

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 1982

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Mr SPEAKER (Hon. S. J. Muller, Fassifern) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

PAPERS

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed:—

Report of the Commissioner for Railways for the year ended 30 June 1982.

The following papers were laid on the table:—

Orders in Council under the City of Brisbane Act 1924-1980.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Traffic Lights, Wulguru

From Dr Scott-Young (1 550 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will have traffic lights installed at the intersection of Bruce Highway, Flinders Highway and University Road, Wulguru.

Amendment of Traffic Acts Amendment Bill

From Mr Frawley (20 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will amend legislation dealing with persons found to be driving with a blood alcohol content in excess of .05 per cent.

Petitions received.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

Questions submitted on notice by members were answered as follows:—

1. Tenders for Locomotive Construction Contract

Mr Casey asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the State Government contract for 13 locomotives awarded to the New South Wales firm of Goninan Pty Ltd—

(1) What were the names and addresses of the firms which tendered for this contract and, where a consortium submitted a tender, names and addresses of firms in the consortium?

(2) What was the amount tendered in each case?

(3) What special offers were made by the tenderers over and above their nominated tender price?

(4) Which Ministers received deputations from the successful tenderer prior to the close of tenders?

(5) Which firms tendering for the contract qualified for the special preference clauses set out in the tender documents, and to what extent?

Answer:—

(1) Tenders for the supply of 13 diesel-electric locomotives were received from Clyde Engineering (Qld) Pty Ltd, Links Avenue, Eagle Farm, Brisbane, and A. Goninan & Company Ltd, Broadmeadow Road, Broadmeadow, Newcastle, NSW.

(2) Each tenderer submitted a number of alternative offers and these inclusive of essential spare parts were—

Clyde Engineering (Qld) Pty Ltd

\$	
18,437,944	(variable price)
20,493,673	(variable price)
21,067,766	(firm price)
22,903,535	(firm price)

A. Goninan & Company Ltd

\$	
18,593,644	(variable price)
18,853,644	(variable price)
18,992,614	(variable price)

(3) None.

(4) I am not aware of any Minister's receiving a deputation from the successful tenderer prior to the closing of tenders.

(5) Both companies were entitled to the application of the preference provisions as contained in the tender documents, and the amounts to be added to the tendered price as a result of such application varied according to the offer made.

In the case of the lowest tender submitted by each company, the preferences added thereto were as under:—

Clyde Engineering (Qld) Pty Ltd—\$1,659,739

A. Goninan & Company Ltd—\$1,431,748.

Having in mind the Queensland Government's policy of encouraging "Queensland Enterprise" and resultant employment opportunities the Government is obviously very pleased to have the opportunity through the awarding of this contract to allow for the establishment of a new heavy industry in decentralised Queensland.

The company has advised by letter that the manufacture of the 13 locomotives will be carried out in the Townsville area.

2. Involvement of John Hannay and Brian Maher with Drugs

Mrs Kyburz asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

(1) Has either a John Hannay of Mackay or a Brian Maher of the Gold Coast been either investigated or charged by any arm of the Queensland Police Force, including the Special Branch, for dealing or trading in heroin?

(2) Has any boat owned or operated by either Hannay or Maher or one of their companies ever been searched for drugs off the Queensland coast by either the State or the Commonwealth Police?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The Commissioner of Police has informed me that there is no record of John Hannay or Brian Maher having been charged with any offence for dealing or trading in heroin.

Mr Hooper: Not yet.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Does the honourable member know all about it?

Mr Hooper: Well, he's a friend of yours.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: It sounds as though the honourable member is in some racket himself.

Mr Sullivan: Back to the old smear tactics.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes, back to his old tactics.

Sir William Knox: He's back to his old tricks.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Yes.

Answer (contd):—

As far as can be ascertained from police records, there has not been any search by State police of a boat owned or operated by either named party off the coast of Queensland. I am not in a position to comment whether the Australian Federal Police have searched any boat owned or operated by these persons.

3. Increase in Tourist Traffic from Use of Jet Aircraft

Mr Simpson asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

What increase in tourist traffic followed the introduction of jet aircraft into Coolangatta airport, and what increase in tourist traffic can be expected when Maroochy airport takes jet aircraft?

Answer:—

There are no tourism statistics which relate to the use of Coolangatta airport that go back to 1967, when it attained jet standard. If passenger movements can be used as the best indicator for tourism, then for 1967 there were 89 813 passenger movements and for the year ending June 1982, 663 000 passenger movements. The average annual increase is therefore some 14 per cent.

Maroochy airport to the year ending June 1982 has realised 29.7 per cent increase in passenger movements. Therefore, even greater increases can be anticipated for Maroochy airport if it could be quickly upgraded to full jet standard capable of accommodating aircraft such as the Airbus and the Boeing 767.

The larger aircraft would provide a better marketing base for passengers and additionally provide greater opportunity for packages and discounted fares. The larger aircraft and fare arrangements would then act to improve the Sunshine Coast region as a whole as a self-generator of traffic. This is a matter receiving close attention from the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, particularly having regard to the enhancement of tourist development in the region which would flow from these arrangements.

4. Trends in Tourism

Mr Simpson asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

What trends in tourism to Queensland are emerging, and do they indicate Queensland is a popular destination for family holiday-makers?

Answer:—

On the current research available, it appears difficult to accurately estimate the magnitude of the family sector in this regard. Nevertheless, it would be undeniable that family groups do represent a substantial portion of tourist inflow to Queensland and this, of course, is most desirable. Also, I am pleased to indicate that the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has currently in train a major consumer study which will give a better analysis for the future on family travel than anything currently available in Australia. When that has been completed, I will be able to give the honourable member more accurate figures for his area.

5. Illegal Complex, Fraser Island

Mr Powell asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

(1) What action has been taken by his department to remove the illegal complex set up as a "tourist fishing centre" situated just south of the national park boundary on Fraser Island?

(2) When can it be expected that this once-beautiful camping spot will be cleared for public use?

Answer:—

(1) This matter is in the hands of the Solicitor-General for necessary action.

(2) This will depend on the outcome of actions taken by the Solicitor-General— but as soon as possible.

I share the honourable member's concern about the operation he has referred to on Fraser Island. I give him an undertaking that, together with my colleagues the Minister for Mines and Energy and the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts, I intend to visit the island in the very near future to see whether we can solve that problem.

6. Dumping of Rubbish on Vacant Crown Land, Fraser Island

Mr Powell asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

(1) Will he have the rubbish dumped near the wreck of the "Maheno" on Fraser Island cleared as a matter of urgency?

(2) As the ad hoc rubbish dump is on vacant Crown land, will he institute urgent investigations to have this vacant Crown land converted to a camping and recreation reserve so that effective management controls can be instituted?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The rubbish dumped near the wreck of the "Maheno" on the foreshores of Fraser Island is on Mining Lease No. 117, Maryborough District. I have no control or authority over or in respect of such land. It is not vacant Crown land.

7. Noise from Advance Laundry, Hawthorne

Mr McLean asked the Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services—

With reference to the noise pollution problem that exists at Advance Laundry, Scott Street, Hawthorne—

(1) Is he aware of the exceptionally long hours that this laundry works?

(2) Will the recent announcement that more hospital laundry will be given to private operators mean that this laundry will continue or extend its hours?

(3) Will the complaints, and inquiries into those complaints, be discussed at the next meeting of the Noise Abatement Authority?

(4) Will every effort be made to ensure a solution to the agony and suffering that nearby residents have endured for so long?

Answer:—

(1) The hours of operation of Advance Laundry are Monday to Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Friday, 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. These times were varied recently during the industrial action affecting hospital laundries.

(2) It is possible that hours may have to be extended if more hospital laundry work is given to private contractors. This is a matter which I believe should be directed to my colleague the Minister for Health.

(3) Overtime operations at the laundry have been intermittent and this has made reliable assessment of the complaints difficult. The problem has been made more difficult by the fact that reports from complainants and the proprietors of the laundry at times have differed. However, the Division of Noise Abatement believes that it may be able to gather sufficient evidence to refer the matter to the next meeting of the Noise Abatement Authority.

(4) Although the member for Bulimba refers to the "agony and suffering of nearby residents", my understanding is that complaints about the laundry are from only one premises and that the people concerned moved into an existing situation. I assure the member for Bulimba that every effort has been and will be made to resolve this noise problem.

8. Hospital Laundry Done by Private Laundries

Mr McLean asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to his recent media statement that private laundries will be given much more, if not eventually all, hospital laundry—

(1) What hygiene standards are set for private laundries?

- (2) What checks are made by his department to see that these regulations are upheld?
- (3) Have any charges been laid against any private laundries?
- (4) If so, when, where, and for what reason were they charged?
- (5) Have complaints been received from hospitals in regard to standard of laundry from private laundries?
- (6) If so, which hospitals and what was the nature of the complaint in each case?
- (7) Which laundries were involved?

Answer:—

The matter of hospital laundry being undertaken by private enterprise is under review, but there is no intention that every hospital will cease to carry out its own laundry.

(1) Hygiene standards are not covered by health regulations nor by city council health ordinances. Contracts for laundry are let in accordance with specifications drawn up by hospitals boards.

(2) No specific inspection of private laundries is carried out by officers of my department. Each hospitals board ensures that the standard of hygiene meets its criteria.

(3 & 4) I am unaware of any changes being laid against any private laundry with respect to hygiene.

(5 to 7) When private laundries initially commenced hospital laundry work, minor problems were experienced. These problems were corrected and of recent times I am unaware of any complaints from hospitals boards regarding the standard of laundry service.

The major difficulty has been the need, because of union industrial action, to require private laundries to undertake this essential work at short notice. They have not been geared to handle the volume of linen and are to be commended for their efforts to ensure that the patients in our hospitals suffered as little as possible.

9. Testing of New Police Launch

Mr McLean asked the Minister for Northern Development and Maritime Services—
With reference to the new police launch being purchased by the Government—

(1) Will officers of his department undertake the trial-testing of this boat to see if it meets required specifications of purchase?

(2) If so, when and where will this testing take place?

(3) As his department will do the marine survey, when and where will this be done?

Answer:—

(1) No; the Police Department is conducting its own acceptance trials.

(2) See (1).

(3) The survey is currently being carried out at Runaway Bay, Southport, where the agent for the builder is located.

10. Roadworthiness of Cars in Used Car Yards

Mr Akers asked the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations—

What action is his department taking to ensure that cars which are offered for sale in used car yards and, in many cases test-driven by potential buyers, are in a safe and roadworthy condition?

Answer:—

Instructions have been issued to the Chief Inspector of Motor Vehicles to maintain snap inspections of motor vehicles offered for sale by used car dealers and, wherever possible, an endeavour is to be made to extend such snap checks to country regions also.

Hereunder, for the information of the House, is a table listing results of recent inspections of used car yards in Brisbane—

Name of Used Car Yard	No. of vehicles requiring major repairs	No. of vehicles requiring minor repairs
Ray Thomas Wholesale Cars, 508 Lutwyche Road, Lutwyche	1	Nil
Dons Used Cars, 1538 Beaudesert Road, Acacia Ridge	4	1
Holland Park Motor Trading Centre, Logan Road, Holland Park	2	Nil
Flaggy Ford Pty Ltd, 1301 Wynnum Road, Tingalpa	2	1
Foremost Motors, 256 Tingal Road, Wynnum	5	Nil
Eastside Car Sales, 2822 Pacific Highway, Underwood	3	3
Supreme Motors, 118 Kingston Road, Underwood ..	4	Nil
Raymond Motors, 936 Ipswich Road, Moorooka ..	Nil	5
Dutton Park Auto Village, 184 Annerley Road, Dutton Park	1	Nil
C. J. Motors, 1081 Ipswich Road, Moorooka	Nil	2
J. E. Motors, 726 Ipswich Road, Annerley	1	3
Centenary Motors, Moggill Road, Indooroopilly ..	1	3
Westside Auto Salvage, T/A Westfield Motors, Woodville Street, Indooroopilly	1	1
Morcus Motors, 2148 Ipswich Road, Oxley	3	1
Cannon Hill Car Sales, Lytton Road, Hemmant ..	2	2
Buy-Rite Used Cars, 151 Logan Road, Buranda ..	4	1

11. Electric Rail Service to Petrie

Mr Akers asked the Minister for Transport—

What are the currently planned dates for the various stages of electrification of the Petrie railway services, in particular to (a) Bald Hills, (b) Strathpine and (c) Lawnton?

Answer:—

It is confidently expected that the current good rate of progress with major contracts will be maintained, and this will enable the electrification of the Northgate to Petrie section, including Bald Hills, Strathpine and Lawnton, to be completed by March 1983, some eight months ahead of the original schedule.

However, it needs to be realised that this section forms part of an integrated through corridor from Petrie to Thorneside and full benefits will not be attainable until the section between Park Road and Thorneside is electrified later in 1983, also eight months

ahead of schedule, and additional electric cars are received from the manufacturer. I have arranged for the Railway Department to investigate the possibility of operating at least some electric services between Petrie and the city during the interim period so as to benefit the residents on the north side of Brisbane.

12. Recruiting of Schoolteachers Overseas

Mr Eaton asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Has the Government sent a representative overseas to recruit schoolteachers to teach in Queensland in recent years?

(2) If so, in which classifications or areas of his department were these teachers sought and from what countries were these teachers recruited?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) No officers of my department have been sent overseas to recruit teachers for some years. Should a senior officer be overseas on official business and it is appropriate for an applicant for employment to be interviewed during that officer's visit, necessary arrangements can be made. However, no overseas recruiting campaigns have been undertaken for a number of years.

13. Additional Train Services Between Brisbane and Cairns

Mr Eaton asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the heavy bookings both from the north and the south for "Sunlander" train seats and sleepers prior to, during and after the Commonwealth Games and school holidays—

(1) Is the Government giving consideration to putting on extra trains to run from Brisbane to Cairns and return?

(2) If not, will he give favourable consideration to doing so?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) Additional "Sunlander" and "Capricornian" services have already been arranged to meet the increased patronage offering during the September/October spring vacation which coincides with the Commonwealth Games.

Four additional northbound and four additional southbound "Sunlanders" have been scheduled and the first of these services ran on Sunday, 19 September. As well, three additional "Capricornian" services have also been scheduled in each direction. These trains were arranged approximately six months ago when bookings opened.

In addition, the normal "Sunlander" and "Capricornian" trains have been supplemented with extra cars to the maximum extent possible.

An additional air-conditioned train has also been scheduled from Rockhampton to Brisbane on Wednesday, 29 September, returning on Friday, 8 October, to transport approximately 370 Central Queensland school children to and from Brisbane for the Commonwealth Games in conjunction with an organised tour.

14. Works and Town Planning Committee, Townsville City Council

Dr Scott-Young asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

(1) Has his attention been drawn to the statement by Alderman Towers of the Townsville City Council reported in "The Townsville Daily Bulletin" of 14 September in which it is claimed that the Town Planning Department of the Townsville City Council is grossly incompetent and is in danger of being sued for millions of dollars because of the bungling and incompetence of the Works and Town Planning Committee chaired by the mayor?

(2) Will he institute an immediate inquiry into the situation surrounding such allegations?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) I am advised that no evidence has been produced to the Department of Local Government that would indicate that town planning applications are not being processed by the Townsville City Council in a manner comparable with other local authorities. Accordingly, I am not disposed to institute an inquiry as suggested by the honourable member.

15. Subdivisions for Housing, Gordonvale

Mr Menzel asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

With reference to the urgent need for building blocks at Gordonvale—when will the subdivisions for housing at Gordonvale be completed and made available for sale?

Answer:—

At this point it is not possible to indicate when the proposed development of the 50 residential allotments at Gordonvale will be undertaken.

The extent of the need is known. However, the availability of finance necessary for the undertaking and the place of this undertaking in the scale of priorities are matters which are being evaluated and will be further considered.

16. Inter-departmental Committee into Needs of Horn Island

Mr Scott asked the Premier—

(1) Has an inter-departmental inquiry regarding the needs to be met to enable Horn Island to develop as a satellite township to Thursday Island been completed?

(2) How many departments were involved in the discussions?

(3) Were representatives of the electricity supply industry present?

(4) When was the first meeting of the group held?

(5) When are the findings expected to be completed, and will they be tabled in the House?

Answer:—

(1) No.

(2 & 3) The committee is comprised of representatives of 12 State Government departments, two Commonwealth departments plus a representative of the Far North Queensland Electricity Board.

(4) 13 April 1981.

(5) The findings of the committee are dependent upon the outcome of discussions between the Administrator of the Torres Shire Council and the Commonwealth Government regarding the use of certain facilities. The committee's report cannot be completed until that information is available.

The question of tabling the report in Parliament will then be a matter for determination by Cabinet.

17. Budgetary Allocations for Aboriginal Communities

Mr Scott asked the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

With reference to the fact that the annual report of the Department of Aboriginal and Islanders Advancement does not provide all the information relating to financial aspects of the department's operations—

(1) What are the budgetary allocations for 1981-82 for the following communities administered by his department (a) Torres Strait, comprising Thursday Island and the outer inhabited islands, (b) Kowanyama, (c) Edward River and (d) Lockhart River?

(2) What were the financial contributions made by his department for 1981-82 to (a) the Church of England for the administration of St Paul's community on

Moa Island, (b) the Catholic Church for the administration of the Hammond Island community and (c) the Lutheran Church for the administration of Hopevale and Wujal Wujal communities?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The honourable member is referred to the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means of Expenditure as tabled in this House by the Honourable the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in September 1981.

It is not proposed to undertake the detailed research necessary to further identify all areas of expenditure, many of which are not separately identifiable from the general Vote headings.

18. Investigation of Freshwater Sources, Torres Strait

Mr Scott asked the Minister for Water Resources and Aboriginal and Island Affairs—

(1) Has his department requested the Queensland Water Resources Commission to carry out an investigation of freshwater sources on the outer islands of the Torres Strait during the last three years?

(2) If so, when was the survey commissioned and has it been completed?

(3) Has a report on the subject been received from QWRC by his department and, if so, will he table the report?

(4) How many communities received the benefit of this investigation and at which communities of the many located in the Torres Strait so badly in need of domestic water augmentation will additional work be carried out on existing water reticulation systems?

Answer:—

(1 to 4) Early in 1980, my department, in keeping with its continuing review of the needs of its clientele, requested the Queensland Water Resources Commission to carry out a further investigation of water resources in the Torres Strait and this proceeded to a completion in September 1981. A report has been received and is the subject of consultation by my department with the various councils which have been forwarded a copy of the report relevant to their island.

The department is programming further work consistent with recommendations and needs, and consistent with the availability of both personnel and funds.

It is not proposed to table this administrative document.

However, all inhabited islands are involved and the member may rest assured that the department will continue to exert its utmost endeavours, as will I, in support of the Torres Strait.

19. Destruction of Flying Foxes

Mr Tenni asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the destruction caused by flying foxes of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of papaws, mangoes, lychees, oranges, mandarins, grape fruit and other fruit crops in the Mareeba Tableland area, a growing problem because of the expansion of the tropical fruit industry in that area—

Will he have research conducted by his department with a view to the destruction of these pests as a matter of extreme urgency?

Answer:—

The most recent data available suggests that the value of fruit produce in the Mareeba Tableland district was approximately \$750,000 during 1980-81. Actual losses being experienced by growers is probably less than the hundreds of thousands of dollars quoted by my colleague. Losses are not uniform. They range from nil to about 50 per cent in occasional individual orchards. With expansion in tropical fruits it is possible that losses will increase.

Studies carried out by CSIRO indicate that there are no satisfactory measures of eliminating the very large numbers of flying foxes which exist in individual camps. The only totally satisfactory crop protection is exclusion. This is, of course, impracticable.

Flying foxes, being native fauna, are protected under the terms of the Fauna Conservation Act which is administered by my colleague, the Honourable J. A. Elliott, Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts. On request he has given permission in the past to individual property owners to destroy flying foxes by shooting. Such measures are the only acceptable means of control.

Following CSIRO experience, and as advice from wildlife experts indicate a very low probability of success, my officers do not propose a research program on flying foxes.

The honourable member may care to seek further advice from my colleague, the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts.

20. Almaden-Forsayth Railway Line

Mr Tenni asked the Minister for Transport—

(1) Is the railway line from Almaden to Forsayth to be pulled up in the near future?

(2) If so, is he aware of the number of cattle that come out of that area by rail each year?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The importance of the railway between Almaden and Forsayth to the livestock industry in Queensland is well recognised. For instance, during 1981-82, 27 407 head of cattle were consigned from stations on that line.

As such I can inform the honourable member that there are no plans to close this section of the line in the near future.

21. Police Station, Deception Bay

Mr Frawley asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

What is the latest position regarding the establishment of a police station at Deception Bay?

Answer:—

The establishment of a police station in this area will be dependent upon availability of funds and the priority of other police building projects. However, consideration will be given to whether it can be provided in the near future.

22. Electrification of Petrie-Caboolture Railway Line

Mr Frawley asked the Minister for Transport—

Has any study been carried out to determine the feasibility of continuing the electric railway from Petrie to Caboolture?

Answer:—

It is quite feasible to continue the electric railway from Petrie to Caboolture and it is the intention to implement such a program when funds are available for this purpose. Regrettably, having regard to tight budgetary constraints and other more immediate priorities, both in the railways and other Government areas, I am unable to project a starting date at this time. However, I will bear in mind the honourable member's obvious interest in this matter and keep him informed as to any further developments.

23. Proposed Poaching of Queensland Athletes

Mr Frawley asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

(1) Is he aware that some of Queensland's young sportsmen and women have been advised that if they do not transfer to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra their chances of being selected in Australian teams will be placed in jeopardy?

(2) What can be done to counteract this proposed poaching of Queensland athletes?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) I am not aware of the situation which the honourable member has outlined, although I would be prepared to investigate any facts he may care to put to me.

So far as all sport in Australia is concerned—the prerogatives of selecting representative teams at all levels rests with the national governing body of the sport or its State and zone affiliates. As I am sure the honourable member will appreciate, each sport has an established process in selecting representative teams.

I might add that my department has been assured by Mr Don Talbot, the executive director of the Australian Institute of Sport, that it has no influence whatsoever in the selection of national teams.

Finally, and independently of the honourable member's question, I should like to take the opportunity of extending, through him, my congratulations to his nephew, John Frawley, on his recent international tennis successes and his selection as the Junior Sports Star of the Year.

24. School of Hospitality and Institute of Technology, Pimlico Campus

Mr Smith asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Is he aware that, without localised hospitality training facilities as already provided by TAFE in Brisbane, young people in North Queensland and in Townsville in particular are being denied employment opportunities in the expanding North Queensland tourist industry?

(2) What are the present projected dates respectively for the commencement and completion of the School of Hospitality and the Institute of Technology at Pimlico Campus in the Townsville West electorate?

(3) In view of Townsville's emergence as the centre for North Queensland tourism and the Federal Government's stated intention to speed up development of Townsville's airport facilities, can the higher priorities for TAFE development given to Home Hill and Kingaroy be justified by the Government?

Answer:—

(1) Not only am I aware of the need for the establishment of hospitality training facilities at all population centres of Queensland wherever an economically viable range of courses can be offered, but also I have made specific arrangements for such facilities. Most country colleges now offer selected courses (such as bar attendants training, restaurant practices and hotel and catering practices). In Townsville alone, some 130 students have completed a bar attendants course during the last 18 months. Quite adequate facilities and training exist within the State for all the appropriate apprenticeship callings, by means of block release. Expensive major training facilities have been established already at the Gold Coast, Toowoomba and Brisbane areas, and more are in the various stages of planning at Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton and Ipswich.

(2) It is expected that construction of a \$5m school of catering and hospitality at the Pimlico campus of the Townsville College of TAFE will commence in March 1983 and will be completed in December 1984, given a satisfactory supply of cash.

Regarding the school of technology complex at Pimlico—the likely starting date for construction is March 1985. Because of the size of the total complex, and its ultimate completion cost of over \$13m, its completion is not expected before December 1987.

(3) The honourable member is quite incorrect in suggesting that the Burdekin and South Burnett Colleges of TAFE have been given a higher priority than the Townsville School of Catering and Hospitality. In fact the construction of the Burdekin college (which, incidentally, is located in North Queensland) will commence at the same time as the Townsville School of Catering; and there is no construction date set as yet for the South Burnett College of TAFE at Kingaroy.

Finally I wish to reassure the honourable member that the financial investment in offering TAFE courses and providing new facilities at Townsville, when expressed in dollars-per-capita terms, compares very favourably with the figures applicable to the Brisbane area.

25. **Surcharge by Airlines on Accommodation Bookings**

Mr Smith asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

(1) As the percentage of tourists who book their accommodation for northern centres through airline booking offices appears to be much greater than for those who visit southern Queensland, has he been able to establish the extent that the northern accommodation industry has been adversely affected by the new surcharge applied by airlines on accommodation bookings?

(2) Will he foreshadow any action to lessen the impact of the airline industry's action in applying the surcharge?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The matters raised are being investigated and in the near future I will forward to the honourable member the information that he seeks.

26. **Wide-load and Long-load Signs**

Mr FitzGerald asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

With reference to the recent standardisation of wide-load and long-load signs—

(1) Are these signs now required to be of reflectorised material?

(2) Are most permits issued with the condition that movement be during daylight hours only?

(3) If so, are there any other safety factors to justify the cost incurred?

Answer:—

(1) Yes.

(2) Two types of permits are issued for the movement of wide loads:

(a) To cover individual trips which often move during the hours of darkness and are subject to police escort; and

(b) Permits covering a period of time, normally 12 months, where the condition "travel during daylight hours only" is imposed.

(3) Prior to the decision being made to require reflectorised signs, an examination of signs in use found many to be totally inadequate as a warning to motorists. Because of the dangers of the movement of wide and long loads to other motorists, it was essential that clear warning signs be used, and the reflectorised sign was considered the most conspicuous. The view held at the time was that the safety of human life far outweighed the cost factor involved.

27. **Importation of Canned Fruit and Vegetables from Taiwan and South East Asia**

Mr FitzGerald asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

Is there any restriction, excepting quarantine, on the quality and quantity of canned fruit and vegetables imported into Australia from Taiwan and South-East Asian countries and, if so, what guarantee is there that these products will not be imported via New Zealand?

Answer:—

In general, there is no restriction on the quantity of canned fruit and/or vegetable products permitted to be imported into Australia from Taiwan or any other South East Asian country.

If Australian producers believe that the level of imports is adversely affecting their industry, they have recourse through the normal procedures, which would involve a reference through the Temporary Assistance Authority or the Industries Assistance Commission.

Quality aspects are subject to thorough scrutiny by customs and health authorities. Under current trans-Tasman trade arrangements, imports of canned fruits and vegetables from New Zealand must contain 50 per cent New Zealand product. This requirement effectively provides adequate protection against the possibility of Taiwanese or South East Asian products gaining access to Australia via New Zealand.

28. Staffing, Yarraman Police Station

Mr FitzGerald asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

With reference to the increase in the number of construction workers in the town of Yarraman—has consideration been given to increasing the staff level of the Yarraman Police Station?

Answer:—

A needs assessment of the Gympie police district has recently been completed by the department's Planning and Research Branch. As a result of recommendations arising from the needs assessment, the work-load and staffing requirements at Yarraman Police Station are presently under examination.

29. National Parks and Tourist Information Centre, Cardwell

Mr Row asked the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts—

(1) When will construction commence on the national parks and tourist information centre which has been approved by the Government to be built at Cardwell?

(2) If there is to be any delay with this project, what are the reasons?

Answer:—

(1 & 2) The project has reached the stage at which detailed design and estimates of cost can be undertaken through the Department of Works. However, these initial steps will depend on the funding which can be allocated to the project during the current financial year.

It is expected that, provided funding is available, actual construction will commence in the latter part of the 1983-84 financial year. Any delay to the commencement of the program this financial year will be due to lack of finance because of other programmed commitments in loan funds.

30. Cost of Fencing Bellevue Hotel Corner

Mr Davis asked the Minister for Works and Housing—

(1) What was the cost of the fence erected around the area known as the Bellevue Hotel corner?

(2) Is the fence built as a permanent structure?

(3) What buildings or other plans are envisaged for this block?

Answer:—

(1) \$20,900.

(2) No. Its initial erection is part of the Government's contribution towards preparing Brisbane for the Commonwealth Games. It will become part of hoardings for future building activity and has been constructed accordingly.

(3) The redevelopment of this area is currently under consideration.

31. Railway Department Payments to Taxi Companies

Mr Davis asked the Minister for Transport—

What was the amount paid to taxi companies by the Railway Department in the various railway divisions, specifying each recipient taxi company, for the years ended 30 June 1980, 30 June 1981 and 30 June 1982?

Answer:—

It is not possible to specify the amount paid to each recipient taxi company without a considerable amount of clerical effort in the various accounting offices of the Railway Department. However, the total amounts paid by the department for the hire of taxis were—

Year ended June 1980	\$1,021,890
Year ended June 1981	\$1,171,400
Year ended June 1982	\$1,370,162

This expenditure is incurred mainly in the relief of train crews, as required by award provisions—in other words, for driving railwaymen to work—and has proved to be the most economical method of providing such transport.

32. CER Proposals for Free Trade Between Australia and New Zealand

Mr D'Arcy asked the Premier—

With reference to the CER proposals for free trade between Australia and New Zealand by 1995 and the statement by the Commonwealth that all State Governments have been fully involved in the discussions—

(1) What discussions did the State Government have with various industry and primary producer groups?

(2) What were the results of those discussions?

(3) What were the final recommendations of the Queensland Government concerning the CER proposals?

(4) Will he table the documents that relate to Queensland's position?

Answer:—

(1) A number of State Government departments undertook discussion with and/or received correspondence from industry and primary producer groups on the matter of proposals for a closer economic relationship (CER) between Australia and New Zealand.

(2) Although there was a general appreciation of the wider concept of CER and its long-term advantages, a number of issues of immediate concern were raised by most parties.

(3) I wrote to the Right Honourable the Prime Minister on 3 August 1982 outlining my Government's concern in relation to these matters.

(4) No.

33. Westwood-Gogango Section, Capricorn Highway

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

With reference to the dangerous state of the main western Capricorn Highway between Westwood and Gogango, which is only a very narrow strip of bitumen carrying an ever-increasing volume of traffic to central western areas—

What plans are proposed for the upgrading of this section by the Main Roads Department?

Answer:—

All funds that are presently available are committed to works of higher priority than the Westwood-Gogango section.

34. Feral Pig-meat

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) What are the names of the companies that have export licences for the sale of feral pig-meat in Queensland?

(2) What supervision is given by his department in the slaughter of feral pigs in Queensland with special reference to diseases such as TB and brucellosis?

(3) What action is taken to ensure that feral pig-meat is not being sold for human consumption in Queensland?

(4) How much feral pig-meat is being exported and to what countries?

Answer:—

(1) Such licences are issued by the Commonwealth and details of these are not held by my department.

(2) Queensland meat industry legislation makes no differentiation between a domestic pig and a feral pig in so far as slaughter and processing are concerned, and both are inspected in the same manner for detection of diseases such as TB and brucellosis.

(3) None. Feral pigs may be inspected and passed for human consumption.

(4) The export of meat is the responsibility of the Commonwealth. The information requested is not held by my department.

35. Iwasaki Sangyo Company Special Lease, Yeppoon

Mr Hartwig asked the Minister for Lands and Forestry—

With reference to special lease 16 and 17, county of Woodlands, held under lease by the Iwasaki Sangyo Company at Yeppoon—

Will he give an undertaking that such special lease will not be converted to freehold and thus guarantee the eventual return to the people of Queensland of this small area of land in the Water Park Creek beachfront area?

Answer:—

I cannot give such an undertaking, as neither I nor the Executive Government, nor any other democratic Executive Government, can fetter the future exercise by the Legislature of its powers.

36. Exotic Disease Viruses

Mr Neal asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to proposals for the keeping of live foot-and-mouth disease virus at the Australian National Animal Health Laboratories—

(1) Will he describe the actual method or procedure by which such virus is propagated and maintained in a viable form?

(2) Is the procedure similar for such other exotic disease viruses as rabies, swine fever and Newcastle disease?

(3) What live exotic disease viruses, and or carriers of such, or other exotic parasites, are presently held in this country and where are they held?

(4) Have there been incidents in other countries such as the United Kingdom and USA where live disease viruses or pests have escaped from animal health establishments?

(5) As previous reports that outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease occurred hundreds of miles apart in Mexico, with no apparent direct connection, are scientists now in possession of all the facts in relation to how such viruses are spread?

(6) How are such viruses spread?

Answer:—

(1) Foot-and-mouth virus is propagated on tissue culture, which is then normally stored in sealed vials in an ultra-low temperature storage.

(2) Yes.

(3) At the Commonwealth Biological Standards Laboratory, both *brucella canis* and *brucella melitensis* are held.

At CSIRO Division of Animal Health the organisms held include *mycoplasma mycoides* and other mycoplasmas, swine fever virus, Ibaraki virus and Newcastle disease virus.

The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories hold equine and swine influenza viruses, bluetongue virus—15 strains and a fixed strain of rabies virus.

The Department of Agriculture, Victoria hold fowl plaque virus and haemophilus equigenitalis.

The Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide has Aujeszky's disease virus.

The Queensland Institute of Medical Research has Japanese B encephalitis virus. St Louis encephalitis virus and West Nile virus. This list was supplied by the Commonwealth Department of Health. My department has no records of any exotic parasites.

(4) There was an escape of foot-and-mouth virus from Pirbright in the UK in 1960 at a time when there was no treatment of the exhaust air from the security laboratory. Since high-efficiency air filters were installed there have been no escapes from the laboratory precincts.

In 1978 foot-and-mouth disease occurred in the cattle-holding facilities on Plum Island, the USA security laboratory, at a time when an inadequate air filtration and pressure control system was being replaced. Since the new system has been in operation, there has been no problem.

The ANAHL construction, air filtration and effluent treatment and personnel security systems are the most advanced of their kind and far superior to those at Pirbright and Plum Island, so that escapes of the type I have just mentioned would be almost impossible.

(5) Methods of spread are well understood by my veterinary advisers. They maintain close contact with exotic disease authorities and researchers throughout the world.

(6) Foot-and-mouth virus is spread mainly by respiratory aerosols, by fodder, clothing, or other material contaminated by vesicular fluid from foot-and-mouth lesions and by uncooked meat products or bones from affected animals. Under moist windy conditions, heavily contaminated aerosols may carry the virus a considerable distance from an infected herd, e.g., from Jersey Island to the Isle of Wight. However, wind transfer has only rarely been recorded even under the most favourable conditions.

37. Upgrading of Mitchell-St George Road

Mr Neal asked the Minister for Local Government, Main Roads and Police—

What is the program of works for the upgrading of the Mitchell-St George Road in the Balonne and Warroo Shires?

Answer:—

The Warroo Shire Council is currently constructing a 5.96 km section of the Mitchell-St George Road, at an estimated cost of \$585,000. The work commences at the northern end of the bitumen near Engonia, and extends northwards.

Within the current planning period it is proposed, subject to funds being available, to release further works for construction within Warroo Shire. There are, however, no improvements planned for the road within Balonne Shire in the same period. However, consideration will be given to improvements within the Balonne Shire at a later date when funds become available.

38. Fares for Multiple-hiring of Taxis

Mr Neal asked the Minister for Transport—

With reference to the approval for the multiple hiring of taxis during the Commonwealth Games—

(1) How will charges be levied, that is, what percentage of the fare will each separate passenger have to pay?

(2) As many visitors who do not know the city will be here for the Games, what measures are being adopted to ensure that some patrons are not defrauded?

Answer:—

(1) With regard to multiple-hiring—the fare payable by each hirer at his destination will not exceed 75 per cent of the amount of the fare displayed on the taximeter at the individual hirer's destination. Surcharges normally applicable to late evening/early morning periods, week-ends and statutory public holidays are not payable by any hirer travelling in a multiple hire cab.

If luggage is involved, the first item of a hirer's luggage must be carried free of charge. A surcharge of 10c per item is payable for every additional item of luggage, other than small items such as handbags and brief-cases, up to a maximum of 50c.

(2) Individual hirers must be travelling to:—

- (i) the same destination, or
- (ii) two destinations in the same locality, or
- (iii) two destinations, the further one of which is in the general direction of the nearer destination.

Officers of the Transport Department and the Taxi Council of Queensland will be on duty at Brisbane Airport on and from 27 September 1982 until 29 September 1982, inclusive, to control the hiring of cabs from the airport. As well, Department of Transport inspectors will also, of course, monitor bus operations from the airport during that period.

Taxi Council supervisors will control loading of cabs at appropriate times from the designated cab stands at the QE II and Chandler Games venues during the duration of the Games. Taxi Council officials and Department of Transport inspectors will monitor ranks in the central business district on a random basis. As well, inspectors from the Department of Transport will also be on duty at the Brisbane Airport during the main efflux of visitors after the Games.

Any person who has a complaint regarding multiple-hiring also has available the normal recourses of lodging a complaint either with the relevant taxi company manager, the Taxi Council of Queensland or the Department of Transport. Where any complaint is substantiated, appropriate action will be taken against the offending taxi-driver.

I am sure the honourable member will agree that all possible action is being taken by the department and the Taxi Council to ensure that fare-paying passengers are given the best service possible during this period.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Auditor-General's Report; Corporate Affairs Office

Mr CASEY: In directing a question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, I refer to the Auditor-General's report tabled in the Parliament yesterday, which was scathing in its criticism of the Minister's administration and failure to take action in accordance with previous Auditor-General's reports—and he listed them; 1982, 1981, 1980, and right back through to 1973—and to the fact that some 10 years ago the Auditor-General said that the resultant failure to follow up arrears of submissions of company returns resulted in a lag in the collection of Crown revenue. I now ask: In view of that, will the Minister explain to the Parliament why he has not taken the action necessary to rectify the matter?

Mr DOUMANY: I really welcome this question. It is almost a Dorothy-Dixer, because the Leader of the Opposition is the most inappropriate source for a question about arrears and non-payment of dues.

Mr Casey: Give the answer.

Mr DOUMANY: If the Leader of the Opposition were to listen, he might learn something. He jumps to conclusions every day. He should never have asked the question in the first place.

The problem of non-lodgment of returns and loss of revenue in the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs is well recognised. I would not hide it or try to push it under the carpet. It is an acknowledged fact, and it is a problem right around Australia, particularly in the Labor State of New South Wales. Let us look at the backdrop of the period referred to. It has been one of record population growth in this State.

Mr Hooper: Propaganda! You sound like Joh.

Mr DOUMANY: It is lovely propaganda. The Labor Party does not want Queensland to grow. It does not want prosperity; it does not want jobs for people. It does not want to see the State progress.

Let me cite what has happened in the field of company registrations. Back in 1973, 4 726 new companies were registered. In the next couple of years the number declined because of Whitlam. At that time there was no confidence in the nation. It went down to 2 350 in 1974 and was as low as 2 541 in 1975. Then it picked up. In 1976 it went to 3 621. In 1977 it went up to 4 837; in 1978, 4 438; in 1979, 5 262; in 1980, 8 911; and in 1981, 13 498 new companies were registered. The growth of business in the commission has been enormous.

Honourable members should bear in mind that we offer clients a service. There is a three-week maximum wait. Do you know what it is in New South Wales, Mr Speaker? Down there they have to wait for as long as two months, and Neville Wran, the great white knight of Australian politics, is not able to solve that problem.

Mr Hooper: You are adopting the Premier's tactics.

Mr DOUMANY: I am presenting facts and the member for Archerfield will not even listen.

We have just gone through a six-year period of Government stringency—and not just in Queensland, but in all responsible jurisdictions. On the matter of responsible jurisdictions, again let me contrast Queensland with New South Wales. New South Wales has virtually put off the presentation of its annual Budget because it cannot be balanced and the State is hundreds of millions of dollars behind the eight-ball. What a disgraceful state of affairs that is, with all the trust money gone and money flowing in all directions for all sorts of useless purposes. Here we have balanced our Budget. To do so, we have had to restrain the growth of the Public Service. The Corporate Affairs Office has been no exception. If we were debating education, the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues would want another 5 000 teachers. If we were debating health, they would want another 3 000 people.

A Government Member interjected.

Mr DOUMANY: I will come to that shortly. Bear in mind, Mr Speaker, that it was not one of my colleagues who asked the question. It was the Leader of the Opposition, and he deserves a full answer to such a significant question.

The Government of Queensland has restrained growth in the Public Service.

Mr Prest: You are upset; you are going white.

Mr DOUMANY: I am indeed, because I am appalled at the ignorance displayed by the Opposition.

The Government has restrained the growth of the Public Service, which has been a responsible move. I do not apologise in any way for the fact that, despite a number of attempts by me and by my predecessors in this portfolio to expand the Corporate Affairs Office, because of general factors it has not been possible to do so. We have had to accept that. Queensland is a well-managed State, and the Opposition should make no mistake about that. They will hear more about that this afternoon.

The National Companies and Securities Commission is another backdrop factor that the Opposition ignores.

Mr Hooper: Answer the question.

Mr DOUMANY: I am answering the question and doing it in such a fashion that the honourable member would have to be born again if he were to do it this way. All the honourable member knows how to do is to throw mud.

Since 1978 the Corporate Affairs Office has been engaged in developing and launching the national co-operative scheme. It has been a big scheme involving much legislative drafting, and since last year it has had to be implemented. It has been a very big job indeed, with big pressures on staff and resources. That was a vital step, because had it not been done the central bureaucracy in Canberra would have controlled the corporate

business in the State, something that Queensland and many other States—excluding the Labor States, of course—did not want. So that is something that must be taken into account. We could not fulfil our commitment to the NCSC in the co-operative scheme unless that amount of effort was injected. That has also taken away many staff and many resources.

Client service is important. Many investigations have been conducted. At the moment, the Hibiscus Retirement Village is the subject of an investigation. I am sure the Opposition would not want me to stop that investigation, because many elderly people have lost their savings. Two investigators are working on that investigation. Investigations cannot be carried out with hot air, which is what the honourable member for Archerfield uses; people are needed to carry them out. Joboba International Pty Ltd has also had to be investigated, as well as the loan fund companies. The honourable member for Chatsworth realises how important that investigation was. Most of the time he is a responsible member of the Opposition and, because of this ridiculous question, he has disappeared from the Chamber. That loan funds exercise has committed resources for the past 18 months and it is still using resources.

I now have a very important investigation to refer to. In 1971 a company of the present Leader of the Opposition had to be investigated and he had all sorts of obstructive devices and mechanisms to foil the investigators. If we are speaking about uncollected arrears and outstanding dues located by the Auditor-General, that is a relevant area at which to look. So those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Routine enforcement and administration have had to suffer. As well as that, there have been take-over threats against Queensland companies. What does the Opposition want the Government to do about those? Does it want the Government to throw those companies to the wolves and throw the jobs away?

Opposition Members: You did.

Mr DOUMANY: The Government has not done so; it has fought for Queensland companies. Members opposite should bear in mind that each time that happens the resources of the Corporate Affairs Office become heavily committed.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen: Do you think Mr Casey will pay his debts?

Mr DOUMANY: I do not know. That is a question for his own conscience.

I wish now to consider the present. In June, approval was obtained for another 26 people to be added to the establishment, and that is now being implemented. As well as that, a major submission, which is almost complete, will contain an important recommendation for a significant increase—probably 40—in staff establishment. That additional staff will concentrate on the collection of revenues and the enforcement of lodgment of returns and also on investigations so that the office can maximise its capacity to investigate and to co-operate with the Federal tax authorities that also are investigating various areas at the present time.

As I said, that submission is almost complete—it will be finished shortly—and will be forwarded to the appropriate departments—the Public Service Board and the Treasury. That will be a reference point for a new program for the Corporate Affairs Office over the next one or two years, and I will be making a statement before it is introduced.

It is all very well for the Leader of the Opposition to grandstand and call for resignations when he does not appreciate the complexities or the conflicting priorities and when he has forgotten his own interface with the Corporate Affairs Office, which should have illustrated to him how much work the office has to do.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen: Did he pay his workers' compensation premiums?

Mr DOUMANY: He certainly did not. Perhaps I should ask the Minister for Employment and Labour Relations whether he has paid them yet.

Sir William Knox: No.

Mr DOUMANY: Let us face it, if the ALP had its way it would bankrupt this State just as it has done in New South Wales and is well on the way to doing in Victoria. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to wipe out our Corporate Affairs Office he is going about it the right way. I think he wants to. He wants to centralise bureaucracy in Canberra

to run companies in Queensland. He does not want wealth and prosperity to come to this State. He does not want us to try to co-operate, on a balanced basis and with our limited resources, with what is going on with the tasks confronting the Corporate Affairs Office. I reject totally the innuendo in the question and the criticism that has been levelled at the Corporate Affairs Office by the Leader of the Opposition. I regard it as totally scurrilous.

Mr CASEY: After 10 minutes of histrionics from the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, I want to ask him a supplementary question on the same subject. Perhaps this time he might be inclined to answer the question instead of going on with the filth, rubbish and innuendo that he displayed—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will ask his question.

Mr CASEY: I again refer to the Auditor-General's report and his scathing criticism of the Minister's department over such a long period, and the increasing criticism since the publication of the report. I refer to a question I asked the Minister on 1 September—just over two weeks ago—when he indicated quite clearly in relation to the number of outstanding returns that he had no idea of the extent of the problem. He went on to say that it would take 250 man-weeks, that is 10 people working for six months—

Mr Doumany: You are an irrational man.

Mr CASEY: "Hansard" clearly shows that the Minister said—

"An informed estimate by my officers indicates that it would take at least 250 man-weeks to ascertain reliably the data requested by the honourable the Leader of the Opposition."

That data concerned the number of companies that were behind in the submission of their returns. I am quoting the Minister's words back to him. Will he take immediate steps in his department—

Mr FRAWLEY: I rise to a point of order. That is not a question at all.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Standing Orders 69 and 70 state that there shall be no debate allowed in the asking or answering of questions.

Mr CASEY: The next Standing Order also clearly states that Ministers—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will have the Leader of the Opposition's question immediately, or I will ask him to resume his seat.

Mr CASEY: I ask the Minister: In view of the comments that I have made previously, will he take immediate steps, through the Public Service Board, to obtain the additional staff necessary to ascertain the extent of the problem?

Mr DOUMANY: If the Leader of the Opposition had listened—if he could only listen and stop pontificating—

Mr Casey interjected.

Mr DOUMANY: If only his ego would allow him to come down to earth for a moment he would realise that right at the beginning of my answer I said that it is recognised that there is a serious problem.

Mr Casey: That's when you should have sat down.

Mr DOUMANY: Just listen for a moment! Opposition members are behaving like a rabble.

At the commencement of my answer I said it was acknowledged that a serious problem exists—it is an ongoing problem and has been going on for years—in regard to the non-lodgment of returns and the non-payment of fees. That is recognised. Does the Leader of the Opposition want me to commit 250 man-weeks—if my memory serves me correctly about my answer off the cuff—when there is such a crisis in meeting services in a growing State? What rot! It is no wonder his business went broke when his priorities are so askew.

Parliamentary Supervision of Government's Financial Performance

Mr CASEY: I refer the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to a strong plea by the Auditor-General, in his report to Parliament on his audit of the Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year ended 30 June 1982, for the need for a better system under which Parliament can execute its constitutional power to supervise the financial performance of the Executive and the administration in this State. In view of that plea, will the Deputy Premier and Treasurer take immediate action to set up a public accounts committee in this State, which is Liberal Party and Labor Party policy?

Dr EDWARDS: I make it very clear that the Auditor-General, in his report, did make some comments. It is a pity that the Leader of the Opposition is not stating the whole of its contents. On page 12 of his report the Auditor-General gives a long dissertation on the allowing and discharging of responsibility.

The Auditor-General makes certain statements, but in no part of them does he recommend how it should be set up. He places that responsibility upon this Parliament and that is where the responsibility should lie. There is no criticism in the report of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. There is no criticism of the auditing of the accounts. There is no criticism of the Treasurer's instructions for the implementation of the business of government. It is about time those factors were recognised by the Opposition.

It is true that it is my party's policy to establish a public accounts committee. That matter, along with many other matters, has been referred by members to the Standing Orders Committee. At some future time that committee will make a recommendation to this Parliament on those matters.

The Financial Administration and Audit Act is regarded by other Australian Governments as a hallmark in the auditing of public accounts. The Leader of the Opposition may be interested to know that the Labor Governments have sought information on the way it operates. It is regarded by many of the State Governments as being far more accountable than a public accounts committee. Both the Minister and the accountable officer in each department are held responsible by law. That is not the case in any other State.

The Auditor-General's report should be read in full. I hope that it is not read out of context and that inferences are not drawn. I instance what the Leader of the Opposition did when he ran to the Press last night. I have been told by reliable reporters that the Leader of the Opposition could not even give the number of the relevant page of the report. The reporters had to refer to it to find out what he was talking about. As usual, he has shown his ignorance in this matter.

Mr Casey: You don't know what you are talking about.

Dr EDWARDS: I know far more than the Leader of the Opposition about it. At least I pay my debts, which, according to the Minister for Justice, the Leader of the Opposition has not done. I do not understand the honourable member's responsibilities but I suggest he clear those matters up before he starts casting aspersions on other people.

This Government will honour its obligations so far as the Auditor-General is concerned. He is an officer of this Parliament and has a responsibility to report to Parliament.

If the Auditor-General does not act under the terms of his appointment, he stands condemned. As other Auditors-General have done, the present Auditor-General has brought to the attention of the Parliament matters that he believes should be examined and considered and on which, if necessary, action should be taken. I stand by my commitment to my party's policy. Although it has not been accepted by the Government, I hope that a recommendation on it will be considered in due course. That is a matter for the Government to consider, and a decision will be made on it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Auditor-General's Report on Functions of Employment and Labour Relations Department

Hon. Sir WILLIAM KNOX (Nundah—Minister for Employment and Labour Relations) (12.3 p.m.): Mr Speaker, I wish to make a ministerial statement in relation to comments by the Auditor-General on certain aspects of the functions of the Employment and Labour Relations Department.

Parliament is entitled to know what action I have taken to overcome the matters mentioned in the Auditor-General's report, which were originally brought to my attention in the Auditor-General's report of last year. The following action has been taken aimed at concentrating efforts of inspectors into high-risk areas, thus making safety our major priority.

Construction Safety Inspectors—

Exclusion of construction work valued at less than \$65,000 from notifiable work; and adoption of a policy of co-operation with local authorities to ensure notifications of intention to commence a construction are received for all notifiable constructions approved by local authorities.

Machinery Inspections—

A special report was made by a committee appointed by the Public Service Board on alternative recruitment proposals; extension of the prescribed periods for inspection of certain classes of machinery; major revision of recruitment procedures and qualifications of machinery inspectors; and investigation by the Internal Operational Audit Service resulting in recommendations of major changes within this section. (These recommendations are presently under review by the department.)

Motor Vehicle Inspections—

Agreement in principle by Cabinet has been given for recommendations, which include the establishment of a new system of inspections of commercial vehicles through authorised inspection stations and a requirement that high-risk vehicles be required to have these inspections as a provision of renewal of registration; exemption of certain classes and types of commercial motor vehicles from inspection; and implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the Internal Operational Audit Service.

I might point out that new arrangements in relation to motor vehicle inspections will not come into full effect until January 1984, as a result of Main Roads Department computer-programming requirements, and no doubt there will be some further comment on that by the Auditor-General in his annual report to Parliament next year.

HEALTH ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health), by leave, without notice: I move—
“That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Health Act 1937-1981 in certain particulars.”

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Austin, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Wavell—Minister for Health) (12.6 p.m.): I move—
“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

This Bill has been prepared for the purpose of amending various sections of the Health Act relating to notifiable diseases, venereal disease, private hospitals, nursing homes, camping grounds, pest control operators and the Queensland Radium Institute.

A number of these amendments are of a machinery nature and there are others that will provide additional protection of the health of the people of this State.

Firstly, the existing definition of paint is considered to be too wide. At present, it includes solvents such as water and liquid hydrocarbons.

The Poisons Regulations exclude paint from their provisions. Consequently, it is possible for a person to pack mineral turpentine, labelled as paint thinner, and the packaged product is excluded from the requirements of these regulations, which provide that such products include warning on the label, a container distinguishable by touch and appearance and child-resistant closure.

It is not practicable to include paint in the Poisons Regulations as most paints contain these solvents, which in the form of paint do not present a hazard. The proposed amendment of the definition will require these solvents to be packed in accordance with the Poisons Regulations and thus correct the present situation.

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommended in July 1981 that genital herpes on the first diagnosis be classed as a notifiable disease. The spread of this condition has become a cause for medical and social concern and, accordingly, it is proposed to amend sections 29 and 30 of the Act to make this disease notifiable on the first diagnosis only, as genital herpes has recurring episodes.

Part III of the Health Act relating to venereal disease requires amendment in light of modern treatment methods that are available and that makes the impositions currently provided for in the Act no longer necessary.

A need is seen to expand section 53 to provide for suitable regulations on methods to control the spread of venereal disease and also require a person infected with such a disease to advise a prescribed person where he contacted the disease and to whom he may have communicated the disease. An indemnity clause has been included in the Act to protect persons giving confidential information in respect of a requirement of a regulation.

The existing provisions relating to prostitutes submitting themselves for medical examination and the certificate of apparent freedom from venereal disease are to be omitted in view of the fact that the section of the Act dealing with prostitutes was repealed some years ago.

Amendments to section 54 of the Act are as a result of modern treatment methods, which incorporate two injections with a seven-day interval between.

A person with venereal disease is required to attend a medical practitioner until he has completed the prescribed course. If a patient fails to complete the prescribed course, the medical practitioner is obliged to advise the Director-General of Health and Medical Services to enable follow-up action to be taken.

Other amendments proposed require the medical practitioner to advise the patient of the contagious characteristics of the disease. In addition, the medical practitioner of the patient under treatment for venereal disease is the only one who can confirm that the patient has undergone the full course of treatment.

Existing section 55 provides grounds for the nullity of a marriage contract when one of the parties is suffering with venereal disease. This section has been omitted, as legislation on the nullity of marriages is contained in the Commonwealth Marriages Act.

Again, because of modern treatment methods, the requirement to detain persons infected with venereal disease in hospital has been omitted. Sufficient power will be available in the regulations to require a person to undergo treatment for the disease.

Minor amendments have been made to section 57 relating to "Hospitals etc. to give treatment", including a provision that the Director-General of Health and Medical Services will make regulations for the treatment of persons in hospitals.

An indemnity clause has been incorporated in section 59 to exclude the Director-General or any other person from the requirement to produce to a court a record, notice or other document that was received under or for the purposes of this division. This preserves the confidentiality of patients' records.

Various sections relating to private hospitals and nursing homes are also proposed for amendment. In the main, these have been incorporated to comply with current terminology, to simplify management and to satisfy patient supervision and care requirements.

It will be seen that a number of machinery amendments are included; for instance, the modern reference to a "lying-in" hospital is a "maternity" hospital.

The requirement to stipulate a specified period on a licence to erect a private hospital is proposed for administrative purposes. It will also provide a realistic time period to allow the construction of the premises without the need for the proprietor to seek an extension of time.

The need to amend sections 68A (2) and 68B (1) was recently highlighted following a problem with a particular nursing home. It is evident that the time permitted for a licensee to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled or suspended and the time allocated for the return of a cancelled or suspended licence is too long and can result in a falling off of patient care.

Because of this problem, it is proposed to reduce the times permitted from 30 days to 14 days in section 68A (2) and from 14 days to seven days in section 68B (1).

A provision has also been included to enable a body corporate to hold a licence for a private hospital. The existing law requires the licensee of a private hospital to continually reside on the premises, and this is considered to be impractical.

Consequently, the proposed amendment places the onus for the efficient conduct of the hospital on the licensee by requiring that person to ensure that sufficient registered nursing staff are in attendance at all times having regard to the number of patients accommodated. This will allow the licensee some degree of freedom; however, it still requires that person to shoulder the overall responsibility whether in attendance or not.

Financial penalties have been increased in line with current times. The object of this increase is to provide for a deterrent against operators of hospitals who flagrantly violate the requirements of the Act.

Provisions relating to the issuing, renewal and cancellation of licences for nursing homes have been reviewed and brought in line with those applying to private hospitals.

Clause 27 requires that the licensee advise the Director-General of Health and Medical Services of the name and registration number of the nurse in charge of the home.

The financial penalties in respect of offences and breaches of the regulations have been increased in line with current times and for reasons similar to those for private hospitals.

The requirement for the licensee to reside on the premises at all times has been revised and brought into line with clause 21 and as applies to private hospitals.

Latitude has also been extended to the smaller nursing homes, which will exclude them from the need to have a registered nurse on hand at all times provided that the prior approval of the director-general is obtained.

Provision has been made in the Bill to amend section 100 of the Act relating to camping grounds. Legal advice obtained indicates that the Act in its present form does not empower the Director-General of Health and Medical Services to make certain regulations considered necessary to control effectively the health aspects of camping grounds.

The proposed amendment will provide the director-general with the power to make suitable regulations for the effective control of health-related matters in so far as camping grounds are concerned.

Concern has been expressed on a number of occasions that certain persistent chemicals, such as dieldrin, are used in the home environment by pest control operators. Endeavours have been made to restrict the use of these chemicals by pest control operators to the treatment and prevention of termites according to standards laid down by the Standards Association of Australia and for certain other restricted applications. It has been found, however, that without a specific requirement in the Act to exclude or restrict the use of these chemicals, it is not possible to enforce any form of control.

To overcome this unsatisfactory situation, it is proposed to amend section 131J by the inclusion of a definition "Regulated Pesticide". A further new section 131KB will be added, which will regulate the use of certain chemicals by pest control operators and require that these chemicals be used in accordance with an Order in Council.

Finally, another important amendment to the Health Act relates to the provision of borrowing power for the Queensland Radium Institute.

The Queensland Radium Institute was established at Herston in 1944 by Order in Council and charged with duties and responsibilities similar to those subsequently legislated in 1945 under part IVB of the Health Act.

It is required to provide a radiotherapy service to the State of Queensland and to make arrangements with and co-operate with hospitals boards and such other hospitals or institutions as may be determined, for the treatment of patients suffering from cancer.

Prior to this the Queensland Cancer Trust had provided a service since 1926 at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital and this was combined with the new service at the then Brisbane General Hospital. Over the years, the equipment needed to enable radiotherapy treatment to be given and premises for its accommodation have had to be expanded, and at the present time the work-load necessitates the working of extended and late shifts. The population of the State has continued to grow, with a relatively high increase in the older age groups, and there is a need to review present and future requirements for the treatment of cancer in Queensland.

All honourable members would be aware that equipment for the delivery of radiotherapy, and related equipment such as simulators for planning of treatment or scanners to enable investigations, is very costly and a major problem in providing a service is, of course, the acquisition of sufficient finance to effectively carry out that service. In this regard, the North Brisbane Hospitals Board has drawn attention to the fact that it would have considerable difficulty in endeavouring to achieve funding for its hospital capital works program and that of the Queensland Radium Institute from the local bodies loan allocation if the board remains responsible for the funding of all capital works on the Herston site. The board has now sought approval for the Queensland Radium Institute to be classified as an authorised borrower of loan funds in its own right. The institute has fully supported the proposal.

The Solicitor-General has carried out a review of the Health Act 1937-1981, which contains provision for the constitution and corporate status of the Queensland Radium Institute. In his opinion the present provisions contain no express power for the institute to borrow money in its own right as a corporate body. Consequently, the Solicitor-General has recommended that the Health Act be amended to provide such power. The Treasury Department was informed of the proposal and the Solicitor-General's comments. That department has indicated its support thereto.

Before proceeding with an explanation of the proposed amendments, I advise members of the House that a review of present and future requirements of the Queensland Radium Institute carried out recently by a committee appointed by and reporting to me has indicated that, on current costs, an estimated amount of \$6,361,000 would be required for the period to 1985 to cover the cost of equipment, buildings, etc., including the Mater subcentre. For the periods 1985-1990 and 1990-2000 it is estimated on current-day costs that financial requirements will be in the vicinity of \$4,615,000 and \$20,950,000 respectively.

To ensure that the Queensland Radium Institute is in a position to borrow money in its own right, it will be necessary to amend the Health Act in a number of related areas. The first area relates to the constitution of the institute. Subsection (2) (c) of section 154I of the principal Act previously provided that sections of the Hospitals Act 1936-1981 relative to constitution of boards, the office of chairman, proceedings at meetings and quorums shall with and subject to all necessary adaptations apply to the institute.

The amendment proposed includes further sections 8, 10, 11, 20, 22, 24 and 25, other than subsection (3) of section 25, relative to suspension of rescission of resolutions, unauthorised collections, returns, contracts, budget, borrowing, etc., and accounts as also applying to the institute with and subject to all necessary adaptations. It will provide that a parallel relationship between the institute's power and those of hospitals boards is achieved. Parallel provision has not been made in regard to funds or audit and these are covered by spelling out requirements as is provided in clauses 36 and 37 of this Bill.

The proposed amendment also provides that it may be directed by order in council that the institute is a board which has been specified for the purposes of section 5C of the Hospitals Act 1936-1981 as being included in the organisation of the central accounting bureau established for the purposes of the co-ordinated exercise and control of the functions, duties and responsibilities of a financial nature of hospitals boards specified under that section.

An Order in Council may also direct that the institute is the governing body of a hospital for the purposes of subparagraph (b) (v) of subsection 1 (a) of section 21 of the Hospitals Act 1936-1981 required to pay specified moneys to the credit of the Hospital Administration Trust Fund and, as a consequence of the provisions of paragraph (e) of subsection 1 (a), includes the institute as a governing body to which moneys of the Hospital Administration Trust Fund shall be applied to meet operating expenditure incurred.

The amendment provides that the duties and responsibilities with which the Queensland Radium Institute has been charged have been extended to provide that it is the function of the institute to properly govern and control its affairs as a body corporate and to manage and apply property from time to time held by it and the income arising therefrom for such purposes as are prescribed by Part IV B of the Health Act.

Provision has been included to empower the institute relative to making arrangements with hospitals boards and hospitals or institutions determined under this Act for the treatment of patients suffering from cancer and to apply such of its funds, as shall be approved by the Minister, to the accommodation and equipment necessary to provide that treatment. The Queensland Radium Institute is required to furnish an annual report on its operations to the Minister, and this amendment provides that the report shall include statements of account etc. certified by the Auditor-General and that the Minister shall lay the report before the Legislative Assembly within a specified time.

An amendment has been added to paragraph (1) of section 154J which adds to the capabilities of the institute, the capability of the body corporate doing and suffering all such other acts and things as a body corporate may in law do and suffer. It has been necessary to repeal the previous provisions in section 154K, Queensland Radium Institute Fund, and substitute a new section. The proposed amendment requires that the Queensland Radium Institute, in the exercise and performance of its functions, establish and maintain a general fund, a trust fund, a loan fund and a special purpose fund.

Previous legislation did not provide for the establishment of a loan fund, nor did it provide for a trust or other fund which may be required to be established as a result of gifts, bequests or legacies or any devised property. The previous enactment did not cover the situation which now exists in regard to finance through the Hospital Administration Trust Fund.

The proposed legislation parallels that of the Hospitals Act 1936-1981 as is appropriate and sets out that the general fund is to meet the payment of all sums due for interest and redemption of the loan liability incurred by the institute. Power has been included in the proposed Bill for the institute to obtain advances from any bank by way of an overdraft in the general fund, should there be a need to do so, subject to the restriction that the overdraft will not exceed the limit authorised by the Minister on the recommendation of the Treasurer.

The new section in subclause 4 of section 154K stipulates what is to be covered by the trust fund and that with the prior approval of the Minister, the institute may agree to carry out conditions to which a gift, grant, bequest or devise is subject. The trust fund is required to be applied for the purposes directed, but in the absence of such direction, the Minister may approve the application of such funds in such a manner as he decides. Provision has been included to empower the Queensland Radium Institute to invest trust funds until they are required and the accruing interest therefrom will form part of the trust fund.

The loan fund shall be applied to expenditure in respect of which the loan liability was incurred and how the balance or part thereof remaining to the credit of any loan at its closure shall be dealt with.

The special purposes fund relates to any moneys received for special purposes and is a formal provision parallel to that set out in the Hospitals Act.

Suitable provision has been incorporated in the proposed Bill to enable the institute to invest. The institute shall have the same powers of investment as are specified in the Hospitals Act. This is consistent with general policy. There is an exception to its application in relation to moneys acquired under an instrument that expressly directs to the contrary and that the provisions shall not be construed to restrict the powers of

investment conferred by an instrument under which the institute has acquired trust moneys. There is also power for the institute, subject to determination by the Minister, upon advice of the Treasurer to vary or transpose investments for or into others.

The Auditor-General or an authorised officer within the meaning of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977-1981, is required to audit the accounts of the institute, and to report on such audit and certify statements of account prepared. It will be an offence for a person not to comply with a requisition made on him by the Auditor-General. The Auditor-General is to include in his annual report to Parliament such matters with respect to the financial transactions as he sees fit.

A provision has been included which requires the Auditor-General and the police to be notified of stolen property or property not accounted for and that the institute shall not abstain from, discontinue or delay a prosecution or take action which would hinder an investigation or prosecution.

The existing legislation empowers the Governor in Council to make regulations. An amendment has now been included to provide that the provisions of the regulations pursuant to the Hospitals Act 1936-1981 shall, except for Part 1—Administrative Arrangements of the Board, apply with and subject to all necessary adaptations to the institute as if it were a hospitals board constituted under the Act.

I consider that the amendments proposed are all considered necessary to maintain a high degree of health protection for citizens of this State. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Underwood, adjourned.

BAIL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 21 September (see p. 1053) on Mr Doumany's motion—

“That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr PREST (Port Curtis) (12.26 p.m.): I agree with most of the amendments contained in the Bill, as did the Opposition spokesman, the honourable member for Wolston, but I am concerned that the Bill contains no amendment relating to persons charged under sections of the Racing and Betting Act being allowed to lodge cash bail. I thought that was a harsh provision when it was first placed in the Racing and Betting Act. I was also concerned about the amount of a fine which could be imposed on SP bookmakers and other offenders under that Act. I do not regard SP bookmakers in any shape or form as criminals. They are part and parcel of our way of life because gambling has always been part of the Australian way of life. Anyone who read the newspaper series by Tom Hiley would realise that it has been going on for a long time and that SP bookmakers have, unfortunately, been milking cows—

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Sir Thomas Hiley would qualify for that.

Mr PREST: That is true. As I said, I am concerned that SP bookmakers will still not be able to lodge cash bail—

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Reversing the onus of proof; they are guilty until proven innocent.

Mr PREST: That is true.

I am concerned about the way Bills are rushed through this House. My concern is shared by Mr R. K. Hill who, in his address as retiring president at the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Queensland Law Society in June 1982, said—

“The second matter I would like to get off my chest concerns the Government of this State. When you are the President, you are required to make public utterances at the media's behest on the Law Society's attitude of various legislation or governmental actions. The moves we made in relation to the Commonwealth Games (Police Powers) Bill and the Police Complaints Tribunal Bill (particularly the latter) opened my eyes to the way in which the Queensland Government operates.

It espouses the Westminster system yet denies it at the same time. In the case of the latter Bill, interested persons were unable to obtain a copy of it because it had been introduced into the House so hurriedly. I have spoken to people like the Chief Justice and the Attorney-General and urged them to make statements from time to time which draw attention to the need for the Government itself to abide by the rules. I think it has been the absence of this sort of commentary and the politicising of every question, comment or criticism which has led to the excesses of power now exercised by the Executive Government in a virtual vacuum. Hypocritical use of the principle of Cabinet Unity has made a mockery of our Parliament which is constitutionally supposed to be supreme. We solicitors ought to remind the community of that. I appreciate that it is difficult for the Chief Justice to do anything about it when in the absence of the Governor he is head of the Executive Government himself."

The society is of the opinion that Bills are rushed through the House before adequate consideration has been given to them. The Minister should take cognisance of those remarks and give the Queensland Law Society an opportunity to make comments on proposed legislation.

This morning, in answer to a question, the Minister referred to the Office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs. The time-sharing holiday project "Harper's Hideaway" has been ripping hundreds of thousands of dollars off Queenslanders. The company has no assets. Some investigations were made. It was found that "Harper's Hideaway" was not a legitimate company and prosecutions were suggested. Legislation was to be introduced concerning time-sharing arrangements. Of course, nothing has been done.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Is that Harper any relation to the member for Auburn?

Mr PREST: No. I do not want to link that man with the honourable member. The company was originally set up in Sydney but did a lot of business in this State. It ripped hundreds of thousands of dollars off the people in my area as well as off many people living in the mining centres. Companies such as that one are allowed to tell lies and get away with it.

This morning, too, the Minister for Transport made an untruthful and misleading statement about the use of taxi-cabs by railway employees. He said that the taxi-cab fares were incurred in taking railwaymen to work. That is not correct. Train gangs used taxis to go home after working excessive hours. So Ministers, as well as companies, make misleading statements.

An Honourable Member: Weren't they being taken to work?

Mr PREST: No. They were being taken home after working for 10 hours. Ministers should know their portfolios and be truthful instead of making misleading statements.

Hon. S. S. DOUMANY (Kurilpa—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) (12.33 p.m.), in reply: I thank the honourable members for Wolston and Port Curtis for their contributions.

I am pleased to hear that the Opposition will neither oppose this legislation nor propose any amendments to it, thus accepting the soundness of it.

The House was advised by the honourable member for Wolston that the Bail Act is extremely dangerous legislation and that it sets a dangerous precedent concerning people's rights. With respect to him, I state that this is not a dangerous piece of legislation and, as I indicated in my earlier speech, it does not alter the principles of bail that were recommended by the Law Reform Commission and accepted by the House in the passage of the Bail Bill in 1980.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It was not accepted by us. We opposed it on a number of grounds.

Mr DOUMANY: It was accepted by the House.

That Bill introduced a number of new concepts which have ensured that bail is used as a means of bringing an accused person to trial and not in any way as a punishment to him.

With respect to the observations of the honourable member for Wolston on section 7 of the Bail Act itself regarding the granting of bail to accused persons by the watch-house keeper, I would make the following comments. Before the introduction of the

Bail Act police officers had the power under section 69A of the Justices Act to allow bail to an accused either by way of recognisance or by way of cash bail. This power was limited only to simple offences and could be invoked by the police officer only when an accused could not be taken forthwith before a justice to be dealt with.

Section 7 of the Bail Act extended the power which may be given to police officers in that bail may now be given for other than a simple offence. A further protection for the accused has also been placed in the Bail Act which requires that, if the accused cannot be brought before justices within 24 hours, he must be granted bail unless the Act otherwise provides; for example, in cases of murder and other serious offences mentioned under section 13 of the Act.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: What about a less serious charge on which he could be locked away for 24 hours at the whim of a police officer, with no right of appeal?

Mr DOUMANY: If the honourable member will listen, I shall deal with that matter in my reply.

Also under section 7, if a member of the Police Force refuses to grant bail to a person, he is required to place his reasons for that failure on record. Thus, if there is any allegation that a police officer has improperly disallowed an application for bail, an examination of official documents will soon reveal whether there were valid reasons for the refusal.

In many cases, it is both in the interest of justice and very much in the interest of an accused for bail to be refused by a police officer. A number of situations where this is so come readily to mind. Where an accused has been involved in a domestic dispute in which violence has occurred and the accused has not recovered his composure after losing control of his actions and temper, it would clearly be unfair both to himself and the community to release him until his self-control has returned.

As all honourable members would appreciate, the work of police officers in this area is extremely difficult, and their experience in dealing with cases such as that during their years of active police work place them in good stead to make decisions with respect to bail. Of course, many accused will remain in custody for only a very short while before being brought before a court. In some instances it is a matter of hours and, at the most, 24 hours before an accused, who can be admitted to bail before a magistrate or justices, is brought before them. Further, neither myself nor my officers have been advised of any complaints with respect to the operation of this particular section of the Bail Act. That is a significant point.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: It is also significant that the public are not aware of their rights under this Bill.

Mr DOUMANY: The public are being given many opportunities to learn more and more about their rights. I suggest to the honourable member that the solution might be the publication of a simply worded brochure that could be made available to the community.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: Do you give an undertaking that the Government will spend some money and prepare some brochures?

Mr DOUMANY: Yes. In fact, I am investigating a number of aspects of the law that currently are a mystery to ordinary citizens so that a much wider array of publications of that nature is available. I am advised that in the current review of brochures consideration is now being given to the preparation of such a brochure, so it is very close to being in the pipeline.

In this area, as in many areas of the criminal justice system, the success of the entire system depends at some stage on the honesty, integrity and reliability of law enforcement officers, members of the legal profession and members of the judiciary. I have no doubt that those officers required to perform a duty under the Bail Act do so in only a proper manner.

The honourable member for Wolston has also questioned why there is no provision for bail to be granted by a magistrate in the case of charges mentioned under section 13 of the Act, namely, murder, treason, piracy and drug-related offences. It may be valuable if I digress somewhat and briefly recount some of the history relating to bail.

Going back to the early days of the common law, it was not possible to obtain bail on the vast majority of offences. From the 13th century up until the present time a considerable change has taken place in attitudes to bail. The present system of sureties for bail has been developed and refined. Indeed, it is only since 1964 that bail has been allowed to an accused after the commencement of his trial.

Bearing this background in mind, as well as taking into account the regrettable need to protect the community, one must take a realistic view of the operation of the Bail Act, and particularly section 13. These are the most serious offences which can be committed in our community.

As the honourable member rightly pointed out, when an application for bail is made before the committal proceeding, the application is made in chambers before a judge of the Supreme Court. On such an application the rights of the accused are protected by the right that he has to be legally represented.

All circumstances relating to the offence and the accused himself can thus be argued before the judge, and should further instructions be required from an accused, his counsel could seek an adjournment of the hearing. Nothing in this Act prevents an accused from making further application in chambers to a Supreme Court judge for bail should the circumstances warrant it.

Any suggestion that an appeal should be allowed against such a determination indicates that there is not a proper appreciation of the vital role played by a judge of the Supreme Court. Any appeal can only be determined by a bench of three Supreme Court judges, thus increasing greatly the work-load of the courts and the cost to an individual accused.

As I mentioned earlier, bail is not seen in any way as being a punishment, and I have no doubt that there is no need to allow any further appeal.

I am pleased to be able to clarify the situation with regard to the proposed amendment to section 27 of the Act. Under both the original requirements of section 27 relating to the service of notices of trial and the amendment to that section, there is no provision whatsoever for the oral service of a notice on an accused person. There does exist, however, the availability to orally advise solicitors of the date of trial.

The vast majority of accused persons wish to have their trials disposed of as expeditiously as possible. This is not only in their interest but also in the interest of the community. This Government clearly appreciates the need for the trial of an accused to be determined as soon as possible. This concern has been evidenced, in particular, by a number of Bills that have been introduced into this House by myself during the last few weeks. The Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Bill was one such piece of legislation, and the recent amendments to the Supreme Court Act increasing the number of appointments able to be made to the Supreme Court bench was another. As I said, most accused wish to appear for their trial as soon as possible, and these persons maintain close contact with their legal advisers.

Because of the very nature of the work in the Criminal Courts, the commencing date of trials may vary from day to day and it is due to the close co-operation that exists between the listing officers of the Crown and members of the private legal profession and the Public Defender's Office that the efficient listing of criminal trials in this State takes place. Thus the listing officers will normally communicate trial dates direct to the legal representatives of the accused, who then advise their client of that date.

Where an accused is unrepresented or where he loses contact with his legal advisers, the Crown will arrange for the service of a written notice of trial on the accused person. When a notice is to be served on an accused, every effort will be made to locate him, as it is in the interest of justice that his trial commence. There is no provision in the Bail Act or this Bill to allow oral notice of trial to be given to an accused person.

The honourable member for Wolston has stated that it is his interpretation that the penalty provided by clause 9 is a mandatory sentence. I would refer the honourable member to section 41 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1954-1977, which provides as follows—

“Penalties.

(1) Where in any act or enactment a penalty is prescribed in respect of any contravention thereof or failure to comply therewith whether by way of fine or a term of imprisonment, the same shall be construed, unless otherwise expressly

provided, to mean that such contravention or failure, whether by an act or omission, shall be punishable upon conviction by a fine or term of imprisonment, as the case may be, not exceeding that prescribed in such act or omission.

(2) Where in any act a penalty, whether by way of fine or a term of imprisonment, is set out—

(a) at the foot of any section or subsection thereof; or

(b) at the foot of any paragraph of any section or subsection thereof (but not at the foot of a section or subsection),

The same shall indicate unless the contrary intention appears, that any contravention of or failure to comply with such section, subsection, or paragraph, as the case may be, whether by act or omission, shall be an offence against the Act and shall be punishable upon conviction by a penalty not exceeding the penalty set out, or, if both a minimum and a maximum penalty are prescribed by a penalty not less than such minimum and not exceeding such maximum."

There is no express provision in the amending clause which indicates other than that the two year imprisonment or \$1,000 fine are other than maximum penalties.

As I mentioned in my second-reading speech, the existing provisions of the Bail Act have no alternatives to a sentence of imprisonment, save that of probation.

In many instances it may well be that neither imprisonment nor probation are appropriate penalties, and it is for this reason that the Bill provides for the fining of offenders.

This further option will give a much greater flexibility to the courts when sentence is imposed, particularly in cases where the original offence is not one which would demand as punishment a period of imprisonment.

The final matter raised by the honourable member for Wolston relates to the operation of clause 11 of the Bill which amends references to the Racing and Betting Act 1954-1980, which has been repealed, and substitutes the new but similar provisions contained in sections 214, 216, 217 and 219 of the Racing and Betting Act 1980-1982. The honourable member for Port Curtis also referred to that matter.

It is said to be extremely severe that persons charged with these offences should be refused the right to cash bail.

I would refer the honourable member to the report of the Law Reform Commission on the law relating to bail in criminal proceedings. It stated—

"Cash bail the most common form of bail is by deposit of a sum of money—in other words 'cash bail'—and in a majority of cases the person charged does not appear and the Court orders that the amount of bail be forfeited. Rarely is a warrant applied for, nor is subsequent action taken by way of complaint and summons. The amount of the cash bail becomes a type of penalty in a similar manner to 'on the spot' tickets for traffic and like offences. The accused is generally happy to forfeit his bail and avoid the inconvenience of a court appearance and the risk of a conviction.

This practice has existed for many years and there appears to be no persuasive argument against it. The purpose of bail is to ensure the appearance of the accused to answer the charge, but in the case of what has become known as 'watchhouse' or 'cash' bail this is not so. This system of 'watchhouse bail' by deposit of a sum of money should be retained, and should be an exception from provisions that failure to appear shall be an offence. The system operates satisfactorily, and is not contrary to any principle of justice. It is of advantage to a person charged with a minor type of offence whilst not depriving him of any right to a hearing, and it has an added advantage of reducing time occupied in the Magistrates Court and by the Police."

Mr Deputy Speaker, the report of the Law Reform Commission then gives as an example the congestion and chaos which would occur in the Magistrates Court if all persons charged with being found drunk in a public place were required to appear before the Court.

Section 247 of the Racing and Betting Act of 1980 provides that where the person charged with, or arrested for, an offence against sections 214, 216, 217 or 219 does not

appear personally before the court at the time when the complaint is to be heard, evidence is to be given and a warrant is to be issued to apprehend the accused and bring him before the court. There is no prejudging of any issue involved in the matter.

These charges and charges under section 16 of the Traffic Act, although not indictable offences under the Criminal Code, are considered to be of such a serious nature that they require the personal attendance of the accused to answer the charge.

The amendment proposed by this Bill is not inconsistent with the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission and it does not prohibit a watch-house keeper from releasing a person charged with these offences on bail by way of an undertaking. All it does is ensure that cash bail is not granted.

I trust that the explanations which I have given have answered all the queries raised in the honourable member's speech.

Mr Deputy Speaker, during the Committee stage I propose to move two amendments to this Bill. The first amendment will provide that the Bill will come into effect on a date to be proclaimed. If this amending clause is not inserted, the Act will come into force at the time when it is assented to.

In view of the fact that a number of forms will need to be amended and distributed to all outlying areas of the State and, further, that knowledge of the contents of the Bill will be dispersed through the courts and the legal profession, it is necessary to add this amending clause.

Since the original drafting of this Bill, the Racing and Betting Act has been amended in this House and the new citation for that Act reads "1980-1982". At present the amending Bill records the citation as "1980-1981". The second amendment will ensure that the correct citation is contained in the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Motion (Mr Doumany) agreed to.

Committee

Mr Row (Hinchinbrook) in the chair; Hon. S. S. Doumany (Kurilpa—Minister for Justice and Attorney-General) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

Mr DOUMANY: I move the following amendment—

"At page 2, insert the following new clause to follow clause 1—

'2. Commencement. (1) Section 1 and this section shall commence on the day this Act is assented to for and on behalf of Her Majesty.

(2) Except as is provided in subsection (1), this Act shall commence on a day appointed by Proclamation.'

Amendment agreed to.

New clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2, as read, agreed to.

Clause 3—Amendment of s. 10; General powers as to bail—

Mr R. J. GIBBS (12.52 p.m.): I speak very briefly to this clause because I believe it to be the appropriate time to say that I disagree with and refute totally the statement by the Minister about the duties of police at the watch-house. I reiterate the point that I made in the second-reading debate. First, I believe that a case can be made—and it should be given serious consideration—that, when a person is taken to the watch-house and the watch-house keeper or whoever the officer in charge may be refuses to grant bail, that person should have the right through a telephone hook-up to a magistrate to have the police officer's decision overruled. It is not good enough that a member of the Queensland Police Force should have the sole right to determine that matter.

The point I raised in the second-reading debate was probably verified by the Minister's statement—in my opinion, it was enforced by it—about domestic violence. The majority of people taken to the watch-house are not involved in domestic disputes. There is a growing attitude within the Queensland Police Force—and I say that it is well founded—that police are loathe to become involved in domestic arguments. I am talking about the Saturday night violence when dad comes home boozed and belts mum and the kids up, or when the neighbour down the road suddenly pulls a gun out and in a frenzy of pique discharges a few shots in the middle of the street. Such instances happen regularly. It is a matter of record that the police do not happily become involved in such incidents. Consequently, the majority of persons who used to come within this category no longer find their way to the watch-house. I defy anybody in the Parliament to produce facts and figures showing me to be incorrect.

What concerns me is the area of civil liberties—for example, people involved in street-march demonstrations or members of the church who a couple of years ago were arrested for singing hymns on Sunday in Queen's Park without having a permit to do so. Nobody could convince me that when such people are arrested by members of the Queensland Police Force, who immediately have a prejudice against them, and are taken to the watch-house, the officer in charge will not enter into collusion with his fellow members of the force and say, "What is the charge? What are they here for?" The police will express a certain belief and the persons will be detained for 24 hours. Under the legislation a person can be incarcerated for up to 24 hours without any right of appeal other than to a member of the Queensland Police Force.

I argue the point with the Minister because I believe that is improper, incorrect and a dire infringement upon people's rights. Once again, I urge the Minister to seriously reconsider that part of the legislation.

Mr DOUMANY: I note the points raised again by the honourable member for Wolston. I refer him back to the comments I made in my reply to the second-reading debate.

In the recent street-march demonstrations, to which he has referred, in many cases it was those arrested who did not want to seek bail. Obviously there were political reasons why they did not want to do that because clearly if they intend to label the police generally as biased against those whom they arrest, particularly in the civil liberties context, it is a prime ground for exploiting the situation in terms of publicity and public opinion if the people concerned stayed in the watch-house for a little while. That makes a great deal more capital.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: That is such a narrow-minded point of view that I throw my arms up in despair for you.

Mr DOUMANY: It is not narrow-minded. I do not cast aspersions on that practice. If it is a technique to highlight a particular grievance or injustice that a group wants to highlight, then surely from a tactical point of view the group should make the best use of situations that confront it. If a person spends a night in the watch-house and comes out afterwards looking dishevelled and bedraggled, that certainly sells much better in the media than if the person emerges as clean as a whistle after about an hour or two of completing documentation.

On the question of domestic violence, the honourable member for Wolston is aware that I have recently introduced a Bill, which is now on the Business Paper—I do not wish to refer to it—that is aimed at far more preventive measures to be used by police and, for that matter, social workers and crisis care services in those circumstances. That is a positive step by the Government.

Clause 3, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—Repeal of and new s. 33; Failure to appear in accordance with undertaking—

Mr R. J. GIBBS (12.58 p.m.): I am not convinced by the Minister's argument on this clause. I will certainly be quite happy to confer with officers of his department at a later time so that they can attempt to convince me otherwise. The Minister

claims that subsection 8 of the new section 33 does not make it mandatory for a sentence to apply. I might be blockheaded; I do not think so. The clause states that if a person commits a breach of duty he is liable to a penalty of \$1,000 or imprisonment for two years and in respect of that breach shall be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the new section. The Minister has maintained that other Acts prevent from happening what I am suggesting could happen. However, subsection 8 of the new section 33 reads—

“Notwithstanding any Act, law or practice, a term of imprisonment imposed on a person pursuant to this section shall be cumulative upon any other term of imprisonment to which he is subject pursuant to a law of the Commonwealth or the State, at the time he is sentenced pursuant to this section, or to which he is sentenced, pursuant to a law of the Commonwealth or the State, at the same time as he is sentenced pursuant to this section or subsequently during the term of imprisonment to which he is sentenced pursuant to this section.”

That very clearly indicates to me that the person on the bench has to say, “All right, when I fine Billy Bloggs or sentence him to a term of imprisonment I will have to say to him, ‘I sentence you to five years’ imprisonment and, on top of that, because you are in breach for not appearing in court, I am therefore imposing a further sentence of two years upon you.’” I do not believe that that is correct. It is not the way justice should be administered. I am not convinced that the argument put up by the Minister earlier is correct. I would be interested to hear his point of view again.

Mr DOUMANY: I can do very little more to persuade the honourable member. First of all, he should know that in 99.9 per cent of cases the Government’s policy is to avoid mandatory penalties. I made it clear in my second-reading speech that, in this case, unless express reference was made to a maximum penalty, the penalty must be read in terms of section 41 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1954-1957, which sets out a sort of automatic procedure. I, too, was concerned about the meaning of the wording, and I questioned my officers before the Bill was introduced. It was explained to me pretty thoroughly that provision was not made for a mandatory sentence but for a maximum sentence.

In regard to the cumulative aspect, the provision simply makes the sentence cumulative as such, thus stressing the importance of honouring bail. It does not affect the operation of the section of the Acts Interpretation Act that I cited in my speech; that is an independent mechanism. The matter of cumulative sentences is independent from the operation of the Acts Interpretation Act provision. If the honourable member wants the position explained to him more fully, I will arrange for my officers to speak to him and go through the clause in detail. I can understand that the wording is confusing.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Clause 11—Amendment of Second Schedule; Offences in respect of which bail by way of deposit of money shall not be granted—

Mr DOUMANY: I move the following amendment—

At page 6, line 34, omit the expression—

‘1981’

and substitute the expression—

‘1982.’”

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 11, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 12, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, with amendments.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Doumany, by leave, read a third time.

[Sitting suspended from 1.5 to 2.15 p.m.]

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL TABLES

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) presented the tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year 1982-83.

Ordered to be printed.

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1982-83

Mr SPEAKER read a message from His Excellency the Governor forwarding the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means and Expenditure of the Government of Queensland for the year ending 30 June 1983.

Estimates ordered to be printed, and referred to Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY

Opening of Committee—Financial Statement

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Miller, Ithaca) in the chair

Hon. L. R. EDWARDS (Ipswich—Deputy Premier and Treasurer) (2.17 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said—

INTRODUCTION

Mr Miller,

I have pleasure in presenting the State Budget for 1982-83.

In many respects, it has been a very difficult Budget to prepare. Certainly the tasks which confronted me as Treasurer were not made any easier by such influences as the full year's impact of very large wage and salary increases granted in 1981-82 or by the effect of Commonwealth Government policies in a number of areas.

I will have more to say on these matters.

The difficulties were also compounded by the apparent slackness that has developed in the Australian economy due, in part, to a general recessive outlook in the world economic situation overall.

The Government has every confidence in the long term future of Queensland. However, it would be naive to believe that we can insulate ourselves completely from the economic malaise of the rest of the world or indeed the situation in other States.

The situation in Japan, our major trading partner, continues to be of some concern.

The tremendous growth rates that were characteristic of the Japanese economy in the 60's and 70's have moderated somewhat although the longer term prospects remain excellent.

In the shorter term however, estimates of demand for Japanese steel production have been revised downwards due to current world economic conditions and this has resulted in a considerable increase in coal stockpiles. This has meant some cutback in coal sales to Japan, most notably evidenced by the recent announcement by the Utah Company of a 10 per cent reduction in coal output.

While this is of concern in the short term, the longer term prognosis remains good. The ability of M.I.M. and its partners to commit to contracts, the bulk of the projected output from the Newlands mine supports this view.

It has been said that Queensland is making a mistake by linking its future to resources activities. Let me say categorically that such prophecies are wrong. The future of Queensland is assured because of the vast natural resources we have and the widespread diversification of our economy. Interest in development remains high because potential investors and the Government have had the foresight to look beyond today.

Nevertheless, at the present time we have little alternative but to cope with the situation as best we can until general economic conditions improve, both in Australia and overseas.

What I can say though is that Queensland is without doubt far better placed to cope with the present difficulties than most, if not all other States and this will be borne out as details of the Budget are revealed.

What then is the general economic picture for the State?

The Consumer Price Index June quarter '81 to June quarter '82 increased at a rate of 10.1 per cent compared with 10.7 per cent for Australia as a whole and compares with an increase of only 9.1 per cent in the previous year.

I see little prospect of a significant easing in the rate of increase in the Index this year.

For 1981-82, average weekly earnings increased at an annual rate of 17.4 per cent for Australia as a whole. The general outlook for wage and salary increases this year is for a somewhat smaller increase overall than in the previous year, probably of the order of 12 to 13 per cent.

However, the rate of increase will depend on a number of factors not the least of which will be the degree to which unions are successful in their campaigns for reductions in working hours, the manner in which any such reductions are accommodated by employers and of course, the demands for wage increases by employees.

The real estate and property boom which produced a significant enhancement to the Government's revenues last year has slowed down and this has left the building and construction industry in a flat state. While there are some encouraging statistics relating to the value of approvals, on the other hand, the number of new dwellings approved has fallen marginally.

However, development is still taking place although not at the same level as before.

There are statistics which do highlight the inherent strength of the Queensland economy.

New motor vehicle registrations for example, grew at an annual rate of 6.7 per cent in 1981-82 compared with 4.7 per cent for Australia as a whole.

Retail sales are still exhibiting fairly healthy growth trends with an increase of 15 per cent for the year compared with just over 12 per cent for Australia as a whole.

Our population growth continues at an unprecedented rate, which is a positive indication that there is a large number of Australians who see Queensland as the place to be now and in the future.

Unfortunately, the situation in our rural industries is not so bright.

Queenslanders have always had to contend with droughts, floods and other natural adversities. They are part of our way of life and we have always managed to recover and push on.

Tribute must be paid to our rural producers.

The disastrous effects of successive droughts have sorely tested their capacities and resilience at a time when world markets are shrinking and prices are at low levels.

The Commonwealth Government has recently announced enhanced measures of assistance for drought-affected primary producers.

For its part, the State stands ready to assist in whatever way it can within the resources available to it.

The Government sees the rural sector which has been the backbone of the Queensland economy for so long, still maintaining that role and wants it to be in a position to recover quickly when the ravages of the current drought are over.

As is customary, I have included in Appendix C of the Treasurer's Financial Statement, a comprehensive summary of general economic material which will provide a broad background to the Budget. I commend it for study.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1981-82

The Government began the year with an anticipated operating deficit of just under \$437,000. The actual result for the year was a deficit of \$170,888, a very pleasing result for the Government.

Revenues were \$3,276.8 million, an increase of \$138.9 million on the Budget estimate of \$3,137.9 million. The main increases occurred in—

- The Commonwealth Tax Sharing Grant, where revision of the original grant as a result of revised population estimates provided Queensland with a further \$38.2 million.
- Pay-roll Tax, where revenue was some \$20.7 million above the Budget estimate, largely due to higher than anticipated increases in wages generally.

- Stamp Duty, where revenue was some \$35.8 million higher than Budget because of real estate activity being sustained at high levels for a large part of the year.
- Interest, which was up \$41.3 million because of the very significant increases in interest rates and higher than anticipated investible funds.

On the expenditure side, total outlays from the Consolidated Revenue Fund were \$3,276.9 million, an increase of \$138.6 million on the Budget estimate of \$3,138.3 million. The increase arose from an additional requirement of \$61.6 million to meet award increases granted during the year, with the balance of \$77.0 million plus other net savings in Departmental expenditures generally of \$20 million being utilised to provide further supplementation for the Special Projects Fund.

The Government started the year with an accumulated surplus in the Consolidated Revenue Fund of \$25,319. Taking into account the deficit in operations of \$170,888, the accumulated position at 30th June 1982 was a deficit of \$145,569.

Further details in regard to the 1981-82 financial year are provided in the Treasurer's Annual Statement which has already been presented to the Parliament.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1982-83

The prospects for 1982-83 are not as good as might have been envisaged say twelve months ago and are certainly not as good as the Government would like them to be or, for that matter, as they ought to be.

The State Government does not have direct control over the national economy. It certainly does not control or significantly influence world economic trends. We must be prepared to weather a difficult period until such time as the economic situation generally improves.

The broad scenario which the Government sees for 1982-83 and which has been the background to development of the Budget for the year can be summarised as follows—

- Costs will continue to rise at a slightly higher rate than in 1981-82 as the full impact of wage and salary increases granted in 1981-82 flow through the economy.
- Employment will increase although because of population influx and school leavers coming on to the job market, there is no real prospect of any significant fall-off in the unemployment level in the short term.
- Interest rates will shift downwards and this movement has already commenced. It is not expected that these will retreat to the more acceptable single digit level.
- Capital investment is unlikely to pick up substantially although development currently in progress or due to commence will provide a less pessimistic outlook for Queensland than is probably the situation in other States.

- The outlook for world export markets, particularly minerals, will remain difficult, at least in the short term.

I must also say at this point that the Budget which I will outline shortly does not include any provision for reduced working hours for Crown employees. The Government remains very firmly of the view that the general economic situation is such that the time is not appropriate for workers to be demanding a greater share of available resources, or for the Government to accede to such requests.

I turn now to the Budget for 1982-83.

THE BUDGET FOR 1982-83

I have already outlined the general economic situation against which the Budget has been prepared.

Of more direct relevance to Government finances in 1982-83 are the following—

- a net increase of only 8·1 per cent in Commonwealth general revenue assistance
- the Government's commitment to maintenance of the State's free hospital system
- the full year's impact of large wage and salary increases granted in 1981-82
- high population growth ensuring continuing demand for essential services and community infrastructure
- a return to a much more normal revenue position compared with the very buoyant conditions of 1981-82
- the impact on rail freight revenues and mining royalties of the depressed demand for coal, particularly by Japan
- the need to ensure services are maintained at least at the levels and standards of the previous year, with improvements where possible
- a commitment to direct additional resources to the education sector.

COMMONWEALTH-STATE FINANCIAL RELATIONS

Before turning to the Budget in detail, I wish to make one or two comments on the very important question of Commonwealth-State financial relations.

At the June 1982 Premiers' Conference, it was decided by the Commonwealth and accepted by the States, that the recommendations of the Commonwealth Grants Commission in regard to revised relativities for the States for the purposes of Tax Sharing grants would be accepted in full, although their implementation would be phased in over three years. This followed a predictable failure by the States to agree to the new relativities, which would have involved significant adverse financial impact for some States.

Queensland has consistently advocated full acceptance and implementation of the Commission's recommendations. While we are pleased that the recommendations have been accepted, we are naturally disappointed that their full implementation will take three years to achieve.

This only exacerbates the financial disadvantage which Queensland has suffered over many years as a result of its receiving an inappropriate share of Commonwealth general revenue assistance, a disadvantage which was fully highlighted by the Commission's findings.

Failure to implement the recommendations in full immediately will cost the State over \$130 million this year, with a further loss of lesser magnitude next year, none of which can ever be recovered or recouped.

I must at this point commend the efforts of the Treasury and the various other Departments involved who put forward the Queensland case to the Commission so comprehensibly, convincingly and successfully. The additional revenues which the State will eventually receive will be of immense benefit.

For some years now, Queensland as a "claimant" State has received special grants from the Commonwealth based on the recommendations of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. In 1981-82, \$58.5 million was so paid on account of 1979-80 and 1980-81.

Following completion of the Relativities Review, there will be no special grant paid to the State this year and in fact, a refund of \$19.65 million has to be made to the Commonwealth on account of an over-advance for 1980-81, causing an effective shortfall on last year of \$78.15 million.

Last year also was the first stage of the changed funding arrangements implemented by the Commonwealth in regard to hospitals and other health care services. The additional funds required to be found by the State in 1981-82 amounted to about \$50 million.

The full impact of the Commonwealth's decision will be felt in 1982-83 and in cash terms the Commonwealth grant will decline from \$165.2 million to \$93.0 million, a further loss of \$72.2 million.

However, in terms of what the State might reasonably have expected to receive under the old 50-50 cost sharing arrangements, the shortfall in funding which the State has to find to ensure that the free hospital service remains will be to the order of \$143 million.

The impact on the Budget this year of the partial implementation only of the Grants Commission recommendations, the absence of a special grant and the revised hospital and health care funding arrangements will be over \$350 million.

One can only speculate on the Budget that might have been able to be presented had the State not been faced with the effects of these matters on its Budget this year.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND 1982-83

The Budget provides for total expenditures of \$3,668.95 million, an increase of \$530.65 million or 16.9 per cent on the amount provided for in the 1981-82 Budget. Revenues are estimated to be \$3,668.67 million, leaving an anticipated deficit on the year's operations of \$0.26 million.

Although this rate of increase might appear reasonable even allowing for the impact of 1981-82 salary and wage increases, the fact is that the programmed expenditure is only 12.0 per cent higher than actual expenditure in 1981-82.

This would have meant serious curtailment of works and services but for the alternative arrangements for supplementing the capital program which I will discuss later.

REVENUES

Revenue estimates have been very strongly influenced by the static state of the economy which has meant little or no real growth in some significant revenue areas. This year revenues are expected to be only 12.0 per cent higher than last year's actual, although some 16.9 per cent higher than last year's Budget estimate.

The main areas of impact have been—

- stamp duty, which is expected to be only 1.7 per cent higher than last year's actual on a comparable basis, with revenue from real estate and other conveyances expected to be about \$14 million less than in 1981-82
- payments from the Commonwealth, which overall are expected to increase by only about 10 per cent
- mining revenue, which is anticipated to increase by only about 4.7 per cent on last year's actual, mainly due to the effects of depressed world economic conditions on traditional markets.

The difficulties brought about by the above factors have been offset to some degree by an expected increase of 16.9 per cent in payroll tax revenues and increases in receipts for services rendered and other miscellaneous revenues.

I hasten to point out that the revenue estimates for the Railways have been prepared on the basis of no further serious disruptions to rail services because of pressure for the introduction of a 38 hour week or for any other reason. To the extent that unions continue to threaten the earning capacity of the Railways by unnecessary, wasteful and disruptive industrial tactics, the present optimistic revenue forecast will not be achieved and the Government will be faced with some very difficult decisions to offset the impact on the Budget.

The problem would be further compounded by the granting of a 38 hour week to the unions involved. Should this occur, the inevitable result will be further increases in rail fares and freight rates to minimise the burden on the taxpayer generally.

In accordance with their responsibility in terms of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Accountable Officers have reviewed the level of fees and charges levied by their respective Departments and increases of around 12 per cent have been implemented or are in the process of implementation. This is somewhat less than might otherwise be justified having regard to increases in salary and wage levels and other costs in the past twelve months. It is seen though as the minimum necessary to ensure that the real value of fees and charges is not significantly reduced.

In the particular case of the Railways, costs have escalated at a rate well in excess of the norm. The Government has also had to consider the very large subsidy currently provided to the Railways from the general tax pool.

To ensure that rail users continue to meet a reasonable share of the cost of railway operations, general rail fares and freight rates will be increased on average by 15 per cent from 1st November. The increase is expected to provide additional revenue of \$20 million in 1982-83.

Special mineral freight rates are of course automatically indexed to recover cost increases on an agreed formula.

For a number of years, the Government has been able to formulate its Budget without having to resort to increases in the rates of taxation or introducing new forms of tax such as business franchise licences for tobacco and petrol. In fact, Queensland is the only State in Australia that does not have such taxes.

At the same time, very significant concessions have been provided in death duties, pay-roll tax, land tax, stamp duty, road maintenance charges, road transport permit fees and so on.

The overall effect has been to maintain Queensland's enviable position of being the lowest tax State in Australia.

Recent studies by my Department suggest that Queensland has significant capacity to very substantially increase revenues by simply bringing Queensland up to the taxing standards of the other States.

I hasten to add that the Government does not see this as desirable or necessary.

However, there is one area where the rate of tax is too far below the rates applicable in other States. I refer to the stamp duty on applications for motor vehicle registrations and transfers. The Queensland rate is presently \$1 per \$100 compared with a maximum rate in some States of \$4 per \$100.

It is proposed therefore that the rate of this stamp duty increase to \$2 per \$100 with effect from 1st November.

Concurrently, the scope of the duty will be extended to include motor boats, with effect from 1st November also.

These two measures are expected to result in additional revenue of \$15.9 million this year.

The necessary amending legislation will be introduced into the House shortly.

While it has been necessary to provide for this one relatively minor increase in taxation, the Budget also provides for certain taxation concessions.

Pay-roll Tax

The present maximum pay-roll tax exemption of \$180,000 will be increased to \$204,000.

It is also proposed that the present system whereby the maximum pay-roll tax exemption reduces by \$5 for every \$2 by which the annual pay-roll exceeds \$180,000 be changed to a \$3 for \$2 reduction such that the minimum exemption of \$36,000 will apply to annual pay-rolls above \$316,000 rather than \$237,600 as at present.

Approximately 1 500 employers in the annual pay-roll range of \$180,000 to \$316,000 will pay less pay-roll tax as a result of these measures.

The increased concessions will apply from 1st January 1983.

The Government has been concerned for some time with the need to train more young people as apprentices to meet future industry needs as the State develops. It has embarked on an enhanced program of employment of apprentices by the Crown and last year introduced a pay-roll tax rebate in respect of Group Apprentice Schemes.

The Budget provides for a substantial enhancement of the present rebate scheme.

Commencing with the 1982-83 year, a rebate will be provided to employers in respect of that portion of pay-roll tax paid that relates to wages of first year apprentices.

Employers will apply for the rebate in the year following the financial year in which the pay-roll tax is paid. In other words, pay-roll tax paid in 1982-83 on account of first year apprentice wages will be eligible for rebate in 1983-84.

The scheme will be administered by the Department of Employment and Labour Relations.

The expected annual cost of these pay-roll tax concessions is \$5 million.

Stamp Duty

To assist home buyers to cope with the higher level of mortgages now required to purchase a home, the present stamp duty exemption in respect of mortgages executed in connection with the purchase or acquisition of the principal place of residence will be increased from \$25,000 to \$35,000 as from 1st November.

The full year's cost of this concession is estimated to be \$1 million.

The Government is also investigating ways and means by which encouragement can be given to financial and business entrepreneurs to locate in Queensland. While stamp duty aspects represent only one factor in any decisions of this nature, the Government is keen to ensure at least that the Stamp Act provides no disincentive.

Further, depending on the budgetary implications of any proposal both in the long and short term, the Government will be looking for ways to actively encourage entrepreneurs to Queensland by providing stamp duty concessions in relevant areas.

The review will be completed as soon as possible. The results will then be considered by the Government and an appropriate announcement made.

Land Tax

It is proposed to extend the present total exemption from land tax for primary producers to Australian exempt proprietary companies wholly engaged in primary production. Exempt proprietary companies are usually small family-type operations with directors and shareholders members of the same family and it is reasonable to extend the primary producer concession in these particular circumstances.

The cost of this concession will be about \$750,000 this financial year.

EXPENDITURES

The very high increases in wages and salaries granted during 1981-82 has dominated the framing of the expenditure budget this year. The full year's cost in 1982-83 of award movements in 1981-82 is \$290 million. In addition, it has been necessary to make provision of \$136 million for likely award variations this year.

Also, with a population growth now running at around 3.5 per cent per annum, it has been necessary to provide for additional teachers, police, hospital staff and administrative personnel generally to cope with the demands which an expanding population inevitably brings.

At the same time, the Government has been very conscious of the need to maintain the level of its capital works program to ensure that the social infrastructure needs of our rapidly expanding population are met, that employment opportunities are not lost and that Queensland industry is able to weather the present economic circumstances and emerge stronger than ever to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

I have already pointed out the shortfalls in revenue which have made preparation of this Budget difficult. This, coupled with the greatly increased allocations necessary simply to sustain existing programs at levels commensurate with need, has meant that the Consolidated Revenue Fund can provide, on present estimates, only \$8 million for the Special Projects Fund.

The Government sees such a massive shortfall in its capital program as quite untenable and potentially catastrophic to development and employment in the State and has concluded that, if employment is to be maintained and essential works undertaken, a further \$90 million at least must be found.

The Government has taken the view that the present circumstances and factors which have given rise to the shortfall in requirements for 1982-83 will not recur in 1983-84 and future years and therefore has not acted to cut services, increase taxation other than as indicated or take other more draconian measures to provide the required capital supplement.

Given this situation, the Government has had to look elsewhere to fund its capital works program and is therefore moving to quickly finalise long term funding arrangements for major infrastructure developments. Once these arrangements are in place, funds previously provided from the Special Projects Fund to finance the developments on a temporary basis pending completion of longer term arrangements advantageous to the State, can be released back to the Fund.

These negotiations are currently in progress and when concluded will enable \$90 million to be utilised in 1982-83 thus ensuring a capital supplement of \$98 million for the year.

The Budget has been prepared on this basis.

DEPARTMENTAL EXPENDITURES GENERALLY

The Government's philosophy has been to provide Departments with allocations which should ensure that services continue to be provided at existing levels at least, with special account taken of extraordinary needs where appropriate, particularly where those relate to population-induced demands.

To provide generally for a maintenance of effort in services, an overall increase in "base" contingencies of 12 per cent has been allowed.

Enhancements to On-going Programs

Apart from special supplementation of certain on-going programs, which I will outline in a moment, the Budget also provides for enhancement of various schemes of assistance to non-Government organisations and individuals.

- Remote Area Allowances paid by the Education Department will increase by around 11.1 per cent.
- the rate of allowance for Senior Remote Area Scholarship holders will increase from \$1,350 to \$1,510.
- the Maintenance Allowance paid to approved student hostels will increase from \$160 to \$180 per student per annum.
- the Textbook Allowance paid in respect of secondary school students will increase by an average of 18 per cent.
- payments for conveyance of students by private vehicle will increase by 12 per cent from 1st January 1983 and payments to school bus operators will be increased by an overall 15 per cent from 1st

November 1982. I might add that the New South Wales Government recently removed all assistance to school transport throughout the entire State.

- the number of subsidised staff for Home Nursing Services will increase from 453 to 466. At the same time, the rate of subsidy will be increased by \$200 per annum from 1st July 1982 in addition to increases automatically provided for as a result of award changes.
- the rates of allowance paid to apprentices attending block release training will increase by about 16.5 per cent overall.
- the allowances paid to foster parents and licensed institutions and other payments of a similar nature will be increased by around 11 per cent.
- there will be a 15 per cent increase in the rate of approved subsidy paid to voluntary organisations employing social workers.
- provision has also been made for expansion of assistance to Consumer Credit Counselling Services and the Women's Services Program.

Further details in regard to these measures will be announced by the relevant Ministers in due course.

Administrative Staffing

Although mindful that there are demands created by an expanding population and development which are becoming increasingly more difficult to meet by improved efficiencies and stream lining of Departmental operations, the Government is firmly of the view that the policy of virtual nil growth in the Public Service administrative establishment must be maintained this year.

Therefore, as a general rule, Departments seeking additional staff for new programs will be required to provide for such need by eliminating or scaling down old programs that have long outlived their usefulness or that are no longer relevant or that are no longer achieving the objectives envisaged or desired in a cost-effective way.

There will be clear responsibility on Ministers to closely examine each and every program within their Departments to assess its relevance, priority and effectiveness. There are mechanisms and services available to assist Ministers and their Departments in their evaluations.

If the Government is to provide services needed by the people of the State at a cost which is reasonable, then these evaluations must be undertaken with a much greater degree of vigour and a willingness and commitment to change to ensure objectives are achieved.

The Public Service Board will be required to closely examine, in collaboration with the relevant Department, each and every request to ensure that all possible steps have been taken to meet needs from existing resources and to minimise the cost to the Budget of any proposal.

The co-operation of all Ministers and their Departments in this difficult but very essential task is assured.

Education

The total allocation for the Education Department this year is \$838.5 million which represents an increase of 19.4 per cent on the amount provided in 1981-82. It provides for major improvements and initiatives in the area of education.

Teachers

The Government has repeatedly stated that a program of reduction in class sizes would be announced in the Budget.

The Ahern Select Committee recommendations on class sizes will be implemented in full over a four year period commencing in 1982-83. This, coupled with the needs of projected enrolment growth, means that an additional 1,350 State School teachers have been provided for in this Budget.

While very lengthy consideration was given to the possibility of a shorter implementation period, the total additional costs involved of upwards of \$50 million annually, the strain on manpower resources and the demands for additional capital facilities that would inevitably result, preclude any prospect of quicker progress being made.

In taking this decision, the Government has accepted the proposition that reduced class sizes are one of the primary means of ensuring quality educational output. Therefore, all additional teachers will be utilised for full-time classroom duties and there will be no increase in non-classroom teaching. My colleague, the Minister for Education, will be taking all necessary steps to ensure that maximum effective use is made of total available teacher resources for classroom duties.

45 additional teachers will also be required to service the needs of Commonwealth-funded programs.

The Budget also provides for the appointment of an additional 150 teachers to cater for continued growth in the Technical and Further Education sector.

In total, 1,545 additional teachers have been provided for this year, an increase of 6.8 per cent on present teacher numbers.

School Transport

For some time now, work has been in progress on possible improvements to the school transport system to see what can be done to ameliorate some of the problems faced by parents of non-Government school children.

The work has now been completed and discussions held with representatives of the non-Government school system in regard to the outcome.

In the light of the investigations and subsequent discussions, the Government has decided to extend the present schemes of assistance for the transport of school children.

- To parents of non-Government school children conveying their children to the nearest appropriate school by private vehicle over distances in excess of the presently prescribed limits, an annual allowance per family will be paid equivalent to the minimum Class A rate under the existing scheme.
- For parents of non-Government school children travelling to the nearest appropriate school by public transport, where the distance involved is greater than the presently prescribed limits, the Government will meet two-thirds of the nett family cost in excess of \$12 per week.

These new measures are expected to add \$600,000 per annum to the cost of the school transport schemes.

Full details will be announced by my colleague, the Minister for Education.

Per Capita Grants to Non-Government Schools

In recent years, both Commonwealth and State Governments have directed considerable additional resources to the non-Government school sector. While this has improved the position of these schools, it is accepted that a resource gap between Government and non-Government schools still exists.

The Budget therefore provides for further enhancement to the level of State Government assistance for these schools.

From third term 1982, per capita payments to non-Government schools will increase by 16 per cent from \$261 to \$303 per annum for primary students and from \$420 to \$486 per annum for secondary students.

The increases will cost an estimated \$5.5 million per annum.

High School Assembly Halls

I would also mention that the maximum subsidy in respect of high school assembly halls has been increased from \$110,000 to \$140,000 for approvals granted after 1st July 1982.

I also mention that we will continue the present level of percentage funding for kindergartens throughout the State.

Culture and The Arts

The Budget provides for a total of \$4.83 million to be distributed to cultural organisations this year, an increase of 29.3 per cent on the amount provided in 1981-82.

The increased allocation includes an amount of \$920,000 for the Lyric Opera of Queensland, which at present is in the middle of a very successful first season of opera. I am sure the success of Lyric Opera will herald a new era for this art form in Queensland.

An amount of \$535,000 has also been provided for the activities of Warana and Festival '82 to ensure the successful staging of Festival '82 during the

Commonwealth Games. The program being undertaken by the Festival organisers is an ambitious one but is necessary to complement the staging of the Games when the eyes of the world will be focused on Brisbane and Queensland.

A new granting scheme of assistance is proposed for local museums. An initial amount of \$50,000 has been provided to enable project grants to be made to properly constituted non-profit local museums. The objective of the scheme will be to assist museums toward improvements in services and functions. Grants will not be available for capital building works. Details of the scheme will be announced as soon as practicable by my colleague, the Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts.

Transport and Road Safety

The Government has been very concerned about the mounting road toll. It is increasing despite concentrated efforts by the police in the way of increased road surveillance and special drink-driver campaigns and also the media.

The Budget has therefore provided special funding for five specific road safety projects.

The main thrusts of the program will be towards—

- heavy vehicle road safety
- community responsibility in road safety
- the role of parents in road safety education for children
- an increased volunteer defensive driving program
- an enhanced schools advisory service.

The Minister for Transport will be making a more detailed statement on this matter.

At the same time, action has been taken to reduce the permissible blood alcohol limit as a deterrent to would-be drink drivers. Further, drivers who are convicted of drink driving offences may be required to attend defensive driver training courses.

While the Government has no power to eliminate driver recklessness, carelessness and irresponsibility, it will, to the maximum extent possible, educate drivers and pedestrians alike to the seriousness of the road toll and the necessity for increased road safety.

Roads

The Main Roads Department will expend a total of \$405.2 million on the roadworks program this year, an increase of \$66.1 million or 19.5 per cent on the previous year. Further details of the major works proposed are set out in Appendix A.

In addition to normal funding available from Commonwealth and State sources, the Commonwealth will also be providing funds to the State under the recently announced Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program.

An amount of \$39.2 million will be available for urban arterial and other roads with a further as yet undetermined amount to be made available for national highways. The State will also have the option to allocate a portion of those funds for urban transport systems generally and this aspect is currently under examination.

While the State welcomes the concept of enhanced funding for the road transport system, I can only say that it is long overdue and merely catches up some of the ground that has been lost in recent years by the Commonwealth's refusal to reimburse the States with an adequate share of income derived from the motorist.

The State is also concerned that it has been necessary to place an added impost on the motorist to provide these funds.

As part of a special assistance program for several States, the Commonwealth will also be providing \$20 million to Queensland in 1982-83 for roads and transportation systems. The allocation of the \$20 million has not been finalised pending receipt of further details from the Commonwealth.

Police

The Budget this year provides for an increase of 154 in the approved establishment of the Police Department. At the same time, funds have been provided to enable the Department to appoint a further 78 police officers to eliminate the under-strength position which existed at 30th June.

The Department's allocation of \$172.2 million represents an increase of 21.8 per cent on the amount provided last year and includes \$1 million to meet special additional needs before, during and after the Commonwealth Games.

The allocation also includes provision for—

- 32 additional police vehicles, including motor cycles
- \$135,000 for special drug investigations
- \$250,000 for special radio and other equipment purchases
- \$3.8 million for purchase of the Department's own computer facility.

Tourism

The Consolidated Revenue Fund grant for the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation this year will be \$9 million, an increase of \$1.3 million or about 17 per cent on the amount provided last year.

It includes—

- \$500,000 as part of the three year \$1.5 million program for special publicity and promotion activities at home and abroad, as announced in the Budget last year.
- \$500,000 special additional funding to provide an enhancement of the Corporation's on-going program of bringing to fruition the full potential of Queensland as a tourist venue.

Hospitals and Health Care Services

The Budget this year has had to cope with the full year's impact of the revised Commonwealth funding arrangements for hospitals and other health care services.

Towards a total hospital expenditure program of \$640.6 million, up 20 per cent or \$106.9 million on the previous year, the Commonwealth's contribution will be \$93.0 million compared with \$165.2 million last year, a decrease of \$72.2 million.

The net effect is that, despite the already announced increase in fees and charges effective from 1st November, the net cost to the State of maintaining the hospital system will increase from \$275.2 million last year to \$427.6 million this year, an increase of \$152.4 million or 55.4 per cent.

Nevertheless, the Government has honoured its commitment to ensure that the free hospital system in Queensland is continued, even though this has limited expansion of other programs and services and quite severely inhibited capital growth.

I can say here and now that the Government will make every effort to ensure that the benefits of Queensland's free hospital system are not lost to its people.

As part of the Government's objective to ensure that needs arising from population growth are catered for, the hospital expenditure program allows for—

- the appointment of 658 additional staff
- \$4.3 million for the cost of new services
- \$1.5 million for maintenance and up-grading
- \$11.5 million for plant and equipment.

Railways

\$697.9 million has been allocated to the Railways Department this year, an increase of \$110.1 million or 18.7 per cent on the amount provided last year. The allocation includes some \$10 million to meet the additional cost of fuel as a result of the Commonwealth Government's decision to cease the exemption applicable in respect of off-road users of diesel fuel and the additional 1c per litre excise duty imposed to fund the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program.

Funds have been provided to increase the average workforce of the Department by 488 plus the employment of an additional 100 apprentices in 1983, as part of the Government's commitment to increase its apprenticeship intake.

It is also proposed to take up with the other States the possibility of Queensland participating in the present reciprocal pensioner rail travel concession arrangements.

The Railway's normal Capital Works Program this year will total \$65.4 million and will be in addition to \$316.9 million which will be expended on special mineral line projects financed by users.

Further details appear in Appendix A.

Primary Industries

The Budget provides for an allocation of \$79.9 million for the Department of Primary Industries compared with \$65.1 million in 1981-82, an increase of 22.7 per cent.

The allocation provides for total expenditure of \$12.848 million under the Bovine Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Eradication Campaign financed by the Commonwealth and the State.

An amount of \$720,000 is also included as the Government's contribution to the debt costs of the Queensland Fish Board. The payment is pursuant to a rescue operation mounted by the Government to ensure the continued long term viability of the Board.

A special allocation of \$1.6 million has also been provided to upgrade substantially the Department's stock of plant and equipment.

An amount of \$2.958 million has been provided from various sources to meet special needs associated with an acute tick problem that has developed in the Maxwelton area. The funds will be utilised for acaricide subsidies, fencing, cattle dips, railyard extensions and loans to affected primary producers.

\$4.5 million has been provided in the votes of the Department of Lands to meet loans approved under the Young Farmer Assistance Scheme.

Assistance to drought affected primary producers under the Commonwealth/State natural disaster relief assistance arrangements is estimated to total \$12 million this year.

Welfare Services

An amount of \$69.3 million has been provided for the Welfare Services function, including—

- \$29.25 million for the Department of Children's Services
- \$30.95 million for the Prison Service.

The allocation in total represents an increase of \$12.6 million or 22.2 per cent on the amount provided last year.

Enhancements have been provided for in a number of programs administered by the Department of Children's Services and further details will be provided by the Minister in due course.

Payments under the State Government's pensioner rate subsidy scheme are expected to be \$11 million. There will be no changes to the existing conditions under which the scheme operates.

National Parks

The increase in the allocation for the National Parks and Wildlife Service this year is \$1.5 million or 23.3 per cent which follows a similar increase provided to the Service in the previous year.

The allocation of \$7.94 million includes specific provision for—

- \$300,000 for Environmental Parks and Reserves
- \$400,000 for establishment and other costs associated with setting up a Service presence on Moreton Island.

The allocation for Moreton Island will provide for construction of an operations centre on the Brisbane River, accommodation on the Island, back up vehicles and equipment as well as camping and information facilities. A planning and visitor survey will also be undertaken.

Initially five people will be employed.

The Government is firmly committed to preserving as much of Moreton Island as possible as a National Park.

Housing

The Government has recently announced major initiatives in the housing area. The new \$100 million home ownership scheme has resulted in a large number of applications and first loans have now been allocated.

The scheme has been formulated on the basis of borrowers making repayments according to a fixed percentage of income during the life of the loan, rather than fixed repayments geared to the amount of the loan.

For borrowers on low incomes who would not otherwise be able to afford commercial rates of interest, there will be a non-repayable subsidy involved.

For borrowers with higher incomes who participate in the commercial aspect of the scheme, commercial rates of interest will be charged but there will be provision for capitalisation of interest charges in certain cases.

The new scheme will effectively double the capacity of the Queensland Housing Commission to meet home ownership needs.

Totally in 1982–83 the Queensland Housing Commission will have available \$277.1 million for housing purposes, an increase of \$119.7 million on the amount available in 1981–82.

Water Resources

The Queensland Water Resources Commission will have available \$114.15 million for its capital works program this year. Included in this amount is \$59.7 million to be provided by the Queensland Electricity Generating Board for works directly related to the industry, including Boondooma Dam and the Tarong and Callide pipelines.

\$10 million has also been set aside for expenditure on the Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme.

Further details in regard to the Program are set out in Appendix A.

The Government has also been concerned for some time about small water storage and conservation capacities of our Queensland rivers. Some very preliminary investigations have been undertaken.

However, the Co-ordinator-General will be investigating the position in more detail this year, with particular emphasis being given to the Flinders and Maranoa Rivers.

CAPITAL WORKS

LOAN FUND

For some years, the Government has taken the very strong view that the developmental needs of the State required a maximum commitment to be made to Consolidated Revenue supplementation of the capital works program.

This approach was brought about largely by Commonwealth policies which have resulted in the Loan Council allocation reducing from \$190.11 million in 1978-79 to an estimated \$182.05 million in 1982-83.

Without special supplementation from Consolidated Revenue through the Special Projects Fund, the impact on necessary Government works and consequently employment and industry in this State would have been disastrous to say the least.

Taking into account the \$8 million proposed supplementation this year, the total funds made available to the Special Projects Fund from Consolidated Revenue in the past five years have been almost \$480 million.

I have already outlined the proposed action which the Government is taking to ensure a capital works supplementation of \$98 million this year.

The total capital works program of the Government this year financed from the Loan Fund is \$281.5 million. The program is anticipated to be funded as follows—

• Australian Loan Council allocation	\$173.2m
• Supplement from Consolidated Revenue through the Special Projects Fund (Loan Fund Portion of \$98 million)	\$59.2m
• Commonwealth specific purpose capital payments	\$36.8m
• Loan repayments and other receipts	\$12.3m
	\$281.5m

Further details in respect of the capital works program are set out in Appendix A.

SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITY BORROWING PROGRAM

At the June 1982 meeting of the Australian Loan Council, it was agreed that, for a trial period of three years, domestic borrowings by major Electricity Authorities would not be subject to Loan Council control.

This represents a major change in policy for the capital works programs of the State and its Authorities.

It means that within certain limitations the State Electricity Commission of Queensland will be able to participate in the capital market place in a much more responsive and decisive way. It also means that the developments necessary

to meet the State's future power requirements can proceed without impedence from Loan Council restrictions or at cost to programs of other Semi-Governmental or Local Authorities.

This move is welcomed by the Government.

The total Semi-Governmental Borrowing Program approved by Loan Council for Queensland for 1982-83 is \$186.6 million, including a special temporary addition of \$7 million for the Burdekin Dam project. This compares with an amount of \$163.3 million (excluding Electricity Authorities) provided in 1981-82.

While the increase of \$16.3 million in the basic program is welcomed, it is nowhere near sufficient to restore the program to a realistic level in real terms.

Details of the major Semi-Governmental Borrowing Allocations for 1982-83 are set out in Appendix B.

Borrowings by smaller local bodies outside the Semi-Governmental Borrowing Program totalled \$121.3 million in 1981-82. Estimated borrowings by these smaller Local Authorities in 1982-83 total \$125.1 million.

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Legislation to set up The Queensland Government Development Authority was recently passed by the Parliament and the first Public Loan by the Authority closed on 14th September. Such is the confidence of people in the Government and the development prospects of the State that the loan closed early, heavily over-subscribed.

I have already outlined to the House the operating mechanism for the Authority and I would not propose to repeat the detail here.

However, in the context of the great and growing need for capital works infrastructure as the State develops, the very vital role which the Authority has to play cannot be over-emphasised. We must have the capital funds if we are to achieve the State's full potential.

The success of its first Public Loan will, I am sure, be the forerunner of many more successful undertakings by the Authority.

CONCLUSION

Mr Miller, having regard for the diverse factors of a largely adverse nature that have influenced the framing of the Budget this year, I must say that the end result has been a very satisfactory one for the Government.

It would be naive to pretend that the Budget fulfils all the aspirations of all the people. However, a budget that provides for an overall increase in spending of around 17 per cent on last year's Budget Estimates, while not imposing significant new burdens on the taxpayer and still making provision for a very worthwhile capital works program, is a real achievement.

It is a credit to the Government and to the policies and objectives it has set in recent years. It is a credit to the commitment and dedication of my own Treasury Department in the control and management of the Budget to ensure the Government's policies and objectives are implemented for the longer term good of the State.

It is a credit to Ministers and their Departmental officers that they have, in general, reacted so positively and effectively to the financial constraints that have been quite deliberately applied in recent years, constraints which have contributed very significantly to the Government's capacity to withstand the particular and hopefully unique problems that we have this year.

The Government is able to provide a purposeful Budget in a generally recessive economic atmosphere because of this.

It is a Budget that provides for consolidation of the gains of recent years so that the State will be geared and ready to move ahead when the economy picks up again.

It is a Budget which does what the rest of the States would like to be able to do.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

APPENDIX A

CAPITAL WORKS

The following comments on selected areas of major capital expenditure are indicative only, and because of the volume of work undertaken, do not purport to convey a complete picture of the total capital works program.

Education

An allocation of \$80.4 million has been made for capital works at State Schools and Colleges of Technical and Further Education in 1982-83. The program is to be funded as follows:—

	\$m
State Loan Fund	32.6
Commonwealth	30.8
Special Projects Fund	17.0
	<hr/>
	80.4
	<hr/>

The following work is programmed for 1982-83:—

Primary Schools—Expenditure of \$33.7 million is programmed for primary schools including \$7.2 million for new schools to be provided at Browns Plains, Bundall, Golden Beach, Mistake Creek, Palm Beach South, Springwood South, Tannum Sands and Tieri.

High Schools—\$22.9 million has been programmed for high school capital works including \$5.3 million for new schools to be constructed at Lowood, Middlemount, Rochedale, and Smithfield. Additional major accommodation will be constructed at Albany Creek, Benowa, Caloundra, Longanlea and Morayfield.

Pre-Schools—The allocation for pre-school capital works is \$3.2 million. This provision will allow for establishment of pre-school units at Alligator Creek, Berrinba East, Beaudesert, Blackwater North, Burpengary, Clermont, Coombabah, Magnetic Island, Middle Park, Morayfield, Mudgeeraba and Tannum Sands. Early Education Centres will be established at 4 primary schools at Bunkers Hill, Giru, Kumbia and Mount Crosby.

Special Schools—Programmed expenditure on special schools is \$4.3 million. Works will continue on the provision of a replacement school at Beenleigh and the new school at the Mater Hospital. Work will commence on the construction of a new school at Milpera (Chelmer).

Technical Colleges—\$16.3 million has been allocated for technical college capital works. Work will continue on the provision of the Resources Material Centre and Business and General Studies Building at Mount Gravatt and the College of Hospitality and Tourism at South Brisbane.

Health

During 1981–82 hospital and health facility projects costing \$52.7 million were completed. Projects estimated to cost \$55.7 million remain under construction including the second stage of redevelopment of the Cairns Hospital and the first stage of the Townsville Hospital redevelopment. Projects with a total estimated cost of \$70.6 million are scheduled to commence shortly, while projects worth \$219 million are in the planning stages.

In order to maintain this substantial upgrading program, new moneys available for capital works in 1982–83 total \$63.8 million comprising—

	\$m	\$m
Loans raised by or on behalf of Hospital Boards ..		53.7
State Loan Fund Allocation		4.4
Special Allocation from the Special Projects Fund ..	2.4	
Other Consolidated Revenue allocations for various capital subsidies	3.3	5.7
		<hr/>
		63.8
		<hr/>

Brief details of major projects on which further progress will be made or which are planned for commencement in 1982–83 are as follows:—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS

	Programmed Expenditure 1982-83 \$'000
BRISBANE—	
Mater	
NEW ADULT HOSPITAL—275 beds, 6 operating theatres and outpatients	1,717
Royal Brisbane	
NEW KITCHEN FACILITIES AND STAFF AMENITIES—Construction of new kitchen to store and prepare pre-cooked frozen food, staff lockers and showers, cafeteria, medical school laboratories on upper floors	3,387
Queensland Radium Institute	
NEW RADIOTHERAPY BUILDING—Consultation rooms, specialist clinic teaching, social workers, pre-evacuation area, E.N.T., cytotoxic, administration seminar, medical staff rooms, records section ..	2,299

COUNTRY—

	\$'000
Bundaberg	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGES 1, 2 AND 3—New 48 bed maternity with operating theatre and delivery rooms. Refurbished accommodation for O.P.D./Casualty, specialist clinics, C.S.S.D., X-ray, I.C.U., operating theatres, pathology, dental clinic, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, psychology and administration	1,427
Cairns	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 2—267 beds, kitchen, O.P.D. and casualty on ground floor, dining rooms, specialist clinics and administration on 1st floor, children's ward of 47 beds and plant facilities on 2nd floor	5,699
Caloundra	
EXTENSIONS—17 beds, additional toilets/showers, expanded outpatients and physiotherapy, dental clinic, laundry, patients lounge ..	1,830
Gladstone	
REDEVELOPMENT—120 beds with all necessary ancillaries together with new kitchen in basement area	6,000
Goondiwindi	
NEW HOSPITAL—60 beds, ablutions, pan room, X-ray, operating theatre, maternity, laundry, kitchen, administration, nursing, O.P.D., physiotherapy	1,037
Gympie	
NEW NURSING HOME—40 beds, day care centre, physiotherapy, servery, dining, lounge, activities area, ablutions, administration ..	1,196
Innisfail	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGES 1 AND 2—New building with 16 maternity beds plus 40 nursing home beds. Conversion of existing maternity into private and intermediate accommodation and ancillary services. School of Nursing in old nurses quarters	1,464
Ipswich	
NEW SERVICES BUILDING—O.P.D., casualty, morgue, autopsy, medical records, pharmacy, bulk store, X-ray and pathology	5,445
Maryborough	
NEW 40 BED NURSING HOME—40 beds, dining, servery, activities room, sitting rooms and ablutions	1,562
NEW 40 BED HOSPITAL AT HERVEY BAY—planning to proceed	
Mount Isa	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 2—Refurbishing to provide: Maternity and labour wards and nursery, nurses tutorial and paramedical departments: New construction of 20 beds, O.P.D./casualty, X-ray, administration, operating theatre, I.C.U. and C.S.S.D.	4,749
Rockhampton	
NEW WARD BLOCK—317 beds, delivery rooms, nursery, X-ray, physiotherapy, speech and occupational therapy, O.P.D./casualty, dispensary, C.S.S.D., kitchen, cafeteria, staff amenities, administration, library and morgue	12,469

Toowoomba	\$'000
NEW NURSING HOME, Oakey—2 x 40 bed nursing home units, 20 acute beds, O.P.D., minor operating theatre, dispensary, stores	1,830
OTHER HEALTH PROJECTS	
Eventide—Sandgate	
Redevelopment—Stage II	2,115
Gladstone	
New Community Health Centre	250

Housing

Total funds available to the Queensland Housing Commission during 1982-83 are \$277.1 million, an increase of \$119.7 million over the \$157.4 million provided in last year's Budget.

The funds are being provided from the following sources:—

	\$m
Revolving money in Queensland Housing Commission and Home Purchase Assistance Account Funds	129.0
Commonwealth Government for—	
Welfare Housing	38.6
Pensioner Housing	5.1
	—
	43.7
Commonwealth Government upgrading of Servicemen Housing	2.2
Treasury Loans	100.0
Debenture Loans	1.5
Fund Balances7
	—
	277.1

After allowing for interest and redemption, maintenance costs on rental premises, Local Authority charges, administration costs etc., \$196.5 million will be spent on land acquisition and development, construction and purchase of rental housing and home ownership finance.

The Queensland Housing Commission will operate 2 separate home ownership schemes. The first gives a non-repayable subsidy to borrowers who cannot afford commercial rates of interest to assist low income families to attain home ownership. The other, a commercial scheme, is for higher income earners who cannot obtain finance elsewhere.

The schemes contain an interesting and new initiative in home ownership finance. Repayment is based on the payment of a fixed percentage of income during the life of the loan.

The schemes are designed to assist the borrowing public who cannot afford or who are unable to obtain finance and to assist the building, timber and associated industries which are currently in a somewhat flat state. Home ownership will be available to up to 4,500 families or twice the number assisted in 1981-82.

The program for construction or purchase of rental housing during 1982-83 has been increased. Houses, apartments and Pensioner Units will be provided in metropolitan and country areas. The program of offering couples and single persons occupying family houses the opportunity to move to single bedroom modern apartments will continue. Those that accept this offer will free a house for family use.

A further 265 Pensioner Units will be provided during 1982-83 at Brisbane, Cairns, Tewantin, Gatton, Gold Coast, Gympie, Mackay, Mooloolaba, Rockhampton and Townsville. When completed there will be 2,015 Pensioner Units available.

Queensland Water Resources Commission

The Queensland Water Resources Commission will this year mount a capital works program of \$114.15 million. This will be financed by—

	\$m
State Loan Fund Allocation	17.15
Special Allocation through the Special Projects Fund	13.0
Queensland Electricity Generating Board	59.7
Loan Borrowings	8.5
Commonwealth Funds	12.3
Other	3.5
	114.15

Once again a significant allocation has been made from the Special Projects Fund to ensure continuance of a strong development program throughout the State. Funds from the electricity industry will be spent on projects directly benefiting that industry, including the Boondooma Dam and the Tarong and Callide Pipelines. Commonwealth funds will be directed to the program by way of grants for the Burdekin Falls Dam and under the National Water Resources Program.

During 1981-82 significant progress on water conservation was achieved with the completion of the embankment for Cania Dam, continued progress on construction of Boondooma Dam and Leslie Dam Stage 2, construction of two weirs and preliminary works for Barker Creek Dam. Construction of works within three Irrigation Areas continued as did construction of the Tarong Water Supply Pipeline and relocation of part of the Blackwater Water Supply System.

The current year will see further progress on these works, with the completion of Boondooma Dam, Giru Weir, the Mary River Barrage and development of the Emerald Irrigation Area. Significant progress will be made on works associated with the Burdekin Falls Dam, and commencement of channel and other works within the Irrigation Area itself.

Details of the works for 1982-83 are shown below. (These include probable allocations of \$12.3 million from the Commonwealth).

	\$m
BARKER-BARAMBAH IRRIGATION PROJECT—further property acquisition, design investigation and preliminary works	1.25
BOONDOOMA DAM—completion of project	16.00
BUNDABERG IRRIGATION PROJECT—continuation of work on the Bingera Irrigation System and on the Abbotsford System	10.00
CANIA DAM—completion of ancillary works	1.25
CALLIDE PIPELINE—investigation and design work	1.20
EMERALD IRRIGATION AREA—completion of work and opening of final farms	1.30

Harbours and Marine

The capital works program of the Department of Harbours and Marine will be of the order of \$215 million in 1982-83.

The major part of this expenditure will be on the two coal export terminals at present under construction at Dalrymple Bay (Hay Point) and Abbot Point.

In 1981-82 expenditure on these projects was \$80.5 million and \$13.5 million respectively and 1982-83 expenditure is budgeted at \$108 million for the Dalrymple Bay Coal Export Terminal and \$94.5 million for the Abbot Point Coal Export Terminal.

At Dalrymple Bay the terminal will provide for an export capacity of 15 million tonnes of coal per annum with the capability of doubling this throughput with the addition of a second wharf and related facilities. The anticipated completion date of the first stage is July 30 1983.

The Abbot Point terminal will have an initial export capacity of 10-11 million tonnes of coal per annum and it is anticipated that this facility will be completed by April 1984.

In both cases offshore works will be financed from public sector sources and participating company contributions will be obtained towards the cost of onshore works.

Capital expenditure throughout the State including the harbours of Weipa, Mourilyan, Thursday Island, and Hay Point and the boat harbours of Mooloolaba, Urangan and Rosslyn Bay, all managed by the Harbours Corporation of Queensland, will be of the order of \$10.9 million. Funds for such expenditure will be provided from loan borrowings and harbour revenue reserves.

The State Loan Fund will again provide the finance for Departmental projects such as the replacement of the survey vessel "Trigla" (\$400,000), further development of the Queensland Hydraulics Laboratory at Deagon (\$300,000), and the provision of beacons at Gladstone (\$590,000).

The Gladstone beacon project, on which \$507,000 was expended in 1981-82, is being carried out as a consequence of the channel deepening and widening program undertaken by Gladstone Harbour Board at an estimated final cost of \$78 million. To date some \$68 million has been expended on the dredging contracts.

Roads

This financial year the Main Roads Department will have \$405.2 million available for expenditure on permanent works, maintenance of roads, purchase and maintenance of plant, stores, administration and other purposes. This is an increase of \$66.1 million or 19.5 per cent over 1981-82 actual expenditure.

Sources of funds include payments by the Commonwealth under the Roads Grants Act \$149.3 million (including \$22.5 million for Local Authority roads), Motor Vehicle Registration Fees \$145.7 million, the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program \$36.3 million, and debenture loans \$1.5 million. In addition a further \$17 million has been provided partly from the Special Projects Fund and partly from special funds to be provided by the Commonwealth for road and transportation purposes. This will provide for specific Government commitments related to the approach roadworks for the Gateway Bridge project, the Gladstone-Benaraby Road and various State highways, including the Brisbane Valley Highway where works are underway in association with the Wivenhoe Dam Project.

Expenditure from the Main Roads Fund on permanent works is programmed at \$233.8 million and \$72.4 million has been allowed for maintenance works.

Proposed expenditure in 1982-83 on construction of National and Arterial Roads amounts to \$64.3 million and \$131.7 million respectively. These amounts include \$71 million from State Funds. Estimated expenditures for some of the more extensive works are:—

	\$m
North South Arterial	7.14
South East Freeway	5.63
Western Arterial	2.73
Brisbane-Woodford Road	2.01
Cunningham Highway	4.54
Landsborough Highway	8.24
Warrego Highway	4.10
Gregory Highway	3.06
Pacific Highway	4.47
Capricorn Highway	8.50
Bruce Highway	28.44
Mitchell Highway	2.40
Captain Cook Highway	2.56
Dawson Highway	3.98
Brisbane Valley Highway	2.11
New England Highway	2.41
Flinders Highway	4.44

Provision has been made for a continuation of works on the extension to the South East Freeway. Some \$3.5 million has been allocated for the section of the Freeway from Underwood Road to Logan Road.

The provision shown above for the North South Arterial includes \$6.0 million for the Gateway Bridge approaches. Expenditure on the Gateway Bridge will be recouped through toll charges.

In addition to the works mentioned above, an extended program of works is presently being formulated for funding under the Australian Bicentennial Roads Development Program.

Railways

Funds available to the Railways Department for capital works total \$382.3 million and comprise—

	\$m
Loan Fund allocation for general railway purposes	32.7
Commonwealth funds for Railway Mainline Upgrading	6.0
Allocation from Special Projects Fund and special funds from Commonwealth for road and transportation purposes	12.3
Trust Fund expenditure financed by the State Electricity Commission for facilities for its use	9.1
Trust Fund expenditure financed by mineral developers for provision of facilities for their use	316.9
Trust Fund balances	5.3
	<hr/>
	382.3
	<hr/>

\$14.6 million will be spent on Major Track and Signalling Improvements, including—

	\$m
Brisbane Suburban Electrification	0.8
Kingston-Beenleigh Electrification	2.0
Lota-Thornside Extension	1.1
West Moreton Area—Track Improvements	1.9
Mount Isa Line—Track Improvements and regradings	0.5
Acacia Ridge—Terminal Facilities	5.7
Caboolture-Gympie—Centralised Traffic Control	2.6

\$6.0 million is to be provided by the Commonwealth under the *National Railway Network (Financial Assistance) Act 1979* for the further development of the Acacia Ridge terminal and the installation of Centralised Traffic Control on the Caboolture-Gympie line shown above.

A new bridge will be completed across Wynnum Road at Morningside and expenditure of about \$750,000 is programmed for bridge reconstruction across Kadina, Curra and Durrumboi Creeks. Work will continue on the new administration building at Rockhampton with \$1.1 million to be expended in 1982-83 and a new goods shed costing \$320,000 will be constructed at Atherton. \$148,000 will be spent on a rail connection to the industrial estate at Acacia Ridge.

Approximately \$2.5 million will be spent on the continued development and installation of modern facilities at Brisbane Central Station. Funds totalling \$3.9 million will be expended on the purchase of machinery for workshop and amenities buildings for workshops staff. Improvements in accommodation for migratory gangs and in residences will be continued.

The rollingstock program totals \$13.6 million and involves the continuation of payments for 20 air conditioned cars, 122 wagons for bulk sugar traffic, 200 wagons for container traffic, 50 louvred wagons for fast freight services, 50 refrigerated containers and 150 ventilated containers.

Funds will be made available by the S.E.C. for upgrading of the Blackwater (\$6.5 million) and Callide (\$3.1 million) lines for the haulage of coal to the power station at Gladstone. Mineral developers will provide \$316.9 million in 1982-83 (in addition to moneys held in Trust Fund balances) for the construction of new mineral lines and purchase of locomotives and rollingstock to service the following mines—

	\$m
German Creek	4.7
Blair Athol	57.1
Riverside	27.0
Oaky Creek	22.0
Newlands	90.0
Curragh	43.5
Yarrabee	1.4
Laleham	10.5
Goonyella	65.2
Gregory	0.3
Norwich Park	0.1

Urban Public Transport

During 1981-82 continued progress was made on major projects within the urban public transport capital works program, which is directed towards a more integrated and efficient system of urban public transport for Brisbane and contiguous areas.

The prime thrust of the program is the electrification of urban rail services and the impacts of this are most encouraging. From December 1979 to December 1981 passenger journeys on the Ferny Grove to Darra section increased over 29 per cent for the two year period which indicates the success of electrification. Expenditure was mainly concentrated on the Roma Street-Kingston and Mayne-Shorncliffe sections for the Commonwealth Games.

New car parking facilities at rail station and ferry terminals were provided at nine sites adding 616 bays, bringing the total to over 5,000. Despite this, public demand is outstripping supply.

Attractive new ferry passenger shelters were constructed at Hawthorne and Bulimba for an extended down river ferry service and at Customs House for the cross river service.

During 1982-83 capital expenditure for the Metropolitan Transit Authority will total just under \$44 million. Major works for this period will include—

	\$m
• completion of electrification works for Mayne-Shorncliffe and Roma Street-Kingston	0.8
• electrification works for Park Road-Lota and Northgate-Petrie ..	7.4
• continuation of manufacture and supply of new electric passenger cars (as part of the 108 car order)	29.0
• continuation of construction of a new electric car depot at Mayne	2.7
• continuation of installation of the train describer system	1.0
• continuation of interchange projects including railway car parks, car/bus and bus/bus facilities and ferry terminal improvements ..	1.7

Development of Industrial Estates

Total capital works of \$9.3 million have been programmed for 1982-83 for the development of industrial estates, such being funded \$3.0 million from the Loan Fund, \$1.5 million from debenture borrowings, \$2.5 million from the Special Projects Fund with the balance being raised from the sale of land and buildings.

The development of new and existing Crown industrial estates will continue during the year in an effort to satisfy as much as possible the increasing demand. Ongoing projects this year will include the release of land within the centres of Cairns, Mackay, Gladstone, Noosaville, Marsden and Southport.

It is also anticipated that works costing \$350,000 in 1982-83 will commence on a new industrial estate at Stapylton, south of Beenleigh. Further stages will be released at the following sites:—

	Programmed Expenditure 1982-83 \$'000
Ipswich	300
Chinchilla	100
Southport	700
Carole Park (Wacol)	480

The Special Projects Fund allocation of \$2.5 million will be used to finance the major portion of the Carole Park expansion shown above as well as financing the extension of roads, sewerage and other services to existing estates at the following locations:—

	Programmed Expenditure										
	1982-83										
	\$'000										
Mackay	500
Ingham	150
Caloundra	300
Cairns	700
Hervey Bay	100
Maryborough	150
Yandina	100

As at 30th June 1982 a total of 51 Crown industrial estates of which 43 are located in provincial areas, have been developed.

An area comprising 136 hectares has been acquired at Merrimac, west of Burleigh Heads, at a cost of over \$3 million to cater for the development of an industrial estate. It is proposed that a feasibility study will be commissioned this year for its development. The demand for land on the Gold Coast is indicative of the growing impetus shown by the manufacturing sector to expand in Queensland.

Factory buildings will continue to be provided under the Pioneer Industries Assistance Scheme with new buildings at Carole Park (Wacol) and Narangba costing \$300,000 at each site and extensions to existing buildings either under construction or in the planning stages at Beenleigh, Cairns, Gympie, Innisfail and Townsville.

When completed, these buildings will bring the State total to 83 which includes one multi-tenancy building at Gladstone.

As with recent years, the major portion of the Department's program is geared to the assistance of industry in provincial centres.

Urban Land Development

In 1981-82, the Land Administration Commission, through the Urban Crown Land Development Fund spent a total of \$6.6 million of which \$2.2 million was provided from the Special Projects Fund and used for the development of land sites in mining and industrial centres. The remaining expenditure was for the development of other residential and commercial land allotments.

The expenditure on the Commission's normal projects provided a total of 364 allotments for residential, rural residential, commercial, industrial and tourist purposes at 20 locations. Special Projects allocation allowed 417 residential and 13 industrial allotments to be provided at 5 growth centres where these sites were urgently needed.

In 1982-83 the Fund's capital works program is estimated to be \$10.0 million.

Of the \$10.0 million capital works program \$5.8 million is allocated to the special development of land sites in the mining and industrial centres of Biloela, Blackwater, Clermont, Collinsville and Gladstone.

The remainder of the Commission's program will involve the development and extension of industrial and commercial sites at a number of centres throughout the State including:—

	\$'000
Bellara (Bribie Island)	212
Bongaree (Bribie Island)	482
Elliot Heads	91
Emerald	220
Gracemere (near Rockhampton)	500
Townsville	191
Point Lookout (Stradbroke Island)	380
Seaforth (near Mackay)	405
Southport	270
Underwood	200
Woodgate (near Bundaberg)	283

Forestry

A total capital works program of \$22.4 million is programmed for the Forestry Department in 1982-83. Expenditure will be funded from—

	\$m
State Loan Fund	17.2
Commonwealth (Softwood Agreement 1980-81 and Aboriginal Advancement Grant)	0.2
Special Projects Fund	5.0
	22.4

The capital works allocation for 1982-83 is similar in magnitude to that of 1981-82. An increase in the Special Projects Fund allocation will counter the effect of the Commonwealth phasing out its funds under the Softwood Agreement and the Aboriginal Advancement Grant. The Aboriginal Advancement Grant ceases in December, 1982.

The program will allow the Department to continue its softwood plantation program with about 4,500 hectares to be established in 1982-83.

A total \$85,000 has been allocated towards recreational facilities in the State Forest Parks. While no new parks will be established, upgrading works at existing facilities will be undertaken.

In addition, provision has been made for considerable upgrading of the Department's plant and equipment.

National Parks and Wildlife Service

In 1982-83, the National Parks and Wildlife Service will have a capital works program of \$2.3 million. The amount required for the Service's acquisition program has been increased to \$1.25 million to meet the urgent need of acquiring further bush land at West Burleigh (Fleays), the continuing payment for the Western Catchment at Cooloola, the Mon Repos Turtle Rookery (Bundaberg) and the Pallarenda Quarantine Station (Townsville).

The balance of \$1.05 million has been allocated for capital works and development on national parks to improve the facilities available to the public and for development of regional centres.

Police Stations

In 1982-83 a total of \$7.0 million, including a Special Projects Fund allocation of \$4.2 million, has been provided towards the upgrading and construction of police stations and residences. Provision has been made for the erection of new Police Stations at Duarina, Gayndah, Broadbeach, Beenleigh, Redcliffe and Tannum Sands. In addition, extensions and remodelling will be commenced at the Ipswich Police Station.

Court Houses

An allocation of \$5.4 million has been made for Court House construction including a Special Projects Fund allocation of \$2.1 million. Works include the continuation of construction of the new Court House and Government Building at Southport.

Other Projects

Brisbane Forest Park

An allocation of \$150,000 from the Special Projects Fund has enabled the construction of a Headquarters/Information Centre for the Park during 1982. The Centre will provide a base for nature-based education and information programs as well as the headquarters for Park management.

The Capital Works Program for 1982-83 funded from a Loan Fund allocation of \$225,000 includes the completion of the redevelopment of Jolly's Lookout, construction and erection of Park entrance signs, surveys of Park flora and fauna and recreation development and management planning.

Children's Services

\$2.3 million has been allocated towards this program in 1982-83 including a Special Projects Fund allocation of \$1.1 million. Work will continue on the construction of the new Children's Court at Coronation Drive, Brisbane.

Primary Industries

For 1982-83, \$3.1 million has been allocated for capital works including a provision of \$1.6 million from the Special Projects Fund. Included in the program is the continuation of work on construction of the Maroochy Horticultural Research Station.

Prisons

An allocation of \$1.4 million from the Special Projects Fund will allow a total capital works program of \$3.4 million. Work will include the continuing construction of Stage III of the new Female Prison at Brisbane.

Other Buildings and Works

The Works Department will also have available a total Loan Fund allocation of \$24.8 million including \$16.2 million from the Special Projects Fund for work of a general nature including minor buildings, office accommodation, renovations, remodelling, etc.

During 1982-83 construction of the new Government Printing Office at Woolloongabba will continue and restoration and refurbishing of Parliament House will be completed. The construction of a new Government office building at Gladstone will be commenced.

APPENDIX B**SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES****For Whom****NEW BORROWING PROGRAMS IN EXCESS OF \$1.5 MILLION
HAVE BEEN APPROVED**

AUTHORITY	\$
Brisbane City Council (Sewerage and water supply works; acquisition of land and property; roadworks and drainage; flood mitigation; installation of traffic signs and facilities, etc.)	42,400,000
Gold Coast City Council (Extensive sewerage and water supply works; land acquisitions)	15,500,000
Toowoomba City Council (Cressbrook Creek and other water supply works; roadworks, drainage and sewerage works, etc.)	4,000,000
Townsville City Council (Roadworks and drainage; water supply works; reclamation works; park improvements, etc.)	6,913,000
Ipswich City Council (Western Suburbs and other sewerage works; water supply improvements; roadworks; stormwater drainage; construction of works depot; computerisation, etc.)	4,500,000
Cairns City Council (Sewerage and water supply works; roadworks; depot and esplanade redevelopment, etc.)	3,500,000
Logan City Council (Roadworks; water supply augmentation; sewerage; depot improvements, etc.)	6,000,000
Maroochy Shire Council (Sewerage works, including Buderim, Yandina and Suncoast sewerage schemes; Olympic Swimming Pools; water supply works; roadworks; drainage, etc.)	5,820,000

AUTHORITY	\$
Redland Shire Council (Capalaba–Alexandra Hills, North Redlands and South Redlands sewerage; raising Leslie Harrison Dam; roadworks; drainage, etc.)	5,200,000
Albert Shire Council (Water supply; roadworks; North Albert and South Albert sewerage works, etc.)	4,100,000
Caboolture Shire Council (South Caboolture and Bribie sewerage works; roadworks; water supply, etc.)	3,300,000
Gladstone Hospitals Board (Redevelopment Works)	4,300,000
Rockhampton Hospitals Board (New Ward Block, Rockhampton Hospital and New Geriatric Facilities, North Rockhampton)	11,800,000
Agricultural Bank (Loans to primary producers)	13,000,000
Brisbane and Area Water Board (Wivenhoe Dam)	14,100,000
Gladstone Area Water Board (Gladstone Area water supply and Boyne Island, Tannum Sands and Gladstone Aluminium Limited water supply and Clinton and Calliope Township pipelines)	6,700,000
Noosa Shire Council (Roadworks; stormwater drainage; water supply and sewerage works; Main Beach Protection scheme and Strategic Planning)	4,000,000
Port of Brisbane Authority (Fisherman Islands Development)	7,000,000
State Wheat Board (Bulk Storage and Handling Facilities)	4,200,000

APPENDIX C

NOTES ON THE QUEENSLAND ECONOMY

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Further long term strengthening of our economic base was achieved during the year. There was considerable progress on the construction of a number of important export projects.

The first potline of the \$680 million Comalco Boyne Island aluminium smelter is now complete and the second is due for completion in 1983. These will involve additional direct employment of about 1 000 persons.

The German Creek export coking coal mine commenced production which is to build up to a rate of 3.25 million tonnes per annum. Export initially is through Gladstone.

A further six major export coal mining projects are currently under full construction to be in production within the next two years. They are Newlands, Scottville, Oaky Creek, Blair Athol, Riverside and Curragh and involve a combined initial investment of the order of \$2,600 million. Apart from the mines themselves there is development of new towns, railways, ports at Dalrymple Bay and Abbot Point, roads and water supplies. Expenditure on Queensland goods and services will provide important additional activity in a number of parts of the State in terms of both increased business turnover and increased employment.

A total of 22.45 million tonnes of coal per annum will be supplied for the export market by these projects and when all are operating there will be a permanent increment in income to the State's economy of the order of \$1,200 million per annum. A significant proportion of this will remain in the State through salaries and wages, materials and equipment purchases and so on.

Although there were variations in annual production in individual sectors as described in the following notes, the Queensland economic base overall continued to grow and diversify during the year. The large scale development in the State has been reflected in rapid population growth. Between December 1980 and December 1981, Queensland's population grew at an annual rate of 3.5 per cent compared with an increase of 1.3 per cent for the rest of Australia. To keep pace with this and other developments the State has continued its vigorous program of public infrastructure improvement referred to in the Financial Statement.

Queensland has significant primary production, mining, mineral processing, manufacturing, service and tourism sectors which provide it with a relative strength to withstand adverse effects in particular areas. This base combined with the stimulus of the recent surge of development has enabled the State economy to still perform relatively well in the past year despite the subdued levels of activity in most of the western economies on which our export industries depend. A notable feature of the year was that the underlying strength of the State economy was such that it was able to withstand the impact of a general economic slowdown in the rest of Australia and internationally better than other States.

Average weekly earnings for all male employees in Queensland increased 16.8 per cent in the year to the March quarter 1982 virtually in line with the figures for Australia as a whole.

Retail sales experienced a strong increase. Queensland again achieved growth in retail sales at a rate well above that for Australia as a whole. During the year the value of retail sales in Queensland was 15.1 per cent higher than that for the previous year compared with an increase of 12.3 per cent for Australia during the same period.

Similarly the increase in registrations of new motor vehicles in Queensland, was significantly above that for Australia. These registrations rose 6.7 per cent in 1981-82 compared with growth of 4.7 per cent Australia-wide.

For dwellings, the three quarters to March 1982 saw commencements increase to 27 591 from 25 490 for the previous corresponding period of 1980-81. Completions of new dwellings for the same three quarters were 26 650 in 1981-82, compared with 21 860 in the previous year. New dwelling approvals in 1981-82 were 38 124 compared with 39 026 in 1980-81.

The value of building approvals for non-dwellings in Queensland during 1981-82 was \$910 million, which was 66.1 per cent higher than the value of approvals in 1980-81. This compares with an increase during the same period of 26.1 per cent for Australia as a whole. The value of non-dwelling building work carried out in Queensland during the nine month period to March 1982 was \$590.5 million, which was 18.4 per cent higher than the amount for the corresponding period to March 1981. The comparative increase for Australia was 9.2 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index for Brisbane in 1981-82 June on June rose 10.1 per cent compared with the six State capitals average rate of 10.7 per cent. In the previous corresponding period the increase for Brisbane was 9.1 per cent.

Based on preliminary estimates, civilian wage and salary earners in Queensland numbered 978 100 persons as at June 1982. This represented an increase of 23 000 or 2.4 per cent over the previous year. For Australia as a whole civilian wage and salary earners were an estimated 6,378.7 million as at June 1982 compared with 6 379.0 million as at June 1981. The total number unemployed in Queensland in June 1982 was estimated to be 63 400 which represented 6.1 per cent of the work force which was less than the comparable percentage for Australia of 6.6 per cent.

As a matter of record yield of the Commonwealth Government's longest term tap stock increased by 2.5 per cent from 13.9 per cent in early June 1981 to 16.4 per cent in early July 1982. The prime bank overdraft rate increased by 1.75 per cent to 17.5 per cent from July 1981 to July 1982. For the year to June 1982 there was an 11.3 per cent growth rate recorded in the money supply.

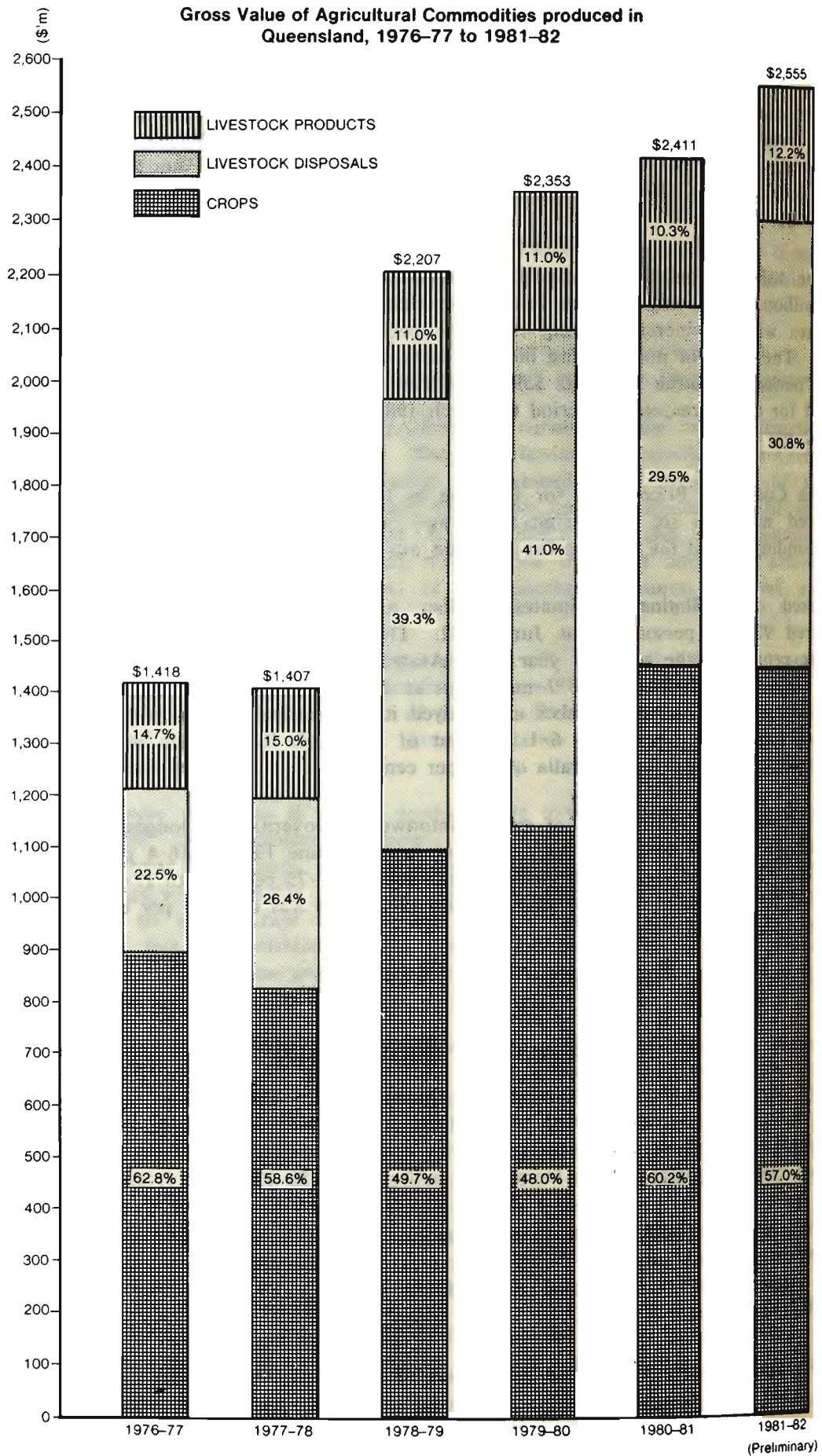
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

The gross value of rural production in Queensland for 1981-82 has been estimated at \$2,555 million, an increase of 6.0 per cent on the 1980-81 level of \$2,411 million. The most significant gain came in wheat and barley production which raised the overall value of principal grains to \$420 million from \$252 million in 1980-81.

Good growing conditions in grain areas produced generally above average harvests. The wheat harvest at 1.49 million tonnes was the second highest on record. Barley output more than doubled the 1980-81 harvest, and maize and grain sorghum production was higher.

The sugar industry had record production of sugar cane for crushing of 23.6 million tonnes.

The 1981-82 Brisbane wool selling season saw 318,669 bales sold with total sales 24 per cent higher than the previous year.



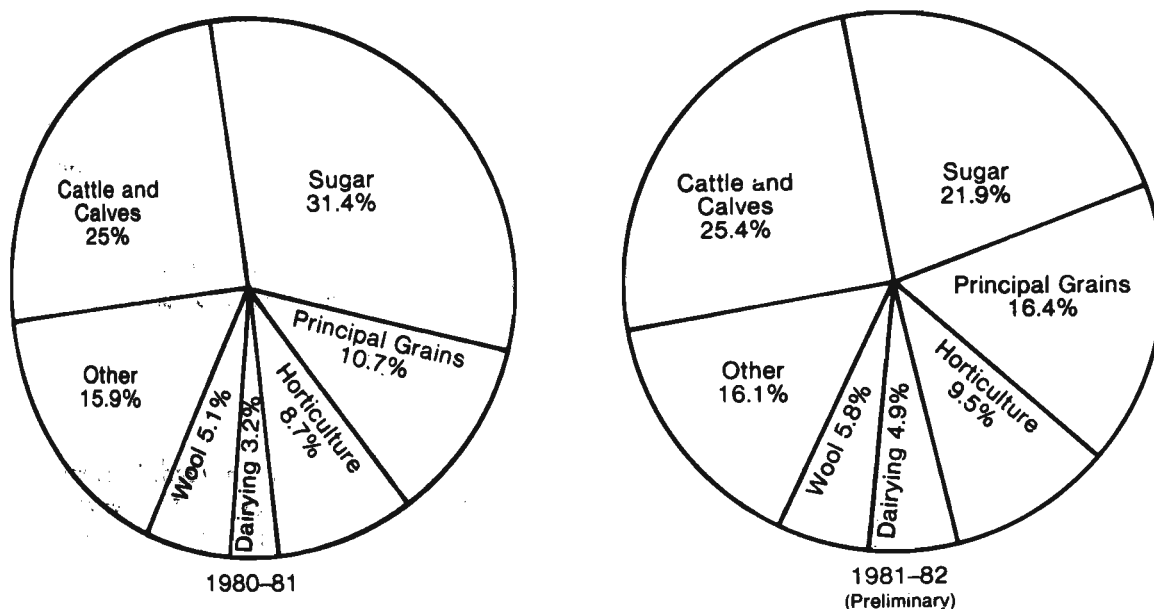
The cotton industry has continued production gains of recent years with increased plantings and record production in 1981-82 almost doubling that of 1978-79. Dairying also experienced a good year with significant improvements in butter and cheese production.

Beef cattle prices continued the downward trend of 1980-81, being particularly affected by the weak US export market. Favourable weather conditions resulted in large gains in production but if the cold dry winter conditions of 1982 persist into the spring/summer period, beef producers will experience setbacks.

The excellent rain in late May and June, 1981 with continued good falls in July and August proved very beneficial to the grain industry. However, the hot dry conditions evident in most districts towards the end of 1981 continued into 1982, although some limited areas in south east Queensland experienced above average rainfall. In the final quarter to June, three-quarters of the State recorded over 50 per cent below average rainfall and extensive and frequent frosts were reported.

Queensland pastoral areas experienced one of the best winter seasons for a number of years in 1981. However, with little effective rainfall later in 1981, pasture conditions declined in the southern half of the State.

Queensland: Gross Value of Rural Production—
Proportionate Contribution by Major Sectors



The south-east corner experienced the best summer conditions for many years but with the colder dry weather the nutritive value of feed declined rapidly by the end of May.

In central and northern regions, very dry conditions prevailed by the end of May 1982 and surface water supplies were below safe levels. If dry conditions persist State-wide into spring/summer the grazing industries will begin to be seriously affected.

In summary, by contributing a record value of production and generally higher levels of output in 1981-82, Queensland's rural industries consolidated their role as an integral sector of the State's economy.

Beef

The number of cattle and calves slaughtered in 1981-82 was 2.6 million, about 20 per cent higher than the 1980-81 figure of 2.2 million. The gross value of production was \$650 million or 10.7 per cent above the 1980-81 level of \$587 million.

The relatively smaller increase in value compared to production was due to lower prices for all descriptions of both trade and export cattle, being the result of the larger yardings and continued weak foreign markets, particularly in the United States of America.

Queensland's total beef herd as at 31st March 1982 was estimated at 9,552,000 head which represents an increase of 2 per cent over the previous year.

Sugar

The 1981 season produced a record sugar cane harvest of 23.6 million tonnes of cane for crushing in 1981-82. This compares with 22.9 million tonnes for 1980-81.

The severe downturn in world market prices experienced in the first half of 1981 continued due to a rapidly increased world sugar surplus. As a consequence gross value of production declined to \$561 million in 1981-82 compared with \$772 million in 1980-81.

Wool

Wool production reached 60.15 million kg in 1981-82 compared with the 1980-81 level of 46.48 million kg, an improvement of 29 per cent. This was the highest output since 1978-79. The estimated value of output was \$152 million, a rise of 30 per cent over 1980-81.

A total of 318,669 bales of wool valued at \$147.2 million were sold at auctions held in Brisbane during 1981-82. The average price obtained was 259 cents per kg.

Wheat

In 1981-82 Queensland produced its second highest wheat harvest on record, estimated at 1.49 million tonnes, compared with the weather-affected 1980-81 crop of only 485 000 tonnes. The value of production was \$231 million, an increase of 201 per cent over 1980-81.

The export market was strong throughout the year, but due to a large carryover of United States stocks and good Northern Hemisphere winter growing conditions, world wheat prices have remained weak.

Barley

The season was characterised by ideal growing conditions and 1981-82 production of 379 000 tonnes more than doubled the 1980-81 drought-affected crop of 170 000 tonnes. Queensland's barley output in 1981-82 was valued at \$52.4 million compared with \$24.9 million in 1980-81.

Approximately 245 000 tonnes of barley were exported, principally to Saudi Arabia and Japan. Saudi Arabia has now developed as a major and consistent market.

Grain Sorghum

Production of grain sorghum in 1981-82 is estimated at 1.16 million tonnes, a 10 per cent increase over last year. The value of production was \$121 million down 9 per cent from \$133 million in 1980-81 due to continuing over-supply in the world feed grains market.

Maize

Growing conditions were generally above average in 1981-82 in most areas and expected output of 157 000 tonnes would represent an increase of 27 per cent over 1980-81. This output has an estimated value of \$15.7 million compared with \$18.0 million in 1980-81, the reduction again being due to the weak feed grains market.

Oil Seeds

Sunflower production in 1981-82 has been estimated at 81 500 tonnes, valued at \$20.8 million. Soya bean output is expected to reach 47 000 tonnes with a value of \$11.3 million.

Dairying

The production of wholemilk for all purposes was 544 million litres in 1981-82 a rise of 5 per cent over 1980-81. However, gross value of production was \$124 million in 1981-82 compared to \$96 million a year earlier, an increase of 29 per cent. Butter production rose by 12 per cent and cheese output increased by 20 per cent.

Peanuts

The area planted to peanuts in Queensland for the 1982 season is estimated at 32 500 hectares, about 21 per cent higher than the 26 800 hectares planted in the previous season.

Despite excessive soil moisture in some areas, output is estimated at 51 000 tonnes for 1981-82 an increase of 20 per cent over 1980-81. The estimated value of production of the 1981-82 peanut crop is \$43.2 million compared with \$35.8 million in 1980-81.

Horticultural Crops

Preliminary estimates set the gross value of production of horticultural crops for 1981-82 at \$243 million. This represents an increase of 10 per cent over the previous year's level of \$221 million.

During 1981-82, the value of throughput at the Brisbane Wholesale Market, the State's major wholesale market totalled \$134.1 million compared with \$119.9 million in 1980-81. This comprised \$73.4 million for vegetables and \$60.7 million for fruit compared with the respective 1980-81 values of \$64.2 million and \$55.7 million.

Production of bananas in 1981-82 was 59 million kg or 9 per cent above the previous year. The estimated value of banana production was \$25.3 million compared with \$24.1 million in 1980-81.

Pineapple output is expected to be up slightly to 125 000 tonnes from 123 220 tonnes in 1980-81, while the value of production was slightly higher at \$20.3 million compared to \$19.7 million in 1980-81. A major constraint on sales has been the rapidly rising level of imports into Australia. The intake of pineapples at the Golden Circle Cannery totalled 105 400 tonnes in 1981-82 compared with 100 685 tonnes in 1980-81.

The gross value of Queensland citrus production in 1981-82 is expected to be \$17.7 million, an increase of 7 per cent over the previous year. The level of output at 46 million kg was 5 per cent higher than the 44 million of 1980-81. A major development has been the health clearance by Japanese authorities of Queensland oranges for export.

Tomato production has declined from 56 million kg in 1980-81 to 50 million kg in 1981-82 and with prices holding firm, the value of production declined from \$37.5 million to about \$35.2 million.

Potato output has risen markedly in 1981-82 to an estimated 125 000 tonnes compared with 113 000 tonnes in the previous year. Market conditions were strong and value of production rose 32 per cent from \$27.6 million in 1980-81 to \$36.3 million in 1981-82.

Prices for other vegetable lines have reflected strong demand and expected value of production has increased from \$62 million in 1980-81 to \$72 million in 1981-82, a rise of 16 per cent.

In general, prices of many fruit and vegetable lines at the Brisbane Wholesale Market were below levels of the previous year. Potatoes and onions were very strong in the first half of 1981-82 but declined in the latter half.

Apple and pear production continued to grow, with an estimated 2 million cases of apples compared with 1.9 million cases in 1980-81 and 241 500 boxes of pears compared with 227 800 the previous year.

Eggs and Poultry

Egg production in Queensland in 1981-82 is estimated at 30 million dozen, a slight increase over 1980-81. Value of production was \$34.8 million compared to \$32.2 million in 1980-81. The strong price situation was partly attributable to successful promotional campaigns by the marketing boards.

The value of poultry meat production decreased from \$43.7 million in 1980-81 to \$40.5 million in 1981-82.

Pigs

The number of pigs slaughtered in 1981-82 was 810 000. Although this was lower than the 845 000 slaughtered in 1980-81 the value of pig meat production in 1981-82 was \$83 million compared with \$69 million a year earlier.

The market was favourable throughout the year due to strong consumer demand.

Rice

A reduced planting in the Burdekin district and reduced yields in the Mareeba district were responsible for lower summer harvests but the winter crop was 16 per cent above last year's winter harvest. Overall, rice production was about 21 000 tonnes, slightly below the 1980-81 harvest of 21 600 tonnes.

The value of rice production, at \$4.0 million declined 12 per cent from the previous year.

Navy Beans

Due to very favourable conditions, rains at planting time in January and February 1982, the 1982 navy bean crop was about 6 000 tonnes compared with the 1981 crop of only 2 150 tonnes which was affected by erratic climatic conditions.

The gross value of the 1982 crop will be about \$5.5 million compared with only \$2.0 million in 1981.

Cotton

Production of raw cotton in Queensland in 1981-82 reached a record level of 26 million kg 15 per cent above the previous record of 22.5 million kg set in 1980-81.

The estimated value of output of the 1981-82 crop, at \$29.8 million was about 5 per cent higher than the previous year.

After declining in 1981, cotton prices rose throughout early 1982 partly due to expected lower US output and exchange rate movements.

Ginger

The 1982 ginger crop is expected to yield 6 400 tonnes from 172 hectares planted, compared to 8,100 tonnes from 231 hectares in 1981. Adverse weather conditions reduced output and quality.

Tobacco

Sales of tobacco leaf during the 1981 Queensland selling season amounted to 7.9 million kg which were a little above 1980 sales. The average price obtained was 427 cents per kg compared with 388 cents per kg in 1980. The gross value of sales consequently rose to \$35.7 million compared to \$32.3 million in 1980.

The level of the average auction reserve price for 1982 has been set at 444 cents per kg 3.5 per cent above the average for 1981.

The operation of the Tobacco Industry Stabilisation Plan is under review by the Industries Assistance Commission which is due to report to the Commonwealth Government by September 1982.

Fishing

In 1980-81 gross value of production was \$86 million compared with \$63 million in the previous year. This was almost entirely due to a 41 per cent rise in the value of prawn fisheries' production to \$76 million. Excellent prices are being obtained for the present season's prawn exports in the Japanese market.

MINING

The value of mineral production in Queensland increased from \$1,748 million in 1980-81 to \$1,978 million in 1981-82, mainly as a result of significant increases in the production of coal.

The economic downturn in the major industrial countries continued to affect the demand for minerals. During the year, prices for many metals fell to their lowest levels for several years.

World metal prices in general showed a rising trend in the first quarter, due to some improvement in demand as well as renewed speculative interest. Copper, lead and zinc, all reached their highs for the year during August-September.

The beginning of the second quarter, however, saw indications that the world recession might be longer and more severe than previously anticipated and this was reflected in falling share values and metal prices.

World metal prices decreased further during the remaining quarters and ended the year at substantially lower levels than in preceding years.

Future prospects of the mining industry depend on the performance of the world economy. Until the levels of activity in the Western economies improve, demand for most metals will continue to be subdued.

Coal

Coal production in 1981-82 was 34 284 834 tonnes, an increase of about 4.4 per cent on the preceding year. The value of coal production increased by 27.5 per cent to \$1,130,028,128.

Coal exports were up 4.7 per cent on 1980-81, with 23.56 million tonnes of coking coal and 1.30 million tonnes of steaming coal. Japan was the principal buyer, taking 17.28 million tonnes, followed by Korea 1.22 million tonnes, Italy 1.20 million tonnes and France 1.09 million tonnes.

During the year, domestic consumption of coal within Queensland also reached an all time high at a total of 7 498 164 tonnes. Electricity generation utilised the largest amount of coal at 5.65 million tonnes, followed by metal processing 1.20 million tonnes, and the cement industry 332 108 tonnes.

Despite the depressed world steel industry and the slow growth in conversion of oil or gas-fired plants to coal, the Queensland coal industry was able to gain additional export contracts and continued with its commitments to develop new mines and expand existing ones. New export contracts were signed during the year for German Creek, Oaky Creek, Blair Athol and Newlands, with buyers in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Europe. Overall demand for steaming coal is expected to continue to grow.

The outlook for the Queensland coal industry remains good, as it is well placed to take advantage of any upturn of the world economy and the resulting improvement in coal demand.

Copper

With improved performance at the Townsville copper refinery, production of copper in 1981-82 increased by 4 per cent to 148 973 tonnes. The value of production however fell by 8 per cent to \$216,882,160, reflecting depressed copper prices for most of the year.

On the LME market, renewed speculative interest pushed copper prices up in the first quarter. Copper prices exceeded £1,000 per tonne for the first time since April 1980. By the end of August, however, the trend had reversed and copper prices began falling steadily to end the year at £764 per tonne, £100 per tonne lower than the commencing price.

Movement in the Australian domestic copper price was in line with movements in LME copper prices. Mt Isa Mines Limited set its copper price at \$1,500 per tonne on 1 July 1981, and increased it progressively during August to \$1,600 per tonne. Prices fluctuated in the range of \$1,440—\$1,480 during October—May, but fell steadily in June to end the year at \$1,240 per tonne.

The revival of copper prices depends on the improvement of major industrialised economies. Compared with other metals, the outlook for copper is more encouraging. Inventory and consumer stocks are believed to be at low levels. There could therefore be a marked effect on prices when demand begins to move ahead.

Silver

Production of silver in 1981-1982 increased by 20 per cent to 416 969 kg, but the value of production fell by 32 per cent to \$97,569,953.

The world silver market continued to be weakened with low demand, excess supply and falling prices facing the industry throughout the year.

The LME silver price opened the year at 442.50 pence per troy oz. and rallied to around 500 pence in the first quarter.

In September, the spot silver price fell sharply on the news that the U.S.A. proposed to sell some three-quarters of its silver stockpile over three years, starting on 1 October. In mid-December, Congressional action halted US silver sales, and prices recovered somewhat. The price rally, however, was shortlived. The LME silver price soon started to fall again to end the year at 300 pence per troy oz.

The Australian silver price as quoted by the Broken Hill Associated Smelters (BHAS) opened the year at \$300.95 per kg and ended the year at \$163 per kg.

The outlook for silver is uncertain. Industrial demand could conceivably weaken further if recessionary trends persist. Silver prices will continue to be strongly influenced by the metal's role as a store of wealth, until the world economy picks up again.

Lead

Production of lead in 1981-82 was 153 255 tonnes, up 22 per cent on the preceding year. The value of production however increased by only 9.6 per cent to \$91,662,695, reflecting lower metal prices.

World demand for lead continued to be depressed, with consumption of lead for batteries and for additives in petrol remaining at low levels.

The LME lead price opened the year at £314 per tonne, and increased to £500 in August as a result of labour disputes in the industry in Australia and the USA and a revival in trade with Eastern European countries. The prices then fell back steadily to £377 per tonne at year-end.

The Australian lead price as quoted by the Broken Hill Associated Smelters (BHAS) was \$650 per tonne at the beginning of the year. It was raised to \$725 per tonne on 10 August, lowered to \$675 per tonne on 29 September, to \$650 per tonne on 29 October, and further to \$600 per tonne at the end of the year.

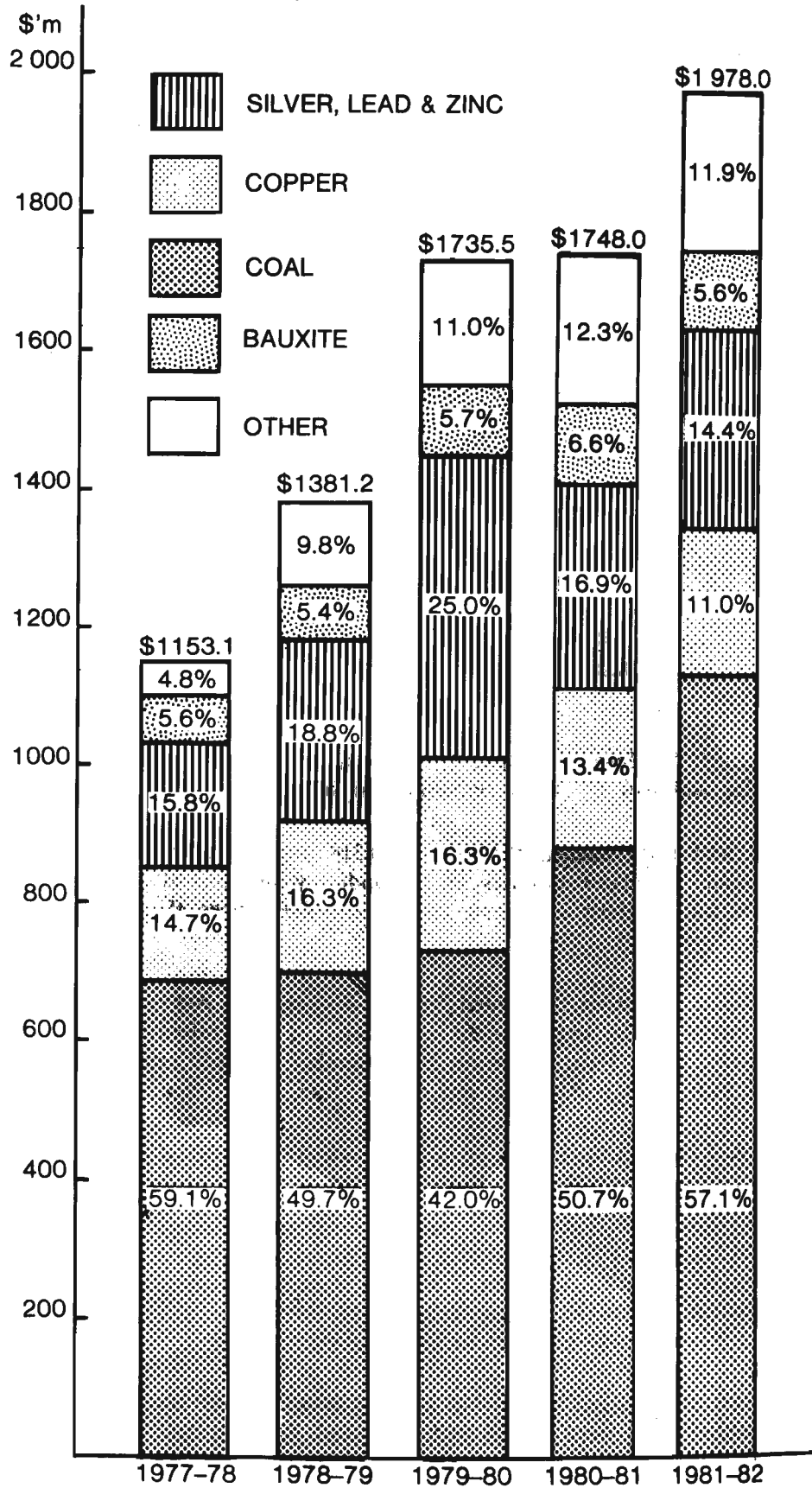
Any revival of demand for lead is mainly dependent on a revival in the world automotive industry. The outlook for 1982-83 is for a subdued level of activity in this industry.

Zinc

Zinc production in 1981-82 increased by 33 per cent to 129 278 tonnes, and the value of production increased by 47 per cent to \$96,675,634.

The zinc market remained reasonably healthy despite a low level of consumer demand. Supplies of concentrates were significantly reduced by industrial disputes at mines in North America, Peru and Australia. Zinc supply was also affected by a series of cutbacks and scrappings of out-moded and inefficient smelting and refining plants, especially in the USA.

VALUE OF MINERAL PRODUCTION IN QUEENSLAND



The European Producer Price (EPP) of zinc was increased from US\$925 per tonne to US\$1,000 per tonne in September. It was reduced early in December back to US\$925 per tonne and further to US\$800 per tonne at the end of the year.

The domestic zinc price quoted by EZ Industries was raised from \$826 per tonne in July to \$889 per tonne in October. The price was reduced progressively in the following months and was \$824 per tonne at the end of the year.

The prospects for the zinc industry appear good as the tightness of zinc supply is expected to continue into the foreseeable future.

Bauxite

Bauxite production increased from 8 296 848 tonnes in 1980-81 to 9 000 350 tonnes in 1981-82, valued at \$111,491,034. The increase reflected unusually low production in the previous year when output was seriously affected by an industrial dispute at Weipa.

Western world consumption of primary aluminium in 1981-82 was at its lowest level since 1977, while world market prices for aluminium were the lowest experienced since 1978.

The LME aluminium price opened the year at £607 per tonne and closed the year at £545 per tonne.

During the year, Australian aluminium producers, facing increasing competition from imports entering the domestic market, reduced their prices from \$1,545 per tonne to \$1,370 per tonne in October. The price stayed at this level for the remainder of the year.

The outlook for the aluminium market is nevertheless encouraging. Aluminium price rises are possible when world economies recover. Due to the reduced world smelting capacity as a result of smelter closures and deferred new smelters, export markets for aluminium could be enhanced.

Nickel

Production of nickel ore increased marginally to 2 650 670 tonnes in 1981-82, valued at \$10,574,028.

The year 1981-82 saw the continued downward trend in world demand for nickel as a result of the depressed stainless steel and nickel alloy industries.

Most major nickel producers operated at below their designed capacity, with production cutbacks and shutdowns being common. Major producers also offered price discounts as competition within the industry became intense.

Nickel prices on the free market were US\$2.70-2.90 per lb at the beginning of the year, fluctuated between US\$2.25-2.35 and US\$2.70-2.80, and ended the year at US\$2.30-2.60 per lb.

The major producers' price of cathode nickel was set at US\$3.45-3.50 per lb until 25 November, when it was reduced to US\$3.20-3.29 per lb. The producers' price remained at that level for the rest of the year.

There is no evidence of any sustained improvement in the market conditions for nickel. When demand improves, the presence of high inventories could slow the recovery in prices.

Mineral Sands

Production of rutile was 76 297 tonnes in 1981-82 compared with 78 623 tonnes in 1980-1981. The value of production fell by 14 per cent to \$20,430,237.

The market for rutile during the year was subject to excess supply. Prices were low due to reduced demands by pigment manufacturers and also due to the strong competition from cheaper South African titaniferous slags.

Production cutbacks by Australian producers were not sufficient to prevent prices falling. Rutile prices fell steadily from the range of \$290-320 per tonne at the beginning of the year to \$250-270 per tonne at the end of the year.

Demand for zircon, however, remained reasonably strong, particularly in the main refractory markets of Japan and in the ceramic tile industry of Italy. Queensland production of zircon in 1981-82 fell by 4.2 per cent to 64 284 tonnes, but the value of production increased by 32.3 per cent to \$5,392,792.

Zircon prices were at \$75-80 per tonne for standard grade and \$85-95 per tonne for premium grade at the beginning of the year, increased to \$115-120 per tonne, and then to \$120-130 per tonne by the end of the year.

Like zircon, demand for ilmenite was also less affected by the world recession with prices remaining strong throughout the year. Ilmenite prices opened the year in the range of \$24-25 per tonne and increased to \$27-30 per tonne by the end of the year.

Queensland production of ilmenite increased from 652 tonnes in 1980-81 to 835 tonnes in 1981-82 valued at \$17,560.

Significant increases in the demand for and price of rutile are unlikely without a major rise in the general levels of industrial activity.

The outlook for zircon is good as there is expected to be tight supply, although price rises could be held down by the possibility of substitution of zircon's refractory market.

Oil and Natural Gas

Production of petroleum liquids, crude oil and condensate, was 82 143 cubic metres during 1981-82, compared with 79 840 cubic metres in 1980-81. Production of natural gas was 363 252 000 cubic metres, compared with 321 483 000 in 1980-81.

Petroleum exploration showed a sharp increase, 120 wells being drilled during the year compared with 63 in 1980-81. Of these, 82 were exploration wells, resulting in the significant discoveries of the Jackson oil field in the Cooper Basin in South-West Queensland and the Merivale and Avondale gas fields in the Denison Trough, north-west of Injune.

Of the 36 appraisal wells drilled, 7 gas and 5 oil wells in the Hartogen fields, 7 gas wells in the A.A.R. fields, 3 oil wells in the Delhi Jackson fields and 1 gas well in the Bridge fields were successful. Two development wells were drilled by International Oils Exploration N.L. in the Moonie oil field.

Geophysical exploration activity increased with 59 surveys being completed compared with 48 in 1980-81.

MANUFACTURING AND TERTIARY INDUSTRY

The Queensland manufacturing sector's value added in production increased to some \$3.4 billion in 1981-82, an estimated increase of 10.6 percent over the previous year.

Generally the heavy engineering and food processing industries operated at satisfactory levels of production, while most other industries with the exception of those closely allied to the housing sector of the building construction industry maintained reasonable levels of activity.

During 1981-82 the conditions experienced in the major industry sectors were as follows:—

Food and Beverages

Food processing and beverages continue to account for approximately one-third of the total value added by Queensland manufacturers. Trading conditions varied in each section of this industry group.

The sugar industry attained high production levels during the year, although the gross value of production declined as a result of the depressed world raw sugar prices. The meat industry experienced an increase in slaughterings during the last quarter of 1981-82 associated with continuing dry to drought conditions in most areas.

Most other industries in this sector have continued to operate at satisfactory levels of output. The expectations for 1982-83 are for similar levels of production.

Fabrication, Metal Products and Machinery

Heavy engineering is currently in a generally buoyant position with activity being maintained at high levels as a result of long term contracts. Workshops are likely to operate at near full capacity at least until early 1983.

Most light/medium engineering workshops operated at stable levels of production throughout 1981-82.

Manufacturers of agricultural plant recorded high levels of demand for irrigation equipment and broadacre machinery but towards the end of the year sales of these items as well as sugar cane harvesting and cultivating equipment declined. Foundries experienced output reductions.

While demand in the motor vehicle industry generally was buoyant during the year, commercial vehicle assembly recorded mixed results with the local assemblers of lighter commercial vehicles experiencing a good demand and manufacturers of heavier vehicles experiencing lower demand.

Building Products

The high level of demand for building products experienced in the previous year continued for the first six months of the year. However in the latter half, there was a reduction in sales from these high levels, especially for those building materials closely allied to the housing sector.

Processed Minerals

There was a general tightening of conditions in the minerals processing industry during the year associated with a substantial weakening in world prices for most base metals. However, despite these historically low prices in real terms, production has generally continued at high levels with sales at satisfactory volume levels.

With worldwide depressed conditions in the aluminium industry, beneficiated bauxite and alumina production decreased this year. However development of the Boyne Island aluminium smelter continued as scheduled.

Chemicals

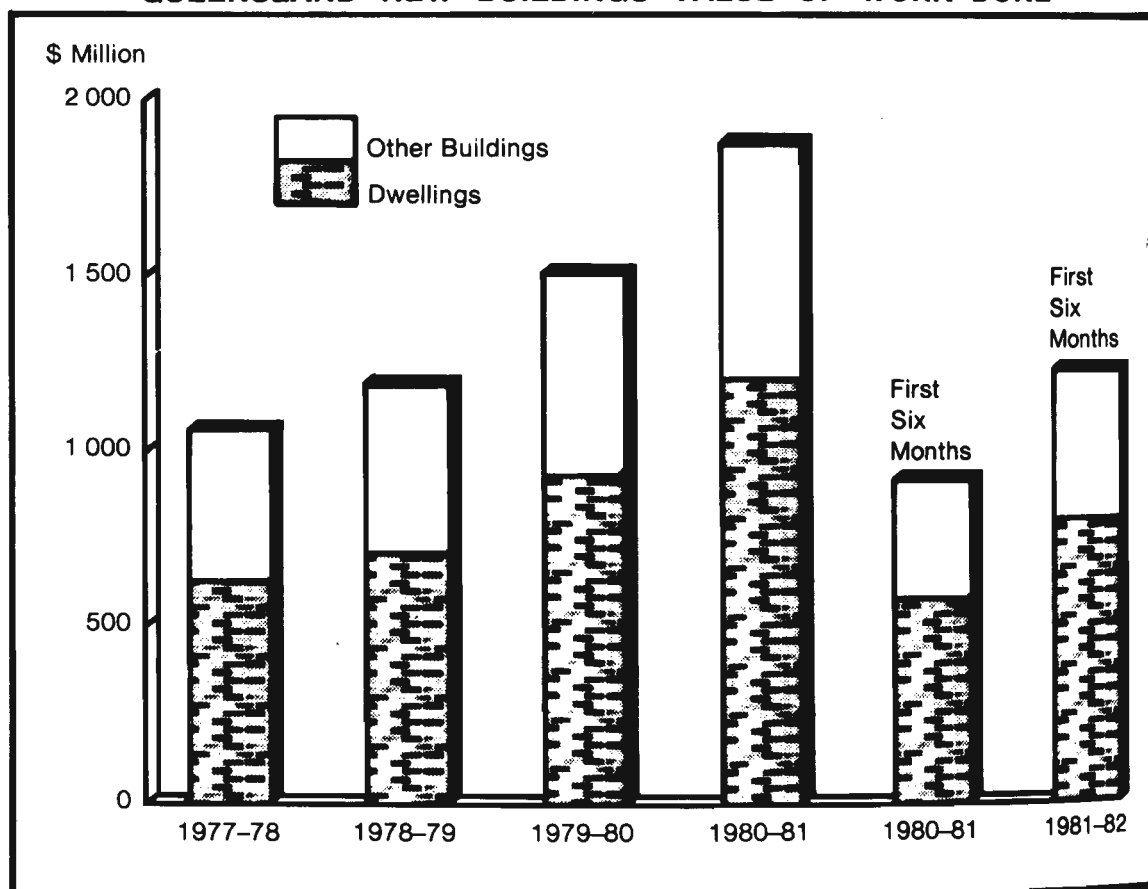
The chemical and plastics industries continued to operate at fairly high levels of output throughout most of the year. The establishment of new manufacturers in the plastics sector has resulted in increased competition. With the growing market demand from the agricultural sector, fertilizer sales were slightly higher compared to the previous year. Oil refineries maintained production at near capacity levels.

Paper and Printed Products

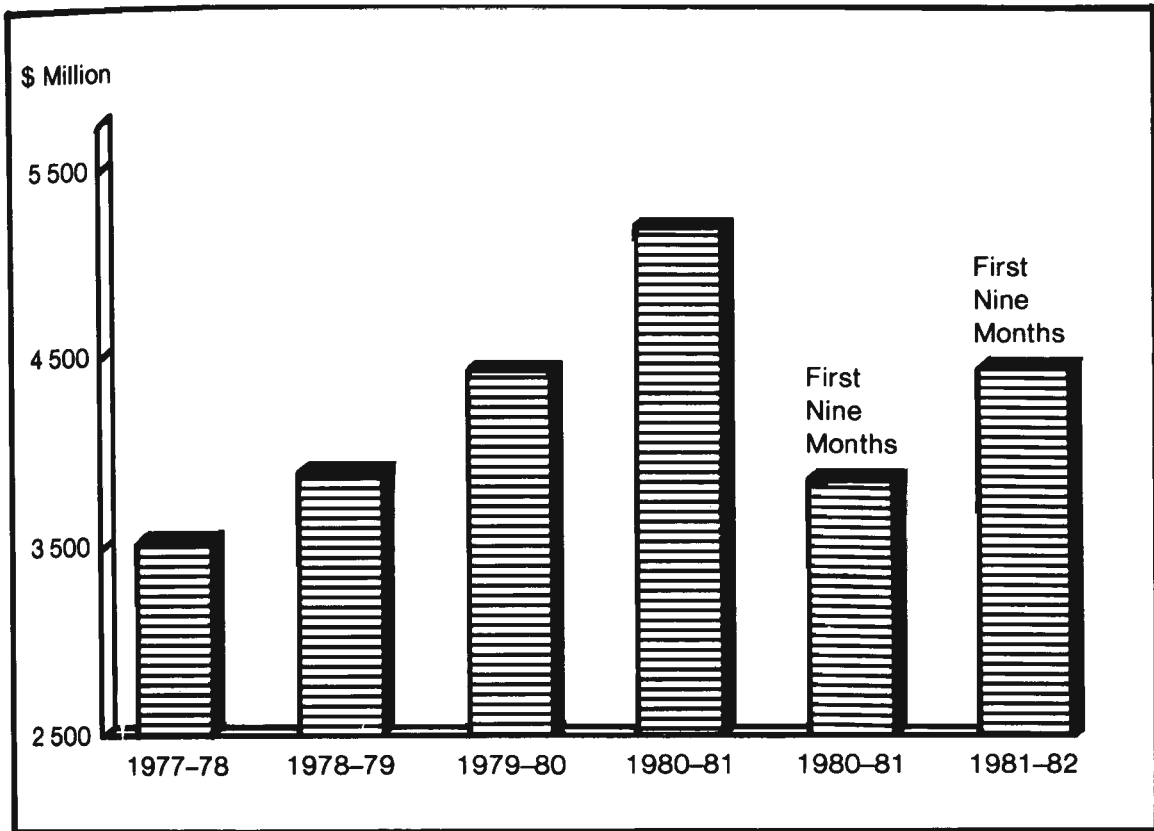
The paper-making industry sustained the high output achieved over the last few years with production during 1981-82 continuing at virtually full capacity. Paper converters reported steady trading conditions throughout the year although there is some over capacity in the industry. Packaging for fruit and vegetables continued at a satisfactory level while there was slight improvement in demand from the export meat packaging industry. The requirement for beverage packaging was affected by wet and cooler weather during the last summer months.

The printing industry has experienced a general weakening of the buoyant conditions which prevailed in 1980-81.

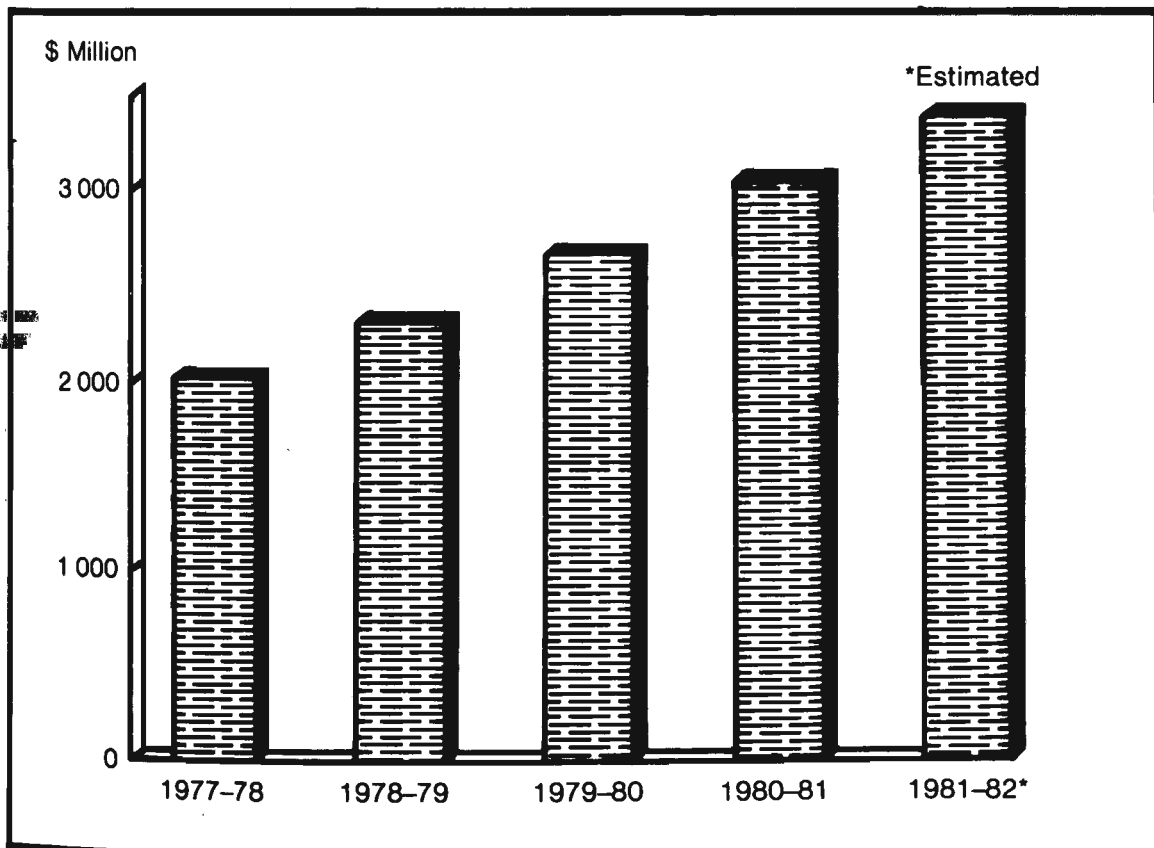
QUEENSLAND NEW BUILDINGS VALUE OF WORK DONE



QUEENSLAND RETAIL SALES



QUEENSLAND MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION (VALUE ADDED)



Tertiary

Employment in most sectors of tertiary industry such as community services, finance, insurance and business services increased during the 1981-82 financial year.

A feature of this sector was the buoyant activity in the new motor vehicle market. The number of new motor vehicles registered in Queensland in 1981-82 rose by 6.7 per cent compared with the number in 1980-81.

An increased level of tourist activity was evident during 1981, as shown by an increase of 26.4 per cent in tourist accommodation takings to \$151.5 million. This confirms the importance of the industry as a source of business revenue and as an area of continuing rapid economic growth.

Dr EDWARDS: I move—

“That there be granted to Her Majesty, for the service of the year 1982-83, a sum not exceeding \$512,000 to defray Contingencies—His Excellency the Governor.”
Progress reported.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. V. B. SULLIVAN (Condamine—Minister for Commerce and Industry): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 12 October 1982.”

Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 13 March 1979, the Queensland Parliament met in this Chamber within the Parliamentary Annexe for the first time.

This day, 23 September 1982, must qualify for an entry in future historical documents. When Parliament reassembles on 12 October 1982, all sessions as from that date will take place in the original refurbished Chamber.

To further mark this occasion, when the House adjourns, I invite all members and staff to join me for light refreshments in the main function room of the Parliamentary Annexe.

The House adjourned at 3.15 p.m.