

Queensland



Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 1983

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Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. H. Warner, Toowoomba South) read prayers and took the chair at 11 a.m.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Presentation and Answer

Mr SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, accompanied by honourable members, I this day presented to His Excellency the Governor the Address of the Legislative Assembly, adopted by this House on 30 November, in reply to His Excellency's Opening Speech, and that His Excellency has been pleased to make the following reply—

"Government House,
Brisbane,

1st December, 1983.

Mr. Speaker and Members,

As the Representative of Her Majesty The Queen, I tender to you and the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, my sincere thanks for the Address-in-Reply to the Speech which I had the honour to deliver at the Opening of Parliament on November 23rd last.

It will be my pleasant duty to convey to Her Majesty The Queen the expression of continued loyalty and affection to The Throne and Person of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II from the Members of the Legislature of Queensland in Parliament assembled.

The Queen is the unifying centre for the peoples of the Commonwealth of Nations, and a sign to the world of our faith in freedom.

I trust that your labours to promote the advancement and prosperity of this great State will meet with success in full measure.

I pray that the blessings of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

JAMES RAMSAY,
Governor."

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT

Miscellaneous Departmental Accounts and the Accounts of Statutory Bodies and Local Authorities

Mr SPEAKER announced the receipt from the Auditor-General of his report on his audit of miscellaneous departmental accounts and the accounts of statutory bodies and local authorities for the financial year ended 30 June 1983.

Ordered to be printed.

PAPERS

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

Statement of Accounts of the Workers' Compensation Board of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1983.

The following papers were laid on the table—

Orders in Council under—

Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-1981

Fisheries Act 1976-1982

Primary Producers' Co-operative Associations Act 1923-1981

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1983

Regulations under—

Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act 1926-1983

Workers' Compensation Act 1916-1983

Rules of Court under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1961-1983.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Railway Department Investigation by PA Australia

Hon. D. F. LANE (Merthyr—Minister for Transport) (11.5 a.m.), by leave: I should like to inform the House on progress in implementing aspects of the PA report on Queensland Railways efficiency, which I tabled on 3 August this year.

Honourable members will recall that Cabinet appointed PA Consultants in September 1982 and subsequently authorised the progressive implementation of recommendations designed, among other things, to make Queensland Railways more competitive, to eliminate industrial anomalies, to deregulate the carriage of certain goods, to streamline manpower, operational and marketing functions and to make for greater accountability. The recommendations covered management structure, industrial agreements, mechanical maintenance, freight and parcels traffic and deregulation.

The overall objective was to lay down guide-lines which were practical and which, when taken together, could help reduce cash deficits, like that for the 1983 financial year of \$142m, as revealed in the Railway Department's annual report tabled in Parliament this session.

Appointments have been made from inside and outside the department of people with proven management ability, including an assistant commissioner (operations) and an assistant commissioner (technical services). Selected railway personnel are being trained in new management skills.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I apologise for interrupting the Minister, but I have to ask for silence again. Honourable members will listen to the Minister in comparative silence, if nothing else.

Mr LANE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Marketing and training have been strengthened, as have policy, manpower, succession and safety-planning sections. Data-processing, wagon-tracing, computer-assisted rostering, rationalised LCL (less than container load) and parcels traffic, improved methods to increase productivity in traffic, workshops and rolling-stock maintenance have been or are being introduced.

The financial benefits of the most sweeping reorganisation in the department's history could reach \$52m a year together with savings through reduced future capital expenditure of \$14.5m a year, making a total benefit of over \$66m a year.

Some examples of what has been achieved to date are—

The Sunday penalty-on-penalty agreement and cumulative penalties on other days have been eliminated and the saving to the tax-payer in this State is running at a rate of \$7m a year.

There is no longer a distance limit in suburban train workings. Previously there was a maximum of 193 km, which had applied since the days of steam. That has been eliminated.

A task force has been established comprising railway management and unions. It is already making progress towards consolidating the Railway Award in the clerical and traffic sections.

Hopefully, we are on the way to a new award without the complexities and anomalies that have existed in the past and with better work practices in the future. The estimated saving, when this can be achieved, is \$5m a year.

A computerised industrial information system will be made available to all branches when all data has been summarised. This will enable management staff throughout the State to communicate and retrieve industrial relations information quickly and accurately.

Although there have been no retrenchments of permanent staff, as promised, my department estimates that staff wastage between September 1983 and June 1984 will total 109 personnel. Against this, however, some specialist jobs have been created.

A reorganisation of staffing, particularly in goods sheds, has resulted in the transfer of 18 men at Rockhampton, nine at Townsville, six at Mackay and five each at Gladstone and Cairns.

Rockhampton platform staff has been reduced by six and Ayr station staff by six. Taking an average salary of \$22,000, even from the small number of examples that I have given, honourable members can see the savings that have been made. These are examples of how more productive distribution of staff is being attained, and without any retrenchments or sackings—much to the disappointment of the Labor Party.

There is much more I could report in detail, such as the study into general freight and parcels traffic, public holiday guarantees, signal and communications staff shift work, staffing in goods sheds and automatic ticket-vending machines, and so on.

However, I believe honourable members will agree that much has been done in a relatively short space of time to implement the recommendations in the report.

I believe that we are well along the right track. I will keep the House posted from time to time on developments.

Proposed Road, Cape Tribulation National Park

Hon. P. R. McKECHNIE (Carnarvon—Minister for Tourism, National Parks, Sport and The Arts) (11.10 a.m.), by leave: On the Channel O news last night, a Johan Albert Nieuwenhuizen, purporting to be an officer of the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service, was filmed as one of the protesters blockading bulldozers at the Cape Tribulation National Park.

He also gave an interview in which he condemned the Douglas Shire Council's decision to develop the road and the Government's support for the road.

Mr Nieuwenhuizen is not a permanent employee of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. He is a ranger employed for six weeks under the wages pause program youth employment scheme.

It is a breach of Public Service Regulations for National Parks and Wildlife Service employees to make public comments on Government policy.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr UNDERWOOD (Ipswich West): I seek leave to move a motion without notice that this House express its concern at the threat to the Cape Tribulation National Park—

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Question—That leave be granted—put; and the House divided—

Ayes, 28

Campbell	Hooper	Vaughan
Casey	Kruger	Warburton
Comben	Mackenroth	Warner, A. M.
D'Arcy	McElligott	Wilson
De Lacy	McLean	Wright
Eaton	Milliner	Yewdale
Fouras	Prest	
Gibbs, R. J.	Scott	<i>Tellers:</i>
Goss	Smith	Davis
Hamill	Underwood	Price

Noes, 45

Ahern	Harper	Muntz
Alison	Harvey	Newton
Austin	Henderson	Powell
Bailey	Innes	Randell
Bjelke-Petersen	Jennings	Row
Booth	Katter	Simpson
Borbidge	Kaus	Stephan
Chapman	Knox	Stoneman
Cooper	Lane	Tenni
Cahill	Lester	Turner
Elliott	Lickiss	Wharton
FitzGerald	Littleproud	
Gibbs, I. J.	Lingard	<i>Tellers:</i>
Glasson	McKechnie	McPhie
Goleby	Menzel	Neal
Gunn	Miller	

Resolved in the negative.

ELECTION POLLING DETAILS

Order for Return

Mr NEAL (Balonne): I move—

“That a return in the usual form showing the details of polling at the State general election held on 22 October 1983 be laid upon the table of the House and ordered to be printed.”

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

Questions submitted on notice by members were answered as follows—

1. Child Safety Campaign of Australia

Mr Wright asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Is he aware of an organisation known as “Child Safety Campaign of Australia” which has produced a pamphlet on dos and don'ts relating to the personal safety of children?

(2) Has this pamphlet been recommended by his department for distribution throughout schools and, if so, when was permission granted for such distribution?

(3) Is he aware of the names of any members of Child Safety Campaign of Australia and, to his knowledge, is this organisation registered in any way in Queensland?

(4) Although the safety information contained in the pamphlet in question could be of benefit to students, is he aware if the distribution of the pamphlet had any political overtones?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) In fact, my regional directors have been circularised and advised that the brochure is advertising material and should definitely not be distributed through State schools.

(3) No.

(4) No.

2. Workers' Compensation for Asbestos-related Diseases

Mr McLean asked the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs—

With reference to the growing concern that exists among workers who have come into contact with asbestos or asbestos products in the course of their employment—

(1) How many claims are presently before the Workers Compensation Board for asbestos-related diseases?

(2) How many claims of this nature have been submitted in the past, and how many were successful?

(3) What were the nature and details of the successful claims?

(4) What research has been done or is to be carried out by the board on this very serious matter?

(5) How many State Government buildings have been checked for high levels of asbestos contamination and what were the results of those tests?

Answer—

(1) One.

(2) The statistics sought by the honourable member have only been recorded from 18 November 1976. These are—

Claims lodged	47
Claims paid	43
Claims rejected	4

(3) This information is not readily available. To obtain these details, each individual file would have to be examined. I am sure that the honourable member would not ask for that to be done.

(4) The Workers Compensation Board does not have the facilities to undertake research in this regard. This is a matter for health authorities and the recognised research organisations throughout the country. However, the Workers Compensation Board is supporting a project by the Commonwealth Institute of Health to establish an Australian register for conditions of diseases associated with asbestos. This register provides the basis of research into such diseases. The Workers Compensation Board is supporting this register by a \$5,000 grant with \$1,000 being paid each year for five years.

(5) The matter of the inspection of State Government buildings for asbestos contamination is the responsibility of the Occupational Health Unit of the Department of Health.

3. Staff of Fire Boards

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

(1) How many firemen and staff are attached to the following fire boards: (a) Metropolitan, (b) Gold Coast, (c) Caloundra, (d) Ipswich, (e) Maryborough, (f) Redcliffe, (g) Townsville, (h) Cairns and (i) Mackay?

(2) What additional staff were approved for this year for each board?

(3) What is the approximate number of people serviced by each board?

(4) How many stations are managed by each fire board?

(5) How many volunteer firemen are administered by the above fire boards?

Answer—

(1) (a) Metropolitan, 800; (b) Gold Coast, 197; (c) Caloundra, 8; (d) Ipswich, 89; (e) Maryborough, 23; (f) Redcliffe, 22; (g) Townsville, 84; (h) Cairns, 45; and (i) Mackay, 45.

(2) Consideration has earlier been given to provisional allocation of additional staff for fire brigade boards for 1983-84, but a final decision has not yet been made. I will shortly take to Cabinet a report on an investigation into the manning of urban fire brigades throughout Queensland, with a view to establishing the priorities for allocation of additional firemen to those fire brigade boards which are currently undermanned.

(3) (a) Metropolitan, 731 000; (b) Gold Coast, 318 000; (c) Caloundra, 23 000; (d) Ipswich, 96 000; (e) Maryborough, 22 000; (f) Redcliffe, 45 000; (g) Townsville, 99 000; (h) Cairns, 64 000; and (i) Mackay, 59 000.

(4) (a) Metropolitan, 20; (b) Gold Coast, 10; (c) Caloundra, 1; (d) Ipswich, 11; (e) Maryborough, 1; (f) Redcliffe, 1; (g) Townsville, 5; (h) Cairns, 3; and (i) Mackay, 9.

(5) (a) Metropolitan, nil; (b) Gold Coast, 54; (c) Caloundra, 17; (d) Ipswich, 75; (e) Maryborough, 10; (f) Redcliffe, nil; (g) Townsville, 6; (h) Cairns, 24; and (i) Mackay, 80.

4. High Schools, Salisbury Electorate

Mr Goss asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Is he aware of the need for a new high school in the Runcorn/Sunnybank Hills area and the fact that Sunnybank State High School and Macgregor State High School are operating beyond their capacity?

(2) Will he investigate this problem?

(3) What would he regard as optimum student numbers for Sunnybank State High and Macgregor State High?

(4) Does his department currently have plans to build a high school on land purchased and available for that purpose at Bonemill Road, Runcorn and/or Hellowell Road, Sunnybank Hills and, if so, when is it anticipated that such a school might commence operation?

Answer—

(1) I am aware of the need for the provision of additional relief facilities for Macgregor State High School and Sunnybank State High School.

Tenders were recently called for the establishment of a new secondary school at Browns Plains. This school, to open in 1985, is predicted to reduce enrolments at Sunnybank State High School by some 20 per cent.

Adequate capacity will exist at both Macgregor State High School and Sunnybank State High School to accommodate the enrolments predicted for 1984.

(2) Enrolment patterns in all growth areas such as the Macgregor/Sunnybank area are constantly under investigation by officers of the Department of Education and new facilities are provided as resources permit.

(3) It is the policy of my department to design secondary schools with permanent accommodation for 1 200 students. Additional accommodation in relocatable format is provided for short-term enrolment growth beyond 1 200 students.

(4) Land has been acquired at these sites in expectation of possible future requirements.

5. Nursing Home, Gympie Hospital

Mr Stephan asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the proposed construction of the 40-bed nursing home at the Gympie General Hospital for which loan moneys have been approved—

When will final approval be given for the commencement of this very important project?

Answer—

Officers from my department have recently reviewed the siting of a nursing home at the Gympie General Hospital. This review also investigated the request for redevelopment of wards and facilities at this hospital.

The Gympie Hospitals Board has been requested to forward its views on the proposed siting of the nursing home and redevelopment of hospital wards. On receipt of acceptance of the proposal by the board, a planning team consisting of officers of my department, the Department of Works and representatives of the Gympie Hospitals Board, will be formed to prepare a planning brief for the project.

6. Proposed Road, Cape Tribulation National Park

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

With reference to proposed road-building in the Cape Tribulation National Park—

(1) Did a well-known developer, Mr Pedersen, fly members of the Douglas Shire Council to Brisbane to discuss the current project with Ministers?

(2) Is he aware that Mr Pedersen together with a Mr Quaid were responsible for illegally bulldozing a track through the rain forest in 1976?

(3) Is he aware that the Forestry Department recommended taking legal action against Pedersen and Quaid but this action was not proceeded with?

(4) Is he further aware that the illegal track bulldozed by Pedersen and Quaid is the path of the currently gazetted road through the Cape Tribulation National Park?

Answer—

(1) I have no knowledge of this and suggest that the honourable member inquire of the Douglas Shire Council. Incidentally, I understand that the chairman (Councillor T. Mijo) was the endorsed ALP candidate for the electorate of Leichhardt in the 1980 Federal election.

(2) No. In 1976, the land in question was not a national park.

(3) No.

(4) The presently gazetted road through the Cape Tribulation National Park was declared in 1978, some three and a half years before gazettal of the national park. The exact location of the road proposed by the Douglas Shire Council will deviate in some places from the gazetted road and my Director of National Parks and Wildlife Services has authorised this. The exact location will be determined on the ground by officers of the Douglas Shire Council and the service.

Some people seem to be under the impression that roads can only be constructed on land which has been gazetted for that purpose. This is not the case. Roads can be constructed anywhere, as long as the permission of the appropriate authority is obtained.

Mr Underwood: And Parliament!

Mr McKECHNIE: What a lot of rot.

Answer (contd)—

When the Douglas Shire Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service consulted about the gazettal of Cape Tribulation National Park, an undertaking was given by the service that permission for the construction of a better located road would be forthcoming.

Unlike the Federal Labor Government and other State Labor Governments, this Government is not in the business of renegeing on agreements or breaking promises. The Government agreed then the road would go ahead and it intends to stand firm by that decision.

I also remind honourable members that if it were not for the work of bulldozers and other road-making machinery, many of our national parks would be unavailable to most people.

7. Shortage of High School Teachers

Mr Smith asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the apparent and worsening shortage of available high school teachers, both qualified and proficient in the areas of mathematics and science—

(1) What action does he intend to take to overcome this shortage?

(2) What does he see as the major impediments to the introduction of permanent part-time employment of teachers and, in particular, high school teachers with maths/science qualifications?

(3) Does he envisage being able to offer permanent part-time positions during 1984?

(4) Is he aware that only 50 out of approximately 200 teachers who applied for places in the two-year part-time Graduate Diploma in Computer Education at the Brisbane CAE (Kelvin Grove campus) were offered places?

(5) In view of the Australian Schools Commission recently announced findings on computer studies in schools that a primary need was the development of teaching programs, will he take action to ensure that presently employed teachers are given the opportunity to upgrade their knowledge and qualifications by priority admission to suitable courses of study?

Answer—

(1) The House should be aware that there is a shortage not only in Australia but throughout most of the world of qualified teachers in the area of secondary maths and science. At present my department is taking steps to secure the services of teachers who are regarded as both qualified and proficient in the area of maths and science. This includes the recruitment of suitable teachers, particularly from the United Kingdom, but this source is quite limited. There has been a shortage of qualified applicants to fill all the places available at the training institutions. A special working party of the Board of Teacher Education has been set up to investigate this matter.

(2) The topic of permanent part-time employment of teachers has been one for discussion at senior level with officers of the Queensland Teachers Union. However, the union sees the provision of superannuation benefits as critical to its approval of any scheme for permanent part-time employment. Such provision cannot be made in terms of current legislation. Because of the insistence of the union on this provision of superannuation, progress is far from expeditious.

(3) The possibility of permanent part-time employment in 1984 is a matter for Government decision after necessary negotiation.

(4) The two-year part-time Graduate Diploma in Computer Education is being offered for the first time at the Kelvin Grove campus in 1984. There is a quota of 50 places on this course. The course is so restricted because of the limited funds made available by the Commonwealth in the area of tertiary education. There were 156 applications for this course and 52 places, two over the quota, have been offered.

(5) The Department of Education has already commenced, and is extending programs of in-service education for teachers wishing to gain expertise in the area of computer education. In addition, many teachers are already improving qualifications by undertaking courses with TAFE colleges and tertiary institutions. The needs of teachers are well understood and considered carefully.

If and when additional Commonwealth funds are made available, it will be possible to mount a greatly expanded program to cater more widely for teachers throughout the State.

8. Mulgrave River Railway Bridge

Mr Menzel asked the Minister for Transport—

Will he investigate the need for a new high-level all-weather railway bridge over the Mulgrave River as the present wooden railway bridge over that river at Gordonvale is becoming quite old?

Answer—

Reconstruction of the railway bridge over the Mulgrave River is currently listed in the Railway Department's five-year program for replacement in 1986-87. However, the undertaking of this work depends on the availability of funds at that time.

Although the wooden bridge is an old one, I am assured that it is inspected regularly by qualified Queensland Railway staff and it is completely safe for traffic.

9. Hovercraft Service to Palm and Magnetic Islands

Mr Menzel asked the Premier and Treasurer—

(1) Is the Aboriginal Development Commission proposing to establish a hovercraft service between Townsville, Palm Island and Magnetic Island?

(2) What is the likely effect on already established services?

(3) Is this a commercially competitive venture?

Answer—

(1) I am aware that a definite attempt is being made by the Aboriginal Development Commission—that, of course, is Charles Perkins—to institute a hovercraft passenger service between Townsville, Palm Island and Magnetic Island. I understand that the commission has had officers in Great Britain for an extended period selecting and negotiating the lease of a suitable craft, which is a unit of 80-passenger capacity. No doubt the taxpayer has had to bear the expense of this international jet-setting. The public purse will also have to pay the great costs of lease and eventually the purchase of the unit. Planning is already well advanced and the service is due to commence in the middle of 1984.

(2) The effect of this financially unsound venture is likely to be considerable. Private enterprise already maintains adequate services to Palm Island, which is receiving twice-daily services seven-days-a-week from Townsville by way of a modern 20-passenger aircraft. The return fare is economical and discounts for pensioners, children and groups are available. Boat services to Magnetic Island are also numerous and involve the use of a high-speed catamaran apart from other vessels. It would not be going too far to say that the proposed action of the commission will go close to putting existing businesses out of action, or at least force them to curtail existing arrangements. The hovercraft will not operate in rough weather and the waters between Townsville and Palm Island are subject to 25-30 knot winds during much of the winter when the seas are in excess of two metres.

It is indicative of the quality of research that has been done—despite the incredible expense already committed—that the proposed hovercraft will not operate under these conditions, leaving residents to wish for the return of the reliable and frequent air service that they already enjoy.

Apart from this there is the question of spares, maintenance and a whole range of technical problems that could further reduce the reliability of this very absurd proposal.

I must remind the House of a similar romance with hovercraft in the Torres Strait. On this occasion the Federal Government expended a great deal of money on a unit that was so unreliable and so incapable of dealing with weather conditions that it was obliged to take it out of service, and private enterprise was called upon to provide the reliability and frequency that is so essential in this remote area.

Mr Scott: It was a trial.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I am sure that the honourable member supports me on this.

Mr Scott: It was a trial, and you know it.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: It was a stupid trial. This is another stupid trial.

Mr Scott interjected.

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I hope that the honourable member is not supporting this proposal.

Answer (contd)—

There is a very real threat that another attempt will be made to bring a hovercraft back to the Torres Strait again at tax-payers' cost. I do not know whether the honourable member is pushing that proposal.

(3) Any venture is viable if there is no worry about running at a profit or at least breaking even. In this case millions of dollars of expense and losses will have to be made up by the Australian tax-payer and as a result of the subsequent withdrawal of private services, people will lose employment. The fact that sooner or later the money will dry up and private enterprise will have to struggle to reintroduce these facilities is not worrying the commission. Even the Torres Strait island hovercraft failure has not daunted its wish to spend huge sums on a foredoomed operation. If the commission was so enthusiastic about providing cheaper fares—at least to Palm Island—it would hurt the public purse less if it subsidised the current private enterprise operation.

There is not even any guarantee of a lengthy Federal commitment to this nonsense as the hovercraft is to be initially leased, not purchased—a sure sign of uncertainty.

10. **Kirwan Police Station**

Mr McElligott asked the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police—

- (1) What is the expected completion date for the Kirwan Police Station?
- (2) What are the proposed manning arrangements for the Kirwan Police Station?
- (3) Will the station operate on a 24 hour per day, seven day per week basis?
- (4) When will the officer accommodation foreshadowed for the station be constructed?

Answer—

- (1) The expected completion date is February 1984.
- (2) The Management Services Branch of the Police Department is presently assessing the operational needs of the Townsville area, including the proposed Kirwan division. A decision in relation to the manning arrangements of Kirwan station will be made in the light of recommendations made by the Management Services Branch.
- (3) Yes. The station will operate for 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- (4) The construction of a residence and quarters to accommodate single personnel is listed on the Police Department's current five-year loan works program and will be proceeded with having regard to availability of finance and priority of other projects.

11. **Milk Entitlements**

Mr Kruger asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

- (1) How many amalgamations of milk entitlements were effected by the Milk Entitlements Committee in the period from June 1980 to July 1983?
- (2) How many of the farms purchased were used in conjunction with the original farm owned by the purchaser and how many were sold or closed?
- (3) How many dairies were inspected to determine whether transactions were carried out in accordance with the guide-lines in the period June 1980 to July 1983?
- (4) How many inspections of dairies were carried out between 30 March 1983 and 30 June 1983 to determine the legality of transactions?

Answer—

(1) The Milk Entitlements Committee did not keep records of amalgamations until March/April 1983 so it is not possible to identify accurately all the amalgamations that occurred from June 1980 to July 1983. To the committee's knowledge, there have been approximately 11 amalgamations from June 1980 to July 1983. There may have been other amalgamations of which the committee is unaware.

(2) If the land was subsequently sold, the Milk Entitlements Committee would be unaware of such a transaction. It is not possible to extract this information from departmental registration records. If a producer elects to supply his total production through one set of bails, this is a straightforward commercial transaction, which has been accepted within the dairying industry over many years.

(3) Seven dairies have been inspected. However, decisions have been made by the Milk Entitlements Committee and my department based on information available from existing records and from local officer knowledge.

(4) Three inspections were carried out between 30 March 1983 and 30 June 1983. Decisions are made in most cases from information made available to the Milk Entitlements Committee by departmental officers and from base records available to both my department and the Milk Entitlements Committee.

12. Stanwell Power Station

Mr Kruger asked the Minister for Mines and Energy—

With reference to conflicting opinions regarding the discharge of water from the proposed Stanwell Power Station—

(1) Where will the water be discharged?

(2) Will the water be fit for irrigation or will the water carry a heavy salt content?

(3) Will the water, if carrying salt, be released in such a way and at a point that will allow salt to enter the aquifers or will the water be pumped into a storage area to allow for evaporation and later removal of the salt, if any, and, if so, how will the salt be removed and to where?

(4) Will compensation be available to farmers if damage is caused to properties because of contaminated water from the proposed Stanwell Power Station?

Answer—

(1 to 4) It is proposed that water from the Stanwell Power Station will be discharged into Quarry Creek. However, no problems are expected with salinity, and any discharge will have to meet standards determined by the Water Quality Council of Queensland.

13. Buy Queensland Made Campaign

Mr Campbell asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

(1) Is it the policy of statutory bodies, which are answerable to the Government of Queensland, to support the policy of Buy Queensland Made?

(2) If so, why does the State Wheat Board purchase all of its polythene sacks from stock dumped by overseas companies in preference to buying sacks produced in our own State by a factory in Bundaberg, thus depriving Queenslanders of jobs?

Answer—

(1) Yes.

(2) In regard to the specific matter of the State Wheat Board's purchase of polythene sacks for seed wheat, I am advised that sample sacks supplied by the Bundaberg company in question did not meet the board's specifications and are therefore not suitable for seed wheat purposes.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Child Safety Campaign of Australia

Mr WRIGHT: I ask the Minister for Education: In view of his answer to my question of yesterday's date, that the pamphlet issued by the Child Safety Campaign of Australia is not recommended by the Education Department and that permission was not given for its distribution in schools, will he explain to the House how distribution was able to take place in schools in the Toowong electorate prior to the State election?

Is he aware that the pamphlet that was distributed—I have a copy, which I shall table—incorporated a photograph of, and a message from, Mr Earle Bailey, who coincidentally was the National Party candidate for Toowong? In view of that, is it now the right of members who are candidates, or individuals who wish to be political candidates, to distribute material to schools prior to an election?

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

Mr POWELL: Maybe the document about which the honourable member is talking is different from the one that I was shown. The one that I was shown, and which we have in the department, has a Mitsubishi advertisement on it. Because of that, regional directors told people that it was not to be distributed in schools.

I have gone on record as saying quite clearly—it is also quite clear that it is Government policy—that we do not allow political advertising to be distributed in a school by schoolchildren. What happens outside the schoolgrounds is not a matter within our control. If the honourable member has a genuine complaint, I would like to have it in writing so that it can be dealt with properly.

The Rural Centre

Mr NEAL: I ask the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General: Is he aware of a business trading under the name "The Rural Centre", whose activities include buying grain and vegetable products? Could the Minister inform the House of the corporate structure of The Rural Centre and, in particular, whether there is any connection between that business and William James Whitla and Desleigh Marise Whitla, both undischarged bankrupts, who were the former directors of Centenary Investments Pty Ltd now in liquidation? If there is such a connection, what action will the Minister take in the matter?

Mr HARPER: I am aware of the business referred to in the question. The Rural Centre is a registered business, the business of which is described in official records as bulk-grain trading. The area of its operation is in the Lockyer and in the grain-growing areas further to the west.

The proprietor of the business is a company called Drulbond Pty Ltd, the directors of which are listed as William James Whitla and Desleigh Marise Whitla, who I believe to be identical with the persons of that name recently declared bankrupt and who were the directors of Centenary Investments Pty Ltd now in liquidation.

I have taken steps to bring the matter to the attention of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs with instructions that investigations be carried out and a report made to me. In the meantime, I advise growers to deal only with established and reputable dealers and to resist the temptation of selling on credit to strangers, even at the risk of failing to secure what would appear to be top price for their produce.

Dispute Between Queensland Nurses Union and Health Department

Mr NEAL: I direct a question to the Minister for Health. Is he aware of the circumstances that may have prompted the Queensland Nurses Union to become politically active in recent weeks?

Mr AUSTIN: I am concerned that the community has a misconception of the true position in the present dispute, because of the recent publicity given to the Queensland Nurses Union.

On Thursday, 1 September this year, a deputation from the Queensland Nurses Union met with the former Minister for Health (Mr Bertoni). That deputation discussed with him a number of matters relating to nurses in Queensland. At no stage during that meeting were the staffing levels in Queensland's public hospitals system mentioned.

However, on 12 September, an article appeared in the "Sunday Sun" that alleged shortages in nursing staff and foreshadowed action that the Nurses Union would take in an intensive campaign. In the light of those two events, one must look closely to see why this industrial dispute is continuing.

I refer honourable members to a journal called "The Queensland Nurse". Page 23 of the October issue for 1983 reads—

"Nominations for Council

Nominations are hereby called from members for the following positions on the Council of the Queensland Nurses' Union in accordance with Rule 19.

President
 Vice President (two positions)
 Trustee
 Treasurer (who shall also be Trustee)
 and 18 Ordinary Councillors

Nominations will open at 9 a.m. on Monday October 10 and close at 5 p.m. Monday October 31 at my office, 1 Whytecliffe Parade, Woody Point, 4019.

Nomination forms must be returned to the above address only.

Nomination forms are also available from the above address or from the QNU offices in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville.

Should the nominations exceed the number of positions called for, an election will be held.

Tom Wallace,
 Returning Officer.
 Phone: 2843424."

I have been advised of some interesting developments in relation to that election. Members of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation have nominated for a number of positions on the council. If they were to succeed, the power structure of the council would change.

I am advised that the state secretary of the Queensland Nurses Union, Mr Denis Jones, has lodged a protest with the returning officer over the acceptance of the nominations of some people because they belong to another trade union. The Royal Australian Nursing Federation is not a registered union in this State, and that may affect the allegation made by Mr Jones. If the nominations from those people are refused by the returning officer, they may appeal to the Industrial Court against the decision; so it could be some time before the matter is determined.

A change in the power structure of the Queensland Nurses Union would place Mr Jones's job in jeopardy, because he holds his position as a result of the power wielded by the people who are on the present executive of that union.

Mr Davis: Why didn't you front the meeting?

Mr AUSTIN: Mr Jones is a rather interesting character. He is a trained nurse. However, before he trained as a nurse—and the member for Brisbane Central would be well aware of this—Mr Jones worked for a printing firm called Coronation Printing. That printing press was owned by the Communist Party of Australia.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Will the Minister be much longer in his answer?

Mr AUSTIN: There is not much more, Mr Speaker.

Members of the Opposition are a little bit sensitive about the political activity in which they have been involved with the Queensland Nurses Union. Quite clearly, Mr Jones has a lot to lose if the executive of the union changes.

On many occasions I have appealed to the Queensland Nurses Union to have discussions with the various hospitals boards throughout the State. Every honourable member would know that if an industrial dispute arises within the hospital system, negotiations are carried out with the hospitals board concerned.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will have to ask the Minister to curtail his answer to the question.

Mr AUSTIN: I will, Mr Speaker.

It can be said quite clearly that the interests of professional nurses in this State and their reputations are being sacrificed. It is clear also that the credibility of the profession will be sacrificed for the sake of a few people who are fighting for power in the union.

Land Tax Reforms

Mr BORBIDGE: In directing a question to the Premier and Treasurer, I refer to the land tax problems that are being experienced on the Gold Coast and in other parts of Queensland as a result of assessments based on property revaluations carried out at the height of the 1981 property boom. I ask: Will he assure the House that in the near future the Government will take action to introduce land tax reforms?

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: I assure the honourable member that later today I will say something of importance to him in that regard. I am sure that he will appreciate it and find it of value. I hope that he conveys it to the people on the Gold Coast who have been hit very severely by the sharp increases in valuations as the result, perhaps, of inflated prices. I will reveal those measures later this afternoon.

Public Support for Jupiter's Casino

Mr BORBIDGE: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister Assisting the Treasurer: Is he aware of the massive public support for the Jupiter's Casino project? If so, to what does he attribute that support?

Mr GUNN: The \$40m public float is over-subscribed.

Mr Davis: This is another Dorothy Dixier, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I inform the honourable member for Brisbane Central that his constant interjections are becoming rather tedious.

Mr DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. During the term of the previous Speaker, I took points of order concerning Dorothy Dix questions and the then Speaker ruled that they should not be asked. I interjected earlier because Dorothy Dix questions are coming one after the other.

Mr GUNN: The success of the \$40m float, which has been over-subscribed, vindicates the faith that the Queensland Government and Jupiters have in the project. The way in which the people of Queensland responded indicates their faith in the project.

Mr Prest interjected.

Mr GUNN: The honourable member has no faith. He is one of the greatest knockers in the House.

Mr Prest: You would not have a brain. If you had one, it would be lonely.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier will not be referred to in those terms. I ask whichever member made the comment to retract it.

Mr Prest: It was me.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable member to retract the remark.

Mr PREST: Yes, I withdraw it.

Mr GUNN: Obviously the people of Queensland are aware of the great potential of the Jupiter's project. I congratulate not only Jupiters and the people of Queensland but also Queensland Newspapers and the "Gold Coast Bulletin", which were involved in the widespread distribution of the prospectus. Everyone, including members of the Opposition, should wish the project success.

Proposed Road, Cape Tribulation National Park

Mr JENNINGS: I ask the Minister for Lands, Forestry and Police: It is a fact that the Bloomfield-Cape Tribulation road, about which pseudo-conservationists and obstructionists are now objecting is, in fact, neither a new road nor a new route?

Mr GLASSON: For the information of the member for Brisbane Central, I would point out that this was a Dorothy Dix question because it is high time that the people were told the facts about the Cape Tribulation-Bloomfield road.

The route of the Cape Tribulation-Bloomfield road, to be constructed by the Douglas Shire Council, has been clear-felled twice before—in the 1960s and again in the early 1970s.

The only exception is the small deviation, which was the subject of last week's Supreme Court appeal in Cairns. However, this deviation is not in the national park. In fact it is on Timber Reserve 165.

This new alignment section is necessary to provide the most practicable route to provide access to Bloomfield for the local people and to open up the area to tourists from round the world, so that they can enjoy the natural beauty of our far-northern areas, including the rain forests.

As anyone can imagine, a route which has been clear-felled at least twice before over the last 20 years cannot truthfully now be claimed to be a new road being pushed through virgin rain forest.

The claim of the conservationists is simply not true. The Douglas Shire Council is reopening a track which has been in existence for many years. It has been cleared twice by local residents to allow them access from Cairns to Bloomfield.

Commonwealth Bond Interest Rates

Mr JENNINGS: I ask the Minister for Industry, Small Business and Technology: Has his attention been drawn to the Federal Government's announcement that it has reduced interest rates on the \$1.2 billion Commonwealth bond tender? As Federal Government-influenced interest rates, such as those applying to Australian Savings Bonds, represent major forces, can any further pressure be applied to the Federal Government and to the private sector to maintain the momentum of the reduction in interest rates so that industry and small business can join in the economic recovery?

Mr AHERN: I am aware of the action taken by the Federal Government. Some early signs of business recovery are present, particularly in the building sector and in the sector that services the rural industry. There would be no better way to assist economic recovery generally than to apply downward pressure on interest rates. I hope that the Federal Government will, in the interests of overall recovery, continue to apply pressure on the financial institutions of this country to move interest rates down. Some very healthy signs of recovery are apparent. Nothing better could be done to assist recovery.

I hope that that effort will continue and that pressure will be brought to bear on those financial institutions that are resisting the downward movement in an endeavour to increase their share of investor's funds.

The Queensland Government will be doing everything in its power to assist the downward movement of interest rates, which will be of great benefit to the community generally.

Permission to Fly Eureka Flag in Toowoomba

Mr FITZGERALD: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister Assisting the Treasurer: Is he aware of an article in the Toowoomba "Chronicle" in which it is reported that the Toowoomba City Council has given permission to the North West Suburbs Uniting Branch of the Australian Labor Party to fly the Eureka flag next Saturday? Is he aware that many residents in the Toowoomba area see that as an insidious move to change the national flag by 1988, which is the centennial year. Will he give me an assurance that the State Government will not grant permission to anybody to fly the Eureka flag on State Government property next Saturday?

Mr GUNN: I am sure that every decent, thinking Queenslander would deplore that action. I know that I do. The left-wing Ipswich City Council did exactly the same thing as is being suggested.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: They will do it every year.

Mr GUNN: It is not to their credit. I repeat that honourable members on this side of the House deplore that action. Every genuine Queenslander would be sickened at the fact that members of the ALP have the hide, the gall and the audacity to have their photographs taken in front of the Australian flag. I give the honourable member the assurance of the Queensland Government that the flag to which he referred will not be flown on Government buildings.

Proposed Road, Cape Tribulation National Park

Mr FITZGERALD: Because of his responsibility for the environment, I ask the Minister for Environment, Valuation and Administrative Services: What are the facts about the road from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield?

Mr TENNI: The road in question, about which Opposition members have spoken a lot of rot, happens to be in the electorate of Barron River. Not only have I driven over that road in a four-wheel-drive vehicle with chains on the tyres but I have also walked the road, so I know every part of that area.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr TENNI: Opposition members do not like the truth but, because I know that road very well, I will tell them the truth.

I hope that members on the Opposition benches will absorb the facts I am about to give them. In 1968, \$6,000 was granted by the Queensland Government to the Cape Tribulation Development League to construct a track from Cape Tribulation to the Bloomfield River. That league did exactly that and was confronted by the same troubles that have now arisen over the new proposed road. At that time people lay down in front of the bulldozers, but the track went through. In 1975, Mr George Quaid of Mossman sought approval from the Douglas Shire Council and the Forestry Department to rejuvenate that track with the intention of bringing cattle through on foot. However, that did not eventuate. In 1979, the council wanted to inspect the area so it put a bulldozer through on the same track. That made it a reasonable road. On 8 August 1981 the national park was gazetted. That was some time after 25 March 1978 when the road was gazetted.

All honourable members would know the problems in that area associated with drug-growing and drug-trafficking. Those things are on record in police files.

Mr MACKENROTH: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, is the Minister entitled to answer questions that have nothing to do with his ministerial responsibility?

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TENNI: Many inmates of the Stuart Prison at Townsville have been convicted of drug offences committed in the Cape Tribulation area. Only a couple of weeks ago members of the Drug Squad were in the area to investigate further growing. Honourable members may recall that a Mr Ray Renato from that area was deported to New Zealand. The group, known as "Ray Renato and the Pigs", was menacing people who entered the area. Another group, which was known as the "Gold Miners", consisted of a group of hippies who were shooting at four-wheel-drive vehicles. They were gaoled for their actions in that area.

Statements made by the member for Cairns, which were reported in the press yesterday, are completely wrong and have misled the people of Queensland. Both the member for Cairns and the chairman of the Douglas Shire Council are very strong supporters of the ALP, yet this morning the chairman told me that he was disgusted with the comments in that article.

Mr MACKENROTH: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to Standing Order 67A, which states that a Minister may be asked questions relating to matters with which he is concerned. Under which Act—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Is the honourable member referring to a supplementary question?

Mr MACKENROTH: I am referring to Standing Order 67A, which states—

“Questions may be put to a Minister relating to public affairs with which he is officially connected . . .”

The Minister for Environment in this Parliament—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Is the member referring to a supplementary question?

Mr MACKENROTH: No.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr TENNI: Thank you, Mr Speaker. In case the member does not know, I happen to be the Minister for Environment. I also happen to be the member representing that area, so I am directly involved. Because what I am saying is the truth, it hurts.

The Cairns Chamber of Commerce and the Atherton Chamber of Commerce have fully supported this proposal. Four-wheel-drive safaris are waiting to take tourists through the area. I am concerned that the member for Cook, whose area this road will service, is totally opposed to the proposal. The 300 people on the Wujal Wujal Mission, which I represent, will fully utilise the road. The member for Cook professes to be a supporter of the Aboriginal people, so his opposition is hypocritical.

When the road is cleared my Survey and Mapping Department will put a traverse line through. Then the gazettal of the road reserve can be amended to change it from the existing alignment to the constructed alignment. This will leave a lot of the existing track for walkers, and it is the existing track that is being referred to. In fact, no-one would have been able to travel through the area if bulldozers had not cleared the track on three occasions since 1969. It could not be negotiated. A terrible slur has been cast on the people who carried out the environmental impact study in that area. They include the Douglas Shire Council engineer (Bob Baade), the planning engineer in Cairns for the Main Roads Department (Alan Richmond), Jim Hunt from the Forestry Department, Anthony Simmons from the National Parks and Wildlife Service—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Would the Minister mind tabling that information? He has answered the question sufficiently.

Mr TENNI: I will table it. I will finish up by saying that this road will be of world renown.

Whereupon the honourable gentleman laid the document on the table.

Denis Jones

Mr DAVIS: I ask the Minister for Health: Was Denis Jones, the person to whom the Minister referred today as the secretary of the Nurses Union, a member of the Liberal Party in his electorate prior to the last election? Was the same Mr Jones a member of the Minister's campaign committee?

Mr AUSTIN: I refer the honourable member to Standing Order 67A.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr AUSTIN: Ha, ha, ha! The joke is on the honourable member for Chatsworth. Standing Order 67A states—

“Immediately prior to the time appointed for the House to proceed to the Orders of the Day, Questions may be put to a Minister relating to public affairs with which he is officially connected, to proceedings pending in the Legislative Assembly, or to any matter of administration for which he is responsible.”

I am not responsible for the administration of the Liberal Party, and I therefore suggest that the honourable member write to the state secretary of the Liberal Party and ask him.

Mr DAVIS: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Chatsworth asked for a ruling under the same Standing Order, Mr Speaker, which you would not make. I asked the Minister a question regarding his campaign committee.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Steaming Coal

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: Can the Minister comment on the likely market for steaming coal in the near future and, bearing this in mind, would he also comment on the likelihood of Marathon Petroleum's coal reserve at Macalister being mined?

Mr I. J. GIBBS: The mining of steaming coal in Queensland is set for an expansion. In the last 36 weeks a record 900 000 tonnes of coal more than for the same period last year has been exported.

Our market for steaming coal is excellent. The honourable member referred particularly to the Marathon project in his area. That company has been very dedicated in its efforts to find an economic export market. The coal may come to Brisbane for export or it may go further north. Any expansion in the world coal market will be mainly for steaming coal. Queensland is well set for the export of that type of coal. Because of its quality and proximity to the coast, it will be very competitive in the Asian area. One of our future expansionary markets is Europe. We will need to use very big ships to be able to compete on that market. Our reliability and the quality of our product puts that project in very good stead for the future.

Increased Government Charges for Dental Services

Mr WARBURTON: I refer the Deputy Premier and Minister Assisting the Treasurer to the Queensland Government Gazette of 26 November 1983, in which fees for 72 separate dental services were increased by up to 28.2 per cent, and I ask: Given the Government's commitment to increase fees and charges only in line with inflation, how can he justify increases of up to four times in dental fees?

Mr GUNN: The dental services provided by the Government are being brought into line with those of private dentists.

An Opposition Member interjected.

Mr GUNN: There is nothing wrong with that. In many instances, dental hospitals are in areas where there are private dentists. They should not be in competition with them. I defend the service provided and the prices charged, and I have nothing further to add.

Program Budgeting

Mr WARBURTON: I refer the Deputy Premier and Minister Assisting the Treasurer to the fact that Queensland is the only State that has not introduced program budgeting, which identifies programs funded by the Government, and ask: Given the Auditor-General's recommendation for the introduction of program budgeting, does the Government intend to implement this necessary, urgent reform in our Budget process?

Mr GUNN: This afternoon the Premier and Treasurer will bring down the best Budget in Australia.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr GUNN: That is a fact. If honourable members will exercise a little patience they will hear the Premier introduce a balanced Budget—the only balanced Budget brought down this year by any Government in Australia. I can only say to the honourable member that if he has a little patience he will see the Budget that will be brought down shortly.

Mini Steel Mill; Statement by Senator Button

Mr COOPER: I ask the Minister for Industry, Small Business and Technology: Can he inform the House what assurances, if any, the Federal Government has given in relation to the proposed mini steel mill for Brisbane? Is he aware of remarks made by his Federal counterpart, Senator John Button, in the Senate last month, indicating that the proposed plant was not viable and, to use his words, "Its future was by no means assured."?

Mr AHERN: When I saw those comments reported I was concerned. I have written to Senator Button asking for an explanation. The Queensland backers of the project expressed general concern that the Federal Government may make some move to prevent

this project coming to fruition. Concern was expressed to me that, in terms of the Federal Government's having given substantial assistance to the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd, it would move to protect its investment. I hope that that is not the case, and I will be having discussions with officers of BHP. I have sought assurances from Senator Button.

The Queensland Government believes that it is in the interests of business generally in this State and of the consumers of steel throughout the whole of Australia that there is more competition in the domestic steel industry. We have an opportunity to develop a major project in our State that will employ 300 people. It will be of a scale that we hope will make it more efficient—unlike what has happened with the very large plants that have been operating to date. We see quite substantial benefits for our State in terms of employment, the economy and the provision of services to industry generally. We are anxious to promote this project, and we will be doing all that we can to do that. I will continue to demand from Senator Button the explanation that I have not yet received.

I am happy to say that next week the Premier will be having discussions in Paris with the promoters of the scheme to see what further the Queensland Government can do to assist in the establishment of this important employment-producing industry in Queensland.

Electricity Supply, Taroom Area

Mr COOPER: In directing a question to the Minister for Mines and Energy, I point out that, because of extensive electricity black-outs in the Taroom area during October, an inquiry was instigated. I ask: Has that inquiry concluded its deliberations? I ask that question because the electricity grid is due to be extended into the Roma area in the near future, and I am concerned about the reliability of supply.

Mr I. J. GIBBS: Yes, and the finding will result in improvements in the reliability of supply in that area. However, comparisons cannot be made between the 22 000-volt system supplying Taroom and Wandoan and the 132 000-volt transmission line to be built to Roma. Intrinsicly it would give a greater reliability of supply and would not be complicated by the connection of a spur line, as in the case of Taroom.

Of course, the 132 000-volt line that is to be built to Roma is just one further stage in taking the grid further west to provide a more reliable supply to people in the western areas of Queensland. I assure the honourable member that that line will be totally reliable. It has been designed to meet the future needs of Roma and all areas further west.

No-fault Compensation for Victims of Motor Vehicle Accidents

Mr R. J. GIBBS: In directing a question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, I refer to the report of the New South Wales Law Reform Commission concerning no-fault compensation for victims of motor vehicle accidents. I ask: As this report has been widely circulated to all Attorneys-General for some time, is the Government prepared to participate in discussions with other States and the Commonwealth, with a view to the introduction of a national scheme? If not, on what grounds does the Minister base his opposition?

Mr HARPER: The question has been considered by me, and it is continuing to be considered by me. I am aware of certain comments that have been made in New South Wales. I am also aware of the attitude of the New South Wales Government, with which I am not in agreement. There is some merit in the proposal, and it will be considered by the Government at an appropriate time.

Proposed National Crimes Authority

Mr R. J. GIBBS: In directing a further question to the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General, I refer to his public statements in opposition to the establishment of a national crimes authority. I ask: Will the Minister outline to the House exactly what he finds objectionable in the scheme and the particular facets of the proposed legislation that his Government is concerned about, bearing in mind that the legislation has yet to be introduced in the Federal Parliament?

Mr HARPER: The Queensland Government is not prepared to relinquish to the Commonwealth Government any of its State responsibilities in this area. I have considered

the matter, and I am continuing to consider it. I have made it quite clear to the Commonwealth Attorney-General that Queensland will not have its State rights in this area removed by the Commonwealth.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: What is your objection?

Mr HARPER: For the information of the honourable member, I point out that in many respects, my own views are not inconsistent with views expressed by his fellow Labor Attorneys-General.

The Queensland Government is still considering the matter and a final decision has not been made. I repeat: Under no circumstances will the Queensland Government concede its powers to the Commonwealth in this area.

Opportunities for Apprentices

Mr NEWTON: I ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Affairs: Can he inform the House what is being done to assist unemployed apprentices in Queensland? Does he know how many apprentices are out of work at the present time?

Mr LESTER: Presently 23 000 apprentices are employed in Queensland and 520 are unemployed.

Special courses are being offered by the Industry and Commerce Training Commission and by the TAFE colleges to assist young people.

Apprentices are taking part in a number of community projects and that involvement is credited to their time. These measures are doing something positive which will help the community at a time when conditions are difficult. They are, in fact, taking up the slack.

Queensland must ensure that apprentices are fully trained so that when conditions improve they will be able to do the important jobs. If our young people are not trained, tradesmen will have to be imported from overseas and that will mean that the people in Australia will become labourers.

I ask every employer to employ an apprentice who is out of work. This can be done under the block release training scheme. While an apprentice is absent from his employment attending college, an unemployed apprentice could be taken on temporarily to fill the vacancy. That could also be done while the apprentices are on annual leave.

Mr Hooper: Is your gramophone needle stuck?

Mr LESTER: No. We are talking about the future of the youth of Australia. I am making the appeal that these young people receive employment.

I have spoken about what the Government is doing and, when the Premier and Treasurer brings down his Budget, honourable members will hear much more. The lull in the Queensland economy is only temporary. When the Government's initiatives take effect, the economy will improve.

Coal Exports through Dalrymple Bay

Mr NEWTON: I ask the Minister for Transport: Will he inform the House when the first railing of export coal from the Oaky Creek mine through Dalrymple Bay will occur?

Mr LANE: The timing of this question from the honourable member is impeccable because the first railing of export coal from Oaky Creek mine through the Dalrymple Bay complex took place today, 1 December 1983.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Child Safety Campaign of Australia

Hon. L. W. POWELL (Isis—Minister for Education) (12.24 p.m.), by leave: The Leader of the Opposition asked me two questions this morning about a pamphlet from the Child Safety Campaign of Australia. I answered the question on the information available to me at the time. The honourable member did not lay all his cards on the table because he did not give me a copy of the pamphlet about which he was speaking. I now have a copy

and it is endorsed on the back by the member for Toowong. The organisation known as the Child Safety Campaign of Australia offers individuals the opportunity to pay for the printing of these very valuable pamphlets, which tell children about the dos and don'ts of safety.

Opposition Members interjected.

Mr POWELL: Honourable members opposite can laugh if they like, but they obviously are not concerned about child safety.

I am informed that the organisation approached the member for Toowong and that he offered to pay for the publication of some of the pamphlets. Members of the organisation, not schoolchildren, distributed them.

EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading—Resumption of Debate

Debate resumed from 24 November (see p. 123) on Mr Powell's motion—

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

Mr SMITH (Townsville West) (12.25 p.m.): Opposition members recognise the Bill as a necessary one, but we also realise that it is very much a stopgap measure. Therefore, we have no major objection to it. The Bill is, however, a shadow of the original Bill, which contained 55 clauses. This Bill contains 29 clauses.

The history of this legislation is quite interesting, in that most of the provisions that were deleted from the original Bill were advocated quite forcefully by the previous Minister for Education (Mr Gunn), and most of the opposition to some of the more contentious provisions in the earlier Bill came from the Liberal Party. Because of that, and given the new predominance of the National Party, I am somewhat surprised that the present Minister for Education did not proceed with some of the measures that were proposed previously and subsequently deleted. Those that I have in mind are essential to good education in Queensland.

The original Bill contained a number of recommendations made by the Select Committee on Education. However, they do not appear in this Bill. Further, there is a total absence of any statement of education objectives and there is no mention of advisory committees. I regard those matters as being of importance.

Speaking of education objectives—this morning I listened to the Minister's answer to a question regarding high schools. He indicated that the Queensland Government's objective is to have no more than 1 200 students attending each State high school. I and many other members know that the present-day high schools were designed to cater for an enrolment of 1 200 but have the ability to cater temporarily for up to 1 500 students. However, the objective of a 1 200 enrolment has long been lost. Today, an enrolment of 1 500 is considered to be the baseline at most high schools and it is not unusual to find an enrolment approaching 1 800.

Mr Powell: Nonsense.

Mr SMITH: That is true.

Mr Powell: There is one secondary school.

Mr SMITH: The Minister will have an opportunity to reply. I contend that before long a considerable number of high schools will have an enrolment in excess of 1 800.

Getting back to education objectives—frequently Government members claim that Queensland leads the other States in education. Whereas every other State has a statement of education objectives, Queensland has no such document; this State stands alone. Many people would be pleased to see a formal statement on where Queensland is heading in education. The Queensland Government, which claims leadership in education, has an obligation to produce such a document.

I find strange the omission from this Bill of the registration requirement, which drew a good deal of attention when the original Bill was brought forward. Clause 18 of this Bill—I am pleased to see the inclusion of this clause—provides that non-State schools that are given funds for special education shall be required to report to the Minister. As the Minister has said, some accountability is required. That is only common sense, and I support that provision.

I suggest that the Minister, as an educationalist, is well aware of the need for a greater amount of accountability from the whole non-Government sector. There is no reason why it should be regarded as a political adventure to bring Queensland into line with the rest of Australia.

As to clause 19—I would like the Minister to advise me with respect to the general policy on special education for the blind and the deaf. It seems to me that some of the schools that have been provided lately serve a multifunctional purpose rather than the specialist purpose that is necessary for those people with very special disabilities such as blindness and deafness. I would like the Minister to tell me in which direction the Government is heading.

The Glenmore Primary School in Rockhampton has a special education area. It is an open school in which some accommodation has become available as a result of the movement of pupils to other areas. I understand that those open areas are unsuitable for some of the purposes of special education. As the Minister will have some time to consider the matter, I would like him to respond to that comment.

I turn now to some of the more general provisions of the Bill and, in particular, to registration. At present the Act provides for a system of approved schools, either State or non-State, and that forms the basis of financial assistance and allowances. Financial assistance is obviously, and correctly, not available to non-approved schools and their pupils. The Commonwealth is currently in a position of providing support for all approved schools without having any idea of their educational objectives or performance.

The original Bill proposed to deal with a severe problem that I will outline. The Act presently states that a child aged between 6 and 15 years must attend a State school daily unless a reasonable excuse is given for non-attendance. The reasonable excuse is taken to be that the child is receiving instruction in some other manner which, in the opinion of the Minister, is efficient.

One of the clauses in the Bill provides that the child must attend a "nominated" State school, not "any" State school. Although that tightens control to some extent, it does nothing to strengthen the Minister's hand with respect to children who are receiving inadequate instruction within the non-State system. My principal concern is that the "other instruction" does not have a proper educational basis. An anomaly could arise in that the particular school might not be an approved school, but the Minister could, in fact, grant a child exemption from attending a State school on the grounds that he or she is receiving instruction that could be regarded as efficient in terms of the present Act.

The former Minister for Education (Mr Gunn) expressed dissatisfaction about that. I am confident that the present Minister, whether he is prepared to admit it or not, would privately share that concern. It was proposed to amend the Act to provide for registration of non-State schools. Such an amendment would have removed the anomaly to which I have referred and, of course, many others. It would have provided for two types of schools—State and registered. The registered school would have been required to gain recognition as an efficient alternative means of education before qualifying for financial assistance at the level applicable.

Previous legislation provided that, if a non-State school did not achieve or maintain a suitable educational standard, it could be deregistered and forced by law to close. Anyone who flouted the law or attempted to keep that school open could have been penalised. Under the present Bill, if the Government considers that a school is not providing a proper educational basis and it wants to see that school closed, the machinery to achieve that objective is not available. The Minister's only alternative will be to prosecute parents. The school itself will be immune from prosecution.

There is no doubt that the Opposition believes in a system of registration of schools. Many more non-systemic schools are being established. In fact, Queensland has a proliferation of this type of school. Some of them undoubtedly offer an adequate level of instruction, but it is obvious that many do not. If the State education system is so good and if Queensland is, as the Government claims, the leader in education in the Commonwealth, why is that proliferation occurring in Queensland? Perhaps the provisions of the legislation are just too loose.

Many references have been made recently to the lifting of the educational standard in Queensland. The Co-ordinator-General has pointed out that, if the State is to achieve or participate in new industries, something will have to be done about the present situation.

In other words, the hayseed mentality that has prevailed in this State for far too long will have to give way to a more reasoned view of the needs of the community in the latter part of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century.

Queensland now stands alone as a State unwilling to address the problem of unfettered growth of non-complying schools. I endorse the remarks of the former Minister for Education that the responsibility for educating children can no longer be left solely with parents; the State also has a clear and definite responsibility. It would certainly not be the intention of the Opposition to interfere with the freedom of choice of parents to send their children to whichever school they wish, but the Government has a responsibility to ensure that, whatever school children attend, the educational standard meets reasonable community expectations. The Australian Government wants to ensure that the schools to which its funds are passed are those with proper educational objectives and that those schools are meeting those objectives.

The fact that the Queensland Government refused to act in this matter is yet another example of its obstructionism and obstinacy in regard to co-operation with other State Governments and, indeed, the Federal Government.

Mr Powell: Who wrote that rubbish for you?

Mr SMITH: These are the facts of the matter.

Members of this House would be aware of debate in the media and in the Federal Parliament about the Commonwealth's funding policies for schools. Government members in this place have made many uninformed comments which demonstrate their ignorance and confirm that they are mere political parasites who parrot the cry of their party without having any real understanding of what they are saying.

It is unfortunate that the debate has been allowed to get away from the real, basic problems and issues that are facing educators, parents and teachers right throughout the country. One result is the smaller percentage of young people, particularly in Queensland, who complete higher education compared with the percentage in similarly developed countries.

Mr Powell: What about the opportunities that are provided?

Mr SMITH: I said before that I was prepared to take interjections, but not necessarily from the Minister, who has a better opportunity than anyone else to reply to what I am saying. He should do that at the appropriate time.

Mr Powell: You are not sticking to the facts.

Mr SMITH: Yes I am, but the Minister does not like them.

Some private school lobby groups are waging a campaign of misinformation clearly aimed at protecting the educational privileges of those already most privileged. Fortunately, Queensland has few of those organisations, and most of them recognise and appreciate what has been done for them.

The parents of many children attending private schools are becoming alarmed by this unnecessarily mischievous—I choose that word very carefully—and ill-informed campaign, which is being conducted purely and simply for political purposes.

Mr Powell: Why have three grammar schools lost their funding?

Mr SMITH: I do not believe that they have.

I wish to emphasise to all people associated with non-Government schools throughout Queensland that the Australian Government recognises the vital role they play in educating so many young people, and it strongly supports the continuation of that role. The Government is determined to ensure that all schools, Government and non-Government, are able to offer every child a high standard of education. Queensland registration would ensure that that was more easily achievable. That is a very serious omission from this Bill.

The Australian Government has no intention of withdrawing funds from the non-Government school sector, which includes many of the most disadvantaged schools in Australia. It will continue to fund them on the basis of need so that there are better educational opportunities for all Australian children. That has been firm Labor Party policy since well before the 5 March Federal election, and I believe that the majority of Australians, including many parents of children attending non-Government schools, recognise and support that aim.

Contrary to the sorts of statements that have been floating round this Chamber—unfortunately they are being parroted by some of the new members who would not have any real idea what they are doing—the fact is that in 1984 Commonwealth recurrent grants to non-Government schools will be increased in real terms by \$7.1m or 1.3 per cent more than in 1983 to a total of \$540.6m. These increased funds will be redistributed to the most needy non-Government schools.

The great majority of non-Government schools—in fact, 1 870 out of 2 200—will be better off next year. It should be noted that only a handful of non-Government schools—41 out of 2 204—will be affected in a negative sense by having their recurrent grants cut by 25 per cent. I remind members that no school in Queensland has received any cut whatever—because the educational standard in Queensland is low and the standard of the non-Government sector is correspondingly low compared with the standard in the rest of Australia. The estimated saving of \$4m from these cuts have been redirected to needy non-Government schools, and that is certainly reasonable. Who would argue against that?

Mr Powell: Anyone with logic.

Mr SMITH: What is the Minister's prime responsibility? Is it to look after the State system, or is it to look after the small percentage of students who attend the non-Government schools? He is a Minister of the Crown and I suggest that he should define his responsibilities and address them appropriately.

Mr Powell: You told everyone you were going to be Minister for Education by now.

Mr SMITH: If the Minister will wait a little while he will see it happen.

The Government has moved away from the previous automatic nexus between Government school standard costs and per capita grants to non-Government schools. While the nexus existed the gap between resource standards of needy non-Government schools and those at high-resource schools in fact widened. Resources were not distributed to schools on the basis of need; the same increases were given to high-resource schools and low-resource schools.

The Government's funding arrangements for 1984 will start the changes. Well-off Group 1 schools will get as much in real terms as they did this year. Group 2 schools will get 1 per cent more. The resource-poor schools in Group 3—and that includes most schools in Queensland—will in fact get 3 per cent more, which works out at \$7 more for each primary student and \$20 more for each secondary student. That is about \$5m more than they would have received under the percentage link. But Government members continue to bleat like sheep. Undoubtedly some western members are using some of the sheep—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row): Order! The member for Townsville West is straying a little. I ask him to come back to the Bill.

Mr SMITH: All right.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SMITH: The Minister does not want to hear the other side. It is all very well for him to bleat about it, but he does not like to hear the truth.

The Minister referred to the use of schools for "other purposes". Opposition members certainly agree with that. Schools are underutilised. They represent a considerable investment by the Government. If the community is to get more use from the schools, we can only applaud that.

In these days, parents are obliged to dig deeper into their pockets. The general purpose grant has not been increased for some years. It is totally inadequate. For that reason alone, it is appropriate that the community should get some return from the investment in the school.

The Minister will have to explain the provision relating to the use of alcohol in conjunction with activities of parents and citizens associations. Many parents and citizens associations have lifted a load from the Government's shoulders by providing extensive facilities, and the Minister has acknowledged in the legislation that they have borrowed money for various undertakings and often are deeply in debt.

Generally speaking, school associations conduct social events very carefully. I know of no suggestion that alcohol has been sold and consumed in the presence of children in such a way that it would set a bad example for the children. On most occasions

social events are held in the evening, away from the educational areas, and the children are not present. Because the Minister is aware of the indebtedness of parents and citizens associations throughout the State, he has a responsibility to make a very clear statement on the Government's intentions in this matter.

The Opposition can only applaud the proposed joint development. The move is belated and I wonder why a move in this direction was not made years ago. Schools occupy prime, very expensive sites. With the shortage of sports fields and community facilities—and the shortfall is becoming very noticeable as the pressure on available land becomes greater—I only hope that the Government will be flexible in its response.

I know of instances in which parents and citizens associations have tried to provide community facilities in the guise of school assembly halls, only to run into all sorts of obstructions from the Works Department and the Department of Education. In my area, the Heatley High School Parents and Citizens Association is in a worse position than it was some years ago when it accumulated a sum of money to begin construction work. The association was so inhibited by the two departments that, because of inflation, the value of accumulated funds decreased to the stage at which it was not in the hunt of constructing the facility. Many enthusiastic people were involved in getting the project off the ground. Without clear guide-lines and sympathy from the Government, the public at large will be very reluctant after a few failures like that, to offer assistance that would otherwise be readily available.

As the Minister pointed out, the question of traffic by-laws for universities and colleges of advanced education was debated fairly recently, and I do not intend to pursue that matter very thoroughly today. However, I would ask the Minister to look at the siting of schools. Thinking in this matter is years behind. Schools have been sited beside busy roads and in totally inappropriate areas. Very little imagination has been used and very little consideration has been given to future traffic trends.

Although the Minister has rejected what I have said in this regard, we are no longer considering schools with 300 or 400 children; we are looking even at primary schools with 700 or 800 children. School traffic has a considerable impact on the traffic flow in the area in which the school is situated. The Government sites a school in an area and does absolutely nothing about sealing the roads in the vicinity of the school. In fact, the Government builds a school without consulting the local government that is responsible for the area in which the school is situated. It then says to the local government, "You provide the facilities. You provide the sealing of the road. You pick up the tab." That has been the situation for a long time.

I have made countless representations to the Government, asking it to contribute towards the cost of upgrading roads near schools, but I have had no success. Fortunately, I live in an area that is controlled by a very responsible city council. It has come to the party and provided at schools in my area the facilities to which I have referred. It is only because I live in such an area that those facilities have been provided. In less progressive areas, parents and children have to struggle through mud and dust to get to schools.

I refer now to the situation at two high schools.

Mr Powell: And at CAEs and universities—nothing to do with schools.

Mr SMITH: Why should I not talk about traffic near schools? Is the Minister frightened to talk about it? It is mentioned in the Bill. The Minister has talked about traffic by-laws. I see no reason why the by-laws should not be extended.

Mr Powell: To apply to schools?

Mr SMITH: Yes, if appropriate.

I refer to the situation at the Pimlico High School.

Mr Powell: How many students drive cars?

Mr SMITH: Many students, particularly older students who should be in the work-force but are continuing at school. That interjection shows that the Minister is not keeping abreast of the situation.

Not very long ago a road fatality occurred near the Pimlico High School. The school is situated in a fairly densely populated area.

I also refer to the situation at the Redcliffe High School. Recently, I visited that school. I am sorry that the member for Redcliffe is not in the Chamber because I am sure that he would agree with my comments. As long as children have to cross the road near the Redcliffe High School, it will be only a matter of time before a serious traffic accident occurs there.

There has been neglect in the planning of schools. These dangerous situations should never have arisen. I ask the Minister to address himself to the problems in that area.

I propose to leave until the Committee stage most of my comments on clause 10, which deals with the funds of p. and c. organisations.

Mr Lingard: I didn't think you had any decent comments to make.

Mr SMITH: That interjection comes from someone who would not know, so it is not worth answering it.

A very hard-working group of people in a p. and c. organisation could work for years towards a particular objective. I am concerned that, because of the normal processes in p. and c. organisations, a new group of people may implement ideas different from those of the people who raised the money.

Mr FitzGerald: That is why the provision is in the Bill. Because of disputes, the Minister may have to act.

Mr SMITH: But why should the Minister be the only person to arbitrate and make determinations in these disputes? A State-wide tribunal would be more representative. Does the Minister consider himself to be so high and mighty that he can make determinations on disputes that may occur all round Queensland on matters about which he has very little knowledge?

Mr FitzGerald interjected.

Mr SMITH: At the Committee stage I will argue some of the more contentious issues in the clauses of the Bill.

Mrs HARVEY (Greenslopes) (12.56 p.m.): I feel obliged to speak on this Bill because it is obvious that the member for Townsville West is very misinformed. Because his arguments on the special education provisions in the Bill were researched very poorly, there is very little credibility in anything he has said.

Because I have much experience in the area of special education, I will turn my attention to that.

Mr Hooper: Some of your colleagues need it.

Mr FITZGERALD: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member for Archerfield cannot interject when he is not in his correct seat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Row): Order! I want order in this Chamber and I do not want members to rise to frivolous points of order.

Mrs HARVEY: The Queensland Department of Education has been responsible for many innovations in the field of special education that will take Queensland well into the future.

Pupils from the Springwood State High School are visiting the Chamber today. They study under a special education program at that school. They are a very admirable group of young people and I say that with pride.

That program at Springwood State High School is an example of the type of special education that the Department of Education provides. The member for Townsville West did not mention this new kind of education. He dismissed it as dabbling by departmental officers in multiculturalism. Although it is important, multiculturalism is only one very small area of special education that is catered for in Queensland schools.

I inform the member for Townsville West that special education is provided in many ways. For instance, special schools have been established.

Mr Smith: "Multihandicapped" is the word.

Mrs HARVEY: Special schools cater for intellectually handicapped children. However, the main thrust of the policy of the Education Department is the integration of all children so that they are not segregated or labelled, as the member for Townsville West is advocating. Children are grouped with their peers at all levels of education. The department has special education units to cater for children with particular needs. As well, special education units similar to the one at Springwood State High School provide a new type of education in which all pupils learn together under a system that is totally integrated within the school.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.15 p.m.]

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL TABLES

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier and Treasurer) presented the tables relating to the Treasurer's Financial Statement for the year 1983-84, together with a summary of the Queensland economy for the year 1982-83.

Ordered to be printed.

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1983-84

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 1984.

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

SUPPLY

Opening of Committee—Financial Statement

Hon. J. BJELKE-PETERSEN (Barambah—Premier and Treasurer) (2.17 p.m.), who was received with Government "Hear, hears!", said—

INTRODUCTION

Mr Row,

The Budget for 1983-84 is being presented a little later than usual.

However, the delay has meant that the Government will be able to honour many of its Election commitments in this Budget. The Government has made its promises in good faith and we will keep them.

We are able to keep them because the Queensland economy and financial structure are sound and the State has strong and stable government. Continuation of sound, stable government will ensure progress under our free enterprise philosophy.

The Budget that I am now presenting to the House supports that free enterprise philosophy.

As I have said, the Queensland economy is sound and bearing in mind the pressures which the national economy as a whole has been under, the State is progressing extremely well.

Our population continues to expand. On average, more than 2 400 people choose to make Queensland their home every month. They come here because employment prospects are better. In the past year, Queensland's labour force

has grown by over 35 000 people. Additional jobs have been created in this State compared with a reduction in the number of jobs available in the rest of Australia.

The growth in population creates additional demand for our industries which, in turn, creates additional jobs and so the economy progresses and strengthens. Our population growth last year was 2·2 per cent.

Queensland's natural resource exports continue to provide the backbone of Australia's external trade. Last year, Queensland's exports were valued at \$4,468·0 million or 20·1 per cent of Australia's exports as a whole. This was despite the impact of a severe downturn in the sugar industry.

Our coal exports will continue to be a major force in the Queensland and Australian economy for many years to come. New mines at Oaky Creek, Blair Athol, Curragh, Newlands, Riverside and Collinsville, with a projected annual output of 18 million tonnes, have recently opened or will come on stream in the next 12 months or so.

While our natural resource developments are very important, it should not be forgotten that our primary industry base remains strong and will get stronger as recovery from the drought proceeds. Our manufacturing and industry base continues to expand and new initiatives have already been announced to promote further developments in this area.

Mr Chairman, I will not take up time with detailed comment on the economy. Instead, I would draw the attention of Honourable Members to a separate statement in this regard which is being published with Budget documents.

I am sure the advent of such a detailed statement will be welcomed by all who have a genuine interest in the economic well-being of the State.

I commend it for study.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1982-83

The 1982-83 State Budget provided for an estimated operating deficit of \$111,086 in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The actual operating result for the year was a deficit of \$623,387.

In a Budget of \$3,691 million, this represents a balanced budget position.

After taking into account the accumulated deficit of \$145,569 at 30th June, 1982, the accumulated Consolidated Revenue Fund position at 30th June, 1983, was a deficit of \$768,956.

Overall receipts at \$3,690·2 million were \$21·5 million higher than the Budget figure.

State taxation revenues were down on Budget estimates, reflecting the general sluggishness in the economy, but these were offset by higher revenues in other areas.

Consolidated Revenue Fund expenditures totally were \$3,691·0 million, or \$22 million in excess of the Budget estimate. There were additional costs in a number of areas, particularly assistance measures in respect of natural disaster relief.

Expenditure on natural disaster assistance was \$64·9 million compared with a budget provision of \$15·8 million. The State contribution increased from \$7 million to \$17·6 million.

There were savings of \$52·9 million in the provision for Award costs due to the implementation of the Wage Pause from December 1982. However, this saving was offset by lower revenues as a result of the Pause, particularly from pay-roll tax, where actual revenues were over \$14 million less than the Budget estimate.

Nevertheless, despite increased expenditure demands in a number of areas, the Government was able to increase its contribution from Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Special Projects Fund capital works program, including the special Commonwealth/State Wage Pause Program, from \$8 million to \$37 million for the year.

The Treasurer's Annual Statement and Departmental Appropriation Accounts for the 1982-83 financial year have already been presented to the Parliament. These documents contain full details of revenues and expenditures with significant variations explained.

I commend them for examination.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1983-84

The general economic situation appears to be improving. There are indications that activity is picking up slowly, with some moderation in the rate of inflation. There is a greater degree of optimism in the community than has existed for some time.

However, it is not a time for relaxation in our resolve to continue Queensland's progress as the number one State.

The Government must continue to do what is within its capacity to maintain and to improve essential services and to provide a climate within which private enterprise can grow and prosper.

It is our responsibility as a Government to minimise the impact of taxes and charges on the community and at the same time maximise the benefits for the community from the resources we have available.

The Budget for 1983-84 has been framed with this overall objective in mind.

More specifically, the objectives of the Budget are:

- maintenance of normal essential services, with improvements in a number of high priority areas

- implementation of as many Election commitments as possible, including substantial stamp duty reductions
- an overall capital works program commensurate with the previous year's in real terms, with high priority for employment-creating projects
- emphasis on assistance to the unemployed through continuation of the Commonwealth/State Wage Pause Program, the implementation of the Commonwealth Community Employment Program and capital works generally
- encouragement, both directly and indirectly, of development opportunities and a business climate that industry needs
- and lastly but critically, a balanced Budget.

The Budget for 1983–84 provides for total expenditures from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of \$4,237.5 million. Revenues for the year are estimated to be \$4,237.4 million. The Government is therefore budgeting for a minor deficit of \$136,400.

REVENUES

TAXATION:

As promised, there will be no new taxes in the Budget this year.

There will be no financial institutions duty, petrol tax, tobacco tax and so on, as there are in other States.

There will be significant concessions in pay-roll tax, stamp duty and land tax. Major reforms are also proposed in stamp duty and land tax. However there will be some increases in stamp duty.

Pay-roll Tax:

There will be no pay-roll tax surcharge such as applies in New South Wales and Victoria.

In fact, substantial concessions are proposed.

The maximum pay-roll tax exemption will be increased from \$204,000 to \$252,000 effective from 1st January, 1984. The minimum exemption will increase from \$36,000 to \$39,000 from the same date.

The full year's cost of the new concessions is estimated to be \$10.7 million.

The concessions will continue the Government's policy of providing maximum assistance in this area to the smaller employer. The concessions will also fulfil the Government's Election commitments.

Land Tax:

The Government proposes concessions in land tax which will have an annual cost in excess of \$6 million.

Firstly, the statutory deduction for residents will be increased from \$50,000 to \$60,000 effective from this year.

The benefits of the present concession for principal places of residence will be extended to include home unit and building unit owners under certain defined conditions.

The Government also proposes major new concessions for small companies and businesses.

A complete exemption from land tax will apply from this year to companies owning land with a taxable value less than \$10,000. The proposal will benefit almost 2 000 companies or around 15 per cent of present company taxpayers.

A special deduction of up to \$30,000 from taxable land value will apply to qualifying small businesses in the corporate sector.

The objective of this initiative is to assist the genuine small business which has adopted the corporate form. For this reason, it will be necessary to provide in the legislation for the Commissioner of Land Tax to have a degree of discretion to ensure that the proposal achieves the Government's objectives.

Broadly, the Government is looking to assist Queensland exempt proprietary companies whose members are natural persons who do not have a significant interest directly or indirectly in other taxable land. Also, the land must be used for certain defined trades, occupations or businesses. Where a company member is also a member of another exempt proprietary company, it is not the intention that both companies necessarily obtain the benefit of the deduction.

Major reforms are proposed for land valuations as they apply to land tax.

For quite some time, the Government has been looking at ways to overcome difficulties that arise with abnormally high increases in the Valuer-General's valuations. Indexation of land values for land tax purposes was seriously considered. However, it was found to be administratively complex and to create further inequities.

The Government will therefore be introducing legislation to phase in new land valuations that are very substantial over a maximum period of five land tax years. This does not imply in any way that the Valuer-General's assessments are incorrect. It is simply to spread out over a number of years the increase in land tax that can occur because values are only adjusted every five years or so.

Under the proposal, the annual increase in valuation will be generally a maximum of 50 per cent except where the total increase is greater than 250 per cent. In this case, the increase in valuation each year will be one-fifth of the total valuation increase.

For example, a valuation increase of 140 per cent would see—

50 per cent apply in the first year

50 per cent apply in the second year

40 per cent apply in the third and final year.

For a valuation increase of 300 per cent, 60 per cent would apply in each of five years.

The problem is really one of excessive valuation increases due mainly to inflationary factors and the interval between revaluations. For this reason, the scheme will remain in force only while excessive land value increases are with us.

Stamp Duty:

In the Budget last year, the Government announced that a major review of stamp duty would be undertaken with a view to encouraging business and financial activity in Queensland.

I am pleased to announce the outcome of that review.

As a result of the review, the Government proposes major changes to the stamp duty legislation as it applies to financial transactions. The proposals do not involve a financial institutions duty as it applies in other States.

The estimated benefit of the changes for the financial sector and its users is expected to exceed \$30 million annually.

The proposed changes involve total abolition of stamp duty on the following transactions—

- certain stock exchange transactions
- certain on-market transfers of corporate fixed interest securities
- bills of exchange and promissory notes other than those payable on demand
- debentures with a term less than 6 months.

There will also be substantial reductions of stamp duty applicable to the following transactions—

- credit business, from 1.5 per cent to 0.03 per cent
- rental business, from 1.5 per cent to 0.43 per cent
- instalment purchase business, from 1.5 per cent to 0.43 per cent
- mortgage transfers, to be \$5 only.

The proposals are far reaching. They are a genuine attempt by the Government to assist business and to make Queensland a major capital market centre.

Concessions are proposed for home buyers generally and first home buyers in particular.

The current maximum exempted amount for principal place of residence mortgages will be increased from \$35,000 to \$50,000.

For genuine first home purchasers, the present concessional conveyance stamp duty rate of \$1 per \$100 will be further rebated by 50 per cent. The

maximum amount of the concession will be limited to \$300 so that the full 50 per cent rebate will only apply in respect of home purchases up to \$60,000 in value.

The Government's objective is to assist young people in need to acquire their first home. It will not apply when either spouse has been a previous home owner.

I am sure the stamp duty saving of up to \$300 will be welcomed by young home buyers.

The total cost of the above stamp duty changes is expected to be about \$35 million per annum.

Some of this will be recovered from higher activity in other areas.

The Budget does not have the capacity at this time to meet a loss of revenue of this magnitude without unacceptable consequences.

Some increases in the rates of stamp duty in other areas are therefore unavoidable.

Conveyance duty rates generally will be increased by 0.25 per cent. There will be no change to the 1.5 per cent rate applicable to transactions up to \$20,000. Transactions in the \$250,000–\$500,000 range will be taxed at the rate of 3.5 per cent instead of the present 3 per cent.

The proposed new rates will compare more than favourably with present rates in Victoria, South Australia and, to a lesser extent, Western Australia and Tasmania. Queensland conveyance duty will still be less for the majority of transactions.

The proposed new rates will not affect home buyers. The present concessional rate of 1 per cent which applies to purchases of the principal place of residence will continue to apply.

The rate of mortgage duty will increase from 0.25 per cent to 0.4 per cent in line with the rate applicable in New South Wales and Victoria.

Again, the proposed increase in the mortgage exemption for home buyers from \$35,000 to \$50,000 will ensure that the average home buyer is not affected by the duty increase.

Stamp duty on general insurance will increase from 0.05 per cent to 0.07 per cent of the sum insured. The present limitation of duty not exceeding 20 per cent of the premium will be increased to 25 per cent.

Amending legislation for all of the above changes will be put before Parliament shortly. The changes will be effective from the soonest practicable date after legislation has been passed.

MINING:

Totally, mining revenues are expected to increase by 14·6 per cent on the previous year to \$109·5 million. The major component is of course royalties at \$102 million, with coal royalties at \$58·9 million being almost 58 per cent of the total.

Revenues have been affected by the downturn in the Japanese coal market. However, the impact has been cushioned by additional revenues from new mines which have been encouraged and fostered by this Government's development policies.

Revenue this year will benefit from first royalty payments from the new Oaky Creek and Riverside mines and the full year's effect of operations at the German Creek mine.

There will be further royalty benefit when proposed new mines commence operation in the next 12 months or so.

Provision has also been tentatively made this year for royalty payments of about \$1 million in respect of the new Jackson oil pipeline.

RAILWAYS:

Revenue from railway fares, freights and charges is estimated to be \$735·4 million, an increase of 31·1 per cent on last year's revenues of \$561·1 million.

A number of factors are expected to contribute to the above average increase in revenues this year, including—

- (a) the opening of new export coal mines, including the full year's effect of new mines opened last year;
- (b) recovery in the rural sector following the end of the drought;
- (c) increased activity generally as the economy picks up;
- (d) a general increase in rail fares and freights in line with overall cost increases, effective from 1st September.

Of course this increased activity brings increased operating costs, but nevertheless the expected overall operating deficit of the Railways is \$37·4 million compared with \$138·1 million budgeted last year.

COMMONWEALTH PAYMENTS:

Queensland's Tax Sharing grant this year is \$1,695·1 million, an increase of 11 per cent on the amount received in 1982–83. All other States are estimated to receive an increase of 9·9 per cent in line with the guaranteed Tax Sharing arrangement which provides for a State to receive an increase in grant based on growth in the Consumer Price Index plus 1 per cent.

I have no argument with a guarantee arrangement. It is necessary.

However, implementation of the guarantee means that Queensland virtually makes no progress toward receiving a grant which, relative to the other States, is in line with the relativities determined by the Grants Commission.

Queensland was disadvantaged by the phasing-in of the recommended relativities over three years. We are being further disadvantaged by the operation of the guarantee this year. One would have to be a born optimist to expect some improvement next year.

To be fair, the Commonwealth has provided the States with some additional funds in 1983-84 in view of the budgetary difficulties of the States this year. Queensland's share is \$31 million.

The Commonwealth's share of natural disaster relief assistance is expected to increase from \$47.2 million to \$82.2 million this year, mainly on account of post-drought assistance.

An amount of \$51.7 million has been included as Queensland's entitlement under the proposed Medicare arrangements. This figure would simply give Queensland the same average per capita assistance as is being provided to the other States. We see this as being completely fair and equitable.

The initial offers from the Commonwealth were \$30.7 million, or \$21 million less than we have budgeted for.

Queensland is penalised because it alone already has a free hospital system.

There has been a great deal of correspondence and discussion on the matter. So far the Commonwealth has held firm to its position, but I am not prepared to let the matter rest. Logic and justice must prevail in the end and I am confident they will.

If my confidence is misplaced, then a substantial review of the Budget will be necessary.

But let me say clearly—should the Commonwealth continue to deny the merit of Queensland's case to the detriment of Queensland citizens and taxpayers, there should be no doubt in their minds about who is responsible.

OTHER:

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Accountable Officers have reviewed the level of fees and charges applicable for various Government services.

Variations have been approved in most cases and have been or are in the process of being implemented.

EXPENDITURES

Total expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund is expected to be \$4,237.5 million, or 15.5 per cent higher than budgeted expenditures in 1982-83.

While the increase appears large it is due primarily to—

- an increase of \$93 million in natural disaster expenditure
- \$20 million special assistance to the sugar industry

for which there are substantial receipts offsets, and

- an additional \$60 million required for the Special Projects Fund largely to meet Wage Pause commitments.

Taking these and other factors into account the increase in Departmental programs generally is around 10·5 per cent.

This is consistent with the increase in resources available to the Government.

It is a fact of life that the Government cannot spend more than it receives. It must tailor its programs accordingly.

Outlays on salaries, wages and related costs will be less than might otherwise have been anticipated due to the wage pause in the latter part of 1982–83 and also the reintroduction of wage indexation this year. The moderation of wage demands has enabled the Government to meet its commitment to the Commonwealth/State Wage Pause Program for the benefit of employment generally in Queensland.

I have said all along that excessive wage demands by some can only mean less jobs for others.

The Government has been able to provide an amount of \$68·7 million from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the Special Projects Fund for the Wage Pause Program and for supplementation of the normal capital works program.

It is nowhere near the amount the Government needs and would have liked to provide from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Unrealistic Governmental borrowing approvals for the State, coupled with budget pressures generally, have meant that the Government has had to resort to off-budget funding measures again this year to ensure that the capital works program is maintained at an acceptable level. The Government has also had to divert Semi-Government allocations to the Government Program.

The scope for off-budget funding is very limited. It is a short term measure.

If the capital program is to be maintained and all our services provided at appropriate levels, the Government will increasingly have to rely on the growth in revenues generated by our natural resource developments.

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SERVICES:

Hospitals:

The Government's commitment to maintenance of the free hospital system remains unchanged. The contribution to the Hospital Administration Trust Fund this year is \$595·2 million, an increase of 14·3 per cent on the amount provided in 1982–83.

The allocation allows for the appointment during the year of 630 additional nurses, doctors, and other hospital staff.

An amount of \$4.4 million has also been provided this year to meet non-salary costs associated with new services.

Capital works programmed for this year are very substantial. These are set out in some detail in the Appendix.

They include 5 major projects for which special funding of \$42 million will be provided to the Health Department over the next 3 years, over and above its normal program.

These projects are—

- new ward block and redevelopment at Nambour Hospital to provide 124 additional beds
- new ward block and redevelopment at Southport Hospital to provide at least 150 additional beds
- a new 90 bed maternity hospital at Kirwan in Townsville
- upgrading of the present maternity hospital at Townsville
- a new ward block with associated facilities at Royal Children's Hospital.

Other major hospital works include—

- a new Spinal Injuries Unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital estimated to cost \$5 million
- a new 40 bed hospital at Hervey Bay
- further redevelopment of the Cairns Hospital
- a new 24 bed hospital and associated facilities at Mitchell.

Other Health Services:

The amount provided for subsidies payable on approved staff employed by home nursing services will allow for an increase from 466 to 478 nurses, with an increase in the rate of subsidy in line with award increases.

In line with the Government's Election commitment, the Health Department's nursing service will be extended progressively to assist discharged patients in need of care in the home in the first days of release from hospital. This service will complement, not replace, the work of voluntary agencies such as the Blue Nursing Service.

An amount of \$1.2 million has been provided by the Commonwealth Government this year for expenditure on aids for the disabled. This will supplement existing expenditures by the State.

WELFARE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES:

The Government has decided to observe 1984 as the Year of the Family. A special committee is being established to co-ordinate and develop programs in the community which will have particular relevance for the family unit.

These activities will coincide with and support new legislation by the Government, which will emphasise the role of the family in the community.

“Seeding” funds of \$100,000 have been set aside to assist community organisations with development of appropriate programs.

Also, the Budget provides for enhancement of various payments to licensed institutions, foster parents and others who have responsibility for the care of children in certain circumstances, to generally maintain their value.

The new rates provide for increases of around 10 per cent on existing rates. Further details will be announced by the Minister for Welfare Services and Ethnic Affairs.

Over \$100,000 has been allocated by the Department for the purposes of the Youth Employment Support Scheme.

The Commonwealth Government has provided \$640,000 this financial year to allow for phasing in of award wages for women’s refuge workers, expansion of existing services and for new services. The funds will supplement substantial funding already being provided by the State for this purpose.

A scheme of grants will also be introduced to enable additional staff to be employed by organisations operating Family Day Care Schemes which offer short term 24 hour care for children to support families in crisis situations. An initial amount of \$65,000 has been provided for this purpose.

An amount of \$40,000 has also been provided this year for a system of small one-off supplementary grants to assist non-Government welfare organisations with the expenses of instructors engaged in training of volunteers.

The scheme will be administered by the Department of Welfare Services.

In line with its Election commitment, the Government proposes to introduce a system of non-recurring grants to help community organisations meet the cost of rental bonds and service charges for people in emergency accommodation situations. Guidelines for the scheme are being developed by the Department.

EDUCATION:

The Budget allocation for education this year is \$926.7 million, an increase of 10.5 per cent on the amount provided in 1982–83.

Teachers:

The Government remains committed to a reduction in class sizes in line with the Select Committee recommendations.

The Budget therefore provides for the progressive appointment in 1983–84 of 893 additional teachers to cater for estimated enrolment growth and the implementation of Stage III of the class size reduction program.

A further 115 teachers will be appointed to the T.A.F.E. sector to meet additional needs in this area.

Student Allowances:

Allowances payable under school conveyance schemes and schemes of assistance for children in remote areas will be increased by around 8 per cent.

Textbook allowances will also be increased in 1984 at an annual cost in excess of \$1 million. The rate for Year 8, for example, will increase from \$35 to \$40, while for Year 11, the rate will increase from \$70 to \$80.

The Government has been considering a report by a Committee set up to look at schemes of assistance applicable to children in remote areas. The Committee's recommendations have wide-ranging implications. While the Committee's report has been received and is being studied by the Government, there are aspects which require further investigation before any new allowance schemes or substantial changes to existing schemes could be introduced.

The Government will be looking for early resolution of these problems.

Nevertheless, following the Committee's Report, the Government does propose to introduce a Travel Allowance of \$450 per annum for students in the far remote areas of the State who are in receipt of a Remote Area Allowance. Details will be announced by the Minister for Education.

Traffic Wardens:

Funds have also been provided to implement a scheme of traffic wardens at 400 school crossings throughout the State. The annual cost of the scheme is estimated to be \$800,000.

Computer Education:

An amount of \$650,000 has been provided this year for initial development of micro-computer education in schools and colleges. The development will relate to—

- promotion of computer awareness and competence in basic computer skills
- incorporation of computer assisted learning into existing educational programs
- the impact of computer-related technology on existing curricula
- provision of programs of a vocational nature.

Up to 30 teachers will be required for the purposes of course development, and significant equipment purchases will also be made.

It is anticipated that the Commonwealth Government also will make available funding for this purpose.

Personal Development Program:

An amount of \$150,000 has also been allocated for implementation of a Personal Development Program in schools.

The Program will be conducted outside normal school hours by teachers specifically recruited and trained for this purpose. It is proposed to also hold evening sessions to which parents and children of appropriate age will be invited. Each district will be visited for at least 1 week each year.

International Youth Year:

1985 has been set aside as International Youth Year. \$100,000 has been provided to the Education Department to assist with costs of setting up the Secretariat.

Non-Government Schools:

In recent years, the Government has placed considerable emphasis on the role of the non-Government school sector. That emphasis will be continued in this Budget.

Per capita grants to non-Government schools will increase from \$303 to \$345 per annum for primary students and from \$486 to \$552 per annum for secondary students. The new rates will provide a real increase of 4 per cent in the grants at an annual cost to the Budget of \$6 million.

The term during which assistance is provided under the Non-Government Schools Interest Subsidy Scheme for capital works will be extended from 5 years to 10 years. However, the interest subsidy rate will be reduced from the current bond rate equivalent to a maximum rate of 10 per cent.

The cost of this Scheme has escalated dramatically in recent years. The amount allocated for the Scheme this year is \$3.3 million compared with an amount of \$1.5 million expended just two years ago. The enhancement to the Scheme will mean a continuing high level of payments under the Scheme in years to come.

However, the Government does propose to review aspects of the Scheme in an endeavour to limit the cost growth to a more reasonable level.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES:

The drought has broken and there are reasonable prospects for the rural sector this year. However, it will be quite some time before the effects of the drought have been fully overcome.

Expenditure on drought under the natural disaster relief arrangements is expected to be \$63.9 million this year. A major part of this assistance relates to restocking loans.

An amount of \$20 million will be provided jointly by the Commonwealth and the State to assist the sugar industry to overcome difficulties in the industry. The assistance will primarily take the form of carry-on loans to overcome problems of drought and other adversities, including low world sugar prices.

A loan facility of up to \$6 million has also been made available to assist the Peanut Marketing Board and the industry to return to a sound footing.

The Government will also provide assistance with premiums for growers in the Granite Belt who participate in the present hail damage insurance scheme. A subsidy of 50 per cent of premiums will be provided up to a maximum of 4 per cent of the sum insured. The cost this year is estimated to be \$500,000.

Assistance will be provided to the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority to computerise its market advisory service. Also, work will begin on the establishment of an Arid Zone Research Institute at Longreach. The proposed Institute follows recommendations of the Heussler Committee which examined services provided by the Department of Primary Industries to western areas.

Expenditure this year is expected to be \$230,000, with an eventual cost of around \$5 million for the Institute.

An initial amount of \$125,000 has been provided for commencement of a general upgrading of activities in the soil conservation area.

EMPLOYMENT:

The Government has always seen itself as having a major role in the encouragement and maintenance of employment opportunities in this State. For this purpose, the Government has—

- given special emphasis to employment-creating capital works in recent budgets, with \$793·0 million provided in the past 7 years from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and other sources to the Special Projects Fund for special supplementation of the normal capital works program
- committed up to \$110 million in 1982–83 and 1983–84 for the Wage Pause Program
- provided for high levels of real growth in the T.A.F.E. sector, with \$83 million being allocated this year
- encouraged school to work transition education programs
- provided pay-roll tax incentives for employment of apprentices, including a rebate in respect of first year apprentices
- enhanced the role of the Industry and Commerce Training Commission
- provided incentives for industries to locate here in Queensland including special emphasis on development of industrial estates throughout the State
- supported the building and construction sector with its \$100 million home ownership scheme.

The Government is committed to the maintenance of a high level of employment and this policy will continue.

For example, the application of preference provisions for Queensland industry has been considerably tightened to ensure that Queensland industry benefits

from Government contracts. The application of increased preference means additional costs for Government contracts and inevitably additional cost to the taxpayer.

Nevertheless, the Government is not prepared to stand by and watch Queensland industry suffer because of preference practices in other States.

Jobs in Queensland industries must be preserved—and the Government will continue to do whatever it reasonably can to ensure this.

Assistance for Apprentices:

A number of new measures are proposed to help out-of-trade apprentices. An amount of \$500,000 has been allocated in the Budget to provide for—

- promotion and encouragement of Group Apprenticeship Schemes
- enhancement of off-the-job training programs conducted at the Main Roads Department and Government Motor Garage Training Schools
- a media campaign to promote employment of out-of-trade apprentices and the various subsidies and other forms of assistance available
- a cash subsidy of \$500 to employers prepared to take on out-of-trade apprentices in addition to normal recruitment, provided the employer undertakes to maintain that apprentice in employment for the balance of his apprenticeship
- employment in State Government Departments of apprentices in their fourth and final year of apprenticeship.

The allowance payable to apprentices living away from home and attending block release training will be increased by around 11 per cent.

Employment Assistance Programs:

The Government will continue to support both the previous Commonwealth Government's Wage Pause Program and the present Commonwealth Government's Community Employment Program. The guidelines for both schemes leave a lot to be desired and the Government's feelings are well known to the Commonwealth.

The Government's administration of the Programs has progressed quickly and efficiently.

To the end of October, we had spent over \$15 million or almost half of the \$31.9 million made available by the Commonwealth for works other than welfare housing under the Wage Pause Program. This was just about equal to the Commonwealth funds advanced to that date. The \$15.9 million for welfare housing has been virtually fully expended.

The Government will ensure that implementation of the Community Employment Program progresses quickly as well. The administrative machinery has been set up. The mountain of paper work required by the Commonwealth has started to flow. Almost 800 applications have already been received.

The Consultative Committee is meeting regularly and 54 projects have already been approved. The projects have a total estimated cost of \$9.2 million with a Commonwealth contribution of \$6.4 million.

Almost 600 jobs will be provided for by the projects so far approved.

I can assure the Commonwealth that provided the State is not bogged down with excessive red tape and restrictive guidelines, the State will spend the \$41.3 million available this year, wisely and well.

SERVICES TO INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE:

I have already announced details of pay-roll tax and stamp duty measures designed to assist industry.

The Department of Commercial and Industrial Development will be expanding its schemes of assistance to industries to provide for guarantees, loans, freight subsidies and so on, for such things as

- establishment of new industries in Queensland, including relocation costs
- expansion of existing industries
- special assistance to export industries
- special assistance to "hi-tech" industries.

An initial amount of \$150,000 has been set aside for expenditure this year.

Details have already been announced by the Minister for Industry, Small Business and Technology.

Special short term assistance of \$350,000 has also been approved to facilitate export contracts entered into by Bradford Kendall Ltd. It is expected that the assistance will be repaid from export contract proceeds.

Also, the Government has set up a Science and Technology Council under the Chairmanship of Mr Rodney White, Managing Director of Consolidated Fertilisers Ltd., to encourage the development and growth of high technology industries in Queensland. The Council will have a vital role to play in the future development of this State. High technology industries will be the growth industries of the future.

Premium rates for Workers' Compensation Insurance have been held to the previous year's levels which will materially assist industry. Queensland rates overall are the lowest in Australia.

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION:

Roads:

The Main Roads Department will have available \$485.9 million this year for expenditure on permanent works, maintenance, etc. It represents an increase of 26.3 per cent on actual expenditure in 1982-83.

The amount available includes \$91.2 million provided by the Commonwealth under the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program.

Railways:

While additional traffic has meant an increased funding requirement for the Railways, the need has been moderated by the benefits of progressive implementation of recommendations contained in the P.A. Management Consultant's Report. Further benefits are expected to accrue in future years.

The Government is committed to a greatly increased capital works program for the Railways to electrify the coal lines. The proposal will involve the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars with substantial long term savings in fuel costs and surety of supply.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority's first five-year program will be completed this year, with expenditure of \$40.5 million. Suburban rail electrification will largely be completed.

Transport Services:

The Department of Transport will continue its program of office regionalisation to provide an improved service to the transport industry and the public generally. New regional offices are proposed for Ipswich and Toowoomba.

An amount of \$969,000 has been allocated for assistance with air services provided to residents in western Queensland. This will ensure continuation of these vital services to people in outback areas.

POLICE:

In the light of increased crime and other social problems, the Government has given particular attention to the Police budget allocation this year.

After adjustment for special allocations for the Police Superannuation Fund, computer equipment and transfer of functions, the Department's allocation this year is \$169.6 million compared with \$151.2 million in 1982-83, an increase of 12.2 per cent.

The Government appreciates the excellent work of the police force. It also appreciates the difficulties in a modern society where criminal activity is not lessening and in fact, is becoming more prevalent and sophisticated.

To assist the Department in its activities, the Budget provides for the appointment of 105 additional police officers. In addition, the Department will benefit from the regionalisation program being undertaken by the Department of Transport.

The Government is also examining proposals for a considerable increase in the number of administrative support staff for the service. If approved, this will free police officers for law enforcement work.

Computerisation of administrative processes associated with police activities is being progressively introduced and this will assist the Department.

An amount of \$12.7 million will be spent this year on the Police Department's capital works program. New police stations will be constructed at Albany Creek, Bargara, Bowen, Glenden, Kirwan, Noosa and Smithfield.

The allocation also includes \$1.9 million for police housing.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The Government is aware of the significant role which local government can play in employment assistance programs. It is also aware of the role which individual local authority works programs have on the local community.

Special Assistance Scheme:

An amount of \$30 million has therefore been committed for a Special Assistance Scheme to assist local authorities with significant works of a capital nature which would not otherwise be undertaken. The funds are additional to those available to Councils from normal sources.

Emphasis will be given to water supply and sewerage projects.

Projects are to have a significant labour content with preference being given to projects in areas of high unemployment. Also, it is proposed that projects under the Scheme will be funded 75 per cent by way of cash grant, with the balance of 25 per cent being met either directly by the Council or by Treasury loan if required.

As the Scheme is designed to provide a short term boost to local authority employment because of the unemployment problem, all projects must be capable of being completed and payments finalised by 30th June, 1985.

Capital Works Subsidy Scheme:

Loans and subsidies to local authorities under the existing Capital Works Subsidy Scheme are estimated to exceed \$52 million this year, only marginally less than the amount expended in 1982-83. This is despite the recent review of the arrangements.

Employment Programs:

Work will also continue this year on projects approved under the local government element of the Wage Pause Program. Under the Program, \$52 million was available to local authorities from Commonwealth, State and Local Government sources for works of a labour intensive nature.

The Program will be substantially completed by 31st December this year.

Local government is also expected to play a major part in the new Commonwealth Community Employment Program. Queensland's share of funds under the Program is expected to be in excess of \$41 million in the first year, with approximately half being available for local authority projects.

The Program is aimed at labour intensive community projects which will employ the long-term unemployed and others disadvantaged in the labour market, such as older people, women, Aborigines and ethnic people.

Sinking Fund Assistance Scheme:

A new scheme of sinking fund arrangements is to be implemented for local authority borrowings.

In recent years, local authorities have increasingly had to resort to shorter term loan borrowings with consequent higher sinking fund payments to ensure funds are available to redeem the loan at the end of the loan period.

The higher annual sinking fund payments have meant considerable upward pressure on annual rate charges.

Under the new arrangements, local authorities who wish to participate can elect to make sinking fund contributions on the basis of the loan being for a maximum period of 30 years.

The proposal will considerably reduce the annual debt servicing burden of all local authorities who wish to participate, not just those with large programs.

Pensioner Rate Subsidies:

The Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme administered by local authorities has provided much needed assistance to pensioners in the community. Total assistance this year is expected to be \$12.9 million.

The present maximum subsidy under the Scheme has existed since the Scheme commenced.

It is proposed to increase the maximum annual subsidy to \$140 effective from 1st January, 1984.

TOURISM, RECREATION AND CULTURE:

Tourism:

The Budget this year provides for special additional assistance for tourism.

- \$500,000 has been allocated to the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation for a special overseas promotion campaign
- \$250,000 has been allocated to assist with establishment of a Centre for Tourism Research at the University of Queensland
- subsidies to regional tourist bureaux will be increased by 40 per cent to \$35,000 per annum
- a new branch of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau has been provided for at Perth.

Sport and Youth:

Total funds available for sport and youth activities in 1983-84 are \$7 million, which is an increase of 14.1 per cent on the amount available in the previous year.

It includes \$250,000 as part of a special allocation of \$2 million which will be made available over the next two years to supplement existing subsidies for coaching and capital works.

National Parks:

The activities of the National Parks and Wildlife Service are to be substantially enhanced and upgraded.

The allocation for the Service this year is \$11.3 million, an increase of \$3.4 million or 42.6 per cent on the amount provided last year.

Manpower resources have been greatly enhanced. Additional vehicles, equipment and so on, will also be provided to ensure that the Service has the capacity to respond to increased management and conservation demands brought about by increased public awareness and utilisation of facilities. They are also needed to service the substantial National Park acquisitions made by the Government in recent years.

The acquisition of David Fleay's fauna reserve is a prime example of the Government's concern and commitment.

Recreation, Culture etc:

Planning will also continue for provision of a suitable western access road to link Brisbane Forest Park with Wivenhoe Dam. This will open up the Park and the recreation facilities of the Dam to thousands more people.

In line with the Government's Election commitment, it is proposed that a Heritage Committee be established which will have broad responsibilities in the preservation and conservation of our heritage. A charter for the Committee will be developed which will incorporate a scheme of incentives and concessions for local authorities. Full details will be announced later.

The Government proposes to establish a new scheme of assistance for the Queensland Museum. Contributions to the Museum will be subsidised dollar for dollar by the Government up to a maximum of \$100,000 per annum.

Work on the Queensland Cultural Centre will continue this year with anticipated expenditure of \$36.2 million mainly on account of Stage III of the Complex—the Queensland Museum.

HOUSING:

The Queensland Housing Commission will have available \$241.4 million for housing purposes in 1983–84, an increase of \$38.1 million or 18.7 per cent on the amount expended in 1982–83.

Assistance under the Government's \$100 million Home Ownership Scheme will continue in 1983–84. The Government stands ready to commit further funds if required. The Scheme greatly assists families who, for various reasons, have difficulty in obtaining finance from normal sources.

Overall the Queensland Housing Commission expects to assist more than 2 500 families with housing finance this year.

The program of construction or purchase of rental housing will be increased in 1983–84. Up to 2 000 living units will be provided throughout Queensland.

A further 344 pensioner units will be completed during 1983–84, including 110 funded under the Commonwealth Wage Pause Program. This will bring the total number of pensioner units available to 2 464.

WATER RESOURCES:

In a State such as Queensland which is just recovering from the ravages of one of the worst droughts on record, the provision and conservation of water resources are of the utmost importance.

The Queensland Water Resources Commission expects to have available \$101·5 million for its capital works program in 1983–84.

Major projects to be funded this year include—

- \$10·6 million for work on the Bundaberg Irrigation area
- \$27·0 million for work on the Burdekin River Irrigation Project, including \$13 million for commencement of the main dam and \$10·2 million for associated irrigation work
- \$3·5 million for completion of the Boondooma Dam
- \$12·0 million for completion of the Tarong Pipeline.

An amount of \$2·3 million will also be made available under the Farm Water Supplies Assistance Scheme to provide advances to landholders for on-farm works.

CAPITAL WORKS:

The capital works program has been a major thrust of Government budget policy in recent years.

The Government does not claim that maintenance of a high level capital works program is the total answer to unemployment problems. It is not.

However, it does preserve and generate more permanent employment opportunities across a broader spectrum than any artificial scheme of employment creation.

At the same time, it provides necessary and vital social infrastructure which will act as a catalyst for future development as the economic situation improves.

We will have the electricity capacity. We will have the roads. We will have the schools, hospitals and so on. We will have all these facilities—and we will have created employment at the same time.

I have already outlined during my Speech some of the major capital works the Government will be undertaking. The Appendix to the Financial Statement sets out a more comprehensive summary of the capital works proposed for 1983-84.

I seek leave that it be incorporated in Hansard and I commend it for examination.

(Leave granted.)

APPENDIX CAPITAL WORKS

The capital works program of the Government this year financed from the Loan Fund is \$339.1 million. The program is anticipated to be funded as follows:—

	\$m
• Australian Loan Council	184.8
• Supplement from Consolidated Revenue through the Special Projects Fund	51.1
• Wage Pause Program	41.9
• Commonwealth specific purpose capital payments	41.2
• Loan repayments and other receipts	20.1
	339.1

Another major source of funding for capital works is the Semi-Governmental Borrowing Program which has been set totally at \$228.5 million in 1983-84. In addition borrowings by small local bodies outside the Semi-Governmental Borrowing Program are estimated at \$148.1 million in 1983-84.

Other major sources of funds for Governmental capital works include various fees and charges, contributions from users and private companies, sales of assets and so on.

A special feature of the Governmental capital works program for 1983-84 is the supplementation of capital works through the Wage Pause Program which commenced in 1982-83.

The total Wage Pause Program for Queensland amounts to \$167.8 million and is funded by the three levels of Government predominantly from expenditure savings effected because of the pause in wage increases during 1982-83. In summary the total program is funded as follows:—

	\$m
State	100.0
Commonwealth	47.8
Local Authorities	20.0*
	167.8

* Up to \$10 million to be funded by Treasury loan if required.

Of the total Wage Pause Program approximately \$112 million is directed toward capital works undertaken by State Government Departments or instrumentalities. Expenditure on these works in 1982-83 amounted to approximately \$44 million leaving a balance of \$68 million to be expended in 1983-84. This is to be completed by 31st December, or, in some special cases, early in 1984.

The Community Employment Program was established by the Commonwealth in 1983-84 for direct job creation through the promotion of labour intensive projects of general social and economic benefit to the community, including works of a capital nature. Of the \$243.8 million the Commonwealth has made available to the States, Queensland is to receive \$41.3 million in 1983-84.

A number of applications for funding are under consideration and funding approvals to date amount to \$9.2 million of which \$6.4 million will be provided by the Commonwealth.

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.

Where appropriate reference has been made to works which have been funded through the Wage Pause Program. Because proposals for funding under the Community Employment Program are presently under evaluation it is not possible to include details of Governmental capital works to be undertaken through this program in 1983-84.

Education

An allocation of \$104.1 million has been made for capital works at State Schools and Colleges of Technical and Further Education in 1983-84. The program is to be funded as follows:—

	\$m
State Loan Fund	34.5
Special Projects Fund	15.9
Wage Pause Program	12.5
Commonwealth	41.2
	<hr/>
	104.1
	<hr/>

The following works are programmed for 1983-84:—

Primary Schools—Expenditure of \$46.1 million is programmed for primary schools including \$7.1 million on the provision of new schools at Atherton (replacement), Burdekin Falls, Cockatoo, Crestmead, Coolnwynpin, Glenden, Helensvale, Laurinel, Mount Crosby (replacement), Springbrook, Stamford and Withcott.

High Schools—\$27.3 million has been allocated for high school capital works including \$5.0 million for new schools to be constructed at Browns Plains, Burdekin Falls (secondary department), Capella (secondary department), Coolum, Glenden (secondary department), Laidley, Mabel Park, Thursday Island and Woree.

Additional major accommodation will be provided at Cloncurry, Rochedale and Weipa North at an estimated cost of \$1.8 million.

Pre-Schools—The allocation for pre-school capital works is \$3.3 million. Provision has been made for the establishment of 16 pre-school centres at an estimated cost of \$1.9 million at the following locations—Albert, Alligator Creek, Burdekin Falls, Coolnwynpin, Crestmead, Glenden, Helensvale, Lakes Creek, Longreach, Mabel Park, Magnetic Island, Mount Crosby, Newtown, Petrie, Redland Bay and Tieri.

\$0.3 million has been also allocated to establish Early Education Centres at the following five primary schools—Harrisville, Murray River Upper, Ridglands, Thangool and Wheatvale.

Special Schools—Total programmed expenditure on special schools is \$4.8 million. Work will continue on the provision of a new special school at Milpera (Chelmer) and \$0.85 million is allocated for the construction of a new special school at Calamvale.

Technical Colleges—\$22.7 million has been allocated for technical college capital works. Technical College facilities will be provided at Ayr/Home Hill (Burdekin), Central Highlands (Emerald), Grovely, Kingaroy and Townsville at an estimated cost of \$24.5 million of which \$10.3 million is programmed for 1983–84.

Health

During 1982–83 hospital and health facility projects costing \$32.3 million were completed. Projects amounting to \$120.8 million remain under construction including the Cairns Hospital redevelopment, the new 120 bed hospital at Gladstone, and the new hospital at Goondiwindi. Projects with a total estimated cost of \$23.2 million are scheduled to commence shortly, while projects amounting to \$167 million are in the planning stages.

The continuation of the capital upgrading program for hospital and health facilities will involve expenditure of \$93.5 million in 1983–84 and will be funded by—

	\$m
Loans raised by or on behalf of Hospital Boards	73.0
State Loan Fund Allocation	5.3
Special Allocation from Special Projects Fund	2.4
Wage Pause Program	9.7
Other Consolidated Revenue allocations for various capital subsidies	3.1
	93.5

This \$93.5 million program includes a special addition of \$14 million as the first year instalment of a \$42 million additional commitment over three years to allow major new hospital projects at the Gold Coast, Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane, Townsville and the Sunshine Coast to proceed at a total cost of approximately \$65 million.

The total allocation under the Wage Pause Program for hospital and health facility projects is \$11.1 million of which \$1.4 million was expended on works in 1982–83. Projects to be funded from this source include a spinal injuries unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, an isolation ward at the Prince Charles Hospital, a new education centre on the Gold Coast, the redevelopment of the Ipswich Hospital and a new nursing home at Nambour.

Details of major projects on which further progress will be made or which are planned for commencement in 1983–84 are as follows—

PUBLIC HOSPITALS

	Programmed Expenditure \$'000
BRISBANE—	
North Brisbane	
NEW KITCHEN FACILITIES AND STAFF AMENITIES—Freezer storage, cold room, food preparation area, staff lockers and showers and cafeteria with Medical School Laboratories on upper floors.	
Estimated Cost \$7.34 million	4,662
Royal Womens Hospital	
Construction of new bridge link to nurses quarters plus provision of new lifts in nurses quarters. Estimated Cost \$876,000	
Refurbishing of portion of nurses quarters to provide a 28 bed ward plus ancillaries. Estimated Cost \$1.072 million	1,948

	Programmed Expenditure \$'000
Royal Childrens	
REDEVELOPMENT—Operating theatres, accident and assessment unit, X-ray, medical records, paramedical department, staff amenities, administration, services, inpatients accommodation and I.C.U. Estimated Cost \$20.0 million	500
Queensland Radium Institute	
NEW RADIOTHERAPY BUILDING—Consultation rooms, specialist clinic, teaching, social workers, pre-evacuation area, E.N.T., cytotoxic, administration, seminar, medical staff room, records section. Estimated Cost \$4.95 million	2,700
South Brisbane	
NEW DENTAL CLINIC—11 dental surgeries, sterilizing and linen room, X-ray, laboratory, administration/staff offices, staff amenities, stores and plant room. Estimated Cost \$1.046 million	850
PARTIAL REDEVELOPMENT—Installation of additional lifts and alterations to outpatients. Estimated Cost \$4.1 million	1,986
Lions Clinical Research Building. Estimated Cost \$1.1 million	
Extension to sub station. Estimated Cost \$146,000	
3rd Chiller Unit. Estimated Cost \$353,000	
New Spinal Injuries Unit: 40 beds, procedures room, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, dining facilities, laundry, staff amenities. Estimated Cost \$4.94 million	4,940
Improvements to Kitchen—Stage II. Estimated Cost \$1.386 million	622
Chermside Redevelopment	
NEW CARDIAC THEATRE BLOCK—105 beds, 7 operating theatres, I.C.U., C.C.U., X-ray, C.S.S.D., blood bank, administration, staff amenities, supply department. Estimated Cost \$20.0 million ..	2,000
NEW ISOLATION WARD—2 storey building with canteen and linen distribution centre on ground floor and isolation ward on floor above. Estimated Cost \$1.68 million	1,600
Bald Hills	
NEW HOSPITAL AND YOUNG DISABLED LIVING UNIT—40 beds for recuperating acute patients, 20 beds for Young disabled, treatment area, physiotherapy, administration and staff amenities Estimated Cost \$3.1 million	2,900
PROVINCIAL AND COUNTRY AREAS—	
Ayr	
GERIATRIC ACCOMMODATION— 30 beds, dining room, occupational therapy in altered and extended nurses quarters building. Estimated Cost \$1.2 million	900
Bowen	
REDEVELOPMENT—Extension outpatients, X-ray, administration offices, board room, matrons office, physiotherapy, laboratory, reception/waiting area. Estimated Cost \$2.92 million	1,500

	Programmed Expenditure \$'000
REDEVELOPMENT —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. Estimated Cost \$7·00 million	3,340
Cairns	
REDEVELOPMENT —Stage II—267 beds, kitchen, O.P.D. and casualty outpatients and physiotherapy, dental clinics and administration on 1st Floor, children's ward of 47 beds and plant facilities on 2nd Floor. Estimated Cost \$24·73 million	4,461
Caloundra	
EXTENSIONS —17 bed extension, additional toilets/showers, expanded outpatients and physiotherapy, dental clinic, laundry, patients lounge. Estimated Cost \$2·0 million	1,900
Charleville	
MODERNIZATION OF HOSPITAL —70 beds, ancillaries, maternity, physiotherapy, social workers and community medicine staff room, operating theatre, X-ray and O.P.D. Estimated Cost \$4·6 million	2,000
Cooktown	
NEW HOSPITAL —18 beds, nursery, theatre, O.P.D., maternity, X-ray, dental facilities, laundry, nurses quarters and morgue. Estimated Cost \$3·865 million	309
Gladstone	
REDEVELOPMENT —120 beds with all necessary ancillaries together with new kitchen in the basement area. Estimated Cost \$6·154 million	3,518
Gold Coast	
REDEVELOPMENT —STAGE II—150 additional beds, operating theatres, I.C.U., C.C.U., O.P.D./casualty, X-ray, pathology, C.S.S.D., radio therapy, pharmacy, administration, medical records, central stores. Estimated Cost \$20 million	2,000
EDUCATION CENTRE AND ADMINISTRATION —3 classrooms, library, 4 conference rooms and demonstration room. Estimated Cost \$1·06 million	1,060
Goondiwindi	
NEW HOSPITAL —60 beds, ablutions, pan room, X-ray, operating theatre, maternity, kitchen, laundry, administration, nursing, O.P.D., physiotherapy. Estimated Cost \$5·175 million	3,000
Herberton	
NEW NURSING HOME UNIT AND OUTPATIENTS/HOLDING WARD —40 bed nursing unit, activities area, kitchen, dining, plus O.P.D. unit and 2 bed holding ward. Estimated Cost \$3·0 million	1,970
Hervey Bay	
NEW HOSPITAL —40 beds, operating theatre, delivery room, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, X-ray, pharmacy, kitchen, dining room. Estimated Cost \$2·83 million	2,194

	Programmed Expenditure \$'000
Home Hill	
NEW HOSPITAL—15 beds, operating theatre, delivery room, out-patients, casualty, X-ray, pharmacy, kitchen, staff dining, morgue. Estimated Cost \$1.747 million	900
Ingham	
REDEVELOPMENT—Operating theatre, administration, with renovations to O.P.D. Estimated Cost \$2.477 million	450
Innisfail	
REDEVELOPMENT—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. Estimated Cost \$6.4 million ..	300
Ipswich	
NEW SERVICES BUILDING—O.P.D., casualty, morgue, autopsy, medical records, pharmacy, bulk store, X-ray and pathology. Estimated Cost \$14.0 million	6,305
Longreach	
REDEVELOPMENT OF HOSPITAL—New building with physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pathology, dispensary, dental clinic and administration, new laundry and boiler house. Old buildings refurbished as—O.P.D./casualty, maternity ward, nursery, intensive care ward, and operating theatre modernized. 50 beds total. Estimated Cost \$6.0 million	2,020
Maryborough	
NURSING HOME—40 beds, dining, servery, activities room, sitting rooms and ablutions. Estimated Cost \$1.751 million	1,618
Mitchell	
NEW HOSPITAL—24 beds, operating theatre, labour ward, X-ray, dispensary, kitchen, dining, laundry, O.P.D., morgue. Estimated Cost \$3.8 million	2,400
Mossman	
REDEVELOPMENT—Alterations for operating theatre and outpatients and relocation of dental clinic in nurses quarters plus R.M.O. flat. Refurbishing of electrical supply and switchboard. Estimated Cost \$350,000	231
Mount Isa	
REDEVELOPING HOSPITAL—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. Estimated Cost \$12.0 million	550
Mungindi	
NEW HOSPITAL—24 beds, nursery, theatre, O.P.D., maternity, X-ray, dental facilities, laundry, nurses quarters, morgue and plant room. Estimated Cost \$3.756 million	1,680

	Programmed Expenditure \$'000
Nambour	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGE II—124 additional beds, 20 geriatric assessment beds, operating theatre, 6 x C.C.U., 6 x I.C.U., X-ray, pathology, day patient ward, accident/emergency unit, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, pharmacy, C.S.S.D., 8 new delivery suites, nursery, morgue, administration, kitchen, dining, laundry, staff amenities. Estimated Cost \$20.0 million ..	2,000
NURSING HOME—40 beds, dining, servery, activities room, sitting rooms and ablutions adjacent to existing hospital. Estimated Cost \$2.1 million	1,700
Oakey	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGE I—2 x 40 nursing home units, activities, dining, servery and ablutions. Estimated Cost \$4.8 million	2,000
Rockhampton	
NEW MEDICAL WARD BLOCK—177 beds giving a total of 405 beds, I.C.U., C.C.U., burns unit, dialysis, O.P.D./casualty, X-ray, pharmacy, medical records, administration, library, radio therapy, kitchen, dining, stores. Estimated Cost \$19.0 million	3,641
NURSING HOME STAGE II—40 beds with treatment room, dining/recreation room, servery, T.V. room, interview room, lounge, visitors room. Estimated Cost \$2.4 million	1,900
Roma	
REDEVELOPMENT—O.P.D./casualty, operating theatre, X-ray, pharmacy, physiotherapy, dental clinic and a total of 64 beds at completion. Estimated Cost \$6.0 million	407
Stanthorpe	
REDEVELOPMENT—Renovations to maternity, remodelling of outpatients and provision of facilities for community health and physiotherapy. Estimated Cost \$1.148 million	530
Thursday Island	
STAFF ACCOMMODATION—2 units of 4 beds each with shared facilities plus 8 single bed motel type units. Estimated Cost \$763,000 ..	185
Tully	
NEW OPERATING THEATRE—Operating theatre, C.S.S.D., recovery, scrub-up, clean-up, ancillaries. Estimated Cost \$525,000	175
Townsville	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGE II—New maternity unit at Kirwan to contain 60 obstetric beds, 30 gynaecological beds, antenatal clinic, operating theatre facilities, paramedical staff accommodation, medical and administration offices. Estimated Cost \$5.0 million	300
Warwick	
NEW NURSING HOME—40 beds, treatment ablutions, servery, dining, lounge, activities room, hairdressing room. Estimated Cost \$1.935 million	650

	Programmed Expenditure \$'000
Wondai	
REDEVELOPMENT STAGE I—New Hospital of 33 beds, operating theatre, delivery suite, outpatients, X-ray, physio. and occupational therapies, morgue, administration, roadworks. Estimated Cost \$3.718 million	140
OTHER HEALTH PROJECTS	
Sandgate—Eventide	
Redevelopment—Stage III	3,610
Middlemount	
Community health facility	227
Tieri	
Community health facility	415

Housing

Funds available to the Queensland Housing Commission during 1983–84 for housing purposes total \$241.4 million, an increase of \$38.1 million or 18.7 per cent over the \$203.3 million expended during 1982–83.

The funds are being provided from the following sources:—

	\$m	\$m
Revolving money in Queensland Housing Commission and Home Purchase Assistance Account Funds ..		142.7
Commonwealth Government for—		
Welfare housing	56.4	
Upgrading of Servicemen Housing	2.3	
Pensioner	5.6	
Mortgage and Rent Relief	3.1	
Other	4.9	
	—	72.3
State—		
Loans (Treasury)	22.8	
Wage Pause Program	2.5	
Rent Relief	0.7	
	—	26.0
Fund Balances .. .. .		.4
		—————
		\$241.4
		—————

After allowing for interest and redemption, maintenance costs on rental premises, Local Authority charges, administration costs, etc., \$148.3 million will be spent on land acquisition and development, construction and purchase of rental housing and home ownership finance.

Queensland Housing Commission has two Home Ownership Schemes. The first, the Interest Subsidy Scheme, provides non-repayable subsidy to borrowers who cannot afford commercial rates of interest to obtain home ownership. Approximately 93 per cent of loans offered during 1982–83 went to low income families under this Scheme.

The other, the Commercial Scheme, is financed from Treasury sources and is for those on higher incomes who cannot obtain finance from elsewhere. It was first introduced to supplement shortage of funds available through traditional lenders and to assist the building industry. It remains available in 1983-84 in the same supportive role.

Over 2,500 families are expected to obtain finance under both schemes during 1983-84. The repayment of loans obtained is based on the payment of a fixed percentage of income during the life of the loan for both schemes.

The program of construction and purchase of rental housing has been increased in 1983-84. It is anticipated up to 2,000 living units will be provided throughout Queensland. 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 thus freeing a family size house for family use.

A further 344 pensioner units will be provided during 1983-84 at Brisbane, Beaudesert, Bowen, Caboolture, Cairns, Dalby, Gold Coast, Mount Isa, Nambour, Pinalba, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Townsville, Warwick, Laidley, Bundaberg, Gatton, Maryborough, Mooloolaba, Tewantin, Ayr, Kingaroy, Bribie Island, Yeppoon, and Gympie. When completed there will be 2,464 pensioner units available.

Of the new pensioner units 110 will be completed in 1983-84 as part of the Wage Pause Program. Taking into account the 105 units constructed in 1982-83 using Wage Pause funds, the total Wage Pause Program will have provided for the construction of 215 pensioner units for an outlay of \$5,000,000.

Queensland Water Resources Commission

The Queensland Water Resources Commission will this year mount a Capital Works Program of \$101.46 million. This will be financed by—

	\$m
State Loan Allocation	17.3
Allocation through the Special Project Fund	1.0
Commonwealth Grants	21.43
Loan Borrowings	16.6
Loan Borrowings—Special Allocation for Burdekin Irrigation Project	10.0*
Queensland Electricity Generating Board	24.7
Wage Pause Funds	4.53
Other and Balances	5.9
	—————
	\$101.46
	—————

* At the time of preparation of the budget documents approval of Loan Council is still awaited.

A significant feature of the program is the utilisation of debenture borrowing for the funding of permanent works. 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 construction of the Burdekin Falls Dam and under the National Water Resources Program.

During 1982-83, work was completed on Cania Dam, Val Bird Weir (Giru), the Mary River Barrage and the Weemah Main Channel in the Emerald Irrigation Area. Construction of the Bingera Main Channel in the Bundaberg Irrigation Area and the Oakenden Main Channel in the Eton Irrigation Area continued. Design of the Burdekin Falls Dam was substantially completed and a start made on the construction village services.

The current year will see the completion of Boondooma Dam and the Tarong Pipeline, commencement of reticulation works in the Lower Mary Irrigation Project, commencement of the installation of the radial gates for the raising of Leslie Dam and of civil work for the raising of Callide Dam. In the Burdekin River Irrigation Project the contract for the Burdekin Falls Dam will be let and work commence early in 1984, and the first section of the Irrigation Channels on both banks of the river will be completed.

The Wage Pause Program will fund works on five weirs in the Lockyer Valley, one on Cressbrook Creek and one on Barambah Creek, together with commencement of a dam on Deep Creek near Gympie and a weir on the Maranoa River.

Details of the major works proposed for 1983-84 are—

	\$m
BARKER-BARAMBAH IRRIGATION PROJECT—design investigation and preliminary works and completion of Joe Sippel Weir	1·994
BOONDOOMA DAM—completion of work	3·450
BUNDABERG IRRIGATION AREA—continuation of work on Bingera System, Abbotsford System and commencement of Isis System	10·590
BURDEKIN RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT—	
Initial Works—Access road and final design	3·820
Main Dam—Further construction works	13·000
Associated Works—Irrigation main channel, Clare Weir gates, office and staff accommodation	10·150
	—————
	26·970
CALLIDE DAM STAGE II—commence civil works associated with installation of gates	0·094
CRESSBROOK CREEK WEIR—completion of work	0·470
ETON IRRIGATION AREA—completion of Oakenden Main Channel and continuation of work to raise Kinchant Dam embankment	5·407
CEDAR POCKET DAM—commencement of work	0·825
LESLIE DAM STAGE II—completion of civil works and commencement of erection of gates	2·500
LOCKYER CREEK RECHARGE WEIRS—complete four weirs and commence one weir	0·943
LOWER MARY RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT—commencement of reticulation	2·500
MARANOA RIVER WEIR—commencement of work	1·420
FARM WATER SUPPLIES ASSISTANCE—advances to landholders for on-farm works	2·300
BLACKWATER WATER SUPPLY—completion of upgrading and relocation	2·000
WORKS FOR ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY—	
Tarong Pipeline—completion of work	12·000
Awoonga Dam—Callide Dam Pipeline—Purchase of pipes and commencement of field work	9·500
Stanwell Power Station—Water Supply—Investigation	0·500

The above does not include expenditure of \$14 million on Wivenhoe Dam, funded by the Brisbane and Area Water Board.

Electricity

In 1983–84 expenditure on electricity development in Queensland is programmed at \$760 million. Sources of funds for the program are capital contributions from consumers, internal funds and local and overseas loan raisings.

Details of major projects are shown below:—

TARONG POWER STATION—Construction of the Station is proceeding as scheduled with the first unit expected to be available for commercial load in May 1984. Major erection of the first unit is complete, and main plant items are being erected for units 2 and 3. Civil works for unit 4 are nearing completion. The first transmission line from the power station to Brisbane is complete, and the Boondooma Dam and the associated pipeline, which will supply water to the power station, are also substantially complete. (\$271·0 million)

CALLIDE "B" POWER STATION—The first phase of major foundation construction has been completed, and the erection of turbine house and boiler structural steel has commenced. Construction of the Awoonga High Dam to supply water to the power station has commenced and the associated pipeline is in the final design phase. (\$52·9 million)

STANWELL POWER STATION—Design of the Stanwell Power Station is proceeding, with contracts for the main plant being finalised. Tenders for the site earthworks are open. Full advantage is being taken of the flexibility built into the main plant contracts to ensure the station is available when required, while minimising financing charges associated with the station. (\$22·9 million)

WIVENHOE PUMPED STORAGE HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEME—Completion of power station buildings and intake structures and continuation of assembly and installation of heavy pump, turbine and generator plant items. This pumped storage power station, due for completion in late 1984, has been designed to operate as a generator during period of peak demand and to improve system flexibility during both its pumping and generating phases. (\$56·1 million)

Harbours and Marine

The capital works program of the Department of Harbours and Marine will be of the order of \$200 million in 1983–84.

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

In 1982–83 expenditure on these projects amounted to \$90 million and \$54·5 million respectively and for 1983–84 expenditure is budgeted at \$55·5 million for the Dalrymple Bay Coal Export Terminal and \$123 million for the Abbot Point Coal Export Terminal.

At Dalrymple Bay the first stage of 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 first shipment of coal from Stage I of the development began in November 1983.

The Abbot Point terminal will have an initial export capacity of 6 million tonnes of coal per annum and it is anticipated this facility will be completed by April 1984.

In both cases offshore works will be financed from Government sources with participating companies financing onshore works.

The construction of a Tug Harbour at Hay Point is expected to proceed and in 1983–84 financial year an estimated \$14 million will be provided from accumulated harbour funds and additional harbour dues for the project.

It is anticipated that the Tug Harbour will be operational by June 1984. However, construction of revetment walls to the final height required will be a longer term development.

Other capital expenditure throughout the State at the harbours of Weipa, Mourilyan, Lucinda, Thursday Island, and Hay Point and the boat harbours of Mooloolaba, Urangan, Tin Can Bay, and Rosslyn Bay, all managed by the Harbours Corporation of Queensland, will be of the order of \$5 million. Funds for such expenditure will be provided from Semi-Governmental borrowings and harbour revenue reserves.

The 1983-84 capital works program has been supplemented through the Wage Pause Program by \$2.3 million including \$1.5 million for small craft facilities. Examples of works to be funded include a cargo shed and reclamation works on Thursday Island (\$270,000), a training wall at Mourilyan (\$170,000) and beautification and car park works at Urangan (\$150,000).

The State Loan Fund will again provide the finance for Departmental projects such as the replacement of the survey vessel "Trigla" (\$240,000), further development of the Queensland Hydraulics Laboratory at Deagon (\$350,000), and the provision of beacons at Gladstone (\$250,000).

The Gladstone beacon project, on which \$971,000 has been expended up to 30th June, 1983 is being carried out as a consequence of the Channel deepening and widening program undertaken by Gladstone Harbour Board.

Roads

This financial year the Main Roads Department will have \$485.9 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 \$101.2 million or 26.3 per cent over 1982-83 actual expenditure.

Sources of funds include payments by the Commonwealth under the Roads Grant Act \$161.0 million (including \$2.7 million carry over), Motor Vehicle Registration Fees \$147.2 million, and the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program \$91.2 million (including \$4.5 million carry over). In addition a further \$12.8 million will be raised through the Semi-Governmental Loan borrowing program. This will provide for specific Government commitments related to the approach roadworks for the Gateway Bridge project, the Wivenhoe Dam project and various State Highways.

Expenditure from the Main Roads Fund on permanent works is programmed at \$278.9 million and \$98.6 million has been allowed for maintenance works. The construction program includes \$164 million for works on State Highways and \$19 million on Developmental roads in Western Queensland.

Some of the major projects included in this year's program are:—

In South Queensland—

- expenditure of \$8.5 million on the extension of the South East Freeway to Springwood.
- construction of the Gateway Bridge and \$10.7 million for the associated approach roadworks on the North-South Arterial road.
- duplication works on the Bruce Highway north towards Nambour, and on the Warrego Highway west towards Toowoomba, \$10.1 million for works on the Cunningham Highway including construction of the Southern Ipswich Bypass.
- \$8.5 million for works on the Pacific Highway including the extension of the highway to Tugun on the Gold Coast.

In South West Queensland—

- construction of the Morven–Augathella link on the Landsborough Highway, plus works on the Mitchell Highway amounting to \$4 million.

In Central Queensland—

- construction of the link between Winton and Cloncurry on the Landsborough Highway. Works on the Landsborough Highway are estimated to cost in excess of \$14.0 million.
- construction works estimated to cost \$8 million on the Capricorn Highway including the section over the Drummond Range between Emerald and Longreach.

In North Queensland—

- upgrading work on the Flinders Highway estimated to cost \$5.2 million.
- widening and strengthening of the pavement and replacement of timber bridges on sections of the Bruce Highway.

These projects are part of ongoing road construction on the Bruce Highway throughout Queensland estimated to cost \$51 million.

Railways

The Railways Department capital works program totals \$347.9 million and comprises—

	\$m
Loan Fund allocation for general railway purposes	37.5
Allocation from the Special Projects Fund	7.5
Allocations under the Wage Pause Program	17.6
Trust Fund expenditure financed by the State Electricity Commission for facilities for its use	0.7
Trust Fund expenditure financed by mineral developers for provision of facilities for their use	277.1
Trust Fund balances	7.5
	<hr/>
	347.9
	<hr/>

\$8.7 million will be spent on major track and signalling improvements involving—

	\$m
Brisbane Suburban Electrification	1.0
Petrie–Caboolture Electrification	4.0
Lota–Thorneside Extension	0.25
Petrie–Kippa-Ring Extension	0.2
Thorneside–Cleveland Extension	0.25
West Moreton Area—Track Improvements	0.3
Mount Isa Line—Track Improvements, Regradings	2.0
Acacia Ridge—Terminal Facilities	0.7

New bridges will be completed across Scrubby Creek on the Kingston Section and across Kadina, Curra and Durrumboi Creeks. Works will continue on the bridges across Greta Creek and Longford Creek between Proserpine and Bowen with \$1.2 million programmed to

be expended on these two projects in 1983–84. Work will also commence on a bridge across Fairfield Road in Brisbane and a rail connection will be constructed to the industrial estate at Acacia Ridge where additional crane facilities will also be provided.

\$2.3 million is programmed for the construction of facilities for the washing of carriages at Normanby and for the cleaning of refrigerated containers at Moolabin.

The development and installation of modern facilities at Brisbane Central Station will be continued in 1983–84 with programmed expenditure amounting to \$4.1 million. An amount of \$1.0 million has been allocated for the construction of new stations at Beenleigh, Goodna, Wondai, Biloea and Partington. A training centre will be established in Brisbane and a building for custody of materials will be constructed in Townsville.

Funds will be expended on the purchase of machinery for workshops, workshop buildings and amenities buildings for workshop staff. Major projects in this area are the construction of facilities for the maintenance and cleaning of air conditioned carriages at Mayne (\$2.3 million) and the erection of a new workshop at Townsville for the repair of wagons (\$1.88 million).

The provision of additional houses and modern accommodation for migratory gangs will be continued at an estimated cost of \$9.5 million in 1983–84.

Miscellaneous general works are also planned involving expenditure of \$17.4 million. The major item in this category is land resumptions, principally for the extension of the track from Petrie to Kippa-Ring. Other major items are the relaying of approximately 75 kilometres of track with heavier rails and additional sidings and other track improvements.

The rollingstock program totals \$8.2 million and involves payments for 5 air conditioned cars, 40 wagons for containers, 10 wagons for motor car conveyance, 5 rail tank wagons for petroleum products and 50 refrigerated containers.

The Railway Mineral Projects Fund is established to account for all major railway developments to be funded by way of security deposits lodged by the developing coal companies and the State Electricity Commission. In summary the projects are—

	\$m
GERMAN CREEK—Construction of a new railway linking German Creek to Gregory and later to Norwich Park and the acquisition of locomotives and rollingstock	1.85
OAKY CREEK—Construction of a new railway between Oaky Creek and Norwich Park and the acquisition of locomotives and rollingstock	5.6
CURRAGH—Construction of a rail link between Curragh and the Central Railway, upgrading of the Central Line, and the acquisition of locomotives and rollingstock	16.4
NEWLANDS—Construction of a new railway between Newlands and Abbot Point, upgrading the Collinsville Line and the purchase of locomotives and rollingstock	100.7
BLAIR ATHOL—Construction of a new railway north from Blair Athol to link with the Goonyella Railway at Mellawa and the purchase of locomotives and rollingstock	65.35
RIVERSIDE—Construction of a new Branch Line to connect the mine at Riverside to the Goonyella Line and the purchase of locomotives and rollingstock	3.5

	\$m
YARRABEE—Purchase of locomotives and rollingstock	0.1
LALEHAM—Upgrading of the Central Line	5.6
BLACKWATER (S.E.C.)—Involves the sharing of cost of constructing the new railway from Curragh, and the purchase of locomotives	0.5
CALLIDE (S.E.C.)—Expenditure to be incurred on crossing loops on the Moura Line, improvements at Callemondah and the construction of the Boundary Hill Spur	0.2
UPGRADING GOONYELLA—Upgrading and duplication of the Goonyella Railway from the new port of Dalrymple Bay to Coppabella ..	83.99
GREGORY—Expenditure to be incurred on land resumption compensation	0.15
NORWICH PARK—Expenditure to be incurred in finalising outstanding costs, mainly land resumption compensation	0.06

Urban Public Transport

In 1983–84 the Metropolitan Transit Authority will complete its first five-year capital works program. Total expenditure for 1983–84 will amount to \$40.5 million. The State will fund the majority of works and \$8.06 million is anticipated to be received from the Commonwealth under the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program for urban public transport works. Major rail projects will include:

	\$m
• Electrification of the Kingston–Beenleigh Section	5.868
• Electrification of the Petrie–Caboolture Section	0.836
• Completion of electrification Park Road–Lota/Thorneside	0.789
• Continuation of the supply of new electric passenger cars	29.371
• Completion of the electric car depot at Mayne	0.877
• Completion of first stage of train describer system	0.550

To fulfil integration objectives, the rail and bus passenger interchange Program will be continued, with \$1.644 million to be spent on car/bus, bus, bus/bus, ferry/bus, bus/railcar/rail interchanges and associated car parks.

During 1982–83, electrification of the urban rail system was completed to Kingston, Shorncliffe and Petrie, introducing world class electric train services in the rail corridors Roma Street to Kingston, Mayne to Shorncliffe, and Northgate to Petrie. Thirty-three new electric rail cars were delivered in 1982–83, bringing the total in service to 180, and 48 additional units were ordered.

In 1982–83, 452 new off-street parking bays were constructed at seven rail station sites to bring the total off-street bays built at June 30 to 5,423. A 252 bay car park for a car/bus interchange was built at Northey Street, Windsor.

Work on the Kingston to Beenleigh and Petrie to Caboolture rail electrification projects started during 1982–83. Both projects, and six interchange projects, are receiving funding assistance from the Australian Bicentennial Road Development Program, under the provisions in the Act for urban public transport projects.

Development of Industrial Estates

Works totalling \$9.6 million have been programmed for the development of Crown industrial estates, being funded by \$3.2 million from Loan Fund, \$1.8 million in Semi-Governmental borrowings, \$2.0 million from the Wage Pause Program, with the balance being raised from the sale of land and buildings.

Development will continue on existing estates in Cairns, Caloundra, Marsden, Mackay, Maryborough, Southport and Townsville. New estates will be released in Childers, Laidley and Yatala.

In an attempt to cater for all sectors of industry, smaller allotments will be developed in Beaudesert, Bundaberg, Dalby and Toowoomba.

The Yatala Industrial Estate will be a major new development costing in the region of \$1.5 million. Seventy sites will be released for occupation. A large portion of the funding will be supplied through the Wage Pause Program.

The number of developed industrial estates rose to 55 during the 1982-83 financial year and additional lands were acquired in Gin Gin, Wondai and Yatala bringing the total area presently held for industrial purposes to 8,200 hectares.

Further lands will be acquired in Mackay during the year as the existing two industrial estates will have been fully developed.

The Wage Pause Program will allow for development works as follows:—

Wacol	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	\$400,000
Yatala	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	\$985,000
Cairns (Factory Building)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	\$125,000
Mackay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	\$490,000

The major portion of the Department's funding will again be directed to provincial centres.

Urban Land Development

During 1982-83 the Land Administration Commission, through the Urban Crown Land Development Trust Fund, expended some \$8.4 million on land development and acquisition.

The expenditure on the Commission's normal projects resulted in the marketing of 661 allotments at a cost of \$3.69 million while expenditure on special infrastructure projects in mining and industrial areas provided 227 allotments at a cost of \$2.4 million.

In addition, funds were spent on special employment creating projects through the Wage Pause Program amounting to \$0.7 million.

In 1983-84 the Commission's expenditure program is estimated at \$11.97 million. This will involve new and ongoing development works of \$9.15 million including \$1.61 million on special developments in mining and industrial areas and \$0.23 million on works funded through the Wage Pause Program.

The expenditure program will allow the development of approximately 900 allotments for residential, industrial, commercial or rural residential purposes in centres throughout the State including 165 allotments in the special development areas of Biloela, Collinsville, Gladstone, Clermont and Blackwater.

Land will be acquired during 1983–84 at Kangaroo Point adjoining the former Evans Deakin Shipyard site for future redevelopment.

Forestry

The total capital works program for the Department of Forestry for 1983–84 is \$25.2 million. Expenditure will be funded from—

	\$m
State Loan Fund	19.7
Special Projects Fund	4.7
Wage Pause Program .. .. .	.8
	<hr/>
	25.2
	<hr/>

An allocation of \$3.25 million was made in 1982–83 under the State Wage Pause Program. Of this an amount of \$2.45 million was expended in 1982–83, on reafforestation works, roads construction, and recreation facilities construction, leaving a balance of \$0.8 million for expenditure in 1983–84.

The level of funding proposed will allow the Department of Forestry to continue its softwood plantation program with approximately 4,000 hectares of new plantation forest proposed to be established in 1983–84. This will bring the total area planted to date to 145,000 hectares.

Protection and development of approximately 4 million hectares of native forest areas also set aside to meet the State's future timber needs will similarly be continued.

National Parks and Wildlife Service

In 1983–84 the National Parks and Wildlife Service will have a capital works program of \$2.8 million. An amount of \$0.6 million will be expended on the Service's acquisition program which includes the final payment for the Western Catchment at Cooloola, further acquisition at West Burleigh (Fleays) and the acquisition of further land on the Scenic Rim.

An amount of \$2.2 million has been allocated for capital works and development on a number of national parks including \$0.9 million funded through the Wage Pause Program. Wage Pause works involve the development of visitor facilities at parks at Cape Tribulation, Lake Eacham, Eubenangee Swamp (Innisfail), Bowling Green Bay (Townsville), Blackdown Tablelands (Central Queensland), Green Mountains (Lamington Plateau) and Cedar Creek (Mount Tamborine).

Other works include the development of Stage 1 of Lawn Hill Gorge National Park (North West Queensland), further development of visitor facilities and infrastructure on Moreton Island, the development of information centres at several parks and improvements of access roads.

Police Stations

The total allocation for police station and residence capital works in 1983–84 amounts to \$12.7 million including \$6.4 million through the Wage Pause Program. New police stations will be constructed at Albany Creek, Bargara, Bowen, Glenden, Kirwan, Noosa and Smithfield at an estimated cost of \$3.7 million. Replacement police stations costing \$1.9 million will be provided at Collinsville, Gin Gin, Hervey Bay, Tully, Wondai and Yelarbon.

\$1.9 million will be expended through the Wage Pause Program on the construction of police residences in 1983-84.

Court Houses

An allocation of \$5.0 million has been made for Court House construction of which \$0.8 million is made through the Wage Pause Program. New Court Houses will be provided at Toogoolawah and Yeppoon at an estimated cost of \$1.1 million.

Other Projects

Brisbane Forest Park

The level of employment generation has been the major determinant in allocating capital works moneys this year. A Loan Fund allocation of \$200,000 will allow for development projects including redevelopment of Boombana Picnic area, inventory and management planning, development of walking tracks, landscaping and revegetation. In addition, further development works costing \$73,000 will be undertaken as part of the Wage Pause Program.

In 1982-83 the Government showed its commitment to nature based recreation and education with the Special Project grant to construct the Sir Douglas Tooth Information Centre. This commitment has continued with the approval of a major road building project to link Brisbane Forest Park to Wivenhoe Dam funded through the Special Projects Fund. The road, estimated to cost \$5 million will be planned and surveyed in 1983-84 and expenditure in this financial year will amount to \$400,000. When completed the road will provide south-east Queenslanders with a scenic route through some of the State's most outstanding country. The recreation potential of the Wivenhoe Dam and Brisbane Forest Park will be enhanced enormously.

Port of Brisbane Authority

The Port of Brisbane Authority plans capital expenditure of \$7.4 million during 1983-84, which includes \$5.5 million on the development of further port facilities at Fisherman Islands.

Only \$2 million will be drawn from loans to be raised as part of an approved Loan Borrowing Program.

The major thrust of this expenditure will be to ensure that a grain facility, sufficient to meet the projected demands of the grain industry, will be established by the mid-1980's.

Work on the Grain Terminal site has commenced and when complete will complement container handling, coal and cement facilities already established at Fisherman Islands.

Mines Department

An amount of \$500,000 has been allocated for the installation of a common flue system on eighteen ovens and construction of four additional ovens at the State Coke Works (Bowen). The common flue system will constitute the first stage in a three-stage program aimed at eliminating combustion pollutants at the Coke Works.

Children's Services

\$2.5 million has been allocated for capital works on Children's Services Homes and for the continuing construction of the new Children's Court at Coronation Drive, Brisbane.

Primary Industries

The construction of a new Poultry Research Unit will be commenced at the Redlands Horticultural Research Station as part of capital works amounting to \$2.3 million.

Prisons

\$4.5 million is programmed for capital works at State Prisons including the provision of two new cell blocks at H.M. Prison Townsville.

Other Buildings

The Works Department will also have available a total Loan Fund allocation of \$25.2 million including \$2.1 million through the Wage Pause Program for work of a general nature including minor buildings, office accommodation, renovations, remodelling, etc.

Construction of the new Government Office Building at Gladstone will continue. Stage III of the development of the Currimundi Recreation Camp will be commenced.

Work has commenced and will continue in 1983-84 on the Government Precinct Development between the Executive Building in George Street and Parliament House.

Restoration of the historic Mansions Building and Harris Court is proceeding in conjunction with the Precinct Development.

CONCLUSION

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Row, it has given me a great deal of pleasure as Premier and Treasurer to present the State Budget for 1983-84.

The Government's task in preparing a Budget is never an easy one. Available funds are never equal to the task of providing all the services the Government would like to see provided. Priorities must be set. Difficult decisions must be taken.

Despite the difficulties, the Budget is indeed a very satisfactory one. It does not impose major new burdens on the community overall. It does fulfil many of the Government's election commitments within weeks of the Government being elected.

The people of Queensland have given my Government their vote of confidence. This Budget has not let them down.

I believe the people of Queensland will welcome it as a Budget for Queensland's continued progress and prosperity.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

Mr BJELKE-PETERSEN: Mr Row, I move—

“That there be granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year 1983-84, a sum not exceeding \$533,000 to defray Contingencies—His Excellency the Governor.”

Progress reported.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. A. WHARTON (Burnett—Leader of the House): I move—

“That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 13 December 1983.”

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.19 p.m.