Series—Cricket; ABC Learning Centre Pro-Am Golf; National Rugby League events which included the Brisbane Broncos and the North Queensland Cowboys; Queensland Surf Life Saving; Cairns Amateurs; and There are a small number of very small sponsorships by Ergon Energy of regional sporting teams that are arranged locally. This is not a focus of Ergon's community sponsorships which target community initiatives more focused at Green, Education, Youth and community development (including RFDS and Tidy Towns).

No ENERGEX or Ergon Energy director or executive attended any overseas activities of this nature.

617. Parents and Citizens Associations; Public Liability Insurance

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (31/10/01)—

With reference to her recent correspondence advising that the department was looking at the issue of the increasing cost of public liability insurance for Parents and Citizens Associations and what support it might give Parents and Citizens Associations to help offset the financial burden—

What support has the Education Department decided to provide to assist Parents and Citizens Associations with the cost of public liability insurance?

Ms BLIGH (30/11/01): The Government recognises the financial burden that recent insurance premium rises has caused for P&Cs.

Education Queensland is working with Treasury to develop possible options of support.

618. Integrated Planning Act; Local Government Planning Schemes

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (31/10/01)—

With reference to the Government's March 2003 deadline for the preparation of Integrated Planning Act (IPA) compliant planning schemes by local councils—

- (1) How many councils now have IPA-compliant planning schemes?
- (2) What are her department's projections for the number of councils that will achieve IPA-compliant planning schemes each month until the deadline?
- (3) Which councils has her department identified that will have difficulty achieving the deadline and what arrangements, if any, has she made to assist them?
- (4) Will she reconsider her refusal to date to extend the deadline should it prove unrealistic?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (30/11/01):

- (1) Four IPA planning schemes are in operation.
- (2) It is not possible to prepare monthly projections for completion of IPA planning schemes. Each local government manages its own scheme preparation program which involves many statutory and non-statutory steps. However, the progress of each local government is actively monitored through regular contact by Departmental officers.
- (3) Of the five local governments which have not yet commenced the process for scheme preparation, Arukun and Mornington do not presently have planning schemes or development control regulations, and do not need to have a planning scheme in place by March 2003. The Department is communicating directly with the other three local governments.

More generally, two months ago the Department released a new guideline to assist with the final drafting stage of planning schemes. The guideline is applicable to all local government areas, but incorporates a scheme template aimed particularly at low population/low growth local government areas. Such local government areas represent 60-70% of those yet to have a new IPA planning scheme.

The Department has also commenced work on a second scheme template for those local governments needing to deal with a more complex range of issues. Three local governments have agreed to work with the Department to develop this second template.

The respective regional divisions within the Department's Planning Services area also continue to work directly with individual and groups of local governments, providing advice and assisting with the coordination of State agency input.

(4) Under section 6.1.11(2) of the IPA, the Minister may nominate a later day for the lapse of a transitional planning scheme. Should circumstances warrant, this section allows the Minister to act, by gazette notice, at any time before the lapse for any transitional planning scheme.

However, the continued operation of a transitional planning scheme will further delay implementation of the complete IPA process for development assessment in the relevant local government area. Under transitional planning schemes a transitional form of the Integrated Development Assessment System (IDAS) applies which is considerably more complex to administer, involving the continued application of the former Local Government (Planning & Environment) Act 1990 as well as the IPA. The deadline for new IPA planning schemes seeks to bring this difficult transitional period to an end.

619. Treated Sewage Effluent, Sunshine Coast

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Environment (31/10/01)—

What initiatives are being investigated regarding the potential industrial or agricultural utilisation of treated sewage effluent on the Sunshine Coast?

Mr WELLS (24/12/01): The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is supportive of initiatives to beneficially reuse treated wastewater for industrial or agricultural utilisation.

The Queensland Water Recycling Strategy has been developed to provide a positive framework to encourage and support the greater uptake of water recycling in Queensland. The seven action plans of the Strategy will address the removal of barriers to water recycling such as legislation impediments as well as provide a supporting framework for improved community and industry participation. The Strategy was launched by the Honourable the Premier at the Community Cabinet meeting in Bundaberg on Sunday 2 December 2001.

On the Sunshine Coast, the EPA has issued a development approval to Caloundra City Council to reuse large amounts of its treated wastewater.

This approval will enable Caloundra City Council to recycle water for irrigation of sports grounds and parks, pastures and even for dust suppression on construction sites. Residents and businesses in this area are able to negotiate with the Council to use the recycled water for approved activities including irrigation of turf farms, tree growing and some crops.

The EPA has issued strict conditions with the approval to ensure the recycled water is used in a safe and sustainable manner. The conditions include signage, colour coding of pipes, and monitoring at the points where the water is released to third party users.

The Caloundra City Council's plant is sophisticated and provides very highly treated water which can be used for a variety of applications.

This beneficial reuse of treated wastewater will reduce the demand on freshwater supplies, and provide other significant environmental and economic benefits.

Recycled water is able to be drawn from a pipeline that runs between Landsbrough and Kawana, and the EPA would encourage users along this route to investigate using recycled water for approved activities.

620. Department of Families, Cairns

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (31/10/01)—

Will she provide a list of (a) all vehicles operated in Cairns by the department or any agencies funded by the department, including the now closed Yuddika for each month from July 2000 to date and to which section or agency they were assigned and (b) the monthly fuel card accounts for each of those vehicles from July 2000 to date?

Ms SPENCE (27/11/01): Details of all vehicles operated by the Department of Families in Cairns, the section under which they operated and the monthly fuel card accounts for each of these vehicles for the period 1 July 2000 to 31 October 2001 is attached.

Information about vehicles of funded agencies including Yuddika is not available to the Department. Funded agencies are only required to provide quarterly financial expenditure requests or salaries and operating costs incurred. It is not possible to extract vehicle costs for the reports.

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

621. Industrial Estate, Nudgee

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (31/10/01)—

- (1) What action has his department taken in regard to concerns with the night time activities of a transport company entering an industrial estate from St Achs St, Nudgee?
- (2) Has the company implemented a voluntary curfew; if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that this voluntary curfew is being respected?

Mr WELLS (21/12/01):

(1) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for investigating complaints regarding noise generated from commercial and industrial premises.

The department advises me that a complaint was received in October 2000 from a resident regarding vehicle noise within the industrial estate and from road traffic noise from vehicles accessing the estate from St Achs Street, Nudgee. Noise monitoring of truck movements within the premises was to be undertaken by the EPA at the complainant's residence in October 2000; however the complainant cancelled the proposed monitoring.

The Brisbane City Council (BCC) is responsible for road traffic noise on BCC controlled roads whilst noisy vehicles are a matter for Queensland Transport.

(2) The department informs me that to the best of their knowledge the company has not implemented a voluntary curfew, nor has the company been asked by the EPA to enter into a voluntary curfew.

622. Off-road Diesel Fuel Subsidy

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (31/10/01)—

With reference to the recent demand by Treasury for small earthmoving contractors to pay off-road diesel subsidy debt accrued because of their lack of knowledge—

- (1) How and to whom was the information relating to the subsidy changes disseminated during 2000?
- (2) How has Treasury identified businesses who owe these amounts?
- (3) What recognition has been given by Treasury to the difficulties these businesses face in determining off-road versus on-road vehicle/machinery use retrospectively?
- (4) How is Treasury proposing to identify and follow up businesses they feel have not responded to these demands?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/11/01):

(1) Extensive efforts were made to advise all fuel users of the changes to the Fuel Subsidy Scheme, including the abolition of the Queensland subsidy for off-road diesel. In the months of June and July 2000, people registered as a distributor or licensed as a retailer, off-road diesel user or bulk end user under the old Fuel Subsidy Scheme were provided with a range of information bulletins about the changes to the scheme. Relevant industry groups were also provided with this information. Distributors were a major means of dissemination of information to fuel buyers under the old scheme.

Advertisements were published in major Brisbane and regional newspapers advising of the changes to the subsidy arrangements.

In addition, there was considerable media coverage as the issues were debated.

(2) Now that the new scheme has had time to settle into operation, the Office of State Revenue is looking to ensure that the fuel subsidy is not incorrectly claimed where diesel is purchased for an off-road purpose. A number of consumers have voluntarily repaid subsidy incorrectly claimed since the scheme changed in July 2000.

As part of a structured compliance program, the Office of State Revenue has identified types of businesses where fuel may be used for an off-road purpose. As a first step, information about obligations when purchasing diesel for an off-road purpose is being given out to retailers, consumers and fuel industry representatives. During a three-month amnesty period from 1 September 2001, consumers who have incorrectly claimed the subsidy have the opportunity to repay that subsidy without penalty.

(3) The degree of difficulty in distinguishing between diesel used for off-road and on-road purposes varies. Some fuel users may have no problem because the diesel purchased may be used wholly off-road and does not attract the subsidy. Other buyers may use the diesel for both off-road and on-road purposes.

The Office of State Revenue has worked with industry to explain eligibility and record keeping requirements to affected fuel consumers. The Office also works through this issue with clients on a case by case basis.

(4) The Office of State Revenue audit and education programs will continue to work to educate and inform fuel users about obligations relating to the purchase of diesel fuel for an off-road purpose under the Fuel Subsidy Act 1997.

623. Project Services

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (31/10/01)—

- (1) Is he satisfied that Project Services are capable of providing capable supervision of building projects and ensuring that the quality control programs on Government building sites are up to or above industry standards, particularly on recent buildings such as the Hervey Bay Hospital, the Maryborough Hospital, the Cairns Convention Centre and the Brisbane River foot bridge?
- (2) Is there any truth in the claim that Project Services have completed the documentation of a major building in one third of the usual time?
- (3) Would he expect such rapid documentation would have a negative impact on future quality control on that particular building site?

Mr SCHWARTEN (30/11/01): (1-3) Project Services satisfactorily provided procurement management and contract administration services on the Hervey Bay Hospital and Maryborough Hospital; and project management and contract administration on the Cairns Convention Centre. However, it and the Department of Public Works had no involvement with the Goodwill Bridge. Without specific details about the "major building" referred to by the Honourable Member, I am unable to answer the question.

624. Judges and Magistrates, Personal Computers

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (31/10/01)—

- (1) Have all Magistrates, District and Supreme Court Judges been provided with personal computers; if not, how many have not and why not?
- (2) How many of these computers are linked to enable judicial officers to personally access all relevant court databases and the Internet for research into case and sentencing precedents?

Mr WELFORD (30/11/01):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In relation to Higher Courts: all computers are linked to the Courts' computer network. Judges have access to the Judicial Virtual Library including access to on-line research material. Each Judge also has access to the Internet and to the Department's Intranet.

In relation to Magistrates: all personal computers are linked to the Departmental computer network and unlimited Internet access is available. All Magistrates also have access to all on-line research materials to which the Department subscribes.

625. Disabled Parking Permits

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (31/10/01)—

With reference to the issue of disabled parking permits by Queensland Transport—

- (1) What is the difference in the conditions that apply to the red and blue permits?
- (2) Is he aware of parking tickets being issued to the holders of red permits who have parked on-road because conditions on their permits indicated an entitlement to do so?
- (3) What action has been taken to replace red permits that may contain outdated information and to withdraw parking fines imposed contrary to the information contained on these permits?

Mr BREDHAUER (29/11/01):

(1) Blue permits allow the holder to park in an on or off-street parking area that is designated for disabled use. A blue permit holder may also access free parking in any on-street car park that has a designated time limit of more than thirty minutes. Red permits only allow access to off-street disabled parking.

(2) The Disabled Parking Permits Form changed in 1998, and approximately eighteen thousand red permits were printed with incorrect conditions. This allowed the holder to park on-street instead of restricting them to off-street spaces. A few infringement notices were issued by Brisbane City Council, but in all cases the infringement has been waived.

(3) About five thousand red permits have already been replaced due to damage or expiry of the permit. Queensland Transport is recalling and replacing the remaining permits through a direct mailing campaign. In the meantime, the department will continue to liaise closely with local governments about waiving of infringements.

626. Aboriginal Corporations; Deeds of Grant in Trust

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (31/10/01)—

Will he provide a current list of the properties and their respective area that are held by Aboriginal Corporations under Deed of Grant in Trust arrangements?

Mr ROBERTSON (30/11/01): Under the provisions of the Land Act 1994, 32 deeds of grant in trust (DOGITS) for indigenous purposes were issued. All but two are held by local Aboriginal or Islander Councils, as trustee, with the provisions of the Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1994 and Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1994 giving these councils local authority status for their respective DOGIT lands. The exceptions are one held by an association and one by individual trustees. A list of indigenous DOGITs is shown at Attachment 1.

Under the Land Act 1994, provision also exists for the setting apart of land as DOGIT for a variety of purposes, other than indigenous. No mechanism exists in the registration of these DOGITs that identifies them as being held by Aboriginal or Islander corporations.

Under the provisions of the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991, land is granted in fee-simple to indigenous persons by way of the grant of inalienable freehold title. When land is granted under these Acts, grantees are appointed by the Minister to hold the land for the benefit of indigenous people. Upon the deed taking effect the grantees are automatically incorporated under the Acts as a land trust, to which they form the membership. To date 46 land trusts have been established. A list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land Trusts established under these Acts is shown at Attachment 2.

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

627. Queensland Ambulance Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (31/10/01)—

With reference to the staff satisfaction survey undertaken in the Queensland Ambulance Service by his department—

- (1) What issues of concern were raised by staff through the survey?
- (2) Have issues of concern from previous surveys been rectified?
- (3) Did officers raise concerns about stress management within the service?
- (4) Were there any concerns about abuse and mental harassment within the workplace?
- (5) Will he release this document for public scrutiny?

Mr REYNOLDS (30/11/01):

(1) The QAS has undertaken a number of surveys over recent years in an effort to guide continuous improvement of its services. The principal survey has been the Organisational Self Assessment which has been conducted now for four years and has demonstrated a continuous improvement in all elements of organisational performance particularly with "people" issues.

In addition, this year the QAS undertook its first direct Staff Satisfaction Survey. The survey was responded to by 382 staff (17%). The survey asked staff if they agreed or disagreed with a series of propositions.

The strengths identified by the respondents included the following:

- The QAS mission is supported
- Goals are being met
- Overall the workload is reasonable
- Officers understand their job
- Policy and Procedures Manuals are available and accessible
- Peer relations are good
- Peers are seen as professional and competent
- Immediate supervisors are well regarded
- Workplace Health & Safety is improving

Some of the opportunities for improvement identified by respondents include: staffing levels, officers individual needs pertaining to their job, the development of a range of strategies to improve staff morale; a review of the induction program, remuneration and rosters.

(2) This is the first staff satisfaction survey.

(3) Yes. QAS continues to provide a comprehensive staff support program for its officers.

(4) The survey did not ask specific questions about abuse or mental harassment.

(5) The survey is an internal working document and is currently being made available to staff through information sessions and on the Intranet. The document is not intended for public release.

628. Police Air Wing, Use by Premier's Department

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (31/10/01)—

(1) Will he detail all occasions since 1 July 1998 when the Premier has made use of the Police Air Wing and will he detail the date, reasons, destinations and costs for each trip?

(2) Will he outline for each occasion how much the Premier's Department reimbursed the Queensland Police Service for the cost of each trip?

Mr McGRADY (30/11/01):

(1) During the period 1 July 1998 to 31 October 2001, the Premier utilised the Police Air Wing on the following dates with destinations and costs for each trip detailed below:

18 July 1999—Brisbane/Boulia/Longreach/Brisbane

Direct Operating Cost—\$2905.63
 Overhaul Allowance—\$1474.21
 Travelling Allowance—\$0.00
 TOTAL COST—\$4379.84

30 October 1999—Cairns/Bloomfield Lodge/Cairns

Direct Operating Cost—\$238.44
 Overhaul Allowance—\$59.99
 Travelling Allowance—\$0.00
 TOTAL COST—\$298.43

2 June 2000— Brisbane/Townsville

Direct Operating Cost—\$1326.48
 Overhaul Allowance—\$673.01
 Travelling Allowance (2 & 3.6.00)—\$0.00 (Accom. & meals paid by
 TOTAL COST—\$1999.49 Premier's Department)

3 June 2000— return Townsville/Brisbane

Direct Operating Cost—\$947.49
 Overhaul Allowance—\$480.72
 Travelling Allowance—\$32.60 (breakfast, lunch & incidental)
 TOTAL COST—\$1460.81

22 June 2001 Brisbane/Sydney

Direct Operating Cost—\$2219.11
 Overhaul Allowance—\$1112.72
 Travelling Allowance—\$0.00
 TOTAL COST—\$3331.83

15 July 2001—Brisbane/Ayr

Direct Operating Cost—\$1347.31
 Overhaul Allowance—\$675.58
 Travelling Allowance (15 & 16.7.01)—\$393.20
 TOTAL COST—\$2416.09

16 July 2001—return Ayr to Brisbane

Direct Operating Cost—\$1188.82
 Overhaul Allowance—\$596.10
 Travelling Allowance—\$0.00 (included in 15.7.01)
 TOTAL COST—\$1784.92

21 July 2001—Brisbane/Hamilton Island

Direct Operating Cost—\$1268.05
 Overhaul Allowance—\$635.84
 Travelling Allowance—\$0.00 (paid by Premier's Department)
 TOTAL COST—\$1903.89

22 July 2001— Hamilton Island/Brisbane

Direct Operating Cost—\$1030.31
 Overhaul Allowance—\$516.62
 Travelling Allowance—\$13.25 (incidental allowance)
 TOTAL COST—\$1560.18

19 October 2001—Normanton/Delta Downs/Normanton

Direct Operating Cost—\$176.55
 Overhaul Allowance—\$46.66
 Travelling Allowance—\$0.00
 TOTAL COST—\$223.21

Reasons for travel by the Premier are not the subject of information held within my portfolio as Minister for Police and Corrective Services.

(2) Reimbursement of aircraft operating costs between the Premier's Department and the Queensland Police Service is managed by way of reciprocal arrangements at Chief Pilot level. In urgent instances, or in the event of aircraft unserviceability, an aircraft from the opposite organisation is provided subject to routine commitments. This arrangement maximises the deployment of Government aviation assets.

629. Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (31/10/01)—

With reference to many East Coast trawl fishermen who are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of a reduction in effort—

- (1) Does he believe section 82 of the East Coast Management Plan is allowing effort units to be distributed to eligible persons in an attempt to effectively remedy hardship when considering the anomalies in the plan?
- (2) Is there a drafting error in the ECTMP 1999 in section 93(4) which refers to: " HRD1" " HRD2" " HRD3" " HRD4" which should read " HD1" " HD2" " HD3" " HD4"; if so, why wasn't this amended with the numerous number of last minute amendments to the plan when it was debated this year?
- (3) As in section 80(3) of the ECTMP is says "In making a decision, the chief executive must consider—(a) Any relevant log book returns given before 1 May 1999, (b) Records held by the chief executive bout returns"—but there is no mention the chief executive must only consider (a) and (b), in other words, if there is relevant information regarding log books and other issues pertaining to the period between 1988 and 1998, 10 years where an eligible licence is in question and where an adequate level of proof has been provided, has the clear interpretation of this clause been adhered to?
- (4) Did the Fisheries Tribunal consider section 80(3) created uncertainty as to what material the chief executive was required to examine in a recent appeal to the tribunal?
- (5) Is it a fact that, in view of the way section 80(3) was drafted, if the tribunal had the power to award costs against the chief executive of the Department of Primary Industries, it would have done so?
- (6) As there is no doubt that section 80(3) of the ECTMP is ambiguous, why was this allowed to occur?
- (7) What impact on other appeals to the tribunal will this have?
- (8) What number of unallocated nights are left and what is the intention of the scheme with respect to the future of these nights?

Mr PALASZCZUK (30/11/01):

(1) Yes. Section 82 of the Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan 1999 (the Plan) is a statement of the purpose of Part 6, Division 4 of the Plan. That purpose is to allow further effort units to be issued to eligible licence holders to attempt to remedy hardship or disadvantage resulting from the initial allocation of fishing days.

(2) There is a minor drafting error in the formula for the allocation of supplementary fishing days set out in section 93(4) of the Plan. No one was disadvantaged through the error and the formula has been consistently applied.

The error is simply in the acronym used in the formula to represent the sum of the highest recorded fishing days, which appears as "HD" rather than "HRD". The section contains a clear written explanation of the formula. The intent of the section, when considered as a whole, is plain. The formula has been applied in accordance with its obvious and common sense meaning.

The acronym used in the formula has not been the subject of amendment as the administrative decisions made in accordance with the formula were largely complete at the time the error was noticed by the Fisheries Tribunal in the course of an appeal. The parties to the appeal, and the Tribunal, all accepted the clear intent of the formula was to refer to "HRD" rather than "HD".

(3) Yes. Section 80(3) of the Trawl Plan sets out the matters the chief executive must consider in the initial allocation of fishing days. The QFS took the view this was limited to relevant logbook returns given before 1 May

1999 and records held by the chief executive about those returns. I am advised that the QFS adhered to this interpretation and that the Fisheries Tribunal has upheld its approach.

(4) I assume the question refers to the recent decision of the Fisheries Tribunal in *Williams v Chief Executive*, Department of Primary Industries. The Fisheries Tribunal is an independent tribunal. It has released comprehensive reasons for its decision to refuse the *Williams* appeal. It would not be appropriate for me to speculate on its deliberations when it has already published reasons for a decision.

(5) The Fisheries Tribunal is established under the Fisheries Act 1994, which also governs its powers and functions. I refer to my previous answer regarding the independence of the Fisheries Tribunal and to the inappropriateness of commenting on what it may, or may not, do in a hypothetical situation.

(6) Issues of statutory interpretation are commonly raised before courts and tribunals. It is entirely appropriate that the Fisheries Tribunal decide issues concerning interpretation of the Plan relevant to appeals.

(7) The Fisheries Tribunal provides an accessible and independent avenue for the review of administrative decisions made under the Fisheries Act. It would be most inappropriate for me to speculate on how the Fisheries Tribunal might deal with pending appeals, or to speculate on any likely outcomes.

(8) I am advised by QFS that currently there are approximately 3,120 fishing days from the total available pool that have not yet been allocated under the Plan. This number may be reduced following the determination of outstanding appeals before the Fisheries Tribunal.

Under section 95 of the Plan, it will then be a matter for the chief executive of the Department of Primary Industries to decide whether to allocate any remaining fishing days to licence holders.

630. Sly-grogging, Aboriginal and Islander Communities

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (31/10/01)—

With reference to her answer to a question on Wednesday 2 May 2001 relating to the sly grog trade in Aboriginal communities—

- (1) Will she detail figures relating to each Aboriginal or Islander community (or region) with regard to (a) how many sly-grogging reports were received and investigated by her department, (b) how many incidents resulted in the seizure of alcohol, (c) what the total volume was of alcohol seized in each case and (d) how many of these resulted in convictions being recorded (and when)?
- (2) Of those that have not resulted in convictions, how many are still being pursued by her department?
- (3) How many vehicles, aircraft, boats and animals have been seized?

Mrs ROSE (30/11/01):

(1)(a) During the period from May 2001 to 16 November 2001 my Department has been informed of 54 persons suspected of being involved in sly-grogging in various indigenous communities. This information has been provided to the Queensland Police Service for investigation. Of the 54 names provided to the Liquor Licensing Division 27 were from the Gulf of Carpentaria, 11 within Cape York, four within the Torres Strait and eight within Palm Island.

(b) In late August 2001 four persons were charged as a result of a joint operation involving members of the Queensland Police Service, Liquor Licensing Division and the Aurukun Shire Council. No prosecutions are expected at this stage from the other information, due to a lack of evidence to prove the offence. There is a reluctance from community people to formalise a prosecution to stamp out Sly Grogging when the Sly Groggers still reside within the community in which they had been proactive.

(c) A total of 164 litres were seized during the operation in Aurukun in August. There has been no further alcohol seized in other communities.

(d) The operation mentioned in Aurukun resulted in a total of three convictions under the provisions of the Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act 1978 for a breach of Controlled Place Alcohol Restrictions. No other prosecutions are currently being progressed in other communities.

(2) As referred to in question 1(a) officers of my Department have provided this information to the Queensland Police Services for further investigation. My Department has appointed six Liquor Licensing Officers (Indigenous Communities) in various locations throughout the State. Investigations are being carried out by these officers in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service with the support of local community alcohol reference groups.

(3) One vehicle has been seized as a result of a joint operation under the provisions of the Local Government (Aboriginal Lands) Act 1978.

631. Cardiology Outpatients Clinics, Waiting Time

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (1/11/01)—

With reference to cardiology outpatients clinics at Prince Charles, Princess Alexandra, Royal Brisbane and Townsville General Hospitals—

For each of the hospitals, what is the average wait time for new patients being assessed and what is the average wait time for review of adult patients?

Mrs EDMOND (3/12/01): The waiting time for urgent new case cardiology appointments at each of the facilities is subject to discussion between the referring medical practitioner and the consultant cardiologist and is no more than one week.

The waiting time for non-urgent cardiology appointments depends upon the clinical urgency of the patient at the time of referral.

Follow up appointments for review patients are based on the clinical treatment plan prescribed by the attending specialist. Essentially, all review patients are provided with follow up appointments within clinically appropriate timeframes.

632. Schools, Hinchinbrook Electorate

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Education (1/11/01)—

With reference to a number of pre-school, primary and secondary schools throughout the Hinchinbrook Electorate—

For each of those schools for the next two years (a) what level of building replacement or structural change has been programmed and what is the expenditure allocated, (b) as ongoing maintenance is essential, particularly in the wet tropics, what funding, or additional funding, has been appropriated, (c) what finances have been set aside for landscaping and general improvements such as school yard drainage and (d) can a forecast be provided for the staffing arrangements?

Ms BLIGH (4/12/01):

(a) Preparation of the 2002-03 and 2003-04 Capital Works Programs is yet to be finalised. It is therefore not possible to provide advice as to what work is planned for the Hinchinbrook electorate.

(b) Schools in the Hinchinbrook Electorate are allocated maintenance funding based on a state wide methodology that allows for the Local Area Index. A contingency allocation exists to supplement schools for unforeseen emergent maintenance works which fall outside the capabilities of the annual maintenance allocation. Schools in Hinchinbrook will also benefit from the Beattie Government's Triple R program which provides funds of \$50M over three years.

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

(c) General minor works and the minor works component of the School Improvement Assistance Scheme (SIAS) funding is provided directly to schools each year and may be utilised for landscaping and small drainage projects. The Government distributes some \$8 million annually to fund such projects. Projects of a more significant nature (over \$40 000), may be assessed as eligible for subsidy assistance through the major works component of the government's SIAS initiative. Application details are available through Education Queensland's website.

(d) Schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate are staffed according to state-wide staffing allocation models based on student enrolments.

633. Integrity Commissioner

Dr WATSON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (1/11/01)—

With reference to the question asked on Tuesday 29 May 2001 by the Member for Robina regarding the Integrity Commissioner—

(1) What is the number of verbal or written references that the commissioner has received from Government Members of Parliament for each month?

(2) How many hours has the commissioner devoted to consideration of each reference?

Mr BEATTIE (3/12/01): From 24 August 2000 to the 20 November 2001 the Integrity Commissioner in discharging his part-time role, has received verbal or written references on a total of 24 occasions from 'designated persons'. Out of the total of 24 references, 13 of these were from government members of parliament, which include government backbenchers, ministers and myself.

(1) The total of 13 requests from government members of parliament is broken down as follows: the Integrity Commissioner has received 2 telephone calls; the first in November 2000; and the second in November 2001. Further, the Integrity Commissioner has received 11 written requests for advice on conflicts of interest from government members of parliament. Of the 11 written requests, 8 of these were received during the first year of the Integrity Commissioner's appointment. The remaining 3 have been received since the 24 August 2001, up until 20 November 2001. A month by month breakdown distributes all these references as follows:

October 2000—1 request
 November 2000—2 requests
 December 2000—1 request
 January 2001—1 request
 March 2001—1 request
 April 2001—2 requests
 May 2001—1 request
 September 2001—1 request
 November 2001—3 requests
 Total—13 requests

(2) In regard to the verbal references, the phone calls lasted for approximately 10 minutes each. With regard to the written advice, the time spent on each question varies according to the complexity of the advice and the amount of information given when advice is requested. Written request from government members take an average of three and a half hours each to complete.

634. Harness Racing

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (1/11/01)—

With reference to the Queensland harness racing industry—

(1) Will she confirm whether any harness racing licensees have recently had their vehicles and property searched by Harness Racing Board stewards without a sworn search warrant?

- (2) Given the Harness Racing Board is a State Government statutory authority and that police are required to obtain search warrants prior to conducting searches, can stewards conduct searches without a warrant; if so, on what grounds?
- (3) Is the Government considering transferring the control of the Gold Coast showgrounds complex and the Albion Park complex from the present trust arrangement to other management; if so, for what purpose and benefit is this intended, to whom will this transfer be made and when?

Mrs ROSE (30/11/01):

(1) I am advised that on 1 July 2001 Mr Larry Wilson, the steward appointed in charge of harness racing at the Redlands Show did search the vehicle of owner, Mrs Anne Benham.

The inspection of the car was conducted after video evidence was received that Mrs Benham had administered (orally) via syringe, a "prohibited substance" to horses prior to their racing.

(2) Licensees of the Harness Racing Board agree to be bound by the Rules. Under the Rules, no warrant is required for such an inspection. Australian Harness Racing Rule 15 empowers the stewards to inspect, examine, or test in such manner as they consider appropriate any person, horse, racetrack, stable, shed, artificial breeding station or other place, document, equipment, vehicle or substance.

Stewards are also empowered under Rule 15 to confiscate or take possession of any substance or equipment or document permanently or for a period.

I am advised that the steward's search of the vehicle produced a syringe that Mrs Benham admitted to using to administer prohibited substances to two horses.

At an appeal to the Racing Appeals Authority, the Authority, in dismissing the appeal, stated:

"The effect of the provision of the Act and the Rules is that it is clear that the stewards' powers control not only the race itself but all preceding and succeeding activities and occurrences within the ambit of a meeting."

(3) My Reviews of the Governance Structures of the Greyhound and Harness Racing Codes will examine the prospect of streamlining administration and utilising the assets of each code in a more efficient and effective manner. Issues of ownership, management and occupancy of racing venues have a bearing on the viability of clubs registered by the Control Bodies. I will not comment on changes to current arrangements until the Reviews are completed.

635. National Greenhouse Strategy

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (1/11/01)—

With reference to building procurement and asset management future developments—

How many modules of the 1999 Queensland Implementation Plan for National Greenhouse Strategy have been implemented?

Mr REYNOLDS (3/12/01):

(1) Emissions of ozone depleting and carbon dioxide gases from the industry and transport sectors, increasing land use, changing agricultural and forestry practices, and power generation demands are contributing to enhanced greenhouse conditions causing global warming and climate changes. Queensland communities will be impacted to some degree.

(2) In line with the Commonwealth's commitment at the Kyoto Conference to restrict greenhouse gas emissions to 108% of 1990 levels by 2012, Queensland has taken steps to ensure gas emissions are limited.

(3) The Beattie Government endorsed the National Greenhouse Strategy in October 1999. This included a commitment to develop a State-specific plan (the Queensland Implementation Plan) to detail how and when relevant Greenhouse initiatives contained in the National Greenhouse Strategy would be implemented.

(4) The Queensland Implementation Plan details and encourages actions to be taken by various sectors to limit emissions as the first stage in developing a Queensland Greenhouse Response Strategy.

(5) There are eight modules in the 1999 Queensland Implementation Plan for National Greenhouse Strategy. Each module contains a number of measures to be adopted as necessary by individual agencies. The Department of Emergency Services is progressively implementing relevant strategies within these modules.

(6) The Department of Emergency Services is an active participant in the Queensland Executive Directors Greenhouse Policy Committee and the Greenhouse Policy Network. The Department takes the opportunities presented through this participation to contribute to the whole of Government strategies on greenhouse gas abatement, climate change research and adaptation, including the recently released Queensland Greenhouse Policy Framework: A Climate of Change.

(7) The Department of Emergency Services will play a major role in alleviation and mitigation of the undesirable impacts of climate change as well as responding to these impacts. To successfully undertake the roles expected the Department has formed closer alliances with other key players and adopted a proactive stance focusing on planning, preparedness, adaptation, and response strategies.

(8) Counter Disaster and Rescue Services, through the Department of Natural Resources, is examining community vulnerability under current climate and greenhouse conditions.

(9) The project consists of two parts with Part A: Climate Change and Coastal Community Vulnerability to Tropical Cyclones being undertaken by the Bureau of Meteorology in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, and Part B: Climate Change and Tropical Cyclone Impact on Coastal Communities' Vulnerability being undertaken by James Cook University.

(10) In summary, the Department is aware of the issues within the 1999 Queensland Implementation Plan, involved in the development of abatement strategies and is proactively preparing and planning response mechanisms to these challenges as part of the normal range of emergency and disaster services provided to all Queenslanders.

636. Indigenous Land Use Agreement

Mr SEENEY asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (1/11/01)—

Will he provide the total cost of developing the Statewide Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) up to 1 November, a complete breakdown and explanation of those costs and an estimate of further costs that will be incurred?

Mr BEATTIE (28/11/01): Land Councils and the State Government began community consultation meetings in October on a State-wide Model Indigenous Land Use Agreement to resolve the backlog of exploration permits

The State gained the agreement of four Land Councils to join the State Government in consulting communities on a State-wide model native title agreement.

The result will be that for the first time in the nation, there will be one process for all types of exploration activity, bypassing the high and low impact distinction contained in the Native Title Act.

It means we are leading the country in dealing with mining exploration applications.

The consultation process was designed to cover the areas represented by North Queensland Land Council, Central Queensland Land Council, Gurang Land Council and Queensland South Representative Body in which there are 546 back-logged applications.

It involves a vast undertaking because these agreements cannot be registered unless all people with a native title interest have been given the opportunity to consider the agreement and have consented to it.

The Land Councils have an important role in certifying that all relevant interests have had the opportunity to consider the agreement.

Costs incurred up to November 1, 2001, relate to standard travel allowance for meeting attendance by those living away from the place of meeting, for the Queensland Indigenous Working Group and their constituent Native Title Representative Bodies, and for the Information Sessions for Indigenous communities that occurred in October 2001—and also to legal and other advisory services. The total cost of developing the agreement up to 1 November 2001, has been \$295,521.08.

In the absence of this agreement, individual explorers would have needed to conduct their own community meetings.

This means the State is relieving the exploration industry of an enormous cost burden.

Further costs will be incurred in providing Information Sessions to Native Title Claim Groups, however, because this is an ongoing project it is difficult to accurately estimate final costs at this stage.

All costs to be incurred will be in accordance with standard guidelines and will include some administrative costs for the Native Title Representative Bodies.

It's all about getting exploration happening in this State, so that new minerals can be discovered and jobs can be created to the benefit of indigenous communities and all Queenslanders.

It was important for representatives from the Land Councils and Government officials to conduct the meetings jointly, explaining the details of the model and providing general information on exploration and mining as it affects native title.

The Land Councils have an important role in certifying that all relevant interests have had the opportunity to consider the agreement.

The State-wide model provides a basis for processing within a 12 month timeframe the remaining 900 backlogged exploration permits not covered by the separate Kalkadoon Agreement.

It also has the potential to be used for future permit applications.

Importantly, the framework can provide certainty for explorers.

It will be a quicker, less costly, process with defined time lines, and clear mechanisms to resolve disputes.

We will also work with indigenous communities to maximise the training and employment opportunities that will come out of higher levels of exploration and mining activity.

637. Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (1/11/01)—

With reference to the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act—

Will she outline (a) the aspects of the Act for which complaints have been received either by her or her department from industry groups, consumer groups or the public at large, (b) the nature and number of the complaints, (c) whether she or her department intends to make any changes to the Act to address these complaints in the immediate future and (d) whether these areas will all be reviewed at the time of the review of the Act as a whole?

Mrs ROSE (30/11/01):

(a) Those areas of the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000 for which complaints have been raised include the use of approved forms, concerns about disclosure and warning statements and regulated commissions.

(b) Since the introduction of the Act on 1 July 2001 complaints or comments on the legislation have come from a number of different sources, including feedback during the public information sessions, telephone calls, letters, and industry consultation sessions. Most complaints revolved around agents' confusion about the application of cooling-off provisions resulting from unsolicited invitations to attend property information sessions. Agents also complained about the length of the agent's appointment form (PAMD 22).

As an indicator of the level of inquiry into the new legislation, in the period since the commencement of the amendment to the Act on 29 October 2001, there have been approximately 800 telephone, letter and e-mail inquiries from real estate agents, lawyers and property developers relating to the operations of the Act. These inquiries sought advice on the approved forms or how to access forms and information on the fairtrading web site. Of this number, approximately 5% (40 agents) have raised some concerns about using the approved forms.

(c) The legislation has been closely monitored since its introduction in July and issues for reform or review are being identified. A number of amendments to the Act have been enacted and came into effect on 29 October 2001. Of particular relevance is the extended cooling-off provisions which apply to all residential property sales and new disclosure requirements concerning the benefits that any person derives or expects to derive from the sale of residential property. Other issues have been identified and I will be seeking to introduce amendments into the House in a Miscellaneous Provisions Bill in early 2002.

The Office of Fair Trading is currently reviewing the approved forms to ensure that they can be made as "user friendly" as possible without removing or diluting their intended purpose of providing consumer protection in the form of disclosures, warning statements and information about legal advice and real estate transactions.

The Office of Fair Trading has been consulting with key stakeholders, such as the Real Estate Institute of Queensland, the Urban Development Institute of Australia, the Queensland Law Society and Consumer representatives on design and use of the forms. This consultation is ongoing.

(d) The review of the legislation, which is required to be conducted in accordance with section 599 of the Act, will include all matters identified as requiring reform or adjustment. These matters will include the approved forms, the Act as a whole, the regulation to the Act and the various codes of conduct for the occupations regulated by the Act.

638. Literacy Programs, State Schools

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (1/11/01)—

With reference to the present method used to teach literacy programs in State schools which is left to the individual teacher/or school and disadvantages students who move around the State from school to school—

What policies are in place to ensure consistent teaching programs across the State?

Ms BLIGH (4/12/01): Currently all state schools in Queensland are required to follow the English in Years 1-10 Queensland Syllabus materials that ensures consistent curriculum content across the state. In addition to this the Queensland years 3, 5 and 7 Testing Program, together with the Year Two Net, provide a portfolio of information that can be sent to the student's new school. Reports from any diagnostic tests and learning support programs the student has accessed (for example, Reading Recovery) together with samples of student work collected and analysed by the student's class teacher can also be forwarded. The combination of student specific assessment information and the statewide curriculum supports students who move around the state to receive consistent literacy education.

However Education Queensland is currently engaged in additional initiatives to ensure even greater effectiveness and continuity in literacy education, through the Literate Futures program.

The Literate Futures Report acknowledged the increasing diversity of students in Queensland schools and the need to address their individual needs. It supports the view that all teachers at all levels of schooling should be teachers of literacy and any variation between literacy teaching methods in Queensland state schools is currently being addressed through the implementation of the recommendations of the Literate Futures Report.

Consequently in the next two years all teachers in Queensland will engage in two key strategies designed to place Queensland teachers at the cutting edge of literacy education; Whole School Literacy Planning and Learning and Professional Development in the teaching of Reading.

Systemic literacy initiatives will ensure that all teachers in Queensland are approaching the teaching of literacy from the same theoretical and philosophical basis while simultaneously attending to the specific needs of individual students and communities. Together with the system wide monitoring and tracking of student progress, these initiatives will ensure that no student will be disadvantaged through moving, and all students will be educated by teachers who are at the cutting edge of literacy education.

639. Gas Supply

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (1/11/01)—

With reference to the Government's renewed policy decision to underwrite a new gas supply into Queensland—

- (1) What is the extent and nature of the obligations made by the Government to support this decision?
- (2) What is the scale of risk to Queensland taxpayers of this underwriting decision?
- (3) What estimate has Treasury made of the cost of that gas?
- (4) How does the Government plan to use that gas supply?

Mr MACKENROTH (29/11/01): The Government has not made any decision to underwrite a new gas supply into Queensland.

The Honourable Member's questions (1) to (4) are therefore incorrectly premised.

640. Convictions for Environmental Harm

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (1/11/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a breakdown of all convictions for environmental harm for the last four years by (a) region, (b) offence and (c) sentence?
- (2) How many complaints were made about each of these perpetrators before the conviction was reached?

Mr WELLS (5/12/01): (1)&(2) It is inappropriate to provide a detailed response to a question of this kind without the parties involved having the rights they would otherwise have under the Freedom of Information Act 1992 and in accordance with the normal practices of the Magistrates Court.

I refer the Honourable Member to Sections 22 and 51 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

641. Ecotourism, Whitsunday Area; Park Rangers

Ms JARRATT asked the Minister for Environment (1/11/01)—

With reference to the importance of the Tourism Industry, in particular, the Eco Tourism sector, to the Whitsunday region—

- (1) What action has the QPWS taken to implement the Beattie Labor Government election commitment to employ 140 new park rangers?
- (2) How many new positions will be in the Whitsunday area?
- (3) What visitor infrastructure is planned for the Whitsunday area?
- (4) What improvements to park management are planned for the Whitsunday area?
- (5) What other initiatives are planned by the QPWS to better highlight the area's natural attractions?

Mr WELLS (3/12/01):

(1) Eighty additional park rangers will be appointed in the first year of this initiative. A major advertising and recruitment process is currently in progress, with over 1600 inquiries regarding the positions recently advertised in the *Courier-Mail*.

An important component is the opportunity to create Indigenous positions to advance positive measures towards Indigenous involvement in both marine and terrestrial protected areas.

(2) Three positions will be based in Airlie Beach, and a further three in Mackay, to collectively enhance parks and wildlife management across the Mackay and Whitsunday areas. Two of these positions have been advertised already, for additional urgent attention to wildlife management. The other position will be filled in early 2002.

(3) Significant projects completed in 2001 include:

lookouts, boardwalks, interpretive signs at Hill Inlet and Whitsunday Island National Park; and Spion Kop lookout on South Molle Island National Park.

Approved projects in 2001/2002 include:

improvements to the East Double Bay campground, Dryander National Park; an extension to the mangrove boardwalk, Haywood Gully, Conway National Park; and campground upgrades on island National Parks.

(4) A second series of 'Better Parks' training projects are scheduled to commence in February 2002.

Community engagement and consultation will continue to play an important role in the Whitsundays. The Whitsunday Volunteer Program designed to assist with a range of protected area management activities will continue to be supported as will the internationally recognised OUCH (Order of Underwater Conservation Heroes) Program that contributes to marine habitat protection programs.

District staff regularly liaise with the different sections of the community including tourism groups, Aboriginal communities, and recreational and conservation groups to maintain productive and consultative links with these representative bodies.

Natural resource management is a key component of protected areas management. Natural resource management work includes preparation and implementation of strategies relating to fire management, weed control and feral animal control. QPWS staff are also playing a key role in the Proserpine Rock Wallaby Recovery Project, including establishing a new population on Hayman Island.

(5) A walking track is being planned in the Whitsundays as part of the "Great Walks of Queensland" initiative. The current focus is on determining the best route for the Great Walk in this area. This involves a thorough assessment of the potential routes. A Project Officer has been appointed to plan and implement the walking track, in consultation with Indigenous people, the tourism industry, conservationists, Whitsunday Shire Council and other key community stakeholders. \$100,000 for this project has been made available in 2001/2002, with detailed project costing to be undertaken for future financial years.

QPWS has developed a Ranger Services Agreement with Hamilton Island Enterprises to provide a range of protected area and landscape management practices on, and adjacent to, Hamilton and Dent Islands. A major component of the program will be the provision of education and interpretive services for the large number of visitors to this part of the World Heritage Area.

QPWS will continue to work in partnership with the Whitsunday tourism industry to reinforce the notion that the multitude of natural and cultural attributes of the Whitsundays' area is the primary tourism product.

QPWS has played a significant role in assisting with the development of the recently completed Eco Tourism Strategy.

642. School Transport, Cunningham Electorate

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/11/01)—

With reference to school transport in the Cunningham Electorate—

- (1) What is the name and number of (a) all registered school bus services in the Cunningham Electorate and the schools they service, outlining the passenger capacity of each service and the actual number of passengers using each service for 2001 and 2002, broken down into passengers receiving school transport assistance

and fare paying passengers and (b) registered school bus services that travel along 100km per hour road zones as a part of their designated route in the Cunningham Electorate?

- (2) How many students in the Cunningham Electorate are recipients of the School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS)?
- (3) What is the total amount of STAS funds being allocated to students in the Cunningham Electorate for 2001 and 2002?
- (4) How much money has been allocated for the STAS in the Cunningham Electorate over the past three financial years, broken down into each financial year?
- (5) In the past 12 months, how many students in the Cunningham Electorate have been informed that to remain eligible for STAS, they must change to an alternative bus routes?

Mr BREDHAUER (5/12/01):

(1) Your questions about past and current school transport payments in your electorate are not recorded as such and therefore not able to be accurately supplied. Future school transport payments will depend on the population and number of schools in the area.

I can, however, give you some general information about areas covered by your electorate. At present there are approximately 46 bus services carrying an estimated 1560 eligible students who receive some school transport assistance in the Cunningham electorate. The total cost of these services is approximately \$2m per annum.

All of the above buses travel at some stage of their route on 100 kph roads. The department keeps no records of fare paying passengers on these services. That is a commercial decision by each operator and may vary over time.

(2,3,&4) Expenditure across the state on school transport depends on the number of eligible students, and availability of transport services in each area. There is no specific geographic or electoral allocation as expenditure can vary from year to year in a given area.

(5) Detailed data is not available in all areas but advice from my department indicates that 4 secondary and 1 pre-school student who live within 3.2 kms of Nobby school have been formally advised that to remain eligible they must change from bus route P616 to S111 in addition 9 secondary and 1 pre-school student from outside the 3.2 km radius need to transfer buses at Nobby to travel on to Clifton.

643. Road Safety Management Committee, Department of Transport

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/11/01)—

How is the Department of Transport's Road Safety Management Committee constituted and what is their role in determining speed limits on major roads and highways?

Mr BREDHAUER (5/12/01): The Department of Main Roads and each local government has the responsibility for setting speed limits on major roads and highways under their control. When setting speed limits, these authorities must comply with the requirements of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Before a speed limit is changed, the road authority must carry out a speed limit review to determine the appropriate speed for the road. The role of the speed management committees and not the Road Safety Committees is to check the speed limit reviews and ensure compliance with the requirements of the MUTCD. These committees are formed on an "as needs" basis and normally comprise a Main Roads Engineer, and engineer from the relevant local government, a Queensland police service officer and a Queensland Transport Road and Safety consultant.

This membership is intended to ensure technical integrity of speed limits, and to ensure that other safety issues are not overlooked in the review process, hence attaining consistent and credible speed limits throughout the state.

If a speed management committee cannot reach agreement about a speed limit review, the review is forwarded to Queensland Transport's Road Safety Policy and Advanced Technology Group for resolution.

644. AFL Premiership Cup Display; Use of Government Aircraft

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (1/11/01)—

- (1) What are the places where the Government jet called to "display" the AFL trophy won by Queensland?
- (2) What was the cost (including all wages and on costs) of these flights around Queensland?
- (3) What was the period of time the jet was engaged in these flights?

Mr BEATTIE (28/11/01): It has been traditional for the State Government to host a reception in Brisbane for Queenslanders who have won major sporting tournaments. But Queensland is a vast state and I have always done my best to remember that people in other regions deserve to be included where ever possible. All Queensland rejoiced in the Lions 26-point victory and it was only fair that as many Queenslanders as possible were given the chance to share that great victory. I approved the use of the State Government King Air to fly the Premiership Cup and three flag-wining players to Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.

A similar offer was taken up when Queensland Cricket won its first Sheffield Shield in 1995. Premiership-winning players—Marcus Ashcroft, Luke Power and Brad Scott were joined by Lions stalwart Richard Champion for the trip.

The trip might not have been possible on commercial flights given the lack of seat capacity caused by the Ansett collapse.

Between October 14-16, 2001, King Air (VH-SGQ) took the players and the trophy to Cairns, Townsville and Mackay. On October 21 and 22 it went to Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and Rockhampton. The total cost was \$8,735.91 (includes, wages, fuel, air navigational and maintenance costs). Total flying time was 8.4 hours.

645. Speech Pathologists; Special Education Unit, Students

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (1/11/01)—

- (1) Is it true that a child accessing the services of a speech pathologist while in State school has to pay for those services, but a child from a private school does not have to pay?
- (2) How many speech therapists are there in Queensland?
- (3) How many Special Education Unit students are there in Queensland?
- (4) How many students in State schools are accessing speech pathology assistance?
- (5) Is it true that 57 speech pathologists graduated from university this year and that numbers are capped; if so, will she explain why numbers are capped when there is such a chronic shortage of speech pathologists?

Mrs EDMOND (3/12/01): In relation to (2), the 2000-2001 Annual Report of the Speech Pathologists Board shows that as at 30 June 2001, there were 814 registered speech pathologists in Queensland.

As the remaining parts of the Members question relate to the Education portfolio, they would be more appropriately addressed to the Honourable Minister for Education.

646. Highway Access, Closures

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/11/01)—

With reference to an Agenda item of Main Roads which is the closure of many minor access points to major highways and, in particular, I refer to the Warrego Highway, but I understand this may be universally applied—

- (1) Can he confirm or deny this issue?
- (2) Further, can he confirm or deny that a consequence of this will force the intended closure of many roadside businesses including those of a tourist nature?

Mr BREDHAUER (5/12/01):

1. There is no Main Roads "agenda" to universally close minor access points to major highways. The primary function of limited access highways, such as the Warrego Highway, is to provide for the safety of the travelling public and the efficiency of the road network.

2. Minor access points to some properties may be rearranged to balance safety, efficiency and access in line with future planning as traffic volumes increase. Alternative arrangements, where feasible, are negotiated to minimise any detrimental effects.

647. Integrated Ticketing

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (1/11/01)—

With reference to the Integrated Ticketing Project and to recent press comment indicating that this project will not commence for some years and that a paper based system will be introduced—

- (1) When will the promised smart card integrated ticketing system be introduced?
- (2) What is the anticipated cost of implementing such a system?
- (3) What costs have been incurred for the integrated ticketing project since 1998?
- (4) What will be the difference in operation of the proposed paper ticket system and the South East Explorer system introduced in 1998?

Mr BREDHAUER (5/12/01):

(1) It is intended to have smart card technology rolled out by 2004/05. Interim paper based products are intended to be in use by 2003.

(2) The tender bids are commercial-in confidence.

(3) The integrated ticketing initiative has included a wide range of activity including the interim products, development of the smartcard tender and specifications and changed policy initiatives such as modelling for standardised fares, development of new contracting arrangements, central revenue collection etc.

From early 2001 a dedicated Transit Development Project has been established to give a strong focus to all these activities. The project's funding allocation for 2001/02 to date is \$1.8 million. The total expenditure on integrated ticketing including the 1-2-3 and South-East Explorer tickets, since the 1997/98 financial year is \$6,687,928.

(4) The South-East Explorer is prototype of the transitional paper based system involving four of the eighteen operators in south-east Queensland.

The proposed transitional paper based system will apply to all eighteen operators and apply to a complete and common product mix.

648. Queensland Ambulance Service, Response Times

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (1/11/01)—

- (1) Will he provide a breakdown of ambulance response times, for each region, for each month since January 1999 to date as well as an overall State-wide figure for each month for the same period?
- (2) Will he also detail response times for each station on the Sunshine Coast and the number of trips from Caloundra to the Nambour Hospital during this period?

Mr REYNOLDS (3/12/01):

(1) A breakdown of ambulance response times for each region, for each month since January 1999 as well as an overall State-wide figure is shown in Attachments A and B.

Response time data is expressed as a percentage of responses to emergency cases within 10 minutes.

Data shown in Attachment A, for the period January 1999 to June 2000, was manually collected from the Ambulance Integrated Management System. Since July 2000 data has been automatically collected using Computer Aided Dispatch technology. This is shown at Attachment B.

(2) Response times for each station on the Sunshine Coast is shown at Attachment C. The number of trips from Caloundra to Nambour Hospital during this period totalled 2,513 and is shown at Attachment D.

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

649. Springwood Ambulance Station

Ms STONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (1/11/01)—

Will he detail the progress of the Springwood Ambulance Station?

Mr REYNOLDS (30/11/01): The construction timeframe for the new station is 2003/2004.

Community consultation has been undertaken with the Member for Springwood, Ms Barbara Stone MP, Woodridge/Springwood Local Ambulance Committee, Local Government representatives for the Springwood and Rochedale areas, Cr Tom Sandmann and Cr Peter Collins.

The current site is no longer suitable.

Relocating the ambulance station to a proposed site in Rochedale will further reduce the response times between Capalaba and Springwood stations. It will also give coverage within the critical response time performance indicators to the areas of Burbank, Priestdale and Northern Rochedale.

Investigations are currently being undertaken within the Rochedale area to locate a suitable site.

650. State Schools

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (1/11/01)—

- (1) What are the names and location of new State schools that will open at the beginning of next year?
- (2) What are their anticipated enrolments?
- (3) Are all of these schools on schedule to be completed by the first day of school?
- (4) Which of these schools will have relocatable modular buildings on site because construction will not be completed or for other reasons?
- (5) If any of these schools will not be completed on time, what are the reasons for the delay?

Ms BLIGH (4/12/01): (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

All new schools scheduled for opening in late January 2002 are within planned construction timelines and should be delivered in readiness for the school year.

No new school should open with relocatable or hire accommodation as a result of late completion. Flagstone State Community College will operate from relocatable buildings in 2002, as did Forest Lake State High School this year, to enable finalisation of community consultation and design processes. This strategy was outlined many months ago and received widespread community support as it provided a greater opportunity for the community to input into service delivery options of benefit to children living in the northern Beaudesert region.

651. Community Engagement Division Brochure

Dr WATSON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (7/11/01)—

With reference to the colour brochure 'Community Engagement Division—Directions Statement'—

- (1) What was the cost of production of this brochure, including cost of printing and preparation?
- (2) How many brochures were printed?
- (3) What was the cost of distribution?
- (4) To whom were these brochures distributed?

Mr BEATTIE (3/12/01): The Community Engagement Division was created because many Australians have become disillusioned with governments at all levels and often feel omitted from decision-making.

The Division is another first for Queensland and as such we need to give it focus and explain its functions to the public. There is no other unit of its kind in Australian public administration. My Government has already put in place highly successful programs to involve Queenslanders such as Community Cabinet meetings, Regional Community forums and Ministerial forums. However, I know there is still a high level of dissatisfaction and cynicism in the community that Government is simply not listening hard enough to their needs.

I am determined to turn this around and to lead a Government which provides ways for genuine involvement in all its decision-making.

This division gives Queenslanders an unparalleled opportunity to contribute to Government decision-making to ensure that the public sector injects community ideas into Government services.

During the election campaign I promised Queenslanders that my Government would listen to the will of the people. The Community Engagement Division is yet another step in the process and I am excited by the possibilities it will bring.

The brochures are available to anyone in the community who wants to know how to approach and deal with the State Government. The cost of production of the brochure, including cost of printing and preparation was \$6,775.77. 5,200 copies were printed. Distribution has commenced but is not complete yet. So far, copies have been provided to all Members of Parliament and handed out to guests at the Multicultural Queensland Awards night on 7 November 2001, and the Ministerial Regional Communities Forum on 12 November 2001. The Statement has been, and will continue to be, distributed to other government agencies and people from the community, business and academic sector upon request. The Community Engagement Division will also give copies of the Directions Statement to all those who attended workshops to develop the Directions Statement. This includes about 220 representatives from the community, business, academic and government sector in Brisbane as well as regional Queensland. Community Engagement staff, representatives from non-government peak bodies, Directors-General as well as Ministers will also receive copies of the Statement.

652. Subcontractors

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (7/11/01)—

- (1) How much money has been lost from the building industry through building company collapses in the last five years on the Sunshine Coast?
- (2) What will he do to overhaul the system to give greater security of payment for subcontractors and suppliers as well as speeding up the dispute resolution process for subcontractors and builders?
- (3) Will he provide resources to help investigate bankrupted builders or developers who shift assets to avoid paying their debts?

Mr SCHWARTEN (12/12/01):

(1) I am advised that there is no agency, either of the State or Commonwealth Governments, or within the private sector which has the ability to monitor the activities of building companies and to accurately quantify any losses as a result of financial failure.

(2) The system of security of payment within the building industry was overhauled in October 1999 and July 2000 with amendments to the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991 and the commencement of the Domestic Building Contracts Act 2000 and the Queensland Building Tribunal Act 2000. These reforms specifically provided for increased industry viability and greater security of payment through more rigorous financial requirements for licensing; removal of unfair contract provisions; default payment terms of 35 days where not otherwise specified in a contract; and provision that contracts and variations be put in writing.

The Queensland Building Tribunal has been given the power to have expedited hearings and to hear commercial disputes. These reforms have increased the effectiveness and timeliness of dispute resolution procedures and were welcomed by the industry after inaction by the former Coalition government.

The Building Services Authority is currently investigating other methods to improve dispute resolution procedures. One option being investigated is a process similar to that in use in New South Wales whereby building disputes are heard by independent parties on a very timely basis.

Additionally amendments to the Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974 are proposed which will broaden the scope of claims and speed up the process of dispute resolution, providing for more acceptable outcomes within the commercial contracting sector.

(3) The Building Services Authority has for a number of years provided significant funding to administrators, liquidators and bankruptcy trustees in order to fund investigations in relation to dishonest or improper conduct on the part of directors or licensees and will continue to do so.

653. Business Names Database

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (7/11/01)—

- (1) Will she advise of any problems or inefficiencies experienced by her department with the computer system that was purchased to manage the Business Names Database?
- (2) What has the rectification of any deficiencies in the system cost to date and what is it expected to cost into the future?
- (3) What was the process followed to select the supplier of this equipment?

Mrs ROSE (6/12/01):

(1) The computer system used for business names, incorporated associations, charities and cooperatives is called BACHCO. The system was developed by CITEC in 1998/99. After BACHCO commenced on 26 August 1999, a number of issues arose which were rectified under the warranty and service level agreement. The Department undertook an extensive review of BACHCO in 2000 to identify any areas for improvement. The review identified that the key areas where improvements needed to be made related to the finance, names determination and reporting modules. The majority of problems identified were remedied in January 2001. Since implementation, significant improvements to the functionality and performance of the BACHCO system have also been made. These include enhancements requested by system users to better manage ongoing business requirements.

(2) Since August 1999, approximately \$38,000 has been spent by the Department on rectification, as distinct from enhancements, of BACHCO. No further deficiencies have been identified, and so no further rectification expenditure is envisaged. This rectification expenditure is seen as well inside normal expectations in terms of a \$1.1m system. As with any complex computer system, the software will continue to be upgraded and enhanced to meet changing demands.

(3) The process followed was in accordance with Queensland Purchasing Policy. However, an exemption from the requirement to call public tenders was granted by the Director-General of the former Department of Equity and Fair Trading. The request for exemption was made on the ground of genuine urgency, which is a ground allowed by the Policy. The urgency arose from the 31 December 1999 deadline set by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission for all States and Territories to remove their business names operations from the Commonwealth Government's ASCOT computer system. The exemption was granted on 20 August 1998 and CITEC was engaged to develop the replacement system.

654. WorkCover Claims

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (7/11/01)—

With reference to the WorkCover Annual Report 2000-2001—

Will he provide the breakdown of Common Law claim payments by injury, amount and region for the previous four years?

Mr NUTTALL (7/12/01): WorkCover Queensland has advised that common law claim payments for the previous four financial years overall and by region and injury type are as follows:

Overall

	1997-98 \$M	1998-99 \$M	1999-00 \$M	2000-01 \$M
Settlement				
Out of court	151.9	154.8	176.2	181.2
In court	17.7	14.3	12.4	4.2
Legal				
Defendants legal costs	19.3	22.5	22.5	20.7
Defendants outlays	10.2	10.3	9.0	8.4
Plaintiff legal costs	13.3	14.5	13.0	8.1
Plaintiff outlays	9.7	10.7	9.9	6.1
Total	222.1	227.1	243.0	228.7

	1997-98 \$M	1998-99 \$M	1999-00 \$M	2000-01 \$M
By region				
Brisbane	58.4	53.2	55.7	61.5
Cairns	16.3	14.6	14.9	13.8
Ipswich	11.1	13.1	12.6	11.6
Logan	20.0	16.6	21.5	22.5
Mackay	18.6	18.0	26.3	22.0
Maryborough	14.8	12.0	13.5	11.0
Rockhampton	21.0	21.2	21.9	14.9
Southport	12.8	19.1	21.0	16.8
Strathpine	16.1	17.1	17.1	20.0
Toowoomba	10.0	11.7	14.0	9.8
Townsville	23.0	30.5	24.5	24.8
Total	222.1	227.1	243.0	228.7

	1997-98 \$M	1998-99 \$M	1999-00 \$M	2000-01 \$M
By injury type				
Abrasions	0.8	1.2	0.1	0.8
Amputation	4.8	4.2	3.2	2.9
Asbestosis	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.8
Asphyxiation	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.4
Bends	0.2		0.5	0.1
Bite	0.1			0.2
Broken Aid				0.4
Bruise	8.4	7.9	7.3	6.3
Burns	4.2	1.9	6.0	2.9
Bursitis				0.1
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	1.1	2.1	1.9	2.0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	0.6	0.6		
Concussion	0.7	0.4	1.7	1.2
Contusion	0.7	2.0	1.1	0.3
Crush	4.9	5.0	4.6	6.3
Cut	3.4	5.1	3.2	5.5
Dermatitis	0.5	1.1	0.7	0.8
Dislocation	1.6	1.3	2.8	2.0
Epicondylitis	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
Exposure		0.1		
Foreign Body	0.9	0.6	1.5	0.9
Fracture	33.8	31.4	36.0	36.6
Haematoma	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.4
Headache	0.1			
Heart Attack	0.1	0.1	0.2	

Industrial Deafness	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2
Inguinal Hernia	1.1	0.4	1.0	0.4
Laceration	5.9	5.0	5.3	7.6
Mesothelioma	0.4	0.7	-0.1	
Multiple Injuries	9.4	6.1	8.6	5.0
Pneumoconiosis		0.3		
Poisoning	0.8	1.5	0.9	1.2
Puncture	0.4	1.5	1.6	0.7
Q Fever	0.2	0.1	0.5	1.3
Repetitive Strain Injury		0.2	0.1	0.2
Respiratory Disease	0.6	2.1	0.4	0.5
Strain/Sprain	122.4	128.5	136.9	123.7
Psychological/psychiatric	6.2	9.9	10.1	12.4
Tendonitis/Tenosynovitis	1.9	1.0	1.6	1.5
Thrombosis	0.1			
Traumatic Deafness	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Ulcers			0.1	
Umbilical Hernia	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Unspecified Nature	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.5
Viral Infection	0.2	0.1		
Total	222.1	227.1	243.0	228.7

655. Department of Primary Industries, Staff Attrition

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (7/11/01)—

With reference to staffing within the Department of Primary Industries—

- (1) What are the total staff attrition rates for each year from 30 July 1998 to 30 July 2001?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of the attrition rate for each year by cause?
- (3) Will he provide a breakdown of the number of staff who have taken stress leave by office, position, classification and gender in the Department of Primary Industries for each year from 30 July 1998 to 30 July 2001?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/12/01):

(1) The turnover rates for 'All DPI' for each year ending 30 June 1998 to 30 June 2001 are detailed in the following table. The table includes data for the last financial year of the Borbidge Government (1997/1998), during part of which the Honourable Member was the Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Forestry. In each year, the turnover rate for DPI was lower than the 25th percentile for the Public Sector and the 25th percentile for all industry in Australia (as measured by HRM Consulting).

Year—Rate
1997/1998—12.26%
1998/1999—11.07%
1999/2000—10.20%
2000/2001—9.26%

(2) The Department does not keep statistical records of reasons for staff leaving.

(3) The number of claims for stress in each year ending 30 June 1998 to 30 June 2001 are detailed in the following table. Only the number of claims for each financial year is provided, to protect the confidentiality of claimants.

Year—Number
1997/1998—4
1998/1999—1
1999/2000—0
2000/2001—2

656. Food Preparation National Standards

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (7/11/01)—

What positive outcomes can we expect under the proposed 'National Standards for Food Preparation' on school tuckshops in the future?

Mrs EDMOND (7/12/01): The Food Safety Standards commenced in Queensland on 1 July 2001 through amendment to the Food Hygiene Regulation 1989.

The main focus is on ensuring that food is produced and handled safely so that consumers are afforded maximum protection against food borne illnesses. There will be basic requirements that tuckshops have to follow such as how the premises are designed and cleaned, the temperature of food and the hygiene of food handlers. Most tuckshops will probably find that they already comply, and meeting the standards will be a relatively easy task.

To ensure regulators have a consistent approach to the interpretation of the Food Safety Standards, the Australia New Zealand Food Authority (ANZFA) has developed guidelines called 'Safe Food Australia'. Furthermore, to assist tuckshops understand the requirements of the Food Safety Standards, ANZFA has produced a range of fact sheets that are available on the ANZFA web site (under 'food safety') at www.anzfa.gov.au.

To further assist schools, three national projects are currently under way. Queensland Health has representatives on each project, namely:

Food Safety Victoria is producing a 10-minute video in 8 languages on the basics of food hygiene/safety for community and charitable organisations;

a contractor subcontracted by the Australian Institute of Environmental Health (Western Australian Division) is producing FoodSafe®, a training package for charity and community groups; and

the Federation of Canteens in Schools is developing a Food Safety Program tool specifically designed for school canteens.

These projects will be rolled out over a period of two years and their progress will be routinely reported to the school tuckshop sector.

There are certain elements of the national food safety reforms which each State or Territory will have some discretion over their implementation. Late last year, the Queensland Government established the Food Safety Stakeholder Forum to consider how Queensland might implement these discretionary elements. Both the Queensland Council of Parents and Citizen's Associations and the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops have representatives on this Forum. Therefore, schools tuckshops will be well represented as these possible reforms are considered. In addition, individual school tuckshops will have the opportunity to comment on how they would like the discretionary elements implemented through Queensland Health's standard public consultation mechanisms.

The main outcome to be achieved by the introduction of the Food Safety Standards for school tuckshops will be the continued production by school tuckshops of food that is safe for consumption.

657. Parents and Citizens Associations

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (7/11/01)—

With reference to many school Parents' and Citizens' (P & C) groups which have raised millions throughout the State, in funds to aid their schools in providing numerous facilities for their schoolchildren, contributing to sports pavilions, equipment, tuck-shops and numerous other facilities and to the spiralling costs associated with insurance and the growing sentiment that these groups are finding the holding of fundraising events is becoming less and less viable when insurance premiums take much of the funds raised—

- (1) What measures has she conceived to overcome the inevitable decline in P & C's numbers and to ensure the valuable contribution they make through their efforts is not discouraged?
- (2) Will she approach the Government on the P & C's behalf to have the Government underwrite insurance policies for all fundraising events in Government schools?
- (3) What is the estimated contribution of P & Cs to the State schools and how would this Government meet those contributions if P & Cs felt fund raising was no longer a viable proposition?

Ms BLIGH (11/12/01):

(1) The contribution of parents and caregivers to the success of our state schools is significant. The efforts of P&Cs in enhancing the resources available in schools is one example of this. I am confident that P&Cs will remain viable and will continue to enhance the services available to our students. All P&Cs will continue to have my full support and encouragement across the wide range of activities that P&Cs are involved in.

(2) The Government recognises the financial burden that recent insurance premium rises has caused for P&Cs. The Government remains committed to assisting P&Cs in relation to this issue and Education Queensland is continuing to investigate possible options of support.

(3) While the total financial contribution of P&Cs to schools is not available, it is estimated that over \$80 million is contributed per year across all schools. The Government recognises this effort, and also the non-financial contribution made by many members of the community giving their time and expertise to enhance services to students.

The resource allocation methodologies used by Education Queensland to resource state schools provide each school with adequate resources to deliver quality educational outcomes. P&C contributions are an enhancement to this provision. Without these resources our students would have a smaller resource base available to them.

658. Corinda-Yeerongpilly Bus Link Trial

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (7/11/01)—

- (1) What is the progress of the Corinda-Yeerongpilly 104 bus link trial currently under way?
- (2) Will he outline some of the changes made since the trial of the service commenced as a result of community consultation?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/01):

- (1) Patronage for the trial bus service during September and October 2001 is as follows:

3-7 September—1622
 10-14 September—1417
 17-21 September—1469
 24-28 September—596
 September Total—5104
 1-5 October—654
 8-12 October—1325
 15-19 October—1533
 22-26 October—1357
 29- 2 Oct/Nov—1485
 October Total—6354

(2) Some adjustments to services have been made following connections not being met. Valid suggestions from commuters have also been received. These changes have included:

A new stop has been included in Annerley Road stop 19. This has worked well with staff at the Princess Alexandra (PA) Hospital using this service regularly.

The service ex-Yeerongpilly that previously departed at 4.25pm now departs at 4.27pm. This allows time for connection with a rail service from the city at Yeerongpilly.

The bus service ex-Corinda, which previously departed 4.42pm, now departs Corinda at 4.45pm, arriving Yeerongpilly at 4.57pm and the PA Hospital 5.09pm. This connects with a rail service from Ipswich, and has resulted in increased patronage.

The bus service ex Corinda, which previously departed at 5.41pm, now departs at 5.45pm to allow better connection with the rail service from Ipswich. This service now arrives at Yeerongpilly at 5.57pm, and the PA Hospital at 6.10pm.

The bus service departing the PA Hospital, that previously departed at 6.08pm, now departs at 6.13pm, arriving at Yeerongpilly at 6.26pm and Corinda at 6.38pm.

A stop has been added to the bus service 6.09pm ex-Corinda to include Yeronga TAFE. Arriving at 6:25pm, this trip caters for students attending night classes.

The service that previously departed Corinda State High at approximately 3:05pm is now arriving at the school at 2.55pm. This change was introduced as previously the service was being delayed due to large numbers of school students boarding the service.

All issues have been addressed with Brisbane Transport and adjustments were made on 15 October 2001. Flyers advising of alterations have been distributed to the affected passengers and are available to other passengers at Corinda and Yeerongpilly stations.

659. Numberplates

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (7/11/01)—

What costs has her department incurred in relation to the development of the 'Smart State' slogan that was to appear on motor vehicle number plates and specifically provide details on each of the following (a) the cost of any market research and/or market testing of the slogan, (b) the cost to the department in both monetary and man hours in terms of departmental staff engaged in formulating and deliberating on the 'Smart State' slogan, (c) the number of staff allocated in total to this project, (d) a breakdown of all consultancy fees including the name of consultant, the purpose and cost of consultancy work paid by her department associated with the development of this slogan and (e) the date on which her department was first involved in the new slogan?

Mrs ROSE (6/12/01): The Smart State slogan was chosen to highlight the importance of developing new ideas and industries as the State of Queensland moves into the new century. The Member would be aware that use of the Smart State logo on number plates will be optional.

(a) The department did not incur any costs on market research or market testing of the slogan.

(b) The only cost to the department in monetary or man hours in terms of formulating and deliberating on the "Smart State" slogan was in preparing replies to correspondence on the matter.

(c) There were no departmental staff allocated to this project beyond their role in preparing replies to correspondence on the matter.

(d) There were no consultancy fees paid by the Department associated with the development of the slogan.

(e) I am informed that the first correspondence received on this issue was dated 28 October 2001.

660. Numberplates

Mr QUINN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (7/11/01)—

What costs has his department incurred in relation to the development of the 'Smart State' slogan that was to appear on motor vehicle number plates and specifically provide details on each of the following (a) the cost of any market research and/or market testing of the slogan, (b) the cost to the department in both monetary and man hours in terms of departmental staff engaged in formulating and deliberating on the 'Smart State' slogan, (c) the number of staff allocated in total to this project, (d) a breakdown of all consultancy fees including the name of consultant, the purpose and cost of consultancy work paid by his department associated with the development of this slogan and (e) the date on which his department was first involved in the new slogan?

Mr BEATTIE (3/12/01): The Smart State slogan was chosen to highlight the importance of developing new ideas and industries as the State of Queensland moves into the new century, the Member would be aware that use of the Smart State logo on number plates will be optional (a) the department did not incur any costs on market research or market testing of the slogan (b) the only cost to the department in monetary or man hours in terms of formulating and deliberating on the "Smart State" slogan was in preparing briefs to the Premier and correspondence to the Department of Transport and Minister for Transport and Main Roads (c) there were no departmental staff allocated to this project beyond their role in preparing briefs and correspondence on the matter (d) there were no consultancy fees paid by the department associated with the development of the slogan (e) I am informed that the department was first involved in consideration of the new slogan in March 2001.

661. Government Superannuation Office

Mr JOHNSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (7/11/01)—

With reference to a Question Without Notice from the Leader of the Opposition on 13 September 2001 in relation to irregularities with the levying of surcharge tax on QSuper accounts to which he provided the following

unsatisfactory response 'I am unaware of the details. I will look into it. Unfortunately, I do not have working on my staff a staff member who used to work in the QSuper office. If I did, I would probably have some of this information. Members would remember that during the last sitting week the Member raised information in the Parliament in relation to QSuper overpayments.' and apart from the fact that the entire Government Superannuation Office (GSO) is part of his staff—

- (1) Have errors been made by the GSO's financial management system that have led to the annual taxation surcharge for approximately 10,000 QSuper members being paid to the Australian Taxation Office twice?
- (2) Has he informed those QSuper members affected by this duplication in the levying of surcharge tax?
- (3) What action is being undertaken by the GSO to correct its errors and return the duplicate payments of surcharge tax to the accounts of QSuper members?

Mr MACKENROTH (7/12/01):

(1) Since the inception of the surcharge regime, the superannuation industry has had to deal with many problems in relation to the reporting of surchargeable contribution information to the ATO. Surcharge reporting was quite difficult for the GSO because of a number of fund restructures over the initial years with many members transferring accounts.

The problem being referred to is related to the Australian Taxation Office inadvertently processing one of the computer files from the GSO although it had been prearranged that this not occur. Approximately 1,800 members consequently received duplicate surcharge assessment notices from the ATO in relation to the 1997, 1998 and 1999 years. The ATO's system has limited data matching capability to prevent these duplicate assessments occurring.

There has been no surcharge tax actually paid to the ATO in relation to these duplicate assessments and hence, there has never been the possibility of any QSuper member suffering a loss as a result of this processing error.

(2) As no surcharge tax was paid, no QSuper members were financially disadvantaged.

(3) No surcharge tax was paid to the ATO on account of the duplicate assessments.

662. Public Housing

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (7/11/01)—

During 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (to date), what amounts have been expended or budgeted and in what electorates for (a) youth housing, (b) boarding house accommodation and (c) seniors flats and units?

Mr SCHWARTEN (12/12/01): Information provided by the Department of Housing showing either the amounts expended or budgeted in the financial years 1999/2000, 2000/01 and 2001/02 (to date) is set out in Attachment A. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

663. State Schools Appraisal Process

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (7/11/01)—

As the appraisal process within State schools is being undertaken by teachers themselves and the schools do not receive any funding for this and given that this process takes up a lot of a teacher's time, schools may simply stop conducting the procedure or conduct it to an insufficient standard—

What incentives are in place to ensure that teachers continue this important aspect of education?

Ms BLIGH (11/12/01): The Appraisal Literacy and Numeracy Tasks are carried out by the Support Teacher: Learning Difficulties, not by the classroom teacher.

The appraisal process assists teachers to plan for the needs of students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities within all classrooms. Appraisal provides schools with a clear and accountable process to ensure that these students are better able to access the curriculum and thus experience more favourable outcomes.

As part of ongoing teaching and learning processes, teachers observe the strengths and vulnerabilities of these students and this information is used in conjunction with the appraisal information to jointly plan for the child's needs.

The appraisal process has been developed in conjunction with, and supported by an existing resource base of 619 positions of Support Teachers: Learning Difficulties that service all primary schools. In addition there have been nine positions of Support Teacher: Learning Difficulties (Appraisal) appointed across the State to provide localised training to Support Teachers: Learning Difficulties as they, in turn, support class teachers. Appraisal Project Officers provide support and advice to the above positions. As well there are a suite of very detailed materials available to all schools to support the process.

Incentives to continue the process and to maintain its integrity lie in the commitment of teachers to respond to the individual needs of students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities, and to plan classroom programs that reflect those needs.

664. Department of Disability Services Staffing

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (7/11/01)—

With reference to staffing within the Department for Disability Services—

Will she provide (a) a list of staff in each office, by position and public service classification, currently and for each year since 1998, (b) a list of current vacancies in each office, by position and public service classification and (c) an indication of how long each of the positions in (b) have been vacant and when they will be filled?

Ms SPENCE (6/12/01): The provision of this detailed information would be an extremely resource intensive activity that would direct service delivery staff away from existing work priorities.

The only reliable way to provide the information requested would require manual collation in each office and directorate across the state. It is estimated that from a departmental perspective, one officer would probably take up to three months full time to prepare this material.

I can inform the member that Disability Services Queensland has a complement of 2143 staff. Vacancies occur as a result of transfers, promotions, resignations and retirements of permanent officers.

Information that is available, from the department, is there are five (5) current vacant positions advertised in the Queensland Government Gazette as at 9 November 2001, which are yet to be filled through a process of open merit selection.

It is anticipated that these vacancies will be filled by the end of the year.

665. Restricted Dogs

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (7/11/01)—

With reference to the draft legislative proposals introducing a regulatory framework for restricted dogs—

- (1) Will she provide the name and function of each organisation her department consulted with in preparing the draft legislation that will amend the Local Government Act 1993?
- (2) Will she provide the results of each consultation with regards to the organisations support or opposition to the Bill and any recommendations?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (6/12/01):

(1) The information requested by Mr Hobbs was provided when the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) 2001 was introduced into Parliament on 27 November 2001.

(2) Information regarding consultations on the draft legislation became available to all Members through the inclusion of these details in the Explanatory Notes to the Bill. Further, in my Second Reading Speech in relation to the Bill I outlined the results of consultation.

666. Queensland Ambulance Service Vehicles

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (7/11/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Ambulance Service fleet throughout Queensland—

On a regional basis, what is the (a) number of vehicles operated by the region, (b) age of each vehicle in operation, (c) amount of mileage on each vehicle in operation, (d) percentage of down time of vehicles due to unserviceability, (e) age and mileage of vehicles before they need replacing and (f) number of new vehicles being provided to each region this financial year?

Mr REYNOLDS (7/12/01):

- (a) As at 31 October 2001 QAS had an operational fleet of 760 vehicles distributed across regions as follows.

Region—Quantity

Northern—76

Central—130

South Western—99

North Coast—98

Greater Brisbane—163

South Eastern—105

Far Northern—71

State Headquarters—18

Total—760

- (b) Of the 760 vehicles

a. 269 are under 3 year old (40%)

b. 320 are between 3 and 8 years (42%)

c. 69 are 9-10 years (9%)

d. 62 are over 10 year old (8%)

All vehicles over 10 year old not linked to a special program and are on the current financial year program for replacement.

- (c) There are:

10 over 350,000

15 between 300,000 and 350,000

22 between 250,000 and 300,000

33 between 200,000 and 250,000

the balance are under 200,000

(d) Many vehicles are serviced by subcontractors. Accurate records are not maintained as to down time. Reserve vehicles are used to replace unserviceable cars whenever possible

(e) The current replacement program is based on phasing out vehicles that are older than 10 years and 300,000 km. Smaller units such as Commodores have been refurbished around 5 years or 100,000 km. The relevant performance indicator of 70% of the fleet being <8 years or having travelled < 300,000 km. is based on the economic life of the vehicles.

(f) 140 new or refurbished vehicles will be provided this financial year as per following table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

667. Numberplates

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/11/01)—

What costs has his department incurred in relation to the development of the 'Smart State' slogan that was to appear on motor vehicle number plates and specifically provide details on each of the following (a) the cost of any market research and/or market testing of the slogan, (b) the cost to the department in both monetary and man hours in terms of departmental staff engaged in formulating and deliberating on the 'Smart State' slogan, (c) the number of staff allocated in total to this project, (d) a breakdown of all consultancy fees including the name of consultant, the purpose and cost of consultancy work paid by his department associated with the development of this slogan and (e) the date on which his department was first involved in the new slogan?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/01):

- (a) The department did not incur any market research or market testing costs in relation to the development of the 'Smart State' slogan.
- (b) The department did not incur any monetary or human resource costs formulating or deliberating on the 'Smart State' slogan.
- (c) No departmental staff were allocated to the development of the 'Smart State' slogan.
- (d) No consultants were engaged by the department to develop the 'Smart State' slogan.
- (e) A request was received by the department on 26 March 2001 to investigate the possibility of introducing the 'Smart State' number plates. This was the departments first involvement with the new slogan.

668. Schools Funding

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education (8/11/01)—

Since coming to office in 1998, what amounts has the Government budgeted each year for re-current and capital expenditure for both State and non-State schools?

Ms BLIGH (11/12/01): Annual budgeted recurrent and capital expenditure for both State and Non-State schools listed below are as per information from which the Ministerial Portfolio Statements were derived.

Recurrent Funding

Financial Year	State Funding**		Commonwealth Funding		Total Funding	
	State Schools (\$M)	Non State Schools (\$M)	State Schools (\$M)	Non-State Schools (\$M)	State Schools (\$M)	Non-State Schools (\$M)
1998-99*	2,431	198	241	384	2,672	582
1999-00	2,794	203	272	493	3,066	696
2000-01	2,945	219	301	522	3,246	741
2001-02	3,219	242	316	664	3,535	906

Capital Funding

Financial Year	State Funding**		Commonwealth Funding		Total Funding	
	State Schools (\$M)	Non State Schools (\$M)	State Schools (\$M)	Non-State Schools (\$M)	State Schools (\$M)	Non-State Schools (\$M)
1998-99*	223	28	40	14	263	42
1999-00	233	27	41	15	274	42
2000-01***	144	24	42	15	186	39
2001-02	163	24	43	18	206	42

* Please note that change in accounting policy from cash to accrual accounting began in 1999-00 financial year (ie: above information for 1998-99 is based on the converted 1998-99 figures in the published 99-00 Ministerial Portfolio Statements).

** State Funding includes "Own sourced revenue" (including P&C contributions and user charges).

*** Decrease in State Capital Funding for State Schools is due to change in accounting policy and increased appropriateness of the accounting treatment of capital expenditure.

The decrease in State Capital Funding for non-state schools is due to the completion of the "cool" schools program and reduction in funding relating to External Capital Infrastructure Program.

669. Cape York Peninsula

Ms LEE LONG asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (8/11/01)—

- (1) What percentage of Cape York Peninsula is already locked up under native title, national parks and conservation areas?
- (2) What further percentage of Cape York is under native title claim?

Mr BEATTIE (3/12/01):

(1) The area comprising Cape York Peninsula can be variously defined but no land is locked up by native title. The following information is based on a map recently prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines for the Cape York Natural Heritage Trust Plan.

The total land area of the Cape York Peninsula is approximately 137,450 km².

Of this, native title has been determined to exist over some 7,490 km² (approximately 5.5%—largely areas of pre-existing indigenous lands). Some 17,210 km² (approximately 12.5%) is National Park or Conservation Area. Together these total about 24,700 km² (approximately 18%).

(2) Native title claims are handled by the National Native Title Tribunal.

670. Water Allocations

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (8/11/01)—

Will he indicate (a) the willingness of his department to conduct in the near future, a comprehensive land use management study before water allocations are finalised and (b) why preliminary allocations were made with no such study making those calculations worthless?

Mr ROBERTSON (11/12/01):

(a) A comprehensive land use management study will not be conducted in the Central Lockyer before water allocations are finalised. Sufficient mapping of irrigable lands has previously been undertaken, and where necessary, my Department has held discussions with landholders to confirm irrigability.

There is plenty of land amongst existing users suitable for irrigation. Because water use is already unsustainable in some areas, the problem is largely one of fair sharing of the existing resource.

Over the last 20 years, some parts of the Central Lockyer have seen groundwater levels drop dramatically. In these areas current available pumping rates are only some 20% of what they were 20 years ago. In other areas of the Central Lockyer, water quality has deteriorated as a direct result of groundwater levels being lower more regularly. In these areas only salt tolerant crops can now be grown. The sustainable allocation and management of the Central Lockyer's groundwater resources is clearly a critical issue for this area.

(b) In the circumstances, a comprehensive land use management study is of little value in undertaking the task of distributing water fairly.

Therefore, the basic premise in the setting of allocations is to ensure the total volumetric allocations of all the individual groundwater licences matches the available yield of the system. The factors considered in setting the individual allocations have included, the yields available in particular parts of the groundwater area and the irrigable area of properties.

In moving to establish the individual allocations within a particular part of the groundwater area, there has been overwhelming community feedback supporting allocations based on a licensee's irrigable area. As stated above, irrigable area is largely defined and where there is any doubt, the landholder is directly consulted. Further land studies for the sake of it would needlessly waste taxpayers money.

671. Nelly Bay Harbour

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (8/11/01)—

With reference to the Nelly Bay Harbour development—

(1) What steps has the Government taken to determine the status of native title at the Nelly Bay Harbour site and to consult with the traditional owners the Walgurakaba People about that status?

(2) If the Government has determined that native title at Nelly Bay Harbour has been extinguished, by what instrument, on what date and on whose authority?

Mr BEATTIE (3/12/01):

(1) In 1999, the Department of Natural Resources carried out a native title assessment in accordance with departmental Native Title Procedures and determined that native title had been extinguished over the Nelly Bay Harbour development area. There is no legislative or procedural requirement for consultation with traditional owners regarding a native title assessment.

All Departments and Agencies have Native Title Work Procedures under which they are required to assess whether or not dealings will affect native title. Where native title exists, dealings can only proceed in accordance with the Commonwealth's Native Title Act 1993.

(2) The Department of Natural Resources regional office in Townsville carried out a native title assessment in accordance with the Native Title Work Procedures, which was approved by the Senior Land Officer of the Townsville office on 26 October 1999. Native title was determined to be extinguished by Special Lease No. 50014 for Reclamation and Marina Construction Purposes, which was granted on 24 November 1988 under the Land Act 1962.

The Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 provides that certain leases extinguish native title. A special lease granted under the Land Act 1962 will extinguish native title where it has been issued solely or primarily for one or more of the purposes listed in Schedule 1 of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. Both Reclamation and Marina are listed in Schedule 1 of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993.

672. Queensland Health Staffing

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (8/11/01)—

(1) How many Queensland Health employees were on stress leave in Queensland Health in 2000-01?

(2) How does this compare to 1999-2000 and 1998-99?

(3) Will she provide a breakdown of the type of category of work they perform (ie administration, clinical etc)?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/01): Queensland Health does not have a leave entitlement called "stress leave" and sick leave provisions do not require a person to disclose the nature of their illness.

673. Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority Loan Schemes

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (8/11/01)—

With reference to the special low interest loan schemes administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority for commercial fishermen affected by the East Coast Trawl Management Plan and sugar producers affected by the downturn in that industry—

- (1) How many applications for each scheme have been received to date?
- (2) Of those applications, how many loans have been approved?
- (3) What is the total value of loans issued under each scheme?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/12/01):

(1) Under the East Coast Trawl Fishery Restructure Adjustment Scheme there have been two applications received. The uptake was limited due to the delay in the Federal Government accrediting the East Coast Trawl Management Plan.

Under the Sugar Industry Crop Re-Planting and Establishment Scheme thirteen applications have been received. The uptake was limited due to the restrictions imposed by the Federal Government prohibiting sugar producers from accessing full Commonwealth assistance if they had accessed State assistance.

(2) Both applications for a loan under the East Coast Trawl Fishery Restructure Adjustment Scheme were approved. Nine of the applications for a loan under the Sugar Industry Crop Re-Planting and Establishment Scheme were approved.

(3) The total value of loans under the East Coast Trawl Fishery Restructure Adjustment Scheme is \$57,164. The total value of loans under the Sugar Industry Crop Re-Planting and Establishment Scheme is \$60,308.

674. Emergency Services, Sunshine Coast

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (8/11/01)—

What improvements have occurred to the various emergency service departments located on the Sunshine Coast and specifically to the Kawana Electorate, since the Beattie Labor Government came to power?

Mr REYNOLDS (10/12/01): The Beattie Government has made significant improvements to the delivery of emergency services in the Kawana Electorate. The Sunshine Coast is a high growth area and the Department of Emergency Services is currently preparing service delivery plans in anticipation of the future service needs of this community.

A new Emergency Services complex has been established at North Buderim incorporating the Maroochy Fire Station at a cost of \$1.9M, and the Maroochy Ambulance Station at a cost of \$0.8M. These facilities are strategically placed to provide greatly improved service delivery throughout the Sunshine Coast including growth areas such as Kawana.

In May 2001, Computer Aided Dispatch was installed into the Sunshine Coast Communications Centre again enhancing the delivery of ambulance services to the community. Additional hand-held radios have been purchased to enhance communications on the Sunshine Coast especially during the upcoming CHOGM conference. This technology, which has greatly assisted in a reduction in response times commenced operation from a new Ambulance Communications Centre in November 2001 at a total cost of \$1.7M.

The Caloundra Fire Station was relocated at a cost of \$1.2M to a position that provides improved service delivery capability to the Kawana area. Firecom, which is located at the Kawana fire station, has recently been upgraded at a cost of \$145K. Additionally a new Ambulance station will shortly open at Tanawha to provide improved services to the Buderim, Chancellor Park and Sippy Downs areas.

Key staff have received extensive training in Chemical, Biological Radiological and Incendiary Emergencies (CBRIE) management/planning and resourcing in preparation for CHOGM. A number of staff have also participated in Joint Emergency Services Training (JEST) exercises and training conducted in conjunction with the Queensland Police Service.

There has been an increase in firefighters performing fire prevention and public education activities such as 'Operation Safehome' and 'Road Accident Awareness Programs' in the Kawana and other Sunshine Coast areas. The number of Community Education classes being held by the QAS continues to increase. This initiative means many more Queenslanders are now trained in first aid.

QAS staffing levels at Kawana, Beerwah, Beerwah, and Cooroy have been increased to provide a 24-hours two-officer response to emergencies in these areas. A total of 10 QFRS Auxiliary firefighters have been recruited in the Caloundra area. Two of these staff have been stationed at the Kawana Fire Station.

QAS staff have been provided with the opportunity to improve their skills with the introduction of the "In Service Continuing Education Program" (ISCEP) and the Sunshine Coast now has the highest level of Intensive Care Paramedics in the State.

Many firefighters throughout the Sunshine Coast have been trained to perform Vertical Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Urban Search and Rescue. Maroochy Fire Station has been established as a key strategic station for rescue services on the Sunshine Coast. These services and more are available throughout the Sunshine Coast area including Kawana.

A mobile training unit, with capacity to provide challenging training in the use of breathing apparatus and practical gas fire training, has been provided to the North Coast Region, which includes the Kawana and Sunshine Coast areas. Another module of this mobile training unit is a 3D cinema that presents fire safety messages to the community. The cost of this highly regarded 3D cinema initiative exceeded \$350,000.

There have been 12 rural firefighting appliances allocated to Rural Fire brigades in the Sunshine Coast area. The cost of these vehicles exceeded \$600K. Pumper tankers have been allocated to the Caloundra, Mooloolah, Beerwah, Coolumb, Buderim, Cooroy, Pomona and Maleny fire stations at a cost exceeding \$2M. The Kawana fire appliance was also upgraded recently.

State Emergency Services and Counter Disaster Services North Coast District is based at Gympie and has appointed an Operations and Training Officer to service the Sunshine Coast area and provided a \$5,000 Motor Vehicles Subsidy to the Noosa SES Unit in the 1998/99 financial year.

During 1999/2000 financial year a vehicle was allocated to the Operations and Training Officer and a \$6,384 Motor vehicles and Accessories Subsidy was made available to the Noosa SES Unit.

Two Accommodation Subsidies totalling \$15,000 were provided to the Maroochy Shire Council in the 2000/2001 financial year.

675. Oxley Police Beat

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (8/11/01)—

What is the progress of the proposed Police Beat at Oxley?

Mr McGRADY (10/12/01): The residence at 1 Chapman Place, Oxley has been selected as a suitable site for the Oxley Neighbourhood Police Beat. The Tenancy Agreement for this location has been approved and signed by the Police Service. Staff from Q Build have attended the location and provided a quotation and a scope of works required to outfit the residence. Q Build has not provided a completion date for the fit-out.

A majority of the equipment needed for the Neighbourhood Police Beat has been ordered. Upon completion of the fit-out of the residence, the furniture, computer and electrical equipment will be delivered.

In relation to staffing, arrangements are being made to advertise the position at the Neighbourhood Police Beat.

676. Crime, Greenslopes Electorate

Mr FENLON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (8/11/01)—

(1) In the areas under the responsibility of the Coorparoo, Camp Hill and Holland Park Police Stations, will he provide details of recent trends in overall reported crime and various forms of property crime in particular?

(2) Is it possible to draw any conclusions from these details?

Mr McGRADY (10/12/01):

(1) Attached are three tables detailing the number of offences for the last five financial years, with percentage changes, for Coorparoo, Camp Hill and Holland Park Police Divisions. Also attached is a table showing the changes in population for these 3 divisions for the period 1996/97-2000/01.

(2) The following conclusions may be drawn from the statistics provided:

Coorparoo Division:

Total person offences decreased by 13% from 1999/00 to 2000/01 largely due to a 61% decrease in Sexual Offences and a 9% decrease in Other Offences Against the Person;

There have been no homicides in this division since the 1996/97 financial year;

Total property offences decreased by 8% from 1999/00 to 2000/01 as a result of decreases in all property offence subcategories.

Camp Hill Division:

Total person offences increased due to an increase in Sexual Offences, largely attributable to a large number of historical offences having been cleared up with charges preferred against a single offender. There was, however, a 7% decrease in Assaults;

The number of total property offences remained unchanged from 1999/00 to 2000/01.

Holland Park Division:

The number of total person offences decreased by 15% as a result of decreases on all person offence subcategories except Other Offences Against the Person;

The number of total property offences increased by 7% largely due to increases in Unlawful Entry, Arson, Motor Vehicle Theft and Other Theft.

The divisions of Coorparoo, Camp Hill and Holland Park fall within the South Brisbane Police District. To address the increase in reported crime, the South Brisbane District implemented a District Tactical Response Team (DTRT) in June 2001. The DTRT is briefed daily on recent crime trends and are tasked appropriately to address 'hot spots'. Each Station has a Station Intelligence Officer (SIO). The SIO analyses crime trends and formulates Intelligence Driven Patrols (IDP) for car crews. Special break and enter patrols are conducted on a regular basis for each station. These units work in conjunction with the DTRT.

The increase in sexual offences at Camp Hill was as a result of one offender being charged with historical offences.

The District Crime Prevention Coordinator utilises proactive strategies such as neighbourhood watch, crime stoppers, community advice, media and accessing intelligence information to address crime trends.

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

677. Greyback Cane Grubs

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (8/11/01)—

With reference to the devastating impact that greyback cane grubs are having on the Burdekin's sugar industry, the evidence that affected crops are having to be watered up to 25 per cent more often than otherwise necessary to keep crops with damaged root systems alive and the obvious benefits in terms of water use efficiency to be gained from controlling this pest—

Will he provide funding support for research and control measures through the Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative; if not, why not?

Mr ROBERTSON (10/12/01): As part of its objective of providing an additional 280 million dollars per year in agricultural production, the Rural Water Use Efficiency Initiative (RWUEI) is focusing on issues directly related to irrigation. CaneGrowers is delivering the Initiative to the sugar industry in collaboration with the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations (BSES), which provides the field extension staff and expertise.

There are a number of influences on irrigated sugarcane that impact on production outside the realm of control of irrigation practices—cane grubs and rust are a couple of examples. It is not feasible or appropriate that the RWUEI deal with these. Furthermore, the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations is of the opinion that pests, such as the greyback cane grub, are their responsibility.

678. Child Death Reviews

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (8/11/01)—

With reference to the newly revised policy on child death reviews as referred to in the Families News newsletter no. 11 as posted on her website—

Will she provide (a) the revised 'Reporting of Deaths, Serious Incidents and Missing Persons Policy and Procedures and Associated Incident Report Form' and (b) the form this revised version replaced?

Ms SPENCE (10/12/01):

(a) A copy of this document is attached.

(b) Under the previous Incident Reporting Policy implemented in 1999, a report was required to be prepared following the death or serious injury of a child or young person. This policy required an Incident Report Form to be prepared when an accidental or deliberate event, where a client, staff member or carer was injured, died or was missing or an incident that may have impacted on the public confidence in the Department, occurred. A copy of this form is attached.

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

679. Coominya Water Supply

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (8/11/01)—

With reference to the Coominya water supply which has been on the go since the early sixties and which is only 2kms from the largest waterhole in Queensland, the Wivenhoe Dam—

Will he give an undertaking to the people of Coominya that they will have a treated water supply by the end of 2002 or at the very least, an anticipated date before the end of this Government's current term of office?

Mr ROBERTSON (10/12/01): The responsibility for providing water to the town of Coominya rests with Esk Shire Council.

The State Government provides capital works subsidies under the Smaller Communities Assistance Program component of the Local Governing Bodies' Capital Works Subsidy Scheme to assist communities such as Coominya which otherwise could not afford a water supply. The Smaller Communities Assistance Program is designed to assist local governing bodies provide reliable water and sewerage services of an acceptable standard and cost in smaller communities having a population of less than 5000 persons.

In order to access such subsidies, the Council must do the necessary planning and make an application to the Minister for Local Government and Planning. The level of financial assistance is determined after consideration of the capacity of the community and the local government to pay for the service.

Previously completed planning involving a Wivenhoe to Atkinson Dam Task Force for the possible construction of a possible pipeline has complicated the provision of a water supply for the town of Coominya. This initiative included the supply of water to Coominya as well as for irrigation and industry. However the project has not been able to advance because of the costs and inability of the rural community to pay for the scheme. The current investigations into piping treated wastewater to the Lockyer Valley has added another consideration in this matter.

Ultimately, Council can proceed to provide a reticulated water supply to the town of Coominya without waiting for the rural water planning issues associated with proposals for additional irrigation supplies to be resolved. This is a decision for Council which is currently considering their options.

680. Responsibilities of Minister for Innovation and Information Technology

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy (8/11/01)—

With reference to the overlap of responsibilities regarding the Ministerial responsibility for sport and in light of the fact that he is listed in the Government directory as the Minister for Innovation and Information Technology while his department is listed as the Department of Innovation and Information Technology and Sport and Recreation—

Where does the Ministerial responsibility lie and can he guarantee that there is no loss of accountability through this unusual arrangement?

Mr LUCAS (5/12/01):

(1) As the Member should know, the Administrative Arrangements issued by the Governor in Council make it quite clear where the administrative responsibilities and accountabilities lie for both portfolios. There is no overlap in Ministerial responsibilities between myself and the Deputy Premier, as is clearly shown in the attached copy of the Administrative Arrangements, as published in the Gazette on 15 June 2001.

(2) There are strong governance arrangements in place within the Department of Information and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Queensland to fulfil all accountability requirements established by Government and statute. The Department satisfies all accountability requirements in supporting the Deputy Premier and myself in discharging our respective portfolio responsibilities. The Annual Report for the Department, tabled on 14 November 2001, provides a very strong example in this regard.

(3) If the Member took the time to look at the Administrative Arrangements, which are published on a regular basis, he would realise I am not the Minister for Innovation and Information Technology, I am the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy. Nor is the department the Department of Innovation and Information Technology and Sport and Recreation, it is the Department of Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Queensland.

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

681. Landfill

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (8/11/01)—

- (1) What action is his department taking to lower the level of waste in landfill throughout the State?
- (2) Will he provide a breakdown of landfill deposits for the last six years?
- (3) What additional funding, if any, has been provided to Local Governments in order to reduce this level or to improve or rehabilitate landfill sites in their cities, towns or shires?

Mr WELLS (10/12/01):

(1) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a range of strategies to help reduce the amount of waste disposed to landfill. Through its Cleaner Production Partnerships, the EPA has worked with industry to identify ways of reducing the amount of waste produced, therefore helping to reduce the amount of waste requiring disposal to landfill. The EPA is also working with industry and local government through the National Packaging Covenant to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of kerbside recycling in Queensland.

To further these initiatives, the EPA has recently established a dedicated waste unit and is undertaking a review of the Government's Waste Management Strategy. The EPA will report to me on the findings of the review by mid 2002.

The EPA also seeks to encourage the recycling or reuse of materials which would otherwise be wastes, when deciding whether to issue licences for new landfills or waste processing facilities under the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

(2) The department informs me that figures on the amount of waste going into landfill over the past six years are not available as many local authorities do not have weighbridges and are unable to report to the EPA on these wastes.

However, there is good news on recycling. I am informed that over that period, recycling of kerbside materials is up 5 percent to 70,000 tonnes per year in 2000/01, biosolids recycling is up 30 percent to 61,000 tonnes last year, and similar gains achieved in construction and demolition wastes at 32,000 tonnes recycled. Nearly 300,000 tonnes of green and organic wastes were recycled last year.

The Government remains committed to accelerating the rate of waste recycling in coming years.

(3) This question falls under the portfolio responsibility of my colleague, the Honourable Minister for Local Government and Planning through her Department's administration of the Landfill Remediation Assessment Program. However I can advise that the EPA has provided technical guidance to the Department of Local Government and Planning in its work of assessing reports submitted by local governments on remediation of former landfill sites. The EPA is also supporting the Department of Local Government and Planning in encouraging local governments to participate in the program which will help determine priorities for rehabilitation and the likely costs associated with these works.

682. Community Helicopter Providers Service Agreements

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (8/11/01)—

With reference to Estimates Committees where he stated that new service agreements for community helicopter providers would be in place by 1 October this year—

Will he provide (a) a copy of the finalised agreements and (b) the date on which these agreements were implemented?

Mr REYNOLDS (10/12/01): My Department has been negotiating the terms and conditions of new draft Service Agreements between the State of Queensland and Community Helicopter Providers since June 2001.

The current Service Agreements were originally extended until 30 September 2001 to allow time for consultation with the Community Helicopter Providers and the agencies that use the services of the State's emergency helicopter network.

My Department further extended the current Service Agreements until 30 November 2001 as negotiation of the new agreements continued between the Department and the CHPs. One provider has yet to formally respond to the Department's initial request for comment despite regular reminders.

I understand that the community Helicopter Providers have now engaged a consultant to assist them in negotiations with my Department on the new Service Agreements and with this in mind the agreements have been extended until the end of January 2002.

My Department is keen to finalise the new Service Agreements as soon as possible and will continue to closely liaise with the CHPs in this regard.

683. Transit Seating

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (8/11/01)—

With reference to the Cairns tilt train project and, in particular, to the provision of seating by Transit Seating—

- (1) Has payment for work carried out by Transit Seating been withheld by Queensland Rail?
- (2) Is he aware that Transit Seating has laid off six workers and is jeopardising the continued employment of a further 21 workers and threatening the future of the company?
- (3) What action has he taken to resolve this issue and protect these Queensland jobs?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/01):

(1) No, Transit Seating has a contract with Walkers Limited for supply of seats for the Cairns Tilt trains not Queensland Rail. To date, Transit Seating has been paid 93% of the current approved contract value, but has delivered only 40% of the 378 seats to be supplied under the contract.

(2) I am advised that Walkers Limited is currently resolving this matter with Transit Seating under the contractual arrangements between the two parties.

(3) The preferred position of Walkers and QR is for Transit Seating to meet its contractual obligations and complete delivery of the seats ordered. Claims for variations need to be dealt with under the terms of the contract and any claim, if justified, will be paid.

684. Legal Profession Reform

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (8/11/01)—

Will he outline his timeframe for legal profession reform including processes of consultation and finalisation of the processes including introduction of legislative changes to the Parliament?

Mr WELFORD (10/12/01): A national competition review of Queensland's legal practice legislation is now under way. The Government will finalise its reform package when that review is complete. The necessary legislation will be implemented by 30 June 2002.

685. Domestic Violence

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (8/11/01)—

With reference to the incidence of domestic violence during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (to date) (8/11/01)—

- (1) How many domestic violence cases were reported to her department?
- (2) What are the details of numbers relative to women, children, the elderly and people with mental or physical disabilities?
- (3) How many cases received counselling and help?
- (4) How many cases (a) required and (b) were able to access crisis care?
- (5) What are the details of the costs to provide services listed above?
- (6) What are the details of (1)—(5) raised for the Sunshine Coast and how much money was spent on these issues for this area plus the percentage of total moneys that were spent, that were allocated to the Sunshine Coast area?

Ms SPENCE (7/12/01):

(1) The reported domestic violence cases to the Department of Families are based on the number of applications for protection orders received by Queensland courts. The current data system provides the following number of applications for protection orders received:

1999-2000—13,249
2000-2001—14,191
1 July 2001 to 31 October 2001—4,621

- (2) This information is not available based on current data collection system.
- (3) This information is not available based on current data collection system.
- (4) This information is not available based on current data collection system.
- (5) The total funds allocated under the Homelessness and Domestic Violence Prevention key funding areas for the provision of crisis and support services for people affected by Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland for the year 1999-2000 was \$16.69M; for the year 2000-2001 was \$18.25M and for the year 2001-2002 is projected to be \$19.15M.

(6) Regarding the Sunshine Coast area—

- (1) The current data system provides the following number of applications received for protection orders:

1999-2000—921
2000-2001—955
1 July 2001 to 31 October 2001—315

- (2) This information is not available on current data collection system.
- (3) This information is not available on current data collection system.
- (4) This information is not available on current data collection system.
- (5) There are five services funded to address domestic and family violence in the Sunshine Coast region. Funding of these services totalled:

1999-2000—\$530,477
 2000-2001—\$601,143
 2001-2002—\$610,158 (this is a projected figure)

The percentage of funds allocated to the Sunshine Coast area for the provision of crisis and support services has remained steady at 3.2% over the years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. However, with the allocation for a new service in the Sunshine Coast region, the percentage is expected to increase to 4.24% of the total funding allocated for the State of Queensland.

686. Logan Youth Justice Service

Ms STONE asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (8/11/01)—

- (1) What, if any, assistance has the Logan Youth Justice Service provided young people in the area, in particular, access to employment and education opportunities?
- (2) What is the service doing to address the over representation of Indigenous young people in the youth justice system?
- (3) Is there a possibility of reducing the number of young people entering the juvenile justice system?
- (4) What impact has the service had upon young people in general and their outcomes?

Ms SPENCE (7/12/01):

(1) Youth Justice Services provide specialist case management services to young offenders that assess issues contributing to the offending behaviour and which target interventions to meet the needs of the young person. Over the past 12 months, the Logan Youth Justice Service has given 23 young people employment opportunities in a range of careers including retailing, labouring, trades assistants, traineeships and apprenticeships. Seven of these young people were Indigenous. Young people on youth justice orders are also being referred to a local community based agency which prepares them to re-enter education. Thirteen young people are currently being assisted.

(2) Indigenous young people are significantly over-represented in all areas of the juvenile justice system. Logan Youth Justice Services has implemented the following strategies: the employment of at least 25% of full time equivalent Indigenous positions; partnerships with local Indigenous organisations in developing programs for the young people of the area; work with the Indigenous community to identify local causes of crime and the development of crime prevention strategies; and working collaboratively with other community organisations in supporting Indigenous young people to comply with their court orders.

(3) Youth Justice Services are reducing the number of young people entering the youth justice system. An evaluation of the three Youth Justice Services released in October 2001 identified a reduction in the rate of recidivism after contact with a Youth Justice Service and a reduction in Indigenous over representation.

(4) When evaluating the Youth Justice Services, young people and their families provided positive feedback about their contact, level of support received to comply with order conditions, and their access to programs. Whenever possible, young people are matched with a worker from a similar cultural background. The success of services in Logan, Townsville and Ipswich has resulted in recurrent funding being provided and a commitment to establish two additional services in the Wide Bay Burnett and Caboolture Redcliffe Regions for commencement in early 2002.

687. 'Developing an Export Blueprint for Queensland' Brochure

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for State Development (9/11/01)—

With reference to the colour brochure 'Developing an export blueprint for Queensland'—

- (1) What was the cost of production of this brochure, including cost of printing and preparation?
- (2) How many brochures were printed?
- (3) What was the cost of distribution?
- (4) To whom were these brochures distributed?

Mr BARTON (5/12/01):

- (1) Design and preparation done in-house, therefore no cost. Printing \$2115 (incl GST)
- (2) 3000
- (3) \$1580 (incl GST) which includes \$1087 in postage to mail out 1264 copies of the Strategy.
- (4) Targeted Queensland exporters, Government departments and agencies, export-related industries.

688. Proposed South Johnstone Bridge

Ms LEE LONG asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/11/01)—

What progress has been made in relation to the promised \$10m bridge at South Johnstone?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/01): The Department of Main Roads is currently investigating options to determine the optimal alignment for the new bridge at South Johnstone. Main Roads initially examined three locations for the new bridge but one of these has since been discarded as unsuitable. An on-site survey of the terrain associated with the

remaining two options will commence in the next few weeks, and will be followed by flood modelling to determine the height that the new bridge will need to be built to.

Main Roads will carry out consultation with the local community during the first half of 2002, once the outcomes of the latest investigations are known.

The 2001-02 to 2005-06 Roads Implementation Program contains approved allocations for the South Johnstone River Bridge as follows:

2001-02	\$383,000
2002-03	\$1.5m
2003-04	\$8.0m

This allows for detailed design work for the new bridge to be completed in 2002-03, followed by construction after the end of the 2002-03 wet season, with completion expected by Christmas 2003.

689. Leyburn Police Station

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (9/11/01)—

When will a police officer be placed in the Leyburn Police Station to replace the previous officer who was transferred in September and will this placement be a permanent and full-time position?

Mr McGRADY (10/12/01): I am advised that the selection process has been completed and the successful applicant's appointment to the position was notified in the Queensland Police Gazette on Friday 16 November 2001. The nomination is subject to lodgement of review by other applicants by no later than Friday 30 November 2001. If no review is lodged the officer will take up duty as soon as possible after this date. If a review is lodged it will be determined and the successful applicant will take up duty as soon as possible after the finalisation of the review process.

690. Land Clearing

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (9/11/01)—

Does he support the proposal of the Federal Labor Party to transfer responsibility for land clearing to the Commonwealth and their plan to ban tree-clearing in the Murray-Darling and Great Barrier Reef catchments?

Mr WELLS (10/12/01): The Howard Government was returned on 10 November. The question is now hypothetical.

691. Workplace Victimization

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (9/11/01)—

- (1) How many senior staff of the division of training have consulted corporate psychologists in the last 12 months claiming workplace victimisation and bullying?
- (2) Does he agree that there have been unacceptable staff concerns over this period?

Mr FOLEY (29/11/01):

(1) The Department of Employment and Training's Employee Assistance Service is a corporately funded confidential counselling and consultancy service available to all employees across the state. The service provides staff with professional counselling and referral aimed at supporting and skilling staff to effectively deal with personal and work related issues. This includes services provided for employees exposed to traumatic incidents at work. Counselling provided through the Employee Assistance Service is, and must be, confidential. Referrals for counselling are taken by an officer of the department who does not request specific detail regarding the reason for referral.

(2) I consider that any incident of workplace victimisation and bullying would be unacceptable.

692. Queensland Health, Payment of Accommodation Providers

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (9/11/01)—

With reference to the plight of a number of accredited accommodation providers in the Toowoomba region, which accommodated Queensland Health employees prior to the collapse of Ansett in September and as this accommodation was organised with Ansett as booking agent, hence these accommodation providers, as well as others across the State have not been paid for services provided in the months prior to the collapse—

- (1) Given that legal advice obtained by some providers, as well as the Opposition, states that Queensland Health has principal liability to pay these bills, will the Government acknowledge its responsibility in this matter?
- (2) In light of this legal advice, will the Government take steps to pay these bills, some of which go back as far as May, directly to the accommodation providers immediately?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/01): I am able to advise that Queensland Health is aware that a number of accommodation providers who accepted bookings from Ansett Australia as subcontractors of Ansett have as yet not been paid by the Ansett administrator.

Legally Queensland Health is bound to honour its contractual arrangements with Ansett. This means that where bills have already been rendered by Ansett, Queensland Health is not able to pay other parties.

However, where bills have not already been rendered by Ansett, Queensland Health is negotiating with the administrators in order to have permission to pay the accommodation provider direct.

Every effort is being made to finalise these matters as soon as possible.

693. Future of Primary Industries

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/01)—

As the average age of the population of many rural properties in Queensland is in the vicinity of 60 years and increasingly, people are leaving these towns, particularly the younger generation who are becoming reluctant to take over the family farm and see a career in rural industries as unattractive, what initiative is his department providing to encourage young people to stay on the land to ensure the long-term future of primary industry in this State?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/12/01): I reaffirm my answer to a similar question from the Member for Warrego on 2 August this year.

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has developed a wide range of programs directly aimed at improving the participation of youth in rural communities. These include:

sponsoring the Young Achievement Australia (YAA) program which offers young people in remote and regional communities the opportunity for personal development and to gain valuable experience in enterprise management;

individual DPI staff have been acting as mentors to rural and remote students through their involvement with the YAA program. Six secondary schools to date have taken part in the program;

the annual Positive Rural Futures Conference (PRF) highlights the role rural people play in revitalising their communities and builds on the momentum for change generated at previous PRFs. This year's conference in May 2001 at Sarina, hosted by DPI and Education Queensland, had a strong youth focus and guest speakers, including rural youth, discussed the issues facing young people in Queensland's rural communities and how they were addressing these issues;

DPI staff in North Queensland have taken a key role in initiating youth focused initiatives and are providing ongoing support to youth groups, particularly in Mareeba, Dimbulah and Charters Towers. DPI, in conjunction with the Charters Towers City Council, is organising a Youth Forum to be held in February 2002 within the framework of the Burdekin Rangelands Reef Initiative;

the Women in Rural Industries (WIRI) newsletter is distributed to more than 1000 people and organisations across the State. It features a special section dedicated to rural youth, featuring youth initiatives, funding opportunities, grants and other useful information. This newsletter also actively promotes the Young People in Rural Industries initiative and promotes the initiative through industry organisations and community groups to target and encourage young people to nominate for the wide variety of courses, scholarships and awards offered under the program;

certain sponsorships are provided to encourage young people to become involved at all levels of the rural sector. These have included initiatives such as the Longreach and Rockhampton presentations of the Australis—Self-Made Girl program which aims to encourage young rural women to become involved in business development and financial management and the Young Farmer of the Year competition which aims to promote the skills, dedication and positive attitude of the next generation of agricultural leaders; and

Rural Partnership officers facilitate the growth of groups of all kinds, assisting with skills identification and enhancement, providing information, and undertaking a wide range of other activities as required by the needs of the groups. Some of these groups, such as the Herbert River Young Farmers Group, are young people exploring options for diversification and young people in small towns wishing to make their communities more attractive places in which to live.

The Building Rural Leaders Program operated by the DPI encourages involvement of the younger generation.

Through the First Start Farm component of the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme (PIPES) administered by the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority (QRAA), concessional loans are available to eligible producers seeking to purchase their first property.

694. Water

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (9/11/01)—

- (1) What steps will the Government take to facilitate the supply of recycled water to the Lockyer and the Darling Downs following severe difficulties encountered by the lead agency City to Soil?
- (2) What steps can be taken to demonstrate the overall safety of such water?
- (3) What pressure might be brought to bear upon Brisbane's Lord Mayor to be more realistic in the proposed charges for water and co-operate more fully in solving this most difficult issue?

Mr ROBERTSON (10/12/01): Given the scale of this project, the Department of State Development has been appointed as lead agent to coordinate the many departments involved in progressing this project. Whilst my department continues to give technical advice, this question should be directed to my colleague the Minister for State Development.

695. Agnes Water, Primary Health Care Facility

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (9/11/01)—

What measures is the Government taking to provide a primary health care facility at Agnes Water?

Mrs EDMOND (10/12/01): Queensland Health officers have worked with representatives from the Agnes Water Community, the Bundaberg Division of General Practice and officers of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to develop a Regional Health Services Plan for Agnes Water and Town of 1770, which was finalised in January 2001.

I am advised that the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care has funded a range of primary health care services in Agnes Water, based on this plan, under the Regional Health Services Program. Negotiations have subsequently been held with the Miriam Vale Shire Council and a local Advisory Committee to progress the delivery of these services.

In the context of these negotiations, Queensland Health has agreed to provide a range of allied health services, where recruitment of professionals is possible.

I am also advised that the Miriam Vale Shire Council and its Advisory Committee made application to the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Services for capital funds for a Primary Health Centre under the Regional Solutions Program. Unfortunately, this application was not successful. The anticipated success of this application was the basis of the inclusion of \$600,000 in the Capital Statement in the State Budget 2001/02.

The Commonwealth Department has advised that they have instead approved the use of recurrent funding for the lease of an appropriate property.

Queensland Health has acknowledged the increasing needs of the Agnes Water community and surrounding areas and will work collaboratively with the Council and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care to plan and develop Queensland Health services in the area.

696. Mount Tamborine-Beenleigh Public Transport Service

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (9/11/01)—

With reference to the public transport service provided by Logan Coaches between Mount Tamborine and Beenleigh which allows commuters to connect with rail services—

Are these services to cease following a decision by Queensland Transport to withdraw subsidies for this service?

Mr BREDHAUER (10/12/01): In November 1999 Queensland Transport entered into a temporary service contract with Zamoner Pty Ltd, trading as Logan Coaches, for the provision of services between Mount Tamborine and Beenleigh.

This contract was renewed until 30 June 2001 pending a decision on whether the service should become a declared service. Queensland Transport has examined the performance of the service and determined that it should not be declared as passenger loadings averaged less than three cash passengers per vehicle for the three return services.

While the service was originally scheduled to cease from 30 June 2001, Queensland Transport has agreed to continue to fund the service until 21 December 2001 to allow passengers appropriate notification of the services cessation.

From this time, the scheduled services will cease to operate although school services will continue to be provided.

697. Valuation of Properties

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (9/11/01)—

Will he clearly outline how the unimproved values of commercial and residential properties are determined?

Mr ROBERTSON (10/12/01): Registered valuers generally inspect sales of vacant or lightly improved properties to determine current market values for differing classes of property.

The sales are analysed by deducting the added value of the improvements from the sale price. These improvements may include fencing, land clearing, levelling, filling or the depreciated value of any structures. The added value of the improvements is not necessarily the replacement cost.

Comparing the analysed unimproved values, derived from the sales, with the existing unimproved values, derives market movement in land values.

This analysed market movement may be applied to current unimproved values to arrive at predicted values. These are reviewed by a registered valuer who may confirm, increase or decrease the predicted amounts to reflect values disclosed by the analysed sales.

698. Fire Ants

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/01)—

Will he provide an update of the extent of the fire ant eradication program in the Electorate of Mount Ommaney?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/12/01): Most properties in the Mount Ommaney Electorate in the Treatment Area whose resident have given consent to treat when they are not home will have received their first treatment by December. To fit in with the needs of residents, the treatment teams are now arranging times convenient to residents who wish to be home at the time of treatment.

All properties in Sherwood and Corinda that fall in the zone immediately adjacent to the Treatment Area will be surveyed for fire ant infestation over the next month. Any residents in the Mount Ommaney Electorate, in either the Treatment Area or the Surveillance zone, who find a suspicious ant, should contact the DPI Call Centre and the FACC surveillance teams will investigate.

Meetings to seek community support for the Fire Ant Eradication program were conducted at Sinnamon Park on 12 September and Mount Ommaney on 14 September. Attendees at both meetings endorsed the eradication program after explanations of the impact of fire ants and the need for the eradication program.

A community liaison group meeting was held at the FACC, Oxley site on 20 November 2001 for residents adjacent to the FACC. These residents were interested in seeing how the former Oxley Secondary School is now being used as the FACC. The meeting was successful and the residents who attended expressed support for the program.

The group was concerned about the effects of the eradication program on native wildlife. A FACC Environmental Scientist allayed their concerns at a meeting held on 4 November when he explained the impact on our environment of uncontrolled fire ants and the need for the current eradication program for the long term protection of native wildlife.

The laboratory to identify ant samples taken from surveillance zones beyond the treatment zones by either structured surveillance teams or submitted by members of the public has now been established at the FACC, Oxley site. To date, more than 3,000 samples have been processed and this function forms an important part of determining the extent of the infestation. No live queen fire ants are kept on site at Oxley and these are contained within the laboratory at Wacol. Additionally, the bulk supply of ant bait is maintained at Wacol and therefore there is no large quantity of ant bait on site at Oxley.

A meeting with people with Multiple Chemical Sensitivities was conducted on the 30 September by FACC staff. The meeting was attended by a FACC Environmental Scientist who is establishing a register of residents in the Treatment Areas who have these special needs and is arranging to have their properties treated at times to convenient with them, when they are away from home.

699. Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (9/11/01)—

With reference to Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority payments to farmers in Queensland, how many applications in the current financial year were refused because banks holding interests in the properties ruled them unviable?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/12/01): The Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority only makes payments to producers through the Exceptional Circumstances Scheme.

I am advised that there have been no applications for Exceptional Circumstance assistance refused by the Authority on the grounds that their bank has "ruled them unviable".

700. Domestic Violence

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (9/11/01)—

With reference to the incidence of domestic violence during 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 (to date)—

- (1) How many domestic violence cases were reported to his department?
- (2) What are the details of numbers relative to women, children, the elderly and people with mental or physical disabilities?
- (3) How many times were police required to attend each reported case?
- (4) How many Domestic Violence Orders (DVOs) were issued?
- (5) How many of these Dvos were breached?
- (6) What is the incidence of the perpetrator not appearing in Court at the hearing and therefore necessitating police having to pursue the person to issue the order (giving numbers and percentage of total issued)?
- (7) How many police are assigned as special DVOS liaison officers in this State?
- (8) Will he detail the costs to provide the services listed above?
- (9) What are the details of (1)-(8) for the Sunshine Coast?
- (10) How much money was spent and what was the percentage of total moneys that were allocated to the Sunshine Coast area?

Mr McGRADY (10/12/01):

(1) The following number of Domestic Violence Incidents have been reported to and investigated by members of the Queensland Police Service:

Period	State	Sunshine Coast District
1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000	20,013	862
1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001	21,903	1,042
1 July 2001 to 31 October 2001	7,463	280

(2) The Queensland Police Service does not maintain specific data in relation to the types of persons involved in domestic violence incidents, such as women, children, elderly persons and people with mental or physical disabilities.

(3) The Queensland Police Service attended and investigated each domestic violence incident on at least one occasion. However, accurate details of all repeat visits to incident locations are not readily available across the State.

(4) Data provided by Statistical Services Branch, Department of Families Youth and Community Care indicates the following number of Domestic Violence Orders (Protection Orders and Temporary Protection Orders) were issued in Queensland:

Period	State	Sunshine Coast District
1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000	17,597	933
1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001	18,926	1042
1 July 2001 to 31 October 2001	6,613	340

(5) The following number of Breaches of Domestic Violence Orders were recorded by Queensland Police Service:

Period	State	Sunshine Coast District
1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000	5,285	321
1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001	6,033	316
1 July 2001 to 13 November 2001	2,456	109

(6) The Queensland Police Service does not maintain specific data in relation to the number of perpetrators who do not appear in Court at the hearing.

(7) The majority of police stations in Queensland have an appointed Domestic Violence Liaison Officer (DVLO). For those stations that do not have an appointed DVLO, the officer in charge of the station is, by virtue of that position, the DVLO for the station. In total, there are 382 Queensland Police Service members performing DVLO duties statewide.

(8) The Queensland Police Service does not maintain specific data in relation to the costs associated with the policing of domestic violence. As responding to domestic violence incidents is a core policing responsibility, costs are absorbed from regional budgets allocated to general duty policing.

(9) Answered above.

(10) Answered is in (8).

701. Priority One Support Service

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (9/11/01)—

With reference to the Priority One Program support service program introduced to the Queensland Ambulance Service in 1991—

- (1) How many officers have accessed the service in the last two years?
- (2) What is the location of the officers who have accessed the service?
- (3) How do officers access Priority One services?

Mr REYNOLDS (10/12/01):

(1) The total number of QAS personnel accessing the counselling through the Priority One Program statewide between January 1999 and December 2000 was 828. To June 30 2001 the total was 247.

(2) Staff from all Regions have accessed this service.

(3) Services are accessed either proactively or reactively by:

Priority Line Telephone Counselling Service. Accessed Statewide, 24 hours a day by a free call 1800 805 980. A professional counsellor responds to the call via a paging service.

Face to Face Counselling Service. Personnel can access directly and confidentially QAS identified counsellors throughout the state. There is no requirement for the individual to disclose, or to seek authorisation to attend. Contact details of counsellors in the respective regions are displayed in ambulance stations.

Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. Psychological debriefing is provided in accordance with operational policy Chapter 14, QAS Operations Manual. Activation is either by personnel involved in a Critical Incident, initiative of peer support personnel, Officers In Charge or Area Managers. The individuals concerned are informed of the time and place of the debriefing either by personal contact, or written advice.

Chaplaincy Service. Direct access to the QAS Chaplain is via telephone number 3247 8332 or by pager 3835 9923.

Peer Support Program. Peer Support Officers are located in all regions. They are accessed by telephone or by direct personal approach. Peer Support Officer names and contact details are displayed in all stations statewide.

702. Tactical Response Squads

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (9/11/01)—

With reference to the Tactical Police Squads—

- (1) Will he provide a breakdown of how many police officers have been recruited to these squads to date?
- (2) Where have they been recruited from, including from which office and what position did they formally hold?
- (3) What rank and/or classification do these officers hold who have been recruited and were any officers promoted as part of their recruitment to the Tactical Response Squads?
- (4) How many squads will be formed and what will be the number of officers in each?

Mr McGRADY (10/12/01):

(1) Positions for the first five Tactical Crime Squads were advertised in the Police Gazette on Friday 16 November 2001. Applications closed for these positions on Monday 3 December 2001.

(2) The positions are open to all officers in Queensland. Appointments will be made following a merit based selection process in line with the requirements of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 and existing departmental policy and procedures.

(3) The positions that are currently available consist of 5 Senior Sergeants, 15 Sergeants and 50 Senior Constable/Constables. It is possible for officers to be promoted into the Sergeant and Senior Sergeant positions. Senior Constable positions are now filled under progressional arrangements.

(4) Within the current term of the Government, 16 Tactical Crime Squads will be established with 14 officers attached to each Squad.

703. Petition on Tougher Sentences for Serious Offenders

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (9/11/01)—

With reference to the petition I tabled in this House on 17 May 2001 signed by 29,255 petitioners calling for tougher sentences for serious offenders—

Is it his intention to respond to that petition; if so, when will he be responding to it?

Mr WELFORD (10/12/01): I have responded to the Principal Petitioner, Ms White, to tell her that the Government does not propose to change the law in this regard. Sentencing is a complicated process. A number of different issues are considered by the sentencing judge or magistrate in arriving at the sentence for a particular case. I am confident that our system of justice leads to the imposition of more appropriate sentences than a system of mandatory sentencing which imposes penalties based on the type of offence.

704. Kilcoy Schools

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (9/11/01)—

With reference to a report submitted by Mr Mike Anderson of Mooloolah District Education which conveys the huge support for the proposed amalgamation of three of the schools in the Kilcoy area into a P-12—

- (1) When will she announce her decision on the future of this proposal?
- (2) As this report was reportedly delivered to the department in September, has she seen it?
- (3) Will the families and staff concerned be informed before the end of the school year?

Ms BLIGH (11/12/01): I have approved Option 2 as proposed in the Report to which the member refers. School communities were advised during the week 3-7 December 2001 of this decision.

705. Road Noise, Pacific Motorway

Mr POOLE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/11/01)—

With reference to the road noise from the Pacific Motorway causing concern for the residents living from Ormeau to the Smith Street overpass on the Gaven Way—

What action has his department undertaken to reduce road noise and is providing a bitumen overlay a realistic option?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02): An Impact Management Plan (IMP) was developed for the design, construction and operation of the Pacific Motorway project. The guidelines for noise levels outlined in the IMP state that the predicted L10 (18 hour) traffic noise level measured 1 metre in front of the most exposed facade of a sensitive receptor shall not exceed 68 decibels in 2011. A home is considered a sensitive receptor.

The IMP identified the following noise treatments, all of which either have or are being met; namely, noise barriers, noise attenuating mounds and asphalt surfacing in particular areas

In addition there was a requirement to carry out extensive noise measurements to ensure the commitments in the IMP are met.

Approximately 16 km of road traffic noise barriers were built as part of the original construction of the Pacific Motorway project. Traffic noise measurements taken after construction identified a requirement for 3.1 km of extra noise barriers, and upgrading of 2.1 km of existing road traffic noise barriers. The works are currently under way and will be fully completed by April 2002.

It is not known if the provision of a bitumen overlay on the concrete surface of the motorway is a realistic option. Neither is it known that it would produce any significant long term benefit. I have requested that Main Roads examine the technical aspects of this project.

706. Dingoes, Fraser Island

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/01)—

- (1) Will he recount in detail the progress made in the last six months in the ecological study of Fraser Island and, in particular, of the Fraser Island dingo, including consultants employed and studies commenced, the cost, and the expected times of completion?
- (2) Does he still believe that the Government's strategies of culling and trying to force the dingo into a state of non-dependency on human food scraps are correct?
- (3) Can he recall similar situations anywhere in the world that such strategies have been successful?

Mr WELLS (2/1/02):

(1) In July 2001, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) entered into a consultancy agreement with Dr Laurie Corbett. The consultancy provides for payment of an annual retainer of up to \$10,000 for Dr Corbett to provide expert advice, draw conclusions and make recommendations to QPWS in relation to a broad range of dingo management issues.

The University of Queensland has initiated a long-term study entitled 'Managing Threatened Wildlife in a World Heritage Area: how prescribed burns affect population viability'. The work is funded by a Vice Chancellor's grant to

encourage collaboration between the St Lucia and Gatton campuses of the University of Queensland. It will support a postdoctoral fellow and a number of PhD and honours students during the three year life of the study.

QPWS has prepared a draft research plan which sets out a five year research program of investigations to support implementation of the Dingo Management Strategy. The plan has been reviewed by the Fraser Island Scientific Advisory Committee and negotiations are progressing in relation to implementing key research actions in the plan.

A draft research grant agreement has been prepared in relation to funding to be provided by QPWS to support a three year study involving the University of Queensland and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) to investigate the population ecology of the dingo on Fraser Island. Funding will be in the order of \$55,000 and will support a PhD student and the involvement of the DNRM dingo expert, Lee Allen.

Expressions of Interest are currently being circulated for two honours projects to investigate other key research areas identified in the draft research plan. These studies will investigate the major factors influencing the dynamics of dingo populations on Fraser Island, and historical data on dingo-human interactions/incidents on Fraser Island.

Long-term programs to monitor dingo populations and to examine dietary selection and the ecology of dingoes have been designed and will be implemented early in 2002. These programs will be incorporated into the work programs of the Senior Conservation Officer and Dingo Ranger positions on Fraser Island.

(2) The current strategy remains the best option available. Basically, this is to reduce or eliminate dingo dependency on human-provided food by regular and/or specific application of various methods including deterrents and aversive conditioning of dingoes, public education, and fining offenders for providing food. This and other actions to reduce the physical accessibility of such food are expected to achieve the desired results.

(3) I have sought and received advice about similar situations elsewhere in the world. There is a worldwide phenomenon in which a pattern of behaviour occurs where wild animals attack humans because the wild animal has become habituated to the close presence of humans in order to access non-natural foods. It is mostly recorded as occurring in campgrounds and national parks and on the outskirts of urban areas. The most publicised events involve coyotes, bears and cougars in North America, bears in Asia, and monkeys in Africa. In many cases, the management response is to deter the wild animal from becoming dependent on human-supplied food and to cull problem/aggressive individual animals.

707. Public Service Positions

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (27/11/01)—

With reference to State Government regional departmental offices in which positions are scrapped altogether and then replaced with administrative services, which equates to a service downgrade and since the incumbent personnel are no longer able or allowed to provide an equal standard of service to that of the withdrawn position—

- (1) Why has it become a widespread practice in these offices to downgrade positions when they become vacant?
- (2) Why are staff, who have had their career prospects thus curtailed, still expected to continue to provide services on a reduced salary and in a position which holds no prospects, when such services should remain the province of higher level staff?
- (3) Why does the State Government endorse such activity in burgeoning regional areas?

Mr ROBERTSON (2/1/02): I assume that the Honourable Member in asking this question is referring to the operations of my Department's Kingaroy office.

(1) In regard to this office, my Department has not downgraded any positions when they have become vacant. In 1996 when the Department of Natural Resources was first created, there were two State Lands Administration Officers (1 x AO3 and 1 x AO2 classification) and a Soil Conservationist located at Kingaroy. Today, there are still two State Lands Asset Management staff (1 x AO3 and 1 x AO2 classification) and a Landcare/Catchment Management Coordinator (AO5 classification). The Soil Conservation officer's position was not backfilled when it became vacant due to the Department's realignment of skills to deliver priority programs such as vegetation management and water resource planning.

(2) No staff in the Kingaroy office have had their career prospects curtailed and no staff are expected to continue to provide services of a higher level at a reduced salary level. As is the case in all Departmental offices, the classification of staff at the Kingaroy office is commensurate with the range of services delivered from this office and the levels of delegated responsibility/decision making required to effectively deliver these services. The duties and responsibilities of the senior State Lands Asset Management position in the office were re-evaluated in 1999 and found to be of an AO3 level. In accordance with this evaluation, the Department has retained a position of the AO3 classification level in the Kingaroy office. When the current incumbent of this position is away on recreation leave, there is provision for the AO2 classification officer to act in this higher level position and be paid a special allowance—provided they are capable of effectively undertaking these higher level duties. This, again, is a normal practice in my Department.

(3) My Department does not endorse nor does it practise such actions as you are suggesting in regional areas.

708. Racing Industry

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (27/11/01)—

With reference to the Queensland racing industry—

- (1) Is the Government undertaking any review, or planning any review, of the number and location of racetracks across any or all of the three racing codes?
- (2) Is the Government considering the sale or disposal of any racetracks or other industry assets; if so, which assets and for what reason?

Mrs ROSE (24/12/01):

(1) The Government reviewed the use of some key race tracks across Queensland that were held by Deed of Grant In Trust (DOGIT). Under the Government policy, the following tracks have been transferred to local race clubs:

Venue	Club	Date of Transfer
Clifford Park Racecourse	Toowoomba Turf Club Inc	December 2000
Bunya Park Racecourse	Dalby and Northern Downs Jockey Club Inc	June 2001

The following venues are under negotiation for transfer:

Venue—Club
Gatton Racecourse—Lockyer Race Club Inc
Ooralea Park Racecourse—Mackay Turf Club Inc
Cluden Park Racecourse—Townsville Turf Club Inc
Bundamba Racecourse—Ipswich Turf Club Inc

The policy requires a request from the club, agreement of the local Trust to voluntarily relinquish its DOGIT and approval of the control body.

The number and location of race tracks is a matter for each control body which licences both clubs and racing venues.

(2) Other than implementation of the Government's DOGIT policy and previously actioned former RDC assets, the Government has not considered the sale or disposal of any race track or other industry asset.

709. Crazy Ants

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (27/11/01)—

With reference to the detection of crazy ants in Cairns earlier this year—

- (1) How many properties and which areas in the Cairns region have been treated for the environment pest and how frequently?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the treatment program to date?
- (3) Has his department set a timeframe for eliminating the pest in the Cairns region; if so, is this likely to be achieved?
- (4) Has the pest, discovered in a warehouse only recently at Hamilton wharf in Brisbane been completely eradicated and has it been detected elsewhere in the Brisbane region?
- (5) Will any follow up treatment be carried out by the Department of Primary Industries?

Mr PALASZCZUK (4/1/02):

(1) Approximately 24 properties in the suburb of Portsmith in Cairns have been treated for crazy ant, in an area bounded by Fearnley, Kenny, Buchan and Spence Streets.

(2) The cost of eradicating crazy ant in Cairns is being shared between the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Environmental Protection Agency. Each agency contributed \$41,000 over the period July to December 2001.

(3) The target date for eradication was 31 December 2001 and this appears to have been achieved. However, monitoring will continue in early 2002 to confirm the absence of crazy ant in the treatment area.

(4) The crazy ant detection in a warehouse at Hamilton has been dealt with and this pest has not been found anywhere else in the Brisbane region.

(5) Department of Primary Industries scientists placed precautionary eradication treatments in the warehouse at Hamilton in late November 2001, but it appears that the infestation in timber from Papua New Guinea had already been destroyed by fumigation earlier in the month. No crazy ants were detected when the eradication treatments were made.

710. Jimboomba TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (27/11/01)—

With reference to the pre-vocational programs conducted by TAFE at Jimboomba—

Will he give a guarantee that these programs will be available for students in 2002?

Mr FOLEY (21/12/01): The Department of Employment and Training is currently working with a range of parties to identify an appropriate provider to ensure that the needs of people in the local community will continue to be met.

As there are serious concerns about the ongoing viability and safety of the Jimboomba Flexi-Learn Centre the Department of Employment and Training is examining options to address the situation. As at 20 December 2001 no student had enrolled for programs at Jimboomba for 2002.

The future of the Jimboomba Flexi-Learn Centre has been under consideration owing to its minimal training and employment outcomes.

711. Pacific Motorway

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/11/01)—

- (1) Does the Pacific Motorway stretch from the Logan Motorway at Loganholme to the Smith Street exit at Parkwood and references by some media to the South East Freeway as being part of the Pacific Motorway are incorrect?

- (2) Will he give an assurance that costs associated with the South-East Transit Project are still separately accounted for and have not been included in the costs associated with the Pacific Motorway?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02):

- (1) The Pacific Motorway stretches from the William Jolly bridge in Brisbane to its intersection with the Gold Coast Highway at Tugun. The official names for the Pacific Motorway published in the Government Gazette are:

- i. for the section from the William Jolly bridge to Underwood Road-South East Arterial (Pacific Motorway).
- ii. for the section from Underwood Road to the Gold Coast Highway-Pacific Highway (Pacific Motorway).

References by some media to the South East Freeway being part of the Pacific Motorway are correct. While the Department of Main Roads has discontinued the use of the name 'South East Freeway' for the section of the motorway from the Brisbane River to its intersection with the Gateway Motorway, street directories for Brisbane are showing the name 'South East Freeway' in brackets between the words Pacific and Motorway.

- (2) The costs associated with the South-East Transit project are still being accounted for separately from the accounts for the Pacific Motorway.

712. Environmental Operations Division Service Delivery

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/01)—

With reference to the 2000-01 Annual Report of the Environmental Protection Agency and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, p. 30—graph 1—

- (1) Why were the on-time service delivery results of the Environmental Operations Division for January and June so low and July not available?
- (2) What steps are being taken to ensure better results in all months?

Mr WELLS (2/1/02):

- (1) The department informs me that there will be fluctuations on a monthly basis with an on-time service delivery target. For example, a large number of mining applications were received between April and June 2001. Overall for the year, the result achieved was 90% on time service delivery. The target set for the Environmental Operations Division for the year is 90%. I am informed that in nine months of the year this target was exceeded.

- (2) Over the past three years, significant gains have been made in terms of on time service delivery of the Environmental Operations Division. The continual improvements philosophy of the EPA will ensure this continues. Major steps have included the licence streamlining initiative and the soon to commence Corporate Environmental Decisions Systems which will enable a systematic and integrated approach to all Agency approvals.

713. Family Service Officer Training

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (27/11/01)—

With reference to changes to Family Service Officer (FSO) training—

- (1) Who was consulted on the changes?
- (2) Has there been an internal inquiry evaluation of FSO training requirements; if so, what was the finding of the inquiry?
- (3) How many FSOs are employed within the department?
- (4) How many of these officers have undergone face to face training in the past six months?
- (5) How many FSOs are still waiting to undertake the face to face training?
- (6) Is any of the current FSO training package computer based training; if so, how many FSOs have not completed the computer package prior to the face to face training?
- (7) If face to face training is still going to occur, will she provide the dates of all training for 2002?
- (8) Who will be conducting that face to face training and at what cost?
- (9) What checks and balances does the department carry out to provide for staff to receive formal supervision?

Ms SPENCE (2/1/02):

- (1) The first stage of consultation has commenced with critical internal and external stakeholders, including Family Services Officers, Team Leaders, Area Managers, Regional and Executive Directors, specialist resource and support staff and the QPSU.

- (2) A review of FSO training conducted in 2000 outlined a range of issues for analysis to improve FSO Learning and Development, including:

addressing the learning and cultural needs and styles of employees, eg work/family, rural/remote, Indigenous;

building organisational capacity—resources, systems and structures to support a dynamic program; and

using a range of complementary learning methods.

A review of Learning and Development activities in 2001 resulted in the development of the Learning and Development Framework to guide design and delivery of learning and development programs.

- (3) As at 29 November 2001, 429 staff are actively undertaking the role of Family Services Officer, with a further 92 Family Services Officers acting in higher duties or on leave.

- (4) 48 Family Services Officers have attended core skills face-to-face training in the past six months.

- (5) As at 12 December 2001, 146 Family Services Officers are required to undertake core skills learning and development.
- (6) None of the current FSO learning and development tools are "computer-based", that is, 'on-line'. The current FSO Induction Kit is a paper based Word document. Some 10% of Family Services Officers who attended core skills training in the past six months had completed this Kit prior to attendance at training.
- (7) Proposed dates to commence the new FSO Induction and Learning/Development Program during 2002, which includes face-to-face workshops are: 5 March; 19 March; 2 April; 16 April; 30 April and 14 May.
- (8) Regional and Central Office based Learning Facilitators will deliver this new Program. Budget details are currently being developed to progress this initiative.
- (9) Family Services Officers are supervised by senior, professionally qualified Team Leaders.

714. Cape York Partnership Plan

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for State Development (27/11/01)—

Will he provide details on the total cost incurred by the Queensland Government in relation to the progress of the Cape York Partnership Plan including a breakdown of costs associated with travel, accommodation and associated expenses, meeting fees (if any), consultations, support services and associated salaries, grants, office rent and publication/s?

Mr BARTON (2/1/02): The Queensland government has allocated funds within the budgets of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of State Development toward the progress of the Cape York Partnership Program. Implementation of the Cape York Partnership Program is coordinated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet with the Department of State Development coordinating the economic development initiatives. The total cost in this regard for the period 1 July 1999 to 4 December 2001 was \$1,828,313. The breakdown of this is as follows: Travel (including consultations)—\$103,433; Accommodation—\$19,850; Meeting Fees (Hospitality and Functions)—\$19,899; Salaries and Wages—\$420,440; Grants and Subsidies—\$1,039,100; Rent and other Building Services—\$30,873; Publications (including Film/Video)—\$39,925; Depreciation and other Expenses—\$31,320; Contractors—\$8,313; Minor Works, Repairs and Plant—\$43,372; and Other Supplies and Services—\$71,788.

715. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Cost of Reports

Mrs SHELDON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (27/11/01)—

- (1) What was the total cost incurred by the Queensland Government in relation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Taskforce Report into Domestic Violence tabled in December 1999 including a breakdown of costs associated with travel, accommodation and associated expenses, meeting fees (if any), consultations, support services and associated salaries, grants and publication/s?
- (2) What was the total cost incurred by the Queensland Government in relation to the progress of the Cape York Partnership Plan including a breakdown of costs associated with travel, accommodation and associated expenses, meeting fees (if any), consultations, support services and associated salaries, grants, office rent and publication/s?
- (3) What was the total cost incurred by the Queensland Government in relation to the report into Cape York indigenous communities compiled by Tony Fitzgerald QC including a breakdown of costs associated with travel, accommodation and associated expenses, meeting fees (if any), consultations, support services and associated salaries, grants, office rent and publication/s?

Mr BEATTIE (24/12/01):

(1) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence sat between December 1998 and December 1999. During that time, the fifty-member Task Force consulted widely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and communities throughout Queensland. A total of \$187,847 was expended on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence. The break down of these costs is as follows (the figures have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar):

Professional services provided by the Chair—\$32,994
 Consultation including venue hire and catering (including launch)—\$5,700
 Printing of report and Executive Summary—\$71,536
 Travel and accommodation—\$77,221
 Miscellaneous—\$396

(2) The Queensland government has allocated funds within the budgets of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of State Development toward the progress of the Cape York Partnership Program. Implementation of the Cape York Partnership Program is coordinated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet with the Department of State Development coordinating the economic development initiatives. The total cost in this regard for the period 1 July 1999 to 4 December 2001 was \$1,828,313. The breakdown of this is as follows:

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 Publications (including Film/Video)—\$39,925;
 Depreciation and other Expenses—\$31,320;
 Contractors—\$8,313;
 Minor Works, Repairs and Plant—\$43,372; and
 Other Supplies and Services—\$71,788.

(3) The total cost to the Queensland Government in relation to the Cape York Justice Study undertaken by Tony Fitzgerald QC for the period 2001-2002 was \$502,630. This included a net cost to the Queensland Government of \$290,909 as well as \$211,721 existing resources (primarily staff and accommodation). All costs were incurred in 2001-2002. The breakdown of the total cost is as follows:

Travel, Accommodation and Associated Expenses (including consultation expenses and meeting fees)—\$76,010;

Support services and associated salaries—

Consultants/contractors—\$115,876

Salaries for government employees—\$67,155

Support services (computer, office expenses etc)—\$14,659;

Publications—

Reports—\$12,425

Advertising—\$4,784

Net cost—\$290,909

Salaries for existing government employees—\$196,181

Rent, electricity, cleaning and security for existing accommodation—\$15,540

Total cost—\$502,630.

716. Liquor Licence

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (27/11/01)—

With reference to the application for and subsequent granting of a liquor licence for a bottle shop at the shopping complex at the intersection of Almay Street and Moggill Road, Kenmore—

- (1) Following the formal hearing on 24 April 2001, did the commission properly inform each objector of the commission's decision to grant this liquor licence; if not, why was the liquor licence granted without the objectors having the opportunity to appeal the commission's decision?
- (2) Will this licence now be cancelled and the commission be required to follow due process before the granting of a liquor licence?

Mrs ROSE (24/12/01):

(1) Liquor Licensing Division's records show that a letter was sent to each objector on 3 September 2001, advising them of the decision and giving them appeal rights following approval of the application on 28 August 2001. After receiving advice from an objector and making inquiries it became apparent that a number of objectors had not been advised. The Division is unable to ascertain why this has occurred.

Subsequently, a further letter was forwarded to all objectors on 27 November 2001 advising of the decision and giving them appeal rights to the Liquor Appeals Tribunal. Any objector who wishes to appeal has to lodge the appeal within 28 days of receiving advice of the decision.

(2) The validity of the approval is not in question. The applicant for a detached bottleshop is required to commence trading within 60 days of receiving approval or the approval expires. The Liquor Act 1992 does not require a detached bottleshop to cease trading because an appeal has been lodged. It is a commercial decision by the applicant whether he takes the risk. It is the applicant who has been disadvantaged in this case, as neither he nor the Division were aware that objectors had not been advised before he opened.

717. Audible Road Markings

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (27/11/01)—

With reference to the trials of audible white lines on major highways—

What results are available from these trials to indicate the effectiveness or otherwise of this safety project?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02): Audio-tactile line marking (ATLM) is mainly used as a driver fatigue countermeasure in recognised fatigue zones, by alerting fatigued drivers when they stray from the running lane.

Main Roads has installed approximately 500 lane kilometres of ATLM at specific fatigue zones since 1990.

Periodic evaluation has shown an average of up to 50% reduction in fatigue related crashes that can be attributed to ATLM.

It was also found that ATLM can only be fully effective on road sections that are suitable. (Relevant considerations include adequate sealed shoulder width and good pavement integrity).

Main Roads is preparing "Guidelines for Road Based Driver Fatigue Management in Rural Areas", which include guidance on the application of ATLM.

718. Water Quality

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Environment (27/11/01)—

With reference to the recent release of figures outlining the poor water quality at some points within both the Mooloolah and Maroochy Rivers on the Sunshine Coast—

What steps (or new initiatives) are the Environmental Protection Agency proposing that relevant local councils should consider adopting to improve these currently unacceptable water quality figures?

Mr WELLS (2/1/02): The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), over the past two years has funded directly and indirectly, in conjunction with the Noosa and Maroochy Shire Councils and the Caloundra City Council, the development of water quality management strategies for the Maroochy, Mooloolah and Noosa River catchments.

The Noosa-Maroochy-Mooloolah water quality management strategy contains management actions that address the key issues identified in the recently released consultation draft report titled "State of the South-East Queensland Waterways Report 2001". Additionally, the management structure exists for the implementation of the report through the Noosa-Maroochy-Mooloolah Water Quality Management Strategy Committee. This Committee is a whole-of-government and whole-of-community Committee that is charged with the implementation of the management strategies. Noosa Shire Council Mayor, Mr Bob Abbot, is the Chair of the implementation Committee. Councillor Ms Barbara Cansdell of Maroochy Shire Council and Councillor Mr Dell Winkler of Caloundra City Council are also on the implementation Committee.

The South-East Queensland Regional Water Quality Strategy Report will be launched in early December 2001. The Strategy identifies a number of key management actions. The reduction of nutrients discharge to waterways is a key action for Councils to address. This may be achieved through the upgrade of sewage treatment plants and reduction of industrial discharge to waterways. The other key action is to improve catchment land management, specifically action is required to maintain and restore riparian vegetation. This is a critically important part of the management action in reducing sediment and chemical discharges to waterways.

719. Tree Clearing

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (27/11/01)—

With reference to tree clearing permit applications received up to the date of this question—

- (1) How many applications have been received since the passage of the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for leasehold and freehold land respectively and what is the total area for each?
- (2) For each category, how many applications have been approved and how many have been refused?
- (3) What is the Government's targeted turnaround time for assessing applications?
- (4) What is the Government's current turnaround time for assessing applications?
- (5) How many applications remain outstanding and how many of those have been outstanding for more than one month?
- (6) Do any permit applications remain outstanding from the previous system, ie, those made prior to the introduction of the Vegetation Management Act 1999; if so, under what guidelines are these being assessed and when will a decision be made on each?

Mr ROBERTSON (2/1/02):

- (1) Records maintained by my Department of Natural Resources and Mines indicate that, for the period 15 September 2000 (the date of proclamation of the Vegetation Management Act 1999) to 27 November 2001, 446 applications were received for clearing on freehold land and 475 were received for clearing on leasehold and other State lands. Precise figures on the areas applied for are not available as information provided by applicants is not always accurate.
- (2) Wherever possible, officers of my Department discuss proposals to clear with landholders before lodgement of applications. This ensures that landholders do not waste their time making applications which do not meet the requirements of the legislation. As a consequence, the number of refusals is kept to a minimum. During the period 15 September 2000 to 27 November 2001, 303 applications have been approved on freehold land and 10 refused. On leasehold land, 336 applications have been approved and 2 refused.
- (3) On freehold land, applications are processed in accordance with timeframes legislated in Chapter 3 of the Integrated Planning Act 1997. These timeframes vary from 20 to 90 days in accordance with the specific circumstances of the application. On leasehold land and other state lands, the Department's client service standard for processing is 90 days.
- (4) The average time for processing freehold clearing applications is 56 days. The average time for processing applications on leasehold and other State lands is 92 days. However it should be noted that the average rate will be affected by a decision which I recently made in consultation with rural organisations to give priority to applications for clearing for drought fodder purposes.
- (5) As at 27 November 2001, the Department was processing 280 applications of which 212 have been in assessment for more than 30 days.
- (6) Prior to the proclamation of the Vegetation Management Act 1999 clearing applications were not required on freehold land so none are outstanding. A small number of clearing applications lodged before 15 September 2000 on leasehold land remain outstanding generally because of the complexity of the application and process of negotiating with the leaseholder. These applications are being assessed in accordance with the Broadscale Tree Clearing Policy for State Lands which has been in place since December 1999.

720. Freedom of Information

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (27/11/01)—

Have the number of large and voluminous Freedom of Information applications that have been received over time by Government departments played any part in the Government's deciding to bring the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill before the House; if so, will he provide the information that was relied upon in deciding that there had been an excessive number of large and voluminous applications made under the previous Freedom of Information laws?

Mr WELFORD (2/1/02): In my answer to Question on Notice No. 581, tabled 19 November 2001, I stated that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not collect data on the number of Freedom of Information applications received across whole of Government per year that are in the "large and voluminous" category. The need to amend section 28 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 to enable agencies to make a realistic assessment of when the work involved in dealing with an application would substantially and unreasonably divert

the resources of the agency from its other responsibilities, played a part in the Government's decision to bring the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill before the House.

721. Queensland Ambulance Service Vehicles

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (27/11/01)—

With reference to the ambulance vehicles that were taken out of service because of steering problems—

- (1) Are all the vehicles repaired?
- (2) What was the cost of repairing these vehicles?
- (3) Was compensation sought from the manufacturer of these vehicles?

Mr REYNOLDS (2/1/02):

- (1) All the vehicles have been returned to operational duty.
- (2) The cost of repair and transport of the vehicles amounted to \$48,747.07 excluding Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- (3) Correspondence has been forwarded to the vehicle manufacturer, VDC advising of the intent of the Department to pursue reimbursement of all costs related to the reinstatement of the vehicles, together with all legal costs and outlays which may be incurred.

722. Lung Transplants

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (27/11/01)—

With reference to lung transplants in Queensland—

- (1) How many transplants did the Prince Charles Hospital Lung Transplant Unit undertake in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01?
- (2) How many surgeons were available to perform transplants at the Prince Charles Hospital Lung Transplant Unit in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01?
- (3) What is the criteria for successful patients for transplants?
- (4) What is the upper age limit of successful candidates for transplants?
- (5) What is the lower age limit of successful candidates for transplants?
- (6) How many patients with cystic fibrosis were given lung transplants in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001?
- (7) What are the survival rates on a one year, two year, three year basis for the years 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001?

Mrs EDMOND (2/1/02):

- (1) The number of transplants were:
 - 12 transplants in the 1998-1999;
 - 12 transplants in the 1999-2000; and
 - a total of 15 for Queensland in the 2000-2001, five transplants at The Prince Charles Hospital and 10 transplants performed at St Vincents Hospital, Sydney.
- (2) The number of surgeons available to perform transplants at The Prince Charles Hospital Lung Transplant Unit were:
 - two in 1998-1999;
 - two in 1999-2000; and
 - one in 2000-2001.

It should be noted that following the Thoracic physician going on extended sick leave in December 2000, arrangements were made for Queensland patients to be treated at St Vincents so that there was no disadvantage to Queensland patients. An appointment was recently made to the position of Head of Transplant Services resulting in The Prince Charles Hospital transplant services being fully operational from 17 December 2001.

(3) The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District has criteria for people being accepted as lung transplant recipients, including:

- age <60 for lung
- <50 for heart lung;
- free of co morbid conditions (ie. disease confined to lungs) including obesity;
- no active malignancy or chronic infection;
- physiological stability;
- well maintained nutritional status;
- patient deemed able to participate actively in rehabilitation process.

The criteria used to assess and accept patients are based on those recommended by the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplants.

(4) The upper age limit for successful candidates for transplants (in general) is 60 years for single and bilateral lung transplantation, and 50 years for heart/lung transplantation.

(5) The lower age limit is the teenage years transplantation. The Prince Charles Hospital Health Service District does not perform paediatric lung transplants.

(6) The number of Cystic Fibrosis patients who received a lung transplantation for the years requested were:

one in 1998;

two in 1999;

one in 2000; and

four in 2001 performed at St Vincents Hospital Sydney for The Prince Charles Hospital.

(7) The survival rates for patients transplanted at The Prince Charles Hospital in the period 1998-2001 are as follows:

1 year—85.1%;

2 year—73.9%; and

3 year—63.4%.

The survival figures for the Queensland Lung Transplant Unit are comparable with other Australian and large international units.

723. Traffic, Kingaroy District

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (28/11/01)—

With reference to increased amounts of traffic in the Kingaroy district—

- (1) What, if any, traffic trials have been undertaken in the Kingaroy district in the past five years?
- (2) Have any been conducted in the past 12 months?
- (3) What is the result of these trials?
- (4) What plans have been made to address the problems?
- (5) Are there any plans to establish a full-time traffic branch in the area?
- (6) What streets were subjected to the trials?

Mr McGRADY (2/1/02): In response to the Member's question, I am advised as follows:

(1) Other than Police Service initiatives, such as the Fatal Four Campaign and the like, the main traffic related policing conducted was a part of general policing duties in the Kingaroy Division. From 14 July 2001 to 5 October 2001, an officer was seconded from Kingaroy Station to solely police traffic related matters in the South Burnett area. The trial was formulated as a result of a police review of traffic related activities in the area.

(2) From 14 July 2001 to 5 October 2001, an officer was seconded from Kingaroy Station to solely police traffic related matters in the South Burnett area.

(3) During the South Burnett trial the officer issued 370 Traffic Infringement Notices for Life Endangering Offences, 52 other Traffic Infringement Notices and performed 379 random breath tests. A noted decrease in injury accidents occurred across the area during the period of the trial.

(4) A further Traffic Branch trial in the South Burnett is planned for early 2002. General policing where traffic is targeted will also continue.

(5) Consideration will be given to the establishment of a full-time traffic branch in the area after the trial referred to in 4.

(6) The trial covered all streets in Kingaroy and other towns in the South Burnett area. Haly Street, Kingaroy was especially targeted due to a number of community complaints regarding speed offences.

724. Cannabis

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (28/11/01)—

With reference to the increase in hybrid cannabis cultivars containing up to five times the level of Active THC and with the contradictory literature being disseminated by bodies such as NORML and PRYDE concerning the potential psychotic impact of cannabis—

Is she satisfied that adequate and accurate educational data is freely available to school children, teachers, parents, the legal profession and parliamentarians concerning the highly variable THC content of cannabis in the market place?

Mrs EDMOND (2/1/02): Recent research demonstrates that the absence of reliable data makes it impossible to determine whether there has been a significant increase in the THC levels of cannabis during the past few decades. For example, a December 2000 report of the Standing Committee on Health and Community Care in the Australian Capital Territory found that there is no Australian research to verify recent claims by some in the media and drugs field that there has been a rise in THC levels. Furthermore, evidence from the Marijuana Potency Monitoring Project in the United States suggests that there has been only a slight increase in the THC content of cannabis seized by law enforcement authorities during the past few decades.

This year my Department engaged the services of the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC) to develop a cannabis-specific assessment and education session for use in the recently implemented Police Diversion Program, which is aimed at eligible offenders apprehended in possession of 50 grams or less of cannabis.

In relation to the provision of drug education in both primary and secondary schools, Queensland Health Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services staff provide support to Education Queensland and other Queensland Health staff (for example, teachers and School Based Youth Health Nurses) within the framework of relevant departmental policies.

Queensland Health also maintains the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (ADIS), a 24-hour telephone information service which provides information, counselling and referral for anyone with concerns related to the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs such as cannabis. This service utilises accurate and up-to-date technical information about drugs and drug-related harms.

725. Alleged Rape

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (28/11/01)—

With reference to recent media reports in which former staff of the John Oxley Youth Centre said an Aboriginal girl was pack raped during a supervised outing from the centre and a press statement on the matter from the Criminal Justice Commission—

Will she advise (a) the periods during which the girl was detained at the John Oxley Centre, (b) the date the supervised outing occurred, (c) when police were notified of the rape allegations, (d) what investigations police undertook, (e) the outcome of those investigations, (f) when the paediatrician was notified of the incident, (g) what medical conclusions were reached by the paediatrician and (h) whether the family of the girl was informed of the allegations and the outcome of the investigations conducted by police and the paediatrician?

Ms SPENCE (2/1/02):

(a) The Department's Client Information System records that the young person was detained from 17 December 1987 to 4 February 1988; 16 November 1989 to 2 May 1990; 21 May 1990 to 25 May 1990 and 16 December 1990 to 20 February 1991. A departmental file also indicates that the young person was admitted to John Oxley Youth Centre on 17 March 1988, however no release date from the Centre was recorded on the file.

(b) The date of the supervised outing was 24 May 1988.

(c) The matter was referred to the Juvenile Aid Bureau on 27 May 1988.

(d) The answer to this matter is the responsibility of the Minister for Police and this question should be referred to the Minister for his consideration.

(e) The answer to this matter is the responsibility of the Minister for Police and this question should be referred to the Minister for his consideration.

(f) Dr Maree Crawford, Paediatrician, Mater Misericordiae Childrens Hospital, was notified of the alleged incident on 27 May 1988.

(g) The matter of the health records of the young person treated at the Mater Hospital as a public patient is the responsibility of the Minister for Health and should be referred to the Minister for her consideration.

(h) Departmental records show that the Centre contacted the young person's mother on 26 May 1988 regarding the allegations. The outcome of the police investigation is the responsibility of the Minister for Police and should be referred to the Minister for his consideration. The matter as to whether the young person's family was advised of the outcome of medical examination conducted at the Mater Hospital is the responsibility of the Minister for Health and should be referred to the Minister for her consideration.

726. Public Access to Court Proceedings

Mr CUMMINS asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (28/11/01)—

With reference to the Queensland public who often have limited access to court proceedings and as these proceedings are recorded in an electronic form similar to how Parliamentary sittings are recorded by Hansard—

Are there any initiatives being considered (or implemented) whereby the various legal jurisdictions may provide a similar free and electronic public access to court proceedings?

Mr WELFORD (2/1/02): The supply of transcript for hearings of the Supreme and District Courts in Queensland is governed by the provisions of the Recording of Evidence Act 1962 and the Recording of Evidence Regulation 1992. Parties in criminal proceedings are provided with a copy of the transcript without charge in accordance with the provisions of that Regulation.

The Government is conscious of the cost of litigation and it is for this reason that transcripts are sold at \$2.70 per page rather than the full cost of providing recording and transcription services.

If interested parties or the public wish to examine but not purchase a transcript, a copy may be made available for perusal at the State Reporting Bureau's premises in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Toowoomba, Ipswich and Southport.

The State Reporting Bureau continues to monitor client expectations in relation to the provision of transcript but does not have the facility or any immediate plans to provide free electronic access to transcript.

727. Use of Speed Cameras on Private Property

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (28/11/01)—

With reference to the operation of speed cameras by the Queensland Police Service—

(1) Are there guidelines for the operation of speed cameras on private property; if so, what are those guidelines?

- (2) Have there been any instances where police have used speed cameras on private property; if so, what action has been taken or is proposed in relation to offences that may have been detected by a speed camera operated from private property without the approval of the owner?

Mr McGRADY (2/1/02):

(1) Section 6.6.9 of the Queensland Police Service Traffic Manual outlines that speed cameras are not to be operated on private property without the consent of the property owner.

(2) I am advised that speed cameras have been operated on private property with the consent of the property owners in question.

I am advised that, at this time, no evidence has been provided to the Queensland Police Service to suggest that speed cameras are operated in contravention of the guidelines. Any allegations relating to operations being conducted in contravention of the guidelines would be fully investigated by the appropriate authorities. A determination of action to be taken with respect to offences detected during those operations would be made at the conclusion of the investigation when all issues have been considered.

728. Tourism Promotion, Darling Downs and Southern Downs

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (28/11/01)—

With reference to tourism promotion on the Darling Downs and Southern Downs—

- (1) What Government funded tourism promotion material and services are provided for the Darling Downs and Southern Downs regions?
- (2) How much money is allocated for promoting tourism on the Darling Downs and Southern Downs?
- (3) How much money is allocated to funding Queensland regions, broken down by region?
- (4) How much State Government funding does Sunlover Holidays receive each year and what is the breakdown of this funding by region?
- (5) Does she have any intention of assisting in extending the Sunlover Holiday program to cover the Darling Downs and Southern Downs regions?
- (6) What action is she going to take to restructure Sunlover so that it covers and promotes tourism in all regions of Queensland?

Mrs ROSE (24/12/01):

(1) The broad expanse of the Darling Downs is promoted by Tourism Queensland under two destination marketing programs—SEQ Country and Western Downs. In addition, it receives marketing support through the Queensland Drive Holiday campaign, special interest tourism initiatives and other whole of state marketing initiatives. The region falls under the ambit of two regional tourist organisations—RTOs—the Toowoomba & Golden West Regional Tourist Association and the Southern Downs Tourist Association Inc.

The fourth edition of the South East Queensland Country touring guide is currently under production and is scheduled to be launched in February 2002 with a print/television/direct mail campaign targeting Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Since the Ansett collapse, Tourism Queensland worked closely with the *Courier Mail's* travel editor and produced a five-week series of Queensland feature stories called '101 Escapes' (October-November). The publicity value of this initiative to Queensland's regions was worth over \$1.2M.

(2) Both Toowoomba and Golden West and Southern Downs regional tourist organisations received a grant for \$220,785 each for the 2001/02 financial year. This funding is GST inclusive. Under the destination marketing programs considerable marketing support is provided, including cooperative advertising activity. This is in addition to the RTO grants.

(3) A total amount of \$3,421,000 was allocated in 2001/02 to funding Queensland's 14 regional tourist organisations (GST inclusive). This can be broken down in regional tourist organisation regions as follows:

Brisbane, Outback and Tropical North Queensland each received \$330,785.

Bundaberg, Capricorn, Fraser Coast South Burnett, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Mackay, Southern Downs, Toowoomba and Gold West, Sunshine Coast, Townsville and Whitsunday each received \$220,785.

(4) Sunlover Holidays is completely self-funding. It receives no subsidies from Government. In addition, any surpluses that may be made from Sunlover Holidays are channelled into Tourism Queensland's destination marketing campaigns which benefit all Queensland tourist operators.

(5) Sunlover Holidays is the largest wholesaler of land-based tourist product in Australia and is the envy of other States. It provides valuable distribution opportunities for more than 780 tourist operators and approximately 54% of these operators are not represented in any other Australian wholesale program. Sunlover nurtures new tourist products, often carrying products which are not commercially viable, and is active in product development. It contributes directly to the Beattie Government's job creation push by representing tourist product from throughout Queensland, including product from 38 regional towns not represented by any other tourism wholesaler program. Whether individual operators express interest in joining the Sunlover program depends on their particular product's distribution requirements.

(6) I do not currently intend taking any action to restructure Sunlover Holidays. As I have already mentioned, Sunlover already provides valuable opportunities for many operators who are not represented in any other Australian wholesale program. The promotion of tourism in Queensland is covered extremely well by Tourism Queensland and Queensland's 14 regional tourist organisations. The marketing activity that has taken place since 11 September has been phenomenal. The Queensland Government acted swiftly to put strategies in place to minimise the impact of the Ansett collapse and the international turmoil. In addition to the \$3.3M Make Time campaign—a campaign encouraging the community to focus on the 'important things of life' and take a holiday at home—Tourism Queensland already had 56 campaigns (costing \$1.5M) ready to promote Queensland regions in place to run between October and Christmas.

729. Industrial Disputation

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (28/11/01)—

With reference to the 2000-2001 Annual Report which on page 7 the claim is made that the 'low level of industrial disputation in Queensland supports the objectives of fairness, equity and balance embodied in the Industrial Relations Act 1999'—

How does he reconcile this claim with the latest ABS Statistics regarding industrial disputes that shows (a) Queensland has the third highest number of working days lost per employee and (b) the present level is 25 per cent higher than the level in existence when the Coalition left Government?

Mr NUTTALL (2/1/02):

(a) The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data on industrial disputes show that the Queensland state jurisdiction continues to experience a low level of industrial disputation.

In the 12 months ending August 2001, the strike rate in Queensland, that is the number of working days lost per thousand employees, was 42.

This compares favourably against New South Wales and Victoria with strike rates of 62 and 60 respectively.

The Queensland strike rate was also less than the average for Australia as a whole, which was 49.

Queensland was also the only state to record a decline in the number of working days in the year ending August 2001.

(b) The level of disputation in Queensland under the Beattie Labor Government also compares favourably with the period of the Coalition Government.

A key economic indicator is the level of industrial disputation and the best measure of performance is to average the strike rate over a period of time, as the rate fluctuates from month to month. During the period of time the Coalition Government was in power (March 1996 to May 1998), the average strike rate was 118.24. This compares to a strike rate of 46.8 under the Beattie Labor Government.

This clearly demonstrates that the industrial relations reforms introduced by the Beattie Labor Government have contributed to the low incidence of industrial disputes in the Queensland state jurisdiction. The Industrial Relations Act is delivering a fair and equitable framework for Queensland workers while still ensuring a strong and effective economic environment.

730. Public Servants, Performance Bonuses

Mr QUINN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (28/11/01)—

With reference to page 29 of the Annual Report of the Public Service Commissioner which shows that \$423,315 in performance bonuses were paid to Chief Executive Officers for 1999-2000—

Will he detail which CEOs received the performance bonus, the amount of the bonus and the criteria that each met to receive the bonus?

Mr BEATTIE (2/1/02): Chief Executive Officer performance agreements are developed by Chief Executive Officer's in consultation with myself and their Ministers. The performance agreements are framed around the Government priorities for individual portfolios, and are a means of ensuring Departments focus on achievement in key priority areas during the year. Each Chief Executive Officer reports to me annually against the objectives contained in their performance agreement. The Auditor-General has audited the process surrounding the payment of bonuses to Chief Executive Officers and endorsed the level of disclosure.

731. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Cost of Reports

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (28/11/01)—

(1) What was the total cost incurred by the department in relation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Taskforce Report into Domestic Violence tabled in December 1999 including a breakdown of costs associated with travel, accommodation and associated expenses, meeting fees (if any), consultations, support services and associated salaries, grants and publication/s?

(2) What was the total cost incurred by the Queensland Government in relation to the report into Cape York indigenous communities compiled by Tony Fitzgerald QC including a breakdown of costs associated with travel, accommodation and associated expenses, meeting fees (if any), consultations, support services and associated salaries, grants, office rent and publication/s?

Ms SPENCE (2/1/02):

(1) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence sat between December 1998 and December 1999. During that time, the fifty-member Task Force consulted widely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and communities throughout Queensland. A total of \$187,847 was expended on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence. The break down of these costs is as follows (the figures have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar):

Professional services provided by the Chair—\$32,994
 Consultation including venue hire and catering (including launch)—\$5,700
 Printing of report and Executive Summary—\$71,536
 Travel and accommodation—\$77,221
 Miscellaneous—\$396

(2) Dr Watson should refer to the response provided by the Honourable Peter Beattie MP, the Premier and Minister for Trade to Question on Notice 715(3) asked on Tuesday, 27 November 2001.

732. Airborne Bacteria, Chicken Industry

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (28/11/01)—

With reference to media reports regarding airborne bacteria associated with antibiotics used in the chicken industry—

Has the State Government conducted tests regarding the health risks associated with this bacteria?

Mr PALASZCZUK (2/1/02): I am advised the Department of Primary Industries has conducted some tests and isolated some bacteria, but the bacteria were not airborne.

733. Queensland Ambulance Service, Free Services

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (28/11/01)—

With reference to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) funding—

- (1) What was the cost last financial year of supplying free ambulance services to pensioners?
- (2) Are third parties such as Queensland Health, WorkCover and the Department of Veterans' Affairs meeting the costs of services provided to their clients?
- (3) What was the cost last financial year of QAS services provided to Queensland Health, WorkCover and the Department of Veterans' Affairs?

Mr REYNOLDS (2/1/02):

- (1) Around \$102.4m.
- (2) QAS has Service Level Agreements in place with Queensland Health, WorkCover and the Department of Veteran Affairs under which the costs of service provision to their clients are met.
- (3) In the 2000-2001 financial year, QAS received the following payments for services provided to their clients:
 - Queensland Health—\$13.874 million
 - WorkCover—\$1.5 million
 - Department of Veteran Affairs—\$0.095 million

734. Livestock Wagons

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (28/11/01)—

With reference to the reduction in coal, mineral and freight wagons by 633 wagons from 11,474 at 30 June 2000 to 10,841 at 30 June 2001 and in view of the critical shortage of livestock wagons that is resulting in the cancellation of services—

- (1) What was the total number of livestock wagons at 30 June 2000 and 2001?
- (2) What was the total number of other categories of wagons at these dates?
- (3) What are the reasons for this reduction in wagons?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02):

- (1) On 30 June 2000, 778 livestock wagons were in use by QR.

On 30 June 2001, 805 livestock wagons were in use by QR.

In addition to this net increase of 27 wagons, capacity was significantly enhanced by a combination of improved wagon utilisation (67% in 1999-2000 to 90% in 2000-2001) arising from the provision of scheduled services rather than ad hoc services, and improved wagon availability as a result of newer KOJX wagons being placed in service. These new wagons require less maintenance and are therefore available for service for a greater proportion of time.

- (2) On 30 June 2000, wagons other than livestock in use by QR included 5385 coal wagons and 5311 freight wagons.

On 30 June 2001, wagons other than livestock in use by QR included 5059 coal wagons and 4977 freight wagons.

(3) The reduction in wagon numbers has occurred for a number of reasons. Firstly, QR has been enhancing its fleet by the replacement of all inefficient and potentially unsafe wagons with modern, greater capacity wagons. Most of the new wagons have 25% greater load capacity than the older wagons, and can therefore safely handle the freight requirements with fewer wagons.

Secondly, Q-Link is containerising much of its operations, which means a more homogenous container wagon fleet, thereby reducing the overall number of classes of wagons, and as a result the number of wagons required.

Thirdly, greater density of freight is achieved by containerisation, which in turn, means improved efficiencies of freight tonnes per train. This reduces the requirement for the number of wagons, even though freight volumes are still increasing.

All the above means that fewer wagons move more freight, more efficiently and effectively than ever before in QR's history.

735. Steritech, Public Liability Insurance

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (28/11/01)—

Does Queensland Health or any other State Government agency require Steritech, the developer of an irradiation plant in Narangba Industrial Estate, to have public liability insurance to cover accidents resulting in damage by ionising radiation; if so, for how much?

Mrs EDMOND (2/1/02): Like any other business involved in carrying out a radiation practice in Queensland, it will be the responsibility of Steritech Pty Ltd to take out public liability insurance.

The requirements relating to the establishment of a gamma sterilisation plant in Queensland are set out in the Radiation Safety Act 1999 administered by my Department, the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 administered by the Commonwealth, and the Integrated Planning Act 1997 administered by the Department of Local Government and Planning.

Under the Radiation Safety Act 1999, any person who possesses, uses or transports prescribed quantities of radioactive substances is required to hold an appropriate licence. The Act also requires the implementation of adequate safeguards to ensure the safety of the public and the environment. The ability of the facility to meet all public safety requirements will form part of the radiation safety assessment prior to any licence being granted.

736. School Based Policing

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Education (28/11/01)—

With reference to the Government and the Queensland Police Service which are both strong advocates of school based policing, a function which goes far beyond the concept of the original Adopt a Cop program but indeed does duplicate some of its functions—

Is she aware of any positive results of school based policing and what adverse comments, if any, have been received from either school staff, students or police at operational levels?

Ms BLIGH (2/1/02): The School Based Policing Program commenced in February 1997. Since 1998, there have been a total of 17 police officers situated across 28 State High Schools in Queensland. The program is a result of a collaborative interagency approach, between Education Queensland and the Queensland Police Service, to the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy: Building Safer Communities.

The primary objectives of the School Based Policing Program are to have the officers participate in proactive programs within the school community and to be part of a student support network which takes into account all the developmental needs of a student.

Since 1997, statistical and survey data has been collected on the effectiveness of the program. This data is awaiting formal evaluation, however preliminary findings demonstrate that School Based Police Officers become an accepted and integral part of interagency support networks which aim to enhance the educational and developmental needs of students.

The Interdepartmental Management Committee for the School Based Policing Program has recently agreed to review the Memorandum of Understanding between Education Queensland and the Queensland Police Service. This review will include consultation with all stakeholders and will enable the program to realign its objectives with government initiatives, including the Queensland Crime Prevention Strategy: Building Safer Communities, and Education Queensland's QSE and Destination 2010 initiatives.

737. Police Resources, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (28/11/01)—

With reference to the increase in population projected in the short term for the electorate of Gladstone—

What plans are in place to proactively increase police numbers at the Gladstone and Boyne Tannum stations and, if needed, Boyne Valley, Calliope and Mount Larcom stations?

Mr McGRADY (2/1/02): I am advised that planning is well under way to identify the human and other resources required to address current and projected increases in population within the Gladstone Police District. This planning includes locations in the electorate of Gladstone such as Gladstone, Boyne Island, Tannum Sands, Calliope and Mount Larcom.

I am advised that a detailed review of resource needs in the Gladstone Police District has been conducted and the District Officer, Gladstone Police District, is finalising his recommendations based on present and future industrial and population growth. Consultation has been undertaken with the respective Mayors of both Gladstone and Calliope Shire. Those recommendations will soon be forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner, Central Region for consideration within the overall priorities for the whole of the Central Region.

738. Queensland Public Service Workforce Profile

Mrs SHELDON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (28/11/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Public Service Workforce profile contained on page 42 of the annual report of the Queensland Public Service Commissioner that provides information, for the first time, by excluding the Department of Health from some categories—

Will he provide details that include statistics from the Department of Health (at 30 June 2001) on (a) annual earnings (FTE) by gender (figure 4), (b) average annual earnings (FTE) by appointment type by gender (figure 6) and (c) annual earnings (FTE) by gender (figure 5)?

Mr BEATTIE (2/1/02): The information in the Public Service Commissioner's report is drawn from data collected by the Department of Industrial Relations. The Department of Health is currently in the process of migrating data from a number of regionally based payroll systems to a single centralised system. For that reason, the data from the Department of Health has not been included in the Department of Industrial Relations' collection and was not able to be reported by the Public Service Commissioner.

739. Environmental Damage Report, Basilisk Range

Mr ROWELL asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (28/11/01)—

With reference to a report into the clearing of in excess of 10 sites on Crown Land (USL) in the Basilisk Range in April 2000 which claimed insufficient evidence to prosecute Powerlink for this action and as these cleared sites were of a size and located in such a manner to be possible future tower sites—

- (1) Who conducted the investigation?
- (2) What were the qualifications of the investigators who carried out the environmental damage report into the Basilisk Range?

Mr MACKENROTH (2/1/02):

- (1) An investigation was carried out by officers of the then Department of Natural Resources. Following the restructure of that department, those officers are now employed in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service respectively.
- (2) Officers of the then Department of Natural Resources undertook the investigation which was dealt with as part of normal departmental responsibilities.

740. Year of the Outback

Mr HOBBS asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (28/11/01)—

With reference to the Year of the Outback and his Government's support for this event—

- (1) What level of funding has been provided by the State Government to support the Year of the Outback major events, such as major concerts?
- (2) Has his Government provided any funding to assist the Year of the Outback with a State wide promotional campaign throughout 2002?
- (3) Will his Government assist as a major sponsor for the Year of the Outback events calendar to ensure that it is published on time?

Mr BEATTIE (2/1/02):

- (1) The Queensland Government will provide substantial funding for the Year of the Outback. Planning for the year is being finalised and full details of funding will be available soon.
 - (2) Yes
 - (3) A National Secretariat has been established with overall responsibility for the Year of the Outback across Australia. This organisation has already published a major calendar of events. The calendar was published in the December/January edition of the popular Outback magazine. A further national calendar of events was also published in the Sunday Mail of 16 December 2001.
- The Queensland Government understands the importance of promoting Queensland's Year of the Outback events and is therefore funding the production and distribution of the Outback calendar of events.
- (4) I will be announcing the details of the Queensland Government' contribution to the Year of the Outback in early 2002.

741. Re-roofing of Yeronga TAFE

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (29/11/01)—

With reference to the recent re-roofing of Blocks C and D of Yeronga TAFE, during which neighbouring residents complained of experiencing excessive dust and resultant allergic reactions—

Will he assure the residents that no asbestos was removed during the re-roofing?

Mr FOLEY (21/12/01): The roofs of Blocks C and D are made from galvanised steel sheeting and were showing serious signs of rust after more than 30 years of service. As part of my department's ongoing maintenance program the roofs were removed and replaced with new zincalume steel roofing material.

I am advised that no asbestos materials were found and no asbestos was removed during the re-roofing.

742. Dingoes, Fraser Island

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment (29/11/01)—

With reference to QPWS which is currently erecting fences on the sand surrounding certain camping sites on Fraser Island with the explicit purpose of excluding dingoes—

- (1) Has he thoroughly researched the type of fencing necessary to reliably exclude dingoes?
- (2) Is he confident that the fences currently being erected are the most effective and cheapest design available?
- (3) What action will he take if it is shown that dingoes penetrate into the safe fenced camping areas?

Mr WELLS (10/1/02):

- (1) I am advised that the type of fencing erected has been adequately investigated using the specialist knowledge available regarding dingo behaviour.
- (2) I am advised that the fences being erected on Fraser Island to exclude dingoes from camping areas are effective and efficient. Given that Fraser Island is entirely sand, the long term effectiveness of the fences may depend on continued maintenance.
- (3) Following the initial risk assessment report, the risk posed to humans from dingoes on Fraser Island will be reassessed regularly to ensure that the actions taken are effective. To date they have proved effective. However, if

it occurs that dingoes do get into fenced camping areas the problem will be identified and addressed. There are well known standard operational procedures for dingoes that harass people and they will be enacted if necessary.

743. Kingaroy Base Hospital Dental Unit

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (29/11/01)—

With reference to the Kingaroy Base Hospital dental unit which missed out on the previous round of funding even when all indications pointed to it being one of the worst areas for long dental waiting lists and it was pushed for by certain representatives within the funding allocation section—

- (1) Will she ensure that Kingaroy does not miss out in the current funding round?
- (2) How much funding to reduce waiting times has been allocated over the last 12 months?
- (3) How much funding to reduce waiting times was allocated in the previous four years?
- (4) What are the current staffing numbers of the dental unit and what positions do they hold?
- (5) What were the previous staffing numbers in 1998, 1999 and 2000 and what positions did they hold?
- (6) Will she admit four year waiting lists in Kingaroy are the exception rather than the norm and address the situation which is only growing worse?

Mrs EDMOND (2/1/02):

(1) Queensland continues to provide the largest and most comprehensive oral health service in Australia with a budget of \$107 million and a workforce of over 1,550 staff. It accounts for one third of all adult public dental services provided in Australia. Following the termination of the Commonwealth Dental Health Program in 1996, Queensland was the only state to provide full supplementation of the cancelled Commonwealth Dental Health Program.

Health Service Districts are responsible for assessing the health needs of their area and allocating funding accordingly. However, Queensland Health does provide extra targeted funding in some instances; next financial year's priorities have as yet not been determined.

(2) The South Burnett Oral Health Service has a budget of \$853,842 for this financial year. This represents an increase of \$85,985 over the previous year's funding. This funding was specifically provided from the Wide Bay-Burnett Oral Health Network funding base to employ extra dental staff to address the waiting times in the hospital clinic. The Health Service District has been unsuccessful in recruiting an additional dentist to perform the full range of dental duties, but has successfully recruited a dentist and a dental technician on a part-time basis to carry out the prosthetic work in the clinic, freeing up the remaining dentists to concentrate on the general waiting list. As a result, waiting times for dentures have reduced significantly to six months.

The South Burnett Health Service District has also worked hard to address recall times in the school based services which are now at 12 months—one of the best recalls in the State.

(3) The funding for Oral Health in 1997/98 was \$660,480. This year's allocation therefore represents a 29.2% increase on those figures—well above normal growth allocations.

(4) Currently the clinic has funding to employ 3.6 dentists. A newly graduated dentist, who is a Queensland Health scholarship holder, has been appointed to Kingaroy Dental Clinic to bring the dentist levels to the funded levels. In addition, the clinic is funded for 1.4 FTE dental technicians, 3.8 FTE dental assistants and 1 FTE administration officer.

(5) In 1998, the funded staffing levels were 2.1 dentists, 1.2 dental technicians, 3 dental assistants and 1 administrative officer. In 1999, the funded positions were 3.1 dentists, 1.2 dental technicians, 3.4 dental assistants and 1 administrative officer. In 2000, the funded positions were as for 1999.

(6) The addition of a graduate dentist to the Kingaroy Dental Clinic will mean that the Clinic is at maximum capacity and this should have a positive effect on waiting times for the South Burnett district.

744. Prostitution Licensing Authority

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (29/11/01)—

With reference to the annual report for the Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) which states that a number of critical security and safety concerns were identified early in the life of the PLA and required urgent attention and as the report states that State Government Security had to be called in, predominantly to deal with issues of staff protection and that an audit by Queensland Police identified a number of other security issues 'with very important implications for safety generally' which will be pursued when funding is secured—

- (1) Will he detail the issues identified in the police audit?
- (2) Will he also outline the 'critical security and safety concerns' identified 'early in the life of the PLA' which required urgent attention?
- (3) What circumstances led to staff requiring protection and who did staff need to be protected from?

Mr McGRADY (3/1/02): In response to the Member's question, I am advised as follows:

(1) Following the move by the Prostitution Licensing Authority to their current premises, a site inspection was carried out by the Security Officer, Access and Investigation Unit attached to the Information Security Branch, Queensland Police Service.

This audit identified a number of security faults within the building. These included the lack of a security alarm, lack of a duress alarm, lack of glass teller facility in the reception area, easy access to the main office area, lack of intercom facility at the front access door, lack of a fireproof safe, lack of soundproofing, locking of the computer room, and availability of access through the roof cavity.

The majority of these faults have been rectified by implementing the recommendations.

(2) The security and safety concerns include those highlighted in answer 1.

(3) When the Prostitution Licensing Authority first moved to their new premises, a number of intoxicated or undesirable males attended at the premises either looking for prostitutes or looking for their partners whom they believed may have been working as prostitutes. Some of these males refused to leave the premises and caused minor disturbances. These incidents have been obviated with the introduction of tighter security measures at the premises.

745. Milk for School Children

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Education (29/11/01)—

With reference to the previous practice of school children being supplied with milk on a daily basis in the interests of dental care—

In conjunction with the Minister for Health, are there any plans to reintroduce this excellent preventive strategy; if not, will she explain the rationale behind the departments decision?

Ms BLIGH (3/1/02): There is no plan to reintroduce the previous practice of school children being supplied with milk on a daily basis.

746. Poisons Information Hot Line

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (29/11/01)—

With reference to my previous question to her in relation to the operation of the Poisons Information hot line—

- (1) Is there a system in place to monitor telephone calls to the centre so as to ensure that all calls are answered within a reasonable time?
- (2) What does she consider is a 'reasonable' time frame for these calls to be answered?
- (3) Is there a record of telephone call patterns to the centre?
- (4) Are staff at the centre able to cope with calls during 'peak' times as defined by the people who work at the centre?
- (5) If calls are not being answered in 'reasonable' times during these 'peak' times, will she allocate extra resources so that they are?

Mrs EDMOND (2/1/02): The Queensland Poisons Information Centre currently receives about 40,000 calls each year. Calls vary in duration and complexity from advice to distressed parents to complex medical management to hospital staff. All calls are dealt with by trained operators and are handled as promptly and efficiently as possible.

At present the phone system can queue calls to the Centre and alert the operator to waiting calls, but does not identify the number of calls waiting or the length of time callers spend in the queue. Internal procedures guide staff in seeking additional assistance to deal with waiting calls. Funds have been allocated to investigate the available options to improve the call queuing system.

Crude call data is available for the number of calls per 30 minute interval during the day, for all days of the year. Call data is reviewed to identify busy periods and optimise the staffing arrangements within the available resources. Acutely busy periods where call numbers peak, are often unpredictable and of relatively short duration (perhaps less than 30 minutes). The unpredictable nature of poisoning and demand for services is difficult to plan for as for example, 10 calls received in an hour may come evenly spread over that hour or may be received within a 15 minute period. Additional staff can be called to assist with busy periods during business hours.

A collaborative project to identify ways to reduce inappropriate calls to the centre has recently been completed and the current development of a website is expected to help free staff resources to handle calls more efficiently, increasing the ability to deal with urgent calls more promptly.

747. Main Roads Construction Camp, Camooweal

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (29/11/01)—

With reference to the Main Roads Construction Camp located at Camooweal which was provided in relation to the Georgina River Bridge project—

- (1) What is the cost per month of providing this camp facility?
- (2) How many people are residing at this camp?
- (3) What is the role of these persons?
- (4) For how long will this camp be utilised?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02):

- (1) The cost of providing the camp facility at Camooweal is approximately \$15,700 per month.
- (2) The number of people residing at the men's camp just outside Camooweal has varied from 26 to 32 workers. There are currently about 10-15 people living in the camp.
- (3) The camp was established for the construction of the new Georgina River Bridge, which commenced in February 2001. The camp has provided accommodation for people who participated in an employment and training scheme

that was conducted in conjunction with Stage One of the bridge's construction. An undertaking to provide employment and training opportunities during the bridge's construction was included in the Heads of Agreement negotiated between Main Roads and the Dugalunji Aboriginal Corporation as part of the cultural heritage/native title negotiations that occurred between the department and the traditional owners (who are also the registered native title claimants).

(4) It is intended that the camp will be utilised until construction of the new bridge is completed, by the end of 2002.

748. Mining Industry

Ms LEE LONG asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (29/11/01)—

With reference to the mining industry and as members of the North Queensland Miners' Association (NQMA) are extremely unhappy with the agreement struck by the Beattie Government and some representatives of Aboriginal groups, Queensland Indigenous Working Group (QIWG) and Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) (29/11/01)—

- (1) Why is the Beattie Government making deals with Aboriginal leaders that set unrealistic precedents for the mining industry?
- (2) Why has the State taken an agreement that was negotiated in good faith and rewritten the payment figures to suit some Aboriginal leaders?
- (3) Will the Beattie Government be involved in and develop a negotiated outcome that the small mining industry can use and not simply be to the financial benefit of some Aboriginal leaders?
- (4) Is there any future for small family type mining businesses?

Mr BEATTIE (2/1/02):

(1) A revised Indigenous Land Use Agreement is currently being considered by the State and the North Queensland Land Council in developing an alternative process that can be adopted by small-scale explorers and miners in North Queensland. This Agreement evolved following the rejection of the previous Agreement by the Governing Committee of the North Queensland Land Council. At a recent meeting the North Queensland Miner's Association rejected the agreed principles of the revised Agreement developed between the State and the North Queensland Miner's Association.

(2) The Governing Committee of the North Queensland Land Council rejected the original Agreement, which was negotiated in good faith. The rejection of the original Agreement effectively ended those negotiations and the State considers that other options should be sought for small-scale miners and explorers in North Queensland. The fee structure is designed to enable the industry to determine the scale of their business, while at the same time providing real compensation to the Indigenous groups, not adequately addressed in the original agreement.

(3) Current negotiations are focused on achieving an Agreement to be presented to Indigenous groups for their consideration, and be available to small scale miners and explorers if they choose to become a party to the Agreement. Benefits to the Indigenous groups provide a balanced outcome enabling them to actively participate in the protection of their cultural heritage within areas nominated by explorers and miners. The financial commitment required can be determined by the miner or explorer relative to the scale of their operation.

(4) The Government has provided and continues to provide significant support to the small mining and exploration industry. The small-scale mining project was initiated in December 1998 to achieve outcomes that would enable the small mining industry to obtain grants of tenure through agreements with traditional owners across the State. The Government has not wavered from that process and agreements reached in many parts of the State are testament to the commitments that have been given. My Government recognises the important role this industry has, particularly in regional Queensland, and will persist in seeking resolution of native title by negotiation to allow this industry to carry on its business.

749. 'Queensland Greenhouse Policy Framework: A Climate of Change' Brochure

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Environment (29/11/01)—

With reference to the colour brochure 'Queensland Greenhouse Policy Framework: A Climate of Change'—

- (1) What was the cost of production of this brochure, including cost of printing and preparation?
- (2) How many brochures were printed?
- (3) What was the cost of distribution?
- (4) To whom were these brochures distributed?

Mr WELLS (10/1/02):

- (1) Item and Cost

Layout and Design of the Greenhouse Policy Framework: A Climate of Change—\$1,950.00

Printing of document—\$5,610.00 (including GST)

Total—\$7,560.00

(2) Screen Offset Printing printed 5 000 copies in full colour of the Queensland Greenhouse Policy Framework: A Climate of Change

(3) To date the cost of distribution was \$90.00 in postage and handling.

(4) Part of the original distribution of the brochure was the placement of the document onto the Environmental Protection Agency's website as well as delivery to the following organisations:

Government Departments—

(Multiple copies were delivered to other Government Departments for distribution)

Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Public Works; Department of Natural Resources and Mines; Department of Health; Department of Primary Industries; Department of State Development; Department of Premier and Cabinet; Treasury Department; Department of Transport; Department of Emergency Services; Department of Health; Department of Local Government and Planning; Department of Education; Department of Employment Training and Industrial Relations; Office of Fair Trading; Australian Greenhouse Office; all Commonwealth, States and Territories representatives on the High Level Group on Greenhouse

Other Organisations—

Integrated Energy Services; Commerce Queensland; Royal Australian Planning Institute; Mallesons (Library); Stanwell Corporation; School of Science, Griffith University; United Graziers' Association of Queensland; Sith Energies Australia Pty Ltd, (Australian Cogeneration Association) ; Boral Energy, (Australian Gas Association) ; Queensland Trucking Association Ltd; Australian Industry Group, Queensland; Australian Conservation Foundation; Canegrowers; Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union; Australian Institute of Petroleum; Queensland Mining Council; Queensland Timber Board; Electricity Supply Association of Australia Ltd; Queensland Conservation Council; Sustainable Energy Industry Association (Australia) Ltd; Queensland Master Builders Association; Brisbane City Council; Local Government Association of Queensland; Agforce Queensland; Queensland Farmers Federation; RACQ; Q-Fleet; Queensland Rail

The Queensland Greenhouse Policy Framework was also distributed to members of Parliament in September 2001.

After this original dispersal of the document, the Greenhouse Policy Framework was distributed as part of an information pack at the Climate Change for the 21st Century: A Queensland Perspective seminars that were held in Brisbane and Cairns in October 2001.

It should be noted that the documents will also be distributed as part of the background information for consultation on further policy development on greenhouse and climate change in Queensland.

750. Fire Ants

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (29/11/01)—

With reference to the detection of the fire ant in Queensland in late February this year on a property at Richlands and at the Port of Brisbane at Fisherman Islands—

- (1) At how many sites has the fire ant been detected since its discovery earlier in the year?
- (2) How many properties and which areas in the Brisbane/Ipswich region have been treated for the pest and how frequently?
- (3) How many properties are still to be treated and what timeframe has been given?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of the treatment program to date?
- (5) Has his department set a timeframe for eliminating the pest altogether; if so, is this likely to be achieved?
- (6) Have fire ants been discovered in any other region of Queensland?
- (7) When was he first made aware of the discovery of a fire ant colony revealed in Dandenong, Victoria which were transported by 60 pot plants sent from Queensland and can he confirm that this colony has been successfully eradicated?

Mr PALASZCZUK (2/1/02):

- (1) As of 10 December, there are 784 properties identified as being infested with fire ants.
- (2) 73 189 land parcels (including residential and business properties and public land) are contained in the two epicentres, one includes some south western suburbs of Brisbane, and parts of Ipswich and Logan and the other includes some north eastern Bayside suburbs. The second treatment of residential properties commenced on 1 December and is expected to be completed by the end of January. It is planned to undertake four treatments a year.
- (3) Treatment gap filling continues with those small number of residential properties where owners have yet to give consent to treat or were unable to be contacted.
- (4) The SCARM/ARMCAZ cost sharing arrangement between the commonwealth and the other states provides \$123m over the five years of the program. The Fire Ant Control Centre is operating within the \$34m allocated for the first year of operation. Expenditure as of 30 November was \$7.51m.
- (5) The time frame in the National Fire Ant Eradication Plan, endorsed by SCARM/ARMCANZ, allows for three years of treatment (2001-2004) and two years of surveillance (2004-2006) to ensure the success of the program.
- (6) Early action by the Fire Ant Control Centre traced the movement of infested pot plants from a nursery in the infested part of south western Brisbane area to the Cooroy area. This infestation was treated in early March and monitored for several months after treatment. This has been the only discovery of Red Imported Fire Ant nest in Queensland, outside the two major foci of infestation.
- (7) The infestation was both detected and eradicated by the Victorian state government who did not request any assistance from the Queensland state government with this matter. A report on the Victorian government's actions in this regard appeared in the print media in early March. Neither I nor the Department of Primary Industries were aware of either the presence or treatment of fire ants in Victoria.

751. Private Certifiers, Complaints

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (29/11/01)—

With reference to the Building Services Authority Annual Report in which there is a reported 33 per cent increase in complaints regarding private certifiers with the majority of complaints related to town planning issues—

- (1) What has been the cost to the department of handling these extra complaints?
- (2) What are the accreditation requirements for obtaining private certification?

Mr SCHWARTEN (7/1/02):

(1) I am advised that the Building Services Authority appointed an additional staff member to assist with the increase. This cost is approximately \$48,000 per annum.

An independent report on the cost to the Authority for carrying out its accreditation role functions is being undertaken. The cost of the 33 per cent increase in complaints will be identified in this report.

(2) There are three categories or levels of accreditation for building certifiers in Queensland—Building Surveyor, Assistant Building Surveyor and Building Surveying Technician. To attain these categories or levels of accreditation a person must satisfy the requirements of prescribed qualifications.

A Building Surveyor requires a degree level qualification. An Assistant Building Surveyor Requires a Diploma or Associate Diploma level qualification. A Building Surveying Technician is required to be enrolled in either of the above course levels.

Building Certifiers are also required to meet the standard levels of fitness and proprietary and if operating as a private practitioner, must hold Professional Indemnity Insurance.

752. Psychological Testing of Hospital Staff

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (29/11/01)—

With reference to Prince Charles Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Royal Brisbane Hospital—

- (1) What psychological testing of staff has been carried out in the Thoracic Unit at the Prince Charles Hospital, the Cardiac Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1999, 2000 and 2001?
- (2) What companies were used to conduct the above psychological testing?
- (3) What was the cost of all testing for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001?

Mrs EDMOND (2/1/02):

(1) No psychological testing of staff was carried out in the Thoracic Unit at The Prince Charles Hospital, the Cardiac Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital or the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in 1999, 2000 and 2001.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) Not applicable.

753. Police Bicycle Patrols

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (29/11/01)—

With reference to the launching of the police bicycle patrols for the suburb of Runaway Bay with the view to these officers providing the public with a greater feeling of safety—

- (1) How many patrols does he intend to trial across Queensland?
- (2) Have the ten officers who are involved in the patrol been taken out of existing staff at Runaway Bay; if so, from what rank and division have they come?
- (3) How many are currently at Runaway Bay by office, rank and division at 30 July 2001?
- (4) Is there any evidence that the trial has reduced the level of crime, with particular regards to vehicle related offences, such as car theft and vandalism?

Mr McGRADY (3/1/02): In response to the Member's question, I am advised that:

(1) Brisbane City Division in Metropolitan North Region has received funding from the 2001-02 Police Service budget for a Bicycle/Trailbike Patrol Unit. The unit will comprise six officers (four on pushbikes and two on trailbikes) to operate from the Roma Street Police Station which is presently under construction at Police Headquarters. The Unit will be used to police the Roma Street Parklands, inner-city bikeways and parks, the CBD and other strategically selected locations.

In addition, I am advised that police officers have conducted duties on bicycle, by way of dedicated bicycle patrols or by general duty officers, in the following localities:

The Cairns Esplanade, Edmonton, Port Douglas, The Strand in Townsville, Gladstone, Rockhampton, North Rockhampton, Mackay, Bundaberg, Whitsunday, Winton, Kawana Waters, Caloundra, Maroochydore, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Redcliffe, Stones Corner, Coorparoo, the South Bank Parklands, West End, South Brisbane, Sunnybank, Cleveland, Wynnum, Capalaba, Inala, Forest Lake, Albany Creek, Boondall, Ferny Grove, Hendra, Indooroopilly, Petrie, Palm Beach, North Burleigh, Surfers Paradise, Broadbeach, Coolangatta, Eagleby, Arndale, Loganholme, Ipswich, Yamanto and Karana Downs.

(2) Runaway Bay Station currently supports approximately 2 two person bicycle patrols per week. A total of 10 Runaway Bay police officers share these bicycle patrols.

(3) As of 30 July 2001, a total of 21 police officers and 1 administrative officer were appointed to Runaway Bay Station. The police officers include one Senior Sergeant (Officer In Charge), two Sergeants, two Senior Constables and 18 Constables.

(4) An analysis of the crime reporting system indicates that the bicycle patrols have assisted in the reduction of the number of reported motor vehicle offences and complaints of wilful and unlawful damage to property. There has been a decline in reported offences at the Runaway Bay Shopping Village, Harbour Town Shopping Centre and in the vicinity of some businesses in the suburb of Runaway Bay. These areas are the focus of the bicycle patrols.

754. Forest Management

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (29/11/01)—

With reference to the transfer of forest management from the Department of Natural Resources to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) (29/11/01)—

- (1) What is the nature of the mooted restructure?
- (2) Will the whole of forestry reside in QPWS; if not, which other departments will have responsibility for forest related functions?

Mr WELLS (10/1/02):

(1) The forest management function has been integrated into the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) and is being effectively delivered at both central office and field levels. Timber regulation is the responsibility of the Forestry and Wildlife Division, fire. Feral animal and visitor management matters in forestry reserves are managed by Parks Division as an integral part of the respective QPWS programs. All field activities are undertaken by QPWS Regions.

(2) Yes.

755. Medical Staff, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (29/11/01)—

With reference to the increase in population projected in the short term for the electorate of Gladstone—

What plans are in place to proactively increase medical staff (in all areas) to address this increased need?

Mrs EDMOND (2/1/02): Queensland Health continually monitors the activity levels at its facilities such as Gladstone Hospital to assess funding priorities and the need to enhance services. This is part of the annual growth fund determination.

Over the last year Gladstone had increased its medical staff by an additional SMO (Salaried Medical Officer) and recently funding for a psychiatrist was granted.

Care must be taken not to be overly preemptive with medical staff numbers in centres where growth is expected to avoid having situations of over supply. This can lead to situations where private sector income levels of medical staff are inadequate to sustain viable practices, causing good doctors to leave provincial centres and making future recruitment more difficult. Thus, a more gradual approach as increased demand becomes evident is generally preferred. This avoids putting private practices and private provincial hospitals at risk.

756. Emergency Services Communications Officers

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (29/11/01)—

With reference to his recent visit to the Sunshine Coast to open the new communications centre at North Buderim—

What level of training do communications officers receive?

Mr REYNOLDS (2/1/02): All new Communication Officers employed in QAS Communications Centres are required to complete a Certificate IV course in Ambulance Communication Officer studies. This course includes study in the areas of clinical foundations, ambulance operations, ambulance message taking and dispatch principles including medical priority dispatching, and training in the operation of the technical infrastructure and support systems utilised in QAS Communications Centres including Computer Aided Dispatch systems.

Communications Officers currently employed by QAS are afforded the opportunity to complete the Ambulance Communication Officer course, including the opportunity to have prior qualifications recognised.

The new Ambulance Communications Centre at Buderim will be of immense benefit to the residents of the Sunshine Coast. The professionalism and the dedication of staff, in addition to the state of the art communication system is invaluable.

757. North Ipswich Police Beat

Mr LIVINGSTONE asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (29/11/01)—

What is the progress of the proposed Police Beat in North Ipswich, as designated in this year's Budget, as to its location and estimated date of commencement of operations?

Mr McGRADY (3/1/02): Between July and September, 2001, extensive inquiries were made with all known real estate agencies servicing the North Ipswich suburb to identify a suitable dwelling that could be converted into a Neighbourhood Police Beat.

In conjunction with personnel from Southern Region and members of the Property and Facilities Branch, these inquiries have been comprehensive, canvassing not only all dwellings listed both for rent and sale, but also any unlisted dwelling that appeared suitable.

In all instances, the physical attributes of existing properties within North Ipswich do not economically or practically lend themselves to the simple construction of a Police Beat office on site.

Inquiries began in early October 2001 to investigate the purchase of land on which to construct a suitably designed Neighbourhood Police Beat. The Commissioner of Police is currently personally considering this matter. The location of this site and the estimated time of commencement of operations are contingent on any subsequent decision.

758. Queensland Rural Ministerial Advisory Council

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (29/11/01)—

With reference to the term of the Queensland Rural Ministerial Advisory Council (QRMAC) appointees which has now expired—

- (1) Does he intend to reconstitute a new body similar to QRMAC?
- (2) How many members would be appointed to the new body?
- (3) Which stakeholder groups does he intend to represent on any new body?
- (4) Will his department provide travel expenses to the members of the new body?
- (5) If he does not intend to appoint a new body to replace QRMAC, what is the reason?

Mr PALASZCZUK (2/1/02):

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Each regional round table will comprise members who reflect the broad communities of interest within their region. I will continue to chair QRMAC.
- (3) It is proposed that QRMAC members will be drawn from local government, community/social services, regional development/business, primary industries, natural resources/environment, tourism, mining, indigenous communities and youth. The representation may vary from region to region.
- (4) The Office of Rural Communities, Department of Primary Industries will remunerate members with a daily sitting fee and will pay travel and accommodation costs, in accordance with Government standards.
- (5) Not applicable.

759. Department of Employment and Training, Consultancies

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (29/11/01)—

With reference to page 51 of the annual report 2000-01 for the Department of Employment and Training where it lists total consultancies costs at \$1,115,130.97—

Will he provide a breakdown of all the consultancies, the costs and terms of reference of each consultancy, the date on which the contract consultancy commenced and on which it was delivered and an executive summary of recommendations contained in each consultancy report?

Mr FOLEY (21/12/01): Much of the information sought by the Honourable Member was provided in response to a Question on Notice to me in relation to the Parliamentary estimates hearings. The data is attached again together with the project title (Attachment 1). (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

760. Treasury Department, Consultancies

Mr QUINN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (29/11/01)—

With reference to the annual report 2000-01 for the Treasury Department where it lists total consultancies costs—

Will he provide a breakdown of all the consultancies, the costs and terms of reference of each consultancy, the date on which the contract consultancy commenced and on which it was delivered and an executive summary of recommendations contained in each consultancy report?

Mr MACKENROTH (2/1/02): Consultancy information has been summarised in the attached table. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

761. Children in Care, Overseas Travel

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (29/11/01)—

With reference to the funding of overseas trips for children in care—

- (1) What were the costs for trips for individual children for the past twelve months?
- (2) What were the costs for accompanying staff for the past twelve months?
- (3) What is the department's policy with regard to children travelling overseas for visitations?
- (4) Have alternative arrangements been costed, eg, flying the parents back to Queensland?
- (5) What are the expected costs for individual cases for the next twelve months?

Ms SPENCE (2/1/02):

(1) The costs of overseas trips for children in care for the past twelve months (1/12/00-30/11/01) were:

Child 1—\$5,000
 Child 2—\$4,274
 Child 3—\$10,274 (3 trips) Accompanied by Foster Carers
 Child 4—\$458
 Child 5—\$1,613
 Child 6—\$615
 Child 7—\$2,013
 Child 8—\$1,498
 Child 9—\$677
 Child 10—\$281
 Child 11—\$1,650
 Child 12—\$385 (Carer yet to be reimbursed)
 Child 13—\$920
 Child 14—\$1,320
 Child 15—\$500
 TOTAL—\$31,478

(2) The cost of staff accompanying children in care on overseas trips for the past twelve months (1/12/00-30/11/01) were: Child 3—\$ 8,480(3 trips)

(3) The Director-General of the Department of Families approves overseas travel for children and young people in the care of the Department on a case by case basis. The best interests of the child or young person are taken into consideration in determining whether to approve an application or not.

(4) Each Area Office is currently allocated a budget to accommodate child related ancillary costs. It is the responsibility of individual Area Offices and Regions to allocate these moneys in a way that best sees the specific needs of individual cases being met, in the most cost effective manner. In determining this, Area Offices look at all available options, including flying the parents back to Queensland where appropriate.

(5) The estimated costs for overseas trips for children in care for the 2001-2002 financial year is \$45,000.

762. Health Rights Commission

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/12/01)—

With reference to the annual report of the Health Rights Commission (HRC) for 2000-01 which states that, 'clearly there is a concern in the community about the commission's ability to deal with complaints in a timely manner' and as at 30 June 2001, 225 complaints were still awaiting allocation for assessment and as the report states that a formal funding submission was put to her in July 2001 as the commission continues to be restricted by its limited resources and its functions are restricted to only dealing with complaints 'of a serious nature' and according to the report, action to address this backlog was deferred in July after the Premier promised a formal review of the commission would be undertaken—

- (1) Has that review been expedited so that very soon all complaints to the HRC will be considered, not just the most serious?
- (2) When will the full report be completed and will she make it available to the public when the review is finalised?
- (3) Will the Government commit additional funds to the HRC to alleviate these problems?
- (4) After the review, will the HRC's role be retained as wholly independent and not answerable to Government?

Mrs EDMOND (3/1/02): The Health Rights Commission is the subject of an external review and any actions will be considered in light of the review's findings.

763. SPELD

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Education (4/12/01)—

With reference to my recent address to the House on the special learning difficulties organisation called SPELD—

Will she address the disparities in the allocation of teacher resources between those children with specific learning disabilities/dyslexia and other groups with disabilities such as hearing, sight and speech difficulties?

Ms BLIGH (3/1/02): Funding to support the needs of students with disabilities, learning difficulties and learning disabilities is provided on the basis of each student's individual educational needs.

For students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities school-based processes are used to recommend a program type. The class teacher and support teacher: learning difficulties construct a support plan to allow these students to better access the curriculum.

To support these processes there are 619 support teachers: learning difficulties in primary schools, 321 support teachers in secondary schools, and 377 guidance officers and 300 behaviour management staff who work in both primary and secondary schools. In addition there are funds provided to improve the literacy and numeracy needs of students with learning difficulties and learning disabilities through: the Reading Recovery initiative, the Year 2 Net key teacher support, and the support as a result of the Years 3 and 5 testing program.

For students with a recognised disability (e.g. vision impairment, hearing impairment, intellectual impairment) the ascertainment process is used to identify the educational needs arising from the disability. Students identified through the ascertainment process have highly specialised needs requiring highly specialised and intensive resourcing such as Braille or signing and note taking. Support of this nature requires a more intensive resource base to ensure equitable outcomes.

764. RAP Scheme, Dairy Industry

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (4/12/01)—

With reference to the Dairy RAP money—

- (1) What is the total amount the Government allocated?
- (2) How many beneficiaries have received money through this scheme?
- (3) How much has been redirected into other Government areas to fund deficits ie corrections?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/1/02):

(1) DRAP is a Commonwealth Government program initially established and then further increased following representations by the Queensland Government, to provide adjustment assistance for regional dairying communities affected by the Commonwealth Government national dairy deregulation plan.

In 2000 the Commonwealth Government announced that the consumer levy put in place to fund the restructure package would also raise \$45 million for DRAP. Earlier this year the Commonwealth Government announced the levy would raise a further \$20 million for DRAP. Of this, approximately \$11.5 million has been approved to date for projects in Queensland. The Queensland Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has committed substantial resources towards assisting producers, small businesses, local governments and communities access the program.

(2) DRAP is administered nationally by the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Workplace Relations and Small Business (DEWRSB) and regionally by Area Consultative Committees. As DRAP is a Commonwealth program, the Honourable Member should contact the Commonwealth Government for information about this and other aspects of the program.

(3) The Queensland Government receives no funding from the Commonwealth in relation to DRAP. Through the DPI however, considerable in-kind support has been provided which has assisted the implementation of DRAP at the regional level.

765. Dingoes

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment (4/12/01)—

With reference to Alan Wilton's DNA research which has led him to conclude that the Australian dingo is 'in danger of extinction in the wild', endangered by hybridisation with domestic dogs and to Wilton's surveys, where he was hard put to find animals he could confidently class as purebreds and his reliable source of purebreds was the few operating dingo farms and tourism attractions and as dingoes are protected animals within national parks and it is highly likely that QPWS is protecting hybrid animals and many of these animals are crossbreds resulting from mating with German Shepherds and large pig dogs and such hybrids are efficient killers of even grown cattle and are often not frightened by humans and when confronted by such dogs, many farmers living in proximity to national parks have to go home to get a rifle to save their livestock—

What does he intend to do to remove this increasing threat to livestock and to farmers?

Mr WELLS (3/1/02): Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service has a responsibility to protect the natural resources within the National Parks of Queensland. The dingo, while not listed as a protected species under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, is considered a native animal worthy of protection on National Parks. However, QPWS recognises the responsibility to manage dingoes in areas where they threaten livestock, and as part of a good neighbour policy controls dingoes in many National Parks across the State. The QPWS will continue to control dingoes and wild dogs in areas where a threat to farmer's livestock exist.

There is no doubt that across the State the hybridisation of wild dogs and dingoes continues to occur. However, until exhaustive surveys are conducted the level of hybridisation is unknown. Alan Wilton's research is an important component of this work and the results will be carefully analysed to assist in future management programs. This issue is recognised and has been addressed in the State dingo/wild dog management strategy recently released by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM).

This question is also relevant to my colleague the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines as the management of dingoes across Queensland is the responsibility of DNRM. The dingo/wild dog is a declared animal under the Land Protection Act 1985, which places a legal responsibility on landowners for control.

766. Re-banding of Schools

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (4/12/01)—

With reference to concerns from Parents' and Citizens' Associations who state that school communities are being affected by the re-banding process of their school—

What consideration is given to the school community when Education Queensland decides to re-band a school and what consultation takes place?

Ms BLIGH (3/1/02): Banding is the process undertaken by Education Queensland to classify promotional teaching positions.

The system has not fundamentally changed in the twelve years that it has been applied. Reviews are conducted by an independent committee of management and union officials, who are trained and highly experienced in the use of the methodology.

Changes to band levels generally occur because, over time and in comparative terms, schools are assessed as offering either greater or less challenge than was the case previously. Some Parents and Citizens Associations have expressed concerns that, as a consequence of re-banding, the incumbent principal may be relocated.

Education Queensland is conscious of the implications of the re-banding process and has put in place many mechanisms to reduce the frequency with which movements occur.

Positions are carefully monitored over a number of years to establish a firm trend before action to re-band is recommended. The timing of banding changes is also taken into consideration and often these changes occur when the positions are vacant, thus reducing the impact on individuals and school communities.

767. Watch-houses, Cunningham Electorate

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (4/12/01)—

With reference to the watch houses in the Cunningham electorate—

- (1) Which watch houses are still officially considered operational?
- (2) How long have the others been officially out of use?
- (3) How many people have been detained overnight in each watch house for the past 20 years, broken down year by year?
- (4) Do the watch houses meet Queensland general safety and security standards for watch houses: if not, what work is required to bring them up to this standard?
- (5) Has one or more monitoring cameras been installed into the watch houses?
- (6) In which watch houses are they?
- (7) If they have not been installed, does he intend on installing cameras in the future?
- (8) What are the general requirements (eg. Population, crime rate, police numbers etc) for a watch house to be established or maintained in that town?

Mr McGRADY (4/1/02): In response to the Honourable Member's question, I am advised as follows:

(1) Within the Cunningham Electorate there are no watch houses. However, should the Honourable Member be referring to holding cells, those at Pittsworth and Millmerran are currently operational.

(2) The 'holding cell' buildings at Clifton, Leyburn, Cecil Plains and Cambooya are currently non operational. Records at Clifton and Leyburn dating back to 1983 show no prisoners were held in these facilities since that year. Cambooya has not been in use for a considerable number of years. Cecil Plains records show the last person admitted to the 'holding cell' was in 1965.

(3) Police Station records indicate no prisoners have been held overnight in the Clifton, Leyburn, Cambooya, Millmerran and Cecil Plains 'holding cell' during the period. Data of prisoners held at the Pittsworth 'holding cell' are as follows:

Year and No. of prisoners o/night: 1985—0; 1986—1; 1987—12; 1988—18; 1989—7; 1990—0; 1991—1; 1992—2; 1993—1; 1994—0; 1995—0; 1996—0; 1997—1; 1998—0; 1999—0; 2000—0; 2001—0.

(4) A comprehensive assessment of these 'holding cell' buildings has been undertaken by the Queensland Police Service to ascertain works required to ensure 'holding cell' buildings at Clifton, Leyburn, Pittsworth, Millmerran and Cecil Plains meet the standards in the Queensland Police Service Building Code 2000.

It has been identified the 'holding cell' buildings at Clifton, Leyburn, Millmerran, Pittsworth and Cecil Plains require upgrading to meet Service standards. These works are being arranged to be undertaken by Q-Build.

(5 & 6) One monitoring camera has been installed in one cell at each of Clifton, Leyburn, Cecil Plains, Millmerran and Pittsworth 'holding cell' buildings. No monitoring equipment has been installed at the Cambooya holding cell building.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 provided additional powers to hold persons in custody. Under chapter seven it is lawful for a police officer without warrant, to arrest a person the police officer reasonable suspects has committed or is committing an indictable offence for questioning the person about the offence, or investigating the offence. To provide officers with a facility to hold persons in such circumstances and to meet their duty of care responsibilities, a monitoring camera was installed in these buildings which are classed as holding cells.

(7) There is no intention to install a camera in the Cambooya 'holding cell' building at this stage.

(8) There are no set criteria for the establishment of a watchhouse at a particular location. Each situation is assessed on a case by case basis taking into account such issues as proximity to other facilities, significant events held in the area and workload of officers including number of interviews, arrests and reported offences.

Each facility at the above locations is viewed as a holding cell and not a watchhouse, for the purpose of providing a facility to operational police in conjunction with the additional powers provided under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

The overriding requirements for the provision for a holding cell in accordance with Service standards are to provide a facility for short-term custody only, to meet duty of care responsibilities with persons taken into custody and also meet officer safety needs, particularly where one and two officer stations are located some distance from backup support.

768. Controlled Operations Committee Annual Report

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (4/12/01)—

With reference to the annual report for 2000-01 provided by the Controlled Operations Committee and the problem the committee has identified with the vagueness of the definition provided for a 'serious indictable offence' as contained in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000., which omits a number of serious offences, including deprivation of liberty and the supply of a 2nd schedule drug of whatever amount—

- (1) Has his department considered amending the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in light of these issues that have been brought to his attention by the Controlled Operations Committee?
- (2) Has his department received any further advice from within the Queensland Police Service or other relevant organisations concerned with the present legislation?

Mr McGRADY (3/1/02): (1 & 2) In accordance with section 458 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, I have appointed a reference group to commence a review of all aspects of the Act. The issues raised by the Controlled Operations Committee are included in this review.

Subject to recommendations of the Police Service and the deliberations of that Reference Group, I will consider appropriate amendments to the Act, including necessary amendments to the controlled operations part of the Act.

769. State Purchasing Policy

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (4/12/01)—

What is the process through which Queensland Health implements the State Purchasing Policy in the Toowoomba region?

Mr SCHWARTEN (7/1/02): Each State Government agency is responsible for implementing the State Purchasing Policy throughout its own agency, including regions. The State Purchasing Policy has been implemented in two phases in recognition of the size and complexity of some agencies or because of the agency's particular requirements. The second implementation phase, which included Queensland Health, commenced on 1 July 2001.

770. Department of Housing Funding, Sunshine Coast

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (4/12/01)—

Since the Beattie Labor Government came to power in 1998, what amount of funding has the Department of Housing committed to projects and programs on the Sunshine Coast?

Mr SCHWARTEN (8/1/02): The Department of Housing has allocated a total of \$52.669M to the Sunshine Coast, which for the purposes of this question is based on the electorates of Caloundra, Glasshouse, Kawana, Maroochydore, Nicklin and Noosa, since the election of the Beattie government in 1998. This funding includes:

Construction of 232 public housing dwellings (\$29.011M) and acquisition of 24 public housing dwellings (\$3.039M)—total \$32.050M;

Community Housing, including Home Assist Secure (\$2.775M), Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service (\$0.371M), Capital Works and Property Services (\$4.692M), Long Term and Boarding House Program (\$3.349M) and Crisis and Transitional Housing (\$2.693M)—total \$13.880M;

Tenant Participation funding, including garden awards—\$0.074M;

Mortgage Relief Loans (\$0.117M), Housing Loans (\$0.246M), Bond Loans (\$3.526) and Rental Grants (\$0.056)—total \$3.945M;

Comptons Caboolture Village pilot project—\$1.444M; and

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, including constructions (\$0.189M), spot purchases (\$0.832M), land purchases (\$0.120M) and upgrades (\$0.135M)—total \$1.276M.

Information supplied in relation to Rental Grants and Bond Loans is based on postcodes and may lead to minor discrepancies.

771. Speed Cameras, Revenue

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (4/12/01)—

With reference to section 117 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act that stipulates that revenue from speed camera offences must be used for certain purposes—

Will he breakdown allocations from this revenue for each month since January 1999 including the name of the project, the date on which funds were allocated and the purpose for which the funds are to be/were used?

Mr McGRADY (3/1/02): I enclose for the member's edification, a section of the Administrative Arrangements (No. 2) 2001, that was published in the Government Gazette on 15 June 2001 and is available on the Premier's Internet site at <http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au/policies/admin.pdf>.

This section of the Administrative Arrangements stipulates that the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 falls within the portfolio responsibilities of my Ministerial colleague, the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads. Therefore, the Member may wish to redirect his question accordingly.

He may first wish to consider, however, what positive contribution he can make towards the preservation of Queensland lives on our roads. A cooperative approach that is above politics would surely be more helpful than attempts to debate this Government's initiatives to ensure safety on Queensland roads. (Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

772. State Government Air Wing

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (4/12/01)—

- (1) Will he detail the number of occasions on which the Department of Police or the Department of Corrective Services have used aircraft from the State Government's air-wing other than the Police Citation jet, since the change of Government in 1998?
- (2) What was the date and reason for each trip?
- (3) What was the total cost of each trip?
- (4) Will he provide details of any amount that was required to be reimbursed to the Premier's Department for use of the aircraft and associated costs?
- (5) What type of aircraft was used on each occasion?

Mr McGRADY (3/1/02): The information required to answer your question is held by the State Government Air-Wing, which falls within the Ministerial responsibilities of the Premier and Minister for Trade.

You may therefore wish to redirect your question to the Premier.

773. Sugar and Trawling Industries, Assistance

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (4/12/01)—

With reference to the downturn of the sugar industry and the difficulties faced by trawl operators with the reduction of effort brought about by the East Coast Trawl Plan, QRAA offered concessional loans of \$10m for each industry and as it is evident that the criteria for accessing this support only resulted in a small number of successful applications and there are many other small businesses dependent on sugar and trawling that are affected by the tough times experienced by both of these industries—

Will there be any level of support for these dependent businesses to help them through these hard times?

Mr PALASZCZUK (3/1/02): The Department of State Development and the Department of Employment and Training provide programs to assist small business.

774. Kidney and Liver Transplants

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (4/12/01)—

With reference to the kidney and liver transplants undertaken at the Princess Alexandra Hospital—

- (1) What is the eligibility criteria for transplant patients?
- (2) What is the process for non-Australian residents who apply for transplants?
- (3) What is the criteria for determining fee paying for transplant patients?
- (4) Does a patient's ability to pay fees alter their position on the transplant priority list?
- (5) How many non-Australian residents have received transplants in comparison to Australian transplant recipients?
- (6) Given the high standard of transplant surgery undertaken at Princess Alexandra and the recognition of this as a centre of excellence, what provisions are made to ensure other non-transplant surgeries are not unduly delayed?

Mrs EDMOND (3/1/02): It is considered necessary to provide a separate response for kidney and liver transplantation.

Kidney transplantation

(1) For kidney transplant recipients eligibility criteria are primarily based on physical fitness and life expectancy of the patient. These criteria include for example the cardiovascular fitness of the patient and the presence or absence of infectious diseases or cancers likely to impact on the post transplant course. The Princess Alexandra Hospital has carefully constructed criteria, consistent with those used at other renal transplant units in Australia, which have been discussed with renal physicians throughout the State, and continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.

(2) For kidney transplantation, non-Australian residents are not likely to receive a kidney from a cadaveric donor in this country. As there are many more Australian resident patients than there are kidneys available, there is never likely to be a situation where there will be no Australian recipient for a kidney from a cadaveric donor.

Non-Australian residents are able to be considered for kidney transplantation if they have a suitable living kidney donor. However, these patients must be able to pay for the costs of the transplant. The transplant can only be done if Australian citizens are not disadvantaged.

(3) No Australian resident pays for any organ that they receive from either a cadaveric or living related donor.

In relation to non-Australian residents receiving transplants, this is a set cost of \$51,000 which has been determined to cover all costs. This fee is the same for all patients, irrespective of their financial status.

(4) No.

(5) For the period from 1 January to 7 December 2001, the Princess Alexandra Hospital had performed 108 transplants, of which two have involved non-Australian residents as recipients.

(6) Living related transplants are scheduled to be done on routine renal surgical lists to minimise any effect on other surgical services.

The cadaveric surgical procedures are more difficult to predict and often need to be done outside of normal hours. There can be times when there are no cadaveric organs for weeks, and then several in one week. The Princess Alexandra Hospital manages this fluctuation in service requirement.

Liver transplantation

(1) Liver transplantation is performed for endstage liver failure. The mortality of liver transplantation is about 10% at one year, which is an appreciable risk. Therefore, liver transplantation is offered to patients expected to live less than one year without a transplant ie. definite endstage disease, which can be assessed by a number of clinical criteria including formalised scoring systems such as the Mayo risk score.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital also uses internationally accepted criteria to exclude certain patients with endstage liver failure from transplantation eg. patients with advanced liver cancer; patients with alcoholic liver disease who cannot stop drinking.

(2) The Princess Alexandra Hospital currently transplants very small numbers of non-national patients. The Princess Alexandra Hospital previously transplanted patients from New Zealand until a transplant unit opened in Auckland three years ago.

Through the 1990s, Princess Alexandra Hospital transplanted a number of other non-nationals, principally from Japan. This was at a time when organ availability was relatively much higher than it is now—there were actually "spare" livers for transplantation.

The criteria for transplanting non-national patients are:

- (a) the same medical indications as for Australian nationals;
- (b) for the purposes of immigration, the patients and their accompanying dependants must apply for a visa for temporary residence for medical purposes;
- (c) non-national patients have to agree to pay for liver transplantation. The fee is currently \$180,000 which represents cost recovery; and
- (d) a cadaveric donor organ (from a brain dead donor) may only be transplanted into a non-national patient if there is no national patient, in any State or Territory, for which it can be used. This means that Australian nationals have absolute priority in organ allocation which overrides all medical indications. Organ availability is now relatively scarce, because the demand for liver transplantation is so high in Australia, and this means that there are now only a small number on occasions when a donor liver is available for transplantation into a non-national patient, eg rare blood groups.

(3) No Australian nationals pay for a liver transplant.

(4) No.

(5) From 1 January to 8 December 2001, 36 liver transplants were performed at Princess Alexandra Hospital, including two from Japan.

(6) Liver transplants are emergency procedures. However, with a dedicated and flexible operating theatre team, it is usually possible to adjust the operating room schedule so that there is a minimum of disruption in operating lists.

775. Criminal Code, Section 316

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (4/12/01)—

For each year since 1995, (a) how many people have been charged with the offence of 'Stupefying in order to commit indictable offence' under s.316 of the Criminal Code and (b) how many people have been found guilty of an offence under s.316 of the Criminal Code?

Mr WELFORD (3/1/02):

(a) The number of defendants appearing on the charge of 'Stupefying in order to commit indictable offence', in the Supreme and District Courts, Brisbane since 1995 is set out below. Information for the Supreme and District Courts located outside Brisbane is more difficult to obtain because only Brisbane Supreme and District Courts have access to a computerised information system. It has not been practical to undertake manual searches of all criminal files in the 30 regional centres.

The number of defendants appearing on the charge of 'Stupefying in order to commit indictable offence', in the Magistrates Courts since 1995 is set out below. For the period 1995 to 2000, information is only available for the ten major Magistrates Courts that had access to a computerised information system. It has not been practical to undertake manual searches of numerous files in over 70 other registry locations. For the year 2001 ending 30 November 2001, figures have been provided for all Magistrates Courts due to the introduction of the Queensland Wide Interlinked Courts (QWIC) system.

Jurisdiction	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Brisbane Higher Courts	3	2	4	3	2	1	0
Magistrates Courts (a)	6	7	1	5	9	10	7

The figures for the period 1995 to 2000 relate to the ten major Magistrates Courts—Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maroochydore, Brisbane, Southport, Ipswich, Beenleigh and Toowoomba. The figure for the year 2001 ending 30 November 2001, relates to all Magistrates Courts.

(b) From the cases lodged in the Brisbane Higher Courts, below is the number of defendants found guilty of an offence under s.316 of the Criminal Code. Cases are not always finalised in the same reference period they were lodged with the Court. There were nil defendants found guilty in the Magistrates Courts, as the offence cannot be dealt with summarily.

Jurisdiction	1995	1996	1997	1998(a)	1999	2000	2001(b)
Brisbane Higher Courts	1	1	3	1	0	1	0

There is currently one defendant on trial in the Brisbane Supreme Court.

776. Departments of Industrial Relations and Employment and Training, Corporate Support

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (4/12/01)—

With reference to a note on page 22 of the recent Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Annual Report that no staff numbers for corporate support are listed as they are under a shared service arrangement with the Department of Employment and Training—

- (1) How many total staff are there in this unit?
- (2) What percentage of their time is spent on DIR issues?
- (3) What level of ministerial responsibility is taken by him over this unit?
- (4) What level of ministerial responsibility is taken by the Minister for Employment?

Mr NUTTALL (3/1/02):

- (1) As at the last pay period in June 2001, the Capability Development Division (CCD), Department of Employment and Training has 382 FTEs and the Corporate Projects has 34 FTEs, totalling 416 FTEs.
- (2) On average 22% of CCD time is spent on DIR issues.
- (3) This is a matter for the Director-General.
- (4) The Corporate Capability Development Division is a unit within the Department of Employment and Training.

777. Trade

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (4/12/01)—

- (1) What measures will be put in place to increase trade opportunities with China and Vietnam?
- (2) How will this benefit small business in Queensland?

Mr BEATTIE (2/1/02):

(1) The Government has put in place a wide range of initiatives to assist Queensland companies to increase trade with China and Vietnam.

My Government is strongly committed to not only trade with both China and Vietnam but also to strengthen the personal ties and cultural links between our two countries.

In October this year, my Government launched the Trade Strategy 'Export Solutions' which has a fundamental purpose to increase exports by increasing the number of exporters and the value of knowledge intensive exports.

Formal agreements are key to establishing relationships with prominent leaders as it provides access in strategic areas of Chinese development such as education, environmental services, infrastructure design and development, information technology and biotech.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Shanghai Government signed during my most recent visit to China, will facilitate Queensland businesses to increase the export of goods and services to Shanghai, particularly in the biotechnology, education and training sectors.

The Commerce Queensland Trade Mission to Beijing and Shanghai this November, pursued real business opportunities with companies ranging from small high technology businesses to major sport services.

During my visit to Vietnam in March this year, I witnessed the signing of a MOU between the Department of State Development (DSD) and the Vietnam Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development. This MOU will open the door for commercial cooperation in the areas of agriculture and agribusiness.

Some specific activities under the MOU include the export of live cattle and dairy cattle to Vietnam and joint export efforts in selected tropical fruits which includes technology transfer from Queensland to Vietnam, and collaborative research. The Vietnamese Government has indicated that they wish to visit Queensland early next year to support and expand the scope and activities under the MOU.

During the same visit, I also witnessed the signing of a MOU between the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the Hanoi School of Public Health to cooperate in capacity building in public health education in Vietnam.

Other than agreements, my Government has developed strategic networks to ensure continued growth and enhance trade opportunities for Queensland. Networks are enhanced by the Queensland Trade and Investment Offices in Shanghai and Hong Kong that provide vital local knowledge and support for companies that are wishing to access business opportunities.

The Queensland China Council chaired by the Hon Tom Burns, a key conduit for the advancement of Queensland's trade objectives in China, is planning trade missions to China to focus on priority sectors of infrastructure and environmental management. In addition, it is planned to develop a major strategy to access trade opportunities in Southern China.

The Hon Tom Burns also chairs a Beijing Olympics Task Force. This Task Force will pursue trade initiatives to ensure that Queensland firms maximise business opportunities from the Beijing Olympics.

The Hon Tom Burns and the DSD have also been working with the Vietnamese Government to pursue commercial cooperation as well as international aid funded projects in the areas of governance/institutional strengthening, education and training, professional services and tourism development.

The DSD will continue to support local companies with programs and market intelligence to target commercial opportunities in Vietnam.

(2) The trade opportunities being pursued in China and Vietnam have direct and indirect benefits for Queensland firms. Small businesses are winning business directly in China and Vietnam. There are also excellent examples of small business firstly supplying larger contractors in these markets before securing business in their own right.

The Trade Strategy will support and develop small business to create stronger export culture in Queensland. By increasing the number of businesses that have the resilience to succeed in international markets, Queensland will generate more jobs and stronger firms.

The DSD is assisting small business by providing commercial intelligence on prospective tenders, contacts in overseas offices and a range of strong skills development workshops and seminars to enable them to remain viable, to grow and provide Queensland with a strong economic base.

Small business is being encouraged by my Government to compete in international markets and to build on their capacity to innovate and generate jobs. Queensland firms are demonstrating that we are able to bring together the world class research capacity from our universities, the business acumen of innovate firms and the support of Government to achieve outstanding export results.

My Government's work in China and Vietnam is ensuring that small business will have ongoing relationships in these rapidly developing markets. The success that is being achieved in these markets, is reinforcing the message that Queensland firms have the capacity to compete successfully in the most challenging markets in the world.

778. Echinoderm

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/12/01)—

With reference to beche-de-mer which are in high demand at high prices and as world stocks have been severely depleted with recent applied research showing that members of the Echinoderm family, being largely detritus eaters, serve a vital sanitary function in the ocean and within aquaculture and incompleting research indicates that they may have a positive impact on the health of sea grass and as the health of sea grass impacts heavily on fisheries and dugong populations—

Will he commit his department to researching this family, particularly the sand fish and assisting those entrepreneurs about to start echinoderm hatcheries?

Mr PALASZCZUK (4/1/02): Queensland leads the way in beche-de-mer fisheries research and management in Australia. The Advisory Committee to the Queensland Fisheries Service on harvest fisheries has been instrumental in having a three-year program undertaken and recently completed by researchers at the Australian Institute of Marine Science at Townsville.

The Advisory Committee has recently given its support to a proposed research project on age and growth rates for the major species of beche-de-mer and monitoring the recovery of presently fished stocks. The success or otherwise of this proposal in attracting funding from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation depends, in part, on how it is rated by the Queensland Fishing Research Advisory Committee (QFIRAC) in terms of the overall priorities for fisheries research needs in Queensland.

QFIRAC provides advice on research priorities and is a subcommittee of the peak industry advisory body, the Fishing Industry Development Council. Representatives of all fisheries sectors in Queensland are members of both committees.

Fisheries scientists within the DPI have the necessary expertise and are available to provide advice to beche-de-mer hatcheries.

779. Queensland Police Service, Staffing

Mr FLYNN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (5/12/01)—

With reference to police staffing levels (sworn officers) (5/12/01)—

- (1) What is the average rate of attrition for the past five years?
- (2) Exactly how many officers have left the service in the past 10 years?
- (3) How many officers were sworn in over the past 10 years?
- (4) How many officers were sworn in over the past two years?
- (5) Is he able to identify Statewide how many officers are employed full-time or on secondment to desk jobs or jobs unrelated to front line response officers?

Mr McGRADY (4/1/02): In response to the Member's question, I am advised as follows:

- (1) The average rate of attrition for the past five years (1996-2001) is 3.4%.
- (2) In the past ten years (1991-2001), 2374 officers left the Service.
- (3) In the past ten years (1991-2001), 4246 officers were sworn in.
- (4) In the past two years (1999-2100), 1091 officers were sworn in.
- (5) As at 1 December 2001 there are 7178 operational police and 731 police in non-operational support roles.

Whilst this represents a small proportion of the entire Queensland sworn police population, the Beattie Government is committed to ongoing civilianisation of support roles, so as to put police back on the street and maximise the operational role of our sworn officers. This is to be further pursued during this, the second term of the Beattie Government.

780. Prostitution Advisory Council

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (5/12/01)—

With reference to the annual report of the Prostitution Advisory Council (PAC) which outlines 102 towns throughout Queensland, with populations under 25,000, that have voted not to allow brothels in their area and to a number of

other shires which have also voted against brothels in towns in their local authority area but were not on the PAC's list, despite some writing to the State Government stating their objection to brothels as late as last year—

- (1) Why have these towns still not been included either on the PAC's list, or acknowledged formally by the Government?
- (2) Will he detail those eligible towns that have notified the Government of their rightful inclusion on this list but to this date are not included and the date that each of these local government authorities notified the State Government?
- (3) Why does it appear to take months, in some cases up to a year, for these objections to be formally registered?

Mr McGRADY (4/1/02): The Prostitution Act 1999 does not require formal notification of my decision to be made. What the Act does require is the exercise of my discretion concerning an application made by a local authority seeking my agreement, pursuant to section 64(1)(c) of the Prostitution Act. This is to give effect to a Council's requirement to refuse all development applications for brothels in towns with a population of less than 25,000 within the relevant local government area. If I agree to the application and exercise my discretion, I naturally inform the relevant local authority in writing.

I am advised that the list provided in the annual PAC report was accurate as far as possible at the time it was published. The purpose of the list is for the information only of the community and it can not be asserted that the list is exhaustive or considered definitive. This is because new and continuing applications are regularly being received, processed and determined. In addition, communications between the Prostitution Licensing Authority and the Queensland Police Service are continually being enhanced to improve the continued administration and implementation of the Prostitution Act.

I am advised that Cooloola Shire Council made an application on 12 February 2001. I requested further information from the Council on 5 April 2001 and am yet to receive a response.

Redland Shire Council made an application on 5 October 2000. Further information was requested by my predecessor on 27 November 2000. To date, no response has been received.

Delays associated with the exercise of my Ministerial discretion are directly related to the fact that my decision should be based on the merits of the particular application. The provision of sufficient relevant information is the cause of delays in exercise of Ministerial discretion.

As the decision made by the Minister is reviewable in accordance with the provisions of the Judicial Review Act it is essential that all information be provided by the relevant Council.

781. Family Service Officers, Notifications

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (5/12/01)—

With reference to the response to Category One, Category Two and Category Three notifications in Family Service Officers—

- (1) Will she specify if (a) Category Two notifications are not responded to due to heavy workloads in offices, what occurs with these notifications and (b) Category Three notifications are not responded to due to heavy workloads in offices, what occurs with these notifications?
- (2) Are there any offices where Category Two and Three notifications are not being responded to?

Ms SPENCE (4/1/02):

- (1) The ability of an Area Office to respond to Category Two and Category Three notifications may vary depending on a range of factors. However, all notifications are responded to.
- (2) See response to part one of the question.

782. Legal Profession Reform

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/12/01)—

- (1) Has he any intention of bringing forward reforms to the legal profession relating to the discipline of solicitors who have acted in a manner unbecoming to the profession?
- (2) In particular, will he advise whether he, or the Government, has any plans to remove the disciplinary functions of the Queensland Law Society to an independent and/or statutory body?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/02):

(1) The legal profession reforms previously announced included enhancements to the complaints and disciplinary processes for solicitors and barristers. The final package of reforms will be settled after the current national competition policy review of Queensland's legal practice legislation is completed. It is intended that the necessary legislative changes will be introduced to Parliament for passage by 30 June 2002.

(2) The regulatory regime that is appropriate for the legal profession will be decided after the Government has considered the report of the Review Committee overseeing the national competition policy review.

783. Corrective Services Department, Reviews

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (5/12/01)—

With reference to reviews and investigations that have been conducted by the Corrective Services Department—

- (1) Will he provide a list of the reviews, internal and external as well as internal investigations that have been conducted by the Corrective Services Department since he became the Minister?

- (2) What is the purpose and status of each of the reviews?
- (3) For those completed, what are the results and what action has he taken to implement their findings?
- (4) Will he provide a breakdown of the cost of each review from when it started to the completion date and the expected cost of implementing any findings?

Mr McGRADY (8/1/02):

(1) During the 2001 calendar year, the Department of Corrective Services (DCS) conducted three (3) external reviews, as follows:

- (a) a review of the release to work program;
- (b) a review of the department's internal audit unit; and
- (c) a review of the policy and programs directorate.

In addition, one (1) internal review was conducted into the management of the open custody program.

Each of these reviews evidences the Government's commitment to being tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime. The Government's ongoing commitment to accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the public sector is clearly demonstrated by review processes such as these, which focus on continuous monitoring and improvement.

In relation to internal investigations, I am advised that there are currently forty (40) matters under inquiry by the department's Ethical Standards Unit, which range from minor grievances to operational incidents, which are the subject of ongoing police and CJC liaison and investigation. Accordingly, I do not propose to provide detailed particulars of those investigations at this time, as to do so may jeopardise law enforcement investigations.

(2) Reviews are conducted to address operational or structural concerns for example, as a result of implementation of review recommendations there has been a significant decrease in the abscond rate from community corrections centres. Reviews of the Policy and Program Services Directorate and the Internal Audit Unit, and the implementation of the review recommendations, will allow for significant increases in service delivery.

In relation to the current status, I am pleased to inform the house that each of the aforementioned reviews conducted since 22nd February 2001, is complete and all of the recommendations have been implemented

(3) In response to the question of the resultant actions from these reviews, the following information is provided:

Review of the Release to Work Program (St Vincent de Paul and West Brisbane Community Corrections Centres)

Processes for granting leave passes and checking movements of prisoners seeking employment have been tightened.

The processes for checking the bona fides of prospective employers have been reinforced. This, and the previous action, are managed by the new position of Employment Officer.

Processes relating to the issuing of employment passes have been reviewed to include specific instructions and directions for where prisoners are able to attend employment.

A requirement has been imposed for employers to nominate a landline telephone number to assist in determining the prisoner's actual whereabouts at any time.

The Employment Officer will establish better communications between the centre and the employer.

Upon initial employment each employer is provided with and agrees to written guidelines applying to his or her responsibilities.

Approved leave periods are calculated and specified upon the leave pass to include only such time as is necessary to fulfil work and reasonable travel requirements.

Departmental policy and procedure in relation to the surveillance of prisoners on weekend leave of absence have been reinforced, and will be monitored by the department's Contract Monitors.

The role of allocating and transferring prisoners to and between Community Corrections Centres is now the responsibility of the Executive Director, Operational Support Services through the Office of Sentence Management.

An interim procedure has been developed by the Operational Support Services directorate to guide the transfer of prisoners to Community Corrections Centres. The Policy and Program Services Directorate will undertake further consultation and develop a final policy and procedure.

The organisational reporting structure for the West Brisbane Community Corrections Centre has been modified so that the Manager reports to and receives operational support from the Director, Work Outreach Regional Camps.

The Manager, West Brisbane Community Corrections Centre and the Director, WORC will work together on an ongoing basis to ensure staff are utilised effectively and that roles and responsibilities are shared across both work units where possible.

The creation of the position of Psychologist, Community Custody has been approved and will provide a shared psychological service to WORC, WBCCC and Helena Jones CCC.

An Employment Officer will provide support to both West Brisbane and Helena Jones Community Corrections Centres.

Consideration will be given in future infrastructure planning to co-locate WBCCC and WORC in a purpose-built complex.

Review of the Department's Internal Audit Unit

The unit has been restructured to better deliver on it's core business of compliance auditing.

A separate Ethical Standards Unit has been established to lead the development, implementation and evaluation of ethical standards and ethical practice throughout the department.

The Performance Auditing function has been relocated to the Research and Evaluation functions of the Policy and Program Services Directorate.

The Risk Management function has been relocated to the Strategic Planning and Policy Unit.

Review of the Policy and Program Services Directorate

The Policy and Program Services Directorate has assumed responsibility for the development of substantive policy and operational principles.

The Womens Policy Unit has been amalgamated with the Policy and Programs Services Directorate.

The ATSI Unit now reports directly to the Deputy Director-General.

Future development of programs/interventions be informed by 'best practice' research and results of evaluation.

Future development of programs for ATSI offenders will continue to be managed through a Steering Committee which ensures the ATSI representative on that committee signs off on the program development plan and associated budget expenditure prior to the budget being committed.

When developing programs appropriate representatives of non-government organisations and stakeholders will be consulted.

A number of changes to staffing structures and positions were proposed and considered. Movements of staff and some advertising have since occurred.

The role of the Research and Evaluation Services Branch has been expanded to include reviews which should encompass all community based statutory programs, including Community Custody Programs.

Performance indicators based on the Borallon Correctional Centre contract will be developed by the Deputy Director-General with the assistance of the Policy and Program Services Directorate for all correctional centres and community corrections regions in relation to the delivery of programs.

Internal Review of the Open Custody Program

The assessment processes for prisoners transferring to open custody have been strengthened.

The open custody centres are working closely with the secure custody centres in the identification of prisoners suitable for transfer to open custody.

The operational routines at Palen Creek Correctional Centre have been improved.

(4) I am advised that the specific breakdown of the cost of the aforementioned external reviews is as follows:

Release to work program and Policy and programs reviews—\$35,200

Internal audit review—\$17,500.

784. Beaudesert Hospital, Staffing

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (5/12/01)—

With reference to a situation at the Beaudesert Hospital where a female doctor may be transferred to Hervey Bay Hospital as part of her post graduate studies and as she is married to another doctor at the hospital, there is a possibility that he will also leave to be with his wife and given that this hospital is already one doctor short, this will result in the hospital being understaffed by three doctors, with only one doctor remaining to run the hospital and as this will put pressure on the remaining doctor and will make it difficult to recruit new doctors to the hospital—

Will she take this into consideration when deciding to transfer staff?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/02): I am informed that the doctor appointed to Hervey Bay Hospital is a Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Holder and is being replaced with a Queensland Health Rural Scholarship Holder.

In placing scholarship holders each year, Queensland Health takes a state-wide approach—considering the impact of vacancies across all rural and remote communities, including local issues at each site, along with the scholarship holders personal situation including spouse employment. I understand that all these issues have been taken into account in the scholarship placement process for 2002 and that the placement of all scholarship holders is conducted in the best interests of the whole of rural and remote Queensland.

Additionally, Logan-Beaudesert Health Service District is currently undertaking a recruitment campaign to fill the other vacancies at Beaudesert Hospital, utilising all available avenues—including advertising for staff, the use of medical recruitment agencies and the use of relieving doctors.

785. Women in Management

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (5/12/01)—

With reference to the latest annual report only 20 per cent of female staff are in management roles of AO6 or above while comparatively 60 per cent of male staff are in positions AO6 or above and in light of the recent pay equity Bill which passed through this House during the week ending 1 December—

(1) Is he proud of this result?

(2) What steps is he taking to ensure women are equally represented in senior management roles?

(3) Does he have a target date for equal representation in the management field?

Mr NUTTALL (4/1/02):

(1) The issue of women's representation in management positions has and will continue to remain a matter of high priority for me and the Department of Industrial Relations. It is gratifying to note that the Minimum Obligatory Human Resource Information (MOHRI) supplied by the Department for the September 2001 quarter, shows an upward movement in women in roles AO6 and above.

(2) Specific steps taken to improve workforce diversity to date include:

The Department of Industrial Relations, with the Department of Employment and Training, has an active and committed Women's Network, which includes a substantial Regional Women's Network. The Women's Network provides an important support, social and information mechanism for female staff and is the Department of Industrial Relations' chief consultative mechanism on issues affecting women in the department. Through representation on the Departmental Employment Equity Advisory Committee, the Women's Network is actively involved in developing, monitoring and evaluating strategies to enhance opportunities for women in SES, Senior Officer, Upper and Middle Management positions.

The Department of Industrial Relations is currently implementing a mentoring pilot for women and other EEO target groups. The pilot, which commenced in October and will continue for 9 months, is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to better access promotional and professional development opportunities.

With the Department of Employment and Training, the department conducts the International Women's Day Awards, which recognises the achievements of female staff in the categories of Customer Focus, Leadership and Quiet Achiever, including the achievements of staff in regional offices.

The department will continue to actively encourage female staff to apply for scholarships to the Public Sector Management Course. Additionally, the department has and will continue to actively encourage and support women wishing to enrol in this program. This includes financial support.

The department has a range of flexible work practices and policies to assist staff balance work and family responsibilities. These include:

- availability of a family room

- subscribing to a child care referral service

- special leave, half-pay long service leave and similar policies to allow better balancing of work and family

The department is currently formulating its Diversity and Equity Plan for 2002-2005. This will provide the strategic framework for initiatives to increase opportunities for women in the department and is designed to achieve specific outcomes for women in management and executive positions.

(3) The Department will incorporate targets into its Diversity and Equity Plan 2002-2005.

786. Park Rangers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Environment (5/12/01)—

Will he provide details on the total number of full-time rangers at 30 June for each year since 1995 assigned to service national parks and will he detail the numbers assigned for each locality for each year since 1995, as well as a list of the national parks and area of each national park under their supervision?

Mr WELLS (3/1/02): The number of full time equivalent (FTE) rangers assigned to park management for each year since 1995 are:

Year	Full Time Equivalent Ranger Numbers	Area of Estate (Hectares)
1994-95	397	6.8 million
1995-96	388	7.5 million
1996-97	390	7.5 million
1997-98	390	7.5 million
1998-99	376	7.6 million
1999-20	355	7.6 million
2000-01	369	7.7 million

The attached spreadsheet provides details of the districts in which these rangers are employed and the area of protected lands managed within each district.

As the Environmental Protection Agency only records details of employee's headquarters and not the national parks they service, I have provided locality details at district level and not at individual park level. The department informs me that these officers may service more than one park.

Please note that during these time frames, the Environmental Protection Agency migrated to a new human resource information system and underwent organisational restructures. Consequently, only FTE data at District Office level for 1 July 1998 and 30 June 2001 are readily available.

A State Register of individual national parks and other protected lands is held by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on an extensive database. This data is available on request from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

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

787. Emergency Services Staffing, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (5/12/01)—

With reference to the growth projects for the city of Gladstone and Calliope Shire—

What plans have been put in place to increase personnel and resources for the fire brigade, ambulance service, SES and rural brigade?

Mr REYNOLDS (4/1/02):**Queensland Fire and Rescue Service—Central Queensland Region**

The Chief Executive Officers' Committee for Employment, Economic Development and Infrastructure (the Committee) has identified two projects for development, one of which is the Gladstone/Rockhampton corridor. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) is currently providing input for the Regional Action Project—Project Governance, which has been developed by the Committee to assess the impact of scenarios relating to the infrastructure requirements of the various agencies and the services they provide. These scenarios are currently under development by the Committee and will be presented to the Rockhampton Regional Managers' Forum in February 2002. The scenarios will then drive a re-evaluation of the service plan for the QFRS Central Region, which will incorporate a review of the personnel and resources required in the Gladstone and Calliope areas.

It is expected that the areas addressed will include those outside the urban fire levy area, particularly the Aldoga/Yarwun State Development area, where auxiliary crews are not readily available. The QFRS will liaise with the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Counter Disaster and Rescue Service in relation to the impact of growth projects upon emergency services in the Central Region. This will include reviewing service delivery models and the development of medium to long term strategies to deal with any increased demand brought about by major infrastructure development proposed for the Central Region, such as the Aldoga/Yarwun State Development Area and the new Magnesium plant at Stanwell near Rockhampton. Issues to be considered will also include: population growth, during construction and post construction; the impact of increased population levels on emergency services and a possible requirement for a review of staffing levels; additional training of on-site safety personnel in fire safety and related issues; and special risks associated with the introduced industries.

Queensland Fire and Rescue Service—Rural Fire Service

Fire and fire management in rural and remote areas of Queensland is provided through a partnership between the State Government, Local Government and the community. This partnership represents the involvement of some 44,000 volunteers in the provision of these very important services. This Government acknowledges the level of service and commitment this represents by these volunteers and communities. This current financial year, the Government will spend \$148M in providing fire services to Queensland's regional and remote communities. Since the early 1990s, the Rural Fire Service has been replacing outdated rural fire brigade appliances with modern fire appliances. By 30 June 2002, more than 500 modern fire appliances will have been delivered to rural fire brigades across Queensland in the last 10 years.

The QFRS regularly reviews the boundaries of urban and rural fire brigades to ensure that the appropriate service delivery models are in place to address actual risk that exists. Adjustments to the boundaries of service delivery areas are made when changes in risk occur.

The Rural Fire Service has also implemented a risk-profiling and classification methodology that facilitates the matching of resources, training and management of risk which actually exists in a particular brigade district, Local Government area or region.

In the Calliope Shire, there are 18 rural fire brigades comprising 130 volunteer firefighters covering an area of 5219.7 km²; 9 class one and 9 class two brigades who operate a range of rural firefighting equipment, including 4 medium and 8 light attack modern appliances.

Counter Disaster and Rescue Services

The Gladstone City Council and Calliope Shire Council have combined under the provisions of the State Counter Disaster Organisation Act 1975 for counter disaster purposes.

This means that there is one State Emergency Service Unit (Gladstone/Calliope) and this is comprised of active State Emergency Service Groups in the communities of Gladstone, Calliope, Mount Larcom and Boyne Island/Tannum Sands.

The Gladstone/Calliope SES Unit is well resourced with personnel and equipment for providing support and assistance to other services if and when the need arises.

The SES Unit is comprised of approximately 90 active volunteers, many of whom are trained in a wide variety of emergency and disaster related skills ranging from general rescue situations to road accident rescue and vertical rescue. The Unit has a sound self-sustainability in terms of training with qualified instructors in all fields of SES activity.

The SES Unit self regulate their membership and recruit as required. There are no plans to expand the SES operations in this area.

Queensland Ambulance Services

Queensland Ambulance Service monitors service demand on a continuing basis. Workforce modelling assists the service to identify those areas where caseload growth warrants staff establishment increases.

Experience has shown that large infrastructure projects do not always cause a significant increase in workload for the QAS and the increased workload that does occur can be managed with existing resources or through the appropriate use of temporary additional resources for the duration of the development stages of a project.

The construction of the third Potline at the Boyne Smelter is an example of such a project.

The Chief Executive Officers' Committee for Employment, Economic Development and Infrastructure identified the Gladstone-Rockhampton corridor as one of a number of areas having potential to impact upon service delivery plans for the Department of Emergency Services.

The Director General has requested that the Assistant Commissioner Queensland Ambulance Service Central Region liaise with the Assistant Commissioner Queensland Fire and Rescue Service and the District Manager Counter Disaster and Rescue Service in relation to the impact of growth projects upon emergency services in the Central Region.

Over the coming months, Operational Managers of QAS will work with their counterparts to review service delivery models and develop medium to long term strategies to deal with any increased demand brought about by major

infrastructure projects proposed for the Central Region such as the Aldoga Project at Yarwun near Gladstone and the Stanwell Magnesium Project.

It is proposed that the strategies developed will be the basis for discussions between project proponents and the Department of Emergency Services during the planning stages of projects.

Some of the issues to be considered will include:

- Population growth during construction and post construction;
- Effect of increased population upon emergency services and if necessary the need for a graduated increase in staff in response to increased demand;
- Site safety and casualty evacuation procedures; and
- Training of project safety personnel in advanced casualty management.

788. QLink

Mr HOPPER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/12/01)—

Does QLink intend to change their merchandise freight charges from a weight basis to a volumetric basis, thus affecting the likes of hay and chaff being freighted west from our stockfeed manufacturers?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02): Since its commencement of operations in 1991, Q-Link has generally had the ability to charge on a volume or mass basis.

Most road transport operators also charge on either a volume or mass basis, depending on the commodity.

Unlike the road transport industry, Q-Link does not currently charge for its hay and chaff consignments on a volume basis. However, as a result of QR's responsibility to move to a more commercial basis, a review of this practice is to be undertaken in early 2002, particularly in view of the poor cost recovery for hay and chaff.

It has not been determined what the outcome will be for this commodity at this stage. However consultation with major stakeholders will be conducted to ensure the most appropriate outcome for customers and QR alike.

789. Road Funding

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (5/12/01)—

- (1) What is the future direction for the distribution of road funding?
- (2) Is the West Australian system of road funding distribution a model being considered for adoption by Queensland?
- (3) Who will be comprising the distribution council?
- (4) How will the shire councils be divided?
- (5) How will he ensure road funding distribution will be fair to smaller shire councils?
- (6) Will Government ensure all councils are briefed in writing to stop confusion and unnecessary concern?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02):

(1) The State Government's road funding commitments are detailed annually in the Roads Implementation Program (RIP). RIP formulation takes into account:

The need to rehabilitate and maintain existing assets.

Priority projects statewide.

Employment protection to Main Roads and local government workforces in vulnerable communities.

(2) Main Roads and the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), on behalf of the state's local governments, are jointly investigating the development of an alliance that will consider better ways for Main Roads and local government to determine project priorities and delivery that gives better value from all road funding available to both levels of government. This alliance will include an examination of aspects of the Western Australian road funding system.

(3 & 4) The aspects of the alliance are still the subject of consultation.

(5) It is proposed that participation be voluntary. Main Roads will continue to determine National Highway, State Strategic Roads and Regional Road investment priorities in the normal way, influenced by councils. Irrespective of their size, those local governments that participate in the alliance will have increased influence in the allocation of road funding.

(6) In July 2001, the President of the LGAQ and I wrote to all Queensland local government mayors outlining proposals for an alliance. The LGAQ has updated its members through information contained in their journal the "Council Leader". It is proposed that all councils will be consulted through regional forums in early 2002 as part of further development of a positive deal for local government.

790. Racing Industry, Prize Money

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (5/12/01)—

With reference to the recent increases in minimum prize money for thoroughbred races in Sydney and Melbourne—

- (1) What plans are there to increase Brisbane's minimum prize money or assist the industry to increase prize money levels?
- (2) Does she support any review of the distribution of prize money between city, provincial and country racing?
- (3) Does she have any plans to further promote Queensland racing relative to the southern States and reverse the relocation of top horses and training stables interstate?

Mrs ROSE (24/12/01):

- (1) This is an issue for the new Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board to consider.
- (2) This is an issue for the new Queensland Thoroughbred Racing Board to consider.
- (3) The Government already contributes significant funds to the promotion of thoroughbred racing in Queensland. The movement of horses, training stables, jockeys etc between States is both an historical and a cyclical feature of horse racing in Australia. This aspect of racing has developed further in recent years where top horses and participants now also regularly move overseas to optimise racing opportunities.

791. Queensland Electoral Commission

Mrs SHELDON asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (5/12/01)—

With reference to a promise by the Premier on 26 November 2000 that an 'anti-rot audit system' would be established within the Queensland Electoral Commission—

- (1) Has this 'anti-rot audit system' been established; if so, when was it established?
- (2) What resources, both financial and human, have been devoted to the system?
- (3) What are the details on how this system works?
- (4) Have any rorts been detected to date; if so, what rorts?

Mr WELFORD (4/1/02):

- (1) No. On 21 January 2001, the Premier, in his historic Barcaldine statement, announced a comprehensive package of electoral reforms to deal with electoral fraud. In my Ministerial Statement to Parliament on 13 December 2001 I stated that I was aiming to introduce legislation to implement these reforms as soon as possible after the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee reports on the Private Members Bill, the Electoral (Fraudulent Actions) Amendment Bill 2000.
- (2) Not required.
- (3) Not required.
- (4) Not required.

792. Department of Health, Capital Works Program

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (5/12/01)—

Will she provide an updated Capital Works program for the Department of Health since the tabling of the State Budget and will she include in that revised program (a) any variations in Capital Expenditure for each project that were itemised in the State Budget, (b) the total of projected capital works costs for 2001-02 in the revised Capital Works Budget for the Department of Health and (c) the reasons for each variation for each project?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/02): (a) (b) (c) As at 30 November 2001 Queensland Health had expended 33.9% of the capital works program for 2001/2002. This is 3.9% behind projected expenditure.

793. Internet Access at Hospitals

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (5/12/01)—

Has any complaint been received by the Director-General of Health relating to child pornographic internet sites being accessed from computer terminals at the Prince Charles Hospital and at the Royal Brisbane Hospital; if so, what action did the Director-General take to eliminate this illegal practice occurring again and what disciplinary action has been taken?

Mrs EDMOND (4/1/02): No.

794. East Coast Trawl Fishery

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (5/12/01)—

With reference to the reduction in fishing effort within the East Coast Trawl Fishery since the introduction of the East Coast Trawl Management Plan—

Will he provide a comparison of catch levels and average financial returns to fishermen within the fishery this year relative to those for each of the last five years?

Mr PALASZCZUK (4/1/02): I am advised by the Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) that the completed data sets required to complete the analysis for the year 2001 will not be available until early in the year 2002. This is because there is a time lag between the time the logbooks are completed and submitted by trawl operators and data entry into the database.

The QFS does not collect information to estimate average financial returns to trawl operators.

795. QSuper Fund

Mr JOHNSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (5/12/01)—

With reference to a Question Without Notice from the Leader of the Opposition on 27 November 2001, in relation to serious deficiencies in relation to the administration of the QSuper Fund and the following unsatisfactory response the Minister provided in relation to the administration of the QSuper Fund 'In reality, if there was a lapse in the system, it occurred whilst the Opposition were in government. Let me assure members, I will rectify it' and in the interests of having him demonstrate some responsible management of his portfolio as it is important that the

380,000 QSuper fund members can have faith in the proper administration of the fund and as the Auditor-General has admitted that he has only looked at a sample of payments to date—

- (1) Will he now commission a full audit of all QSuper payments, of the security systems and of the financial and administrative procedures?
- (2) Will he explain why the Government Superannuation Office does not have a centralised record keeping system and record software management program?
- (3) How long has he known about these problems and how does he propose to fix them?

Mr MACKENROTH (2/1/02):

(1) The Queensland Audit Office undertakes an audit of the financial administrative and security systems of the GSO each year. In addition, the GSO is subject to an ongoing internal audit program, which considers both the financial administrative procedures and also the security systems.

During both the internal and external audit process a sample of payments are examined for accuracy, for conformance with QSuper's governing legislation and the process itself is also reviewed.

(2) The GSO maintains a centralised computer based record keeping system of all member records on a single administration platform provided from a commercial supplier, which is at industry standard.

(3) The GSO and QSuper have an enviable reputation for administration and operate one of the most well regarded funds in the country. There are many controls on QSuper procedures and active Trustees, including Government and Union representatives, who oversight the GSO. The Government sees no reason to interfere in the role of the Trustees.

796. Rural Addressing System

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (5/12/01)—

With reference to the implementation of the rural addressing system—

- (1) Will his department be providing any funding for this implementation; if so, how much?
- (2) What is the timeframe for the implementation of this system?

Mr ROBERTSON (4/1/02):

(1) I am responsible for the Queensland Spatial Information Infrastructure Strategy, a whole of Government approach to improving access to relevant and reliable integrated spatial information. Rural addressing is one of the initiatives under this strategy and the Government has been contributing to the implementation of rural addressing for the last four and a half years.

In this current financial year 75% of an FTE is assigned to coordinating rural addressing (responsibility shared between two officers—one based in Brisbane and one based in Cairns). This equates to approximately \$75,000 in salary and operational costs.

(2) The actual implementation of rural addressing is the responsibility of local government and therefore it is not possible to predict accurately a completion date. However, as of August 2001, 41 Queensland local governments had completed their rural addressing projects. A further 70 were at various stages, either evaluating, trialling or in the implementation phase.

797. Queensland Police Service, Staffing

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (5/12/01)—

- (1) How many operational police and civilian employees are presently working in the Queensland Police Service, Sunshine Coast region?
- (2) What is the number of operational police and civilian employees across the Queensland Police Service, compared to the numbers prior to the election of the Beattie Labor Government in 1998?

Mr McGRADY (4/1/02):

(1) The North Coast Region consists of five districts including the Sunshine Coast District. I am advised that, as at 1 December 2001:

The North Coast Region has the following employees: 956 operational police; 24 non-operational police; and 231 civilians.

The Sunshine Coast District has the following employees: 336 operational police; 8 non-operational police; and 67 civilians.

(2) I am advised that on 1 July 1998 there were 6210 operational police, 623 non-operational police and 2576 civilians in the Queensland Police Service.

I am advised that, as at 1 December 2001 there are 7178 operational police, 731 non-operational police and 3064 civilians.

798. International Year of the Volunteer

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (5/12/01)—

What has been the success in Queensland of the International Year of the Volunteer celebrations?

Ms SPENCE (11/1/02): The International Year of Volunteers (IYV) was an outstanding success in promoting the contributions of volunteers to Queensland society.

A wide range of marketing material was produced for IYV in Queensland, which included posters, 100 billboards, bookmarks, stickers T-shirts and postcards. The internationally acclaimed band, Powderfinger, gave their support to the Year by appearing on a postcard, which was distributed through the Avant card network in cafes, restaurants and shops.

A total of \$500,000 was allocated to over 100 organisations throughout Queensland through the two rounds of funding for the International Year of Volunteers Community Grants Program. These funds were provided to celebrate volunteering throughout IYV, enhance the recruitment of volunteers, recognise and promote best practice in volunteering, and improve the level of support and resources available to volunteers.

On 16 May 2001, the Premier announced the 12 State Winners of the Queensland Premier's International Year of Volunteers Awards. More than 800 nominations were considered in the two categories of 'individual' and 'group'. In addition to the 12 State awards, 67 regional winners were honoured at special regional ceremonies. The six regions are South East, Far North, North/North West, Central, Wide Bay and South West.

In July 2001, State Members of Parliament received 20 medallions, in addition to lapel pins and certificates to present to volunteers within their communities. The Member of Parliament celebrations to award the medallions were coordinated in the local electorates.

The Queensland Government's first draft policy and discussion paper on volunteering 'Engaging Queensland' is currently being distributed to volunteers and community organisations throughout the State. The document sets out an ongoing role for the State Government in supporting this important area of social activity. The discussion paper provides background information and identifies some key issues that impact on volunteers in this State.

The IYV Corporate Awards, held in December 2001, recognised the contribution of the corporate sector to community partnerships and volunteering. This was particularly important as it not only recognised the achievements of Queensland companies, but also highlighted the significant contribution the corporate sector can make through partnership development. It also illustrated to many companies the benefits available through recognition of volunteers in the workforce.

The presentation of the awards took place at a corporate lunch held in the Parliamentary Annexe. Nine awards were presented under the categories of large, medium and small business, and an IYV Outstanding Achievement Award acknowledged Quest Newspapers as one Queensland organisation that had demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community and volunteering throughout 2001.

799. Performance Bonuses

Mr HORAN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (6/12/01)—

Will he detail the benchmarks, criteria and targets each departmental Chief Executive Officer or Director-General must meet to receive a performance bonus each year?

Mr BEATTIE (2/1/02): Chief Executive Officer performance agreements are developed by Chief Executive Officer's in consultation with myself and their Ministers. The performance agreements are framed around the Government priorities for individual portfolios, and are a means of ensuring Departments focus on achievement in key priority areas during the year. Each Chief Executive Officer reports to me annually against the objectives contained in their performance agreement. The Auditor-General has audited the process surrounding the payment of bonuses to Chief Executive Officers and endorsed the level of disclosure.

800. Forestry Multiplication

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (6/12/01)—

With reference to the slash pine plantations around Maryborough and Gympie which are havens and multiplication sites for hybrid dingoes, wild dogs, feral pigs, groundsel and lantana and as all these animals and plants cause farmers and graziers considerable work and expense, and inflict damage and mortality on crops and herds and currently, a farmer can engage in an effective eradication program, only to find that his property is almost immediately reinfested from the forestry multiplication sites—

Will he decrease the multiplication within forestry land and thus assist farmers and graziers?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/1/02): Responsibility for control of noxious weeds and feral animals on State Forest is shared between the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Forestry and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)—Forests and Wildlife Division. The two (2) agencies cooperate on pest control issues with DPI Forestry generally responsible for weed control and QPWS responsible for animal control.

DPI Forestry is a signatory to the State Pest Management Strategy and is currently redrafting its policy to reflect this initiative. DPI Forestry has a history of cooperation with local shire councils and neighbours in terms of priorities for weed control.

Expenditure on the control of noxious weeds and feral animals by DPI Forestry in the Maryborough and Gympie pine plantations for the 2000/2001 financial year was \$133,000. In addition a further \$125,000 was spent on controlled burning which is particularly effective in controlling noxious weeds.

801. Blenheim State School, Principal

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (6/12/01)—

With reference to Blenheim State School, which has had 16 different principals in 10 years and as representatives from the school are anxious to retain the present acting principal because of the improvements he has made to the school and the respect he has gained from parents and students—

Will this be given consideration when the selection of a permanent principal is made?

Ms BLIGH (7/1/02): The commitment of the current Acting Principal at Blenheim State School is acknowledged. A permanent principal has been appointed and will take up the position in January 2002. This Principal has been relocated to the school as part of Education Queensland's Human Resources recruitment and selection processes. The principal, in accepting the position, has made a commitment to stay at Blenheim State School for a minimum of two years, providing stability for the school.

802. Departments of Transport and Main Roads, Capital Works Program

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (6/12/01)—

Will he provide an updated Capital Works Program for the Department of Transport and Department of Main Roads since the tabling of the State Budget and will he include in that revised program (a) any variations in Capital Expenditure for each project that were itemised in the State Budget, (b) the total of projected capital works costs for 2001-02 in the revised Capital Works budget for the Department of Main Roads and the Department of Transport and (c) the reasons for any variation for each project since the State Budget was handed down?

Mr BREDHAUER (3/1/02): As at 30 November 2001, QT had expended 21% of the capital works program. This is 11.6% behind projection. MR had expended 47% of the capital works program which is well ahead of pro rata.

803. Travel by Premier

Mr QUINN asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (6/12/01)—

Will he provide details on all commercial flights, tabled by intra-state, interstate and international, that he has undertaken since becoming Premier, the class of travel undertaken and the cost of each journey?

Mr BEATTIE (2/1/02): In relation to interstate commercial flight travel for the period 26 June 1998 to 6 December 2001, I undertook four journeys in Business Class and one journey in Charter Class for a total of \$3,390.42.

I have undertaken a total of 12 trips overseas using a combination of first class, business class and economy class fares on commercial international flights for a total of \$117,089.62.

804. Coastal Protection Plans

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Environment (6/12/01)—

With reference to the Coastal Protection Plans—

- (1) What is the anticipated date of completion of regional plans?
- (2) What status is each of these presently at?
- (3) What consultations have been undertaken on each of these?

Mr WELLS (8/1/02):

(1) & (2) Regional coastal management plans are currently being prepared for Wet Tropical Coast, Cardwell-Hinchinbrook, Curtis Coast, Wide Bay and South-east Queensland. Each of these plans is in preliminary stages, due to the need to finalise the State Coastal Management Plan to provide the framework. In September 2001 the Government endorsed the final State Coastal Plan. It is expected that drafts of the Curtis Coast, Cardwell-Hinchinbrook, Wet Tropical Coast and South-east Queensland plans will be released for public comment in 2002 and completed during 2003. The release of these draft plans will be publicly notified and interested parties will be able to make submissions. Following finalisation of these first four regional coastal plans, work will recommence on the Wide Bay plan and commence on the plans for the Whitsundays, Dry Tropical Coast (around Townsville) and Capricorn Coast regions. The three remaining coastal plan regions—Cape York, The Gulf and Torres Strait—will follow as other coastal plans are finalised.

(3) Regional consultative groups with representation from local government, rural industries, development industry, conservation, Indigenous interests and other regional community interests have been formed for each coastal plan region to assist in the plans' preparation. The role of these groups is to advise me on the progress and consultation processes required in each region. In addition to the regional consultative groups, the processes for developing the plans have involved regional representatives of community, industry and government involved in other forums associated with the plans, such as technical advisory groups, scientific reference groups, whole-of-government working groups and Aboriginal issues reference groups. Extensive consultation has occurred in each of the commenced areas. Regional consultative groups are in place and have had significant input into the preliminary regional plans and there have been meetings and workshops in the relevant locations.

805. Education Queensland, Capital Works Program

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Education (6/12/01)—

Will she provide an updated Capital Works program for Education Queensland since the tabling of the State Budget and will she include in that revised program (a) any variations in Capital Expenditure for each project that were itemised in the State Budget, (b) the total of projected capital works costs for 2001-02 in the revised Capital Works budget for Education Queensland, (c) the reasons for any variation for each project since the State Budget was handed down, (d) the total of projected Capital Works costs for 2001-02 in the revised Capital Works Budget for Education Queensland for the electorate of Caloundra, (e) the detail of Capital Works per school and (f) the time commitment for commencement and completion of each project?

Ms BLIGH (7/1/02): As at 30 November 2001 Education Queensland had expended 66% of the capital works program. This is 17% ahead of projections.

806. Water Charges

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (6/12/01)—

With reference to the changes being made to the water charging regime used by SunWater for water used by local governments in their town water supply schemes throughout regional Queensland—

- (1) On what basis are the new water charges to local governments being calculated?
- (2) When will the new charges take effect?
- (3) Will the new charges affect the increased price paths that other water users pay as local governments pay an increased proportion of SunWater's costs, or will the new charges only result in an increased net return for SunWater?
- (4) Which councils are facing the new charges?
- (5) What will be the amount of the increase, in price per megalitre, of water charges for each council?

Mr ROBERTSON (8/1/02):

- (1) When the contracts expire or provide for a price review, SunWater will be consulting with relevant local governments on the cost of providing the service, within normal commercial pricing principles. This is consistent with the approach provided by the National Competition Policy (NCP) which is administered by the National Competition Council (NCC), and taken by the previous coalition government.
- (2) SunWater is negotiating with relevant councils with a view to agreeing to a phase-in of new charges. The transition period would allow up to five years time for adjustment and better accommodation within budget and planning cycles.
- (3) No. Users pay the cost attributable to their use of the resource as required by the NCC and the reforms agreed to by all Australian governments and confirmed by the previous coalition government. The commonwealth government's NCC is tightly implementing the COAG reforms. We need to look no further than the NCC's decision on Townsville to appreciate their will to require implementation of these reforms.
- (4) Some 20 councils have contracts that have expired or can have the prices reviewed. Some of these councils have already written to SunWater indicating agreement to pay the new charges.
- (5) The proposed new charges are a commercial matter between SunWater and each council.

807. Ambulance Station and Communications Centre, Buderim

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (6/12/01)—

What improved benefits will occur through (a) the opening of the new Buderim Ambulance Station and (b) the new communications centre at North Buderim?

Mr REYNOLDS (7/1/02):

(a) The new Buderim Ambulance Station is part of a major initiative to enhance ambulance resources on the Sunshine Coast. It is keeping pace with the ambulance service demands of this rapidly growing and dynamic community. Until recently the condition and location of a number of ambulance stations on the Sunshine Coast was inconsistent with providing high quality ambulance services and short response times. As a result of this initiative ambulance stations at Maroochydore, Nambour and Buderim have been upgraded and relocated to locations with quick access to the major arterial roads such as the Bruce Highway and the Sunshine Motorway. The new Buderim Ambulance Station is located on the western side of Buderim and provides coverage to growing communities such as Chancellor Park as well as providing easy access to the entire Buderim area, Bruce Highway and the Sunshine Motorway.

(b) The new Ambulance Communications Centre on the Sunshine Coast is a state-of-the-art facility incorporating the latest technology designed to enhance the delivery of emergency ambulance services. The facility is equipped with Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD), Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL), which is linked to Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) installed in all ambulance vehicles with an emergency response capability in the South East corner of the State. This technology means that the nearest ambulance to an emergency incident can be quickly identified and dispatched, thus ensuring the fastest possible response times to emergencies.

The new Centre is also equipped with a computer aided patient transport management system to ensure that those members of the community who rely on the QAS for non-urgent medical transport services receive an efficient, effective and reliable service.

The combination of new ambulance stations in much better locations and the new Ambulance Communications Centre represent a significant investment in the provision of ambulance services to the Sunshine Coast community. These changes will ensure that ambulance response times and services will meet the needs of this community well into the future.

808. Ward 9D, Royal Brisbane Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (6/12/01)—

With reference to staff positions within Ward 9D at Royal Brisbane Hospital—

- (1) How many positions are currently vacant in the ward?
- (2) When did these positions fall vacant?
- (3) What process has been followed to advertise these positions and when?
- (4) 12 months ago, what was the situation with staff vacancies in this ward and when were the jobs advertised?

Mrs EDMOND (7/1/02):

- (1) There are 8.1 vacancies for permanent staff as at 10/12/01 based upon total nursing staffing numbers.
- (2) The 8.1 unfilled vacancies occurred between the 19 August and the 28 November 2001.

Vacancy dates of Registered Nurses in 9D this current financial year.

Date	Reason
1/07/01	Resignation for family/personal reasons—filled
17/07/01	Resignation following a performance management process—decided not suitable for working in the oncology area filled
19/08/01	Resignation to travel overseas
16/09/01	Transfer to Royal Children's Oncology Service
22/09/01	Resignation to travel overseas
7/10/01	Transfer to Royal Children's Oncology Service
7/10/01	Resignation to travel overseas
8/10/01	Transfer to another Oncology ward in RBH
16/10/01	Resignation
26/11/01	Promotion to CNC

- (3) The Division of Oncology has for many years pursued an active recruitment program in Queensland and nationally. During the current financial year this has been extended internationally.

Vacancies for Registered Nurses for the Bone Marrow Transplant/Haematology Ward, the Haematology and Medical Oncology Day Therapy Unit, and Radiation/Medical Oncology wards and outpatient services have been periodically advertised in The Courier-Mail, Health Services Bulletin, Weekend Australian and RBH/RWH Nursing Gazette since July, 2000. Oncology nurses are also regularly sought from Nursing Agencies for full-time or part-time contract work.

Vacancies for Registered Nurses experienced in Bone Marrow Transplantation/Haematology and Oncology are advertised on the worldwide Website of two international health sector staffing consultancies.

- (4) On 6 December 2000, there were no permanent vacancies in ward 9D.

As explained in response (3) above, vacancies were advertised in the Courier Mail, Health Services Bulletin, Weekend Australian and RBH/RWH Nursing Gazette since July, 2000.

809. Speed Cameras

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (6/12/01)—

With reference to speed cameras which were introduced in an attempt to reduce the speed related accidents on roads—

What impact have these cameras had and are there any future strategies designed to make our roads safer?

Mr McGRADY (4/1/02): I am advised that speed cameras are estimated to have saved an average 75 lives a year since their introduction. Evaluations of the program clearly show that speed cameras have made a significant contribution to the reduction in the road toll.

In 1996 (the year prior to the introduction of speed cameras), 386 people died on Queensland roads. In 1998 Queensland had the lowest ever road toll of 279. By 1999 the road toll was 17.5% lower than the average road toll from 1994-1998.

Safety issues are addressed in the Road Use Management Strategy (2000), which has a 20 year vision and is reviewed on a five year cycle.

The Queensland Road Safety Strategy 1993-2003 (revised in 1999) represents an integrated 10 year framework for better planning and better resource targeting of road safety in Queensland. For details of these and additional strategies, may I suggest the Member direct a question to the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads.

Additionally, the, 2002-2003 Road Safety Action Plan is currently in development and is due to go to cabinet in early 2002.

810. Vessel Monitoring System

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (6/12/01)—

With reference to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) which refers to the total Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) System for monitoring vessel position of which the Automatic Location Communicator (ALC) is a part—

- (1) Will he guarantee that each vessel participating in the VMS is fitted with an ALC; if not, why not?
- (2) Has he been made aware of any inconsistencies in the operation of the two satellite systems to track vessels, through the Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Inmarsat system?
- (3) Will he provide the specific details of the number of offences that trawl operators have been penalised for relating to errors that have occurred between the two satellite systems since he became the Minister in July 1998?

Mr PALASZCZUK (7/1/02):

- (1) ALC or automatic location communicator is a generic term for units which report position. VMS units are therefore ALCs.

VMS is prescribed equipment in the T1, T2, M1 (Moreton Bay and outside) fisheries, N9 (Gulf Net), Developmental Lobster, beche-de-mer and Developmental Finfish Trawl fisheries.

There are presently seventeen vessels licensed to the T1 fishery not equipped with VMS.

The vessels in question however are either not being used in the T1 fishery or are not capable of being used for fishing at all.

I am advised that operators with T1 endorsements but no VMS are being progressively interviewed by the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol and the appropriate action taken.

(2) The Queensland Fisheries Service (QFS) reports only two episodes where there has been some inconsistency with VMS. These are:

(1) On 22 August 1999 the GPS Satellite underwent a "GPS End of Week Rollover".

GPS satellites and receivers keep track of time by counting the number of weeks since 6 January 1980. Week numbers started at 0 and go up to 1023 before resetting to 0. This reset is known as GPS End of Week Rollover.

Approximately fourteen percent of the Queensland VMS fleet were affected by the GPS End of Week Rollover problem in August 1999. On these boats the date, time and position could no longer be accurately determined from the VMS units. This was a worldwide problem that was outside the control of QFS or the fishing industry.

All affected VMS units were quickly fixed by upgrading the unit's software, a fifteen-minute procedure.

(b) The Inmarsat satellite occasionally suffers "outages" (i.e., a technical problem with the satellite). These are rare and usually very short. There has only been one significant outage in the past year. That was in September and lasted for six hours. QFS is advised of all "outages".

(3) I am advised that no trawl operators are known to have been penalised during the episodes mentioned in Question 2.

811. Bus Services, Subsidies

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (6/12/01)—

With reference to a press report that increased subsidy payments have been provided to the National Bus Company that operates in the Redlands area to continue the provision of services over the next five years—

(1) Are these reports correct; if so, what is the basis for the increased subsidy payments?

(2) Why was a similar request for increased subsidy to maintain services provided by Brisbane Bus Lines refused?

(3) What is the difference in principle between these two cases?

Mr BREDHAUER (7/1/02):

(1) Queensland Transport has provided additional funding to the National Bus Company to ensure continuity of service into 2002. The additional funding has been agreed for a three-month period.

Queensland Transport received an application for additional funding from the National Bus Company. In considering this application, Queensland Transport undertook an analysis of the cost of providing the service, the level of service provided, including service frequency and spread, the age of the fleet and the population serviced.

It was determined that the funding being provided was insufficient to support continued service provision at the current levels and that some service changes may be required in tandem with increased funding.

(2 & 3) In relation to Brisbane Bus Lines, once notified of their intention to cease urban operations, Queensland Transport undertook an analysis of the costs of operating the service and the funding being provided. It was considered that the funding levels were reasonable and would support the service. However a funding package was developed for Brisbane Bus Lines' consideration, which was subsequently rejected by the company.

The level of funding provided to Brisbane Bus Lines was significantly higher than for the National Bus Company. Even with the additional funding the National Bus Company received, they are still being funded at a considerably lower amount per kilometre than was the case with Brisbane Bus Lines.

812. Family Support Program Guidelines

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (6/12/01)—

With reference to the Auditor-General's report on Disability Services discretionary funding for the Family Support Program—

(1) Have the new discretionary funding guidelines been implemented?

(2) Have all staff been given training in these new guidelines?

(3) How much extra funding has been allocated for the staff training in these guidelines?

(4) What does the training entail, e.g. are staff given face to face training or are they given a manual to read?

(5) Why did it take so long to issue the guidelines if, according to the Auditor-General, they had been issued in August 1999 and progressively revised?

(6) For what purpose is discretionary funding used?

(7) What is the maximum dollar amount of cash payments that are advanced?

Ms SPENCE (7/1/02):

- (1) Staff have been working from the final draft of the Disability Services Queensland (DSQ) Discretionary Funding Guidelines, these were implemented in June/July of 2001. Previous to this, regional staff and the Finance Management Branch had worked from approved interim Discretionary Funding Guidelines.
- (2) Training in the Discretionary Funding Guidelines was provided to all relevant DSQ staff in June/July 2001. Training was targeted at Regional Directors, Area Managers, Supervising Professional Officers, Financial Managers, Facilitators and Administration staff.
- (3) Program Administrative Funding was utilised to train DSQ Staff. Regular opportunities are made available to train new staff in the Family Support Guidelines on an average of a six monthly basis.
- (4) Central office staff provided face to face training for all relevant staff in the form of a full day, small group workshops in 13 local area offices during June/July 2001. Extra workshops were offered in the Brisbane area for staff who were unable to attend local area workshops.
- (5) The first draft of the Family Support Program Guidelines was developed and implemented in August 1999. The interim guidelines were refined following extensive feedback from staff, relevant members of DSQ, families supporting a child/children with a disability, DSQ Internal Audit and the Queensland Audit Office. The final draft of the guidelines was approved by the Board of Management in June/July 2001.
- (6) Discretionary Funds are used to provide a range of flexible and responsive supports and services to meet the needs of both the child with a disability and their family. The funds assist the whole family and the types of supports the family accesses vary greatly depending on the differing needs of families. Commonly accessed supports and services include in-home and out-of-home care for their child/children with a disability, household modifications and improvements, specialised equipment and therapy and counselling services.
- (7) Although there is no maximum dollar amount for cash advances, this is the third preferred payment option available to families. The preferred payment options outlined in the guidelines are payment on invoice directly by DSQ or reimbursement to families on presentation of receipt, with cash advances being considered if those are not suitable. Cash advances are only made in accordance to the restrictions outlined in the DSQ Funding Guidelines. Such restrictions include that cash advances should not be paid beyond one month at a time. Four funding bands and levels of support currently exist in the Family Support Program.

813. Goprint, QBuild

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (6/12/01)—

With reference to the Auditor-General's Report and the substantial losses incurred by Goprint and QBuild—

- (1) What strategies will be put in place to improve the financial position of these two business areas?
- (2) If these departments are arranged into a single reporting entity, will this allow the transparency in budgetary documents so that the profitability/decline of these two units is known?

Mr SCHWARTEN (7/1/02): With reference to the Auditor-General's Report and the substantial losses incurred by Goprint and QBuild—

- (1) Goprint has developed a range of strategies aimed at improving its financial performance. These include:
 - enhancing the range of products and services offered (e.g. multimedia) to better meet the needs of clients;
 - improvement of customer service and quality of output;
 - developing service level agreements with clients to achieve increased work volumes; and
 - reducing overhead costs.

QBuild has initiated a range of strategies to improve its trading performance. Key amongst these is the formation of stronger partnering arrangements between QBuild and its clients. These arrangements are embodied within revised performance based trading arrangements that will see more constant workflow patterns; regularised cash flow; and wherever possible simplified administrative arrangements.

QBuild has also been implementing a range of internal performance improvement initiatives designed to improve its overall financial position. Combined, these strategies are having a very positive impact on QBuild's trading performance.

- (2) The implementation of a single reporting entity for the Department of Public Works will not detract from performance transparency, budget neutrality or competitive neutrality, but will reduce Departmental costs and improve the overall management of the combined activities of the Department.

It is considered that the single reporting entity model will provide the Department of Public Works with the opportunity to take a whole-of-Department perspective without detracting from the overall accountability and business focus within the Department.

I am advised that the existing transparency in budgetary documents in respect of all five Commercialised Business Units (including Goprint and QBuild) will not be compromised.

814. Department of Housing, Shailer Park Units

Ms STONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (6/12/01)—

With reference to work which commenced in September on four new Department of Housing units in the suburb of Shailer Park and as this new accommodation is greatly needed to address the demand for affordable housing in my electorate of Springwood—

How is the Shailer Park project progressing and what other projects is the Department of Housing currently undertaking to address the growing need for affordable housing across Queensland?

Mr SCHWARTEN (8/1/02): The Shailer Park project was released to the contractor on 25 September 2001. The first floor slab has been poured and the timber frame has been constructed. The roof was delayed due to wet weather but is now in place.

In the electorate of Springwood, around \$2.5 million has been spent on affordable housing since the election of the Beattie government.

This has included spending by the Department of Housing of more than \$1.2 million to construct six new dwellings, buy an existing dwelling and purchase land for future development.

In addition, more than \$1 million has been spent improving existing housing stock through upgrade and maintenance programs.

The Department of Housing is involved in a number of projects that aim to provide affordable housing to Queenslanders in various locations across the State. In addition to providing housing through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, community housing, public rental, home purchase assistance and private housing assistance programs, the department is investigating ways of ensuring improved supply of affordable housing through better planning and innovative supply mechanisms.

Specifically, in Brisbane, the Brisbane Housing Company is being established as a partnership with Brisbane City Council to address the need for affordable housing in key areas of the city. This could provide a model approach to be reproduced in other areas. The Brisbane Housing Company will make use of funds not available to the Department's existing programs for housing provision. The first property to be held by the Brisbane Housing Company will be a complex at Bowen Hills comprising a boarding house and apartments now under construction.

The department is also taking a lead role in ensuring the best use of large sites is made in providing affordable housing. The Kelvin Grove Urban Village Project is one initiative that will eventually provide further affordable housing units for the Brisbane Housing Company in a well-designed and well-serviced village setting. Other major sites in Brisbane and other centres such as the Boggo Road site will be considered for their opportunities for providing similar outcomes.

The department is also exploring ways of improving planning requirements for housing development in areas of high growth and high need for affordable housing. This is aimed at ensuring some part of the benefits of growth is captured for the provision of affordable housing.

815. Department of Housing Stocks, Gladstone Electorate

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (6/12/01)—

- (1) What are the current Queensland Housing stocks in (a) Gladstone City and (b) Calliope Shire?
- (2) What are the number of houses currently unoccupied in both areas?

Mr SCHWARTEN (8/1/02):

(1) As at 30 November 2001, the housing stock in the Gladstone City local government area totalled 752 dwellings. This is comprised of 34 Community Housing dwellings, 26 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing dwellings and 692 Public Housing dwellings (including 84 seniors units). As at 30 November 2001, there were 61 Public Housing dwellings in the Calliope Shire, including 10 seniors' units.

(2) As at 30 November 2001, seven dwellings were vacant in the Gladstone City area. Five of these properties will be prepared for retenuing, and are due to be tenanted in January 2002. Two properties are to be sold, with settlement pending December 2001 and January 2002. As at 30 November 2001, there were no vacant dwellings in the Calliope Shire.

816. Gaming Machines

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Since the new gaming machine regulations came into effect, will he advise how many applications have been made by clubs and hotels for additional gaming machines?
- (2) Of those, how many applications have been successful and will he list their locations?

Mr MACKENROTH (10/1/02):

(1) Hotels—Nil. The legislation prevents applications for increases as well as new sites.

Clubs—36

(2) 28 applications from clubs have been successful. The remaining applications are still to be considered by the Queensland Gaming Commission. Successful applications are for premises in the following locations:—

Suburb/Location and Postcode—Alexandra Headland, 4572; Amity Point, 4183; Caloundra, 4551; Carseldine, 4034; Childers, 4660; Cooktown, 4871; Coolangatta, 4225; Coolum Beach, 4573; Dunwich, 4183; Innisfail, 4860; Kallangur, 4503; Mackay, 4740; Mackay, 4740; Main Beach, 4217; Mount Isa, 4825; Nambour, 4560; Pacific Paradise, 4564; Palm Beach, 4221; Palm Beach, 4221; Palm Beach, 4221; Point Lookout, 4183; Sarina, 4737; Springwood, 4127; Stanthorpe, 4380; Strathpine, 4500; ; Woodford, 4514; Woorim, 4507; Yandina, 4561.

817. Deer

Mr HOPPER asked the Minister for Environment (11/12/01)—

- (1) Does he realise that deer in the Crows Nest area are still a serious problem due to their being sighted well within the tick line and the threat of foot and mouth?
- (2) What does his department intend to do about this?

Mr WELLS (10/1/02): The question would be more appropriately addressed to my colleague the Minister for Primary Industries.

818. 'Developing an Export Blueprint for Queensland' Brochure

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for State Development (11/12/01)—

With reference to his answer on 9 November 2001 to Question on Notice No. 687 and to 'the design and preparation done in house'—

- (1) How many personnel were involved in these design and preparation activities?
- (2) What was the public service salary level of each employee engaged in these activities?
- (3) How many hours were spent by each employee on these activities?

Mr BARTON (7/1/02):

- (1) 2.
- (2) Both staff involved are on Level AO5, one staff member is a Senior Communications Officer, the other a Graphic Designer.
- (3) Senior Communications Officer 5 hours; Graphic Designer 8 hours.

819. Caloundra City Council

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Local Government and Planning (11/12/01)—

With reference to recent allegations that the Caloundra City Council has failed in recent years to act upon or implement council resolutions carried by the majority of councillors, specifically relating to notified motions and (suggested) council departmental resolutions relating to water supply and water and sewage infrastructure—

Will she confirm that Caloundra City Council has not implemented or acted upon the same resolutions since March 1997?

Mrs NITA CUNNINGHAM (9/1/02): The question provides insufficient information to identify the exact substance of the allegations. However, should the Member provide specific details in respect of the allegations, I would be happy to make the necessary inquiries and establish what the situation is.

820. Mount Ommaney Electorate, High School Nurse Program

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (11/12/01)—

What has been the success of the Beattie Government's High School Nurse Program in relation to schools in the Mount Ommaney electorate?

Mrs EDMOND (10/1/02): The School Based Youth Health Nurse Program is an initiative of the Queensland Government and deploys Registered nurses to deliver services to state schools with secondary students throughout Queensland. The nurses work with the school community to address health issues, and the proportion of time spent on individual consultations and health promotion activities is variable dependent on the needs.

The state high schools in the Mount Ommaney electorate are Centenary State High School and Corinda State High School. These schools share a full-time nursing position with each school normally receiving the services of a nurse five days each fortnight.

The data collected by the nurse for the first three school terms in 2001 indicated the school nurse had provided 180 individual confidential consultations for clients. Of these 174 were with students, with the majority of these consultations for psychosocial issues. This may include: abuse and neglect; body image; bullying; depression, domestic violence; eating disorders; relationship concerns; stress; or suicide ideation. Students also accessed the nurse for medical issues including acne and nutritional advice; issues related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; and sexual and reproductive health.

In addition, the school nurse has undertaken health education and promotion activities in the schools on sexual and reproductive health issues, protective behaviours related to violence and abuse, Sunsmart behaviour, smoking, and harm reduction prior to Schoolies Week.

821. Horse Industry, Public Liability Insurance

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Industrial Relations (11/12/01)—

With reference to proposals to frame new horse industry legislation under Workplace Health and Safety requirements—

When is this legislation proposed and will this legislation insist on compulsory Public Liability Insurance?

Mr NUTTALL (10/1/02): Following a recommendation of a Board of Inquiry, the Horse Riding Industry Reference Group was established in February 2000. This group consulted both the industry and the public widely, met on six occasions, and recommended the adoption of an Industry Code of Practice.

The Industry Code of Practice for Horse Riding Schools, Trail Riding Establishments and Horse Hiring Establishments 2002 was made by Minister Braddy on 15 January 2001, and commences on 1 January 2002.

The issue of public liability insurance is outside the scope of the Workplace Health and Safety Legislation. However, the Code of Practice does recommend that horse riding schools, trail riding establishments and horse hiring establishments hold public liability insurance.

822. South East Busway

Mr REEVES asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/12/01)—

What is the increase in passenger numbers on the South-East Busway since its opening?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/1/02): I am very pleased to report that patronage on core routes of the South-East Busway has grown by 40 percent in the first six months of operation.

This patronage boom equated to more than 450,000 new passenger trips made on buses.

Enthusiasm for busway services proved that if good public transport infrastructure and accessible, frequent and reliable bus services were provided, then people would choose those services over private transport.

There are approximately 58,000 passenger trips undertaken per day on the busway.

The figures indicate that 375,000 private vehicle trips were converted to public transport during those six months.

This conversion to bus travel has primarily resulted from the success of the state government funded Translink 111 service in conjunction with the Brisbane City Council's 160 service.

These all stop services operate at a highly reliable frequency along the busway and are obviously providing travel options not previously available.

The Translink 111 service, which is the only service stopping at all busway stations between Eight Mile Plains and the CBD, has increased its patronage levels from 65,000 trips in May to 100,000 trips in October.

The government is on track in building a world class transport system in south-east Queensland, to meet the growth projections set out in our regional plans.

823. Limousine Licence Holders

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (11/12/01)—

With reference to the recent survey of Limousine Licence holders in relation to the amalgamation of operating areas—

- (1) How many survey letters were issued?
- (2) What was the total of responses in favour of amalgamation and how many were against?
- (3) What action does Queensland Transport propose to take as a result of this survey?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/1/02):

(1) All 444 limousine service licence holders were sent a letter and survey requesting their comments in relation to the proposal to amalgamate all coastal limousine service areas in line with the existing Limousine Policy. This policy states that where limousine licence values in separate areas are within 15 percent value of each other, the areas will be amalgamated. It should also be noted that the National Competition Policy review also recommends the amalgamation of limousine service areas.

(2) Queensland Transport received responses from owners representing 311 licences with 212 responding in support of the amalgamation and 99 objecting.

(3) All limousine service licence holders were advised by letter dated 6 December 2001 that, in accordance with the Limousine Policy and the National Competition Policy recommendation, the three coastal areas of south-east Queensland/Mackay, Rockhampton/Townsville and far north Queensland are amalgamated. All licences in those areas have received amended licence documentation.

This means that there are now only two limousine service areas being the whole of Queensland and the rest of Queensland. Whole of Queensland licences can now operate anywhere in the state. Rest of Queensland licences can operate anywhere in Queensland except for the amalgamated area of south-east Queensland/Mackay, Rockhampton/Townsville and far north Queensland.

It is anticipated that this amalgamation will allow limousines to move freely around the state to meet demand and the industry as a whole will thereby provide improved service delivery to the community.

824. Police Resources, Yeppoon

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (11/12/01)—

- (1) What are the current police numbers at Yeppoon including (a) plain clothes police, (b) uniform police, (c) water police and (d) clerical staff?
- (2) What is the current program to increase these numbers in view of the increasing population of the Yeppoon area?

Mr McGRADY (16/1/02): In answer to the honourable member's question, I am advised as follows:

(1) As at 6 December 2001, the approved and actual staffing numbers at Yeppoon were as follows:

- (a) 3 plain clothes police;
- (b) 16 general duties police (including 1 currently performing duties in the District Training Unit in Rockhampton);
- (c) 4 water police; and
- (d) 2 clerical staff.

(2) Since 1994/5 the Queensland Police Service has utilised a Regional Allocation Model to develop appropriate staffing strengths for each region, district and division throughout the State.

The model takes into account the crime, population and traffic statistics related to each division as well as service delivery and specialist support requirements. These factors provide for an equitable distribution of police officers

on the basis of the relative needs of districts and regions, and ensure that appropriate consideration is given to areas with increasing population.

For example, since the election of the Beattie Government in June 1998, three additional police officer positions (two general duties and one water police) have been allocated to Yeppoon.

The allocation of additional police officer positions to regions, districts and divisions for 2001/02 will be determined early in 2002.

825. Behaviour Management Strategies, State Schools

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Education (11/12/01)—

With reference to managing behaviour in State schools in the Toowoomba, Darling Downs and Warwick education zones—

- (1) What behaviour management strategies have been implemented at both a primary and high school level in these zones?
- (2) What has been the number of specialist student counselling staff employed by Education Queensland in these zones each year over the past five years, broken down by year and into part-time and full-time staff?
- (3) How many students have been removed from schools in these zones due to behavioural problems?
- (4) What is the State Government's assistance to private 'flexi schools' in these zones that cater for children with severe behavioural problems?

Ms BLIGH (10/1/02):

(1) Every state school, whether primary or high school, is required to develop a behaviour management plan in collaboration with its community. The plan incorporates the expectations and standards of the school's community. The school community endorses this plan and the principal has the responsibility to implement its intent and philosophy. Education Queensland encourages school communities to identify and implement such strategies that they find are effective and consistent with community expectations. The actual behaviour strategies used will vary across schools.

(2) The human resource component for behaviour management for the districts from 1998 has been:

Toowoomba District: 7.4 staff deployed as: 4.4 guidance officers, 2.6 teachers and 0.4 social worker.

Darling Downs District: 4.0 staff deployed as: 4.0 guidance officers.

Warwick District: 3.6 staff deployed as: 2.1 guidance officers; 0.95 teachers; 0.4 youth worker and 0.15 teacher aide.

(3) The number of students excluded from schools this year is as follows:

Toowoomba District: Year 2001—(20)

Darling Downs District: Year 2001—(2)

Warwick District: Year 2001—(8)

(4) Two 'Flexi schools' presently operate in Toowoomba—(i) the Toowoomba Flexi School operated by a non-profit community-based committee and (ii) the Youth and Community Learning Centre, which is under the auspices of Catholic Education.

The State Government supports the Toowoomba Flexi School through facilitating students' access to educational programs offered by the Brisbane School of Distance Education. Educational program advice is also provided by an Education Queensland teacher who is co-located between Toowoomba Flexi School and the Toowoomba Alternative Education Program that provides alternate education programs for students on 6-20 days suspension from schools within the Toowoomba District. This teacher service to the Toowoomba Flexi School is provided in exchange for state school suspended students accessing resources at the Toowoomba Flexi School.

The Youth and Community Learning Centre, previously a campus of St Joseph's College, has been approved as a non-State school effective from 1 January 2002. The Centre will receive funding according to the "basket/nexus" model for state funding of non-State schools. As an approved non-State school within the Catholic system, it will also be eligible for capital funding pursuant to the Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993.

826. Forensic Evidence

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (11/12/01)—

- (1) What is the number of cases that are dismissed at each level of the Queensland Courts due to (a) inefficiencies in the testing of forensic evidence and (b) delays in testing of forensic evidence?
- (2) What is the number of cases that have been dismissed for these reasons which, subsequent to their dismissal, when the forensic evidence has been received, it would have offered useful evidence against the accused?

Mr WELFORD (10/1/02):

(1) The Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not keep statistical records about the matters raised in the question.

(2) The Department of Justice and Attorney-General does not keep statistical records about the matters raised in the question.

827. Intensive Care Units

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (11/12/01)—

With reference to Queensland Health's position that a 'refused, denied or cancelled intensive care admission is a clinical indicator of quality of intensive care provision'—

What data has Queensland Health collected in regard to these indicators for the State's Intensive Care Units?

Mrs EDMOND (10/1/02): I am advised that all facilities with an intensive care service that are accredited by the Australian Council of Health Care Standards (ACHS) collect this clinical indicator data.

The ACHS Indicator Area is "utilisation of Intensive Care Resources" and the Indicator Topic is "Inability to admit into an intensive care unit".

This clinical indicator is an ACHS standard for hospital accreditation. All Queensland Health hospitals with an intensive care unit have ACHS accreditation and thus Queensland Health requires hospitals to collect this data. ACHS provide aggregated reports back to the participating facilities every six months. The ACHS reports identify the volume of participating organisations, both public and private, and include hospital performance against the national average by level of intensive care service. Approximately 15 Level 3 intensive care units report to ACHS nationally. The ACHS Clinical Indicator Panel has recently revised the reporting format to limit random variation and to improve confidence levels in the reported data.

This clinical indicator data is available at hospitals for the Directors of Intensive Care and District Executives to support the management of intensive care resources.

828. Exploration Permits; Native Title

Mr SEENEY asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (11/12/01)—

With reference to his Government's administration of Native Title issues—

- (1) What was the nature of the legal advice on which his Government recently stopped issuing exploration permits?
- (2) On what date did his Government actually stop issuing permits and how long did the freeze on issuing permits last?
- (3) On what advice was the freeze lifted and how many permits have since been issued?
- (4) What are the implications for the State Government and Queensland taxpayers of the Central Queensland Land Council's legal action challenging the validity of his Government's alternative State Native Title provisions?
- (5) To which department will he be transferring responsibility for administering Native Title and when?

Mr BEATTIE (10/1/02):

(1) The Department of Natural Resources and Mines temporarily delayed the grant of a small number of exploration permits, which were the subject of the Alternative State Provisions. The nature of the advice to delay the grant of the applications was a progress report on proceedings in the Federal Court regarding matters arising from the hearing of the Central Queensland Land Council's judicial review application of the decision of the Commonwealth Attorney-General to approve the alternative State provisions to the Commonwealth right to negotiate process. After taking further advice the Department was instructed to continue issuing permits

(2) The temporary delay did not stop action on mining tenures. All processing work prior to grant was continued by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, pending further information becoming available about the imminent outcome of the Federal Court proceedings.

(3) The Government never froze the processing of exploration permits. A total of 128 permits have been granted since the Alternative State Provisions commenced on 18 September 2000.

(4) The Central Queensland Land Council applied to the Federal Court to review the decision of the Commonwealth Attorney-General that Queensland's Alternative State Provisions comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993. The State later became a party to these proceedings. Justice Wilcox heard the matter in October 2001, and is yet to deliver his judgment. I remain confident that Queensland's legislative scheme complies with the requirements of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 as determined by the Commonwealth Attorney-General.

(5) There has been no change in the current arrangement. Any change, if made, will only be building upon and reinforcing the leading approach taken by my Government in the successful negotiation of native title claims and native title agreements.

829. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (11/12/01)—

Will he provide details on the number of police assigned to patrolling the Gold Coast canal estate waterways for each day since January 2001 including details on (a) the waterways patrolled, (b) the number of police assigned to each waterway and (c) the hours between which the waterways were policed?

Mr McGRADY (16/1/02): In response to the Member's question, I am advised that the Gold Coast canal systems are patrolled jointly by the Gold Coast Water Police (11 officers) and Queensland Boating and Fisheries (9 officers.)

(a) The Gold Coast Water Police have a regional function and patrol waterways south to the NSW border and north to Russell Island. As an integral part of patrol taskings, the Gold Coast Water Police patrol canal estates throughout the Gold Coast.

(b) Water Police and Boating and Fisheries have a joint enforcement role on the Gold Coast. Officers are tasked to attend specific waterways where problems are identified.

(c) Gold Coast Water Police operate from 8am till 12 midnight, seven days a week. These hours are extended during school holidays, Indy and the schoolies festival. Officers are on-call outside these times.

830. Queensland Art Gallery

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Youth and Minister for the Arts (11/12/01)—

- (1) Will he provide an itemised breakdown of all art purchases made by the Queensland Art Gallery or Art Gallery Foundation so far this year including the detail of each item, the cost of each item and the date of purchase?
- (2) In addition, will he provide the overall budget for art purchases by the Queensland Art Gallery for the years 1998-99 to and including 2001-02?

Mr FOLEY (20/12/01):

(1) Art purchases made by the Queensland Art Gallery since 1 July 2001 include:

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

(2) The overall budget was \$984,000 in 1998-99, \$1,655,000 in 1999-2000, \$487,000 in 2000-01 and \$491,642.24 from 1 July 2001 until 31 December 2001.

831. Vehicle Allocation, SDS

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (11/12/01)—

With reference to the vehicle allocation for the sales division of SDS—

- (1) What positions have been advertised in 2000-01 and 2001-02 with vehicles as part of the salary package?
- (2) How many employees within the sales division are entitled to vehicles with their salary package?
- (3) What staffing levels are these staff on?
- (4) Will he specify the fuel card expenditure for each vehicle for 2000-01 and 2001-02?

Mr SCHWARTEN (14/1/02): With reference to the vehicle allocation for the sales division of SDS—

(1) I am advised by the Director-General of the Department of Public Works no positions have been advertised in 2000-01 and 2001-02 with vehicles as part of the salary package.

(2) I am further advised by the Director-General that there are no employees within the sales division entitled to vehicles with their salary package.

(3) N/a.

(4) N/a.

832. Dairy Industry

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (11/12/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Dairy Authority General Manager who on 22 November wrote to a milk producer who markets a product clearly labelled 'Pets Organic Fresh Milk—Animal Food Only—Not for Human Consumption' and said in part the authority will be moving to condemn the product if sales continue and as it is clear from legislation that any attempt to put such a dairy farmer out of business could only be done under provisions relating to products destined for human consumption—

- (1) Why is the authority trying to shut down a milk producer who has diversified into a new market and broken no rules?
- (2) Is he aware of the fact this dairy producer and processor recently received a renewal notice for his Class A producers licence?
- (3) What action can be taken against the person employed by the Queensland Dairy Authority who on that renewal notice alongside the heading processor inserted the words 'Pain in the ass'?
- (4) Does the Government support this apparent abuse?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/1/02):

(1) The Queensland Dairy Authority (QDA) has responsibilities for quality and safety requirements for dairy produce under the Dairy Industry Act 1993. Whether these requirements are being complied with in this instance remains subject to investigation and legal process.

Public health is of paramount importance. I am sure that the honourable member will have noted the recent health warning on human consumption of unpasteurised milk issued by the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit following the hospitalisation of four young children with cryptosporidiosis.

(2) As a matter of process the QDA sends out notices to all licence holders regarding licence renewal. A mail out occurred in November 2001 to inform all producers of a proposed extension to the expiry date of their licences.

I understand that in this process a notice was forwarded to Harlan W. Mahaffey and Mahaffey Farms Pty Ltd regarding their Class A producers licence.

(3) The inclusion of those words on this notice was inexcusable. I am advised that the person responsible has been reprimanded and procedures have been put in place to ensure that this cannot occur again.

I am further advised that, pursuant to prior arrangements, this person ceased employment with the QDA on 31 December 2001.

The QDA through the General Manager has apologised to the producer personally and followed this with a written apology.

(4) No.

833. Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Management Plan

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (11/12/01)—

With reference to the East Coast Trawl Management Plan and the number of nights allocated to trawl operators under the plan—

- (1) Has any more than five per cent in effort entitlement been bought by independent trawl operators; if so, how many and what percentage has been purchased?
- (2) How many of the unallocated nights left have been set aside for those trawl operators severely impacted upon by the East Coast Trawl Management Plan, especially those just over 123 night allocation?
- (3) What is the reserve effort available to cater for contingencies now and in the future?

Mr PALASZCZUK (10/1/02):

- (1) There is no way to determine what percentage of effort entitlement has been brought by independent trawl operators as there is no separate identification of independent operators as they are often masked by holding licences in company names, partnerships and other arrangements.
- (2) None at this time however there may be some unallocated nights left after the appeals process is complete.
- (3) Under the Fisheries (East Coast Trawl) Fishery Management Plan 1999, the chief executive of the Department of Primary Industries will decide whether to allocate any remaining fishing days to licence holders after all of the outstanding appeals to the Fisheries Tribunal have been finalised. Other than that pool of unallocated days, there is no reserve effort available to cater for contingencies. It is important that the fishery meets its legal obligations in terms of the effort reduction targets required under the Plan.

834. Australian Aviation Expo Pty Ltd

Mr BELL asked the Minister for State Development (12/12/01)—

With reference to (a) meetings with him and his officers with representatives of Australian Aviation Expo Pty Ltd and the written submissions then presented, (b) the inability of the seven Queensland aviation museums to agree upon or support one specific proposal for an aerospace museum or theme park in Queensland and (c) the need by Australian Aviation Expo Pty Ltd to provide funding of \$50,000 to qualify for a matching grant by the Federal Government for feasibility studies—

Will the Queensland Government provide \$50,000 by way of a grant to Australian Aviation Expo Pty Ltd to complete a Business Plan/Feasibility Study relating to the development of an Aerospace Theme Park on the Gold Coast, as a centre of excellence for the aviation-tourism industry?

Mr BARTON (7/1/02): The key proponent of the Australian Aviation Expo Pty Ltd has had several meetings with officers from my Department regarding possible assistance for the proposed Aerospace Theme Park on the Gold Coast. Assistance through my Department's Regional Business Development Scheme was discussed however the proponent was unable to demonstrate that he had financial support, either through his own private sources, or from the Federal Government's grant schemes to provide the other 50% of the funding. My officers also concluded that there was no support from the Gold Coast City Council or Gold Coast Airport Corporation for this proposal at Coolangatta.

While issues of a lack of financial backing and site availability remain unresolved, the assignment of \$50,000 of public moneys would be of difficult to justify.

Since the proponent's initial inquiries in 1999, my Department has facilitated the establishment of an Aviation Heritage Group in 2000 which brought together seven parties from South East Queensland, each of whom have concepts of establishing a National Aviation Museum. My Department has encouraged this group to work together to present a business case for a museum and my Department is prepared to consider a proposal that involves a united approach. The proponent for Australian Aviation Expo Pty Ltd was invited to be part of this group, but I understand that after several meetings it appeared that he preferred to pursue his own proposal.

My Department remains supportive of the Aviation Heritage Group presenting their business case for an aviation museum.

835. Fraser Island

Dr KINGSTON asked the Minister for Environment (12/12/01)—

With reference to Fraser Island—

- (1) Considering the location of the current road and beach closures, will he clarify the specific legislation under which he is acting in relation to each road and beach closure?
- (2) Additionally, if he is acting under the Recreation Area Management Act, what account has he taken of the interests of the proprietors, as required under Section 3 of that Act?

Mr WELLS (11/1/02):

(1) All road and beach closures put into effect on 3 September 2001 were implemented under the authority of the Recreation Areas Management Act (1998) (RAM Act).

(2) The lands upon which the beach and road closures have been effected are State lands controlled by agencies of the State.

The beach and road closures are actions of the Great Sandy Region Management Plan (GSRMP) approved by Cabinet in 1994 and endorsed by subsequent governments.

The relevant State government agencies are bound to comply with and implement actions of the GSRMP.

The declaration of the Fraser Island Recreation Area under the RAM Act enables the managing agency (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service) to implement actions related to recreation management for the Government.

836. Emu Park-Rockhampton Road

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (12/12/01)—

As there is to be bitumen surfacing regeneration carried out on the Emu Park-Rockhampton Road, what plans are there for new construction work to be carried out on this road in view of the increased traffic?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/1/01): The recently published Roads Implementation Program includes indicative forward allocations for the following projects on the Rockhampton-Emu Park Road.

\$800,000 for upgrading a section of the existing road in Emu Park township west of Pattison Street after June 2003.

\$1.2m for installation of traffic signals at intersections with Berserker Street, Dean Street and Thozet Road in Rockhampton City after June 2003.

Main Roads has allocated significant funding to the Rockhampton-Emu Park Road 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 planned at this time. Regular maintenance is being carried out to ensure the road is kept in a safe condition with an acceptable level of riding comfort.

837. Runcorn State School, Special Education Unit

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Education (12/12/01)—

With reference to Runcorn State School's Special Education Unit and to reports that indicate that this block is teeming with white ants and is in urgent need of attention and as the school has access to \$30,000, however, this will barely cover the cost of restumping—

What assistance is the Education Department able to provide to repair this block?

Ms BLIGH (11/1/02): I have been informed that there is no known termite damage at Runcorn State High School.

It would appear that the Member for Beaudesert is referring to the Special Education Unit (SEU) at Runcorn State School where termite damage is known to exist. The termites which infested a part of the building have now been eradicated.

Runcorn State School is a \$128 000 beneficiary of the government's recent announced Triple R maintenance initiative. Repairs to the modular SEU including the damage caused by the termites will be effected before its external repainting. All work will be completed in the current financial year.

838. Departments of Police and Corrective Services, Capital Works Program

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (12/12/01)—

With reference to the Department of Police and Corrective Services—

- (1) Has the estimated capital works expenditure for the department been revised since the State Budget was delivered: if so, what is the revised figure for the department?
- (2) What are the reasons, including details on the individual projects responsible for the revision, for a revised estimate?

Mr McGRADY (16/1/02):

Queensland Police Service:

1. The estimated Capital Works budget has been revised. \$28,464,000 was allocated for QPS Capital Works from the 2001-2002 State Budget. The revised estimate for QPS Capital Works for 2001-2002 is \$30,075,000.

This revised capital works budget should remain relatively stable for the balance of this financial year. However the delivery of Capital Works is a very dynamic area and within the program there are constant changes at a project level. Annual budgets for projects will be adjusted throughout the year to reflect cash flow adjustments caused by project delays.

Where projects are delayed, the slowing in cash flow is balanced by accelerating other projects to strive for a full use of funds across the program.

2. The increase of \$1,611,000 to the QPS Capital Works Budget relates to a carry forward of funds from the 2000-2001 financial year resulting from delays to projects. Delays to projects occurred though wet weather affecting construction, delays through site designation (to meet requirements of IPA), land acquisitions not settling within target time frames and not allowing design to proceed. The particular projects affected are the Kowanyama Police Station, Mareeba Modular Watchhouse, Mundingburra Regional and District Police Headquarters, Mackay North Police Station, Fraser Island Police Station and a site for the replacement Stafford Police Station.

Department of Corrective Services:

1. The estimated capital works expenditure for the department has been revised since the State Budget was delivered. The capital works budget has been increased by \$986,000 for the 2001-02 financial year. The revised capital works budget totals \$73,958,000.

2. This total increase similarly represents funding for minor works carried over from the 2000-01 financial year. The particular projects affected are the relocation of the Cannonvale Area Office, fitouts at Redcliffe, Gympie and Inala Area offices, and works at Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, the Townsville Correctional Centre, the Wolston Crisis Support Unit, an upgrade to water pressure at the Wacol Staff Training and Development Centre, and the establishment of a urine testing facility at the Wacol WORC Program Headquarters.

839. Department of Natural Resources, Capital Works Program

Dr WATSON asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (12/12/01)—

With reference to the Department of Natural Resources—

- (1) Has the estimated capital works expenditure for the department been revised since the State Budget was delivered: if so, what is the revised figure for the department?
- (2) What are the reasons, including details on the individual projects responsible for the revision, for a revised estimate?

Mr MACKENROTH (11/1/02):

(1) The estimated capital works expenditure for the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has been revised since the State Budget was delivered. The revised figure is \$35.727 million, an increase of \$8.020 million from the original budget of \$27.707 million.

(2) The revised expenditure is as a result of the following three factors:

NR&M is to purchase the Oxley Secondary College property for use by the Department of Primary Industries for the Fire Ant Eradication project at a cost of \$4.2 million.

Approximately \$2.57 million of unspent administered capital funds received in 2000/01 will be consumed in 2001/02 for the purchase of land for the Nathan Dam water infrastructure project. This resulted from a delay in the finalisation of a land purchase until August 2001.

NR&M will spend an additional \$1.25 million on the acquisition/development of software assets. This amount relates to unspent controlled capital funds being carried forward from 2000/01 to be used for the creation of two Mining related software applications.

840. Bruce Highway Upgrade

Mr CUMMINS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (12/12/01)—

With reference to the need for the six laning of the Bruce Highway between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane—

Will he outline what the State Government is doing to assist in this upgrade of Highway 1?

Mr BREDHAUER (14/1/02): The Bruce Highway forms part of the National Highway System for which the federal government has full funding responsibility.

For many years, the Queensland government has actively pursued sufficient federal funding for upgrading of the Brisbane-Sunshine Coast section to meet the increasing traffic demands and road safety needs on this important link.

Following strong representations by the Queensland Government, \$35 million was provided in the 1999 Federal Budget to complete eight/six laning of Stage 1 to north of Dohles Rocks Road, and a further \$40 million was secured in April 2001 to construct Stage 2 to Boundary Road.

Stage 1 works to Dohles Rocks Road are scheduled for completion in the next few months.

Tenders are due to be called for Stage 2 north to Boundary Road in February 2002 to enable completion of this section by late 2003.

A further \$178 million is required over the next five years to complete the six-laning works to Caboolture. This funding has been sought as part of the 2002-03 to 2006-07 National Highway System Forward Strategy submission which I forwarded to Federal Minister John Anderson in December 2001 for consideration in the context of the next federal budget deliberations.

Planning and design activities for these remaining six-laning works to Caboolture are progressing to ensure Main Roads is well placed to call tenders when the required federal funding is approved.

In addition to this work, preliminary studies have been conducted on the remainder of the highway to the Sunshine Coast. While traffic volumes north from Caboolture are not currently high enough to warrant six-lane construction, the Department of Main Roads is constantly monitoring the situation to ensure that timely advice can be provided to the federal government on future funding commitments.

Please be assured that the Queensland government will continue to make strong representations to the federal government to ensure that the traffic capacity and safety needs of the Bruce Highway are addressed in future federal budget deliberations.

841. St Stephen's College

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Education (12/12/01)—

With reference to the concerned parents in the Gladstone electorate who are working to ensure the continued operation of St Stephen's College and in the unfortunate situation where the college does not re-open for the 2002 school year—

Will she give urgent consideration to the placement of appropriately qualified teachers from St Stephens to local positions to avoid unnecessary dislocation of families?

Ms BLIGH (11/1/02): St Stephens College (Gladstone) is a non-state school.

The Administrator appointed to St Stephens College (Gladstone) has indicated that she has identified parties potentially interested in purchasing the Gladstone College. Negotiations are continuing in relation to the sale of the school.

The Administrator is hopeful that the school will reopen in time to begin the 2002 school year.

If such a situation eventuates it is likely that teachers will remain at the school.

While Education Queensland has no obligation to place non-state school teachers, such teachers are eligible to seek employment with Education Queensland.

842. Domestic Violence Telephone Service, Sunshine Coast

Mr WELLINGTON asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (12/12/01)—

With reference to the operation of the Domestic Violence Telephone Service and to my Question without Notice on 12 December 2001 and in light of the pending closure of the Domestic Violence Telephone Service operating from the Sunshine Coast—

Will she ensure that the replacement service will also be located on the Sunshine Coast?

Ms SPENCE (11/1/02): I understand that you are concerned about a loss of services to your electorate. At this stage, the Department will be seeking tenders for the new Domestic and Family Violence Access and Support Service and, therefore, organisations from your electorate will be able to tender for the new service. You will appreciate that to ensure there are open and accountable tendering processes, I cannot guarantee you that the new service will be located on the Sunshine Coast. I would remind you that this is a statewide service.

I would also like to inform you that a new regional domestic violence service is planned for the Sunshine Coast. The Department has been working very closely with the community in the Sunshine Coast Region and I am pleased to announce that the Department will be advertising for tenders for this service in early 2002.

843. Hervey Bay Electorate, High School Nurse Program

Mr McNAMARA asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (12/12/01)—

What has been the success of the Beattie Government's High School Nurse Program in relation to schools in the Hervey Bay electorate?

Mrs EDMOND (11/1/02): The School Based Youth Health Nurse Program is an initiative of the Queensland Government and deploys Registered nurses to deliver services to state schools with secondary students throughout Queensland. The nurses work with the school community to address health issues, and the proportion of time spent on individual consultations and health promotion activities is variable dependent on the needs.

The state high schools in the Hervey Bay electorate are Urangan State High School and Hervey Bay State High School. These schools share a full-time nursing with each school normally receiving the services of a nurse on five days each fortnight.

The most recent data collected by the nurse for the first three school terms in 2001 indicated the school nurse had provided 550 individual confidential consultations for clients. The majority of these consultations were for psychosocial issues. This may include: abuse and neglect; body image; bullying; depression, domestic violence; eating disorders; relationship concerns; stress; or suicide ideation. Students also accessed the nurse for health issues including growth and development; medical issues including acne and nutritional advice; issues related to alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; and sexual and reproductive health.

In addition, the school nurse has undertaken health education and promotion activities in the schools on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, healthy lifestyle, mental health and alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

844. Speech Pathologists; Special Education Unit, Students

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Education (12/12/01)—

- (1) Does a child accessing the services of a speech pathologist while in State School have to pay for those services, but a child from a private school does not have to pay?
- (2) How many Special Education Unit students are there in Queensland?
- (3) How many students in State schools are accessing speech pathology assistance?
- (4) Is it true that 57 speech pathologists graduated from university this year and that numbers are capped; if so, will she explain why numbers are capped when there is such a chronic shortage of speech pathologists?

Ms BLIGH (11/1/02):

(1) Education Queensland provides speech-language therapy services to address educational needs of students in state schools. Students supported by Education Queensland speech-language pathologists do not pay for these services. Students attending state schools and private schools may access a range of speech-language therapy services provided by government and non-government agencies (including those funded through the Commonwealth Special Education Program—Non-Government Centre Support). Some of these may charge fees.

(2) Special education units and classes for students with disabilities are located in primary and secondary schools. In 2001 there were 223 special education units and 149 special education classes in primary and secondary schools throughout the State. Student data is collected based on the primary or secondary school, not the special education unit. Specific data is not available on the number of students in special education units. In the July 2001 census collection there were 9476 school-aged students with disabilities in primary and secondary schools.

(3) In 2000, there were 17 463 students supported by Education Queensland speech-language pathologists. 5526 of these were students with disabilities.

(4) There were 66 speech pathology graduates at the end of 2000 from the University of Queensland, the only university in the State offering programs that provide entry to this profession. Graduate numbers for 2001 will not be finalised before May 2002.

Universities have the capacity to raise and lower intake numbers to professional courses based on advice from the profession and other stakeholders, and they maintain very close relationships with professional bodies for this purpose. The University of Queensland is unaware of any pressure to increase intakes to speech pathology.

845. Lang Park Redevelopment

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (12/12/01)—

With reference to the answer to a Question on Notice of 17 October 2001, in relation to the impact of the Lang Park Redevelopment Project on transport infrastructure in which he advised that the transport infrastructure servicing the new stadium would allow for the provision of these extra freight tracks in that area—

Are funds for these rail extensions included in the Lang Park redevelopment: if so, how much will they cost?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/1/02): There is no funding allocation in the current Lang Park Redevelopment Project for any rail extensions. QR is not planning to construct any additional rail tracks for the foreseeable future.

846. Departments of Police and Corrective Services, Capital Works Program

Mr SEENEY asked the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Carpentaria Minerals Province (12/12/01)—

With reference to the 2001-02 Capital Works Budget for both the Police and Corrective Services Departments—

Will he provide a schedule of all capital works which for each project lists the total estimated cost, expenditure to 30 November 2001, budgeted expenditure for 2001-02 and post 2001-02 budgeted expenditure?

Mr McGRADY (16/1/02): In response to the Member's Question, I provide the following tables:
(Tables and attachments may be obtained from Bills and Papers Office, Parliament House, Brisbane)

847. Adoption Legislation Review Reference Group

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (12/12/01)—

With reference to the membership of the Adoption Legislation Review Reference Group—

- (1) What is the membership of the committee?
- (2) What are the qualifications of each member?
- (3) What is the group or organisation each member represents?
- (4) What is the mission statement of each organisation represented?
- (5) What is the members background in adoption matters and their stance on adoption?

Ms SPENCE (11/1/02):

(1) The Adoption Legislation Reference Group comprises 20 persons. Four members are from Government agencies and sixteen members of the group are community members.

(2) Formal qualifications were not a prerequisite for membership of the Adoption Legislation Review Reference Group. Nominations for membership as community members were invited from a number of different community based organisations. Nominees were required to demonstrate the following:

- commitment to achieving child focused adoption practice;
- knowledge of contemporary adoption issues;
- links to a significant number or broad range of people affected by adoption;
- willingness to work in partnership with Government to achieve desired outcomes;
- ability to respect the privacy and the differing experiences of individuals;
- high level communication and negotiation skills; and
- awareness of issues affecting children and families from a range of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including Indigenous Australians.

Nominees were also asked to indicate if they are an adopted person; a birth parent; an adoptive parent or a member of an intercountry adoption support group.

(3) Information about membership of organisations was not requested as part of the expression of interest process, except for people who are members of intercountry adoption support groups. The reason for asking people to identify membership of an intercountry adoption support group was to ensure that the interface between Queensland's adoption legislation and the operation of the intercountry adoption program is included in the review.

Reference group community members nominated and were selected as individuals not as representatives of particular organisations, as members of the reference group will not be representing any organisation.

(4) I am unable to provide information about particular mission statements of adoption related organisations for the reasons outlined previously. Reference group community members nominated and were selected as individuals not as representatives of particular organisations.

(5) Community members are individuals whose lives have been impacted on by adoption in a number of ways. The community members of the Reference Group include people who:

- have been adopted in Queensland;
- have been adopted from overseas;
- have consented to the adoption of a child in Queensland;
- have adopted children born in Queensland;

have adopted children born overseas;
are members of intercountry adoption support groups; or
have undertaken research into adoption issues.

The backgrounds of the community members in adoption matters are as a result of their own life experiences and members have been given an undertaking that their particular experience of adoption will remain confidential. I respect their right to privacy. Some have chosen to share their experiences with the other members of the group, others have not. Members of the reference group have a diverse range of views about adoption and this diversity contributes to the valuable work being undertaken by the group.

848. Reform of Legal Profession

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (12/12/01)—

- (1) Will he outline in detail his plans under legal profession reform to allow law firms to incorporate and issue share capital?
- (2) In particular, will he specify who will be allowed to own shares in a law firm and how will these shares be traded?
- (3) Will he outline the proposed time frame for the implementation of this once the reform legislation is in place?

Mr WELFORD (11/1/02):

- (1) Whether legal practices should be permitted to incorporate and the terms and conditions on which incorporation might be permitted will be considered as part of the current national competition policy review of Queensland's legal practice legislation.
- (2) Whether the incorporation of legal practices should be facilitated and on what terms and conditions will be considered as part of that review.
- (3) The final package of reforms will be settled after that review is completed. It is intended that the necessary legislative changes, and the timing for the commencement of those changes, would be introduced to the Parliament for passage by 30 June 2002.

849. Domestic Violence

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (12/12/01)—

With reference to the incidence of domestic violence during 1999-2000, 2000-01—

How many domestic violence cases were reported to her department for the following regions and what was the total level of funding provided to each of these regions for the provision of domestic violence crisis and support services (a) remote and north west, (b) Cairns and Tablelands, (c) Townsville and Hinterland, (d) Central Queensland, (e) Mackay and Whitsunday, (f) Brisbane, (g) Toowoomba and South West, (h) Caboolture Redcliffe Peninsula, (i) Wide Bay and Burnett, (j) Sunshine Coast, (k) Ipswich and Logan and (l) Gold Coast?

Ms SPENCE (11/1/02): Reported domestic violence cases to the department are based on the number of applications for protection orders received by Queensland courts. A similar question was asked on 9 November by Ms Sheldon. Unfortunately, the number of applications for protection orders provided in the response to the Sunshine Coast Region was incorrect. The figure quoted was 955—the correct figure should be 1000.

Information regarding domestic violence cases is provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (JAG). The information is based on the number of domestic violence applications for protection orders made in Queensland and their outcomes. The current data system provides the following number of applications for protection orders received. Statistics per region are:

Remote and North West

1999-2000:	769
2000-2001:	742

Cairns and Tablelands

1999-2000:	1,354
2000-2001:	1,408

Townsville and Hinterland

1999-2000:	660
2000-2001:	732

Central Queensland

1999-2000:	781
2000-2001:	840

Mackay and Whitsunday

1999-2000:	481
2000-2001:	545

Brisbane

1999-2000:	2,297
2000-2001:	2,522

Toowoomba and South West

1999-2000:	863
2000-2001:	928

Caboolture and Redcliffe Peninsula

1999-2000:	857
2000-2001:	978

Wide Bay and Burnett	
1999-2000:	804
2000-2001:	806
Sunshine Coast	
1999-2000:	921
2000-2001:	1,000
Ipswich and Logan	
1999-2000:	654
2000-2001:	692
Gold Coast	
1999-2000:	2,808
2000-2001:	2,998

The total level of funding provided by the Department for domestic and family violence crisis and support services per region are:

Remote and North West	
1999-2000:	\$1,549,935
2000-2001:	\$2,636,664
Cairns and Tablelands	
1999-2000:	\$1,082,697
2000-2001:	\$1,350,315
Townsville and Hinterland	
1999-2000:	\$1,305,308
2000-2001:	\$1,524,866
Central Queensland	
1999-2000:	\$913,928
2000-2001:	\$1,090,588
Mackay and Whitsunday	
1999-2000:	\$ 627,551
2000-2001:	\$ 816,376
Brisbane	
1999-2000:	\$3,122,574
2000-2001:	\$3,885,931
Toowoomba and South West	
1999-2000:	\$ 980,536
2000-2001:	\$1,096,644
Caboolture and Redcliffe Peninsula	
1999-2000:	\$ 509,488
2000-2001:	\$ 582,316
Wide Bay and Burnett	
1999-2000:	\$ 839,803
2000-2001:	\$1,210,228
Sunshine Coast	
1999-2000:	\$ 530,477
2000-2001:	\$ 601,143
Ipswich and Logan	
1999-2000:	\$1,091,762
2000-2001:	\$1,247,898
Gold Coast	
1999-2000:	\$1,002,495
2000-2001:	\$1,274,515
Statewide Services	
1999-2000:	\$1,526,549
2000-2001:	\$1,534,754

850. Safe Food Production Queensland, Employment Contracts

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (12/12/01)—

With reference to the Auditor-General's 2001-02 report, which questioned the issue of lucrative five-year employment contracts by his former political adviser to five staff of Safe Food Production Queensland (SFPQ) (12/12/01)—

- (1) Why were such lucrative contract arrangements entered into?
- (2) How can he justify the significant salary increases, private motor vehicle use and separation payments equal to 50 per cent of their residual contract value in the event of termination issued by the interim Chief Executive Officer?
- (3) Given SFPQ operates on a cost recovery basis, at what cost has this come to the food producers who will have to pay for these contract arrangements?
- (4) Under what process was the interim Chief Executive Officer appointed and under what authority was he to operate?

- (5) Did he have the authority to negotiate these contracts and why wasn't this responsibility left to the permanent Chief Executive Officer when appointed?
- (6) Was he aware at the time of these senior appointments that they were made without a competitive merit based selection process; if not, why not?
- (7) Do the relevant provisions of the legislation which detail the powers of the interim Chief Executive Officer need to be amended to ensure that this problem will not re-occur?

Mr PALASZCZUK (11/1/02):

(1) I refer to the Auditor-General's report No. 2 2001-2002, which was tabled in State Parliament on 5 December last year. The report referred to my letter of 22 November last year, which said: "The former interim CEO has advised that contracts were issued with the intention to regularise the management structure and work practices of SFPQ, ensure that key staff were in place, and that the organisation and industry were not subject to continued uncertainty, during the development of the new organisation".

(2) I refer to the answer to question 1.

(3) I refer to the Auditor-General's report No. 2 2001-2002, which was tabled in State Parliament on 5 December last year. The report referred to my letter of 31 October last year, which said: "The current CEO has taken steps to renegotiate aspects of these arrangements based on legal advice that has been obtained".

Fees for accreditation are presently subject to discussions in relevant forums that include broad representation from industry, government and other stakeholders.

(4) The appointment of the interim CEO is referred to in Part 11 (Transitional Provisions), Section 139 of the Food Production (Safety) Act 2000. This section provides that the administrator of the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority immediately before the commencement of the Act is taken to be the CEO of SFPQ until a further appointment is made.

Section 15 (1) (d) of the Act provides for the employment of staff. Under Section 21 (1) of the Act, the CEO must manage the affairs of SFPQ.

(5) I refer to the answer to question 4.

(6) I refer to the answer to question 1.

In addition, I refer to the Auditor-General's report No. 2 2001-2002, which was tabled in State Parliament on 5 December last year. The report referred to my letter of 31 October last year, which said: "[T]he current CEO has taken steps to renegotiate aspects of these arrangements based on legal advice that has been obtained. I have been given an assurance by the CEO that all future selection processes will be merit based".

(7) No.

A permanent CEO has been appointed.

I also refer to the Auditor-General's report No. 2 2001-2002, which was tabled in State Parliament on 5 December last year. The report referred to my letter of 22 November last year, which said: "As you would be aware Safe Food is a small organisation and any additional corporate management functions need to be relative to its size and resource base. I believe that the proposed Corporate Governance Committee mechanism will provide both the required level of governance oversight and efficiency to assist Safe Food effectively meeting its objectives in the short-term".

In his letter to me on 14 November last year, the Auditor-General said: "The remedial measures you have outlined should considerably strengthen Safe Food's corporate governance environment."

851. Maryborough Base Hospital

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (12/12/01)—

With reference to the Maryborough Base Hospital—

- (1) When will the top floor of the hospital be unlocked and opened up to patients in light of the fact that general patients are being placed in the maternity ward due to lack of beds?
- (2) Has a time and motion study been carried out or is one to be carried out to investigate ways to cut staff levels?

Mrs EDMOND (11/1/02):

(1) The Lady Musgrave Women's Unit at Maryborough Base Hospital offers a comprehensive service for women with many conditions, including gynaecology and breast cancer. The Unit has been caring for general female clients / patients since 1997.

Following the completion of the Maryborough Base Hospital redevelopment project, the third floor of the Hospital once again became available for patient use on 6 October 2001. Since that time, General Ward 3 on the top floor continues to be occupied whenever there is a need and is staffed accordingly. During periods of reduced activity, such as weekends, the demand for inpatient beds is reduced and therefore General Ward 3 is not used. General Ward 3 is temporarily closed at the moment, due to reduced activity over the forthcoming Christmas break. It is planned to reopen the area on 14 January 2002.

(2) No.

852. Department of Primary Industries, Roma

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (12/12/01)—

With reference to the Roma Research Station and Roma Town Office of the Department of Primary Industries—

- (1) What are the Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions in 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 at each office?

- (2) Will he supply a list of the position titles and the programs which each position operated under and if the position is a full or part FTE at each office?
- (3) Which positions are currently vacant and which are currently being advertised?
- (4) Which positions have been terminated due to staff transfers or program completions since 1999?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/1/02):

(1) I am advised that, based on the full-time equivalents (FTEs) at 11 December 2001 and the three permanent vacant positions being advertised this month, the number of staff accommodated at DPI facilities in Roma is comparable to the 30 June 2000 level.

In addition, I have announced the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority will establish a regional office in Roma this year.

FTE Figures for Employees Located at Roma as at 30 June 2000; 30 June 2001; and 11 December 2001 are as follows:

	30 Jun 2000 (a)	30 Jun 2001	11 Dec 2001
Roma Town Office		14.55	14.55
Roma Research Station		5.5	5.43
Roma Total	23.95	20.05	19.98 (b)

(a) Separate staffing numbers for the Roma City Office and Roma Research Station as of 30 June 2000 was unavailable.

(b) This figure does not include the three permanent vacant positions being advertised this month.

The Position tables: Full time equivalent status and Business group as at 11 December 2001 are as follows:

Note: List only includes casual employees that worked in the fortnight of 11 December 2001

Position Title	FTE	Business Group
Administration Officer	1.00	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences
Administration Officer	1.00	Animal & Plant Health Service
Administrative Officer	1.00	DPI Forestry
Administrative Officer	0.55	DPI Forestry
Administrative Officer	1.00	Animal & Plant Health Service
Communications Officer	0.43	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences
District Inspector	1.00	Animal & Plant Health Service
District Officer	1.00	Queensland Fisheries Service
Extension Officer (Beef)	1.00	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences
Farm Supervisor	1.00	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences
Field Officer	1.00	Queensland Fisheries Service
Forest Manager	1.00	DPI Forestry
Forest Ranger in Charge	1.00	DPI Forestry
Forest Worker	1.00	DPI Forestry
Overseer—Roma	1.00	DPI Forestry
Principal Extension Officer	1.00	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences
Principal Agronomist	1.00	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences
Senior Scientist	1.00	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences
Senior Extension Officer	1.00	Rural Industry Business Services
Senior Inspector	1.00	Animal & Plant Health Service
Technical Officer	1.00	Agency for Food & Fibre Sciences

(3) Three permanent vacant positions are being advertised this month. The position titles are program extension officer, research agronomist and experimentalist. In addition, I have announced the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority will establish a regional office in Roma this year.

(4) I am advised that between 30 June 2000 and 11 December 2001, there were four positions created at Roma. This does not include the three permanent vacant positions being advertised this month and nor does it account for the decision to establish a regional office of the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority in Roma this year.

I am further advised that between 30 June 2000 and 11 December 2001, there were four positions at Roma that ended due to staff transfer or program completion. Each of those positions was transferred to another DPI centre. The positions were a program extension officer, two senior project officers and a senior veterinary officer.

853. Capital Works Program

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (12/12/01)—

With reference to 2001-02, the Government has estimated Capital Works expenditure will total \$5.115 billion, a 3.2 per cent reduction on the budget estimate for Capital Works spending for the preceding (2000-01) year and at 30 June 2001, he delivered estimated actual Capital Works spending for 2000-01 of \$5.007 billion, a \$278m or 5.2 per cent underspend—

- (1) Will he provide the Treasury estimate, at 30 November 2001, of the anticipated full budget year underspend in the Capital Works Program for 2001-02?
- (2) Will he advise the amount of Capital Works funding spent by 30 November 2001?

Mr MACKENROTH (10/1/02):

(1) The projected capital works expenditure of \$5.115 billion for 2001-02 includes Departments, Government Owned Corporations, Commercialised Business Units and some Statutory Authorities. The corresponding estimated actual is compiled only once a year in the course of the delivery of the Budget.

(2) The entities included in the Capital Statement have different reporting requirements and obligations during the year.

Questions regarding the year to date progress of capital programs should be directed to portfolio Ministers.

854. Pork Industry

Mr HOPPER asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (12/12/01)—

What distance would one have to be from a disease free 10,000 head piggery before being allowed to establish a small piggery?

Mr PALASZCZUK (11/1/02): There is no statutory separation distance between piggeries (pig production unit). However, there are Separation Guidelines for the distance between a dwelling (receptor) and an adjacent piggery.

855. Queensland Rural Fire Service, Psychometric Assessment

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (12/12/01)—

With reference to psychometric assessment for fire service recruits and his indication that he would be calling for a report in these assessment practices—

- (1) Has the inquiry in this process been completed?
- (2) Will the findings of the report be made public?
- (3) What fees have been paid to Mr Owen Pershouse of Pacific Behaviour Interventions for his consultancy to Queensland Rural Fire Service (QRFS)?
- (4) As Mr Pershouse has stated that the various cut-offs used in determining applicant suitability and non-suitability were extremely liberal and fair, liberal and fair compared to what?
- (5) Will any serving QRFS personnel be obliged to undertake psychometric assessments?

Mr REYNOLDS (11/1/02):

(1) The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) conducts review activity at the completion of each recruitment campaign. In accordance with this practice, a comprehensive review of the firefighter of the future recruitment campaign 2001 has commenced. The review will incorporate an evaluation of the psychometric assessment, along with all other components of the firefighter selection process.

(2) Yes, at an appropriate time after the completion of the review.

(3) The use of psychometric assessments is well entrenched as a standard selection device in business and industry sectors, including corrective services and police services throughout Australia. It is also common practice in the implementation of such assessments, for organisations to outsource this function to established experts.

In compliance with government policy, a public tender process was implemented to determine the successful service provider for the QRFS psychometric assessment. There was no direct exchange of moneys between the QRFS and the successful tenderer, Pacific Behaviour Interventions (PBI). The arrangement was approved as an agreement-under-seal, whereby applicants paid a service fee direct to PBI to deliver the test administration, test analysis and matching of results to the established firefighter profile.

(4) The cut-offs used in determining applicant suitability and non-suitability were extremely liberal and fair in the context of accepted and well-established community norms and standards. These standards incorporated a range of areas including: intelligence; abilities (that is, numeracy and literacy); personality; and emotional stability.

The profile was validated to ensure that it was an accurate reflection of the characteristics required of future firefighters. This entailed a benchmarking process against the current workforce using a set of psychometric tests to determine the validity of the actual characteristics required to undertake the firefighter role, against those identified in the draft profile.

(5) The QRFS has determined that psychometric assessments of its existing workforce is not required.

856. Departments of Public Works and Housing, Capital Works Program

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing (13/12/01)—

With reference to the Department of Public Works and Housing—

- (1) Has the estimated Capital Works expenditure for the department been revised since the State Budget was delivered; if so, what is the revised figure for the department?
- (2) What are the reasons, including details on the individual projects responsible for the revision, for a revised estimate?

Mr SCHWARTEN (21/1/02): As a former Minister for Public Works and Housing, you should know that original published capital works budget estimates are just that— estimates.

Project budgets reflect the original estimates of expenditure during a financial year and are liable to change, even though overall project budgets remain the same.

For example, in the 1997-98 financial year—when you were Minister—the capital works budget estimate for the Department of Public Works was \$58.7M and actual expenditure was \$57.6M.

Estimated capital works spending for Housing in that year was \$251.0M and actual expenditure was \$240.4M.

With reference to the 2001-02 year, the current estimated capital works figure for the Department of Public Works is \$33.587M.

The current capital works estimate for the Department of Housing is \$249.1M.
Both are subject to revision before estimated actual expenditure figures are included in the next State Budget.

857. Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads (13/12/01)—

When will the Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour be dredged in view of the heavy boat movements into the area?

Mr BREDHAUER (11/1/02): Queensland Transport anticipates that dredging of Rosslyn Bay Boat Harbour will commence in February 2002.

858. Employment Growth

Mrs ATTWOOD asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (13/12/01)—

With reference to November figures which indicated that employment had grown in Queensland over the previous 12 months at a rate of 1.3 per cent compared with 0.6 per cent nationally—

Will he outline the reasons for this impressive rate of job growth?

Mr BEATTIE (14/1/02): Queensland has led the nation in terms of job creation over the past twelve months. According to the trend data, total employment in Queensland actually grew at a rate of 1.4 per cent over the 12 months to November 2001, higher than the 0.8 per cent growth recorded nationally. The stronger annual growth in employment in Queensland was driven by an increase in the number of part-time jobs (up 31,700), more than offsetting a marginal decline in the number of full-time jobs (down 7,500) in the State.

In 1998, my Government established the Breaking the Unemployment Cycle initiative that will create 56,000 jobs by 2004 with a budget of \$470m. More than 33,400 jobs were created by the end of November 2001 through a diverse range of strategies. These strategies include labour market programs such as the Private Sector Employment Initiative under which 6,508 employers and 30 group training organisations have received cash incentives totalling \$20.9m to employ 8,314 additional apprentices and 3,692 additional trainees in industries with skill shortages.

This rate of job growth is also largely attributable to the Government's commitment to building Queensland's position as the "Smart State" and as a preferred location for business activity and investment. The success of the Government's policy has been demonstrated by the attraction of major projects to Queensland in 2001, such as the Comalco Alumina Refinery at Gladstone and the AMC Magnesium Smelter at Stanwell.

The Government has provided a strong foundation for ongoing economic development through the new State Infrastructure Plan. The infrastructure needs of the State have also been supported through projects such as the Port of Brisbane Motorway and several new power stations. The Government is also supporting new water infrastructure developments such as in the Burnett region to provide for future industry and continued jobs growth in regional Queensland.

The Government is also committed to providing Queenslanders with the "smart" skills necessary to work in new areas of opportunity, as illustrated by the \$10m commitment to the Australian Aviation Centre of Excellence and the continued work in providing local business with skills in e-commerce. We are also working to extend the Smart State vision into the future through a range of initiatives in Queensland schools and through strong support for small businesses.

In recognition of the fact that exporting firms tend to create jobs more rapidly than firms that do not, the Government has released a new Export Strategy to encourage more local firms to export, and to assist those that are doing so already to become "smarter" exporters.

The Queensland Government's highest priority is job creation, and we will continue to work towards long-term sustainable job growth through a broad range of initiatives.

859. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence Report

Mr JOHNSON asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (13/12/01)—

With reference to his answer to a Question Without Notice from the Leader of the Opposition on 12 December 2001, in which he gave an undertaking to implement The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence Report (the Task Force Report) (13/12/01)—

- (1) When and how is he going to implement the Task Force Report?
- (2) Given that two years ago he referred to the Task Force Report as the blueprint for change in Queensland's Indigenous communities, will the Task Force Report be assigned priority over the Cape York Justice Study (the Fitzgerald Report)?
- (3) Has the Fitzgerald Report superseded the Task Force Report?

Mr BEATTIE (14/1/02):

(1) Many recommendations from the Women's Task Force on Violence Report have been implemented and more are in the process of being implemented.

The Queensland Government released two responses to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence in 2000. "The First Step" (May 2000) is a detailed audit of government programs and services which addresses recommendations of the Women's Task Force report. "The Next Step" (December 2000) updates this audit and includes further initiatives the government has taken to address the recommendations and also outlines four priority areas for action.

As is clearly demonstrated in "The First Step" and "The Next Step", the Queensland Government devotes significant resources to specifically address Indigenous family violence. In addition to the Government's existing efforts in this area, further initiatives in response to specific recommendations of the Women's Task Force have

been instituted. Of particular note is the establishment of the Indigenous Liquor Licensing Officer Program and the Healing Centres Program with a budget of \$2.25m over three years.

The Indigenous Liquor Licensing Officer Program is a cross-government strategy which includes six Indigenous licensing officers throughout the State, an increased clampdown on sly-grogging and the development of community-driven alcohol management plans.

Under the Healing Centres Program, at least four healing centres will be established in Indigenous communities this year. In keeping with the recommendations of the Women's Task Force recommendations, these healing centres will focus on whole of family responses, acknowledgment of traditional approaches to healing and locally developed initiatives. The establishment of these healing centres will deliver meaningful and appropriate services where they are most needed.

The Cape York Justice Strategy team will be working closely with the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy to ensure that the supported recommendations of both reports are implemented concurrently where practicable.

(2) The Cape York Justice Study fully utilised the Women's Task Force research and recommendations. Implementation of the Cape York Justice Study recommendations will also pay full regard to the Women's Task Force research and recommendations.

(3) The Women's Task Force Report was the first report of its kind. The 50 women involved risked their own safety in order to expose the truth about violence in their communities. The Cape York Justice Study complements and extends the work undertaken in the earlier report. Both reports have the same objective—to reduce the unacceptably high level of violence in Aboriginal communities.

With this objective in mind, the Queensland Government has completed the first round of consultation on the recommendations of the Cape York Justice Study. These consultations were led by the Honourable Judy Spence MP, Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services.

A second round of consultation to receive feedback from the communities of Cape York and other Indigenous communities and interest groups will commence in mid-January 2002. The outcome of this consultation will inform the Queensland Government's position in relation to the adoption of the recommendations of the Cape York Justice Study and the further implementation of recommendations from the Women's Task Force on Violence Report.

860. Marketeering

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Tourism and Racing and Minister for Fair Trading (13/12/01)—

With reference to advice that the Ombudsman was conducting inquiries into marketeering and the Office of Fair Trading—

- (1) What is the present position of that report?
- (2) Do any of the recent amendments and proposed amendments to legislation reflect findings from the Ombudsman's investigation?

Mrs ROSE (16/1/02):

(1) The Office of Fair Trading has not been contacted by the Ombudsman regarding any inquiries into marketeering and is not aware of any report produced by the Ombudsman on this issue. Any questions relating to any inquiries or reports being undertaken or produced by the Ombudsman should be directed to that office.

(2) Not applicable. See answer to question (1).

861. CHOGM

Mr CUMMINS asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (13/12/01)—

How can the State Government assist local governments, community organisations and others in facilitating various events that may be planned to coincide and compliment Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting which is to be held on Queensland's Sunshine Coast early in 2002?

Mr BEATTIE (14/1/02): CHOGM is a major international event that will focus world attention on Queensland and in particular the Sunshine Coast community. It is expected that about 1500 delegates plus 1000 international media will attend the event.

CHOGM Coordination Queensland has been in regular contact with the Maroochy Shire Council and provided briefings to Noosa Shire and Caloundra City Councils as part of the planning process.

The Commonwealth Government, as the host of CHOGM, is pursuing a scaled-down, more compact CHOGM for 2002. Consistent with this strategy, the Commonwealth Government is not proposing to support or fund CHOGM related events associated with Coolool 2002.

Nevertheless the Queensland Government is keen to generate as much benefit as possible from this once in a lifetime opportunity to show Queensland's best face to the world.

Tourism Queensland, in conjunction with Tourism Sunshine Coast, will host a tourism information booth in the Media Centre at the Hyatt Coolool. The Department of State Development will also host a business facility at Twin Waters Novotel to provide information to senior officials and visiting media on Queensland capabilities.

Local councils on the Sunshine Coast have been kept well informed of these activities and have been given an opportunity to provide input for these initiatives.

There are also many opportunities for informal interaction between CHOGM delegates and local community organisations. For example the National Surf Lifesaving Championships are scheduled for Peregian on the same weekend as CHOGM is at Coolool. Our lifesavers are a national treasure and are expected to attract international media attention because of the championship close proximity to CHOGM.

862. Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority, Toowoomba

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister Assisting the Premier in North Queensland (13/12/01)—

With reference to the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority Communications Centre in Toowoomba on 27 November, the day of the recent plane crash in Toowoomba in which Queensland Health workers were killed—

- (1) Was the centre fully staffed to operational level at all times during that day?
- (2) Was the communications centre supervisor present at the centre for the duration of her shift?
- (3) At any stage was there any risk to further call-out incidents due to staff numbers during the plane crash emergency?

Mr REYNOLDS (14/1/02):

(1) The Communication Centre was staffed to operational level at all times on 27 November 2001. The Centre is operated twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. On 27 November 2001, the operator on duty during the day shift was one of the most experienced Communication Centre operators within Queensland Fire and Rescue Service's South Western Region.

(2) At that time, the supervisor was engaged in offsite training, however as stated in (1) above, the Communication Centre was staffed to operational level at all times on 27 November 2001.

(3) At no time during the plane crash emergency was there a risk to call-outs in the South Western Region. During the period of the plane crash emergency, between 8.38am and 4.39pm, Queensland Fire and Rescue Service's South Western Region responded to five additional incidents.

At all times during this period, the turnout of appliances was provided within the national response time requirements, as detailed in the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, South Western Region, Standard Operating Procedures.

863. John Oxley Hospital and Wolston Park

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health and Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy (13/12/01)—

With reference to overtime worked within John Oxley Hospital as well as the overall Wolston Park complex—

- (1) What are the total number of overtime hours worked and the value of this overtime for 2000-01?
- (2) What is the total wages/salary bill for this complex for 2000-01?

Mrs EDMOND (14/1/02): Overtime and labour cost data for both the John Oxley Memorial Hospital and the overall Wolston Park Hospital complex are as follows:

The total number of overtime hours worked in John Oxley Memorial Hospital for 2000-01 was 8,326.06 hours. The total value of these overtime hours worked in John Oxley Memorial Hospital in 2000-01 was \$321,463. It should be noted that John Oxley Memorial Hospital is inclusive of both High Security and Extended Secure treatment programs.

In reference to the overall Wolston Park Hospital complex, the total number of overtime hours worked was 21,906.50 hours. The total value of these overtime hours worked was \$840,809. It should be noted that these total figures are inclusive of those relating to John Oxley Memorial Hospital.

In reference to total wages/salary bill for the overall Wolston Park Hospital complex for 2000-01 (inclusive of John Oxley Memorial Hospital), the total labour cost was \$35,021,137.

In relation to overtime hours, significant overtime drivers include not only the expected vacancies created through unscheduled family and sick leave, but more particularly, the continuous observation of patients who require very high levels of support intermittently to ensure safety and security. Another significant driver was the provision of nurses to escort patients to appointments at specialist clinics and to receive medical treatment in acute general hospitals.

864. Ethanol

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Environment (13/12/01)—

With reference to his major announcement regarding the use of a 10 per cent ethanol blend for petrol, which will be distributed by BP in Southern Queensland and the high level of expectation that the sugar industry will supply the ethanol—

- (1) As a result of this announcement, what arrangements have been made for the supply of ethanol for Government vehicles?
- (2) What is the anticipated amount of ethanol required for the 10 per cent blend proposal in south east Queensland and throughout the State?
- (3) Where will it be sourced from and has the Beattie Government invested in any project to produce ethanol?
- (4) Will there be sufficient ethanol to satisfy the likely demand for his proposal?
- (5) Is there a timeframe for the introduction of this proposal and what is the current projection for the price of the blend in comparison with unleaded petrol?
- (6) Who will receive the carbon credits for the cleaner burning fuel and by how much will carbon levels emitted be reduced for vehicles using the blend?
- (7) What assessments for future production of ethanol has been carried out by his department and which industry groups have been consulted in this process?

Mr WELLS (14/1/02):

(1) During February 2002 refuelling facilities are to be installed by BP in South East Queensland, so that a commercial trial can be conducted. Government vehicles with access to those facilities will be required to use the 10% ethanol blended petroleum in preference to ULP.

(2) The trial will take place over a 12-month period. The quantity of ethanol used in the trial will depend on the community demand for the ethanol blended ULP. If all ULP petrol sold in Queensland were to contain 10% ethanol, some 250 million litres of ethanol would be required.

(3) The supply of ethanol for the trial can be sourced from existing distilleries in Queensland.

The Government is working to facilitate several proposals for ethanol production, sourced from molasses, grain and from fermentation of cellulose. These proposals are presently being assessed for their commercial feasibility and funding has been made available to assist the assessment of one of the proposals. The Government has not invested in any project to produce ethanol.

(4) If the trial is successful (both from an environmental viewpoint and commercially), there will be a demand for new manufacturing facilities to be established.

(5) At the end of the trial (February 2003) BP will assess the market acceptance of the ethanol blended ULP, before committing to a full-scale production program.

The price of the ethanol blended ULP is expected to be the same as unblended ULP.

(6) Carbon credits are not relevant, as there is no carbon trading in Australia at present.

Ethanol blend fuels are expected to lower the CO₂ emissions by up to 3.9 percent. Emissions of other gases will also be affected by use of ethanol, the most notable being carbon monoxide which may be reduced by up to 21 percent.

865. Indigenous Land Use Agreement, North Queensland

Mr SEENEY asked the Premier and Minister for Trade (13/12/01)—

With reference to the Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) that was negotiated between the North Queensland Miners Association and the North Queensland Land Council in June 2000 for the benefit of small miners and was later disregarded with the development of a State wide ILUA—

(1) How will this State-wide agreement impact upon the traditional small mining industry in North Queensland?

(2) What is his department doing to ensure that small miners will be able to obtain mining tenures?

(3) Why was this agreement that had been developed over three years rewritten to reflect the income aspirations of some Aboriginal leaders?

(4) What was the outcome achieved at the recent meeting of the North Queensland Mining Association with regards to the agreed position between the State and the North Queensland Land Council on a draft ILUA?

Mr BEATTIE (14/1/02):

(1) The Statewide Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) was negotiated to provide a framework for the grant of the backlog of Exploration Permits focusing on larger scale explorers in Queensland. It was not envisaged that that agreement would be suitable for small-scale operators.

(2) Separate negotiations are continuing to finalise an Indigenous Land Use Agreement for the small-scale mining and exploration industry in North Queensland.

My Government has provided and continues to provide significant support to the small mining and exploration industry and was responsible for commencing the small scale mining project in December 1998 to achieve outcomes that would enable the industry to obtain grants of tenure through agreements with traditional owners around the State. The State has not wavered from that process and agreements reached in many parts of the State are testament to the commitments that have been given. My Government recognises the important role this industry has, particularly in regional Queensland, and will persist in seeking resolution of native title by negotiation to allow this industry to carry on its business.

(3) ILUAs are voluntary agreements and must be ratified by all parties before they are considered by the National Native Title Tribunal. The North Queensland Land Council rejected the earlier agreement. As a result negotiations have resumed.

(4) The government is presently consulting with all parties to achieve a revised agreement.

866. Millmerran State School

Mr COPELAND asked the Minister for Education (13/12/01)—

With reference to the population growth of Millmerran due to the expanding power station—

(1) What action is she taking to ensure that Millmerran State School is able to accommodate the extra student population?

(2) Will she be investigating establishing years 11 and 12 at the Millmerran State School to accommodate the increasing student population?

(3) Has the extension of Millmerran State School to include years 11 and 12 been nominated as a priority of Education Queensland over the next five years?

Ms BLIGH (14/1/02): Since construction of the power station commenced late in 1999 there has been minimal impact on enrolments at Millmerran State School.

Education Queensland continues to work closely with the local community to monitor the situation and is prepared to respond to any enrolment growth.

Present and projected numbers for students continuing on to senior schooling are insufficient to warrant the establishment of years 11 and 12 at Millmerran State School. The needs of these students are met by Pittsworth State High School, which is 40 kilometres away. Furthermore the establishment of years 11 and 12 at Millmerran would negatively impact on the range of senior subjects able to be offered at Pittsworth State High School.

867. Legal Profession Reform

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (13/12/01)—

- (1) Will he outline the means by which he intends to guarantee that real estate agents and property marketeers will not be able to hold shares in law firms under his legal reform package?
- (2) What will be the regulating body overseeing the transactions of shares in law firms under this proposal?

Mr WELFORD (14/1/02):

(1) Whether legal practices should be permitted to incorporate and the terms and conditions on which incorporation might be permitted (including restrictions on shareholding) will be considered as part of the national competition policy review of Queensland's legal practice legislation.

(2) Whether the incorporation of legal practices should be facilitated, and the appropriate regulatory requirements if it is, will be considered as part of the national competition review of Queensland's legal practice legislation.

868. Citrus Virus, Emerald

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Primary Industries and Rural Communities (13/12/01)—

With reference to the strains of a citrus virus detected in plant samples removed from an Emerald property earlier in the year—

- (1) Has the virus, believed to have shown strains of the tristeza and tatterleaf virus been completely destroyed at Emerald and has it been detected at any other location in Queensland?
- (2) At what level is his department involved in quarantine and conducting research on the virus which had never before been detected in Australia; if so, what is the office and classification of the officers involved?
- (3) Has the source of the virus been determined; if not, what funding has been allocated for further samples and testing to confirm this?
- (4) Which industry groups has his department consulted with and what role are they taking in monitoring the situation?

Mr PALASZCZUK (15/1/02):

(1) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has been advised by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS), a Commonwealth agency, that tristeza and tatterleaf viruses have been found in some mandarin trees allegedly introduced from overseas without approval and planted on a property at Emerald. The DPI advises that the owner of a property entered into an agreement with AQIS to destroy a number of mandarin trees under AQIS supervision.

(2) The viruses found in the mandarin trees are known to occur in Australia but it is not yet certain that the strains found in these particular trees are of an exotic nature.

(3) Research on this matter has been commissioned by AQIS and is being carried out by citrus pathologists at Camden, New South Wales. The investigation is being funded by AQIS.

(4) The Citrus Committee of Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers Ltd and growers from the Emerald area have participated in meetings to consider the situation.

869. Burnett River WAMP

Mrs PRATT asked the Minister for Natural Resources and Minister for Mines (13/12/01)—

With reference to concern that has been expressed in recent weeks that the proposed Burnett River Dam may have a detrimental effect on the South Burnett and, in particular, the Kingaroy Shire, some of these concerns occurring because of discrepancies between technical reports from the Burnett River WAMP, the recently released Burnett River Catchment Appraisal Technical Report prepared by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Burnett River Dam EIS documents prepared for Burnett Water Pty Ltd—

- (1) Will he ensure that a full and open comparison is made between infrastructure proposals in the lower Burnett River System and that the authors and experts associated with preparing the Burnett River Catchment Appraisal Technical Report and the Burnett River Dam EIS documentation are encouraged to work together to produce a consolidated report, which both the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Burnett Water Pty Ltd accept, which the public can view, and which addresses (a) the economic and ecological sustainability issues, (b) water pricing and affordability, (c) possible staging of infrastructure development in the lower Burnett and (d) the comparative risk (environmental and economic) between constructing a single large storage on the Burnett River compared to the smaller storages on its tributaries?
- (2) Will he allay the fears of the residents of the Kingaroy Shire that the proposed Burnett River Dam will not affect current water allocations (ie, domestic water supplies, water harvesting and irrigation) and confirm that the current 98 per cent (reliable) yield of 1,990 ml/annum of the Gordonbrook Dam in the Kingaroy Shire will be the minimum allocation granted under future Resource Operating Plans for the Stuart River/Boyne River/Burnett River catchment?
- (3) Will he guarantee (a) that the future water needs of Kingaroy are considered and (b) as water is vital to the community and the new industries developing in the area which will provide in excess of 300 new jobs, give a commitment that their water needs will be met (in this regard, a large additional allocation is not being sought

but rather an allocation which allows future expansion of high value industries to enable the towns in the Kingaroy and Wondai Shires to prosper)?

Mr ROBERTSON (14/1/02): With reference to the concerns raised about the proposed Burnett River Dam and interests of Kingaroy Shire I advise that

(1) Economic and ecological sustainability issues have been considered by the Government and were addressed in the development of Water Resource (Burnett Basin) Plan 2000 and the assessment of infrastructure proposals through the Burnett Catchment Water Infrastructure Environmental Impact Assessment process. Extensive public consultation has been undertaken during these processes with the supporting documentation available for interested people. Burnett Water Pty Ltd and its consultants had access to the Burnett Catchment Appraisal Study Report when investigating alternative development options and producing the Environmental Impact Assessment reports. The State Government completed its assessments of the infrastructure proposals in October last year and has subsequently amended the Water Resource Plan. The magnitude of adjustments to the Water Resource Plan to enable the Burnett River Dam to proceed was specifically identified in the EIS documentation. The impact assessment process provided the opportunity for interested people and groups to express their views on the projects, including the need to amend the Water Resource Plan. The Government believes that the full range of opinion on water infrastructure development in the Burnett has been canvassed through extensive consultation arrangements for preparing the Water Resource Plan and through the Environmental Impact Assessment. All information necessary for decision making was available. The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment has, under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, approved all the development proposals endorsed by the Government, apart from the large dam on the Burnett River, which he is currently evaluating. In regard to the proposal to raise Walla Weir, finalisation of the assessment report for the Walla Weir Environmental Impact Assessment has been deferred to enable the Government to consider integrated management arrangements for the Burnett River catchment as recommended by the Coordinator-General. Once the Burnett Catchment water infrastructure approval process has been completed and the preferred development process is identified by Government, the merit of any staging of the development can be considered. Water pricing and affordability has been previously addressed in the water reform process which involved extensive consultation throughout the state.

(2) Kingaroy Shire has previously applied for an entitlement of some 1,210 ML/year in 1989, while the Water Resource Plan accommodates 1620 ML/year diversion for Kingaroy Shire Council. The Water Act 2000 provides for all existing authorities to continue until replaced with a water entitlement. As the Stuart River is not part of a water supply scheme, unregulated water allocation security objectives apply as specified in the Water Resource Plan, to protect the performance of authorised diversions. The Water Resource Plan specifies the maximum diversions which are permitted to be made to protect the performance of the existing entitlements.

The Coordinator-General's decision on the Environmental Impact Statements for the Burnett River Dam establishes a specific requirement that consultation and negotiations with the holders of existing water harvesting licences that may be undertaken be affected by the construction of the proposed infrastructure. As required by the Water Resource (Burnett Basin) Plan 2000, my Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&M) and Burnett Water Pty Ltd (BWPL) will consult with all water harvesters during the development of the Resource Operations Plan in 2002 and ensure the provision of water supplies equivalent to those provided under current licences or provide for suitable compensation.

(3) In regard to future work needs of the Kingaroy area, the existing entitlement holders in the Boyne River catchment are seriously concerned about the reliability of their current supplies. The Government shares this concern. Accordingly the Water Resource Plan does not allow an increase in the total water to be taken from the Boyne River catchment. With respect to future water needs, the Resource Operations Plan will establish the framework for trading of existing entitlements to enable new high value industries to acquire water entitlements.

870. Department of Families, Gladstone

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM asked the Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services (13/12/01)—

With reference to the Family Services Department, Gladstone—

- (1) How many staff were employed in December 2000 and in December 2001?
- (2) What changes in positions have occurred over that time?
- (3) What increase in staffing numbers is proposed to address the imminent population increase in the region?

Ms SPENCE (14/1/02):

- (1) There were 11.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees at the Gladstone Area Office as at December 2000 compared to 14.93 FTE as at December 2001.
- (2) Changes in positions include an increase of two FTE in Family Services Officers, an increase of 1 FTE in Team Leaders, an increase of 0.68 FTE in Youth Workers, and a reduction of 0.5 FTE in Resource Officers.
- (3) Staffing numbers vary according to assessed need.

871. Golden Casket

Mr HORAN asked the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport (13/12/01)—

With reference to the Golden Casket's notification of changed procedures and timings for electronic transfer of Golden Casket funds held in trust by casket agencies, chiefly newsagencies, to take effect from Tuesday 5 February 2002—

- (1) Is he aware that these changes, which involve payment transfers brought forward to Tuesdays from Fridays, are said by the Queensland Newsagents Federation to have the effect that small agencies will have to finance an additional \$5,000 to \$10,000 in overdraft facilities to fund this new Golden Casket requirement?

- (2) Is he aware of considerable concern on the part of Golden Casket agencies at this additional impost placed on them by Golden Casket?
- (3) Will he explain why the accounting processes of a large central agency—Golden Casket—should be allowed to act to the weekly disadvantage of Queensland small business?

Mr MACKENROTH (10/1/02): The funds in question are Golden Casket moneys that are held in trust by agents until the time of banking.

Golden Casket has determined to defer any proposed changes to payment dates for the electronic transfer of funds from agents for on-line products until further consultation is undertaken.
