

FRIDAY, 26 MAY 1995

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. Fouras, Ashgrove) read prayers and took the chair at 10 a.m.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Police Staffing, Gold Coast; Palm Beach Police Station

From **Mrs Gamin** (1,025 signatories) praying that action be taken to boost police numbers in southern areas of the Gold Coast and that a police station be built at Palm Beach.

Turbot, Edward and Ann Streets, Park

From **Mr J. N. Goss** (641 signatories) praying for action to be taken to create a park in the inner City of Brisbane on vacant land bounded by Turbot, Edward and Ann Streets.

Apprenticeship Training

From **Mr J. H. Sullivan** (412 signatories) praying that legislation be amended to enable apprenticeship training to be available to persons employed on a part-time basis.

Petitions received.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the table—

- (a) Minister for Primary Industries (Mr Casey)—
Cane Protection and Productivity Boards—Annual Reports for year ending 31 December 1994
- (b) Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts (Mr Wells)—
Mirani By-Election 1994 Ballot Survey—
Report on Informal and Optional Preferential Voting

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jobs Plan

Hon. M. J. FOLEY (Yeronga—Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations) (10.03 a.m.), by leave: I wish to inform the House of progress on

implementation of the Goss Government's \$150m Jobs Plan. Despite strong jobs growth and forecasts of a fall in unemployment to around 7.7 per cent by June next year, there are those within the labour market who need special assistance. The long-term unemployed, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people with disabilities are among those disadvantaged groups who face extra hurdles in gaining employment. The Goss Government's \$150m Jobs Plan is providing these people with the added assistance they need to build a better future.

With the funds provided from an increase in the tobacco franchise fee, the \$150m Jobs Plan has provided assistance to more than 80,000 Queenslanders to 31 March. Specifically, 16,700 people had been placed in jobs, almost 39,000 people had been placed in training, and the remainder had received other assistance, including the provision of business advice. I am able to provide for members' information the details of the seven programs of the Jobs Plan and the results achieved by each of these programs. Rather than take up the valuable time of the House, I seek leave to have these details incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, one of our greatest challenges is to ensure that all groups within the community benefit from the economic and social advances Queensland continues to make.

The \$150 million Jobs Plan is helping to ensure that all Queenslanders, whatever their geographic, economic, educational or cultural circumstances, can build a better future for themselves and their families.

The \$150 Million Jobs Plan assisted more than 80,000 Queenslanders to March 31, 1995 through:

payroll tax incentives

increases in the payroll tax threshold and extension of a rebate to employers who take on long-term unemployed people;

\$8 million Community Jobs Plan

to assist 5,000 people, particularly mature-aged long-term jobseekers, through community-based activities such as interest-free loans for unemployed people to start their own business; grants to community groups for training and job placement projects and the development of an additional five community-owned and five more enterprise centres to foster the development of small business and job creation;

\$15.2 million Safe Bikeways Program

to provide a network of bicycle paths throughout Queensland directly creating 330 jobs and more indirect jobs;

\$5 million Jobs for the Environment
600 training positions for long-term unemployed people and 200 other jobs improving national park facilities;
\$7 million Youth Jobs Plan
to assist 1,700 young people through extra training opportunities and jobs in the private and public sector, including 200 extra subsidised apprenticeships and traineeships in public sector agencies; awarding of public housing contracts to group training companies to allow them to employ apprentices; 140 training positions in an expanded Youth

Conservation Corps and the appointment of 20 extra youth employment consultants across the state to help place young people in jobs and training;
\$19 million Jobs Through TAFE
to employ 500 TAFE tutors, creating 3,100 extra student places and appoint job placement officers in every college to help graduates find work;
\$60 million schools refurbishment
to spend \$60 million over two years fixing Queensland's schools, creating 1,200 jobs for unemployed people.

150 MILLION JOBS PLAN—DETAILS OF EMPLOYMENT BY PROGRAM ELEMENT SINCE JOBS PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TO

Program Element	New Jobs Created (Target)	People Placed into Jobs (Target)	People Placed into Training (Target)	People Receiving Other Assistance (Target)	Total Assisted (Target)
Payroll Tax Incentives Plan	not available	not available	not available	not available	not available
Youth Jobs Plan	1,262	3,288	3,729	2,839	8,845
Community Jobs Plan	728	3,840	8,419	13,090	23,046
Jobs Through TAFE	1,948	4,505	26,193	14,402	47,048
School Refurbishment	566	-	-	-	566
Safe Bikeways	414	-	-	-	414
Jobs for the Environment	160	-	555	-	715
Totals	5,078 (3,218)	11,633 (7,836)	38,896 (13,583)	30,331 (11,271)	80,634 (32,209)

31 DECEMBER 1994NB: Because a client may receive multiple forms of assistance and therefore be listed in both a job column and training column, the sum of the columns may exceed the number of persons

Mr FOLEY: One of our greatest challenges is to ensure that all groups within the community benefit from the economic and social advances Queensland continues to make. The \$150m Jobs Plan is helping to ensure that all Queenslanders, whatever their geographic, economic, educational or cultural circumstances, can build a better future for themselves and their families.

Mrs SHELDON having given notice of a motion—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before calling the next member, I suggest to the Deputy Leader of the Coalition that that motion was miles too long. The staff at the table and I will look at it. Giving notice of a motion is not the time to debate an issue.

Mrs SHELDON: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume her seat. There is no point of order.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Koala Coast Protection Plan

Mrs SHELDON (10.08 a.m.): I refer the Premier to the five-year \$38m Koala Coast Protection Plan, composed of programs for koala habitat acquisition, koala research, koala visitor infrastructure and the Community Facilities Program. I refer also to the fact that some \$5m or almost 70 per cent of the available funds for 1995-96 have already been distributed—not to protect the endangered koalas but to protect endangered ALP members threatened by a roadway that the Government promised not to build. I ask: given this ration of a mere 30 per cent of funding for koalas, which will apparently slip even further as a share of the plan's funds, will the Premier now admit that this is pork-barrelling of the most cynical sort?

Mr W. K. GOSS: No. So the Deputy Leader of the Coalition is fairly readily dispensed with, but it gives me an opportunity

to make a couple of points. Until this Government examined this issue, that koala population was facing slow but sure extinction because of the policy failure of previous Governments. The facts are that that koala population is under threat and would have been killed off by the failure of previous conservative Governments to plan or to protect that population. By allowing subdivisions and developments to go ahead through there, the koala population is being slowly but surely killed. It is being killed by the dogs and cars of residents of the area. Every time these people engage in the sick activity of getting a snap-frozen koala from their freezer and bringing it along to use for political purposes, I will point out that that koala has been killed by a dog or a car that belongs to a current resident who has been allowed to settle or develop there. Those are the facts.

This Government has decided that, in the interests of preserving and protecting that koala population, there should be—and there will be—a comprehensive koala protection plan. Crucial to that policy is the acquisition of key koala habitat. The end result of this development is that, for every one hectare of koala habitat that is disturbed, two hectares will be acquired by the Government to ensure the long-term future of that koala population. That is in addition to the various other measures.

It was only a week or two ago that I was in the Redlands talking to the Mayor, Mr Santagiuliana, who confirmed his support for the Government's policy of acquiring koala habitat. That is in the interests not only of a long-term plan to protect the koala habitat—something that was never happening before—but also in the interests of the community. It is not just the koalas that are impacted upon by the road; the communities in that area have called for compensation. So funds will be set aside as part of this project to deal with the koala protection plan, to provide compensation for individual property owners and to provide some social compensation for the communities in the vicinity of the road.

Intensive Care Beds, Royal Brisbane Hospital and Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr LIVINGSTONE: I ask the Minister for Health: can he outline what moves the Government is taking to address the situation regarding intensive care beds in the Royal Brisbane Hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital?

Mr ELDER: In 1989, there were 30 intensive care beds on the Brisbane south

side; there are now some 39 beds in that region. Since that time, throughout Queensland, the number of intensive care beds has risen from 140 to 155. This Government has acknowledged that the demand for intensive care beds has been increasing and that our population is growing and ageing. In fact, as has been outlined by the Premier and myself on many occasions, we now treat an extra 3,000 people a week in our hospitals—an extra 140,000 or 150,000 a year compared with the number in 1989.

When I first became Minister, I visited hospitals as a priority. A priority of mine was to talk to specialists and "intensivists"—those people in front-line agencies within hospitals. I asked for an assessment of the needs in the intensive care sector, particularly high dependency. After those discussions with "intensivists", my department and administrators within the hospital, I can announce today the establishment of two 10-bed intensive care step down units or, as members would know them, high dependency units, at both the Royal Brisbane Hospital and the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Some \$3m will be provided in 1995-96 to employ doctors, nurses and staff for those units, an estimated \$1m for sophisticated patient monitoring equipment that will be needed for those wards and extra funds for the refurbishment of ward space. High dependency beds take the pressure off intensive care units. The assessment showed that there was no shortage of ICU beds within Queensland; it showed that there was pressure on those units and that there was a need for high dependency beds, known as step down beds. We will be able to provide greater efficiency, greater monitoring and quick transfers within those hospitals. We will be able to provide specialist support. Part of the four-point plan that I announced a week ago was targeted at doing just that. We will be enhancing packages for specialists to stay within the system and, more importantly, for us to attract specialists into those types of facilities.

As a Government, we have been in a position to undertake long-term planning. My predecessor, Mr Hayward, started that process, and I intend to complete it. We have looked at the areas of need and enhanced those hospitals where required. By contrast, all we hear from Opposition members is panic. They panic and do nothing. Opposition members tend to panic regularly because they know that I have them on the run. They panic because they have to catch up. The only initiative that Opposition members ever

endorse is Government policy. The Nationals' capital works program is to continue the \$1.5 billion program that the Government has in place.

Mr Horan: You're playing catch-up football.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Toowoomba South will cease interjecting.

Mr ELDER: The Nationals are a policy void zone, a policy no-go zone and, in fact, a policy abyss when it comes to Health. It is about time they put up or shut up.

Allocations to Springwood Electorate Schools

Mr BORBIDGE: I ask the Premier: how can he accept a situation in which a member of his Government sponsors applications for public moneys from a department of which she is the Minister, based on guidelines she sets for moneys being spent in her electorate?

Mr W. K. GOSS: In my answer to the previous question directed to me, I said that the Government publicly made it clear that it would provide compensation for property owners affected by the road, that it would provide funds for a comprehensive koala protection plan and that it would also provide social compensation for communities affected by the road. All local organisations, schools, etc., were encouraged to apply. It was a public process, and it was a transparent process. It was based on criteria and a system of awarding points on the basis of those criteria. It was audited by an external firm of accountants.

Mr Borbidge: So what?

Mr W. K. GOSS: The member says, "So what?" Is that not typical of the National Party? When it was in Government, a whole series of measures were not audited. Can members opposite remember the shonky loans to the National Party's mates? Do they remember the QIDC? Do they remember how Russell Cooper used to ring up and pitch for loans on a political basis for friends?

Mr COOPER: I rise to a point of order. I find false and offensive the Premier's remarks about me. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr W. K. GOSS: I withdraw without hesitation. That was the hallmark of the National Party Government: no accountability and no auditing—as we saw so dramatically exposed in the Fitzgerald inquiry. That is why, when Mr Borbidge was on this side of the House, he voted for a motion in relation to the establishment of the Public Accounts

Committee that would give a ministerial veto to prevent the Public Accounts Committee investigating offences.

Mr Horan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Toowoomba South under Standing Order 123A.

Mr W. K. GOSS: Let Mr Borbidge explain why he supported that motion to give a ministerial veto to protect Ministers from this scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee. Was it because he wanted to protect the corrupt use of public money? The public moneys were allocated when areas matched criteria. It is transparent, it is public, and it is audited.

In respect of the member to whom the Leader of the Opposition refers—nobody fought harder against that road than Mrs Robson. When the vote was lost—when the vote went against her—nobody fought harder than her for compensation for her electorate. Good on her; that is what a member is supposed to do.

Allocations to Springwood Electorate Schools

Mr BORBIDGE: I refer the Premier to his accountable, open, transparent and taxpayer funded slush fund.

Mr W. K. GOSS: I rise to a point of order. In keeping with the standards set by the Leader of the Opposition earlier in the week, I take offence at those remarks. They are untrue and I seek their withdrawal.

Mr BORBIDGE: Mr Speaker, I made no reference to the Premier. Where was the personal reference? Could the Premier indicate? He must have a guilty conscience. Can the Premier indicate where I personally referred to him in those remarks?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I take the member's point of order. The Leader of the Opposition will continue.

Mr BORBIDGE: Bad luck, Wayne! In directing the rest of my question to the Premier, I refer to the Government's transparent audited taxpayer funded slush fund, the so-called Koala Coast Protection Plan, and its associated whiteboard, and to the fact that the Carbrook Primary School outside Springwood will lose 30 metres of its yard to a motorway ramp but gets nothing from the Government's plan while schools distant from the road but in the electorate of Springwood have received substantial funds. I ask: how can the Premier support such

ludicrous criteria for the scheme set by the member for Springwood?

Mr W. K. GOSS: The criteria were not set by the member for Springwood. That is another deliberately false statement by the Leader of the Opposition—a person who specialises, as I said before, in endeavouring to con both the gallery and the public in the belief and expectation that they will not find out until the next day and they will not pursue him about it. I have just been handed a letter—I do not know the particular case—which indicates that the application was received on 23 May, so presumably it can only be considered in the second round and was not available for consideration in the first round. That is what happens—

Mr Stephan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Gympie under Standing Order 123A.

Mr W. K. GOSS: That is what happens when an independent process is in place.

State Tax Rates

Mr BUDD: I refer the Treasurer to the reported comments by the New South Wales Treasurer that all of the other States are trying to harmonise the tax rates between different States. I ask: can the Treasurer inform the House whether Queensland is party to this move?

Mr De LACY: I thank the honourable member for Redlands for the question. This week, the New South Wales Treasurer seemed to respond very badly to some of the initiatives that were included in the Queensland Budget. He did make the reference to all States getting together in an endeavour to harmonise their tax rates. I can give an unequivocal assurance to everybody in Queensland and to people in the rest of Australia that Queensland is not party to any arrangements or any negotiations about harmonising tax rates.

It is true that a number of the other States, including New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT, are meeting and looking to rewrite their Stamp Acts. As honourable members would know, Queensland is well advanced on the rewrite of its Stamp Act, and our rewrite is much more comprehensive than what is going on in the other States of Australia. We are interested in what is going on in those other States and we will look with interest at the way in which they define their bases, because I think there is some merit in levying taxes on the same sort

of base. One activity that Queensland will never be part of is the harmonising of the actual rates. When they talk harmony in New South Wales and Victoria, they mean singing to the highest note, and that is something that Queensland is not on about.

I will make another reference to comments made by the Treasurers of New South Wales and Victoria about those tired old lines of subsidising Queensland. Some figures were quoted on the front page of the *Courier Mail* which, although accurate, were misleading because they did not tell the full story. It is true that over the years Queensland was a net beneficiary of what is called the horizontal fiscal equalisation formula that is used as a basis for the distribution of Commonwealth payments to the States. But there are two components to those distributions. One is the financial assistance grant and the other is the special purpose payments. They need to be taken together. The Treasurers of New South Wales and Victoria quite cutely refer only to the financial assistance grant through which Queensland is, just by a small amount, a net beneficiary, but they conveniently forget to talk about special purpose payments, where Queensland is a net loser. The proper figure to look at is the total Commonwealth payments to the States.

For the record, the total payments to the States from the Commonwealth this year, 1995-96, are \$33.93 billion, and Queensland's share of that is \$6.16 billion or 18.17 per cent. So Queensland is receiving 18.17 per cent of the total Commonwealth payments to the States, and our population is 18.22 per cent. In per capita terms, the all States average of total payments is \$1,867 per capita. Queensland is receiving \$1,861 per capita. We are being fleeced! We are subsidising the other States! In fact, we are thinking of joining New South Wales and Victoria and getting a fairer system.

Mr W. K. Goss: We wouldn't want to become as parochial as New South Wales.

Mr De LACY: No. We believe in the national interest. Even our decision in respect of share transactions was a national initiative. What we want to do is bring back to Queensland all of that business that is being transacted offshore because we are true blue Australians.

Rochedale State High School

Mr LINGARD: I refer the Premier to a comment by the principal of Rochedale State

High School quoted in this morning's *Gold Coast Bulletin* in which she stated that she wrote to Mansfield MP Laurel Power last year requesting compensation under the Koala Coast Protection Fund but never received a reply. I ask: is the Premier concerned that Rochedale State High School is not receiving compensation from this fund? Is he concerned that the principal has not received from the ALP member a reply to her request?

Mr W. K. GOSS: In relation to the process that involves the provision of funds for social compensation for communities affected by the road—it needs to be understood that it is not a bottomless pit. There is a set sum that is being provided by the Government and not every application will be successful. Some applications have been successful in the first round; other applications will be considered in subsequent rounds. I would suggest to schools or organisations that have either not submitted or been unsuccessful in the first round that they try again.

Queensland Manufacturing Institute

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN: I refer the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development to the Queensland Government's economic statement *From Strength to Strength*, which mentions that the Government is negotiating with Commonwealth agencies for the further expansion of the Queensland Manufacturing Institute. I ask: can the Minister inform the House whether there has been any progress in this matter?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for the question. I am indeed pleased to report progress on the further expansion of the Queensland Manufacturing Institute—an institute that is going to bring great benefit to Queensland industry. It was opened, I understand, in December 1993 by my predecessor, Mr Elder, in the Brisbane Technology Park at Eight Mile Plains. Perhaps members would be interested to find out a little more about it, especially those who do not understand the importance of this institute to Queensland industry and our economy.

The QMI is a joint venture between my department, TAFE Queensland, the CSIRO and QUT. It pulls together some \$6m of manufacturing technology resources from participating stakeholders providing a range of technology support services to manufacturing industry in this State. The QMI provides support for joint contract research, industry

consulting, technology transfer and skill development for manufacturing industry, including advanced manufacturing technology assistance for the NIES Program. It has an important role in the development of technology-based skills in industry and these will contribute to long-term job opportunities for Queensland. That is something in which all members of this House should be interested.

I am pleased to indicate that plans are under way to make some of QMI's services available to regional Queensland, that is, the areas outside the south-east corner. Consultancies are going to be developed in north Queensland and central Queensland to further advance the interests of technology in this State.

Only yesterday, the Federal Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Senator Peter Cook, was at the QMI and he announced that the Federal Government will be making available \$2.75m towards the expansion by way of grant. I understand that this is the first grant that has been given under the Commonwealth Technology Access Program. The Goss Government recognises the importance of the QMI's role in delivering information and problem-solving support to manufacturers.

Mr Veivers interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Southport under Standing Order 123A.

Mr Santoro interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Clayfield under Standing Order 123A.

Mr PITT: It is therefore pleasing for this Government to have seen this fifty-fifty support coming from the Commonwealth, given the fact that initially we were prepared to put up the \$5.5m ourselves. The commitment of the Goss Government to support research and development is already paying dividends for the State and its economy and Queensland industry is now in a very fortunate position. It is well positioned to take maximum advantage of new technology as it comes on stream.

Koala Coast Secretariat Funding

Mr SANTORO: I remind the Minister for the Environment of the Premier's statement, in answer to a previous question, that the Koala Coast Secretariat fund is not a bottomless pit, and I refer to the following six schools: Carbrook primary, Shailer Park

primary, Kimberley Park primary, Rochedale high, Rochedale primary and Shailer Park high. I also refer the Minister to another group of schools: Slacks Creek primary, Springwood Central primary, Springwood high, Rochedale South primary, Springwood Road primary and Chatswood Hills primary. I ask: given that all those schools will be affected by the south-east tollway, why have the first six been denied funding from the Minister's department's Koala Coast Secretariat whereas the second six—all in her electorate—have received a total of \$915,000?

Ms ROBSON: Yesterday and today, the Premier and I have explained and re-explained the fact that I had nothing to do with the allocation. We do not seem to be able to get that fact through to the Opposition. The reality is that it was an independent process which was independently audited, and I had nothing to do with those allocations.

Amalgamation of Redcliffe, Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shires

Mr HOLLIS: I refer the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities to a meeting being organised for next Monday by the Liberal candidate for Redcliffe to enable residents to have a say on any amalgamations with neighbouring shires. I ask: can the Minister advise of the Government's position in relation to this matter?

Mr MACKENROTH: Yes, I can. The Government has quite clearly stated that it does not have any intention of amalgamating Redcliffe Shire with Caboolture and Pine Rivers Shires, as has been claimed by a number of Liberal and National Party people in that area. I find it quite interesting that the Liberal Party candidate for that area would organise a meeting for next Monday and then invite along the Leader of the National Party, who said that he does not have any policies. He is going to talk at that meeting where people are going to have a say on amalgamations of neighbouring shires. As the Government has made it quite clear that it has no intention to amalgamate any of those shires, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition is going to allow us to find out his policy on amalgamation when those people have their say on Monday night. In fact, Mr Borbidge will be able to tell them whether his party has any intention of considering amalgamation. It is obvious that, if the Liberal Party candidate in Redcliffe has organised that meeting to allow people to have their say—after the

Government has made it clear that it has no intention of implementing such an amalgamation—she must want to see those amalgamations take place. A couple of months ago, she put out a statement in the local newspaper, and I answered that by saying that the Government had no intention of amalgamating. She still went ahead and organised the meeting. I would be very interested to see what the Opposition's policy is in that regard.

I figured that perhaps the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Borbidge, had read his own local newspaper, the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, this morning and that perhaps he woke up with the policy idea to do something about amalgamating. That newspaper stated that the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Ray Stevens, said that on the Gold Coast they will save more than \$3m in their first year as a result of the amalgamation that was carried out, and he expects that the savings that they will make will be greater than those anticipated by the Local Government Commissioner. Mr Borbidge said that that could not be done.

Mahogany Glider Habitat

Mr ROWELL: I refer the Minister for Environment and Heritage to her action yesterday in issuing an interim nature conservation order to halt clearing on the land at Pomona near Ingham which is deemed to be part of a mahogany glider habitat. I also refer to the fact that only recently her Government sold 1,000 hectares of similar timbered land almost adjacent to that site for \$1m. The Minister knew that the land would be cleared for agricultural use. I ask: notwithstanding the Minister's current action to protect the mahogany glider, why did her Government sell for development the land in the area that was part of the mahogany glider habitat, yet it is now penalising a freehold property owner for doing the very same thing? Is it the case that development is okay for the Goss Government when it makes money, but not for a private developer or individual when a sensitive area such as this is in question?

Ms ROBSON: The first part of the member's question that I will address is the sale of land, which, as the member should know by now, is the responsibility of the Minister for Lands and does not go through my department.

Mr Elliott interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Cunningham under Standing Order 123A.

Ms ROBSON: As the member is aware, the process for the sale of a piece of property—and I am not familiar with that piece of property—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms ROBSON: Opposition members should listen for a minute instead of constantly interjecting. The process for the sale of property—whether it be in the honourable member's area or anywhere else—is that an assessment is carried out. My department runs its eye over that land. I can only assume that, in that case, there is not a mahogany glider habitat on that land or the department would not have sold it. I am not going to take the honourable member's word for it; I will check with the Lands Department. The question should have been directed to the Minister for Lands.

In terms of the action that I took yesterday in issuing an ICO over that piece of property that was being cleared—the officers of my department had been doing survey work in that area determining where the critical habitat of the mahogany glider is. The property that was cleared yesterday had been clearly identified, and talks had been held with the company that owned that property. They were aware that there was a habitat on that land. They had also applied to the council—as the honourable member would be aware—for permission to subdivide that area. Part of that process involves consultation with the Department of Primary Industries. The DPI had advised against clearing of that land for a variety of reasons related to massive sulfate levels in the soil, soil degradation and other matters that they were concerned about.

Regardless of all of that and regardless of the fact that the owner did know that we were interested in that piece of property, they proceeded to put the bulldozer through it. I do not know about other honourable members, but I think that that is a very disappointing activity from an industry with which we have been negotiating very successfully and comfortably over the past couple of years to try to identify those critical habitats, because the majority of the industry is interested in protecting those species. I do not know what the arrangement was in relation to the other piece of land to which the honourable member referred, but I am perfectly happy to look into the matter for him.

Water Storage

Mr CAMPBELL: I refer the Minister for Primary Industries to the recently announced

From Strength to Strength package for the Queensland economy, which included major water storage works, especially for central Queensland. I ask: what areas and industries will benefit from that package?

Mr CASEY: The honourable member's question is a very good one, because it gives me the opportunity to tell this House what is really going to occur in Queensland in relation to the development of our water resources. There will be properly planned development in conjunction with industry so that things can progress in a good and proper manner. First and foremost—and this provision is contained within this year's Budget—in conjunction with the Commonwealth and its regional development programs, we will be working on the raising of the Bingebang and Bedford weirs on the Mackenzie River, which provide much-needed water for the mining industry in central Queensland and for its further development. No-one in this House could deny the gigantic benefit that the investment in the coalmining industry in central Queensland has given to Queensland.

Mr Stoneman: Your Government won't even burn its own coal.

Mr CASEY: The honourable member for Fitzroy can tell the member for Burdekin straight out exactly what that development means to the electorate that he represents. The member for Burdekin says, "Why don't we burn the coal and generate the power ourselves?" He has no concept whatsoever of the volume of coal that is exported from that area and the money that that export product means to the economy of Queensland and to this Government.

But there is more. As provided in the Budget brought down by the Treasurer on Tuesday, we intend to start work on the redevelopment of a pipeline from the Eungella Dam to the central Queensland coalmining fields. That redevelopment will provide major water supplies not only for the upgrading of coalmining operators but also for additional development. And, as with Demtel, "There's more!" There is no question about it, there is more. The Eungella Dam upgrade will provide water for the Collinsville power station, which was closed down by the Government of which honourable members opposite were members. They did not like the people of Collinsville, so they closed down its power station. The work that is being done by Mr McGrady, the Minister for Minerals and Energy, and Mrs Bird, the member for Whitsunday, to get that power station off the ground again is very good indeed, and we will

provide the water for them.

There is a proposal for a dam on the Comet River for the burgeoning cotton industry of Queensland. Today's *Courier-Mail* outlines the development of the cotton industry in this State and what that will mean for the future, because the central Queensland region is producing high-quality cotton.

Ever since I have been the Minister, I have been working in conjunction with a group of people from the Dawson River area on an upgrade of their water supply needs and requirements. A major structure will be built on the Dawson River to provide water for the mining industry, the cotton industry, the peanut industry, the grain industry and the many other primary producing groups that are located along that river.

We are going to open up the Fitzroy basin, which is a most valuable part of Queensland. That development will mean not only the expansion of those crops and groups but also it will provide great benefits for the whole of Queensland's economy, particularly in regional Queensland. That was something that was never done by members of the National Party when they were in Government. They had no concerns whatsoever for the people of regional Queensland, except for what they could bleed from them.

Mr Veivers interjected.

Mr CASEY: Mr Veivers should visit the electorate of the member for the Callide, who is not present today, and inspect the Kroombit Dam. Because of the way it was designed by the former National Party Government, it has been built for five years yet there is still not a drop of water in it. The Atkinson Dam and the Clarendon Weir were built for political expediency—pork-barrelling the electorates of National Party members. We heard nothing about that from the Leader of the Opposition in his reply to the Treasurer's Budget Speech.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre

Mr COOPER: I refer the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services to the fact that 16 more mattresses were delivered to the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre on Tuesday from watch-houses around the city to facilitate double-ups at the gaol, which reportedly now has 540 prisoners in a facility with a design capacity of 308 beds, and I ask: is it a fact that on Tuesday, when the prisoners bedded down, all night prisoner Wayne Bryzac repeatedly raped a fellow

prisoner, whose agony was confirmed by a doctor? Is the Minister aware that the prison manager, Brian Kennedy, was harshly assaulted by prisoner Bryzac when the manager confronted him with the charge? What urgent action will the Minister take to prevent these degrading assaults and rapes that are a direct result of his Government's failed prisons policy, as evidenced by the doubling-up program?

Mr BRADY: The whole premise of the question is wrong. The basis is wrong. I had some inquiries made of a complaint I received about a possible rape of a prisoner at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. I am instructed by the Queensland Corrective Services Commission that a prisoner who had indicated some concerns in relation to that was interviewed by the Corrective Services Investigation Unit which, as the member knows, is a police unit attached to the Corrective Services Commission but is made up entirely of police officers independent of the Corrective Services Commission. All allegations of this nature are referred to the police in the Corrective Services Investigation Unit. There is now no complaint of rape by that prisoner. In addition to the police investigating him, the prisoner was medically examined and absolutely no evidence was found of recent—

Mr Cooper: Rubbish! It was confirmed by a doctor.

Mr BRADY: I am informing the House, and I object strongly to the imputation—

Mr Cooper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I warn the member for Crows Nest under Standing Order 123A. He has been warned. That is his last warning.

Mr BRADY: I am informing the House of the information that I have received, which is that a qualified medical practitioner medically examined the prisoner and found no recent signs of sexual activity of any kind, let alone rape. He found no marks on the prisoner's person to indicate that he had been involved in a struggle of any sort or that he had been in any way assaulted. So there were no indications of recent sexual activity, no indications of assault and no indications of struggle. The prisoner informed the Corrective Services Investigation Unit that he did not, in fact, have a complaint. So the whole basis and premise of the member's question is wrong. The prisoner concerned is not complaining of rape.

We take such allegations very, very seriously. That is why we have a unit

independent of the Corrective Services Commission to investigate them; that is why we have medical examinations carried out to see if there is any medical evidence to sustain them. In both instances, they go against the premise of the honourable member's question entirely.

Opposition Roads Policy

Mrs ROSE: I refer the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development to comments from the member for Western Downs in relation to the Opposition's roads policy and, in particular, to the member for Western Down's commitment to a massive expansion of the Pacific Highway at the same time as he complains about too much money being spent on roads in south-east Queensland, and I ask: can he advise the House of the impact that the Opposition's highway from hell would have on the State's road budget?

Mr BORBIDGE: I rise to a point of order. The remarks referred to by the honourable member were made by the member for Western Downs during the Budget debate, which is still before the House.

Mr SPEAKER: I rule that question out of order.

Health

Mr HORAN: I refer the Minister for Health to the cancellation of surgery at the Princess Alexandra Hospital yesterday morning of a patient with an abdominal aneurism and the cancellation of two theatre lists while costly medical and theatre staff stood there waiting—

Mr Veivers interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Mr Horan, I am having trouble hearing you. The member for Southport! Order!

Dr Watson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I cannot believe this! I warn the member for Moggill under Standing Order 123A. Honestly, I was up late watching the football last night. I am tired. I cannot put up with this any longer.

Mr HORAN: I refer the Minister for Health to the cancellation of surgery at the Princess Alexandra Hospital yesterday morning of a patient with an abdominal aneurism and the cancellation of two theatre lists, all because of the non-availability of intensive care beds, while costly medical and theatre staff stood there waiting to start, and I ask: is he aware that it may now be necessary

to transfer this seriously ill patient to a private hospital or to a hospital outside of Brisbane because of the fact that, after six years of Goss Government mismanagement of expensive, ever-increasing Health budgets, intensive care beds are still not available at one of Queensland's biggest tertiary hospitals?

Mr De LACY: I rise to a point of order. The Budget is being debated before the House. I think it is fair enough that, if honourable members opposite can have a question that refers to the Budget ruled out of order, this one ought to be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The previous question referred to comments made in the House during the Budget debate. I am trying to hear the question. There is no point of order.

Mr HORAN: I will ask the second part of the question again. Is the Minister aware that it may now be necessary to transfer this seriously ill patient to a private hospital or a hospital outside of Brisbane because, after six years of Goss Government mismanagement of expensive, ever-increasing Health budgets, intensive care beds are still not available at one of the Queensland's biggest tertiary hospitals?

Mr ELDER: Time and time again, the member for Toowoomba South comes into this House, as does the Leader of the Opposition, and makes outrageous allegations. We then spend the next 24 hours running down those allegations only to find that they are totally false.

Mr Horan: This is absolutely certain.

Mr ELDER: The honourable member said that it is absolutely certain. Is it? The last person whom I would trust with the truth is the honourable member. Time and time again when we run these allegations down we find them to be absolutely false. I will return to the issue of intensive care services, but let us look at the record in respect of the allegations made by the honourable member since I have been the Minister for Health.

First, the Opposition spokesman claimed that the Mater would be \$5m over budget. False! Second, he claimed that women having babies at the Mater would be transferred to other hospitals. He said that there would be no more babies delivered at the Mater. False! Third, the honourable member claimed that all of the services at the Mater Adult Hospital would be closed over Easter. False! Fourth, the honourable member claimed that the neonatal unit would be closed. False! And Mrs

Woodgate's son is a practitioner there. Fifth, the Opposition spokesman claimed that 1,100 mental patients would be thrown out of hospitals with deinstitutionalisation. False! Sixth, the honourable member claimed that there was a shortage of ICU beds in Brisbane, and the honourable member used a family as an example, something which I find despicable. Again?

Government members: False.

Mr ELDER: False! Time and time again, we have heard the honourable member opposite saying that the Liver Transplant Unit at the PA Hospital would close.

Government members: False.

Mr ELDER: False! Time and time again, the honourable member presents the House with these falsehoods, and this is another. We have discussed ICU. The difference between the honourable member and me is that I go to the hospitals and I talk to "intensivists" and the people within the ICUs. There are sufficient ICU beds in Queensland and Brisbane. Let me say for the final time: anything that the honourable member opposite comes up with always turns out to be false when I have tracked it down.

Drug Squad

Mr BENNETT: I ask the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services: could he advise what improvements in resources there have been in the fight against drugs under the Goss Government?

Mr BRADY: In recent years, there has been a very important breakthrough in relation to the fight against drugs. It is very interesting to compare the performance of the police under our Government with the performance of the police under the former National Party Government. In 1989, the Queensland Drug Squad had 32 staff and a budget of \$1.3m. In 1994-95, that budget has grown to \$4.129m with a total staff of 67. We now have regional squads based in Townsville and Cairns. The Drug Squad has been very active in trying to track down the large-scale offenders, rather than the traditional, small users who were the targets under the former Government. They were all that could be targeted under the measly, miserly allocation of staff and resources by the former National Party Government.

In this financial year, the value of drugs seized is over \$660m. There has been a massive crackdown on the large-scale organisers of all types of drug operations. In particular, the Mr Bigs of heroin, cocaine and

amphetamines have been successfully targeted. People who read the newspapers will see frequent references to trials and the long sentences that are being given to people involved in the organisation of large-scale drug use.

Under this Government the Drug Squad of the Queensland Police Service has been most successful. It has been successful because it has been given the ability, through personnel and resources, to do its job. This is one of the areas which flies in the face of the Opposition's claims that we do not expand operational policing. The facts speak for themselves. The facts in relation to the Drug Squad have shown a most successful policing initiative.

Corrective Services

Mr BEANLAND: I direct a question to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. The 1991-92 Corrective Services Commission annual report indicated that Queensland had the lowest rate of readmissions to prisons in Australia—47 per cent—compared with 57 per cent nationally. The 1992-93 annual report indicated that the readmission rate to prisons was 46.2 per cent. I ask: as the readmission rate has now skyrocketed to 61 per cent, does the Minister now concede that his crime prevention and rehabilitation strategies have been an abject failure?

Mr BRADY: In relation to the Corrective Services Commission figures, the facts are that a lot of money, time, resources and personnel have been devoted to rehabilitation. To start with, I do not accept the premise in relation to the Opposition's figures.

Mr Beanland: They're your figures.

Mr BRADY: No. The honourable member says that they are our figures; I will have to check them. Particularly in relation to figures promulgated by Mr Cooper, so many times I have found that I cannot accept them. I will check the Opposition's figures. Yesterday, I read another figure that Mr Beanland cited in a question to the Premier. That figure was wrong—that is, the 12.1 year average term being served by life prisoners. The honourable member was wrong yesterday.

Mr Beanland: I am prepared to table those figures. They are the honourable member's figures, not mine.

Mr BRADY: The honourable member cited a precise figure yesterday that was wrong. It was the premise of a question to the

Premier. I checked it this morning. The honourable member opposite was wrong. I am not prepared to accept his figures. I will check the figures that the honourable member has given in his question and I will forward an answer to him.

Queensland Remembers Campaign

Mr DAVIES: I refer the Minister for Administrative Services to the opening this evening of the State Archives exhibition Queensland Remembers, and I ask: can the Minister provide the House with details of this display and explain the importance of this initiative to Queensland?

Mr MILLINER: I thank the honourable member for the question, because we are remembering a very important event in our history that took place some 50 years ago. I thank the honourable member for his interest in it. There is no doubt that Townsville and the whole of north and far-north Queensland played a very important role in those very difficult times. Some 50 years on, the Australian Government has taken the opportunity to remember the feats of the people who were engaged in those very tragic and difficult times. As a result of that, Queensland Archives was invited to participate in the Queensland Remembers part of the Australia Remembers campaign. In undertaking research for this display, the officers of State Archives have been discovering the role that the public sector played during the war years. It is interesting to learn of some of the activities undertaken at that time from looking at some of the documents published. In 1941, the Queensland Government published a report titled "Civil Defence of Queensland", which showed clearly that—

"It was the duty and responsibility of the Queensland Government to adequately provide for every contingency which might arise affecting the civilian population by the present war."

The Government of the time had pretty broad responsibilities. Those responsibilities were very important, because that was a very difficult time. The public sector in Queensland played a magnificent role during that period, particularly the Education Department. Everybody was concerned about the effect that the war would have on children, particularly in the event of the threatened invasion of Queensland. It is interesting to learn of the contingencies put in place at schools and in other Government buildings to ensure the safety of children in particular. The

female population of Queensland rallied to the war effort and made a tremendous contribution to it. School children also made a very valuable contribution during that period. As the State Archives records show, in many cases schools grew vegetables that were later sent to the troops fighting overseas.

This wonderful exhibition will be launched tonight. It will form a very valuable part of the Queensland Remembers section of the Australia Remembers campaign taking place at present. I am absolutely delighted to be associated with it.

Train Derailments

Mr JOHNSON: I refer the Minister for Transport to the recent spate of Queensland Rail derailments. I refer also to the critical state of disrepair of the central line from Emerald to Longreach and on to Winton and Hughenden and the line from Blackall to Yaraka, which has resulted in speed restrictions on those lines since 1990. I ask: what assurances can the Minister give—if any—that those lines will be repaired so that speed restrictions can be overcome and the Spirit of the Outback and other trains do not continue to take eight hours or more to travel from Emerald to Longreach?

Mr HAYWARD: It must be clearly recognised that a lot of work has been put into reviewing and upgrading the train lines to which the member refers. In addition, Queensland Rail has adopted new track-laying techniques in all of those areas to ensure that the rail system is able to function properly.

Mr Johnson: There's no money gone into the tracks.

Mr HAYWARD: On the issue of derailments, the Opposition displays its hypocrisy openly. It is a pity that it did not have such a concern about derailments when it was in Government.

Mr Johnson: We didn't have the derailments.

Mr HAYWARD: The records show clearly that many more derailments occurred during that period than occur now.

A Government member: They're off the rails.

Mr HAYWARD: The Opposition is still very much off the rails! It does not have any sort of a transport policy.

In the last four years of the previous Government, from 1986 to 1989 inclusive, there was an average of 88 train derailments per year. Owing to its commitment towards the

improved track, in the five years of this Government there has fortunately been a significant reduction in that number of derailments, and there is an average of only about 58 derailments per year. Put another way: we have managed to halve the number of derailments that occur. As I have indicated clearly, this Government has made a commitment to monitoring the track running conditions throughout the State, and that will continue.

Princess Alexandra Hospital

Mr BEATTIE: I ask the Minister for Health: can he outline the Government's plans for the improvement of the Princess Alexandra Hospital?

Mr ELDER: I most certainly can. Part of the planning process undertaken over the last few years has included master planning for our major hospitals. The master planning for the Royal Brisbane Hospital is well under way, as is the master planning for the complete redevelopment of the Princess Alexandra Hospital. As I have said previously on many occasions in this House, I have visited that hospital numerous times and have seen the poor state that it is currently in. It was an absolute disgrace when it was built, and it is not much better now. It needs refurbishment. The Government has committed itself to that refurbishment in the Capital Works Program outlined in this year's Budget.

This Government has committed itself wholeheartedly to rebuilding hospitals in this State through the \$1.5 billion Hospital Rebuilding and Re-equipping Program over the next 10 years and the acceleration of that program this year to \$193m to get appropriate measures under way within those hospitals.

Mr Horan: Playing catch-up with the Capital Works Program.

Mr ELDER: I can hear the criticism from members opposite. I can inform the House that, in their last year in Government, their total Capital Works Program for this State—both in equipment and in buildings—was a lousy \$38m. It is no wonder that our hospitals are in their present poor state! That can be attributed to the lack of commitment on the part of the former Government to rebuilding hospitals or doing anything at all about rectifying the problems in existence.

This week, I announced an extension to the most important front-line service at PA Hospital: the accident and emergency department. That involves a \$5.5m redevelopment of the front-line service of the

major hospital on the south side. Through that service, every year 50,000 people are treated. After talking to those doctors and nurses in the early days, we identified a need to provide that funding and to provide it quickly. That is the reason for the additional funding being provided this year.

I want to highlight the fact that many of the recent allegations made by the Opposition are false. I followed up the question asked of the Premier this week about a particular patient list. As I researched the facts behind that matter—as I often do—I found the basis of the information contained in that question to be false. The patients referred to were on a list, but they were being serviced by other staff specialists and VMOs at the hospital. In fact, a significant number of the patients on that list had had their operations, and a number of them had been moved to the lists of other doctors. The member for Toowoomba South made a deliberately false statement, which was then reinforced by the Leader of the Opposition. That is a continuing pattern of Opposition members. They have no policies but instead merely trot out falsehoods one after the other.

To follow the line of the Minister for Education—where is the Opposition's policy on youth health? Pass! Where is its policy on mental health? Pass! Where is its policy on dental health? Pass! Where is the Opposition's policy on hospitals? Pass! The list goes on and on. The Opposition has had a policy void since day one. Opposition members complain about the cost of bureaucracy. I have been down that path as well. I can inform the House that Queensland Health's administration budget is \$55m. It accounts for only 2.5 per cent of the total budget.

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

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL APPROPRIATION BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Debate resumed from 25 May (see p. 12010).

Mr FENLON (Greenslopes) (11.09 a.m.): It is a pleasure to contribute to this debate. The Opposition has shown its arrogance by coming into this place and criticising this Budget. In doing so, it has exercised the greatest hypocrisy that Queenslanders have ever witnessed. The Opposition parties have the cheek to put

candidates on the ground in this State. Those people wander at large in the State criticising everything that they see. That is in line with their counterparts who hold seats in this Parliament. All Opposition members ever do is carp and criticise, and that is exactly what the people of Queensland recognise them for.

We never see Opposition members put forward any policies for the consideration of Queenslanders. The people of this State are well aware that those sitting opposite are the policy cowards of this State. Members opposite do not have the courage to stand up and say, "This is the way we would do things." They are capable only of criticism and carping.

This Government has the courage to put to the people of Queensland policy, strategy, direction and vision. That is what this Budget does, and that is what shows us to be different from those opposite. The balanced 1995-96 Budget secures Queensland as the only debt-free State. Indeed, the State Government is like the Queensland family that has been successful in paying off its mortgage. Unlike other States, which are still paying off their debts, the Goss Government can spend every dollar it has on services, and that has been achieved without the imposition of new taxes. That has to be compared with the glimmering of policy that we have seen from the Opposition, which has come in the form of "Bankcard" Joan. She tells us that Queensland should be borrowing money and that, ultimately, that will change the whole configuration of the State's balance sheet. That means that, while she is borrowing, she is paying for it. If she wants the same level of services, she will have to tax for it, too.

That is an example of the occasional glimmerings of policy from the Opposition but, then again, that will probably be contradicted by another Opposition member next week. Half a dozen different positions from various Opposition members usually follow their occasional policy.

Mr De Lacy: It's a policy-free zone.

Mr FENLON: It is a policy-free zone, yet they have the arrogance to present themselves as an Opposition. I have news for Opposition members—an Opposition is supposed to have some type of alternative. They do not have one. They say, "We will release our policies and surprise people at the last minute." Maybe they will do that the day before the election. If the Opposition does that, Queenslanders will not get the chance to hear those policies debated critically.

Opposition members are the first people to come into this place and whinge, bleat and

moan if legislation is introduced in this House and a full debate—that goes on for days and where every single Opposition member gets up to have a chance to oppose it—does not occur. They bleat and whinge then, but they are basically saying to the people of Queensland that they want to guarantee that, when they do put their glimmerings of policies in front of the people of Queensland, they do not have the opportunity of being fully and frankly debated. The Opposition does not want Queenslanders to know all about the policies that it might just drop out of its back pocket at the last moment. That is dishonesty.

They all have their opportunity now to show their policies to the people of Queensland. Members opposite are absolute cowards, and they are all associated with that cowardly, dishonest, Bjelke-Petersen National Party Government. They have the absolute arrogance to try to peddle themselves as honest people. They are the same people who sat with Bjelke-Petersen; they are the same dishonest mob. They are a horrid crew who sat as part of that Government for all those years. They are still dishonest and they are still not prepared to be frank and straight with the people of Queensland.

The Opposition wants to drop its policies out at the last minute. It does not want them debated; it does not want them to face the bright light of day and the scrutiny of the people of Queensland. Opposition members are cowards, and they should own up to that cowardice.

Mr Pearce: By the speakers list, we have another four hours of whingeing and whining ahead of us.

Mr FENLON: I look forward to it, because every time they get up and whinge and whine it confirms everything that we have known and expected of them.

Mr De Lacy: I don't look forward to it.

Mr FENLON: While we will not enjoy it, we will all suffer together. Every time they stand up to make a contribution, every syllable that they utter confirms what they are about. They are about cowardice, because they will not present their policies to the people of Queensland. They are knockers, whingers and whiners.

Ms Power: I've got my money on the member for Charters Towers. I'm waiting for his comments.

Mr FENLON: There are sure to be some shining efforts in the whingeing and whining stakes, but they will all be the same. We can be guaranteed that their content will

all be the same and that they will not contain policies. The people of Queensland are safe from any glimmer of policy today, and they will be for a while yet.

In contrast to that, what we do have in Queensland today is a vision, strategies and measures to face the fundamental issues with which Queenslanders have to deal. These initiatives are practical, commonsense ways of dealing with fundamental issues, such as the fight against crime. This Budget contains an allocation of \$6.3m to change police penalty rates, which means that there will be more operational police on our streets at night and weekends. This is a fundamental, practical thing that the National Party never even thought of. This is policy; this is change. It is happening and it is before us in this Budget. I will be making sure that the citizens in my police region will have their share of the 500 new operational police who will come on stream as a result of allocation from this Budget.

The members opposite did a little bit of counting. Some of those who got their paper bags are still in this place. They were good at counting then; they had an impeccable understanding of mathematics then. However, when it comes to counting the realities that have come out of this Budget, such as 500 additional police, they have a lot of trouble and they have to go back to school.

In my electorate, the Police Service is being aided by CRISP, the new computerised crime intelligence system, which has actually helped reduce crime in my local police district. The extra police will strengthen such initiatives and drive those initiatives even further towards reducing crime. The Police budget is up 77.5 per cent, to \$541m Statewide, giving us 2,000 more police on the streets since the Nationals were in power in 1989. That hurts members opposite. They do not like those mathematics, but it is true and the people in my electorate know that it is true.

Under Labor, my local police district budget has already nearly trebled, from \$5.5m to \$15.9m. In that district, police numbers have already increased from 144 in 1989 to 335 today. That is an increase of 132 per cent. Again, the Opposition does not seem to be able to understand or follow those mathematics, but they are true.

A new property crime squad has been set up, and the Opposition does not like that either because it is achieving results. That does not allow them the opportunity to go out, as they had for the 32 years before we came to power, and create fear in the community.

That property crime squad is achieving real results.

The new Criminal Code will also be the fundamental, underpinning factor within this Budget. It will crack down on perpetrators of violent crime and crimes against property. The penalty for break-ins, for example, is doubled. This legislation is very popular with my constituents. They realise that the penalties have been in need of increase, especially those for crime against the person. People know that this legislation will have effect and that it will provide a law that is applicable to today's circumstances. As I said before, \$6.3m is allocated to change police penalty rates, and that will have an enormous effect in terms of the distribution of working hours of police.

The Goss Government's biggest ever Health budget targets shorter waiting lists and re-equipment of our hospitals. These are fundamental, practical issues to take us further. We will employ more doctors and nurses to help Queensland's free hospital system meet the population pressure that is facing it. I know that members opposite had the opportunity to put plans in place when they were here; but no, even for the last six to nine years of their Government they were not even looking at government. They were too busy fighting among themselves. The old National/Liberal Party tensions just festered and grew over those last six to nine years when they were limping along, and they did not bother about government at all. They were interested in the sideshows of government that went on. There were nice little sideshows here and there. However, the hard planning that was required did not occur, especially after the National Party decided not to take the Whitlam money back in the early seventies. Members will find this very constructive, because they have had their heads buried in the sand. They did not bother planning—

Mr Santoro: Why did you have to bring in Llew Edwards after six years of Labor administration?

Mr FENLON: The Nationals and Liberals did not bother to even use people like Llew Edwards in those years to assist in making sure that the hospital system was well planned and catered for, because they did not have planning in those years. That is the answer. Members opposite do not like it. They do not like the fact that they did not have Llew Edwards and those people working on a decent plan in Queensland. They did not have a Health plan. They let the public hospital system bop along in those years, and they did

nothing about it. They did not look after it. They did not take the Whitlam money—as did the other States—to fix up the hospital system, and it has been thumping along badly ever since, to the extent today that the PA Hospital does not even match today's fundamental nursing care requirements. I will give members an example.

I went to the PA Hospital recently with the honourable member for Bulimba, as we had enough interest to go through the place to find out what is going on. The modern beds that are needed for modern nursing care do not fit through the doorways. That is just a structural problem that nurses have to confront every day of the week at the PA Hospital.

Ms Spence: Is that at the PA?

Mr FENLON: At the PA Hospital. Patients have to be taken out of beds, put on a stretcher, put on a bed that fits through the doorways, put outside and put onto another bed, etc. Modern nursing beds are particular technological devices. They are larger than the old ones. They do not fit through the doorways any more. Even though we have been pouring money into those places—and pouring money into the PA Hospital is a prime example—the way that funding is applied is inevitably inefficient simply by the sheer structure of the place.

Ms Spence: It needs refurbishing.

Mr FENLON: Yes, as the member for Mount Gravatt indicates, it needs refurbishing, and that is exactly what is happening now. Opposition members resent this, too. They do not want to see change. They want to create more fear among the population and tell people that they are not going to be looked after—but they are, because changes are in place at the PA Hospital, announcements have been made, and the jackhammers will be disturbing the peace out there very soon. The fact is that the accident emergency area is going to be redeveloped. There will be a whole new cardiac and intensive care centre set up in the very near future. The very expensive high-technology equipment and imaging equipment that is badly needed there is on its way. Honourable members opposite do not like that, either.

Ms Spence: Some wards will have to be moved to QE II while the PA is refurbished.

Mr FENLON: I thank the honourable member for her interjection. Honourable members opposite do not even have the sense to support the policies that this Government has put in place. In the bad old

days, they built the QE II Hospital as a public relations exercise without any planning. It stands as a monument to bad planning, and it has been standing there empty all these years. It has just been a farce. It was put there to prop up a couple of local National Party members, but the previous Government did not bother to fill it up. Specialisation in hospitals is the hallmark of the system.

A decent range of comprehensive specialities should be provided in hospitals, especially in the metropolitan area, so that there is the critical mass to provide the service. However, when the Government moves a medical specialty from one hospital to another, honourable members opposite are critical of that. They want to have a little country hospital model in the middle of a city area, but that is not the idea of modern nursing and care. They do not even have the sense to change their minds, support these policies and go along with the changes that are in place. They still want to hark back to the bad old days. They still want to have QE II Hospital vacant, and they still want to have the PA Hospital limping along without the changes that we put in place.

We put in place the \$1.5 billion Hospital Rebuilding Program, yet all we hear is harping, knocking, whingeing and whining from the member for Toowoomba South, who runs around creating fear and ignorance in the population. He does not have policies, and he cannot match the policies that we put in place. All he has to back him up in terms of the power drive behind him—the economic power drive behind him—is "Bankcard" Joan. He can run around and wave around his shrouds, but that is all he has to back him up in terms of the economic drive that we are going to need to change this State.

Mr De Lacy: You would reckon they would stick up for Queensland.

Mr FENLON: One would think that honourable members opposite would stick up for Queensland, but they do not. They are trying to present an image to the rest of Australia—to take us back to the old days when Queensland was a joke. They want us to go back there, but we will not. We are going to stick with Queensland people and take them forward. This Government has leadership and vision. Members opposite are cowards. They are hiding in their rooms. They will not come down here and present any sort of policy to the people of Queensland. They are hiding under their desks. They will not present their policies. I look forward to the passing of the Budget. Even though we are

going to suffer, I am going to enjoy it because every syllable spoken by members opposite is going to confirm that they do not have policies, they are whingers and whiners and they do not care. The young people of Queensland will also be taught the fundamentals—the basics—of education with this Budget, which is a good Education budget. It is the biggest ever Education budget that we have had in Queensland. It provides \$13m for direct help to P & Cs and \$9.2m for more computers to prepare our children for the competitive future they face. The Schools Refurbishment Program, which has our schools well maintained—

Time expired.

Mr LINGARD (Beaudesert—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.28 a.m.): In 1988, the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr Goss, made Queenslanders a promise that—

"Just as business has prospered under the economic stewardship of John Cain in Victoria and John Bannon in South Australia, so too will business prosper under a Goss Labor Government in Queensland."

In those States, we saw massive asset sales and massive dividends from corporatisation. Unfortunately, the record of other economically impoverished Labor regimes is repeating itself in Queensland. This is a big spending Labor Budget to rival those of Cain or Bannon. The Goss Government wants voters to believe that big spending is the magic solution to the chronic breakdown in service provision in this State. But as the Opposition has stated time and time again in this House, big spending means nothing unless the money is being spent wisely, effectively and efficiently. That is where Labor is failing the people of Queensland. After six years, Labor has shown that it cannot manage. It cannot overcome the power of the bureaucrats who have no responsibility to the people and who simply depend on the Government for their existence.

Since 1989, the Goss Labor Government has outstripped every other State Government in the country. It has the fastest rate of spending seen since John Cain brought down Victoria. Expenditure in this Budget outstrips Labor's first Budget in 1990-91 by some 43 per cent. But have we seen a corresponding improvement in service provision? No! Have we seen a 43 per cent increase in the number of police? No!

I refer to the brochure that has been distributed in the Logan area. The Police Union's concern about policing has led it to

deliver a brochure in the Logan/Beenleigh area and forced it to make comments about policing in general. That brochure is headed, "Do you feel safe in your homes?" and carries the subheading, "The Thin Blue Line". In that brochure the union states—

"Not enough police to protect you."

Those union members know that the policy for calculating the numbers in each police station is to take the number of existing police, add the number of recruits who are being trained at Oxley, divide by the number of stations and that is the number of police officers for those stations. The brochure further states—

"Over 40 Unfilled vacancies in your area".

I know that newspapers have carried criticisms of that brochure, but the union members in the Logan police district which covers my electorate—Beaudesert, Jimboomba, Beenleigh and Mount Tamborine—say that there are 40 unfilled positions. Police who have been transferred from those positions have not been replaced. The union says that that is a vacancy, and clearly it is. If a person has been seconded to another place then, clearly, that has created a vacancy. There are 40 unfilled positions in the Logan/Beenleigh area.

The brochure continues—

"Community Policing is failing".

Honourable members will remember the last Lantern Awards. They are special awards given by the Police Service for special community services in Queensland. Who won it? The Logan police won it. With what? They won it with the Kids and Cops Program. But the Kids and Cops Program had already been disbanded when that award was presented to them. It was disbanded because the police officers were not allowed to attend the Kids and Cops meetings while they were on duty. It has been disbanded, yet that award was presented by the Queensland Police Service with the Minister and the Police Commissioner present. That program was selected for an award even though it was no longer in operation.

The brochure continues—

"Police response time increases".

That is certainly the case in the Beaudesert and Jimboomba areas. On a Sunday night, people cannot get access to police on the 000 number unless they continue to ring and ring and then impress upon the police that it is a matter of urgency.

The brochure further states—

"Pro-active campaigns are non-existent".

No preventive measures have been taken by the Police Service. I have spoken with police officers who have told me that when they come on duty at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, they have 10 jobs which they need to deal with immediately. So I certainly support the Logan police in their efforts to carry their message to the public.

However, what was the answer from the Government and the media? The answer from Tony Koch published in the *Courier-Mail* was nothing but a vicious attack on the Police Union, and especially on one particular member of that union. Whatever Tony Koch's reasons were for doing that hatchet job, which I do not believe was a professional approach by a journalist, the police at Logan still have their problems and Mr Koch knows that. I believe that it is the right of the police, if they have continued to make representations to the Minister and they have continued to be knocked back, to continue distributing that brochure which they have delivered to all of the residents in the Logan/Beenleigh area.

Have we seen a similar increase in the number of doctors and nurses, hospital beds or a matching decrease in hospital waiting lists? Clearly, we have not. Have we removed oversized classes from the school system? No, we have not. As Mr Mackie said at the start of this year, last year 13 per cent of primary school classes were oversized and 8 per cent of secondary school classes were oversized. Do we have a better deal for rural communities? The answer to all these questions is, sadly, "No, we have not."

It is to Labor's universal discredit that front-line services for ordinary Queenslanders have stagnated, despite millions being poured into the system. Consider the massive capital works budget. Closer inspection of that document reveals that many of the so-called new initiatives are leftovers from last year's Budget. They are stale and empty promises. On Wednesday, I went to Rockhampton. The people in that town are bitter about the fact that funding for a psychiatric unit of \$4.1m that had been announced last year was announced again this year. Funding for a community health centre of \$3.8m continues to be announced. As the member for Albert knows, the Waterford bridge has been announced in the past three Budgets. In each of those Budgets \$15m has been allocated, but work still has not started. I suppose it will be started next year. The people are entitled to ask: where have those three lots of \$15m gone?

All we have seen are rehashed figures and rehashed Budgets from a tired Government that simply fails to live up to its rhetoric. The voters of Queensland are sick and tired of that rhetoric. They are sick of the stunts and the cheap tricks. And they are sick of the backdoor taxes that this Government is raking off them.

Under this Government, State-based revenue has skyrocketed. It has jumped a staggering 58.5 per cent. Yet the Premier and the Treasurer want the people of Queensland to believe them when they say, "No new taxes." It has the same phoney ring as the Keating tax cuts that were l-a-w. Goss has taken a leaf out of Keating's book. So much of the proposed expenditure is in two or three-year programs, or 10-year programs like the hospital capital works program. It is off in that post-election never-never land. It is a Labor hoax. Today, they talk big figures and big expenditure. But whether it ever materialises tomorrow is doubtful. That phantom funding just sits there to make the books look good.

The Government has been trying to make as much mileage as it can from the cuts to stamp duty on share transactions. That is also a diversion—a red herring to draw attention away from the massive increase in the tax take. But this cut in stamp duty on share transfers does nothing for the battler. It does nothing for the man in the street. Labor has dumped its traditional supporters in favour of the big corporations that will benefit from this tax cut. The Deputy Premier is often having a go at banks about their fees and charges. If this Government was serious about looking after the pensioners and the battlers, it would have cut its bank accounts debits tax. Instead, the tax take on the everyday operating accounts of ordinary Queenslanders is to rise by 10.5 per cent this year. What a sham!

On the revenue side, corporatisation is the major ingredient of the Treasurer's Budget magic pudding. It is the ingredient that fills and re-fills the coffers. There has been a 900 per cent revenue increase from corporatisation during the life of this Government to underwrite the spending frenzy. In 1994-95, the Goss Government reaped a total of \$368.8m in dividends and tax equivalents from corporatised bodies. This year the figure is \$537m, which is a massive 45.6 per cent increase.

The tills are ringing, thanks mainly to the electricity industry. It is the major contributor to this revenue pot of gold. Last year, it paid a staggering \$235m in dividends and tax

equivalents, forming nearly 65 per cent of the Government's total corporatisation profits. But this Government, brimming with its usual stinginess, said, "Don't worry. We will take \$235m from the electricity industry, but we will give \$35m back as a community service obligation." What a stingy amount! While \$235 million is taken out at one end, honourable members should consider what is happening at the service end.

The Beaudesert Electricity Savers Team, referred to as BEST, was recently kicked off in my electorate. The BEST program is a response to the Goss Government's corporate raiding of profits from the newly corporatised electricity industry. SEQEB knows that unless it cuts electricity usage it will have to provide some expensive capital infrastructure. So it knows that it must have a saving scheme. I do not mind programs encouraging the use of fluorescent lights or the reduction of energy use by schools, but I am certainly concerned to hear that SEQEB is now saying to the farmers that it will cut out their irrigators between half past six and half past nine at night. What a decision! At present, in a trial program, it is asking for volunteers to take part in that scheme by offering them financial reimbursement in order to establish whether it can cut out an irrigator at 6.30 p.m. and throw an impulse through it and start it again at 9.30 p.m..

What a ridiculous decision! To say to a group of people in a community, "Your irrigators cannot be used between half past 6 and half past 9" is not even an ecologically sound decision, because farmers have to irrigate for a certain period of time. Does that mean that they have to irrigate during the day? Those fellows sit there and take the \$235m that the QEC presents; but at the other end—the service end—they say to the poor old farmer, "Your irrigators cannot be used between half past 6 and half past 9 at night, especially during the winter period, especially when the demand exists."

There is no money in the kitty to build the infrastructure that is needed to meet the consumer demand. The Government has taken it all under corporatisation. This is why the electricity industry is desperately searching for methods to slash demand. That has had to be done to head off the crunch in 1998 when demand will exceed the system's ability to supply. SEQEB's answer is that it is easier to switch off the power for people when the load is excessive or, as SEQEB executives say, "Shift energy from peak periods to other times of the day." SEQEB's BEST program has far wider and more sinister implications for

electricity users, particularly primary producers across the State. SEQEB's Chairman, Mr Popple, admitted that at the launch of the BEST program in Beaudesert earlier this year. Irrigators are one of the principal targets of this load-shedding program. My concern is that as the program spreads Statewide and Government demand on the industry fund increases—as Labor's revenue greed will dictate it will—the voluntary nature of power cuts under the pilot BEST program will be rescinded. Blackouts will be more frequent and longer than promised, and compensatory discounts may be withdrawn.

This Government fails to recognise that access to electricity supply is a person's fundamental right. This Government has a duty of care to ensure its uninterrupted supply and not to use the QEC as a milch cow so that Labor can spend up big and look good for State elections.

The corporatisation of business units within the Department of Administrative Services is also an interesting budgetary ploy. Those business units provide services to other Government departments for a fee and the profits that they make go straight back to consolidated revenue in the form of dividends and tax equivalents. It smacks of the productivity dividend, in which a percentage of departmental budgets is lopped off and remains in consolidated revenue. The mechanism is different, but the result is the same. Departments are paying increased levies to include a profit margin for the services of the business units in the Department of Administrative Services, and the profits go back to Treasury.

Again this year, the Government's total revenue from corporatised bodies rises, primarily owing to the corporatisation of Queensland Rail and the water supply industries. Already, we have seen the impact of the rail fiasco on rural communities. To make Queensland Rail more profitable, this Labor Government decided it would remove those unprofitable lines. The then Minister for Transport and Queensland Rail made up a hit list targeting one-third of this State's rail network. One-third! The Goss Government did not want loss-making units in Queensland Rail to drag down the corporate profit margins. It did not care about the rural communities who used those rail lines. It was only the public outcry and vilification of this Government's actions that saved those lines from immediate extinction. I say "immediate extinction" because those lines are still under threat. The Government has been fiddling around with the services on those lines—changing timetables

and the like. Rail schedules to a number of remote areas throughout the State have been altered to the point that lines are virtually unserviceable for regular freight transport. Rail closures through rail chaos is the secret agenda here. The Thallon-Dirranbandi service is an example. Queensland Rail's mandarins made the prospect of carrying freight on that line impossible. To send something from Toowoomba took three days via Brisbane, and freight cartage on the line has been plummeting. The people cannot use it; it is unworkable.

Water resources are also to be corporatised. However, this Government has failed to outline its water charging policies. It has kept them secret. That is no surprise, considering the sneaky and underhanded way in which it went about drafting the tree-clearing and natural resource management guidelines. In August 1993, the Government issued a water pricing policy options paper. To date, the Government has hidden its water pricing plan deliberately. Rural communities should not trust the Government on this issue. The 1993 options paper canvasses increases in water charges across-the-board, including charges on unregulated water supplies as well as full cost recovery on infrastructure and water supply, with an additional profit component thrown in.

The great danger with the Goss corporatisation plan is that it will head down the same path as the Cain Labor Government, which used corporatised authorities as a milch cow and whittled down their capital by seizing dividends greater than their profits. Assets sales have also contributed to the revenue recipe. Just look at the ongoing disposal of assets. Since it came to Government, the Goss Government has raided in excess of \$400m from the State's asset base.

Much of the recent asset disposal program is concentrated in rural rationalisation centres identified under the Government Employee Housing Scheme. The Minister for Administrative Services, facing criticism of this blatant cash grab over rural and regional assets, stuck his neck out and promised that \$20.4m would be reinvested in public service housing in rural and regional areas. In one of the numerous letters to the editor that the Minister wrote to rural papers on this score, he stated—

"Rural and isolated communities now know exactly where we will be building 86 homes"—

86 homes, he said—

"this financial year. Other homes will be upgraded."

This week in Parliament, the Minister revealed that nowhere near that amount had been built. In fact, the Budget documents show that only 34 have been built. Leaked Administrative Services Department documents show that the intended budget for new houses in rural areas was just \$10m plus \$5m for routine maintenance. That falls way short of the Minister's promised \$20.4m. I estimate that the 34 new houses that the Minister did manage to build would have cost no more than \$5m—that is, if they came in on budget. So what happened to the balance of the revenue? Where is the money? Obviously, it has gone into consolidated revenue.

The Government is secretly planning to introduce market rate rents for public servants in rural and regional areas. I have documents that show that a Cabinet decision in July 1994 approved further investigation of this option by the Department of Administrative Services. The department has carried out close to 4,000 inspections and valuations, including valuations of market rents. The results of this research were to be provided to Cabinet early this year to consider the introduction of market value rents. However, that has been deferred until after the election because, obviously, it is such a hot potato. Public servants should be on notice: this Government is revenue hungry. It did not go to the trouble of valuing market rents for the heck of it. Market value rents for public service housing are very much on Labor's agenda.

There is no better example of this Government's inability to manage than the Department of Administrative Services. Wasteful incompetence is behind the budgetary blow-outs on both the Brisbane and Cairns Convention Centre projects. However, the whole fiasco has evolved from one of bungling incompetence to one of political corruption of public accountability. Of course, I refer to the PWC's squashing of a public inquiry into this unacceptable waste of public money. This Government runs a mile from accountability for its expenditure.

I will finish on that note because, obviously, a lot of money has been wasted by this Government. The budget for the convention centre was supposedly \$140m. It then went to \$170m. Now it is \$203m. Clearly, the dogs are barking that the cost is much, much more.

Mr SANTORO (Clayfield—Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) (11.49 a.m.): Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition

described the 1995-96 Goss Labor Budget as a Budget of missed opportunities, of attempted patch-ups, of sneaky taxes, of book fiddles and a Budget lacking in the vision that should be possessed by any Government running this great State of ours.

Mr Fenlon interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: I rise to a point of order. The honourable the member for Clayfield is trying to make a speech and interjections that have no relevance at all to the debate are being made.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Bredhauer): Order! The member for Greenslopes will cease intersecting. There is no point of order. I call the member for Clayfield.

Mr SANTORO: I wish to go one step further and say that it is this Goss Labor Budget which, more than the previous five Goss Labor Budgets, tells Queenslanders clearly that this is the Labor Government that is no different from the Labor Governments that have sent other Australian States broke.

It is a Budget which, through its assumptions and its forecasts, is an admission of defeat and rapidly accelerating economic decline in a State that would be able to provide its people with so much more if only the Goss Labor Government and the Treasurer could manage its rich resources. In the time available to me, I do not wish to elaborate on what is, as my colleagues have already demonstrated, a massive collapse of service delivery under the Goss Labor Government. The people of Queensland understand very well that this Budget is a big-spending Labor Budget, with the expenditure part of the equation being \$11.65 billion. People also understand that it is a big-taxing Labor Budget, with total revenue predicted to come in at \$11.6 billion.

I am sure that Queenslanders, although reluctantly, would be prepared to stomach the massive increase in Government taxation if only they knew that they were receiving value for their tax dollars and if only they knew that their money—and I stress "their money"—was being well spent by the Government. Unfortunately, that is not the case, and all Queenslanders know intuitively and explicitly that they are much worse off today in terms of Government service delivery than was the case in 1989 when the Goss Labor Party came to power.

My colleagues on this side of the House have spoken about and demonstrated in a very eloquent way the tragedy of long hospital

waiting queues, the rapidly escalating rate of violent crime and break and enters in our suburbs, increasing class sizes, the mechanical and technological decline of the equipment used by our emergency services, and the collapse of morale and confidence within our public service. No amount of justification and false self-glorification by members opposite will convince honourable members on this side of the House—or, indeed, any reasonable Queenslander—that we are better off today than we were when the mob opposite took over the financial and administrative running of this State.

The fact is that the people of Queensland will not be fooled by the Government's rhetoric, because they are experiencing the pain of the Government's con job, so much so that many honourable members on the other side of the House will not be returning to this place after the next election. The people will pass harsh judgment on the Government's squandering of their hard-earned tax dollars, which it is confiscating in ever-increasing amounts year after year. They will judge with great severity the Government's abysmal neglect of social and industry infrastructure, and its social engineering and politicisation of the public service. They will look closely at the declining economic indicators, the record level of strike and industrial disputation in this State and the missed opportunities. At the ballot box, the people of this State will say that the Government is not good enough. And as they go about doing so, all that they—and, indeed, we—need to do is to look at the assumptions and at the forecasts contained in the Treasurer's Budget documents to realise that this is a Budget based on passiveness and on admissions that the economic Goss Labor Government roller-coaster for the State of Queensland is well and truly on.

So what do the Budget documents tell us about the Government expectations for the Queensland economy? Let us look at the assumptions and forecasts that the Treasurer would not want us to talk about. On page 2 of the Treasurer's *Budget Overview*, the Government admits that growth in the economy is expected to moderate. Therefore, the Government acknowledges that it cannot keep the State's growth rate at its present level. In other words, the Government is at a loss to sustain the current level of performance.

On page 12 of the same document, the Goss Labor Government says that real growth in gross State product—that is, economic growth—will be 5.5 per cent for 1994-95, and

only 4.3 per cent for 1995-96. In other words, growth will occur, but it will be less this year than it was last year. What the Government is admitting is that it is unable to sustain the growth of the State. On page 22 of the *Budget Overview*, we are provided with the forecasts on private gross fixed capital expenditure. As honourable members on this side of the House have said, private gross fixed capital expenditure has been falling in Queensland every year since 1992 and is expected to be negative in 1995-96. This is a very bad statistic for the Government. This means that the Government is expecting a reduction in the amount of money being spent on private fixed capital, and that is caused in the main by reduced expenditure on dwellings.

Growth in business investment is expected to fall by more than half, from 18.7 per cent to 7.3 per cent, this being due to a reduction in the growth in non-dwelling construction from 15.4 per cent to 9.7 per cent and the huge drop in the growth of plant and equipment investment from 20.6 per cent to 5.9 per cent. This data compares unfavourably with the national equivalent growth figures. National private gross fixed capital expenditure will grow by 4.2 per cent, while Queensland's will fall by 2.7 per cent. National business investment will grow by 13 per cent, but in Queensland it will grow by only 7.3 per cent. National plant and equipment investment growth will be 11 per cent, but in Queensland it will be only 5.9 per cent. So much for this Government's boast that Queensland is the leading State! That boast is a joke, and the figures that I have cited—which are the Treasurer's own figures—clearly prove this.

I am sure that all members in this place would agree that the key determinant of sustained long-term economic growth is business investment. In Queensland, the rate of business investment is falling, while in the rest of Australia it is increasing. If this trend continues, it will quickly result in the rest of Australia catching up to and surpassing Queensland's performance in the very near future. The other and related statistic which is equally interesting is the forecast of public final demand.

Mr J. H. Sullivan interjected.

Mr SANTORO: To try to make up for the decline in growth in private sector spending, the Queensland Government is increasing public spending. According to the Budget documents, public final demand in Queensland will be 4.6 per cent compared

with 3.5 per cent in the rest of Australia. Clearly, the Queensland Government is attempting a typical Keynesian "spend your way out of recession" solution to the problem. This is at a time when the rest of the country is employing the more reasonable approach of encouraging growth in the private sector of the economy. But this Government is saying that, firstly, we need to look at growth in the public sector rather than in the private sector.

Clearly, Queensland is losing the edge on the other States. The growth differentials are narrowing. As Queensland is small and therefore relatively quick to respond to economic shocks and policy settings—and I am now addressing the interjection from the honourable member—it is reasonable to expect that we will enter recessions sooner but also recover sooner. If this is accepted—and I am sure that honourable members will accept this—then it is reasonable to expect the larger States to start outperforming Queensland soon as their huge productive capacity comes back on line as a result of enlightened non-Labor policies.

In addition, Queensland did not suffer the dramatic financial collapses of the southern States and so we did not go into deep recession as did the rest of the country. So it should have been easier to recover from the recession in this State. And that is why this Goss Labor Budget represents a missed opportunity. Rather than containing forecasts which reflect the inherent strength of the Queensland economy and its prudent financial management, we have been given by the Treasurer a set of figures which admit defeat and decline. The Treasurer is setting us all up for the fall, and it is a disgrace that as he does so his public rhetoric perpetrates the con of the past five Labor Budgets. And, of course, we heard about the vast increase in total taxes and charges outlined in great detail by the shadow Treasurer in her reply to the Budget yesterday. For the sake of avoiding repetition, I will not go on about that issue. However, the vast increase represents a very real increase in the burden carried by Queensland business and again represents a missed opportunity by this big-spending and big-taxing Labor Government. There are also one or two hidden and vicious tax slugs which I, but obviously not the Treasurer, feel are worth talking about.

When considering the growth of revenue, it is interesting to note that on page 6 of the *Budget Overview* the Goss Government is quoting Consolidated Fund aggregate percentage growth as the increase from

estimated actual to Budget. It could be argued that a better indicator is from Budget to Budget, as this takes into account the underlying growth in the Government's intention to raise revenue. Members will recall that in 1994-95, the estimated actual revenues are expected to exceed the budgeted revenues by about 3.9 per cent. If this occurs again this year, the increase in revenues from the 1994-95 estimated actual to the 1995-96 estimated actual will be the sum of the Government's quoted growth rate plus the blow-out of 3.9 per cent. This would result in an increase in taxes, fees and fines of about 9 per cent. This growth in revenue is more in line with the Government's stated increases in expenditure of about 8 per cent, plus the small increase in the underlying surplus.

On page 30 of the *Budget Overview*, the Treasurer seeks to present his data from a Budget to estimate angle, not estimated actual to estimate. This gives an increase in taxes, fees and fines of 8.7 per cent, not the 5.1 per cent quoted by the Government, and an increase in total State revenue of 11.7 per cent, not the 6.2 per cent quoted by the Treasurer. This is far in excess of any economic growth being achieved and is therefore hard to pass off as the result of increases in economic activity.

We have heard quite a bit about the decrease in certain taxes by the Government in this Budget and in particular the reductions in payroll tax and stamp duty on share transactions. I wish to touch briefly on the issue of payroll tax and stamp duty. The Opposition acknowledges that the increase in the payroll tax threshold is good, but it is slow in its application and the decrease is too low. Government members need to be reminded that, when previous non-Labor Governments increased the threshold, it was done in 50,000 lots and those amounts applied immediately. That is not the case in this Budget. Government members would appreciate that payroll tax is a tax on jobs and that it should be reduced as much as possible. Considering that the payroll tax revenue for the first time will exceed \$1 billion, the threshold should have been raised even more to attack the youth unemployment problem and to ease the burden on the struggling business sector. Members will recall that the Government is expecting an underlying surplus of about \$450m, which could be used to immediately reduce the tax on jobs by almost 50 per cent.

Another very negative aspect of the taxing specifics of this Budget is the huge increase in the stamp duty which is payable

on the purchase of residential property. Because of their lack of diligence Government members may not be aware of the detail, but I can inform them that the Budget gives effect to an increase from 1 per cent to 2.88 per cent in the stamp duty payable on that part of the purchase price of a house which is in excess of \$250,000. If the property is being purchased for an investment purpose, then the rate increases to 3.43 per cent.

All honourable members represent a large number of constituents who live in suburbs and localities in which house values do exceed \$250,000. From this point onwards, the stamp duty that they will have to pay will increase by either 188 per cent or 243 per cent, which I am sure all Government members would appreciate is well and truly above the expected rate of inflation.

Mr De Lacy: That's got nothing to do with this Budget. That was two years ago.

Mr SANTORO: The Treasurer could not answer a question asked of him at a breakfast the other day. They had to send him a letter, which he has still not answered.

Mr De Lacy: That was two years ago.

Mr SANTORO: I am talking about the stamp duty provisions contained in this Budget. I say to the Treasurer that this sounds like the continuation of class warfare, and it is another example of how class-conscious this Labor Government is.

This Budget does very little to enhance the welfare of the people of Queensland. Queenslanders will continue to suffer from the chronic lack of service delivery that they have come to expect from this Government. They will continue to pay high taxes, fees and charges. They will continue to experience the ever-increasing incidence of crime in our suburbs and a public hospital system in decay. I heard the honourable member who preceded me claim how wonderful the public hospital system is, but he would not take an interjection and tell us why somebody who tried to gain access to one of our public hospitals could not do so and ended up camping in a public park and then catching a cab home.

We have an education system stretched to the limit, with ever-increasing class sizes and stressed-out teachers; we see the destruction of the environment and rare natural habitats for the sake of road construction, about which the public has not even been consulted; we see the collapse of morale and motivation within an increasingly politicised public service, and all of this despite

the massive increase in taxation and expenditure that has been forced on Queensland by the Goss Labor Government and the Treasurer. This is further proof of the point that Labor Governments cannot manage money; they squander inheritances left to them by non-Labor Governments and impose administrative and vindictive nightmares on their public servants.

At an electorate level, the complaints about the Goss Labor Government echo those of wider Queensland. My electorate of Clayfield is no exception, for Clayfield—just like every other electorate—has suffered a massive decline in and, in many cases, a massive withdrawal of Government services. The examples are crystal clear, and I will mention a few of them for the edification of all members, but particularly for the edification of Government members, who claim that Queenslanders are better off under the Goss Labor Government.

Try telling my constituents in Whinstanes, Eagle Junction, Clayfield, Ascot, Hamilton, Nundah, Doomben, Albion, Hendra, Pinkenba, Woolloowin and Kalinga, who have seen their police stations effectively closed down, that they are better off in terms of law and order. The police stations in Hamilton, Clayfield and Nundah have been effectively closed down; they have been shop-fronted and a cluster system which is rejected totally by my constituents has been implemented. I can speak with authority on this subject, because I conducted a survey of all my constituents and that is what they told me. They told me of slow response rates; they told me of the declining confidence that they have in the capacity of the Police Service to police their suburbs. They want the restoration of genuine law and order services within the electorate of Clayfield and right across Queensland. My constituents say that just having a police officer at a police station answering phones and not being able to respond immediately to a local crime situation is not good enough.

Try telling those residents within my electorate that the closure of the Eagle Junction-Pinkenba branch line was a good thing and that the substitute minibus rail service represents a better service. Try telling them that it was necessary to close that branch rail service because it was running at approximately a \$250,000 loss, and then try telling them that the other branch lines throughout Queensland that were also running at a loss were not closed. That action was taken because the then Minister for

Transport required rolling stock for a new line that was running through his electorate.

Try telling the people who live near and experience the Nundah bottleneck that a solution to that problem is not overdue and should not be implemented forthwith. This Government has been sitting on proposed solutions arrived at by the Transport Department after extensive consultation. Again this Government sits on its hands because it is too mean-minded to spend the dollars. It will use the excuse that there is an inquiry under way, but there has been inquiry after inquiry by this Government into that problem.

Mr Fenlon interjected.

Mr SANTORO: The people of Clayfield and Nundah want a solution to be implemented. They want some of the billions of dollars that this Government says it spends wisely to be spent on eliminating the Nundah bottleneck—

Mr Nuttall interjected.

Mr SANTORO:—which will lead to an increase in the welfare not only of the people in my electorate but also those represented by many other members, including those who mindlessly interject. Do Government members not want to see the Nundah bottleneck solved? I note that they do not say anything about that, because if they did they would be condemned by their constituents, who also have trouble getting into the city through the Nundah bottleneck.

There is also the great farce of the failed experiment of the airport tollway, which the people of Clayfield overturned by sheer force of numbers and people power.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SANTORO: I take the interjection from the honourable member. Modesty prevents me from putting the point any more strongly—it was due to good representation by their local member.

The people of the electorate of Clayfield and the people of Queensland in general will not be conned. They are not getting value for money from this Treasurer and from this Government. This is a big-spending Labor Budget, but it falls down on service delivery. I am confident that many Government members who spoke during this debate have now delivered their last speech in this Chamber.

Mr VEIVERS (Southport) (12.09 p.m.): In presenting this year's Budget, the Treasurer told us that it reaps the rewards of six years of

hard work and commitment to fiscal discipline. The truth is that it represents the sixth time that the Goss Government has gambled on growth. This Budget smacks of a lack of vision. The Goss Government has proved that it lacks the skills to develop and utilise cash management. In 1989, the coalition Government handed over to the Treasurer \$894m. According to this year's Budget, there will be only \$2.3m left in the kitty by June 1996. What a rip-off! Where has it all gone? Perhaps the Government should take heed of the members on this side of the Chamber, the side that has a record of building Queensland from strength to strength.

The Premier and the Treasurer are taking us from weak to weaker. How many cranes are in the Queensland skies? How many kilometres of railway electrification have occurred under this Government? How many power stations has it built to keep the lights on in Queensland? None! We had a brownout on the Gold Coast the other night and we are not even into winter yet! This week we have heard the rhetoric of the Premier, the Treasurer and even the Prime Minister about how rosy it is in Queensland. It is a great place, I agree, but it should be better for all Queenslanders, not just for the few who want to toe the line and get into bed with this Government.

I suggest that Mr Goss, Mr De Lacy and Mr Keating try to persuade to that view a large group of people within my electorate on the Gold Coast, where a survey to be released this weekend shows quite a different picture. This survey shows high youth unemployment—26.5 per cent for the 15 to 19-year-old group. It shows that 46 per cent of families in the Southport Catholic parish earn less than \$30,000 a year. Many earn much less and are struggling to survive. In fact, the disparity between the wealthy and those living on subsistence levels is growing. Government members might like to talk to the real estate industry. I do not mean the high-fliers, I mean the small-business people, many of whom have been around the Southport/Labrador area contributing to the local economy and producing jobs for young locals for decades. They are at a standstill. Government members might like to talk to some of the tourism operators on the Gold Coast. Once again, I refer to the little blokes, not just the five-star groups—although even they are hurting. In recent weeks, tourism has plummeted by 40 per cent, yet the Minister for Tourism and the Treasurer keep telling us that everything is rosy.

I turn now to the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, which received a pittance

handout from the Budget to regional tourist authorities. We get promises, promises, promises from the Minister but for every year of the five years that the Labor Party has been in Government there has been no appreciable increase in funding for the areas where tourism really ticks and starts. The Minister says, "They'll be better off in the long run." Maybe he should try to convince the regional authorities of that. I can tell him now that they are far from convinced. They believe that, as a result of this Budget, they have gone backwards.

Recently, I was one of many critics of the QTTC who suggested that it was out of touch with the industry. The Minister jumped to its defence. Let me tell the Minister that the industry was not convinced then, and it was not convinced again this morning. The Minister might like to read an article in today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* headed "QTTC Boss Slammed Over Airport Claim". This is the same man who came under attack recently at a conference on the Gold Coast that was called to allow the industry to quiz QTTC executives about its role and future direction. When that QTTC boss left, most of the 200 or more people who were there were furious at the arrogance shown by him and were far from pleased at the way their industry was overseen by what they believed was a QTTC that was out of touch with the grassroots of the industry and with a "we know better than you" attitude.

Is this not a symptom of all that is wrong with the Goss Government? It emerges in just about every department. There is a great capacity to gather revenue, taxes, charges and corporate dividends, but it always needs a bigger army of bureaucrats who are put in charge of running affairs, most of whom have no street knowledge of that particular activity. The Government gets them all from down south. They are charging out of Victoria and South Australia.

I turn now to accountability—the great rock on which this Government supposedly stands and prides itself. I want to refer to what I might call a conspiracy of alliance. I am talking about the Gold Coast Indy Car event. I call it a conspiracy of alliance because of the association of the Chairman of the Indy Car Company and the *Courier-Mail* newspaper and the reluctance of that newspaper to question various aspects of the event. It is also a conspiracy of alliance because, whenever the Opposition tries to ask questions about the Indy, business leaders ring up and say, "Lay off the Indy, we don't want to see anybody knocking it."

I have been informed that the Government amended its freedom of information laws to shield the operation of this event from public scrutiny. That legislation was introduced on Tuesday to specifically exclude the Queensland Events Corporation, the Gold Coast Events Corporation and the Gold Coast Motor Events Company.

Mr Welford interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: Can this Government, Premier, Treasurer, Minister—or the interjecting member who is not sitting in his own seat—tell me the answer? Can they assure Queenslanders that none of the debts of five companies which come under the Treasury are hidden from public view? Why cannot the people of the Gold Coast who host this event be told the complete truth about it? People like to criticise us when we raise these questions. The Minister, the Premier and the Treasurer keep saying that the Opposition is knocking the event. That is totally false. We support the Indy event, but we cannot stand by when people are running to us every week of the year complaining about the management practices of this event. If these charges are untrue, let us have some proof and explanation, instead of people trying to hide it all under FOI laws.

Can the Minister tell this Parliament accurately and exactly how much this event has cost Queensland taxpayers since it first began? Is it really in the vicinity of \$87m? We want the real figures of running five race carnivals, not the figures after they may have been doctored and passed around and hidden in other areas. We want assurances that some of the debts are not hidden away in other companies or departments.

How much has come from all types of Government sources to stage this event, not just the allocation to the department, but police, transport bills, etc.? What was the overall cost of staging this event? I am given to understand that \$900,000 was the amount allocated for the huge number of police that would be required to handle the expected record crowds for this year's event. I think that the Gold Coast people, and Queensland taxpayers generally, have a right to know if in fact that was the bill for the police who were not required on the first morning and were told to go home because the attendance numbers were down. It seems that some police got to see Indy for free.

Gold Coast people are also entitled to know what was the response from the Minister to a letter containing an offer from a well-known Australian motoring identity to take

over the running of the Indy. If the offer that he made was rejected, why was it rejected? I understand that figures he mentioned in that letter cannot be refuted. I table that letter. What were the real reasons for this Government and Indy Car's management and board consistently refusing to accept offers from private operators to take over the event—an exercise promised to limit the Queensland taxpayers' contribution to the event to only \$5m a year, not the \$80m or more it has cost so far?

The Gold Coast people, and the people of Queensland, are entitled to know the justification for some of the charges made against the Indy organisation. Was a private plane used by a board member to attend the Adelaide Grand Prix? Did a former chief executive of the QTTC, who was attached to Indy, object to the payment of an account for a board member and his wife who stayed at the most expensive hotel in Los Angeles? Has there been any conflict of interest involving Tony Cochrane of IMG, which is the group engaged to chase major sponsors for the event and which was also engaged for the World Masters Games? Was there any turmoil before and during this year's event about the catering arrangements, and what was the final outcome?

Can the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing confirm or deny that he was advised by a former Chairman of the QTTC to drop the Indy? Is it true that only a few weeks after a very serious disagreement between the Minister and Mr Jim Kennedy, Mr Kennedy severed his ties with the Indy event and the QTTC? Can the public believe the answers that are given whenever questions are asked? Why was the public told that 20,000 people attended a Johnny Farnham concert during Indy this year, when everybody who lives nearby knows that that figure was probably closer to 2,000? Why were we told that there were record attendances when those figures do not appear to be backed up by police estimates and hotel bookings? I do not think that the Treasurer will be able to answer any of those questions, and we cannot find out the answers ourselves because of FOI legislation. I thought I would ask a few questions. If the Treasurer can give the answers, we will all be pleased.

Let me turn to another aspect of this Budget. The Goss Government is not, as it tries to convince us, building a better life for Queenslanders. It is merely capitalising on current population growth without implementing strategies for the future—strategies which will guarantee real productivity

growth. Although Queensland does have strong economic and financial foundations, these are merely foundations and a basis on which to build, not a reason to rest on our laurels, as the Government seems to believe. It does not know how to manage the State's assets and resources to increase productivity, investment and our prosperity.

Mr De Lacy has an incredible ability—nearly as good as the best halfback—to create positives from negatives—something not even the world's greatest scientists have been able to achieve. He is trying to force upon us the power of positive thinking—emphasising the positive aspects of the economy while neglecting all the evidence of the need for development of our economic capabilities. Mr De Lacy says that it can be seen that Queensland is leading the way in terms of economic growth by comparing our GSP and population growth with that of the rest of Australia. That sounds impressive. But it is not an accurate picture. What Queenslanders are not being told is that both population and GSP rates are declining. Why? Because Queensland is no longer the attraction it once was. The only way that GSP can improve in the face of declining population growth is by way of an increase in worker productivity or an increase in private investment. This Government is doing nothing to encourage either of those things.

This Budget's estimates of private business investment are optimistic at the best, and, at the worst, completely fallacious. For the same reason, the rate of GSP growth and the rate of population growth are falling. All of the Government's other attempts to encourage new forms of investment are yet to achieve results. The Queensland Infrastructure Financing Fund, established last year, could have been either a creative or a risk option. It now seems that it was, as we expected, a very risky one—one that in fact leaves Queenslanders worse off.

To use the words of Queensland business lecturer Terry Black, there is no role for QIFF, since it would be used to build infrastructure which is not sufficiently desired by Queenslanders. If QIFF projects do not earn a return on equity and if the Government is to maintain Queensland's zero debt status, lost income can be replaced only by increased taxes.

Mr De Lacy: Why are you talking about things you know nothing about?

Mr VEIVERS: Do not talk to me. I have run businesses and I have run them at a

profit. The Treasurer is full of rhetoric that does not come up to scratch. Economic growth cannot be maintained in the medium term without constant efforts—

Mr De Lacy interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: The Treasurer should just listen. Business has developed the productive capability of the economy.

Mr De Lacy interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: No. This is what our Labor colleagues, and the Treasurer in particular, fail to grasp. Economic growth must be underpinned by strong productivity, and honourable members opposite have not got that. The private sector in Queensland has been trying to tell the Government this for years; and they have already woken up to what is going on. When are honourable members opposite going to catch on? It is time to put in place the mechanisms which will create the growth that will ensure that our kids have a future. Drop the welfare mentality, old mate, and start doing some serious thinking about how we can safeguard and develop our State's investments. Queensland benefited during the recession of the early 1990s from increased public spending and investment required by the high levels of interstate migration.

As the Treasurer demonstrates in this year's Budget papers, that level of migration and, indeed, as I have said, the whole rate of population growth is unlikely to continue at the current levels; in fact, it is dropping off. The only way to boost exports and reduce imports and thus improve our GSP is to develop a productive economy—

Mr De Lacy: Calm down; that's better.

Mr VEIVERS: The Treasurer is taking up my time. Rather than reducing wage rights and exchange rates—

Mr De Lacy interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: I do not think the Treasurer can keep up with me, that is the trouble. More than 200 years ago, Adam Smith—

Mr De Lacy: I'm worried about you.

Mr VEIVERS: I thank the Treasurer. Adam Smith showed that the wealth of nations was best achieved by developing a productive economy rather than by increasing the ability of the State to gain revenues from it. This Budget claims a superior economic performance because Queensland's rate of growth is high in comparison with that of the rest of Australia. The rate of growth by itself is

not a proper measure of desirable economic performance. As one commentator said, "Installing bigger engines so as to go faster would not have prevented the Titanic from sinking after it struck an iceberg." What was needed was a change in course—

Mr Welford: Who said that?

Mr VEIVERS: The member should return to his correct seat. The same could be said for Queensland. Perhaps a change of Government might be more appropriate—and that might be closer than honourable members opposite think. There is a strangely foreboding similarity between Mr Goss' Budget strategies and those of a certain Mr Cain. Goss' performance is exactly parallel to Cain's. Mr Goss has launched this State into absolutely nothing. There are no cranes; there are no power stations. At least Mr Cain launched into ambitious projects that everybody knew he could not fund. The Queensland Government has allowed six years to pass before attempting anything ambitious. It had to because there is an election looming. What we need from this Government is a long-term estimate of balance between receipts and expenditures and the assumptions on which this is based. We have not got that.

Outlays must face unlimited demands, whilst receipts cannot rise faster than economic growth. With a better manager at the helm, corporatisation—or, in the language of members opposite, GOEs—could be managed successfully to produce revenue gains from increased efficiency and return higher profits to the State. However, the difference in ideology is that the Government is using the GOEs to gain excessive charges based on monopoly power, and that gain is at the expense of devaluing of public assets by inadequate maintenance.

Mr Welford: Who told you that?

Mr VEIVERS: It is true. The member should have a look at what this Government has done.

Mr Welford: Someone wrote that for you.

Mr VEIVERS: I will make the honourable member's life difficult during the Estimates.

Honourable members opposite will not fix the problem by spending more money. The problem appears to lie in the way the functions of these companies are being managed. The constraints in the GOE guidelines, which can only lead the GOEs to losses in a genuinely competitive

environment, have to be eliminated. The Government's way will not achieve international levels of productivity.

In assessing the differences in performance between the Goss and Cain Governments, there is really little to say because there are few. Tourism is on a downturn in Queensland, and no-one can tell anyone in the industry different. It has been caused by a lack of promotion by the department, and the results of its performance compared to its counterparts in other countries can be labelled only as pathetic.

The Goss Government believes that the way to rectify the problem is to throw more money at it. That is not the solution. It is our kids who will have to repay this debt one day. We should all remember the debts incurred by the Cain Government, to which I keep referring. But we know that the Goss Government simply does not have the capability of promoting Queensland, of developing the tourism industry or of increasing export sales because it does not have the initiatives. The job is not being done. Honourable members opposite want to pinch our policies so that they can look as though they are doing something. They have done nothing in the past five years. It is just like that bridge at Hindmarsh. It is at a standstill—going nowhere—because a pack of lies was told about that particular little bridge, too.

Mr Welford: How do you know?

Mr VEIVERS: The member—

Mr Welford: You'd know, wouldn't you?

Mr VEIVERS: Yes, I suppose I do, because I have been watching the news, and I have not seen Mr Tickner pop his head up from anywhere. He has gone into hiding. I think he would be in a padded cell by now. The people of Queensland, especially those involved in the tourism industry, have seen through the rhetoric of honourable members opposite. They know the truth, and they are going to speak on the day of the next State election. Private enterprise has been dead in this State for years. As a shadow Minister, I am very concerned about Queensland's future and the current management of this State.

Mrs Woodgate interjected.

Mr VEIVERS: But I am not losing sleep over it, because it is only a matter of months before we rid this State of the welfare mentality—this slow-go, no-progress approach. It is amazing how members opposite in marginal seats buck when I say that! It is also amazing that the Goss Government now has three times the number

of public servants than the previous Government.

Time expired.

Mr JOHNSON (Gregory) (12.29 p.m.) I have to reiterate the words of my colleague the member for Southport—

Mr De Lacy: Keep calm, now; keep calm.

Mr JOHNSON: I assure the Treasurer that I will keep calm. I want the Treasurer to listen, because what I have to say will be very beneficial to him as the Treasurer of the State and the members of his Government. The member for Southport made mention of the importance of the infrastructure that is going to create productivity and growth in this State. When we talk about productivity and growth, we have to talk about employment. That is exactly what this Budget does not address.

I call this the ongoing Budget. When one looks through the Department of Transport figures for 1995-96, one finds that most of the agenda is ongoing. It is ongoing all right! It is ongoing because the Government is using the figures from the previous years. I will give honourable members one classic example. I refer to the Barcaldine and the Emerald Hospitals in my electorate. In the 1993-94 Budget, \$2.9m was promised for the Emerald Hospital but never delivered. In 1994-95, \$2.9m was again promised but never delivered. Now, in 1995-96, a figure of \$8.6m has been allocated for that program and, please God, we will see some deliverance here.

The very same thing occurred in relation to the Barcaldine Hospital. In 1991-92, \$1m was promised for upgradings and renovations, but only \$0.5m was spent. In 1992-93, \$2.7m was promised for the redevelopment of that hospital but never delivered. In 1993-94, \$2.7m was still promised but never delivered. In 1994-95, \$2.7m was still promised, but only \$300,000 was spent and the rest was never delivered. Now, in 1995-96, \$6m has been promised for a total upgrade and redevelopment of that project at Barcaldine and, please God, we will see that development take place. That is how the Treasurer balances his books: he keeps floating one set of figures from one year to the next. It is all very well to tell the general population that the Budget is balanced. I would congratulate the Government if the Budget is balanced, but it should not promise something that it cannot deliver, which is exactly what it is doing in this Budget.

Referring to the charter of this Budget—this is a Budget without vision. It has

no vision for the development and ongoing building of infrastructure and other projects in this State which would create employment, growth and wealth for the rest of the State and nation. I will discuss momentarily a couple of issues that I believe would have been addressed in the Budget by a Government with vision. We are in an election year, and I would have thought that the Government could have addressed many of the needs of Queensland and created development.

As to the Port of Karumba in the gulf—last year, 300,000 head of live cattle were exported through the port of Darwin. The majority of those cattle were Queensland cattle from places as far south as Alpha and Roma, and they were shipped out of Darwin to Indonesia and ports above the Philippines. Next year, 350,000 head of cattle will be exported from Darwin, and Queensland could export most of those cattle through the port of Karumba. However, this Government does not have the vision to upgrade that port. I notice that the member for Cook is in the Chamber. Last year, we asked the then Minister, the Honourable David Hamill, about the upgrading of the port of Karumba and the dredging of the Norman River, but to this date the number of cattle going through that area is minimal because the infrastructure is unsatisfactory. Upgrading that infrastructure would save Queensland growers freight costs, and those savings could be passed on to consumers. In the long term, the people who would benefit would be Queenslanders. At present, the Northern Territory is taking advantage of our northern cattle market because this State Government does not have the vision to upgrade the port of Karumba and other ports around the top end of this nation.

Mr De Lacy interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: In relation to ports—yes, a great deal of money has been allocated in the Budget for infrastructure for ports along the coast: Brisbane, Bundaberg, Cairns, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton and Townsville. Those are all very good ports, and I pay tribute to the people who run those ports. I especially commend the growth through the port of Brisbane. However, there is much to be taken advantage of in the port of Karumba, and we are missing the boat.

Mr Bredhauer: That's not true.

Mr JOHNSON: It is true. I know well what is happening in the livestock export market, and I believe that the member for Cook should take a bit of a look at that.

I turn to the Newlands-Goonyella North link, which has not been mentioned in the

Budget. Mount Isa Mines would like that link to be constructed, but I do not believe that any negotiations have occurred with Mount Isa Mines—or anyone else for that matter—to see whether that missing link can be constructed. The Government is paying lip service. If that link existed, it would serve not only the coal industry but it would also provide a duplicated route to the rail link on the coast, which would be beneficial to the economic wellbeing and viability of this State.

Still on the subject of the Newlands-Goonella link—I turn to Abbot Point. When the National Party was in power it built Abbot Point and installed a duplicated system so that one day that area could take advantage of loading on a duplicated roll. That infrastructure is in place because that was a Government of vision. It constructed that facility in such a way that one day it could be upgraded to ensure maximum capacity out of the port of Abbot Point. But this Government has no vision. At present that is still a single facility, and only five million tonnes are processed through Abbot Point, whereas it has the potential for anything up to 12 million tonnes. Members opposite know full well that that is right.

I turn to Collinsville, which is crying out for infrastructure. Coalmines in that area could be established were it not for the problem of a lack of water. If a dam was constructed in the Bowen River and Broken River catchment areas, Collinsville would play a part in this State in the way that Emerald does. Honourable members should consider what the Tinaroo Falls Dam has done for far-north Queensland. A couple of days ago, in an area adjacent to Collinsville, I witnessed that the roads are in an appalling condition. The tomato industry is trying to establish in that area. Top-quality tomatoes are coming out of Bowen. Honourable members do not need me to tell them how great is the tomato and vegetable industry around Bowen. The produce is of top quality and equal to none. Because of the quality of the roads in that area, trucks cannot get out of first gear. The honourable member for Caboolture thinks that that is a laughing matter.

Mr J. H. Sullivan: I think that the laughing matter is that you said that the tomatoes are equal to none. Maybe you meant "equal to any".

Mr JOHNSON: That is not a point. The trucks that carry that produce cannot get out of first gear because the roads are too damn rough. By the time that produce reached Bowen, it would be jelly; so there goes the

productivity straightaway. The right infrastructure must be put in place to address the needs of not only our primary producers but also the people who work within those primary producing areas and the people who, in the long term, make up the communities in which people are trying to create businesses to carry on the wealth-generating factor that is beneficial to this State. I do not think that members opposite realise for one-half of one moment the importance of rural and regional Queensland and the part it plays in the wealth generation of this State.

Mr Bennett: I do.

Mr JOHNSON: I am pleased that the member for Gladstone realises that.

When one refers to the Transport budget one finds that 29 per cent of it is allocated for roads in the bush and that the other 71 per cent is allocated for the south-east corner. What an insult to the intelligence of the people who live in those regions, who are doing it damned hard and endeavouring to do the right thing! I will continue to say in this House that it is time that members opposite realised that it is the minority of this State who provide for the majority. If those people are removed from those places, members opposite will be wondering how they are going to put tucker in their bellies and clothes on their backs, because I assure them that it will not happen.

In recent times, there has been a heap of hype in this House and in the media over the eastern corridor, the koala tunnel, the resumptions—the list goes on. The member for Redlands—

Mr Budd: You were going to put a 10-lane highway through there.

Mr JOHNSON: The Government can build 50 lanes if it wishes to, but it will not resolve the problem. The problem is the service roads at either end. The Government can build 100 lanes, but those service roads have to be upgraded to handle that volume of traffic.

Mr De Lacy interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: The Treasurer—nobody takes any notice of him. However, the point that I make is that we started off with a figure of some \$38m for that tunnel. I believe that we are now up to something like \$100m-odd. The Government does not have a clue what it will cost. The Government is quoting a figure for \$117m for resumptions, but it has not started them yet. The list will go on and on. When the Government knows what its

strategy or policy will be, then it might be able to deliver. However, until such time—

Mr Budd: We know what our policies are. What are yours? Your policy is on the back of this piece of paper—nothing.

Mr JOHNSON: Do not worry about him. That candidate will deliver.

Mr Budd: What? Deliver what? Nothing.

Mr JOHNSON: He will deliver. We will make sure that that issue is addressed. It will be a world-class highway equal to nothing else in this State. I will give the member the mail on that.

Mr J. H. Sullivan: You've done it again. "Unequaled" is what you meant to say.

Mr JOHNSON: It is equal all right. It will be equal to anything in this State because a coalition will do it, and it will do it right. The member for Caboolture is an absolute joke in this place. He is a standing joke. He only has to go to his own electorate to find out himself what the people think of him.

I return to Queensland Rail because Government members in this House should know about a few issues in that regard, but they do want to hear about them. This year's Budget allocates \$33.4m for Queensland Rail, once again, for the replacement of the road vehicle fleet. From that \$33m, we will again have a duplication of transport, with motor vehicles running parallel with Queensland Rail. This is where the jobs are all going to pieces in rural areas. I know that in some rural areas those road vehicles play an important role because there is not a facility in place to address the charter of the Q Link system. However, I will say that, in the past private enterprise has provided that facility. That \$33m could go into maintaining the central line.

Today in this House, I asked the Minister a question about that central line, which runs from Emerald to Longreach, back around Winton to Hughenden, and also the spur line from Jericho-Blackall down to Yaraka. Over the last five years, no maintenance has been carried out on that line. There are speed restrictions on that line. The men who drive those engines are terrified that one is going to come off at any moment. The chaps who work on the line tell me that there are no resources available for the upgrade. There is no money, no material—nothing. What is happening to that railway line is an absolute disgrace. It takes the Spirit of the Outback eight hours to traverse the section from Emerald to Longreach—a distance of 400 kilometres. Sometimes the passengers could walk faster

than the train goes. That is as a result of mismanagement of Queensland Rail by this Government.

I can assure members that a coalition Government will give back to Queensland Rail its rightful entitlement. It will give autonomy and it will give workplace quality to the people who work in the field for Queensland Rail—the men on the line, the engine-drivers and the maintenance staff—the people who make Queensland Rail happen. At this point, Queensland Rail is not happening because this Government does not know how to manage it.

The other point I make is that \$13m will be spent on the northern line to Mount Isa. The Treasurer, in his Budget, referred to \$126m for the upgrade of the north line and south-west line. I bet that it is only lip-service to the south-west line. This year, western Queensland has had a beautiful season. There will be thousands of fat bullocks coming out of that country. They will come down here and provide work in the abattoirs at Brisbane, Rockhampton and wherever else. But no, because the railways are in a poor state of repair, and once again the road transport industry will have to fill the void. That has been the situation all along.

I have referred already to the \$13m allocated for the upgrade of the Mount Isa line. However, the Budget made no mention of the upgrade of the line from Hughenden to Winton. Winton now has a gypsum industry, and people would like to load 20-tonne axle loads onto the rail at Winton. But no, the Government does not want to do up that line. Queensland Rail is pulling those wagons right back through Longreach, back to Rockhampton and back up to Townsville. Does that add up to honourable members? It certainly does not add up to me. It is an extra 800 kilometres around—

Mr J. H. Sullivan: If your mathematics are as good as your English expression, it won't.

Mr JOHNSON: The member should get a map and have a look at it. I will give him the mail, I am spot-on. By travelling that route, it is a further 800 kilometres, and that is going to cost dollars. The Government does not want to spend any money in that area. However, the Budget has allocated \$75,000 for the rail task force to carry on its charter. What is its charter? To close down those western lines! The member for Cook knows full well that there is a lemon in his own electorate. Over the last five years, the Forsayth line has gone

into a state of disrepair. The trains are falling off the tracks. The easiest way to fix it—

Mr Bredhauer: That train didn't run on the track once a fortnight when you were in Government, and you never reported it.

Mr JOHNSON: No way, mate, no way. I will not wear that, but I will take that interjection: in the history of Queensland Rail there has never been more derailments in this State than there has been in the last six months under the administration of this Government and under the management of Queensland Rail. The blood is on the Minister's hands. I hope for his sake that it is not a passenger train that comes off the line because, if it is, I will remind him of it. I will not let up.

Another point I want to make in relation to Queensland Rail is that, last year, \$39m was spent on the voluntary early retirement scheme. There are still people within QR who legitimately want to take advantage of that VER system and who cannot. I see an allocation in the Budget this year of \$50m for VERs. Again, the productive sector of Queensland Rail is where these VERs are being offered while the bureaucracy grows. The bureaucracy grows at the expense of the real people who make QR work. One sees it right throughout the network of Queensland Rail.

The line in the electorate of my colleague the member for Mirani, which travels from Marlborough up to Sarina and Mackay, has had a spate of derailments. The big coal train at Black Mountain came off just east of Koumala. I asked a question in the House about that matter, and the answer I was given was that that derailment cost Queensland Rail \$12m. It cost \$25m to put the damned train on the track, let alone \$12m, because the train was a total write-off. Because of the strike at Mount Isa Mines, a ship has been sitting at Abbot Point for 10 days, costing \$25,000 a day. While that line was cut for 10 days—and about 10 loaded trains a day go down that line with a four and a half thousand tonne payload, worth somewhere in the vicinity of \$570,000—it cost about \$40m, plus there was the cost to the other people who use the line and the cost to the mining companies and the shipping companies. The impact of those derailments on the coal industry alone would have cost this State somewhere around \$100m. Government members are not going to pull the wool over the eyes of the ordinary person, and the rest of the State knows that.

They should talk to the people at MIM, or to the people who work at the coal face in

Queensland Rail. They will tell Government members what the problem is. The blokes who work along the line said to me one day, "Vaughan, there is no way in the world we would travel on a Queensland Rail train because we would not be sure of our safety." They are the people who are responsible for the maintenance of those lines. Government members should go out there and talk to them. The situation is grave; it is not a laughing matter. It is very serious and I am very concerned about it, as are many people who work in those areas. The situation is becoming progressively worse because the Government is not addressing the real issues. The Government refers to building infrastructure in the south-east corner. I know that the bulk of the population is located in the south-east corner, but I make the point that many people out there in the regional areas are working damned hard for the wealth generation and productivity of this State.

I will refer briefly to a couple of other points. I give credit where credit is due, and I see in the Budget that \$370,000 and \$310,000 have been allocated for the upgrading of the general studies block and the science block extension for the Longreach State High School. I commend that because it is a very important facility that had to be upgraded. I welcome the money for that project.

I also want to talk briefly about the noxious weeds project, which has been addressed already by my colleague. An amount of \$4.5m over three years will not address the noxious weed problem in the Emerald Shire for one year let alone for the whole of Queensland. Last year, the budget was \$600,000 for noxious weeds. That went nowhere. The parthenium weed problem and the rubber vine problem are out of control in this State.

Time expired.

Mr MALONE (Mirani) (12.50 p.m.): Today, it is with pleasure that I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bills. The 1995 State Budget is long on spending and promises and rather short on imagination, planning and vision. For the Mackay district, the Budget is a rehash of previous promises, and even includes items for which funding was allocated in last year's Budget and which were not even started. The Budget is great at buying votes and I am sure that, as the Government gets further into election mode, more spending will be promised.

In relation to law and order and public safety—the Government's Budget papers

indicate a real decline in spending over the next three years, which will impact severely on rural and regional areas. Last night, the shadow Minister for Corrective Services, Russell Cooper, spelt out what a total disgrace the Budget is in that regard. The Budget will have big implications for some of the smaller community police stations, such as those in my electorate. The Eton, Mirani, Walkerston and Finch Hatton Police Stations are currently operating with restrictions on both manpower and operational hours. Two weeks ago, I travelled through that area visiting my constituents. Even though those stations were said to be open, on inquiring inside I found out that the police were taking leave and so on. Almost all of those stations were in fact closed at that time. This Budget will have a great impact on small police stations. I fear that we will eventually have cluster policing in that region.

However, I must give credit where it is due, as all members of the Opposition have done throughout this debate. There were some welcome announcements for the Mackay district. One was the home economics block for the Mirani State High School, which was long overdue and promised in last year's Budget. It will be built in the next financial year, at a cost of \$760,000. That community will be very pleased with the addition to its school.

Funding for a police station in Mackay is another major commitment to the area. Funding for that station was promised in the last Budget. Twelve months ago, during the Mirani by-election, I recollect that there was much ado about that commitment as well. It is certainly a step in the right direction. I am very pleased to see that money being spent close to my electorate.

The Budget continues the funding for the Teemburra Dam scheme, which is also co-funded by the Sugar Industry Infrastructure Package, the Mackay Sugar Cooperative and the Pioneer Valley farm users. That funding is welcome because it will go a long way towards ensuring that some of that district is drought proofed. It will also open avenues in respect of the industrial users that will be coming on stream in the next couple of years.

An allocation of \$5m to the Dalrymple Bay coal terminal for the ongoing expansion of coal-loading facilities is also very welcome. Some honourable members would realise that Dalrymple Bay is second only to Richards Bay in South Africa as the largest coal exporter in the world. We are set to surpass that in the near future.

Mr Bennett: Two single operators.

Mr MALONE: Great!

The Budget provides funding of \$4.1m for the Mackay community health centre, which is scheduled for completion in 1996. An allocation of funding for the completion of applied science, business and general studies facilities at the Central Queensland Institute of TAFE is also very welcome.

However, I must address some of the problems that are not dealt with in this Budget. One of those problems is the chaotic traffic that is experienced on the Pioneer River crossing, both in the mornings and afternoons, as traffic tries to move from north Mackay into the business centre and vice versa. There are delays of up to half an hour and lines of traffic of up to a kilometre long.

The Sarina State High School is one of very few schools of its size in Queensland that does not have a multipurpose building. With our improved awareness of sun cancer risks in our hot, tropical climate, this facility should have been given a very high priority. Unfortunately, it was not addressed in the 1995 Budget.

Last night, I listened intently to the member for Sandgate, who said that under the former National Party Government the schools in his electorate had peeling paint and had bitumen forecourts on which students paraded. I thought I was in a time warp, because at the Sarina State High School there is a very small, hot area of bitumen on which students have to parade every day. Unfortunately, that problem is not being addressed. An offer was made to build a very small multipurpose building. It was difficult to see what the intent of that proposal was, because it was not nearly big enough to hold the full school complement as well as the teachers. We need to do more work in that area.

The Budget papers indicate that Primary Industries—separate from Forestry and Water Resources—has experienced a 3.5 per cent decrease in funding. This must be of great concern to that sector, which is the backbone of our export industry and a major contributor to the Queensland economy. I am sure that all honourable members have heard Edmund Casey speak about the sugar industry. Currently, the industry is exporting \$1.8 billion worth of sugar and is the No. 1 sugar exporter in the world.

I turn to education. The growth of the State population will place an enormous strain on education, with overall class sizes set to

rise. For example, in our primary schools projected teacher numbers are set to increase by 137, but this will be more than offset by an allocation of one hour of non-contact time per week per teacher. On top of that, teacher aide funding is set to decrease. There has been a stagnation of funding, with primary school teacher aide expenditure decreasing from \$35m to \$33m in the coming year, and with secondary school teacher aide expenditure decreasing from \$17m to \$14m. These decisions will impact heavily on all sectors of the education system—primary, secondary and special education. Of course, the decisions will have a major impact on teachers' ability to do their jobs.

One of my real disappointments with the Budget was that there appears to be no funding for further investigation into water storage in the Pioneer Valley and Sarina areas.

Mr De Lacy: Haven't you had enough over the last few years?

Mr MALONE: The fact remains that there are large sections of that very productive area that are still drought prone.

Mr De Lacy: Edmund Casey has got more monuments in that part of the world than anyone else.

Mr MALONE: I am very grateful for the amount of work that has been done. However, I assure the Treasurer that there is a lot more to do.

Mr De Lacy: We wondered for years whether there were any other areas in Queensland that had water supply problems.

Mr MALONE: The dam that should have been built is not being built. However, we are very grateful for the Teemburra Dam.

The Budget does not recognise the real problem of salt intrusion into the groundwater system in the Mackay district. The Water Resources budget makes no allocation for extra staff for designing and building farm dams. This presents an opportunity for the Government to circumvent the real costs of building major dams. Max Brown is the supervisor of designing and building dams in Mackay. He currently has a backlog of more than 80 dams. Every week, he has to reject further dam projects because he does not have the time. There is an ideal opportunity for the Government to offer real input into that area by making sure that farmers can afford dams that are designed to last well into the future.

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

Mr MALONE: I want to continue on the topic of emergency services and ambulance services in my electorate. I will cite two recent examples of the difficulties being experienced in the delivery of ambulance services to that region and possibly an example of bureaucratic bungling on the part of the ambulance service.

A constituent of mine had an accident and an ambulance was called to his property at 8.30 in the morning. He had seven broken ribs and a punctured lung. It took more than four hours to reach the base hospital in Mackay. That person is not critical of the Nebo volunteer ambulance service or the ambulance services at Glenden and Mackay, except in respect to the fact that in each case as he was transferred between one ambulance and the other his case history had to be reviewed and the extent of his injuries reassessed. That duplication resulted in a long period elapsing between his being picked up from his property and being delivered to the hospital. That time could have been crucial in the case of a more serious accident.

Another case involved a woman on a property experiencing difficulty at 1.30 in the morning. Ambulances were dispatched from both Finch Hatton and Glenden. They met at the top of the range but were unable to find their way to the property. Finally, a helicopter was called in at 6 o'clock in the morning. It appears that the wonderful ambulance service that once existed in this State has some real difficulties in the allocation of resources and getting ambulances to accident sites quickly. I am sure that there have been many recent similar examples in the Brisbane area. Those difficulties must be resolved.

I turn now to health. Opposition members have cited plenty of examples of the problems being experienced in the public health system. I want to outline some cases from my electorate that have come to my attention. Recently, a 22-year-old patient had to have orthodontic surgery in Brisbane. Appointments were made. Two of them were cancelled before that fellow finally travelled to Brisbane. On the third occasion, he travelled 15 hours in a bus to reach the hospital but was not admitted until six and a half hours later. He was admitted to hospital that night but surgery was cancelled the next day. Finally, the surgery was performed a day later. This year, an additional \$2 billion has been allocated to the Health budget. Attention must be given to implementing better management practices in order to overcome those types of incidents.

As to small business in the Mackay region—all members are aware that the small-business sector employs a large number of Queenslanders. At present, the small-business sector is really hurting. Small-business operators are having real difficulty meeting their commitments. They are working very long hours because of deregulated shopping hours, in most cases earning less than they did before. Given the industrial relations environment in this State, which makes it extremely difficult to put off employees, those operators are very fearful of putting people on, which I am sure is exactly the opposite to what the Government wants. An urgent review should be undertaken of the practices that apply to the small-business sector so that we can assist those operators to the fullest possible extent.

We hear frequent reference to community service obligations. I want to highlight the problems being experienced with Queensland Rail and Q-Link. In the Mirani electorate, most of the rail stations between Rockhampton and Mackay have been closed. People in that region—an expanse of almost 300 kilometres—now find it almost impossible to have parcels carried either by Q-Link or by Queensland Rail. A community service obligation should apply to that region. As I said, it is now almost impossible to deliver parcels to and from those small coastal communities up and down the highway.

A typical example is St Lawrence. When that station was closed almost 12 months ago, the town was guaranteed a daily delivery service. That subsequently turned out to be only three deliveries per week. In addition, it is very difficult to judge when the truck will arrive in St Lawrence. Quite often, goods and materials are just left on the side of the road.

Mr Ardill: Would it be possible to appoint an agent in some of those small towns?

Mr MALONE: I believe that that is the way to go, but it is not always the answer. An agent was appointed in St Lawrence. That young bloke purchased a forklift and worked there for three months, but in the end he had to pull the keys out of the Q-Link truck in order to be paid. The bungling of the bureaucracy in that case was absolute. It was my representation that finally saw him receive the money owing to him, and after receiving his money he resigned on the spot.

It was my pleasure to visit Malaysia and the Asian region recently. We have heard glowing comments about the Budgets delivered by this State Government and the

Federal Government. We must view our economy in the context of the Asian economy. It was interesting to see the amount of work being undertaken in Malaysia. We all measure the prosperity of a country by the number of cranes working on building sites. In Kuala Lumpur, we counted just on 100 cranes on a very casual tour around the city.

Mr Hollis interjected.

Mr MALONE: The cranes work not 12 hours, as they do in Australia, but around the clock. That tour was very enlightening for me. Malaysia is a country of about 30 million people. It has virtually zero unemployment. It imports about a million Indonesians to do all the tough work, and it has a growth rate of around 8 per cent. Our economy and our growth rates must be viewed in the context of those of our Asian neighbours.

Overall, it is surprising that there has been no attempt in this Budget to make the State more attractive in terms of economic development and visionary project stimulation. At the end of the day, the Budget spends a huge amount of money but delivers very little in terms of public services to the average Queenslanders.

Mr GRICE (Broadwater) (2.38 p.m.): This is just another Labor Budget. It is just another document with the paw prints of John Cain, Joan Kirner, Brian Burke, John Bannon and all the other Labor leaders all over it—the trendies who did so well until the rhetoric lost its power and the grim reality set in. The grim reality of every Labor Government in this nation is that ever-increasing bundles of money are thrown at problems until the money runs out. When that happens—when the taxpayers' money runs out—the problem is still there, waiting for a conservative Government to fix it, as is now occurring in Victoria.

The same applies in Queensland. Labor has thrown bundles of money at health, at education, at crime and community safety and at transport. In five past Budgets, it has thrown billions of dollars at problems without any thought of proper management. It has learned nothing from those five exercises in futility; it is doing it all over again. Talk about the Socialist Left being slow learners! All sections of the Labor Party have proved themselves to be slow learners. Labor will make the connection, but it will be too late. Labor will learn the lesson only with defeat at the coming election. The lesson that Labor will learn is that proper management beats mindless spending every time.

The problem is that Labor has no imagination; it has no vision. The party blindly follows the discredited prescriptions of the eighties generation of trendies who wrecked Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. We should not be too puzzled about that, because Labor in Queensland is just the same as Labor in every other State. That is just the point that Labor's big boss, Paul Keating, made in the *Courier-Mail* earlier this week. When he talked about Wayne Goss, he made all the Queensland Premier's worst nightmares come true. Mr Keating blew the Premier's cover. He told the *Courier-Mail* that they were both part of the same Labor Party with the same ambitions for Australians. The Prime Minister was right for once! Wayne Goss might duck and weave like a five-eighth, but Keating gave him the hospital pass, and it will stick!

Labor is Labor. The Goss Government is a Labor Government—just another Labor Government. Its policies are Labor policies, just like Paul Keating's. The policies—including the Budget policies—of the Goss Labor Government and the Keating Labor Government are the result of the same types of people, and often the very same people. These are the trendies who have never been in the real world, who have never had a real job and who have managed nothing. These people have solved no problem harder than who pinched whose Chardonnay at the branch barbie.

My constituents wonder what happened to the old Labor Party which looked after the battlers in society—the traditional families, the people who believed in hard work to provide for their families. They wonder what happened to union leaders who insisted that Labor Governments do something about jobs and the economy, who put trendy social engineering a bad last behind commonsense management. Those same people wonder why Labor cannot do better with \$11 billion to spend.

They wonder why Labor has not already done better in past Budgets, because every year Labor has promised the earth and delivered nothing but longer hospital queues, spiralling crime rates, grid-locked roads and kids leaving school without a proper education. The Government should consider asking the thousands of break-and-enter victims each week about how they feel about waiting days for overworked police to turn up only to tell them that there is practically nothing they can do. It should send someone to ask firemen how they feel about risking their

lives with undermanned crews and inadequate equipment. But do not send Tom! Honest toilers do not appreciate his particular line of repartee.

Labor should ask the people of Broadwater and Albert what they think of allocations for a koala tunnel when there is no money for 24-hour police protection. It should ask neurosurgery patients at the Gold Coast Hospital what they think of spending priorities which ban occupational therapy after such surgery. Maybe Labor accepts that supporting a regional bureaucracy is more important. Then again, it just might think that delivering health care is the most important business of a public health system.

This Budget is incompetent. It fails to deliver real services to the people of Queensland. Worse than that: in time-honoured Labor tradition, it is dishonest. This Budget attempts to convince Queenslanders that Labor has balanced the books—that it has miraculously made us free of net debt and that everything the Government does, it does from revenue. None of that is true. What is true is that this Budget is just about at the end of the path of Labor tradition. Almost everything of value has been corporatised. The propaganda line is that corporatisation is done to capture the same sort of efficiencies that exist in private enterprise. We will get—so the line goes—a better service at a lower cost to the long-suffering taxpayer. The reality is a bit different. What we get is a cash cow. The Government milks the cow for things like tax equivalents—but payable to the State—and fees to pay for loan guarantees. It sucks out the cash needed for operations and for capital replacement. That makes the revenue side of the Budget look pretty flash. It also forces the corporatised entity to borrow money, raise charges, and cut corners on service. That is bad for the customers—bad for the corporatised entity—but still good for the Labor political masters.

There is income to go into the Budget, but the debt disappears from public scrutiny. It is crooked, but it is legal. It is legal because the Labor Party used its numbers in Parliament to make it legal. Members of the Labor Party can stand in this place and lie their heads off about a balanced Budget and the State being free of net debt, but eventually the cow dries up.

Our electricity generating system needs truckloads of cash right now to build new power stations to cope with population increases and development. That cannot happen because the trucks have been

dropping the cash off at Treasury. A few Labor members with electorates along the koala highway will need it to buy back votes in a few weeks—\$950,000 worth to start with. That means that the poor old electricity industry—and its customers—has to make do with Eastlink. We have to import power and export jobs to New South Wales because Labor milked the power industry too hard for too long. The power industry workers—the people Labor used to represent—can go to the back of the queue.

What about the transport industry? Corporatisation has supposedly given us the best railway system in the world, maybe even the whole universe. However, the milkmaids from Treasury have been there, too. That is why trains keep falling off the rails. There is no fat left for the incidentals like maintenance on rolling stock and tracks. The rail workers can join the power workers at the back of the queue.

If Labor has its way, the same thing will soon happen to the Government workers in the water supply and timber industries. Corporatisation is on its way there, and the milkmaids are getting really excited about the prospects offered by the timber industry in particular.

Corporatisation Labor style is a big enough con to make even Peter Foster blush. It is nothing but a pea and thimble trick. We are meant to gasp in admiration at the Government's skills in running the State without a cent of debt. We are not meant to tumble to the hidden debt forced onto Government owned corporatised entities that are artificially pushed off Budget and out of sight.

There is something else that we are not supposed to tumble to. What about the debt of local authorities? Queensland leads the nation in devolving responsibility to local authorities for a whole range of necessary and very expensive services and infrastructure. I do not have a problem with that. Local government is a lot closer to the people, and it is the best level of government to deliver most of those services. What I do have a problem with is that local authority debt is public debt. It should be recognised as such, and the State Government should acknowledge that. Labor gilds the lily when it claims that the State is net debt free—but it ignores about \$2.8 billion in local authority debt. Of course, it does not totally ignore that debt; it bullies local government as to the source of borrowings. It then charges them handsomely for the privilege. That is another case of milking the

system to present a false picture to the people of Queensland—the electors of Queensland.

There are plenty of other examples of Labor in Queensland following the precepts of the Cains, Bannons, Kirners, and Burkes when it comes to running the State, and I want to mention one of them. Do honourable members remember all the troubles over State banks? Do they remember how we were not going to have one in Queensland? Do Government members remember the scorn they put on the idea? I remember the Reserve Bank calling the QIDC a bank. I also remember the Treasurer bad-mouthing the Reserve Bank when it sprung him on that and the countless times that we have been lectured in this place about the need to accept the word of all sorts of independent Labor-appointed boards. Is the Treasurer saying that the Reserve Bank is not independent? It is run by an independent board—hand-picked by the Government's good mate, Keating. Surely it would not be wrong! Of course it is not wrong. The QIDC is a bank: it takes deposits and lends money. It is a bank owned by the State Government and run by a board appointed by the State Government. It is a State bank, and only the coming State election will stop it from getting up and biting the Labor Government, just as the State Banks of Victoria and South Australia did.

This Budget is the last will and testament of the Labor Government. Even the big taxpayer-funded, media machine pushing Wayne Goss as the face of the Labor Government will not work this time—even if it is further enhanced by Tony Koch, who I see has returned to hang around the corridors—because people have woken up to the fact that he heads a Government poor in talent but rich in incompetence. He heads a Government of tired incompetents advised by overpaid and underexperienced trendies. About the hardest thing they have ever done is to wrestle the cork out of a bottle of Chardonnay. The ordinary Queenslanders has woken up, as has the fair dinkum Labor voter. The Labor Party is gone.

Mr SLACK (Burnett) (2.49 p.m.): I take this opportunity to support the members of the Opposition in their criticisms of this Budget. Obviously, members of the Government have been saying the opposite about the Budget; they have been saying that it is wonderful. However, if they analyse it and the public reaction to it, they can inevitably draw the conclusion that it has not received the confidence of the public that the Treasurer likes to believe it has. There are some very

good reasons for that and they lie in the fact that this Government is proving that it cannot be trusted with its accounting and its rehashing of promises made over several years.

Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition came into this House and showed clearly that, in this Budget, we are seeing for the fourth time the rehashing of the Bundaberg Police Station. I am very familiar with that because my office is in Bundaberg and I am aware of some of the fallacies as far as the Government's delivery of its promises is concerned. If the Government is capable of rehashing one initiative four times, obviously there will be other measures in regard to which this Budget will fall short. This Budget is a misleading attempt by this Government to fool the public of Queensland. The public will not be fooled. The members opposite who are asleep should enjoy the opportunity of having their last sleep in this Chamber because they will not be here after the next election; they know that and I know that. We all know that there are many on the benches opposite who will not return to this place after the next election.

It is not what this Budget has promised that counts; it is what this Budget has not done. I will speak briefly about a few things that it has not done in my own electorate. It has not provided for the essential police services that members opposite assert that they are providing within the system. One of the members opposite, Mr Campbell, made a statement in the Bundaberg press. He said, "Bundaberg may have to wait until the new \$7.6m police station is operational before benefiting from increased police numbers and new computer equipment announced in the State Budget."

Having heard the police station announced four times, we can be forgiven for wondering when the police station is going to arrive. I would like to say that while it is being denied by the people in Brisbane, there was definitely an attempt recently to subtract numbers from the police in Bundaberg and within the Burnett electorate. I had it on very good authority that Bundaberg was to lose two officers. It was also suggested that Gin Gin, Childers and Bargara might lose an officer each, even though all those places have been looking for additional officers.

The real point is that none of my areas can look forward to any extra police. There were no extra police provided for in this Budget and, if anything, the Government will be flat out maintaining the ones that are

already there. When we mention police numbers, we look at the population of areas such as Agnes Water, which is increasing dramatically, particularly during holiday periods. Break and enter and similar offences in the area have increased considerably, as have crimes associated with out-of-hours trading, particularly during holiday periods, yet there is no provision in this Budget for any police station at Agnes Water nor is there likely to be for a number of years under this administration. That is what I have gathered from the discussions I have had with police officers. How can a community such as Moore Park in my electorate expect to get a police officer? Because of the increase in population in their area, the people of Moore Park are seeking a police officer.

Another area of complaint comes from a shire which is angry over schools. There is no provision for a high school at Bargara, an area whose population is increasing markedly. Understandably, the citizens there are unhappy that there is no mention in this Budget of a high school for Bargara. So it goes on. Next, there are no funds for a particularly dangerous stretch of road between Agnes Water and Rosedale. I give the Government credit for spending much-needed money on the Rosedale school. The areas to which the Government has allocated money are areas in desperate need. It has addressed some other areas in similar need, but there are many that it has not been able to address.

The Government has addressed the question of water at Walla Weir. Going back to the question of the police station at Bundaberg, we wonder when it is going to be built. It has been promised for the last four years. The Government failed to produce any allocation for a proper study of the Burnett River, which is needed desperately. Any future development in the Bundaberg region will depend on extra water, over and above what the Walla Weir will provide.

Mr Milliner: What do you think of the new bridge?

Mr SLACK: I think the new bridge over the Burnett River is quite good, although it has been put to me—and I put a question on notice about it—that there are some flaws in it. The Minister should not get carried away with a bridge over the Burnett, and make that—

Mrs Edmond: They wanted it for 20 years, and what did you do? Not one thing! It's the same as you did about the irrigation and the dam at Gin Gin. Federal money put in the dam at Gin Gin, and you wouldn't even lay a few pipes.

Mr SLACK: Yes, and the bridge is virtually the only thing that has happened. We provided the water scheme up there at a cost of millions and millions of dollars. This Government provided a \$15m bridge and we provided a \$1,000m water scheme. The honourable member should be fair about it. In comparison, the cost of the bridge is paltry. Let us not get carried away with the paltry initiatives of members opposite in this particular area. Before the interjection, I was talking about the need for a proper assessment of the river and its tributaries. Everybody knows that the area is desperately short of water, despite the provision of the multimillion-dollar scheme by a Commonwealth and State conservative Governments following a proposal from a conservative administration. However, the extra water is needed desperately.

If we are going to have extra growth in our farming communities, extra industrial growth, even extra population growth, which is happening all the time, there is a desperate need for additional water storage, the conservation of water and the reuse of water. The last assessment of that river system was carried out in 1979, and another is urgently needed now so that we can plan properly to address future requirements.

I will pass now to the Environment and Heritage Department. This Budget was about deception. The Treasurer announced quite proudly, as did the Minister, that this Budget provided for an increase in funding to Environment and Heritage of approximately 18 per cent. Members opposite compared this year's estimate, that is, for 1995-96, and the estimate for 1994-95. If members opposite use that estimate, they would be correct. However, the reality is that in 1994-95 the actual spending was way above the estimate. In 1994-95, the spending was \$136,725,000. In 1994-95, the actual spending was \$164,970,000. The amount proposed to be spent this year is \$160,927,000, which is actually a drop of about 2 per cent to 3 per cent on what was spent last year. The Treasurer cannot claim that as an increase. He proudly says, "This is the figure we provide and this is the way we work." If we look at the Budget figures for last year we see that the figures were set out in columns. Last year, he had the proposed spending in one of the columns of figures that I saw. I do not see the same type of comparison this year.

Before we go back to last year and look at the reason why the budget was overspent, I take on board what the Minister for Environment said, that it was a carryover from

the year before; that the department did not spend money the year before. I issued a press release in reply to which the Minister made that explanation. I analysed the figures very carefully. I notice that in the Budget papers the Treasurer stated that the reason for the over-expenditure last year was the purchase of the Starcke property for about \$4m and the purchase of Silver Plains. I notice that neither has any rangers. But that was the reason, which was at variance with what the Minister was saying in comments reported in the press.

If we look at those figures from the previous year, 1993-94, we see that the actual estimated expenditure was \$146,979,000, which was actually higher than the Budget Estimates for that year. I will give the Treasurer his due, and I will not be misleading like he has been misleading. The estimated actual expenditure came in at \$136,325,000 which was down on the estimate. That demonstrates quite clearly that the Treasurer is having trouble getting his figures together. That is demonstrated quite clearly.

One can take with a grain of salt many of the figures that are included in this Budget paper because of the inaccuracies that have emerged when the actual expenditure has been identified. I will come back to this figure of \$164m that the Government spent last year. If we take out the Silver Plains and Starcke acquisitions—\$8m—we see that there is \$7.3m to be spent this year for the Molly protection fund. That equates with that money that has been taken out. The other funding is more or less about the same as what is being spent. If we analyse that funding and look at the management of national parks in this State, we see that it is an absolute disgrace. This Government has been all about the images, promoting the purchase of 4 per cent of Queensland for national parks. I do not argue with that. That is good, but they have to be resourced. That is the reality. The Government has to resource them or it will do damage rather than what it is hoping to achieve, simply because the intention of national parks is to provide protection for native flora and fauna. What is happening to the native flora and fauna within those national parks?

It was proven in north Queensland, and the department's subsequent investigation also proved without a shadow of doubt, that smuggling was rife; there was non-management and very few rangers. I think that of the 215 national parks in Queensland only 50-odd have resident rangers. Parks of 200,000 hectares have

budgets as low as \$6,000. At the time of that internal investigation, the department did not even have enough money to pay some wages. Yet there is very little increase in those numbers this year. So what is the future of our national parks? I notice the provision in the Budget for the purchase of national parks. An amount has been set aside for the purchase of land in Cape York, but it is not very much. The Government will not be able to buy much land with the total allocation of \$3m-odd and \$1m—

Mr Comben: Cape York!

Mr SLACK: That is the total figure. That money is to be spent on land for national parks in the whole of the State, not just Cape York; yet the Government is proposing to purchase approximately 550,000 hectares, which is similar to the amount of land that it was going to purchase last year. To me, that seems to be an inconsistency.

As to the rangers in national parks—the Budget papers show that, last year, 542 rangers were employed; but this year, the figure is 411. To give the Government its due, there is a note on the bottom of the page stating—

"The major variation in the 1995-96 Estimate shows a reduction to 411 National Parks and Wildlife Rangers. This is due to 58 Ranger positions now being correctly attributed to the Coastal Management sub-program, 11 to the Conservation Strategy sub-program and two to the Cultural Heritage sub-program to more accurately reflect the nature of their duties."

That is fine, and the wages and employee net reductions are subtracted. However, when the numbers are added up and reallocated, the figures still show a reduction in staff. Yet in a press release, "Million Dollar" Molly states that we will have 25 more national park staff. I assume that she means rangers but, when I add the figures, I do not quite get it. No doubt we can explore that issue further during the Estimates committee hearings.

The people of north Queensland and particularly the people in Lesley Clark's electorate were disappointed by the incident relating to Yorkeys Knob, that is, the incident in which the Minister and the member for Barron River blamed the former Government for the prosecution of people who were dumping oil on a property at Yorkeys Knob. In this House on 15 November 1994, Lesley Clarke, the member for Barron River, stated—

"Returning to the issue of prosecuting the dumpers of waste—is it any wonder that committed officers were discouraged in their efforts to prosecute people when the totally inadequate National Party legislation made it virtually impossible to succeed in court no matter how good the evidence? Notwithstanding that situation, we have turned around the past culture of non-enforcement. In the past year, more than 175 prosecutions were initiated under conservation and environment laws in Queensland. Of these prosecutions . . ."

She says that it was the Opposition's fault. I have the transcript of a television interview in which the Minister blames the National Party, the Liberal Party and the coalition and claims that her Government fixed it up. The transcript is available for anybody to see. The Minister clearly blames the Opposition for that failure.

I refer to a 25-page report from Copley, QC, that was prepared for the Department of Environment and Heritage in Cairns, requested by Mr Lindsay Delzoppo, Regional Director of the Environment and forwarded to him on 24 December 1994. The report examines partly given evidence and the provisions of the Contaminated Land Act 1991 in relation to the matter of oil contamination at Yorkeys Knob during December 1993 and the case against the accused, Transpacific Pty Ltd trading as North Queensland Waste Disposals. That is quite a lengthy report, so I will not go through it all, but I will read an interesting part—the conclusion—for the information of members opposite. The conclusion states—

"Essentially the above brief gets down to the following points:

Section 13 Sub-Section 1 of the Contaminated Land Act has been poorly drafted"—

by this Government—

"and relies on the opinion of the Chief Executive and has as its basis the problematic provision that an offence is caused by contamination of land. Hence the contamination that must be proven for a successful prosecution is contamination of land which had not previously been contaminated although Copley regards this as a question of degree as discussed in his Opinion.

Thus there are inadequacies in the laws which need to be addressed."

Those are the Government's laws, Lesley Clark's laws, the Minister's laws. The conclusion continues—

"An additional problem was the incompetent manner in which statements were taken by DEH officers from MacGilvray and Bradley. I have quoted portions of the Opinion which criticise the techniques of the DEH officers. There would appear to be an argument that prosecutions of this type should be handled by the Police rather than by DEH officers who may not be experienced in their conduct.

With respect to the liability of the company itself as opposed to the individual employees there is no evidence to suggest that the company knew what was going on.

With respect to the video evidence of Mark Marlin it was taken in December 1993 after the contamination had been going on for some time. Accordingly, the video evidence was not much use because the land was already severely contaminated land by that time."

That clearly discredits what the honourable member for Barron River said in this Parliament and would have the people of Barron River believe. It clearly discredits what the Minister for Environment and Heritage has said publicly about the inadequacies of our administration, but it clearly demonstrates the inadequacies of the Minister's own administration. It clearly puts the lie to what the Minister, the member for Barron River and, no doubt, other members of the Government have been saying.

I turn to the issue of the mahogany glider in north Queensland. I make it quite clear that the Opposition supports every provision to protect native species, particularly species that are endangered or under threat. However, the Government needs to achieve an outset, and that outset is to ensure the future—

Mr Robertson: Outcome.

Mr SLACK: I take the member's point—outcome, I am sorry. That outcome is to ensure the future of those particular gliders. No-one would argue against the fact that measures have to be taken to protect them. The problem is that the Government has failed to provide incentive for people to protect the mahogany glider or any other little—or big—creatures that are on their land. Compensation needs to be provided for land-holders and people who have those species on their properties. They need to feel

sure that they will not be financially penalised by actions of the department. There is no way that those people want mahogany gliders removed from this earth. The question arises: what will happen after the 60 days when the interim nature conservation order has expired? There needs to be proper consultation with and incentives for the people involved to ensure protection of that species. The only way to protect those animals is through a system of incentives or financial assistance so that those land-holders are not out of pocket. I will use the example of the American bald eagle.

Time expired.

Mr DAVIDSON (Noosa) (3.09 p.m.) In joining this debate I would like to address issues of major importance to me and to the constituents of my electorate. We all appreciate that Governments are in the business of collecting taxes and charges to provide services and facilities. One really has to question the drivel that the Treasurer carries on with when comparing Queensland with other Australian States and promoting Queensland as the low-tax State.

It is high time that members of the Labor Government realised that Queensland's ability to provide the most basic needs for our people is eroding at a fast rate of knots. I really cannot believe that members of the Government continue to stand in this Chamber and defend the Labor Government's performance in those basic needs areas of health, law and order, education, social needs, road infrastructure and other basic facilities and services.

Government members cannot honestly stand in this Chamber and defend the Labor Government's performance. In doing so, they ignore their own basic responsibility to address concerns in this Chamber that have been raised with them by their constituents in their own electorates. They have been snowed by the party, and more so by the Premier, and it is obvious to all Opposition members that they will succumb to political pressure by the party machine to protect their positions in this Chamber.

Government members cannot tell me honestly that they do not receive complaints from members of their own electorates similar to the ones that I receive in mine about the growing levels of crime and the lack of police on our streets. Morale in our Police Service and Corrective Services is at an all-time low. The public knows it and Government members know it.

Government members cannot honestly stand in this Chamber and not recognise that the Health Department has enormous internal problems with growing waiting lists of up to four years. Nambour Hospital constantly runs at over 100 per cent capacity, when 80 per cent is considered to be its capacity level. People in my electorate are waiting one to two years for the most basic of needs, such as glasses and dental care. Operating theatres are being closed because of the lack of funds. There is a growing disenchantment among our hard-pressed health workers; the public knows it and Government members know it.

Government members cannot honestly stand in this Chamber and not recognise the urgent requirements in our education system, particularly in the area of special needs. Our school guidance officers, support teachers, teacher aides and speech therapists are all facing a lack of resources and facilities. Families—and I am talking about ordinary battlers—who choose to send their children to non-Government schools, particularly those in regional areas, are battling an educational transport system that is inconsistent, arbitrary, expensive to administer and a bureaucratic nightmare. Those families know it and Government members know it.

Government members cannot honestly stand in this Chamber and not recognise the desperate needs in the area of social welfare and the lack of social services. The Department of Family Services is truly "Government by neglect". Psychiatric patients are being virtually turned out into the streets to care for themselves. Home carers have been all but abandoned and there is a disgraceful neglect of funding for juvenile aid programs. For want of early intervention in juvenile problems, we are inheriting skyrocketing crime levels. We need to hear less about rights and more about responsibilities. The public knows it and Government members know it.

All of these issues are real, despite the Labor Government promoting this, its sixth Budget, as an \$11 billion deal with record spending in all areas of Government. Obviously, the members on the Labor side of this Chamber do not spend too much time in their electorates talking to their constituents. It amazes me that whenever I raise these issues I am tagged as a whinger or as being negative. I am accused of politicising issues. However, I am really sick and tired of raising issues with regional directors and Ministers because nothing changes. I write to Ministers raising issues and concerns and, two or three months later, I get a response but little action from the Government.

This Budget is little more than a catch-up Budget—catching up on funding for all services and facilities which, in some cases, have been so neglected that I doubt whether throwing more money at them will do much for the people of Queensland. It concerns me that, in the past six years, Queensland has missed many opportunities. When one looks around the State, one sees that major capital investment and major business investment is non-existent. What has this Government achieved in the past six years in attracting investment to Queensland with all the social and economic benefits that follow? For the last three years, this Government has sat on its hands, although it has enjoyed windfalls from the booming housing industry—which, as everyone knows, has hit the wall in the past six months because of the disgraceful economic mismanagement of the Keating Labor Government. Last year, the Keating Labor Government chose to allow interest rates to rise instead of cutting its own wasteful spending.

The domestic housing market has slowed to levels that will impact severely on employment in the months ahead. In Noosa, as is the case in many other regions in Queensland, a major employer, along with tourism, is the building and construction industry. In the past six months, new home starts on the Sunshine Coast have dropped dramatically.

There are some good points in this Budget for the people in my electorate. I am pleased that funding has been provided for capital works and schools in my electorate. This was needed desperately to cater for the rapid growth that has occurred over the past five years. I am pleased to see that funding has been provided for a new primary school in Beckmans Road in Noosaville. Three weeks ago, work commenced on clearing this site, and the school will be opened in time for the 1996 school year.

I have been involved with officers from the Education Department and teachers and parents of students at the Tewantin State School in planning discussions over the past few months. Although I am pleased to see this school being built, I have also written to the Minister for Education highlighting the need for a special education facility to be provided at that school. Presently, a number of intellectually and physically disabled children attend the Special Education Unit at the Tewantin State School. That unit has been modified to cater for those students, but it is hardly suitable for students or teaching staff. I hope that the Minister provides a

purpose-built facility at the new school—purpose built with specially designed teaching areas and toilet and shower facilities. Such a facility would cater for students from Pomona to Coolum, and would cater for families and students who are experiencing difficulties accessing the special school at Nambour because of the lack of travelling subsidies, the lack of public transport and, in some cases, the lack of a family car. I am hopeful that the Minister will give this request an understanding and sympathetic consideration and facilitate this unit.

The Eumundi State School community is looking forward to the provision of a new double teaching block at the primary school. However, there is also an urgent need for a new administration office at that school. At present, the principal and the staff are housed in cramped, inadequate offices. If that school continues to grow at its present rate, more administrative staff will be appointed. I believe a new administration office is an urgent requirement at the Eumundi State School.

In this Budget, the Noosa District High School will be provided with a new science block at a cost of over \$1m. The Sunshine Beach Primary School has been provided with two new classrooms. I believe that construction of those classrooms will commence in the next few days. This Budget also contains funding to provide for Stage 5 at the Sunshine Beach High School, which will see the construction of a general studies, staff and amenities block.

I thank the Minister and the Government for funding these much-needed facilities in schools in my electorate. However, it still concerns me that there is a desperate need for funding in areas of special needs not just for schools in my electorate but for schools throughout the Sunshine Coast.

Over the past few weeks in the local press, the issue of the Noosa hospital has been the issue of the day. The Goss Labor Government has failed the people of my electorate by not making a firm commitment for the purchase of a site for the hospital. Several years ago, the Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority identified a need for a 75-bed hospital to cater for the needs of people from Coolum to Cooroy. Those people are still waiting. I have a commitment from the shadow Health Minister that a coalition Government would purchase a site, and plan and commence construction of a Noosa hospital in its first term.

I find it hard to believe or understand that there has been a move by the Labor

candidate for Noosa and the Health Minister to promote the provision of public hospital beds in Cooroy. I cannot believe that they have not heeded the advice of their own regional health authority, which employed consultants and advisers to appraise the needs, and make assessments and economic evaluations. All of those reports indicate clearly that a hospital should be built in the Noosaville/Tewantin area to best serve the catchment area. Providing beds at Cooroy will do nothing for the people of my electorate who live in the Peregian and Coolum areas. It would be quicker for them to access the Nambour Hospital which, as I said, is already overburdened.

The Government is looking for a cheap way out. It would be a lot cheaper if Sydney's new international airport was built at Bourke, but that is not where it is needed. The only consideration I would support in the proposal to provide beds in Cooroy would be to share beds at the Noosa District Private Hospital while the hospital in Noosa was under construction. If it means further development of the site in Cooroy in co-location, I believe that it would be neglecting the needs of the majority of my electorate and ignoring the expert advice of health planners and consultants who have all strongly recommended the centre of the catchment area. An economic evaluation, commenced by the regional health authority and completed last September, has not been released to the public for comment or discussion. I believe that it is locked away in the Cabinet bag. Neither the current Health Minister nor his predecessor have released this document.

Over the past two years, there has been little action by the Government and now suddenly, on the eve of an election, we have the Minister for Health and the Labor candidate for Noosa rushing about making statements about the provision of health services in Noosa. They have ignored the professional and, no doubt, expensive advice of their own consultants but have just become aware that this is a political issue since the coalition announced its commitment to funding the Noosa hospital when it wins the next election.

Undoubtedly, the biggest issue in the Noosa electorate for some time now has been the ability of our Police Service to effectively police our streets and to provide the security of lifestyle to which we are entitled. Over the past year or two, I have had meetings with the Minister for Police, the district assistant commissioner and officers in charge of the

Noosa Police Station, which is located in my electorate. I have also met with local groups. I have written to the Minister on many occasions and even taken deputations to Parliament House to meet with him. I believe that I have made an honest attempt to address the problems raised with me by my constituents. People often make the mistake of blaming the police for the lack of police presence, slow response times or lack of action. The blame for our current crime levels and lack of law enforcement lies clearly at the feet of the Goss Government. When Goss took office, the Labor Government was totally focused on, and intent on, making the Queensland Police Service politically correct.

Mr De LACY: It's Friday afternoon.

Mr DAVIDSON: I know it is Friday afternoon. I hope that the Treasurer is not coming to Noosa on the weekend, because up there people regard him as a real pipsqueak. The Treasurer has been there twice in the past few months. The first time he went there, 18 people turned up to see him, and that included five of our blokes who were there to check out what was going on. The second time, about 15 people turned up to a breakfast. That total included four of his people and also three of our people who were there to raise issues with the Treasurer.

The Treasurer would remember that the coordinator of the tourist operators association representing the areas of Fraser Island, Noosa River and so on raised the issue of securing the tenure of licences and the ability to conduct tour business on Fraser Island. The Treasurer advised that person that someone would look at the issue and get back to him with a result that would see the operators looked after. A few weeks ago, that person received a reply from the Treasurer that stated, "Sorry, mate, we can't help you." These people took time out and paid money to attend that breakfast in an effort to get the ear of a senior member of the Government in order to have some action taken on their behalf to ensure that the capital costs that they have invested in their businesses would be protected. And the Treasurer did not even have the courtesy to pursue the matter for them! The Treasurer can come back to Noosa any time he likes. The people of Noosa think he is a real pipsqueak.

In my electorate the other day, I circulated information documenting the fact that 500 firemen had marched on Parliament House. That protest included three firemen from my electorate. They have been battling with the Government because they have been

going one on one to emergencies. As Mr Robertson would tell us, that is unsafe and they cannot provide a proper service to the people who call them out. They are working one on one, but the officers from around here are complaining about working two and three on one. The officers from my area are attending emergencies one on one.

Dr Watson: I wonder if he will change his tune when he goes back and joins them later this year.

Mr DAVIDSON: He will not have the guts. Mr Watson, if my blokes get hold of this fellow, they will wring his neck.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Briskey): Order! I remind the honourable member to direct his comments through the Chair.

Mr DAVIDSON: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Do honourable members know what they said to me? They said that, in trying to highlight the inadequacies of staffing levels at their station, they bought the Minister a beer but he did not have the decency to shout them one back.

When Mr Goss took office, the Labor Government was totally focused and intent on making the Queensland Police Service politically correct. This Government has succeeded in turning the average cop into a desk jockey. Administrative policy is so sophisticated, so detailed and so time consuming that most police officers are now desk bound. Nothing short of a major staffing level increase at Coolum, Noosa Heads and Cooroy stations will solve the problems that local police are experiencing.

I have raised the issue of the Noosa Heads Watch-house several times with the Minister. It does not have security surveillance cameras, which means that offenders cannot be housed there unless they are under direct supervision. The police continue to have to transport offenders to the Maroochydhore Watch-house when there are two officers on duty with one car. This means that Noosa has no police presence at all for up to two hours. The Sunshine Coast and Noosa are desperately short of police. Many times in the past few years it has been highlighted that the Sunshine Coast and the electorate of Noosa have one police officer per 1,000 people, while the State average is one per 500.

I am pleased that the Minister is aware of the urgent need for a Juvenile Aid Bureau officer at Coolum. However, at the same time, I understand that there are no juvenile detention places on the Sunshine Coast,

which makes police hesitant to detain young offenders. The Noosa community has been waiting six or seven months for funding to be provided for the Police Beat shopfront and the assignment of two officers to man the shop. The Police Minister promised the Noosa Heads community that two officers would be assigned to Hastings Street last December. However, the promised assignment of these two officers to Hastings Street has not been fulfilled in the past four or five months.

I believe the Minister received a very loud and clear message when he visited the Noosa electorate last week and attended meetings at Coolum and Noosa Heads. Some members of the community advised me that they were very disappointed that the Minister seemed to be aware of and listened to the concerns raised but offered few solutions and gave no commitment to increase staffing levels. As I said before, nothing short of the assignment of 15 to 20 officers to the Noosa electorate will solve its law and order problems.

I am pleased to say that in the past two months two officers have been assigned to the Noosa Heads Ambulance Station, which addresses some of the glaring staffing arrangements which I raised with the Minister for Emergency Services last January. We had an absolutely disgraceful situation in which ambulance officers were performing 24-hour shifts. I will continue to monitor staffing levels at ambulance stations in my electorate.

As to the fire station at Noosa Heads—as I said previously, I am advised that fire vehicles attend many emergency call-outs with a one-on-one staffing arrangement, which is totally unacceptable, firstly, in respect of safety and, secondly, in respect of their efficiency in coping with emergency situations. In the first term of the Goss Labor Government, there was not a lot of criticism of its decision-making. Do honourable members know why that was? It was because the Government did not make any. Over the past two and a half years, the Labor Government has dithered in a morass of indecision. It has been afraid to make a decision because it has been afraid to make a mistake. Do honourable members know what? It was right; it has certainly made plenty of mistakes in the decisions that it has made lately.

The Goss Labor Government has run out of time. It has had to bite the bullet and make some decisions. And they have all been wrong. The \$11 billion being spent in this Budget did not come from Santa Clause or the tooth fairy, it came from ordinary Queenslanders, who have every right to expect that the money will be spent in a

manner that will improve their lifestyles. However, this Budget does not even offer Queenslanders any hope.

Mr HEALY (Toowoomba North) (3.27 p.m.): The Appropriation Bills, which incorporate the 1995-96 State Budget and which we are debating, do nothing other than throw money at problems that the Government has created over nearly six years in the hope that those problems will simply go away. The hospital waiting lists, which were not there under the National Party Government, are having millions of dollars thrown at them. The escalating crime rate is having millions of dollars thrown at it, with the promise of an additional 500 police. These two key areas, along with the education system, under which our teachers are facing the threat of stress-related illnesses because of disciplinary policy failures and lack of support and aide time to cope with the Government's inclusion policy, are all problem areas that the amounts of funding touted in this record spending Budget will not fix.

As the Opposition Leader said in his reply, the warm inner glow is there with a record social justice spending Budget, but the facts are that, due to a lack of planning and foresight, this Government has to use that record spending to simply put the fires out. Why is the record spending not being poured into major new dam projects, power station projects and new and improved port facilities? Instead, this record spending Budget is being used to rectify the mistakes this Government has made over the past almost six years.

The question must be asked as to why the Government continues to deprive rural and regional Queenslanders of real equity when it comes to service delivery—real equity when it comes to the necessary infrastructure to keep rural and regional Queensland alive. This Budget is nothing other than a gimmick and a hoax. There are two major areas where regional Queensland must be given the chance to compete, and those areas are education and transport. In just the capital works area alone, the education expenditure budget outside the south-east corner has dropped by some 30 per cent since last year—a \$26m dollar decrease, down from \$85m to \$59m.

Capital expenditure on transport infrastructure in this Budget will also drop in regional Queensland, from \$982m in 1994-95 to \$800m. That is an incredible \$182m decrease, or 18 per cent. In the Darling Downs area alone, capital works expenditure on education has dropped from \$16m in 1994-95

to just over \$9.5m in 1995-96. That is a slash of almost \$7m. Apart from a share in the Government's School Refurbishment Program—and we were lucky to get that—no additional money has been allocated from this Budget to a single Government school in the City of Toowoomba. Most expenditure in Toowoomba and on the Darling Downs is not new expenditure in capital works; rather, it is recycled spending from either last year's Budget or even the previous Budget that had not been spent. Capital works expenditure allocated in this year's Budget in areas such as the Toowoomba Ambulance Centre, the Toowoomba TAFE and the Toowoomba Hospital has been promised as far back as the 1992-93 Budget.

But let me inform honourable members of the case of the disappearing Budget item. In last year's Budget, an amount of \$200,000 was allocated to begin preliminary work on a much-needed office annexe at the Toowoomba Police Station. The budgeted total estimated cost was \$1.9m, with an estimated \$1.7m to be spent post 1994-95. In this year's Budget, the entire item has disappeared and the cramped and archaic conditions that officers at the Toowoomba Police Station have been forced to endure for years will continue, so much so that office space continues to have to be utilised in an adjacent former Government building and in the old Toowoomba Court House building.

Policing in Toowoomba has been under the spotlight over the last two years with the introduction of the trial QPS/CJC-sponsored Police Community Beat Program. Honourable members would know by now that the program involves a police officer being allocated to and residing in a suburb, or beat; that officer becomes part of that community and serves the area in which he lives. Two beat areas have been trialled in Toowoomba, with the trial results being handed by the CJC to the Queensland Police Service on 3 May. Indications from that trial have shown that the number of some criminal activities, particularly relating to property offences, has dropped in the beat area in contrast to an escalation in the number of the very same offences in other parts of the city. The success of the Toowoomba program has led to the announcement that the program will be extended into other areas of the State. I hope that the Government will see fit to continue funding for that program in Toowoomba.

Another issue of concern in this Budget for Toowoomba and the Darling Downs is public housing. In the 1994-95 Budget, the following funding was allocated to the Darling

Downs for public housing: \$355,000 to build four aged housing units; \$4.04m for 50 apartment and attached housing units; and \$770,000 for eight detached housing units. That was a total allocation of \$5.1m. In this year's Budget, the Darling Downs has received funding for just over \$4.2m—a reduction of almost \$1m. This Government is big on rhetoric when it comes to social justice, but here we have a clear case of a reduction in capital works spending in a particular area which is sure to make it harder for the aged and those on low incomes to access public rental housing.

Let me again demonstrate to the House how misleading the Government is when it comes to capital works expenditure. Way back in the 1992-93 Budget, an amount of \$550,000 was allocated for renovations to the Toowoomba Ambulance Centre. The post 1992-93 component was nothing. In other words, the job was to be completed before the end of the 1992-93 financial year—or so the people of Toowoomba were led to believe. Then along came the 1993-94 Budget showing an allocation of \$300,000 for the very same ambulance station renovation, with a post 1993-94 component of \$228,000. These were the renovations we were led to believe would be completed before the end of the 1992-93 financial year.

Then along came the 1994-95 Budget and an allocation of \$500,000 for the Toowoomba Ambulance Station renovations—again with no post 1994-95 allocation. It may not come as any real surprise to members to again see an allocation in this year's Budget of \$708,000 towards an estimated total cost of \$1.2m for renovations to the Toowoomba Ambulance Station—no post 1995-96 component, but another allocation of \$500,000 for Toowoomba Stage 2. It is quite strange that, just before an election, the Deputy Premier and Minister for Emergency Services will be in Toowoomba next Tuesday to open Stage 1 almost three years after funding was first allocated in the 1992-93 Budget. Goodness knows how long the people of Toowoomba will have to wait for the completion of Stage 2!

I do want to place on record some praise for officers of both the Queensland Ambulance Service and the Queensland Fire Service in Toowoomba who were given the task of coordinating the planning of a joint telecommunications facility in the newly refurbished ambulance station. Years ago, it would probably be unheard of to have the "firies" and the "ambos" working side by side in a project of that nature. But it is about to

happen, and full credit must be given to the officers from both services in Toowoomba for their joint cooperation in that project. Once it is up and running, the project will provide the people of Toowoomba and district with a much more coordinated and efficient approach to emergency services communication.

In the 1993-94 Budget, the Government announced an amount of \$230,000 for the planning of a proposed \$2.7m regional centre for the Department of Environment and Heritage in Toowoomba. The 1994-95 Budget came along, reducing the total estimated cost to \$1.2m but allocating \$650,000 to commence the centre. This year's Budget shows that only \$175,000 of the \$650,000 allocated last year has been spent, with \$1.2m budgeted for this financial year and a post 1995-96 component of \$352,000. Here is another case of money being budgeted for capital works projects but not being spent. We will wait with bated breath to see whether any money will be actually spent this financial year on the Department of Environment and Heritage centre in Toowoomba, which to this day has not been seen.

I specifically wish to turn to aspects of the Budget which affect the electorate of Toowoomba North. This Budget sees a further allocation of \$5.9m to complete Stage 2 of the \$12.2m extensions to the Southern Queensland Institute of TAFE Technology Complex. That project, initiated by the previous National Party Government and funded by this Government—and those extra funds are welcomed—will hopefully see a TAFE facility able to meet the vocational training needs of students well into the next century.

Another area of capital expenditure announced in this Budget for Toowoomba North, apart from a share in the \$4.2m public housing allocation, is a welcome \$750,000 office extension for the Toowoomba offices of the DPI. It is assumed that this allocation will be used to house the department's Water Resources section which, as I understand it, will be relocating from the centre of the city.

A lot has been said during this debate about the amount of funding allocated to fixing the health crisis facing this State. Perhaps finally in Toowoomba we will see the fit out of the shell floor for five operating theatres at the Toowoomba General Hospital. For more than three years we have seen a vacant and unused facility which has done nothing to address the critical waiting list problem. An amount of \$6.7m has been

allocated in this Budget to finally see that project up and running. Quite frankly, it has been an embarrassing white elephant left to lie dormant for many years.

The decision to also build a community health centre on newly acquired land at a total cost of \$4.5m is a decision which leaves many Toowoomba residents scratching their heads, because Queensland Health could easily have saved some money by utilising vacant land in the grounds of the existing Toowoomba Hospital for that very purpose. The decision, however, has been made, and \$3.4m has been allocated in this Budget for the program to commence on the old 25 RQR site at the corner of Kitchener and Margaret Streets in the city. Heaven help those people trying to access the centre at one of the city's real bottleneck intersections! No doubt there will have to be plenty of planning for access to that centre and for car parking.

The 1995-96 State Budget will be seen as a sinister document mainly for what is not in the document: the off Budget items; the items that the Parliament can no longer scrutinise until the release of annual reports; the GOCs and corporatised entities; and the off Budget debt. These are the trademarks of the economic cot case economies of the failed and disgraced Labor administrations in southern States, and the trend will continue in Queensland under this Labor Government.

Mr MITCHELL (Charters Towers) (3.38 p.m.): I am pleased to participate in this debate. Once again, this Budget provides for an increase in proposed expenditure to all departments. That is not out of character for the Goss Government, as we have seen the very same formula applied year after year without any improvement in service delivery. Not only are people being denied the right to essential services such as health, education and personal protection through the Police Service but also the Goss Government is shamelessly throwing money away on continual cover-ups. The frustration of the management and staff is at breaking point and will translate into a huge backlash to the Government at the forthcoming election.

Queenslanders do not see value for their tax dollar because every year the Goss Government has built up a massive bureaucracy that is failing to deliver the goods to the people. That is not the fault of the people who make up the Queensland public service. The way in which the Goss Government has treated its public servants is shameful. The Government's obsession with bulk bureaucracy—or quantity—does not

translate into quality of service delivery. This mismanagement and ill-treatment of the rank and file will inevitably lead to a degeneration in service delivery. The amount of money thrown at the public service is such that it can blanket or cover up the deep-rooted problems faced by it and, in turn, the problems faced by Queenslanders in general.

Although we all welcome national parks to preserve our native species, there are some very real problems in the way in which this Government manages its acquisitions. The record set by the Government early in its term—and maintained by the current Minister—is of a great rush to acquire land which is then left in a basically unmanaged state. The money is spent on acquisition to make good Labor's promise to convert more and more of Queensland's land to national parks. Very little, however, is spent on rangers to manage that land or the equipment that they need to do the job properly. The result is that land previously well managed for grazing purposes goes to rack and ruin. In most cases, the only thing that the Government achieves is the creation of a new sanctuary for pest species of plants and animals. The prickly acacia is allowed to get out of control and so is the rubber vine. Without proper land managers to keep their numbers down, feral pigs have never had it so good. The national parks people spend just about nothing on firebreaks, which is a big problem out there, or any other measures to minimise the impact of fire, which is part of the natural cycle in the north.

Graziers complain to me frequently of difficulties they have in convincing national parks to maintain fences. The result of all this is that the Goss managers on adjoining properties pay the price for national park neglect. They have to cope with the spread of bush fires and, from the national parks, the spread of noxious plants and the raids by mobs of feral pigs and animals. The only way to describe the management of national parks in Queensland—that is, the Government—is that they are bad neighbours. As managers, this Government should be slowing down the acquisition program until it can cope with the land that it has already taken over.

National parks present another problem in that vast amounts of land are permanently removed from production. Once a block has been taken over for national park, or even native title, there is no chance that it will ever be brought back to production. This presents a serious, long-term impediment to the growth and even the maintenance of the northern cattle industry—probably the most important

component of Australia's livestock industries. Australia should be in a good position to dominate the growing Asian and South East Asian trade in beef and other livestock products, but it would be a great pity if the ability of the industry to grow was artificially constrained any further.

I am disappointed in the lack of money allocated for capital works to schools throughout the Charters Towers electorate. Airconditioning programs are not a luxury; they are a necessity in the 40-degree heat experienced by many communities throughout the north west and central Queensland communities. Research done by some principals in those areas has determined that the effects of heat reduce effectual teaching time by a third in the summer months. This is an alarming revelation and one that highlights the ignorance of the Goss Government to the urgent needs of regional and remote Queensland teachers and children.

Distance education remains one of the most neglected areas in Queensland's education system. As the information highway steams ahead and communication is continually revolutionised, it is glaringly obvious that the Goss Government is leaving isolated children with morse code methods of learning. Where has the commitment to basic infrastructure like Charters Towers Central State School oval disappeared to? Was it again merely a Goss promise on paper that will not come to fruition? The allocation of \$2.5m to establish alternative programs for disruptive student programs will be welcomed by principals and teachers across the State. That is a very good initiative.

Throughout the north west and the Charters Towers electorate, regional road networks are in a state of neglect. Many gravel roads in that vicinity are still being referred to as highways. The Clermont to Charters Towers road link has the potential to be one of the main arterial roads in Queensland and part of the national road network. It could serve to boost tourism fourfold in north Queensland, central Queensland, the north west and the cape. I welcome the \$6.63m for completion of the bitumen on the Gregory Development Road and the start of the bridge over the Belyando River. The planned expenditure of \$450m on State-controlled roads would be greeted with delight by all if it translates into bricks, bitumen and mortar as a follow through to the promised dollars. Recently, there was no rain in the area in which that road is being built, but it rained further north, and that closed the road for two weeks. It would be a big plus for

the people in that area to have that road completed.

I welcome the \$13m allocated for further upgrades on the Mount Isa rail line. I note, however, the complete lack of consideration of the major shortfall in outlays to increase the capacity of the Hughenden-Winton line. Winton has secured a major private sector investment coup with the recent establishment of a gypsum processing plant. This plant relies on effective transportation to and from Winton but presently has to contend with the ludicrous situation that was mentioned by the member for Gregory earlier in the debate in which rail lines backtrack halfway down the State to get up to the intended destination. Presently, because of freight limits on the Hughenden-Winton line, the freight has to be transported from Winton to Longreach, down to Rockhampton and then up to the Burdekin to get it out of the country. That is a ludicrous situation. This is all happening while, for the purposes of heavy freight transport, the Hughenden-Winton line directly across to the port lies abandoned.

This Budget has no real vision toward the setting up and perpetuation of decent water schemes to sustain the State, particularly the rural reaches of Queensland. This is because the Goss Labor Government has abandoned the community service philosophy dictated by a National Party Government which ensured that rural industry and rural communities would not have to bear the costs of water provisions because productive infrastructure was a responsibility of Government. Now, under the Goss Government, it simply is not.

I know that the Water Resources section has completed overview studies on many of our rivers and waterways, yet the Government still has no policy to use these natural resources to create more industry. The Burdekin Dam is a prime example. With the extension to a second stage of development, the irrigation capacity of this facility could extend down to Clermont and north to Charters Towers. The western shires of Flinders, Richmond, and McKinlay would also benefit greatly if the Flinders River was dammed at some stage. With such schemes put in place, the savings to the Government through drought years would be in the multi-millions.

It seems impossible for State and Federal Labor Governments to deliver a Budget that favours small-business, as they once again face a 5 per cent payroll tax hike and an increase of 6 per cent in motor vehicle registration, which is a further impost on small-

business. With youth unemployment at an all-time high in rural Queensland—it is averaging 30 per cent—these taxes make it harder for those young people to find employment in their home towns. Such small-business imposts are in addition to the extraordinary green levy on everything that moves.

I am pleased that the Minerals and Energy Department has seen fit to fund the finalising of some of the projects in the electorate of Charters Towers. There is \$30,000 to finalise the rehabilitation of the old Chariah mine site and \$5.592m for the Cape River-Hughenden transmission line to increase reliable power to the north west of the State. This project is about 12 months behind schedule, but it will be a tremendous benefit to the north west.

Funding for the completion of the ambulance station at Charters Towers will be well received, as it has been four years since it was first announced. This allocation will fund the completion of that facility. The new fire stations at Hughenden and Charters Towers will also be a great asset for these centres.

Other members in this debate have mentioned the debacles of the Lands Department—the ever-increasing land taxes; the land evaluations, which are up by about 50 per cent across Queensland; and the tree-clearing guidelines which hit the rural producers like a lead balloon. While I am on this subject, I would like to support the Mayor of Belyando Shire, Mr Jim Turner, and the Mayor of Peak Downs, Mr John Brown, in their request that the Minister assist the farmers with extra funding to cover spraying costs for their crops in the Central Highlands areas which have been devastated by the current locust plague. As all members would realise, these people have suffered four to five years of drought, so we look forward to a response from the Minister or the Treasurer on measures to assist those people. Some farmers have already spent in excess of \$50,000 on spraying, and they do not harvest for another two months.

I wish to reiterate what the Leader of the Opposition had to say in reply to this year's Budget. This is another Budget from this Government of missed opportunities. It is another Budget of attempted patch-ups, sneaky taxes and fiddling the books. Therefore, it is a typical Labor Budget.

Mr J. N. GOSS (Aspley) (3.49 p.m.): It seems that Governments with large majorities have been arrogant and aloof in telling communities what is best for them rather than investigating and focusing on the real needs

and wants of the electorate. I can safely say that now—after five and a half years in power—this Government, with its large majority of 19, is guilty of such unforgiving actions. The members of the Government have not listened to the people who trusted them and voted them into power. Over the last three years, instead of finding out ways to improve the day-to-day lives of Queenslanders by improving transport, health care and education, and working on finding solutions to crime and environmental problems, the Government has been wasting both the taxpayers' time and money by going merrily down its own path without engaging in genuine consultation.

It seems quite convenient that now, in the midst of election thoughts, the Government is instantly concerned about the majority of the issues. It has suddenly decided that the issues of crime, transport, education, housing, health and the environment are important. I believe that it is too late. The electors are waking up to this Government. There is one broken promise after another. All that people see is the froth and bubble figures, and they are adamant that it is not good enough and that they want results.

Commenting on how poorly the Government has responded to the needs of Queenslanders, I would like to raise some of the issues affecting the Aspley electorate. I have pursued a number of these important issues over recent years because Government resources are necessary to solve the problems. There are five main areas that need addressing in the Aspley electorate. They include roads, housing, public transport, medical issues and the environment.

Firstly, I would like to address the road safety issue. As more people move into Queensland at an ever increasing rate, the number of vehicles that are utilising Brisbane's roads is increasing. With this increase in traffic, more and more people are moving off the arterial roads and using minor roads, which are becoming clogged and congested during peak periods. This forces motorists to use minor routes to reach their destinations. These alternative routes often run past schools, and this is where the problem lies.

Road safety in the vicinity of schools is a serious problem in the Aspley electorate, but it has been almost ignored by the Government. Although the State Government had the local government erect school speed signs, they were erected only in areas where traffic speed was already low. Regardless of the sparsity of these signs, it is of concern that they have

been erected in each local authority area carrying varying times for when the speed limit applies. As a result, when moving through different regions or different local authority areas, motorists have to read the speed signs carefully and note the times for which the speeds apply. Then they have to decide whether it is a school day. Seeing these signs seven days a week, 52 weeks a year when the sign is really effective for only a few hours a day for about 250 days a year breeds contempt for them. It is acknowledged that a large percentage of motorists ignore these speed signs. Police admit that in some locations that bear these signs, two out of every three motorists could be booked for speeding. Because of the different signs and rules between the regions, a definite need exists to standardise the school speed zone signs and rules throughout this State. Current signs do little to enhance road safety around the schools.

One solution would be the erection of large 40 kilometres an hour signs with amber flashing lights in dangerous locations. This proposal would improve safety outside a number of schools in and around the Aspley electorate, including St Dymnias, Aspley State Primary and High Schools, Aspley East State School, Aspley Special School, the SEDU, Aspley Pre-school, Strathpine State School and the Pine Rivers State High School. In addition, to ensure that this proposal for more effective road safety procedures succeeds, I call on the Government to introduce safety supervisors at schools where there are pedestrian lights located at the school or where existing school crossings are positioned in dangerous locations. Supervisors would ensure that students walk only on the green signal because the supervisors would operate the pedestrian lights. Three schools in or around the Aspley electorate that are in desperate need of this kind of safety supervisor are the Aspley State School on Maundrell Terrace, Bald Hills State School on Gympie Road and McDowall State School on Rode Road. While those students can access the schools by pedestrian crossings, they need to be supervised to secure their safety.

One of the major north side traffic problem areas in the afternoon peak period is the lack of capacity on the Bruce Highway bridge over the Pine River. When the upgrading of the Gateway Arterial Road is completed, four lanes of traffic will converge onto a two-lane bridge. The bank-up of traffic through Bald Hills adds to the pollution in the area, and there is an additional need for a bridge over the Pine River. As well, a

commitment must be made in the very near future to construct the northern link road, which will connect the Gympie Arterial and Gateway Arterial to Gympie Road at Lawnton. This will reduce drastically the number of vehicles using local roads through Bald Hills and will also reduce the volume of traffic on Gympie Road through Strathpine.

There are many other issues that fall under the road issue umbrella. One such issue is the importance of protecting residents from road noise pollution. For many years now I have campaigned to improve the quality of life of residents living along the Gympie Arterial Road, particularly those at Bald Hills. Even though a section of Gympie Road received proper sound barriers, after a campaign a couple of years ago most of the road has received only earth barriers that provide some, but not adequate, sound proofing. To protect the residents from noise pollution, a two metre high barrier needs to be erected along the top of the existing earth mound on the western side of Gympie Road and extended another 400 metres. An additional 1.8 metre barrier also needs to be erected on the eastern side of the Gympie Arterial Road.

A project which requires a long-term commitment from Government, council and the local community is a proposal that is now under way to increase the number of trees and shrubs planted along Gympie Road at Carseldine and Aspley in an attempt to try to ease the noise pollution and other associated problems. The plants will absorb very little of the noise but will make the outlook and the life more pleasant for the local residents in the future. However, despite fierce lobbying on behalf of the local residents in Kluver Road, the Government has offered no relief from the noise pollution that they have to contend with from both Gympie Road and Kluver Road. Their homes were built there long before the arterial road was constructed. In the past, requests have also been made to construct similar sound barriers on the southern side of the Gateway Arterial Road adjoining the North Wind Estate and these, unfortunately, have also fallen on deaf ears in the department.

A road issue that is directly related to Government payments is the Government's reluctance to pay landowners for land that is resumed for road expansion. Some years ago the Government upgraded Albany Creek Road and resumed a part of a number of properties to allow for road widening. Motorists are happily utilising this nice new road, but many of the residents have not yet received one cent of compensation. The Government

has benefited from promises that it has not kept to the people out there. They want to negotiate and they want their money for the land that is now a road.

Secondly, I would now like to look at the problems relating to housing. Married pensioners living in State rental housing have had a raw deal from this Labor Government. Over the last 18 months rents have increased at a faster rate than pension increases. This has reduced the disposable income of thousands of pensioners. As well, war veterans who live in State housing and receive a disability pension which is assessed by the Federal Government to cover all the costs involved with the disability are required to pay the State Government 24 per cent of that disability pension in rent.

If we take into account Australia's ageing population, circumstances like these, where the Government squeezes every last cent from the older community, will result in our aged people having a reduced quality of life. Although there are a number of housing schemes that cater for the underprivileged and disadvantaged, there is one housing scheme that I must always support, that is the community rent scheme. I am particularly lucky to have one of these schemes in my electorate, Cabbage Tree Housing. There are a number of these schemes including OSCAR on the south side and Mangrove over at East Brisbane, and I am pleased to see an increase in their allocation in this current Budget. However, as I have remarked previously, Housing Department red tape is making the scheme more and more difficult to administer. I confirm my support for the rent scheme and congratulate the management committee and staff for doing such an excellent job. However, I am concerned about the possible misuse of funds in the Cooperative Housing Program. Although I have received a number of complaints and there has been a substantial allocation of public moneys to those programs, the audit accounts are not made public. That leads me to wonder why.

Another housing problem facing the electorate relates to the thousands of Queenslanders and in particular the hundreds of people in the northern suburbs who have been caught up in the HOME and rental purchase schemes. Those schemes were sold by the State Government and designed to help the Aussie battlers—the low-income earners—to buy and eventually own their own homes. Unfortunately, that scheme has proven to be one of the biggest fiascos in Queensland's housing history. People who

believed that the Labor Party scheme was there to help them soon found out that the scheme was making more money for the Government than would an equivalent loan from a bank. Because those low-income earners had faith in the Queensland Housing Commission and the Labor Government, they relied on the commission to be supportive and helpful.

The rental purchase scheme, in particular, has become a nightmare, with many of the people in that scheme admitting that they would have been better off if they had continued renting, and many of them are still paying high interest rates. In addition, those people are required to pay 100 per cent of their rates and insurance plus paying rent on the Government's share of their houses. The valuations of those properties were unrealistic; some properties were valued by the Government at \$15,000 over their true value. In last year's Budget, the Government allocated \$300m to home ownership, yet this year I note that the allocation is only \$61m. I believe that that is because the people have clearly woken up and rejected the Government's lending schemes.

Thirdly, public transport is a major concern that many residents on the north side face, especially those people who use Queensland Rail or live near railway stations. That concern is the increasing number of gangs who use the rail system to move around Brisbane. Those gangs pose a threat to the community because, when travelling on trains, they threaten the lives of passengers and Queensland Rail staff. Queensland Rail staff have informed me that two of the most dangerous stations on the north side are Zillmere and Bald Hills, both of which are in my electorate. Gangs hang around on the passenger platforms at those stations for up to 1.5 hours waiting for connecting trains. While there, they make passengers boarding or alighting the trains feel uncomfortable and afraid. Passengers and Queensland Rail staff not only fear for their safety at those stations but also while they are on the trains.

On a recent evening trip through Bald Hills, two of the windows were smashed in the carriage in which I was travelling. That sort of violence goes on and on. Attacks on passengers, staff and property—both on and off the trains—happen almost daily. Police try to constantly patrol the trouble spots, but they do not have the resources to combat the rail crime as well as all the other problems, such as breaking and entering and hold-ups in the area. Is it any wonder that many of the elderly people tell me that, of an evening, they no

longer use trains to go to places such as the Cultural Centre?

One issue that is dear to my heart is the issue of the Prince Charles Hospital. For six years, I had the honour of being a member of the board of that hospital. It was a great honour to hold that position, and I found it most interesting and challenging. I place on record my thanks to the persistence of organisations and clubs who have supported and fundraised for the hospital's research and equipment. In particular, I thank the Chermiside Bowls Club for their generosity.

The proposal to move the cardio-thoracic unit of Prince Charles Hospital to the Royal Brisbane Hospital is still a cause of concern amongst the people of the northern suburbs. After trying to tough it out, the Government pretended to back down, even though it was still committed to moving the cardiothoracic unit to Royal Brisbane Hospital. More and more cardiothoracic surgery is being conducted at Royal Brisbane Hospital. Because of the uncertainty, a number of specialists and key surgeons have left Prince Charles Hospital for greener pastures interstate and overseas. However, it is still a commitment of the Labor Government to turn Prince Charles Hospital into a general hospital. I believe that that would be to the great detriment of the local community.

The Labor Government cannot be proud of what it has done to the disabled through changes in the system of issuing parking permits. This Labor Government could not wait to get its hands on the \$10 application fee from the disabled, infirm and sick. Most of the organisations representing people with disabilities who previously had had permits were not consulted. The criteria were so strict that, basically, only people in wheelchairs received a blue permit. As all honourable members would be aware, the blue permit is sought by most disabled people because it allows them to park on roads and in public places as well as in shopping centres. The red permit is almost worthless, as there is no legislation to enforce the "red permit only" parking areas in shopping centres. So one could say that thousands of people were duded when they paid their \$10 fee. This Government has not considered the people who are not in wheelchairs but who suffer from a serious illness, such as emphysema or a heart condition, and may not have great mobility. Many of those people need to park on the street for medical visits. This Government, which has no heart, has eliminated them from the blue permit system.

Recently, I had the honour of opening the therapy pool at the Aspley Special School. I will tell honourable members the saga of the funding for that pool. The P & C applied for a grant subsidy for the pool, which caters for the disadvantaged students of the school. After applying for that subsidy, the P & C members were told that the application should be cancelled because a therapy pool would be constructed under the Government's Capital Works Program. So what happened? They changed their application so that they could obtain funding from the Capital Works Fund. After cancelling their original application, the members of the P & C received a reply to the effect that there was no money available in the Capital Works Fund. So congratulations should go to the P & C, Aspley Lions, the committee of the recycling centre, North Aspley Football Club and many businesses and others who joined together and raised the total of \$30,000 for the pool. The Community Gaming Machine Benefit Fund contributed \$7,000 towards heating the pool.

I note that the Mount Gravatt West Special School has been allocated some several hundred thousand dollars for its therapy school. Talk about waste! The Aspley Special School is a senior school; yet the Government insisted on installing \$20,000 worth of junior playground equipment which has never been used to this day.

In relation to facilities—I hope that the Minister for Education has not forgotten the promised new library building for the Bald Hills State School. It is very noticeable that many of the allocations in this Budget are spread over two, three, five or 10 years.

Time expired.

Hon. K. E. De LACY (Cairns—Treasurer) (4.09 p.m.), in reply: For one dreadful moment I thought it would never end, but it has. In fact, I did contemplate that this year I would buy a T-shirt which said, "I survived the 1995 Budget debate." Nevertheless, all good things come to an end, and we are all pleased about that.

Things have not changed that much. In fact, quite a few speeches from the Opposition were exactly the same speeches as the ones they delivered last year and the year before and the year before. We have heard that story, "If you have nothing to say, just say what you said last year." Have we heard the story before about going down the John Cain route? Honourable members would remember that, in 1990, Mr Borbidge said, "This is the last Budget when you live off the National Party." He said, "From this point on,

you are on your own." We have been on our own ever since.

This year, Opposition members did get some things right. They said that it was a Labor Budget. How perceptive! The second thing they said was that it was a big-spending Budget, and they were right again. In fact, I even gave them the lines. The Leader of the Opposition was so original in his speech that when he stood up to speak, his press secretary went around the press gallery delivering copies of his speech and my press secretary followed him around giving copies of my response to his speech. The media said, "How could you respond to the speech? He has not given it." My press secretary said, "We heard it last year." Basically, if members look at the press coverage that the Leader of the Opposition received for the speech that he made, they would see that the media accepted what my press secretary said.

When I listen to Opposition members, I wonder where they are all the time. I have been in Opposition and I know how it gets. One starts going in ever-decreasing circles, but one keeps reinforcing one's own point of view. It is a bit like the dodo bird that flies around in ever-decreasing circles; but, of course, members know where it disappeared to in the end. The dodo bird is now extinct. I think that is what is happening to the Opposition. Paul Braddy said that Opposition members reckon they can even drink their own bathwater. I was not quite sure what he meant by that. I think he meant that they are starting to believe that they can win. They believe they can win because they have closed out the world. They have this ever-decreasing circle of friends, and they are reinforcing their own point of view. However, the world out there is no longer taking any notice of the National Party. The National Party is no longer relevant to the real world.

Opposition members got together and decided that what they would say about this Budget was that, firstly, it has no vision and, secondly, that the Government is just throwing a bucket of money at everything but is not achieving any objectives. In respect of the vision—what is vision? I do not know. However, I do know that Mr Borbidge said, "They have lost a great opportunity. They have no vision." I do not know where he got that from. I read the newspapers from around Australia, not just in Queensland, to see what they had to say about the Budget. Those newspapers referred to the Goss Government as having vision, and the Budget as being a far-sighted Budget. In fact, the Government has never received so much publicity

throughout Australia. The newspapers referred to the Government as being far-sighted, having a national interest and having vision.

I read a print-out from the ABC. It contained four stories in a row: one by the national president of the stock exchange, stating that the Goss Government had vision; one by a stockbroker stating that the Goss Government was far-sighted; one by an independent commentator stating that the Goss Government is leading Australia; and one by Mr Borbidge saying that the Government has no vision. Members can take it whichever way they like, but I think it is a bit rich that the Opposition talks about this Government having no vision when everybody knows that it is a policy-free zone.

The second comment by Opposition members was that the Government was throwing a bucket of money. Their big problem in criticising the Government is the fact that it is doing it right. The Government's underlying position just gets stronger, stronger and stronger. Opposition members talk about going down the John Cain route, but nobody can ignore the fact—and everybody out there accepts it—that from a financial management point of view, the Goss Government is doing it well. The Government is spending more money; it is meeting the needs of the people of Queensland. Of course, that causes the Opposition some concern. It does not know how the Government is doing it. So the Opposition has this new strategy of saying, "Yes, sure, they are putting money there. It's the same old Labor Party thing—just throw money at the problem." Then Opposition members take up the rest of the time allocated for their speeches criticising the fact the Government has not thrown enough money at a particular problem in their electorates.

I have a few graphs here—and if anybody wants them later I would certainly be prepared to make them available—which demonstrate that the Government is achieving worthwhile outcomes. We are an outcome-orientated Government. In respect of health, it has two superimposed graphs; the increase in expenditure—the buckets of money—and the increase in admissions. The graph indicating the increase in admissions is very much greater than the graph indicating the increase in spending. That means that we are getting more procedures per dollar than was the case five years ago. So we are throwing more money at health, and we are treating a lot more people. In respect of education—

Mr FitzGerald interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Briskey): Order! I remind the honourable member that he should not interject from other than his own seat.

Mr De LACY: People are not in hospital for as long, but they are receiving more complex and more expensive treatment. They are going out into the community, and the Government is putting money into community services as well. The education graph proves that the number of teachers is increasing at a faster rate than is funding for education. The law and order and public safety graph shows that the number of police is increasing at a faster rate than we are increasing the resources that we are putting into the Police Service. I know that is just a simple snapshot, but it makes the point that we are achieving worthwhile outcomes; we are not just throwing money at the issues.

Mr FitzGerald: I don't think it is proved beyond reasonable doubt, though, is it?

Mr De LACY: I would think that a jury, properly constituted, would come to the conclusion that we are improving on outcomes without reasonable doubt.

Mr T. B. Sullivan: And a jury will decide in the next couple of months.

Mr De LACY: That is right. To a certain extent, the jury is out. It has not made its decision, but it will not be long.

Mr Springborg: Bring on the jury, Mr Treasurer.

Mr De LACY: It will be around probably sooner than the member expects.

The Leader of the Opposition and the deputy leader seemed to have two themes, although it amused me that the Deputy Leader of the Coalition, the Leader of the Liberal Party, spent three-quarters of her speech talking about the electorate of Caloundra, which was hardly a statesmanlike speech from the Leader of the Liberal Party. Methinks that, at present, the Leader of the Liberal Party is more concerned about Caloundra than Queensland.

Mr T. B. Sullivan: That is right. She has need to be.

Mr De LACY: I accept that. I believe she has good reason. The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party tried to make two points in respect of taxes. They said that Queensland's low-tax status is an illusion. This year's Commonwealth Grants Commission report states—

". . . for 1993-94, Queensland could raise"—

and these are the words of the Commonwealth Grants Commission—

"\$1,208 million more in income (from all State sources including dividends, royalties, tax equivalents, etc.) if it imposed that same range and level of taxes, charges, etc. as the average of all States."

So if we did it the same as Governments in other States do it, we would get an extra \$1,280m.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics uses different criteria to measure revenue. It refers to taxes, fees and fines rather than to all revenue. However, it indicates that the average per capita taxation revenue of all States is 40 per cent higher than that in Queensland. I think members have heard me say that when Labor was elected in 1989, it was 32 per cent. So we have increased the differential.

The second thing that Mrs Sheldon said was that, since 1989-90, the per capita tax collections are up by \$470 per capita or 60 per cent. Just let me put that one to bed. That is not true; the Opposition is not comparing apples with apples. The analysis upon which this claim is based is flawed because it does not take into account changes in the composition of the Consolidated Fund tax revenue over the period. In 1989-90, motor vehicle registration fees were not included in the Consolidated Fund. They were not in the base year funds—and that is well over \$400m a year. Also, in those days bank accounts debit tax was not a State Government tax; it was a Commonwealth Government tax. The Commonwealth transferred that to the State and took away an equivalent amount in financial assistance grants. So when one takes into account those factors, the six-year per capita increase is 30 per cent, not 60 per cent. That reflects inflation, growth in the economy, the increase in the tobacco tax—which we do not deny—and the introduction of poker machines. It is a very simple explanation.

I wish to raise another point. The honourable member for Brisbane Central, Mr Beattie, mentioned this issue in his speech, which followed that by the Leader of the Opposition. This is a good example of the breathtaking duplicity of the Leader of the Opposition. Every honourable member on this side of the House now realises that, when honourable members opposite cite statistics from a document, they should not be taken at face value. Government members can bet

their lives that members opposite are only telling them part of the story.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke about our commitment to fund a \$150m per year hospital rebuilding program. He said—

"For the entire second term of this Government, the central promise of the member for Logan in seeking that second term was not honoured once."

Then the Leader of the Opposition cited the Budget papers. He said—

"In 1993-94, it was \$47.984m, according to page 58 of that Budget Paper No. 6."

I have that Budget paper here. For hospital capital works, yes, there is \$47.984m. But the document then goes on to address primary health care centres and the new equipment and information technology for hospitals, the total expenditure for which was \$150,475,000. The Leader of the Opposition used the word "dill" in his speech. The Leader of the Opposition either has to be a superhuman dill not to be able to read those papers or he has to be a person who does not care about the facts or the truth. There may be a bit of both involved. I suspect that the latter is the case, because I do not necessarily think that the Leader of the Opposition is a dill. However, he must be either a liar or a dill to cite those statistics in the House.

I wish to make a couple of other points. The member for Gregory spoke about transport. He spoke about all of the things that we have not done in respect of transport and roads. I said to Treasury officials, "I know that we are spending a lot more money on roads. Go and dig out the Budget that we inherited." In 1989-90, the total roads capital budget was \$325m, of which \$143m was made available by the Commonwealth and \$182m by the State—the Nats looking after the country people! This year, the budget for roads is \$730m—\$180m from the Commonwealth Government and \$550m from the State Government. We have increased State funding for roads from \$182m to \$550m.

The member for Western Downs said that 70 per cent was going into the south-east corner. Again, we see more fiddling of the statistics. Seventy per cent of the population happens to be in the south-east corner. However, 30 per cent of our Budget is worth more than the whole of the Budget of the

former Government. Not only that, because of reforms introduced by the former Transport Minister, Mr Hamill, we are getting 30 per cent more value for our road dollar than was the case before. Country Queensland is a lot better off under the Goss Government in respect of road funding than was the case when the so-called Government that represented country areas was in place—the National Party Government. If honourable members opposite ask people in the country areas about this, they will agree with my comments. I was at Emerald a couple of weeks ago. Every deputation said, "One thing we've got to say is: you are putting a lot of money into roads."

The member for Burnett delivered Drew Hutton's speech today. Drew Hutton is saying that we have not increased spending on the environment, an issue that he raised with me on talkback radio the other day. He seems to be measuring commitment to the environment on the basis of the resources that are committed to it. My view is that the game is a lot bigger than that. I said, "If that's the way you want to measure it, let's measure it that way." When we came to power, the budget for what is now the Department of Environment and Heritage was \$40m. This year, it is \$161m—a 400 per cent increase. Based on the criteria used by Drew Hutton and Mr Slack, we have increased our commitment to the environment by 400 per cent.

I thank all honourable members. There were certainly a lot of great contributions from

this side of the House, and there were a lot of good and genuine contributions from the other side of the House. A lot of members are concerned and raised genuine issues about their electorates. To the extent that honourable members on either side of the House are concerned about issues in their electorates, we are prepared to respond. But most of the petty, orchestrated knocking and whingeing that we heard from the other side of the House is probably the main reason why the National Party and the Liberal Party—is the Liberal Party still around—

Mr Vaughan: Where is the shadow Treasurer?

Mr De LACY: Yes, where is the shadow Treasurer?

Mr Springborg: Stalking the Premier.

Mr De LACY: Yes, stalking the Premier, looking for a policy. That is why members opposite are no longer relevant to the people of Queensland.

Motion agreed to.

Reference to Estimates Committees

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Briskey): Order! In accordance with the Sessional Orders adopted by the House on 31 March 1995, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill are referred to the Estimates committees for consideration and report by 13 June 1995.

The House adjourned at 4.28 p.m.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE**3. Prince Charles Hospital**

Mr T. B. SULLIVAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) What role will The Prince Charles Hospital have in the proposed Metropolitan Hospitals Plan?
- (2) Will the world renowned cardio-thoracic services be retained at The Prince Charles Hospital?
- (3) Will additional community services be provided at Chermside?

Answer:

- (1) The Prince Charles Hospital will have an expanded role in the provision of general medical and surgical services to the northern growth areas of Brisbane.
- (2) The Prince Charles Hospital will continue to provide cardiology and cardiac surgery services.
- (3) Service development at the Prince Charles Hospital will reflect the hospital's new role as a community hospital and will allow the facility to form close links with private general practitioners and play a major role in the care of older people, those with chronic conditions and those who are terminally ill.

5. Eastlink

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

When will Queensland be in a position to trade electricity into New South Wales or the other southern States if the Eastlink National Electricity grid connection proceeds?

Answer:

The Eastlink interconnection would not be completed before 1998.

There would be an ability from the time of interconnection for Queensland to sell electricity into the southern States.

8. Child Protection Officer, Maroochydore

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the high turnover in Queensland of child protection officers which is presently running at about a 10-month average stay per officer—

Will she allocate extra permanent staff to the Maroochydore office; if so, when?

Answer:

In response to the specific questions made by Ms Simpson, I can advise as follows:

I fully recognise the high population growth rates in the Sunshine Coast region and have responded to the need for enhanced services. In February 1993, the Family Services Officer establishment at

Maroochydore Area Office was increased by one to a total of six officers. A new Resource Officer position was also established in April 1993. In March 1994, again in response to increasing needs, an additional Family Services Officer position was provided. In January this year an additional two Family Services Officer positions were provided and the equivalent of eight weeks extra salary provided to backfill staff absent due to recreation or sick leave. The decision to make permanent appointments to these positions will be made after ascertaining that high workload demands are sustained.

Maroochydore Area Office has a stable professional and administrative staff. The seven permanently appointed Family Services Officers have a combined total of 20 years and five months experience in the Department. The longest serving Family Services Officer has four years and five months experience while the least experienced has served one year and four months. There have been no resignations from this office by permanently appointed Family Services Officers since October 1992. Movement through permanent positions has occurred as a result of vacancies arising from transfers and the creation of new positions.

It should be noted that temporary staff are employed to cover legitimate vacancies which occur as a result of staff carrying out other duties and absences arising from staff utilising parental and other leave entitlements. Although temporary staff make up a very small proportion of Family Services Officers (15% in 1993-94) they account for half of all Family Services Officer turnover. As would be expected, they are also make up the vast majority (88% in 1993-94) of Family Services Officers who complete less than 11 months service with the Department. As the experience of Maroochydore Area Office demonstrates, the statement that Family Services Officers have an average 10 month 'stay' in my Department is incorrect.

9. Education, North West Region

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the fact that basic core subjects are at risk this year throughout high schools in the North West education region and teaching positions are being cut drastically because of the Government's new staffing formula and the crucial Blackall forum document, which provides recommendations on restructuring, appears to have been stonewalled by his Government—

- (1) What basic core subjects will be provided at high schools such as Blackall, Barcardine, Winton, Cloncurry and Hughenden in 1995?
- (2) Will the Government move urgently to act upon the recommendations of the staff from these schools and not abide solely upon political advisers to set the formula?
- (3) What action will he take to ensure the retention of a full complement of teaching staff at those North West regional schools

targeted for staffing cutbacks as well as a full complement of support staff and guidance officers for the region?

Answer:

(1) Blackall, Barcaldine, Winton, Cloncurry and Hughenden all are offering a core of subjects across the key curriculum areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Science and Practical Arts. Many other subjects continue to be accessed through distance education and the Open Learning Institute.

(2 & 3) School staffing numbers are under constant scrutiny as student populations change. Any adjustments to staff numbers owing to reduced student enrolments are negotiated with the school with the aim of minimising any disruption.

10. Workers Compensation Payments to Cotton Growers

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the deputation from myself and other Primary Producer representatives regarding the categorisation of many cotton growers into the higher risk classification of cattle producing—

What is the current situation regarding workers compensation payments?

Answer:

The Workers' Compensation Regulation provides that the premium rate for workers' compensation policies be charged according to the industry or business activity of the employer.

The Regulation states that where a number of different activities attracting differing premium rates are carried out and the business activities are conducted in a manner where there is internal access or communication between or among the business activities, all employees are classified for premium assessment purposes at the highest applicable rate.

The Regulation allows separate premium rates to apply to individual business activities where -

- there is no means of internal access or communication between or among the business activities at the employer's place of employment; AND
- the businesses are conducted by the employer as separate businesses.

Primary producers who operate multi-industry farms, i.e. both agricultural and pastoral activities, with internal access and communication between the activities, attract the higher rate.

Arising out of representations from Primary Producer representatives and the Honourable Member, the Workers' Compensation Board undertook an examination of a random sample of 200 workers' compensation claims in the pastoral/agricultural industry. This revealed that for 94% of these claims the injured worker was injured whilst working in an activity related to the highest

industry premium rate classification at the enterprise where injury occurred.

Accordingly, the analysis shows that in the majority of cases claims costs for the pastoral/agricultural industry are being appropriately applied to the premium rate being charged and that there is little distortion occurring in the rating system.

Queensland employers have the benefit of ancillary rated workers such as clerical, gardening and cleaning that are not included under the industry classification. In all other jurisdictions in Australia industry rates are charged for all workers, including clerical and managerial.

The following industry premium rates apply as at 1 July 1994:-

Industry	Rate per \$100 wages
Clerical and managerial	\$0.26
Cotton growers	\$2.43
Pastoralists—cattle	\$7.17

17. Alternative Energy Policy

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to his Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Policy statement released in February 1995, in which he offered a grant of \$7 500 to individual Queenslanders forced to install stand-alone power systems due to the fact that the cost of connection to the grid would be in excess of \$30 000, and a press statement from his office, issued 2 days later, declaring that all Queenslanders would have access to the grant, even though they could be connected to the grid for less than \$30 000—

- (1) What is his policy? and
- (2) Why did he change his mind?

Answer:

(1) The Government's policy with regard to Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy was announced on 28 February 1995. It contained a number of initiatives including the Remote Area Power Supply Grant Scheme (RAPS).

The RAPS grant will be a one-off payment designed to encourage remote householders to install stand-alone power systems which incorporate renewable energy sources in accordance with defined guidelines.

Participants will receive up to half the cost of approved systems, to a maximum of \$7,500.

The grant scheme will apply in locations where the cost to the householder of connecting to the nearest practical electricity grid exceeds \$30,000.

Where a special need exists, consideration will be given to a higher grant.

(2) In answer to Mr Gilmore's second question, I have not changed my mind with regard to this policy initiative. I have not released a press statement indicating a change to this policy.

The RAPS Grant Scheme will be introduced within the policy framework outlined in the Government's Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Policy Statement. No change to this framework, or the timetable for its introduction, is contemplated.

18. Public Hospital Budgets

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) Will he provide the actual budgets for all Queensland Public Hospitals for 1993-94 and the budget estimates provided for all Queensland Public Hospitals for 1994-95?
- (2) Will he provide details of all budget over-runs at 31 December 1994 for Queensland Public Hospitals?

Answer:

(1) Details of the 1993-94 budgets and 1994-95 estimated actual expenditure for Queensland's Public Hospitals are detailed in the attached Tables 1-14.

(2) Each year, Queensland's Public Hospitals are issued with budgets to cover expenditure for the 12 months to 30 June. These budgets are continually amended during the course of the year for items such as Awards, Commonwealth Program funding, Superannuation and other items. A Hospital's budget will not be finalised until 30 June each year and an over-run will only occur if its full year expenditure exceeds this budget. No budget is issued to cover the six months to 31 December 1994 and, consequently, there can be no specific overruns as at 31 December 1994.

Details of estimated 1994-95 expenditure for Queensland's Public Hospitals have been detailed in the attached Tables. It is expected that this expenditure will be covered within existing budgets within Queensland Health.

QUEENSLAND HEALTH		
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS BUDGETS		
REGIONS	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
BRISBANE NORTH	388,985	395,816
BRISBANE SOUTH	340,568	366,354
CENTRAL	69,545	73,615
CENTRAL WEST	11,431	11,588
DARLING DOWNS	130,578	136,960
MACKAY	38,622	39,269
NORTHERN	124,879	135,930
PENINSULA	104,834	110,862
SOUTH COAST	87,505	89,267
SOUTH WEST	22,153	22,417
SUNSHINE COAST	108,656	129,377
WEST MORETON	100,052	101,317
WIDE BAY	67,166	71,592
TOTAL	1,594,973	1,684,365
BRISBANE NORTH	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Royal Brisbane Hospital	193,684	198,522
Keperra	4,052	4,106
Queensland Radium Institute	10,401	9,793
Biala	4,529	4,987
Prince Charles Hospital	90,074	90,649
Royal Childrens Hospital	44,163	45,680
Royal Womens Hospital	42,082	42,079
TOTAL	388,985	395,816

Notes : 1. Brisbane North Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$477.2 million. This represents an increase of \$14.8 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$462.3 million, a 3.2% increase.

2. The \$2.475 million budget overrun in the region's hospitals will be offset by available funds elsewhere in the region's budget.

3. The above figures for 1994/95 do not include the region's total Information Management budget of approx \$5 million.

This funding is now held in Regional Office as a region-wide service, but in 1993/94 was reflected in hospital figures as above.

BRISBANE SOUTH	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Princess Alexandra Hospital	177,050	187,909
QEII Hospital	18,957	18,348
Mater Adult	53,038	57,041
Mater Childrens	31,450	33,113
Mater Mothers	28,052	29,725
Logan Hospital	24,853	32,379
Redland Hospital	4,603	5,201
Wynnum Hospital	2,369	2,441
Dunwich Nursing Station	196	197
TOTAL	340,568	366,354

Notes : 1 Brisbane South Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$429.3 million. This represents an increase of \$29.3 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$400.1 million, a 7.3% increase.

2 Hospital expenditure is forecasted to exceed budget by \$536,000 as at 28 February, 1995. However, the region expects this will be absorbed within region by 30 June.

CENTRAL	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Rockhampton Hospital	39,542	42,400
Yeppoon Hospital/Nursing Home	3,585	3,640
Mount Morgan Hospital	1,915	1,940
Emerald Hospital	3,365	3,517
Blackwater Hospital	1,382	1,476
Springsure Hospital	997	1,033
Biloela Hospital	2,987	3,231
Moura Hospital	1,116	1,064
Theodore Hospital	1,019	963
Baralaba Hospital	833	761
Woorabinda Hospital	744	649
Gladstone Hospital	12,060	12,941
TOTAL	69,545	73,615

Notes : 1 Central Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$100.3 million. This represents an increase of \$4.0 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$96.3 million, a 4.2% increase.

CENTRAL WEST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Longreach Hospital	4,127	4,157
Barcaldine Hospital	2,015	1,968
Alpha Hospital	938	1,073
Aramac Hospital	824	938
Blackall Hospital	1,792	1,780
Winton Hospital	1,736	1,672
TOTAL	11,431	11,588

Notes : 1 Central West Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$15.5 million. This represents an increase of \$1.1 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$14.4 million, a 7.5% increase.

DARLING DOWNS	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Toowoomba Health Services	63,697	63,403
Baillie Henderson Health Services	24,618	25,793
Oakey Health Services	3,124	3,129
Gatton Health Services	0	1,955
Millmerran Health Services	0	1,080
Dalby/Jandowae Health Services	12,239	12,831
Chinchilla/Tara Health Service	4,119	4,571
Miles/Taroom Health Service	3,183	3,404
Warwick Health Service	8,767	9,164
Stanthorpe Health Service	4,061	4,632
Goondiwindi Health Service	3,973	4,100
Inglewood/Texas Health Service	2,796	2,899
TOTAL	130,578	136,960

Notes : 1. Darling Downs Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$141.3 million. This represents an increase of \$7.4 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$133.9 million, a 5.6% increase.

2. Figures for Gatton Health Services, Millmerran Health Services and the Environmental Health Service were included in Toowoomba Health Services figures in 1993/94. The Environmental Health Service is treated as a region-wide service in 1994/95.

3. The Regional Information Systems Team was established early in 1994/95 with a budget of \$1.157 million, which is not reflected in the above hospital figures for 1994/95 (region-wide service).

MACKAY	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Mackay Base Hospital	29,275	29,866
Proserpine Hospital	3,114	3,167
Sarina Hospital	1,482	1,579
Clermont Hospital	1,792	1,779
Moranbah Hospital	1,857	1,712
Dysart Hospital	1,102	1,166
TOTAL	38,622	39,269

Notes : 1. Mackay Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$49.4 million. This represents an increase of \$3.5 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$45.9 million, a 7.7% increase.

NORTHERN	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Ayr District Hospital	5,542	5,584
Bowen Hospital	2,877	2,895
Burketown Health Centre	198	191
Camooeal Outpatients Centre	354	302
Charters Towers Hospital	3,779	3,889
Cloncurry Hospital	1,757	1,629
Collinsville Hospital	1,322	1,363
Dajarra Outpatients Centre	178	180
Doomadgee Hospital	783	975
Home Hill Hospital	1,189	1,165
Hughenden Hospital	1,390	1,366
Ingham Hospital	4,335	4,418
Julia Creek Hospital	874	889

Karumba Outpatients Centre	252	238
Kirwan Hospital for Woman	9,599	10,001
Magnetic Outpatients' Centre	128	128
Mornington Island Hospital	1,069	1,101
Mosman Hall Hospital	4,767	4,760
Mount Isa Base Hospital	17,131	16,979
Normanton Hospital	1,275	1,261
Palm Island Hospital	2,164	2,230
Richmond Hospital	1,023	979
Townsville General Hospital	62,440	72,309
Kirwan Mental Rehab	452	1,100
TOTAL	124,879	135,930

Notes : 1. Northern Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$164.2 million. This represents an increase of \$9.0 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$155.3 million, a 5.8% increase.

2. The \$0.873 million budget overrun in the region's hospitals will be offset by available funds elsewhere in the region's budget.

PENINSULA	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Cairns Base	56,084	60,524
Mossman	2,521	2,504
Gordonvale	1,386	1,491
Yarrabah	1,162	1,217
Cooktown	1,541	1,715
Innisfail	7,656	7,851
Tully	2,205	2,163
Babinda	1,226	1,222
Weipa	2,542	2,374
Thursday Island	6,429	6,537
Bamaga	1,112	1,202
Atherton	7,097	6,912
Mareeba	5,307	5,529
Herberton	1,549	1,553
Hope Vale	668	699
Laura	149	141
Wujal Wujal	441	464
Chillagoe	157	152
Croydon	169	165
Dimbulah	90	90
Forsayth	118	121
Georgetown	215	208
Malanda	71	74
Millaa Millaa	78	81
Mount Garnet	97	113
Ravenshoe	106	113
Aurukun	817	943
Coen	23	528
Kowanyama	805	964
Lockhart River	719	678
Napranum	395	430
Pormpuraaw	451	504
Island Medical Service	1,450	1,599
TOTAL	104,834	110,862

Notes : 1. Peninsula Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$134.8 million. This represents an increase of \$10.8 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$124.0 million, a 8.7% increase.

2. The Pre MYR figures above are as per the original submission, and as such do not include several technical adjustments and the additional savings strategies approved since. The region was provided with \$910,000 supplementation in the MYR, and is now forecasting to meet budget.

SOUTH COAST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Gold Coast Hospital	83,579	85,599
Beaudesert Hospital	3,926	3,668
TOTAL	87,505	89,267

Notes : 1. South Coast Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$111.7 million. This represents an increase of \$7.8 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$104.0 million, a 7.5% increase.

2. 1993/94 Gold Coast Hospital budget includes \$1.2 million for Finance & HRM functions costed elsewhere in 1994/95.

SOUTH WEST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Cunnamulla Hospital	1,904	1,914
Thargomindah Hospital	216	212
Augathella Hospital	887	853
Charleville Hospital	4,272	4,670
Quilpie Hospital	1,125	1,124
Morven Outpatients	186	134
Injune Hospital	839	826
Mitchell Hospital	1,084	1,188
Roma Hospital	6,250	6,005
Surat Hospital	751	837
Wallumbilla Outpatients	143	151
Dirranbandi Hospital	943	942
Mungindi Hospital	1,018	916
St George Hospital	2,535	2,645
TOTAL	22,153	22,417

Notes : 1. South West Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$30.5 million. This represents an increase of \$1.9 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$28.6 million, a 6.7% increase.

SUNSHINE COAST	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Gympie Hospital	10,036	10,785
Caloundra Hospital	4,350	4,674
Maleny Hospital	1,012	1,071
Nambour Hospital	46,822	53,730
Redcliffe Hospital	36,223	39,570
Kilcoy Hospital	1,417	1,520
Caboolture Hospital	8,797	18,027
TOTAL	108,656	129,377

Notes : 1. Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$149.9 million. This represents an increase of \$21.2 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$128.7 million, a 16.5% increase.

WEST MORETON	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Ipswich Hospital	43,893	48,125
Esk Hospital	1,851	1,266
Boonah Hospital	1,777	1,654
Laidley Hospital	1,467	1,273
Wolston Park Hospital	51,064	48,999
TOTAL	100,052	101,317

Notes : 1. West Moreton Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was

\$118.4 million. This represents an increase of \$7.2 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$111.2 million, a 6.5% increase.

2. A number of services reflected in 1993/94 hospital figures above are incorporated within Community Health Service budgets in 1994/95:

WIDE BAY	1993/94 FULL YEAR BUDGET \$,000	1994/95 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE \$,000
Bundaberg Hospital	21,483	23,446
Childers Hospital	1,326	1,270
Gin Gin Hospital	1,116	1,157
Mt Perry Outpatients Clinic	159	162
Biggenden Hospital	1,309	1,322
Eidsvold Hospital	855	947
Gayndah Hospital	1,369	1,395
Monto Hospital	1,490	1,531
Mundubbera Hospital	1,091	1,135
Hervey Bay Hospital	4,052	4,245
Maryborough Hospital	21,149	23,002
Cherbourg Hospital	1,971	1,714
Kingaroy Hospital	5,806	6,258
Murgon Hospital	1,091	1,110
Nanango Hospital	1,190	1,181
Proston Outpatients Clinic	53	64
Wondai Hospital	1,655	1,653
TOTAL	67,166	71,592

Notes : 1. Wide Bay Regional Health Authority's 1994/95 Approved Budget as at 28 March 1995 was \$87.4 million. This represents an increase of \$7.0 million over the 1993/94 Final Budget of \$80.4 million, a 8.7% increase.

20. Police Resources, Emu Park

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the growing population of Emu Park and the surrounding areas and the huge territory required to be covered by the very able police officer based at Emu Park—

Can a second police officer be based at Emu Park to help control the growing incidence of crime in the surrounding area?

Answer:

The Queensland Police Service recognises the growth in the Emu Park township in recent years. However, the current station only provides work and residential accommodation for one officer.

This situation will be overcome when growth gets to a significant enough stage to warrant the construction of larger facilities at some time in the future. Meanwhile, during periods of particularly high need, relief is provided from both Yeppoon and Rockhampton.

23. Mr W. Cass

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the dismissal by legislation of a public sector employee, Mr Wayne Cass, QBSA, which has effectively denied him his rights to natural justice and any hearing in the Industrial Commission which is in conflict with ILO

conventions, including convention no. 158 Termination of Employment—

- (1) Does he endorse the use of Parliament to dismiss a public sector employee denying him natural justice, even after the Minister's assurances in the Industrial Relations Reform Bill 1994?
- (2) What action does he intend to take to rectify this matter?

Answer:

The honourable member's questions are based on false premises. Contrary to the claim of the Member for Aspley, Mr Cass was not denied natural justice. In fact, the termination of Mr Cass' employment followed due process in accordance with Public Sector Management Standard for Staffing Options to Manage Organizational Change in the Queensland Public Sector ("PSMC Standard"). Steps in the process included offers of a transfer at level, offers of a voluntary early retirement package on two separate occasions, redeployment, outplacement service, and a "without prejudice" settlement offer. If Mr Cass had a grievance arising from the process, then he could have lodged an appeal with the Commissioner for Public Sector Equity. He did not exercise that right of appeal. The evidence in this case does not support the unsubstantiated and sweeping claim of the Member for Aspley of conflict with ILO conventions, including convention no. 158 Termination of Employment. ILO Convention 158 expressly recognises valid reasons for termination of employment based on the operational requirements of an undertaking, establishment or service, such as occurred in this case. With regard to the specific questions posed I answer as follows:

- (1) It would be passing strange if Parliament could not properly create and abolish statutory positions.

The member's claim of a denial of natural justice in the instant case is untrue for the reasons set out above.

- (2) See the answer to question 1.

I welcome the new-found interest of the Member for Aspley in the rights of workers to protection against unfair dismissal, and in particular in the operation of ILO Convention 158 Termination of Employment notwithstanding the hysterical resistance by the Opposition industrial relations spokesperson Mr Santoro to the introduction of such protections into Queensland law via the Industrial Relations Reform Act 1994.

25. TAFE Colleges, Quality Assurance Programs

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

In response to my questions of 24 November 1994, you indicated that two TAFE colleges have so far outlaid over \$28 000 in payments to external agencies for Third Party accreditation of Quality Assurance Programs—

- (1) If these figures are a guide, is it going to cost TAFE in excess of \$400 000 to achieve accreditation of all colleges by the target date of June 1995?
- (2) How does this accord with Mr Sielaff's assurance to the Estimates Committee that there was no need to allocate monies in the TAFE budget for such QA procedures as they would all be done internally?
- (3) Why are all colleges being allowed to allocate internal resources to develop what will essentially be similar or identical QA procedures?
- (4) Why are colleges dealing independently with accreditation agencies when the Department could obtain a more favourable rate in negotiations and thus save the taxpayers considerable monies?
- (5) If Mr Sielaff's assurance is correct, and Mt Gravatt College of TAFE now has third party accreditation of all college activities, will it be the first occasion that any education and training institution anywhere in the world has achieved such a comprehensive level of Quality Assurance certification?
- (6) What does he plan to do to highlight and publicise this remarkable and commendable achievement, particularly as interstate and overseas educators and agencies involved in Quality Assurance will now be extremely interested in Mt Gravatt TAFE's QA program?

Answer:

- (1) No. The cost to TAFE will be significantly less than this.

(2) Mr Santoro has confused Mr Sielaff's assurance to the Estimates Committee regarding the implementation process with the certification process. The implementation process is actioned internally by Institutes. Quality Assurance procedures are developed by internal resources to achieve this outcome. The certification process is enacted externally by an accredited Third Party Auditing body for which payment is required.

(3) Generic Quality Assurance procedures do not recognise the differing characteristics of the TAFE Institutes. If all Institutes were identical in structure and operation then generic procedures may be acceptable but as they are not identical, procedures must be developed which satisfy the quality objectives of each institute.

(4) TAFE Queensland, through a tender process, has procured the services of the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) to perform the auditing of all Institutes and State Office Units. Colleges audited prior to this arrangement obtained independent quotes to expedite their certification.

(5) No. The Mt Gravatt College of TAFE was not the first training institution anywhere in the world to gain certification to the international Quality Assurance standard. It was however the first training institution to gain such certification in Queensland.

(6) Mt Gravatt College of TAFE's achievement as the first training institution in Queensland to gain such certification for its Quality Assurance program has been highlighted by the use of the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) logo on all advertising and handbook publications and via the TAFE News newsletter.

28. Capacity of Correctional Centres and Watch-houses

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What is the current number of inmates for (a) Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, (b) Borallon Correctional Centre, (c) Brisbane Womens' Correction Centre, (d) Lotus Glen Correctional Centre, (e) Moreton Correctional Centre, (f) Numinbah Correctional Centre, (g) Palen Creek Correctional Centre, (h) Rockhampton Correctional Centre, (i) Sir David Longland Correctional Centre, (j) Townsville Correctional Centre, (k) Wacol Correctional Centre, and (l) Work Outreach Camps Program?
- (2) What is the design capacity for each of the above centres?
- (3) What is the current inmate population, and what is the design capacity, in each of the following police watch houses: Brisbane, Cairns, Ipswich, Southport, Holland Park, Sandgate and Beenleigh?

Answer:

(1) I am informed that, as at 10.00am on 22 March 1995, the population at each centre was: Arthur Gorrie, 524; Borallon, 329; Brisbane Womens, 72; Lotus Glen secure custody, 269; Lotus Glen open custody, 85; Moreton, 201; Numinbah, 82; Palen Ck, 78; Rockhampton secure custody, 236; Rockhampton open custody, 21; Sir David Longland, 306; Townsville Men's secure custody, 257; Townsville Men's open custody, 66; Townsville Women's, 19; Wacol, 242; WORC, 172.

(2) The design capacity of each centre is as follows: Arthur Gorrie, 458, this includes 78 cells which were opened at Arthur Gorrie last August at a cost of \$2.4 million; Borallon, 335, this includes 95 new cells which were opened on 14 March 1995 at a cost of \$5.2 million; Brisbane Womens, 81; Lotus Glen secure custody, 192; Lotus Glen open custody, 77, this does not include the 48 cells under construction by July 1995 at a cost of \$5 million; Moreton, 150; Numinbah, 84; Palen Creek, 77; Rockhampton secure custody, 240; Rockhampton open custody, 21; Sir David Longland, 228, this does not include 96 cells under construction and which will be opened in December 1995 at a cost of \$11 million; Townsville Men's secure custody, 218, 45 cells will be opened by October 1995 as part of the \$9.3 million redevelopment; Townsville Men's open custody, 60; Townsville Women's, 18, 12 cells will be opened by October 1995 at a cost of \$300, 000; Wacol, 238; 15 new cells will be opened by June 1995 at a cost of \$100,000; WORC, 220.

It should also be noted the QCSC facility at Westbrook will be expanded to take up to 130 prisoners. The Government is spending over \$41 million to expand accommodation by a total of up to 484 new spaces between August 1994 and June 1996.

(3) By "inmate population" it is assumed the Spokesman meant QCSC prisoners. Watchhouses also accommodate Police prisoners who generally stay in the watchhouse for only a few hours. As of 6.00am, 22 March 1995 the number of QCSC prisoners at each watchhouse was: Brisbane, 57; Cairns, 40; Ipswich, 8; Southport, 12; Holland Park, 10; Sandgate, 0; Beenleigh, 7.

Watchhouses include in their design a capability to incorporate shared cells. The number of permanent beds in each watchhouse is therefore the best indication of watchhouse capacity. The number of permanent beds for each watchhouse is: Brisbane, 44; Cairns, 40; Ipswich, 3; Southport, 15; Holland Park, 9; Sandgate, 5; Beenleigh, 16.

30. Justice Department; Outstanding Monetary Penalties

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to notes on pages 78 and 79 of his department's Annual Report in which a total of \$88 128 000 is shown as the value of monetary penalties outstanding for the five year period to 30 June 1994—

- (1) What is the sum of (a) fines, (b) orders for restitution, (c) compensation and (d) other penalties for each of the five financial years, and total?
- (2) For what sums of these outstanding amounts have warrants been issued?
- (3) For what sums of these outstanding amounts have Fine Option Orders been issued and those orders been completed?
- (4) What other action is being taken to obtain payment of these outstanding fines and other monetary penalties?

Answer:

	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	Total
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Supreme Court						
Fines	0	7	0	11	11	29
Restitution						
Compensation						
Other	0	0	0	1	11	12
Total (Supreme Court)						41
District Court						
Fines	1	6	51	24	163	245
Restitution						
Compensation						
Other	132	171	377	787	1 257	2 724
Total (District Court)						2 969
Magistrates Court (including Police Clerks of the Court and QGAP Agencies)						
*SEE NOTE						
Fines	6 685	5 478	6 062	11 615	21 232	51 072
Restitution	1 393	1 141	1 263	2 420	4 423	10 640
Compensation	279	228	252	484	885	2 128
Other	2 785	2 282	2 526	4 839	8 846	21 278
Total (Magistrates Court *SEE NOTE)						85 118

GRAND TOTALS (All jurisdictions)

Fines	6 686	5 491	6 113	11 650	21 40651	346
Restitution **	1 525	1 312	1 640	3 208	5 69113	376
Compensation	279	228	252	484	885	2 128
Other	2785	2 282	2 526	4 839	8 84621	278
Total (All jurisdictions)						88 128

* NOTE

With reference to the figures for the Magistrates Courts, due to the nature of the manual and computer based systems, the records are being continually updated to reflect changes in the amount outstanding eg by reason of payment, execution of warrant, etc.

The figures provided are an approximation of the amounts which were outstanding as at 30 June 1994 for each of the five financial years using computer based records extrapolated to reflect the balance of records which are maintained manually. (Manual records are maintained in some Magistrates Courts, centres where there is a Police Clerk of the Court and Queensland Government Agencies [under the Queensland Government Agent Program.]

The categorisation for each of the five yearly amounts (in the table above) into fines, restitution, compensation and other is also based on current computer records. It is estimated that overall percentages for each of these categories are: Fines—60%; Restitution—12.5%; Compensation—2.5%; Other—25% (includes all other categories eg costs of court, fees, professional costs, witness expenses). These percentages for the Magistrates Courts have been applied in the above table for each of the five financial years.

** This category includes "restitution, compensation, other" for the superior courts..

(2) Warrants Issued for financial orders made 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1994

Supreme Court	\$120
District Courts	\$263 100
*Magistrates Courts	\$48 800 000
Grand Total	\$49 063 220

*(based on computer based records and extrapolated to include manual records for Magistrates Courts and Police Clerks of the Court and Queensland Government Agent Program)

(3)

Fine Option Orders made in relation to financial orders made 1 July 1989 to 30 June 1994

	Order made	Completed
Supreme Court	Nil	nil
District Courts	\$7 700	\$1 190
*Magistrates Courts	**\$5 600 000	\$2 600 000
Grand Total	\$5 607 700	\$2 601 190

*(based on computer based records and extrapolated to include manual records for Magistrates Courts and Police Clerks of the Court and Queensland Government Agent Program)

** (This figure relates to the amount outstanding for orders for the relevant period as at 30 June 1994 where a Fine Option Order was granted and not revoked or completed)

(4) The execution of a warrant for an outstanding fine or other monetary penalty is basically the responsibility of the Queensland Police Service. However I am authorised to advise you as follows: In recognition of the need to ensure that the action is taken on outstanding fines or other monetary penalties in a timely, efficient fashion, the Queensland Police Service has been working since mid-1994 on the computerisation of its warrant bureau and has been in liaison with the Department of Justice and Attorney-General since early 1995. This computerisation, when complete, will ensure central registration of each warrant, but that police officers throughout Queensland will have access to the details of warrants relating to an individual and will use the advantages of modern technology, in that police officers across the State will have electronic access to these warrants. The Police Service advises that the new system will be fully operational this year.

At the same time, officers of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport are considering other means, both legislative and administrative, to ensure that efficient and appropriate means of enforcing warrants exist. This will include giving consideration to maximising the use of modern technology in the transfer of information and the degree of cooperation between all agencies involved in the process of fine enforcement. All States and Territories have encountered difficulty in the enforcement of unpaid fines. Various options have been pursued to resolve these commonly experienced problems.

The diverse approaches used in other jurisdictions include:

- seizure and sale of property/motor vehicles to meet the fine (but excluding essential items of property);
- cancellation or suspension of drivers' licence until the fine is paid.

In developing strategies to improve fine enforcement, the officers are aware of the complexity involved in the enforcement of outstanding fines. There are many reasons why a fine may remain unpaid. For instance, a large number of the outstanding fines include fines which are not yet due, fines in which a fine option order has been obtained and for which community service is still being performed, interstate offenders, the limited enforcement options available where the defendant is a company or a juvenile and the death of an offender before payment of the fine. Consideration must therefore be given to the entirety of the problem and its root causes. For example, the issue of enforcing fines imposed on interstate offenders is being addressed with the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in the context of proposing amendments to the *Service and Execution of Process Act 1992* (Commonwealth).

31. Teacher Absenteeism

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to estimates by the Queensland Teachers' Union that the absenteeism rate for

teachers was an alarmingly high 7.6 days per teacher per year—

- (1) What was the average absenteeism rate for teachers in 1994?
- (2) How many days per teacher has the department budgeted to cover absenteeism in 1995?
- (2) How do these figures compare with (a) 1991, (b) 1992 and (c) 1993?

Answer:

1. Absenteeism is an issue that is dealt with on a school by school basis. Individual principals are responsible for recognising and responding to, issues of absenteeism. As a result it is not appropriate nor valid to average absenteeism across a year or across the whole of the teacher population.

It is also worth noting that the figure arrived at by the QTU is one that cannot be substantiated by any application of process that is available. It would seem to incorporate reasons for absence that do not fall into the category of absenteeism.

2. The Department of Education budgeted approximately \$14 million in the Teacher Relief Scheme for the 1994/95 financial year. Management of relief staff is done at a regional level and to date staff leave has not impacted negatively on education service provision.

3. These figures are similar to those budgeted for in the 1992/93, 1993/94 financial years. The figure for 1991/92 is not validly comparable to the figures for more recent years due to different program structures.

32. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to reported statements of Assistant Commissioner Ken Scanlan in relation to the police situation on the gold Coast, that "... it was unlikely police numbers would keep pace" and there are likely to be problems "keeping suitable police officers"—

Is it correct that police numbers on the Gold Coast are at such a low level that all stations are working with much reduced police strength and that many stations are being forced to close for extended periods every day?

Answer:

The current funded strength of police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District is 480. Actual numbers currently stand at 457 and have been at this level for approximately the past six months. Contrary to the suggestion that police numbers on the Gold Coast are at low levels, these numbers compare extremely favourably with the 319 district total inherited by the Goss Government.

The growth in police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District since the election of the Goss Government is almost four times the increase in local population growth over the equivalent period.

In regard to service delivery, no police stations have been closed, or hours of service reduced due to current staffing levels.

34. Noosa Heads Police Station

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) How many police officers were assigned to the Noosa Heads Police Station in November 1989?
- (2) How many police officers were assigned to the Noosa Heads Police Station in September 1992?
- (3) How many police officers are assigned to Noosa Heads Police Station in March 1995?
- (4) How many officers are presently rostered on duty at the Noosa Heads Police Station?
- (5) How many police officers who are assigned to Noosa Heads Police Station are performing duties in other areas?
- (6) What are those duties?

Answer:

- (1) 17.
- (2) 19.
- (3) 27.
- (4) 20.
- (5) Four.
- (6) Two at Maroochydore Communications Centre, one on the Investigative Skills Course in Brisbane, and one in Haiti. The difference between the 27 officers assigned to Noosa Heads Police Station and these four officers and the 20 available for duty is made up of two officers on transfer who are yet to arrive at the Station and one officer on Recreation Leave.

35. Runaway Bay Police Station

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Runaway Bay Police Station which was designed by the National Party Government for twenty-four hour operation and given the low police to population ratio on the Gold Coast revealed by the Police Service Statistical Review and the high proportion of retirees living on the northern end of the Coast—

When does he plan to allow the necessary twenty-four hour operation of the station?

Answer:

The most significant aspect about 24 hour policing is that there are police on local streets 24 hours a day. It is not about having the front counter of a police station open round the clock for people to call in.

To this end, the Runaway Bay Police Division has a policing presence for 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This policing presence has existed since 1991. The Runaway Bay Station is not physically

staffed between the hours of 4pm to 8am, however patrols work in this division. A call diverter diverts calls from Runaway Bay to the Gold Coast District Communications Centre when the station is not staffed.

The patrol manpower for the 12mn-8 am period for the Coomera and Runaway Bay Divisions is drawn from both divisions to enable a single patrol to be available in these divisions.

Patrol support is also available from the neighbouring divisions of Nerang and Southport during the 12mn-8am period.

The current manpower deployment being exercised in the northern end of the Gold Coast is providing a commensurate level of policing as compared to other areas of the Gold Coast.

When the Runaway Bay Police Station opened in May 1989, it had a strength of 14 officers. Today, in recognition of local growth, that station has a funded strength of 18 officers. This near 30 percent increase in local police numbers shows that the Runaway Bay area is receiving its fair share of the massive increase in police numbers on the Gold Coast.

In regard to the claim that Gold Coast police numbers have not kept up with population, it should be noted that since the election of the Goss Government in 1989, Gold Coast police numbers have increased at almost four times the rate of local population growth.

37. Overseas Visits by Employment, Training and Industrial Relations Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to his overseas trips undertaken on the following dates—

- (i) 5 June 1993-14 June 1993 to Geneva and London
- (ii) 9 July 1994-24 July 1994 to Hong Kong, Vietnam, China, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia

For each trip would he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses

- (3) Departmental expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation to both the overseas travel undertaken from 5 June 1993 to 14 June 1993 and the overseas travel from 9 July to 24 July 1994.

The costs of these two trips charged to my Ministerial Office were \$11,155 and \$29,200 respectively.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

38. Health Authority Regional Directors

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Health—

What is the full salary package made available to the Regional Directors of the following Regional Health Authorities—(a) Wide Bay Regional Health Authority; (b) Peninsula and Torres Strait Regional Health Authority; (c) South Coast Regional Health Authority; (d) South West Regional Health Authority; (e) Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority; (f) West Moreton Regional Health Authority; (g) Brisbane North Regional Health Authority; (h) Brisbane South Regional Health Authority?

Answer:

The full salary package values are as follows:

Position	Regional Health Authority	*Total Remuneration Package (per annum)
Regional Director	Wide Bay	\$119,601
Regional Director	Peninsula and Torres Strait	\$111,642
Regional Director	South Coast	\$120,704
Regional Director	South West	\$ 89,660
Regional Director	Sunshine Coast	\$124,619
Regional Director	West Moreton	\$119,601
Regional Director	Brisbane North	\$119,957 (acting incumbents)
Regional Director	Brisbane South	\$119,957 (acting incumbents)

* Total Remuneration Package amount reflects the value of all benefits including employer contributions to superannuation, value of motor vehicle and leave loading amount.

40. Nambour Hospital

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the Nambour Hospital—

- (1) Is elective surgery to be cut due to budget shortfalls?
- (2) When are staff to be employed to staff the new wing recently opened and, in particular, the new 24 bed psychiatric ward?
- (3) As Nambour is a regional hospital, serving a vast region in one of the fastest growth areas of Queensland, what steps is the Government taking to overcome the acute shortage of parking space?

Answer:

(1) Routine elective surgery will reduce slightly over Easter, as is standard practice in most public hospitals.

The reduction in elective surgery is in no way related to budget shortfalls, but allows the hospital to keep some beds available for the anticipated increase in Emergency admissions that traditionally occur over holiday periods, and in particular over the Easter break.

A planned increase in day surgical procedures will offset this reduction over the Easter holiday period.

(2) In the first instance, there is no net increase in clinical services with the opening of Block Six at Nambour Hospital.

Existing clinical services and the associated staff are currently being transferred over to the new facilities. These services include Medical, Paediatrics, Oncology and Renal Dialysis.

Budget increases will mean new clinical services are progressively developed in 1995/96.

(3) The level of car parking at Nambour General Hospital has recently increased by 40 spaces bringing the total on site parking to 263 spaces.

Currently, Queensland Health and the local council are working to resolve this issue.

42. Emu Park High School

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the development of Emu Park and surrounding districts—

Will he initiate moves to establish a High School at Emu Park, taking into account there is a need to boost services for people at the north and south end of the Capricorn Coast?

Answer:

Students from Emu Park and surrounding districts predominantly patronise the Yeppoon State High School.

When Yeppoon state High School is relieved by a further high school in the medium-term future, the location of this further high school will need to address the most strategic location.

Year 8 students patronising Yeppoon State High School and drawn from the primary schools of the wider Emu Park area (Emu Park State School, Cawarral State School and Mount Chalmers State School) currently (1994) number 49.

These primary schools have shown a tendency to remain stable—for example Emu Park State School enrolled 248 in 1994 and 242 this year.

A minimum of 200 Year 8 students is generally required before a new urban high school is considered viable.

45. Dr C. Emerson

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Director-General of Environment and Heritage, Dr Craig Emerson's, 2020 Vision venture—

- (1) Is the Director-General still operating a private telephone from his Ministerial Office?
- (2) How much and when were contributions made to the Department of Environment and Heritage by the Director-General for the cost of operating the telephone, and will the Minister table the accounts in relation to the telephone?
- (3) Were any funds sought by the Director-General from any region or regions of the department for the operation of this venture?
- (4) Were any funds provided from any section of the Department of Environment and Heritage

towards the venture; if so, when and how much?

Answer:

(1) The Director-General of the Department of Environment and Heritage does not have and never has had a private phone located in his office. Prior to the current Director-General's appointment an official direct telephone service had been installed. I have been informed that the date of installation of the service was 23 January 1989. This is in addition to the usual PABX Government telephone network. I understand that such an arrangement is common practice in Chief Executive Offices.

(2) I am advised by the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environment and Heritage that all calls in relation to 2020 Vision from the Director-General's office were reimbursed fully. The reimbursement was based on an analysis of each STD call shown on each account together with an estimation of the cost of local calls. I am advised by the Director-General that the amounts paid by 2020 Vision considerably exceeded the actual cost of the office calls, so as to avoid any possibility of Departmental subsidisation of those calls.

I am further advised that no 2020 Vision forums have been held since 1994 and no telephone calls in relation to 2020 Vision have been made from that telephone since 1993.

I table details relating to the payment of Telecom charges by 2020 Vision.

Further, although the Director-General is not required to make reimbursement for non-Departmental calls at his private residence, he has seen fit to contribute private funds to the cost of such calls.

As you would be aware the Criminal Justice Commission, after receiving a complaint from you at the end of 1993 which you foreshadowed in the media in November 1993, inquired into the use of the official telephone in connection with the operations of 2020 Vision. The Criminal Justice Commission advised the Director-General that "the Commission has formed the view that there is no basis on which to suspect you of engaging in official misconduct within the terms of the Criminal Justice Act 1989 and it therefore intends taking no further action in relation to the matter".

(3) & (4) I am advised by the Director-General as follows:

In mid-1993 membership was invited for the 2020 Vision project in a mail-out to a large number of businesses and individuals in the Brisbane locality. Members of the Department's Brisbane-based Senior Executive Service may have been included in the mailing list, but 2020 Vision records cannot confirm this. In the event, it was decided that 2020 Vision would not proceed with individual memberships from within the public sector. A cheque for \$650 for membership of 2020 Vision was drawn from within the Department's Head Office but was promptly refunded in August 1993. I have been advised that a computer search of

expenditure records in the Department of Environment and Heritage by the Department's Financial Accountant for the Financial Years 1992/93, 1993/94 and 1994/95 has revealed that the only Departmental cheque paid to 2020 Vision and not refunded was for \$20.00. This payment covered the cost of one ticket for one officer to attend one seminar. No other funds have been provided by the Department of Environment and Heritage towards the 2020 Vision project.

The transactions involving 2020 Vision and the Department of Environment and Heritage like other Departmental transactions have been subject to review as part of the internal and external audit of the Department. Neither the Auditor-General nor the Department's Internal Auditor has raised any issue with regard to the procedures adopted or the amounts paid in relation to such transactions.

The Director-General advises that 2020 Vision is a non-profit organisation which has already donated a total of \$2500 of net income to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Date	Telephones		Rec. No. & Date
	Work	Home	
	229 5724	227 8826	
28.09.93	10.05		15.00 28410 5/10/93
18.11.93			15.00 34584 22/11/93
23.11.93		24.61	34929 24/11/93
15.12.93	8.75		37583 15/12/93
7.1.94			7.50 39432 10/1/94
24.2.94			5.00 44600 24/2/94
29.4.94			12.50 51549 3/5/94
27.5.94			5.00 54304 30/5/94
TOTAL	18.80	24.61	60.00

47. Quality Assurance Standards

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to statements made by John Sprouster, Chief Executive of the Australian Quality Council which is recognised by the Federal Government as the top advisory body for quality in Australia, which say "ISO 9000 is inappropriate for small business. Not only is it too expensive, but it is far too sophisticated"—

- (1) What quality assurance standard is presently required by the State Government?
- (2) What action has been taken by the State Government to modify its position in relation to Quality Assurance?
- (3) When is this likely to eventuate?
- (4) What is the likely impact on small business?

Answers:

(1) The Australian Quality Council (AQC) does not speak for the entire quality movement in Australia. In Queensland the Government deals with both the AQC, representing mainly the proponents of Total Quality Management, and the Australian Organisation for Quality which represents the proponents of quality assurance around which the ISO 9000 standards are based.

The application of ISO 9000 series is appropriate if properly applied. TQM systems for small business can be inappropriate if improperly applied.

The State Purchasing Policy states inter alia that—

"Government Agencies shall specify quality assurance systems aligned with or based on internationally recognised Quality Systems Standards except where risk analysis allows the acceptance of informal quality assurance systems".

These standards are AS 9001, AS 9002 and AS 9003 based on the ISO 9000 series.

(2) The substantive position on appropriate quality assurance requirements for suppliers to Government has been the same under this and former governments. Indeed the former government introduced the requirement. The policy is refined if required as its implementation is monitored through regular contact with suppliers, and purchasers.

The latest refinement was to allow one-off purchases under \$1,000 to not require quality assurance if the purchaser so requires, following a basic risk assessment.

(3) Further refinements will be undertaken as appropriate.

(4) My Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development through its Quality Development Unit has provided free-of-charge training in quality assurance awareness and system development implementation since October 1993. Additionally, enquiries on quality assurance are answered on a 008 hot-line.

DBIRD has also provided financial assistance to industry associations to introduce cheap, self-help courses for QA implementation for their members and other industry.

48. Sale of Locomotive to Zig Zag Railway by Rockhampton City Council

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Is she aware of reports that the Rockhampton City Council has sold the preserved C-17 steam locomotive Number 966 to the Zig Zag Railway at Lithgow in New South Wales for \$2,000?
- (2) Does she know that the Zig Zag Railway basically is a commercial undertaking without one item of New South Wales rolling stock—all its large fleet of locomotives and carriages have come from Queensland and South Australia?

(3) As Number 966 would have been given to Rockhampton by the Queensland Railways for display when steam locomotives were phased out, will she take urgent action to place this irreplaceable part of Queensland's rail heritage on the Heritage Register to ensure that it is not lost interstate?

(4) In view of the financial situation of Zig Zag Railway and the intention to use this locomotive to provide spare parts for other locomotives and therefore this piece of heritage will be lost indefinitely, will she place all similar rail heritage items in Queensland on the register to prevent future occurrences of this kind?

Answer:

The Department of Environment and Heritage has been advised that the locomotive to which you refer has been acquired by an interstate private railway organisation. However, it is not possible to place individual locomotives—or other such items—on the Queensland Heritage Register as they are considered to be items of moveable cultural heritage. Only cultural heritage places are eligible for entry on the Register.

49. Eastlink

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What is the capacity of Eastlink for continuous interstate trade in electricity?

Answer:

Eastlink is proposed to be a line designed with a firm capacity of 500 megawatts, that is it would be able to carry 500MV in either direction.

50. Electricity Tariffs

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What administrative procedures are involved in maintaining tariff equalisation in a competitive electricity market?

Answer:

The Government announced at the time of the passage of the new Electricity Act that it would maintain the system of tariff equalisation in Queensland. In accordance with the principles of corporatisation, the subsidy implied by this commitment is being provided in a transparent and accountable way through a Community Service Obligation paid from consolidated revenue, through the Department of Minerals and Energy. The basis of the CSO is the payment of an amount equal to the shortfall between the revenue from supply and the efficient cost of supply.

51. Overseas Visit by Primary Industries Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to his overseas trips on the following dates—

- (i) 19 September 1993—4 October 1993 to the USA and Europe
- (ii) 7 March 1994—11 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea

For each trip would he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

The Honourable Member would be well aware that at the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation to both the overseas travel

undertaken from 19th September 1993 to 4th October 1993, and overseas travel from 7th March 1994 to 11 March 1994.

The costs of these two trips charged to my Ministerial Office were \$59 218.78 and \$7,544.88 respectively.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

Messrs Pitt and Livingstone as members of the Primary Industries Parliamentary Legislative Committee accompanied Mr Casey on the trip to Papua New Guinea and details of their expenses are available from the Clerk of the Parliament's Office.

Mr McManus of Premier's Department also accompanied Mr Casey to Papua New Guinea and details of his expenses are available from Premier's Department.

53. Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to an advertisement placed in *The Courier-Mail* on 19 November 1994 (copy attached) by the Director of Community Health Services at the Sunshine Coast Regional Health Authority, Dr Stephen Ayres and to PSMC Guidelines state that if three months lapses between advertising and interview, the positions should be re-advertised.—

- (1) Have the seven positions advertised for a variety of Health workers have been filled?
- (2) If all seven positions have not been filled, when will they be as the services were supposed to be in place for the 1995 year?

Answer:

(1) Appointments have been made to all seven positions. The positions of Speech Pathologist, Physiotherapist, and two Clinical Nurses all commenced on March 27. The Psychologist and Centre Co-ordinator are expected to begin on May 2. The position of Social Worker has been appointed with a commencement date yet to be negotiated.

(2) All positions have been filled.

54. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

What was the advised or estimated requirement for car parking at the new Maroochydore TAFE facility

and what parking provision will be provided at Newspaper Place?

Answer:

The estimated requirement for car parking at the new Maroochydore TAFE facility is a matter for TAFE Queensland. However, the "Concept Proposal and Design Brief" issued by TAFE advised that "additional parking spaces are required".

The proposal being developed by the Design and Construction Manager under a contract being administered by my Department, makes provision for 43 car parking spaces on the TAFE site.

55. Westbrook Youth Detention Centre

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the cost of damages to the Westbrook Youth Centre in 1994 when the inmates rioted—

Will she table the relevant documentation to dispel the claim in the *Courier-Mail* that the riots cost \$1.4m and to confirm the accuracy of her answer in this House on 27 April 1994 that the final bill will be in the region of \$430 000?

Answer:

In response to the specific question asked by the Member for Western Downs, I can advise as follows:

My earlier answer in this House on 27 April 1994 was in the context of the cost of the upgrading and maintenance work required at Westbrook after the riot.

Information was provided by Administrative Services Department verbally on 26 April 1994 that the likely costs for restoration and upgrading of the Westbrook Youth Centre was \$160,171 for restoration work and \$269,794 for upgrading work, a total cost of \$429,965. These costs were confirmed in writing on the 28 April 1994 although final cost figures for the upgrading works were not then finalised.

On the 20 May 1994 Administrative Services Department advised in writing that the final cost of restoration and upgrading work at Westbrook Youth Centre was \$326,753. A reduction from the April estimate due to the deletion of considerable upgrading work as a result of the decision to close the Centre. I table a copy of that advice provided to my department.

56. Westbrook Youth Detention Centre

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the former Westbrook Youth Detention Centre at which your department has completed extensive refurbishments—

(1) What repairs, refurbishments and/or improvements have been completed at the centre subsequent to the riot in March 1994?

(2) What is the precise expenditure on the completed repairs, refurbishments and/or improvements?

Answer:

(1) Restoration work carried out at the Remand and Proserpine Sections of the Centre subsequent to the riot on 21 March 1994 consisted of:

- Repairs/replacement of doors and locks
 - Replacement of furniture
 - Repairs to security cameras
 - Painting
 - Replacement of glass
 - Replacement of floor coverings
 - The provision of hang proof mesh to window and vents.
 - Replacement of lights with vandal proof light fittings.
 - Provision of additional security cameras
 - Upgrading of security to the roof area around the courtyard at the Proserpine Section.
 - Upgrading of Amenities Block to the Proserpine Section consisting of:
 - Three additional toilet suites and urinals
 - Removal of handbasins
 - Replacement of external timber doors with metal cladded doors.
 - Dormitory 4 within the Proserpine Section connected into a single activities area within the storeroom
 - Timber screening above partitions in dormitories within the Proserpine Section sheeted with ply
 - Clearing block drains
 - Repairs to burst water main
 - Commissioning of stove and boiler
 - Supply of two refrigerators
 - Supply and installation of security locks to dormitory doors.
 - Electrical upgrade
- (2) Cost of completed repairs, refurbishments and/or improvements total \$385,257.

60. Criminal Code

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to his letter dated 14 February 1995 to me concerning additional prisoner accommodation—

- (1) Has he advised the Attorney-General that the new 'tough' penalties proposed in the new Criminal Code will not result in a requirement for additional prison cells?
- (2) Will he admit that the propaganda campaign by the Government which has made the

Criminal Code the central plank of its law and order campaign to crack down on crime nothing more than an elaborate confidence trick?

Answer:

(1) Naturally I have advised the Attorney General of no such thing. The Attorney General is well aware the Government has a total of 761 new cells to come on line by January 1997, and that any changes to the prisoner population due to the revised code will be gradual, with the full impact on prisoner numbers not to be felt for several years.

(2) No.

61. Tully/Millstream Hydroelectric Project

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) Will he provide a detailed background of the requests he has made to the Federal Government and the Wet Tropics Management Authority for the implementation of the Tully Millstream Hydro Electric Project?
- (2) Will he also give a clear indication of the Government's level of commitment to this source of clean energy?

Answer:

(1) The Government initiated a Taskforce review of the Tully Millstream scheme in 1990. The Taskforce reported in April 1991 and the Taskforce report was forwarded to the Prime Minister by the Premier. The Commonwealth subsequently raised a large number of questions in relation to economic, technical and environmental aspects of the proposed project, which were responded to later in 1991. Following further consideration within the Government, the Premier wrote to the Prime Minister on 19 February 1992 about the need to establish a process to resolve the issue. Discussions were then held with the Commonwealth at departmental level. A response was received from the Commonwealth in July 1992, indicating that the Commonwealth would require both a full Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the Commonwealth Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act and a Social Impact study of the area likely to be affected. By this time, the construction lead time of the project and the time likely to be required for the studies requested called into doubt the capability to build it for the early 2000s, so no further requests have been made to the Commonwealth.

(2) It needs to be recognised that the Tully Millstream Project has major environmental consequences, it is in a world heritage area. It does not form part of the Government's forward electricity supply program.

62. Patient Transfer Scheme

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the shortage of specialists in rural Queensland and as many patients are referred to

regional centres such as Townsville for treatment, and to the problem that exists with the different guidelines and regulations within the regional health authorities towards the administering of the Patient Transfer Scheme (PTS)—

- (1) Are these guidelines/regulations policy throughout the State of Queensland, or are they administered by the individual regional health authorities for their own regions?
- (2) If they are Queensland health policy, will he provide a copy of the relevant documents?

Answer:

(1) The Patient Transfer Scheme is funded by Queensland Health through Regional Health Authority budgets. Prior to regionalisation a series of policy documents in the Manual of Procedure and Instructions regulated the PTS scheme. In March 1994 these policy documents were amalgamated into a single draft Queensland Health Policy Statement, which was sent to all Regional Health Authorities as an interim policy statement. The Statement clearly indicates that it should be implemented until a revised (final) policy statement is issued. The final policy statement will be available by June 1995.

(2) A copy of the draft Patient Transfer Scheme Policy Statement is available in the Bills and Papers Office.

63. Kirwan Women's Hospital

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to continuing reports of the downgrading of the Kirwan Womens Hospital in Townsville and numerous expressions of concern to me from people across the community, particularly concerned mothers and mothers to be—

- (1) What is the medium and long term plan for the hospital?
- (2) Is it a fact that the Intensive and Special Care Nursery may be closed down and/or relocated out of Townsville?
- (3) What is the situation in respect of the hospital's neo-natologist position following the departure of Dr Reynolds?
- (4) Does the unit have a permanent Clinical Nurse Consultant (Charge Nurse); if so, how was the position filled?
- (5) Under what circumstances did some fourteen staff leave the hospital over the recent Christmas holiday period?
- (6) Were nine of these resignations from within the Special Care Nursery?
- (7) How many mothers and special care babies have had to be transferred to other units recently because of the absence of a neo-natologist or nursing staff?
- (8) Is there a conflict within the hospital involving the management hierarchy?
- (9) What assurance can be given that residents of Townsville and the surrounding area will

have the continuing presence of the special facilities provided by the hospital?

Answer:

(1) Consistent with the Selected Tertiary Referral Services Plans to 2001, in the medium term Kirwan Women's Hospital's Intensive and Special Care Nursery will be progressively upgraded to a minimum size unit (10-12 beds) by 1996. Currently the region is undertaking a process of long term planning, part of which will be planning for the provision of these services in the Northern Region.

(2) All of these services will be retained in Townsville. The Regional Health Authority in consultation with medical staff and the general community are currently undertaking a planning process for the future development of health services in the Northern Region.

(3) Following the resignation of Dr Reynolds, the position of neonatologist has now been approved for advertisement. A locum neonatologist from Sydney is providing temporary cover.

(4) There is currently no permanent Clinical Nurse Consultant at Kirwan Women's Hospital as the Australian Industrial Relations Commission decided that there should be local agreement about which level 3 positions should be filled prior to making permanent appointments at this level.

(5) Fourteen staff left Kirwan Women's Hospital over the two month period of December/January, for a variety of reasons. These figures are not unusual for the Townsville area which includes an army base.

(6) Yes, including two neonatologists.

(7) A total of five expectant mothers and six babies have been transferred to other units recently.

(8) I am confident that the management and staff at Kirwan Women's Hospital continue to provide a quality professional service to all patients.

(9) I can assure the people of Townsville that they will continue to receive at least the level of obstetric and neonatal intensive care services currently provided.

65. Sand and Gravel Extraction, Tin Can Bay Area

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the closure of the sand and gravel extraction operation from Mt Bilewilam in the Rainbow Beach, Tan Can Bay area and in view of the very limited deposits available for extraction operations in this area and the demand for access to this material for construction purposes—

What action is being taken to ensure alternative supplies of sand and gravel will be available at competitive prices to meet the future demands of residents, home owners and business interests in this locality?

Answer:

(1) The issue of the sand and gravel operation at Mt Bilewilam was canvassed in the Great Sandy Region Management Plan undertaken by the Department of Environment and Heritage.

Sand and gravel quarrying for construction and road fill purposes in this area is the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries Forest Service.

The issue of further working at Mt Bilewilam and the possible replacement supplies of sand and gravel will continue to be the responsibility of the Department of Environment and Heritage and the Department of Primary Industries.

66. Regional Health Authorities, Payrolls and Stocktakes

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

(1) Has the Regional Director of Brisbane South taken action to ensure reconciliation of total staff employed has been achieved between the two systems (PRISM and CASPAY); if not, what alternative controls have been implemented to ensure only staff entitled to be paid have been included on payrolls processed to date?

(2) What stock control systems are in place at each of the hospitals, or regional health authorities?

(3) How frequently are stocktakes performed and reconciled?

(4) What action has been implemented to overcome the criticisms such as access available to staff other than those responsible for supplies and inadequate reporting to senior management regarding use of certain stocks?

Answer:

(1) A complete reconciliation of the two systems (PRISM and CASPAY) will be performed on 30 June 1995.

The Queensland Audit Office have been advised when the reconciliation will be performed.

(2) Both manual and computerised stock control systems are being used in hospitals and Regional Health Authorities. The majority of inventory locations are controlled through perpetual inventory systems.

Procedures for stock control are detailed in the Financial Management Practice Manual and the Financial Procedure Manual.

(3) A physical inventory (stocktake) of material stores is performed at least annually, either in total or by cyclical count.

(4) Appropriate senior officers of stores have been advised that stocks are to be kept in a secure area with only authorised staff being permitted to have access to the stocks.

67. Bundaberg Police Headquarters

Mr CAMPBELL asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the construction of a replacement District Headquarters at Bundaberg—

- (1) When is it expected to call tenders for the new Bundaberg Police Station and watchhouse?
- (2) When is it expected that construction will commence?
- (3) What is the expected cost and completion date?

Answers:

(1) Q-Build Project Services have advised that tenders are expected to be called for the replacement Bundaberg District Headquarters on 15 April 1995.

(2) Construction is anticipated to commence on 2 June 1995.

(3) The anticipated total project cost is \$7,512,000. Anticipated completion date is June 1996.

69. Senior Citizens' Accommodation, Emu Park

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

What can be done to provide further much needed senior citizen unit type accommodation, in view of the increasing number of people needing this accommodation at Emu Park?

Answer:

The Government has responded to demonstrated need for senior's accommodation in Emu Park with the construction of 10 senior units under the 1993/94 Capital Works Program. The Goss Government was the first to provide senior units at Emu Park. The units were completed on 18 January 1994 and were occupied soon after this date. The Department also owns five three-bedroom detached houses at Emu Park.

A further 26 senior units are planned for construction in nearby Yeppoon.

70. Sunshine Motorway Tolls

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development —

With reference to the Goss Labor Government's failure to keep its promise to scrap Sunshine Motorway tolls—

Will he give Maroochy North Shore residents and workers discounts on the toll bridge over the Maroochy River?

Answer:

The decision to proceed with Stage II followed a lengthy planning process with comprehensive public consultation confirming majority support for the extension as a toll facility. My predecessor, the Honourable David Hamill MLA, met with the Maroochy North Shore Progress Association on 1

September 1993, to hear the concerns of local residents in relation to the \$1.50 toll proposed for the Maroochy River Bridge. Consideration was given to a proposal to provide discounted tolls for local areas. However, such a proposal was not adopted. The important thing is that alternative toll-free routes are available and nobody is compelled to pay the toll. Current toll levels were established after detailed analysis of projected usage figures to assist repayment of the loan within twenty years and to reflect a fair price for the benefits derived.

74. Eastlink

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What will the contractual arrangements for the ownership of the Eastlink Electricity connection be?

Answer:

A range of options is being considered at present in negotiations between Queensland and New South Wales Authorities. No firm arrangements have been agreed as yet. I can assure the Member that these will be commercial arrangements which will be to Queensland's economic benefit.

76. Contaminated Land, Toowoomba

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

Will she outline the procedures currently in place to ease the distress of residents in Toowoomba who have received notices under the *Contaminated Land Act*, that their land and homes (built on a former Toowoomba City Council dump site) are now registered on the Contaminated Land Register as either possible or probable contaminated sites, given the fact that some residents have found it almost impossible to sell their property?

Answer:

Following earlier discussions with Toowoomba City Council and some preliminary site investigations by Council, the Department of Environment and Heritage wrote on 31 January 1995 to the Toowoomba City Council requesting that the Council engage an environmental consultant to investigate and delineate the former landfill site. The Department also recommended that the consultant assess any hazards that the former landfill might cause to the residents. The Department has provided technical advice to the Toowoomba City Council to assist in the tendering process.

Toowoomba City Council has recently engaged the environmental consultant and it is expected that the results of the investigations will be forwarded to the Department by early June 1995. Strategies for managing any hazards caused by the contamination will be developed once the results are available.

The Department will continue to consult with the local community and the Toowoomba City Council to resolve this issue.

78. Computerised Hospitals Systems

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What progress has been made by the working group with respect to the computerised pharmacy inventory system (HOMER)?
- (2) What cost has been associated with the establishment of this group to date, including salaries and support staff and ancillary costs?
- (3) What are all the computerised systems currently in use in each of the hospitals and regional centres?
- (4) Has an IT strategic plan been prepared?
- (5) If so, does it contain details of timing and full estimated cost of components, including staff training and systems replacement and verification, and will he table this plan?
- (6) What action has been implemented to reconcile the Occupied Bed Days Report with the Inpatient Debtors module which is used for patient billing?
- (7) How frequently is this reconciliation performed at each hospital?

Answer:

(1) The computerised pharmacy inventory system (HOMER) is functioning satisfactorily.

(2) Any costs were absorbed by the vendor as part of their obligation for software maintenance.

(3) Hospitals: Hospital Based Corporate Information Systems (HBCIS) have been or will be installed in 70 hospitals by June 1995.

Community: PC based community health information software developed by Queensland Health has been installed in over 60 centres.

Regional Offices: PC based support systems functioning on a network are installed in most regional offices.

(4) In February 1994 the Government endorsed a \$50 million Capital Works Information Support Program for Queensland Health for three years starting in 1993/94, as part of the overall Capital Works program.

The current Information Strategic Plan and annual IT operational plan have been endorsed by the Information Policy Board. Senior management are currently leading the annual renewal of these plans.

(5) The details sought by the question are stated in the IT Operational Plan and the supporting project plans. These detailed plans contain information which is commercial in confidence and relates to existing and planned vendor commitments which may be damaged by public release. Consequently, I am not willing to table these plans.

The base 1993 Information Strategic Plan was updated by the 1994 Information Strategic Plan. The 1995 update will be available in June/July.

(6) Systems have been successfully reconciled at small and medium hospitals and the matter is being addressed in the larger hospitals and will be complete within the month.

(7) Reconciliation is an internal control procedure performed in accordance with the policy of each hospital and may vary across the State.

79. Innisfail Hospital

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the urgent need for maintenance work and the upgrading of equipment at the Innisfail Hospital and in view of the consistent shortfall in the level of funds required by the Southern Sector of Peninsula and Torres Strait Health Authority—

Will he give an undertaking that the finances for the Southern Sector will be increased substantially to enable health providers to improve the level of service to the communities in this region?

Answer:

The question is based on a false premise. The Regional Director has advised that Innisfail Hospital currently does not have any significant maintenance problems. Maintenance is progressively attended to as and when required by Executive Management of the Sector.

Maintenance currently being undertaken at Innisfail Hospital includes: repainting of Ward 3, which is contracted to a local painter; and repairs to the incinerator which have been contracted and will be carried out in May 1995.

Equipment upgrading requirements are also kept under review. The X Ray unit, whilst still operating satisfactorily, is considered to be the only item of major equipment that is in need of upgrading and has been listed for replacement within the Region and Queensland Health. This item is to be considered in the context of overall requirements for specialist equipment upgrades across the State under the 10 year Capital Works Program.

The final stage of the Innisfail Hospital redevelopment is to be considered in the context of the balance of the 10 year Capital Works Program of Queensland Health.

Budget allocations to the Southern Sector since regionalisation are as follows:

YEAR	BUDGET
1991/92	\$ 10,693,000
1992/93	\$ 11,022,000
1993/94	\$ 11,474,988
1994/95	\$ 11,865,800 *

*Projected budget at 30 June 1995.

At present, the Southern Sector of which Innisfail Hospital is the major facility is on budget and there has been no request to Regional Office for additional funds to meet expenditure in excess of the 1994/95 budget allocation.

The Southern Sector continues to provide a high standard of service to the community of Innisfail, Tully and Babinda.

80. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

What was the Government's official valuation of the Newspaper Place TAFE site and building at Maroochydore and what was the price eventually paid for it?

Answer:

This is a matter for TAFE Queensland.

Administrative Services Department had no involvement in the valuation or acquisition of the Newspaper Place TAFE site and building at Maroochydore.

81. Regional Development Groups

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

- (1) How many regional development groups in Queensland are recognised by the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development?
- (2) What regions do they cover?
- (3) What are their names, their contact names and addresses?
- (4) What funding has been supplied to each of these groups for the last three financial years, broken up by region?

Answer:

(1) The Department currently has a listing of 41 regional development groups.

(2 & 3)

Atherton Tableland Enterprise House Ltd
Ms Sue Attwood
Economic Development Officer
PO Box 713
Atherton Q 4883

Regions covered: Atherton Shire, Herberton Shire, Eacham Shire

Atherton Tableland Promotion Bureau Ltd
Mr Brian Robinson
Chairman
PO Box 257

Atherton Q 4883

Regions covered: Mareeba Shire, Atherton Shire, Eacham Shire, Herberton Shire

The Beaudesert Development Association Inc
Mr Donald J Franklin
President
PO Box 440
Beaudesert Q 4285

Regions covered: Beaudesert Shire

Bowen Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Inc
Mr Mike Brooks
Chairman
PO Box 214
Bowen Q 4805

Regions covered: Bowen Shire

Bundaberg District Tourism and Development Board Ltd
Dr Lou Muller
Chairman
PO Box 930
Bundaberg Q 4670

BARA: Mr Bob Hockey
c/- Mundubbera Shire Council
Lyons Street
Mundubbera Q 4626

Regions covered: Isis Shire, Burnett Shire, Bundaberg City, Miriam Vale Shire, Kolan Shire, Perry Shire, Biggenden Shire, Gayndah Shire, Mundubbera Shire, Eidsvold Shire, Monto Shire

Cape York Peninsula Development Association Inc
Mr David Hurse
President
PO Box 187
Mareeba Q 4880

BARA: Mr Paul Coker
PO Box 560
Malanda Q 4885

Regions covered: Cook Shire, Aurukun Shire, Weipa Shire, Mainland part of Torres only

Capricorn Tourism and Development Organisation Inc
Cr Hubert Murray
Chairman
PO Box 1313
Rockhampton Q 4700

Regions covered: Rockhampton City, Fitzroy Shire, Livingstone Shire, Mount Morgan Shire, Banana Shire, Bauhinia Shire, Emerald Shire, Jericho Shire

Cassowary Coast Development Bureau Ltd
Mr Ian Thompson
Chairman
PO Box 779
Innisfail Q 4860

BARA: Mr Colin Morrison
Dev Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires inc and the Cassowary Coast Dev Bureau Ltd
PO Box 738
Tully Q 4854

Regions covered: Johnstone Shire, Cardwell Shire
Central Highlands Promotions and Development Organisation Inc
Cr Peter MaGuire
Chairman
PO Box 1425
Emerald Q 4720

BARA: Ms Jean McRuvie

Regions covered: Peak Downs Shire, Jericho Shire, Bauhinia Shire, Emerald Shire

Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board Ltd
Dr Tom Murphy
Chairman
PO Box 592
Longreach Q 4730

BARA: Mr David Loch

Regions covered: Boulia Shire, Winton Shire, Aramac Shire

Charters Towers/Dalrymple Development Association Inc
Mr Peter Strid
President
15-17 Gill Street
Charters Towers Q 4820

BARA: Mr Stuart Lovell

Regions covered: Charters Towers, Dalrymple Shire, Flinders Shire, Richmond Shire, Hughenden Shire

Chinchilla Economic and Tourism Development Association Inc
Mr Lester Plant
Chairman
PO Box 42
Chinchilla Q 4413

Regions covered: Chinchilla Shire, Dalby Shire, Tara Shire

Collinsville District Development Bureau
Mr Bruce Helmsbright
Chairman
PO Box 197
Collinsville Q 4804

Regions covered: Collinsville (Bowen Shire)

Cooloola Regional Development Bureau
Mr John Falkinder
Chairman
PO Box 415
Gympie Q 4570

Regions covered: Cooloola Shire, Kilkivan Shire

Dalby Wambo Tourism and Development Board
Mr Bob Holden
Chairman
PO Box 293
Dalby Q 4405

Regions covered: Dalby, Wambo

Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires Inc
Mr Pino Giandomenico
Chairman
PO Box 840
Ingham Q 4850

BARA: Mr Colin Morrison

Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires Inc and the Cassowary Coast Development Bureau Ltd
PO Box 738
Tully Q 4854

Regions covered: Hinchinbrook Shire, Cardwell Shire

Far North Queensland Promotion Bureau Ltd
Mr Mike Burgess
Chairman
PO Box 865
Cairns Q 4870

Regions covered: Burke Shire, Carpentaria Shire, Croydon Shire, Etheridge Shire, Cook Shire, Mareeba Shire, Mulgrave Shire, Cairns City, Atherton Shire, Eacham Shire, Douglas Shire, Johnstone Shire, Cardwell Shire, Herberton Shire, Torres, Aurukun Shire, Yarrabah

Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd
Mrs Trudy Habner
Chairman
56 Goonoon Street
Gladstone Q 4680

Regions covered: Miriam Vale, Calliope Shire, Gladstone City,

Gold Coast/Albert Regional Development Association Inc
Cr Alan Rickard
Chairman
PO Box 717
Palm Beach Q 4221

Regions covered: Gold Coast/Albert

Goondiwindi District Promotions Inc
Ms Faye Busch
President
PO Box 527
Goondiwindi Q 4390

BARA: Mr Tim Dufton

PO Box 527
Goondiwindi Q 4390

Regions covered: Waggamba Shire, Goondiwindi

Gulf Local Authorities Development Association
Mr John Smith
Chairman
PO Box 2312
Cairns Q 4870

Regions covered: Etheridge Shire, Croydon Shire, Carpentaria Shire, Burke Shire

Ipswich Region Development Corporation Ltd
Mr Paul Pisasale
Chairman
PO Box 225
Ipswich Q 4305

Regions covered: Ipswich City, Moreton Shire, Boonah Shire, Esk Shire, Laidley Shire, Gatton Shire

Kingaroy District Development Board
Mrs Ellen Casswell
Chairperson
PO Box 272
Kingaroy Q 4610

Regions covered: Kingaroy Shire

Logan City Economic Development Board
Mr Huan Fraser
Chairman
PO Box 822
Springwood Q 4127

Regions covered: Logan City

Lower Burdekin Development Council Inc
Mr Dan Mulcahy
Secretary
PO Box 974
Ayr Q 4807

Regions covered: Burdekin Shire

Mackay Regional Development Bureau
Mr Greg Chappell
President
PO Box 487
Mackay Q 4740

Regions covered: Mackay City, Belyando Shire, Broadsound, Mirani Shire, Nebo Shire, Sarina Shire, Whitsunday Shire

Maranoa Economic and Tourism Development Association Inc
Mr Barry Braithwaite
Chairman
PO Box 116
Roma Q 4455

BARA: Tony Klein

Regions covered: Roma Town, Bungil Shire, Bendemere Shire, Waroo Shire, Booringa Shire

Mareeba Regional Development Organisation
Mr Tim Nevard
Secretary
c/- Mareeba Shire Council
PO Box 154
Mareeba Q 4880

Regions covered: Mareeba Shire

Maryborough Promotions Bureau Inc
Mr Bevan Brown
Chairman
PO Box 235
Maryborough Q 4650

Regions covered: Maryborough, Woocoo Shire

Mission Beach Tourism and Regional Development Authority Inc
Mr Ross Moir
President
PO Box 266
Mission Beach Q 4854

Regions covered: Johnstone Shire, Cardwell Shire

Mount Isa-Townsville Economic Development Zone
Mr Darcy Redman
Secretary
PO Box 815
Mount Isa Q 4825

Regions covered: Mount Isa City, Townsville City, Cloncurry Shire, McKinlay Shire, Richmond Shire, Flinders Shire, Charters Towers City, Dalrymple Shire, Thuringowa City

Murgon and District Development Bureau Inc
Mr Neil Perkins
Chairman
PO Box 166
Murgon Q 4605

BARA: Mr Geoff Milgate

Regions covered: Murgon Shire

Outback Queensland Tourism Authority
Mr Peter Evert
Chairman
PO Box 356
Mount Isa Q 4825

Regions covered: Aramac Shire, Longreach, Booringa, Ilfracombe, Tambo, Barcoo, Paroo, Boulia, Quilpie, Barcaldine, Murweh, Bulloo, Isisford, Diamantina, Blackall, Flinders, Mt Isa, Winton, Cloncurry

Redcliffe Economic Development Board
Mr Des Purcell
Chairman
PO Box 66
Redcliffe Q 4020

Regions covered: Redcliffe City

Rockhampton and District Promotion and Development Association
Mr Merv O'Neill
Chairman
PO Box 63
Rockhampton Q 4700

Regions covered: Mount Morgan, Fitzroy Shire, Rockhampton City

Southern Downs Regional Development Group Inc
Mr Pat Fogarty
Chairman
PO Box 115
Warwick Q 4370

BARA: Mr Ron Smith

Regions covered: Warwick, Stanthorpe Shire

South West Regional Development Association Inc
Mr Darby Land
Chairman
PO Box 75
Cunnamulla Q 4490

Regions covered: Paroo Shire, Murweh Shire, Bulloo Shire, Quilpie

Sunshine Coast Economic Development Board Ltd
Mr Lester Mallet
Chairman
PO Box 512
Mooloolaba Q 4557

Regions covered: Caloundra, Maroochy Shire, Noosa Shire

Toowoomba Regional Development Corporation Ltd
Mr John Griffiths
President
PO Box 3037
Toowoomba Village Fair

Toowoomba Q 4350

Regions covered: Toowoomba City, Gatton Shire, Crows Nest, Rosalie, Jondaryan, Millmerran, Pittsworth, Cambooya, Clifton

Townsville Enterprise Limited
Emeritus Professor Edward Scott
Chairman
PO Box 1043
Townsville Q 4810

Regions covered: Hinchinbrook Shire, Cardwell Shire, Townsville City, Thuringowa, Charters Towers, Dalrymple Shire, Burdekin Shire, Bowen Shire

Whitsunday Visitors Bureau
Mr David Hutchen
Chairman
PO Box 83
Airlie Beach Q 4802

Regions covered: Whitsunday Shire

(4)

Region & Organisation	Total
Cairns	
Atherton Tablelands Promotion Bureau	28,200
Cape York Peninsula Development Corporation	21,000
Cassowary Coast Development Bureau	85,400
Gulf Local Authorities Development Association	16,850
North Queensland REDO	45,500
Mackay	
Mackay Regional Development Bureau	117,500
Whitsunday Coast Development Association	5,000
Mount Isa	
N/A	
Townsville	
Charters Towers/Dalrymple Development Association	42,500
Development Bureau of Hinchinbrook and Cardwell Shires	26,400
Lower Burdekin Development Council	17,550
Townsville Enterprise Ltd	100,760
Region & Organisation Total	
Bundaberg	
Bundaberg District Tourism Development Board Ltd	57,770
Gladstone	
Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Ltd	103,475
Maryborough	
Cooloola Regional Development Bureau Inc	48,851
Kingaroy District Development Bureau	1,250
Maryborough Promotions Bureau	2,900
Murgon and District Development Bureau	24,750
Rockhampton	
Capricorn Tourism and Development Organisation	117,725
Central Highlands Promotion and Development Organisation	78,768
Remote Area Planning and Development Board/Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board	500,700
Rockhampton and District Promotion and Development Association	21,000
Central Queensland REDO	50,000

Gold Coast

Beaudesert Development Association 20,000
Gold Coast Albert Regional Development Corporation 76,818

Ipswich

Ipswich Region Development Corporation Ltd 106,025
Southern Area

Logan City Economic Development Board 25,201
Redcliffe Office of Economic Development 26,000
Southern Regional Organisation of Councils 20,000

Sunshine Coast

Caboolture Shire Development Association 21,500
Sunshine Coast Economic Development Board 47,500

Toowoomba

Goondiwindi District Promotions Committee 30,562
Maranoa Economic and Tourism Development Association 28,150
Southern Downs Regional Development Group Inc 39,725
Toowoomba Regional Development Association 60,250
South West Development Association 265,000

82. Termination of Teachers' Contracts

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the fact that Coolum State High School and Sunshine Beach High School in the Noosa Electorate failed to reach their forecast student enrolments for the 1995 school year and to schools at Kawana, Bribie Island and Maleny which also failed to reach their forecast enrolment numbers

- (1) How many contract teachers in the Noosa electorate have had their contracts terminated as at 23 March 1995?
- (2) How many teachers in the Sunshine Coast region have had their contracts terminated as at 23 March 1995?
- (3) How many contract teachers have had their contracts terminated in the State as at 23 March 1995?

Answer:

QUESTION 1

1. Six temporary appointments have been terminated due to lower than expected enrolments in schools in the Noosa electorate.
2. These occurred at:
Sunshine Beach State High School.....4
Coolum Beach State High School.....2
TOTAL 6
3. Of those terminated, 2 were redeployed immediately to other schools.
4. Of the remaining 4 teacher applicants, 3 have since received employment contracts within the Sunshine Coast Region at other schools.

QUESTION 2

1. Nine teachers have had their temporary appointments terminated.
2. The reduction in teacher positions at some schools other than those in the Noosa electorate has also been necessary because of lower than expected enrolments.
3. These reductions have been achieved in the following ways:

Transfers.....	3
Redeployment to relieving duties	4
Retirements.....	2
Extended leave.....	2
Termination of temporary appointments	2
TOTAL	13
4. Reductions at particular schools mentioned are as follows:

Kawana Waters State High School	
Redeployed to relieving duties	1
Teacher on extended leave	1
Impending relocation of Deputy Principal	1
TOTAL	3
Maleny State High School	
Transfer to another school.....	1
Leave absences	1
TOTAL	2
Bribie Island State High School	
No net reductions have been carried out.	

QUESTION 3

We have contacted all regions regarding the number of teaching contracts terminated from 1 January to 23 March 1995.

The total equals 16 as detailed below.

South Coast	- 5
Wide Bay	- 2
Capricornia	- 1
Sunshine Coast	- 8

It appears that the majority of these have been as a result of enrolments not coming up to expectations and hence the termination of contracts.

83. Closure of Courthouses

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

- (1) What was the savings per annum made from the closure of each of the Court Houses in Queensland by his Government since coming to office?
- (2) Will he provide details of which specific area and purpose upon which these savings have been expended?

Answer:

1. Commencing in the 1991/92 financial year the budget of the then Department of Justice was reduced by \$1.282 million as a result of the closure of the Court Houses.

2. The amount of \$1.282 million was not specifically appropriated back to the Department of Justice but was retained in the Consolidated Fund and formed part of the monies allocated as a result of the Cabinet Budget Review process.

In 1991/92, the government provided extra commitment to improvements to services in regional areas. The then Department of Justice received \$794,000 for the reform of the Magistrates Courts Service throughout the State (including restructuring of positions, increased training of staff and enhanced computerisation).

84. State Government Land, Stafford Heights

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to bushland adjacent to the Raven Street Reserve and the Downfall Creek Bushland Centre located on Rode Road, Stafford Heights which is now owned by State Housing and as this is the last remaining bushland in Stafford Heights and is part of the "Mangroves to the Mountains" chain of bushland—

Will he give an assurance that the bushland be retained and declared a reserve to preserve the wildlife in the area and general environment of the area?

Answer:

The land in question is located at 818 Rode Road, Stafford Heights and comprises some 5.993 hectares.

The Department of Education controlled the site for many years as a future school site. It has been declared surplus to Department of Education requirements and interdepartmental negotiations have recently concluded whereby the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning will acquire the site.

It is the Department's intention to develop the site in a way that is sensitive to environmental, physical and social influences.

Preliminary discussions with Brisbane City Council suggest a range of housing types under a mixture of residential zones would be possible.

Although there is no Vegetation Protection Order (VPO) in place, the Department will be sympathetic to environmental issues in developing an integrated project.

Once the Department completes the transaction and takes possession of the site, a comprehensive consultation phase will be entered into with the community and other interested parties in formulating appropriate land usage and a plan of subdivision. Negotiations will occur with the Brisbane City Council regarding dedicated open space for the site as part of the subdivision process.

There will be a component of public housing in this integrated plan. Up to 20% of the site will be utilised for public housing, with the balance of the site to be

sold. This is consistent with the Government's Public Housing Policy which is now well accepted by the community at large.

85. Cannon Hill Sale Yards

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to arsenic contamination and to the presence of chemical residue from products such as dieldrin, heptachlor and DDT at the old Cannon Hill Saleyards which are being redeveloped for housing by his department—

- (1) How many dips were located at the site?
- (2) How many years did they operate?
- (3) What chemicals were used there?
- (4) What steps will be taken to alert future homebuyers to the location of the sites and the resulting danger to health?
- (5) Will the Government be responsible for decontaminating the site?
- (6) What will be the cost involved?

Answer:

- (1) One dip for cattle and sheep.
- (2) The Cannon Hill Sale Yards opened in 1931 and closed in 1991 and the cattle and sheep dip would have been operational during this period.
- (3) The chemicals used within the dip area would have included:

Phenol Carbolic
 Arsenic
 DDT
 Chlorpyrifos
 Cypermethrin
 Chlorfenvinphos
 Acetylated Carbamate
 Aldrin
 Dieldrin

Tests have revealed that the main residual chemicals around the dip are:

Arsenic
 DDT

Some Dieldrin

(4) Contaminated earth in the dip area has been removed from the site. After validating that no contaminated materials remain, the Director of the Chemical Hazards and Emergency Management (CHEM) Unit is expected to issue a site contamination report indicating that the site is suitable for rezoning for residential purposes under the Local Government (Planning and Environment Act) 1990. The CHEM Unit will not give clearance for rezoning of the site for residential purposes until it is satisfied that the contamination has been removed and there is no risk to health.

(5) Yes.

(6) The total cost of decontaminating the Cannon Hill Sale Yards is estimated to be between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

87. Orchid Beach Resort, Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the purchase of the Orchid Beach Resort on Fraser Island—

- (1) Was any contribution made by another party towards the purchase price of the resort?
- (2) If so (a) what was the nature of the contribution, (b) what level of funding was involved, (c) when was it paid, and (d) why was it made?

Answer:

The purchase price of the Orchid Beach Resort on Fraser Island of \$6 million was met from the Great Sandy Region Growth and Development Package.

An amount of \$1 million is being provided as a contribution towards this cost by Queensland Resort and Residential Projects Pty Ltd on a pro rata basis from the sale of land from their sub-division at Orchid Beach. Payments totalling \$738,480 have been received to date. The \$1 million contribution is being made to reduce the overall call on public funds.

88. Ms V. Beck; Mr B. Watts

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the Corrective Services Commission inmates, Valmae Fay Beck and Barrie John Watts, who were convicted in 1987 of the brutal murder of Noosa schoolgirl Sian Kingi—

- (1) What are the whereabouts and current classification status of both of these inmates, what changes have been made to their classifications and locations since their incarceration and when did these take place?
- (2) What likely or possible projected timetables are there for their release from secure custody to any form of early release and when will they be entitled to apply for parole?

Answer:

(1) Fay Cramb is Valmae Fay Beck's legal name. She was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment on 20 October 1988. She was incarcerated in Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre until March 1993 when she was transferred to Townsville. In accordance with QCSC classification guidelines, Cramb was classified medium security on 22 July 1992, but is nevertheless accommodated in a high security facility.

Watts was placed on remand at Boggo Road on 15 December 1987. On 7 February 1990 he was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. Watts' is currently classified as a high security prisoner. He has been classified high security

continually since incarceration, except for a period between 5 January 1994 and 17 November 1994 when he was granted medium security classification. At all times he has been accommodated in a high security facility. At present he is accommodated at Rockhampton. He has previously served time in the Sir David Longland, Arthur Gorrie, Moreton and Rockhampton Correctional Centres.

(2) The Member for Crow's Nest introduced the Corrective Services Act (1988) during his term as Minister. This legislation made decisions on release to work, home detention or parole the responsibility of community based boards. In the case of life-sentenced prisoners the decision is made by the Queensland Community Corrections Board. Prior to 1988 Cabinet Ministers made recommendations to the Governor as to the granting of parole to life sentenced prisoners. In 1990, through an amendment to section 166 of the Corrective Services Act, a minimum non-parole period of 13 years was established for prisoners sentenced to mandatory life. Under Coalition Governments no minimum eligibility period for parole had been set. Under the former Coalition and National Party Governments between 1959 and 1989, almost one-third of all life sentenced prisoners released to parole served less than 13 years. Out of a total of 104 lifers granted parole, former National and Liberal Cabinets released 32 lifers onto parole in under 13 years. One lifer served only seven years and one month. Another served seven years and three months. Another two served less than nine years. Another five served less than 10 years. Presently there are approximately 180 life sentenced prisoners in Queensland. The average term served by life sentenced prisoners prior to release on parole is currently about 17 and one half years. This figure is higher than any other state in Australia, and is higher than the average time served by a lifer in 1989, which was 15 years 9 months.

90. Overseas Visits by Former Transport Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the overseas trips taken by the then Minister for Transport on the following dates:

- (i) 20 October 1993—27 October 1993 to Vietnam
- (ii) 1 March 1994—5 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea
- (iii) 30 June 1994 to 10 July 1994 to Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand—

For each trip will he provide, separately, the following information:

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses

- (a) Travel (i) land
(ii) sea
(iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and Meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official Functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental Expenses
- (a) Travel (i) land
(ii) sea
(iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and Meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official Functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government Expenses
- (a) Travel (i) land
(ii) sea
(iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and Meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official Functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This question refers to three trips undertaken by the Honourable David Hamill as Minister for Transport between 1993 and 1994.

As the Honourable Member would know, this Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These Guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, Mr Hamill tabled reports in relation to the three trips concerned.

The costs of these trips, as charged to his ministerial office, were \$24,914.83, \$15,470.70 and \$20,978.23 respectively.

The Guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

In relation to each of the three trips referred to by the Honourable Member, Mr Hamill undertook duties not only as Minister for Transport but also as Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development. I would refer the Honourable Member to the detailed reports tabled by Mr Hamill on 9 November 1993, 27 April 1994 and 4 August 1994 respectively which show considerable benefits gained from the travel concerned by a number of areas of the transport portfolio, specifically rail, marine and ports and roads, and for Queensland's economic and business profile in the region.

91. Beerwah Police Station

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the high and increasing level of crime—

When will a police station be constructed at Beerwah?

Answer:

While the need for a new police station and residence at Beerwah is recognised by the North Coast Police Region, commencement of this project is dependent on service-wide needs across Queensland.

In the interim, the policing needs of Beerwah are being serviced by the Landsborough Police Station. The commitment of the Goss Labor Government to residents of this area is seen in the increase from two to five officers at the Landsborough Police Station.

There have also been two Criminal Investigation Branch personnel operating from Landsborough since November 1994. To date, investigations involving these officers have resulted in 77 offenders being charged with 177 criminal offences.

92. SEQEB Electricity Disconnection Fees

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the fact that SEQEB has admitted to illegally charging disconnection fees since 1984, and as he has dismissed this matter as being of little consequence—

Will he now instruct SEQEB to search its records to identify all persons who had money who have been charged these fees over this 10 year period and have these millions of dollars refunded?

Answer:

The Honourable Member is not correct in asserting that I have dismissed the issue of wrongful collection of fees as "of little consequence". This is in fact another case of this Government cleaning up a mess left by the National Party. As the Member should realise the new Electricity Act fixes up the confusion created by the poor drafting of the previous Act. Nonetheless I understand that legal advice to SEQEB is that the fees were charged incorrectly. Immediately this became known to me I requested that SEQEB follow up the matter and also referred the issue to the Regulator established under the Electricity Act for investigation. The investigation is now under way. SEQEB has already undertaken publicly to refund incorrectly charged fees and is preparing software to process its records to identify as many of the consumers concerned as possible. It has also agreed to make refunds to any customers not identified in this process, provided the facts can be reasonably established.

93. Southbank Institute of TAFE

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) What was the total expenditure of the Southbank Institute on taxi fares for staff during the past 12 months?
- (2) What was the total expenditure on kilometre allowance for staff during the same period?

Answer:

(1) The total expenditure on taxi fares from 1 March 1994 to 28 February 1995 was \$93 679 out of a total budget for the Institute of \$46, 766, 822 for the same period.

The Southbank Institute of TAFE delivers approximately 15% of the total activity (student contact hours) of the Queensland TAFE system.

The overall vehicle costs (taxi fleet leasing and Motor Vehicle Allowance) for the Institute, at 14.2% of the TAFE Queensland total, are comparable to the Institute's scale of operation as a proportion of the TAFE Queensland system.

Taxi fare costs are higher (31% of TAFE Queensland total taxi expenditure). However, Qfleet costs and motor vehicle allowance are correspondingly low (9% and 8.2% of TAFE Queensland total respectively).

Recently, strategies have been introduced to moderate the costs of taxis including: the leasing of an additional Qfleet vehicle, reducing the number of taxi books available for use at any time, rescheduling of the Institute courier runs to allow greater access by staff to internal transport, provision of driver service to maximise the utilisation of the Institute's vehicle pool.

(2) The total kilometre allowance for staff during the same period, 1 March 1994 to 28 February 1995, was \$7 585.

94. Neurosurgery Patients, Gold Coast Hospital

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to neurosurgery patients at the Gold Coast Hospital—

- (1) What percentage of such patients have been provided with Occupational Therapy services by the hospital since 1 January?
- (2) What was the percentage for the same period in 1990 and 1994?
- (3) Is the level of occupational therapy provision for such patients determined by surgeons or by the Health Department?

Answer:

(1) A total of 11% of neurosurgery patients (12 of 110 patients admitted) has been provided with Occupational Therapy Services in the period 1 January 1995—31 March 1995.

(2) The percentage for the same period in 1990 is unknown as data was not maintained at that time.

The percentage for the same period in 1994 was 17% (15 of 88 neurosurgery patients admitted).

(3) The level of occupational therapy services for neurosurgery patients is not determined by Queensland Health. It is determined by both surgeons and the numbers of staff available to provide the service. The surgeons refer the patients for occupational therapy assessment, and the number treated is determined by the availability of occupational therapy staff. The South Coast Regional Health Authority closely monitors these services. When demand for Occupational Therapy services exceeds local capacity, patients are referred to alternative services in Brisbane.

96. Farm Dams, Mackay Area

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the Water Resources Mackay Branch which has a backlog of around eighty plans for farm dams in the Mackay district—

When will this problem be addressed?

Answer:

Requests for assistance have increased since the start of the drought in the Mackay District in 1991, and particularly so in the last 12 months. Because of the drought, DPI staff resources are heavily committed, not only in Mackay, but also right across the State.

To improve the turn around time in providing assistance to producers, Mackay Office has already changed its advisory service procedures. Instead of preparing full office designs and detailed plans, advisory staff now provide an on-site field design and pegging out service. This practice, while still providing a quality service, has achieved a reduction in design time of at least 3 to 4 weeks. Local feedback shows that producers requiring assistance have been more than satisfied with these new arrangements.

There are also a number of private consulting firms who have the credentials and experience to provide such a design service to producers. Wherever possible, producers who need to progress their irrigation dams and schemes should avail themselves of the services provided by these consultants.

DPI staff are also working with local sugar industry representatives on a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening the industry, ensuring it remains focussed and self-reliant now and in the future. One such initiative has been an application for National Landcare Program funding to provide a service to producers for the design of on-farm irrigation dams.

Unfortunately, while the drought continues and demand is high, delays will occur.

97. Woorabinda Shire Council; Woorabinda Pastoral Company

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

- (1) What action is being taken to ensure that business people who are owed money by the Woorabinda Shire Council and the Woorabinda Pastoral Company will be fully paid?
- (2) What action has she taken to ensure that this situation does not reoccur, where hard-working, honest people are forced to pay for the incompetence and dishonesty of others?

Answer:

(1) Responsibility for ensuring that the business people who are owed money by the Woorabinda Shire Council and the Woorabinda Pastoral Company are paid, rests with the Woorabinda Community Council and the Woorabinda Pastoral Company. My expectation is that all creditors will be paid but that will not occur until the Woorabinda Council has taken action to re-structure its financial affairs through the development of an overall financial management plan for the council. While the State Government is prepared to assist the council, this assistance will not take the form of a grant to the council which enables the council to pay its creditors and then continue with its current arrangements. I have written to the council setting out my expectations in this regard and have informed the council that I will be reviewing the situation in three months time when I will be seeking further legal advice on what further action should be taken against the council in the event of it being unable to satisfy me that it is capable of responsibly managing the financial affairs of this community.

(2) In October 1994, the Government approved a Financial Accountability Improvement Program to assist councils to more effectively monitor their financial performance. Under the program, all councils will be the subject of internal audit processes which will identify, and provide the opportunity to correct, financial problems at an early stage. As part of the process to oversight the implementation of this program for Aboriginal

Councils, there will be regular reports to a steering committee comprising officers of the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, the Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council and an observer from the Queensland Audit Office. Through this process, there will be an opportunity for both councils and Government to receive early warning of any financial problems that occur within councils. In addition, the changes to the Community Services Acts which will be introduced later this year, will assist in the introduction of a much more satisfactory regime of financial administration for councils.

98. Mount Archer State School

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

What plans are in hand to provide more shade areas at the Mt Archer State School where temperatures exceed 40° plus during summer?

Answer:

Projects for the provision of shade structures are categorised as Minor Works items, the Program for which is administered by the Department of Education.

99. Brisbane Exhibition and Convention Centre

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the cost overruns on the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre—

Will he (a) detail the total cost to date of the project, (b) list each of the elements that have contributed to the cost overrun, (c) itemise the additional costs incurred by these elements and (d) give the reason behind the additional costs incurred by each of these individual items?

Answer:

(a) Details of the total cost to date are:

Expenditure to Date \$168M

(b) and (c) and (d)

The primary reason for the cost adjustments was the late appointment of the Operator/Manager and their subsequent late input into the design process which resulted in:

- a large number of variations to the original specification for the facility; and
- the cost impact of these improvements as the building industry came out of the recession and prices increased.

The second of these reasons, cost impact, is best explained by an example. LCPL budgeted for a certain cost for each tender package involved in the overall project. Using steel work as an example, if there had been no variations to roof design or other building areas affecting the timing of the awarding of the package for supply of roof steel, LCPL could have expected to pay the budgeted cost for the steel.

However, several major variations that impacted on roof design and structural strength requirements did occur at the request of the State Government as a result of Operator input. The price of steel increased while delays caused by these variations were occurring, and the State is rightly liable for the additional costs incurred. For example, the price of structural steel increased from \$3519 p.tonne in May 1993, to \$4946 p.tonne in October 1993—an increase of \$1427 p.tonne. The BCEC is a massive structure requiring approximately 3700 tonnes of structural steel.

Major Operator introduced improvements included:

- Increased gallery space in the ballroom
- Car and goods lift to ballroom gallery level
- Improvements to and additional lift services
- Increased acoustic rating of operable walls in great hall
- Acoustic treatment to plaza, ballroom, exhibition halls and meeting rooms
- Increased capacity of roof to support greater suspended loads
- Catwalk/fly floors to great hall
- Modified exhibition stores for multipurpose use
- Lowered meeting rooms 2 and 3 to give greater room height
- Service pit changes
- Additional bar area on mezzanine level
- Fitout of administration area
- Additional kitchen and coolroom equipment
- Additional electrical items
- Additional architectural items.

There are also a very large number of minor variations, all of which have improved the flexibility and overall standard of the facility, but which, when considered in total, have had a consequential disruptive effect.

The introduction of improvements such as these were progressive, as various innovations were identified or detailed analysis and research brought them to light; each change being assessed as being essential to the future efficient operation of the Centre. While the initial refinements were potentially able to be accommodated within the design and construction program, as further refinements were introduced, the design process became more complicated and began collectively to affect the procurement, and subsequently the construction process.

To avoid unnecessary delays, commitments to the improvements were necessarily based on general assessments of the flow-on effects at the time. At all times it was obvious that although some consequential cost effects would be incurred, it was more economical to undertake the changes as part of the initial design and construct process rather than try to change later or miss the opportunity altogether.

Other reasons for cost adjustments include:

1. Building Act Compliance

This relates to a change in expected use of the facility as opposed to the concept envisaged by the original consultant's report of some years back and subsequently included in the tender documents.

Basically, the original concept for the operation of the Centre envisaged use by some 20,000 people maximum at any one time. LCPL tendered to build a facility that would accommodate that number of people as regards fire, safety, evacuation, etc.

However, with operator advice, it was apparent that the modern use of such facilities, aided by the flexibility built into the design, allows for multiple and varied simultaneous use of all areas, such that a theoretical population of some 30,000 could be accommodated in the BCEC. It would be nonsensical not to provide for the maximum advantage that can be taken of the facility and accordingly Building Act Compliance was assessed on the higher population figures. Consistent with the application of the Building Act, larger and more smoke exhaust fans, larger fire tunnels, safety doors, etc, were required.

In essence, the BCEC is now bigger and better than originally envisaged. It is confidently anticipated that returns for Government will be correspondingly greater.

2. South Bank and the Railway

The impacts of South Bank and the railway were twofold.

The first impact on the BCEC budget was for the provision of better access to the Convention Centre from these areas. In the case of South Bank, this involved squaring off the plaza to allow ready access from the proposed hotel, and assorted ramps and steps. In the case of the railway, it involved lifts on both platforms of the South Bank Railway Station (a heritage building to complicate matters), ramps, cameras, etc. All in all, some \$2.3M additional costs were incurred.

The second (and major) impact from the Railway was a need for additional acoustic treatment required because of the continued presence of diesel trains on the South Brisbane line. The additional requirement was a result of Operator input. Possible train noise, particularly from diesels, was a major concern to the Operator who pointed out that given the extremely competitive nature of the industry, particularly against centres in Sydney and Melbourne, the Brisbane Centre must not—under any circumstances—be "labelled" as the "Convention Centre with railway noise". Extensive (and expensive) research was

undertaken in an attempt to identify the extent of the problem and possible solutions.

3. Building Complexity

The massive size of the facility itself has introduced complexities in that with what was a tight program to start with, any delays in design of roof, walls or floors meant a major push back of not just one construction path but the construction paths of very many activities as the Convention Centre and the four Exhibition Halls were being built in parallel. This multi-flow-on effect is the major reason why it is impossible to detail individual cost adjustments.

4. Other Matters

The Anti-Discrimination Tribunal decision regarding the installation of a lift for disabled persons at the front of the BCEC is readily quantified and will cost some \$500,000.

Cost of enhancements total \$30M.

100. Management of National Parks

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the management of National Parks—

- (1) How many, and which, National Parks in each region currently have resident rangers?
- (2) How many National Parks in each region do not have resident rangers?
- (3) How many permanent rangers are actively on the ground in each region?
- (4) What funds have been allocated for the operation of each National Park within each region?
- (5) In respect to these allocations (a) have they been available to each park and (b) how many National Parks have had difficulty operating within the allocation and have already used their allocation?
- (6) Does she consider the allocations to be adequate?

Answer:

- (1) The following table lists the number of National Parks and National Parks (Scientific) which currently have resident rangers, plus the total number of parks in each DEH region:

Region	Parks with resident rangers	Total parks
Far Northern (FNR)	10	68
Northern (NR)	9	43
Central Coast (CC)	7	39
Southeastern (SR)	13	30
Southwestern (WR)	13	35
TOTAL:	52	215

The 52 parks are as follows:

Far Northern Region: Undarra Volcanic, Bulleringa, Iron Range, Cape Melville, Lakefield, Mungkan Kanju, Daintree, Wooroonooran, Clump Mountain, Crater Lakes.

Northern Region: Edmund Kennedy, Bowling Green Bay, Paluma Range, Cape Hillsborough, Eungella, Magnetic Island, Lawn Hill, Moorinya, Lumholtz.

Central Coast Region: Blackdown Tableland, Taunton, Byfield, Curtis Island, Capricornia Cays, Great Sandy, Burrum Coast.

Southeastern Region: Koala Bushland, Fort Lytton, D'Aguilar, St Helena, Lamington, Main Range, Tamborine, Springbrook, Moreton Island, Bribie Island, Kondalilla, Noosa, Burleigh Heads.

Southwestern Region: Currawinya, Chesterton Range, Bladensburg, Diamantina Gates, Idalia, Culgoa Floodplain, Carnarvon, Thrushton, Girraween, Bunya Mountains, Crows Nest, Sundown, Welford.

(2) 163 National Parks and National Parks (Scientific) do not have resident rangers.

It would be impractical to have permanent staff on all of these parks—several are offshore islands. Also, it is often more convenient and appropriate for rangers to be based in the nearest town.

The management of National Parks, National Parks (Scientific), other protected areas, and wildlife in Queensland is undertaken from 122 bases, of which 78 are located on the protected area estate.

(3) The following table details the number of permanent and temporary rangers (FTEs—full time equivalents) in each region:

	FNR	NR	CC	SR	WR	HOTOTAL
Permanent rangers/FTEs	66	86	99	87	61	0 399
Temporary rangers/FTEs	35	3	31	16	2	1 88

These rangers are involved in the management of all protected areas, marine parks and wildlife. While the majority are supported by consolidated revenue base funding, nearly a third are currently reliant on revenue retention and special funding.

Questions (4),(5) and (6)

Funding for wildlife management and protected area management is allocated on a District basis. The accompanying table details the funding levels across all Management Districts under both the Parks and Wildlife and Coastal Management (Marine Park management) sub programs. Only permanent funding sources involved in wildlife and park management are included. Special funding such as the Great Sandy Growth & Development package, Wet Tropics Management Authority funding, present mid year review packages, and other special grants are not included.

The present funding provides the basis for sound wildlife and protected area management throughout the State.

Revenue retention arrangements will help towards providing greater cost recovery of services and infrastructure provided for visitors, as well as administration of the system regulating those people involved in keeping native wildlife.

Protected Area Management & Wildlife Management in Queensland
1994/95 — Funding Allocations

Region	Parks & Wildlife		Coastal Management		Cap Wks funding	Con. Rev.		Revenue Retention	
	Con. Rev. Base	Revenue Retention user pays	Con. Rev. base	Revenue Retention user pays		QRAM	QRAM		
Far Northern*									
Tablelands	81,000	44,500			177,078				
Wet Tropics	88,000	50,000			76,000				
Cape York	111,000	68,890			165,000				
Cairns Coastal					50,000			32,000	265,000
Regional Centre	2,021,641	3,063			59,000	293,582			
Total	2,301,641	166,453			0 527,078	293,582		32,000	265,000
Northern									
Burdekin	708,016	40,000			21,081				
Cumberland	399,389	55,000			15,665				
Hinchinbrook Coastal	32,002				35,000			12,000	
North West	357,760	25,000			262,000				
Whitsunday	2,617				5,826			12,000	
Regional Centre	1,034,918	68,217				299,871			
Total	2,534,702	188,217			0 339,572	299,871		24,000	0
Central Coast									
Capricorn	702,050	25,000			245,000				
Capricorn Reef					35,000			45,000	
Great Sandy	336,359	80,000	1,800,000		20,000				
Wide Bay Burnett	659,461	30,000			165,000				
Regional Centre	643,800	10,283			45,000	264,051			
Total	2,341,670	145,283	1,800,000		510,000	264,051		45,000	0

Southeastern							
Central Moreton	755,532	20,600		21,500			
South Coast	1,058,835	32,400		383,500			
Moreton Bay				71,000	427,465	22,000	250,000
Sunshine Coast	445,248	14,900		49,000			
Regional Centre	832,208	94,745			569,150		
Total	3,091,823	162,645	0	525,000	996,615	22,000	250,000
Southwestern*							
Charleville	111,000	13,000		127,500			
Longreach	111,000	11,500		210,500			
Roma	137,000	66,000		141,300			
Toowoomba	86,000	63,250		73,500			
Regional Centre	2,537,010	31,000		56,893			
Total	2,982,010	184,750	0	609,693			
Head Office							
Directorate	344,689						
Park Mgt	622,047	102,652		55,000			
Wildlife Mgt	604,383						
Total	1,571,119	102,652	0	55,000	0		
TOTAL	14,822,965	950,000	1,800,000	2,566,343	1,854,119	123,000	515,000

Note: Special funding not included in funding allocations.

GRAM—Queensland Recreation Areas Management

* These regions allocate salaries & wages at a regional level.

101. Wages Growth

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

- (1) Does his department still stand by the forecast contained in the 1994-95 Budget papers that AWE growth in Queensland will match that of the rest of Australia for the foreseeable future?
- (2) At what stage will Queensland's nominal AWOTE match that of the rest of Australia?
- (3) At what stage will Queensland's real wages growth match that of the rest of Australia?
- (4) What will be the long term impact of (a) failing to match the national average AWOTE growth, (b) matching the national average AWOTE growth and (c) exceeding the national average AWOTE growth on Queensland's unemployment rate, inflation rate and level of general economic activity?

Answer:

(1) Treasury does stand by the projections contained in the 1994-95 Budget papers that average earnings growth in Queensland will match that in Australia generally for the foreseeable future. This is largely because Queensland is part of a national labour market in which wages outcomes can be expected to be broadly similar and because it is anticipated by Treasury that Queensland's economic growth differential will tend to bid up wages to compensate for a historical downward bias to average wages caused in part by the State's industrial structure.

However, there are reasons why actual earnings often differ between Queensland and Australia. These include differences in the timing of enterprise bargaining agreements and other factors that may be specific to State labour markets.

It should be noted that Treasury is currently in the process of reviewing all economic forecasts and projections for the 1995-96 Budget. Changes to estimated actual average earnings for 1994-95 will be outlined in the forthcoming Budget papers.

It should also be noted that the forecasts beyond 1994-95 are clearly described in the Budget papers as projections, which are intended to provide a broad outline of the likely path of economic conditions, and which are consistent with the economic parameters agreed for the National Fiscal Outlook.

(2) In fact, Queensland's AWOTE may at no stage match that of the rest of Australia, even if all job-specific wages and earnings were identical across the nation. Compositional or structural differences in employment between States (industry and occupation) will ensure that the average AWOTE figure for the States will be equal only coincidentally.

Caution should be exercised concerning the quality of the sample currently used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to estimate earnings in Queensland. Queensland Treasury has shown that earnings in the State appear to have been consistently underestimated since the June quarter 1993 (this is outlined in the June quarter 1994 *Queensland State Accounts* and the September quarter *Queensland Economic Review*). The matter has been brought to the attention of the ABS. Treasury is still waiting for an ABS explanation.

(3) At present, Queensland's real wages growth is consistent with and in some cases exceeds that of the Australian total. For example in 1992-93 and 1993-94, when AWOTE is adjusted for inflation using the CPI, growth in real wages was higher in Queensland than Australia. Real wages grew by 1.6% and 2.1% respectively in Queensland in these two years, and by 0.7% and 1.2% in Australia. Queensland real wage growth obviously more than matches that of the rest of Australia.

(4) Using the latest figures, over the last five calendar years, Queensland's average annual nominal AWOTE growth rate has been 4.3%, compared with 4.2% in Australia. In the last five years of the previous Government, Queensland's average annual AWOTE growth was only 5.8%, compared with Australia's 6.7%.

During the term of the Goss Government, in contrast to that of the previous Government, Queensland's average annual AWOTE growth rate has exceeded that of Australia.

(a), (b) and (c) In the long term, allowing for differences caused by industrial and occupational structure, average AWOTE growth should be similar for Queensland and Australia generally. Given the free movement of factors of production between States in Australia, it is unlikely that job-specific wage growth differentials would exist in the long run.

The main reason for long run interstate differentials to exist in AWOTE is differences in industry/occupation structure. There is therefore no reason to believe that there is any impact on Queensland's unemployment rate, inflation rate and general level of economic activity caused by differences in average AWOTE, other than impacts or effects generated by different industrial structure.

Nevertheless, it is important that Queensland wages, in comparable situations, match wages elsewhere in Australia, so that Queensland's living standards and incomes are maintained.

102. Auditor-General's Report on Aboriginal and Island Councils

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to her press statement, on 4 October 1994 in which she stated she will fine community councils that fail to be financially accountable up to \$12,000, and to the Auditor-General's report for 1993-94 on Aboriginal Councils and Island Councils tabled on 24 March 1995 which again named most of the councils not performing in 1992—

- (1) Does she intend to fine any of these councils?
- (2) Will she detail what monitoring was done of community councils between 1992 and 1993 to ensure they were being financially accountable?
- (3) If there was monitoring, how can she explain the enormous number of qualifications in this respect?

Answer:

(1) No. The legislative regime for imposing fines upon councils for failure to comply with the various requirements of the *Community Services (Aborigines) Act* and the *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act* will be created by amendments to those Acts which will be introduced in Parliament later this year. Following the passage of that legislation, I will be able to consider the imposition of fines as a means of ensuring compliance with the requirements of the Acts.

(2) As with all local governments, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils are responsible for ensuring the maintenance of satisfactory accountability standards. This Government recognised that there were problems in ensuring that adequate monitoring of financial performance was being undertaken by councils and this has

since been addressed by the Financial Accountability Improvement Program which was approved by Government in October 1994. Under this program, a comprehensive system of internal audits for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Councils will enable more effective ongoing monitoring to be undertaken. The implementation of the Financial Accountability Improvement Program is being oversighted by steering committees comprising representatives of my Department, the Aboriginal and Island Co-ordinating Councils with assistance from the Queensland Audit Office in an observer capacity.

(3) The reasons for the qualifications of various councils, as detailed in the Auditor-General's report, arise from a number of different factors, including:

- The absence of suitably qualified finance personnel in remote communities.
- The complexity associated with the administration of Commonwealth funded projects, most particularly the Community Development Employment Program.
- The administration of business enterprises and bank agencies which are not normally the province of local governments.

As described in (2) above, it is expected that the Financial Accountability Improvement Program will assist councils to overcome the problems identified in the Auditor-General's report.

103. Cabinet Vacancy

Mr COOPER asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Why didn't he take advantage of the Cabinet vacancy to promote the Honourable Member for Mt Ommaney (Mr Pyke) who announced on the front page of his local newspaper earlier this month that he intended to ask the Premier to make him Minister for crime prevention?
- (2) Did the Honourable Member for Mt Ommaney (Mr Pyke) approach him on the matter as he informed his constituents he would?
- (3) If so, what advice did he convey to the Honourable Member?

Answer:

- (1) Cabinet vacancies are determined by Caucus.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Should Mr Pyke become a Cabinet Minister I am confident that he would make a better Minister than the Member for Crows Nest.

104. Queensland Health Financial Statements

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What is the form of the financial statements specified by him and which are required to be

presented to him under the Health Services Act?

- (2) Will he table a copy?
- (3) Are financial statements prepared monthly for management control purposes?
- (4) Is a copy of the monthly financial statements forwarded for his information?
- (5) If so, will he table a copy?
- (6) Who reviews the performance indicated in the financial statements, particularly compared with the approved budget?
- (7) How often is this review undertaken?
- (8) Will he table a copy of the February financial statements showing clearly the full year, monthly and year to date actual and budget figures for each of the hospitals, regional areas and total for the Health Service?

Answer:

(1) The form of the annual financial statements is specified by the Minister for Health under section 3.33 subsection (b) of the Health Services Act 1991. This was done in 1993/94 through the Queensland Health Regional Annual Financial Statements Guidelines issued on 11 July 1994.

The 1993/94 annual financial statements form part of the Queensland Health 1993/94 Annual Report which is required to be presented to the Minister for Health under section 3.33 subsection (b) of the Health Services Act 1991.

(2) The Queensland Health 1993/94 financial statements are included in the 1993/94 Queensland Health Annual Report which was tabled on 25 November 1994 in accordance with section 46N of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977 and section 2.3 of the Health Services Act 1991.

(3) No. Financial Statements are not budget monitoring tools. The financial statement contain information which gives a consolidated view of the financial position of Queensland Health, and are only required to be produced on an annual basis.

(4) Not applicable in view of my answer to (3).

(5) Not applicable in view of my answer to (3).

(6) The annual financial statements are reviewed annually by the Regional Health Authorities and Queensland Health.

(7) The review on annual financial statements is undertaken annually.

(8) Not applicable in view of my answer to (3).

105. Mr M. Shearer; Palm Beach Police Station

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the offer by Gold Coast developer and property owner, Mr Maxwell Shearer, to make property available for a much-needed police station on the Gold Coast Highway at Palm Beach and Mr Maxwell's offer to construct a building to Police

Department requirements and lease it to the department, thus saving the department the outlay of capital—

Will he give early and serious consideration to this genuine offer?

Answer:

On 7 March 1995, a letter was received by the Queensland Police Service from Mr Tony Burn, Principal of Sixth Avenue Real Estate, Palm Beach, stating that he had a client who was prepared to build a police station on land which he owned at Palm Beach and lease the station to the Queensland Police Service.

Inspector Hackett of the Gold Coast Police District consequently contacted Mr Burn and requested full details of his proposal. The Service later received another letter, dated 22 March 1995, together with a map showing where Mr Burn's client proposed to build a police station.

Mr Burn, in his discussions with Inspector Hackett, appeared to be genuinely endeavouring to make a commercial investment proposal on behalf of his client, Mr Maxwell Shearer, who is a local developer.

Mr Burn's proposal did not contain any information relating to costs to the Queensland Police Service.

Mr Burn has been provided with information as to the Service's requirements for a police station.

While the matter currently rests with Mr Burn and Mr Shearer, it should be noted that the 2,413 square metre site that is the subject of the proposal is a deal smaller than the 4,000 square metres minimum usually required for permanent police stations.

It is also pointed out that the mere speculation of a commercial developer wishing to create a structure for government use through a lease facility, does not necessarily equate to a good business/policing decision.

The policing needs of the Palm Beach area are currently being met by patrols from Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads. Aggregate police numbers at these two stations have increased over 40 percent from 36 to 51 under the Goss Labor Government.

While there are no immediate to medium term plans to establish a police station in the Palm Beach area, regional police management will continue to monitor the situation there.

106. Mourilyan Harbour Road

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Ports Corporation draft document on the Mourilyan Harbour Port plan—

(1) Who will pay for the upgrading of the Mourilyan Harbour road?

(2) Will the Ports Corporation be solely responsible for ensuring that this road has adequate safety measures, including overtaking lanes and set down areas for school buses, included as part of the upgrading?

- (3) Will the Port Authority be responsible for all costs associated with providing these safety measures?

Answer:

The member for Hinchinbrook may be assured that the upgrading and maintenance of the Mourilyan Harbour Road is the responsibility of the State Government and will be funded accordingly. The road in question is a declared road and, as such, the issues of safety, traffic management, and all other related matters will be handled under the transport portfolio in conjunction with road users, local communities, and the local government. The Draft Mourilyan Port Plan is one element of a long term strategic approach being undertaken not only by the Ports Corporation, but by all port authorities to identify possible infrastructure requirements in the maritime, road, and rail transport areas. Community consultation is a key factor in this process and, the very fact that the Member is asking questions about specific elements of the Plan signifies that the consultation process is achieving its goal.

107. Housing Commission Rent Calculations

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning—

With reference to housing commission rent calculations on income received—

- (1) Are veterans' repatriation disability pensions deemed to be income?
- (2) If so, is Queensland the only State or Territory in Australia that does not recognise disability pensions as compensatory payments?
- (3) If so, is the Government going to review the method of calculating rents for housing commission houses for veterans receiving a disability pension?

Answer:

(1) Yes. The Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning does regard the War Disability Pension and the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Pension as income for rent setting purposes.

(2) No. South Australia and Western Australia assess the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Pension as income. The Northern Territory assesses the War Disability Pension as income. The Queensland Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning regards these payments as basic income support in much the same way Workers' Compensation is basic income support.

(3) The rent policy was reviewed in 1994 and one of the principles established is that all basic incomes, regardless of source, should be assessed for rent setting purposes. Where a payment can be shown to be for a specific purpose, such as telephone allowance or meal allowances, then those payments will not be assessed. This is the only way to ensure fairness and equity between tenants.

There is no reason to suggest the disability pensions are anything other than income, even though they are paid as compensation for the

reduced ability to earn an income due to war injury. Unemployment benefits can be considered as compensation for an inability to enter the workforce and Workers' Compensation payments are compensation for injury sustained at work. There is no doubt these payments should be assessed for rent setting purposes so any move to arbitrarily exempt payments from the Department of Veteran's Affairs would be inconsistent and unfair.

108. Driver Training

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his statement in a letter to Roadcraft Driver Training Centre in Gympie, where he stated there is evidence which suggests that driver training may even increase the crash rate of younger novice drivers by instilling a sense of over confidence in their abilities—

- (1) What evidence is available to support his claim that practical driver training will increase the crash rate in younger novice drivers?
- (2) What practical action is he taking to correct this over confidence in young drivers?

Answer:

There is a lack of conclusive evidence that practical driver training courses for novice drivers can reduce the crash rates of participants, compared to drivers who receive training from other sources. This is supported by numerous overseas and Australian studies which have concluded that any positive effects of practical driver training, are not large or lasting in terms of reducing crashes.

A large study of high school driver education in the United States, involving 16,000 students, found some short term benefits. However, these effects were negated by the tendency for course participants to get their licences earlier, increasing their potential to be involved in crashes. The students who were exposed to comprehensive training were found to be more likely to get their licences, to be involved in crashes and to receive more traffic violations than students who received no formal training.

An evaluation of compulsory driver training in Quebec, Canada also indicated that novice driver training can encourage earlier licensing amongst participants, increasing their exposure and crash involvement.

There is also some evidence that more advanced driver training may contribute to an increase in traffic offences and crashes among participants. For example, an evaluation of a Norwegian Government novice driver training program which included an off-road skid control component found a significant increase in the crash involvement of young male participants. Researchers have suggested that this training may have instilled a false sense of overconfidence among these drivers.

In contrast, the results are more positive for specialist post-licence driver training conducted with heavy vehicle and fleet drivers.

Queensland Transport is currently developing a Driver Management Strategy which will provide a comprehensive plan for improving the safety of all drivers. It is addressing methods of improving the preparation of drivers, driver licensing practices and the on-road management of drivers. Special attention is being given to ways of improving the safety of novice drivers through education, enforcement and encouragement. In particular, strategies are being developed to encourage novice and experienced drivers to take more responsibility for their driving behaviour.

For example Queensland Transport is soon to trial the "Road Safety for Young People" program. This innovative program is designed to improve the safety of young people aged 12-18 years, by fostering road safety activities within the school, the community and the home environments. The aim is to target the attitudinal and motivational factors which contribute to the high crash risk of young drivers and other road users.

109. Eastlink

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

What are the likely pricing arrangements for electricity transported into Queensland via the Eastlink Electricity connection?

Answer:

Negotiations are proceeding with the New South Wales authorities on a range of commercial matters, including price. The proposal from NSW is for provision of 500MW of capacity to provide for peak and intermediate supply to Queensland. Based on prices quoted, Eastlink would be an economic addition to Queensland's supply capacity. It is more cost effective than any of the other available options.

110. Melbourne-Port of Brisbane Rail Link

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Is he aware of a proposal submitted to Queensland Rail by Transport Consultant Dr Ken Davidson to construct a standard gauge rail link between Melbourne and the Port of Brisbane?
- (2) Will he give an undertaking to include in the 1995/96 Budget, sufficient funding so that a comprehensive feasibility study can be carried out into the Queensland component of the proposal?

Answer:

Queensland Rail is in receipt of a study conducted by Dr Ken Davidson to construct a standard gauge rail link between Melbourne and the Port of Brisbane. This study was not sponsored or funded by Queensland Rail or the Queensland Government.

It would be inappropriate for the Queensland Government to sponsor such a project in its own right as its implications extend far beyond Queensland's borders. In effect this proposal is an example of possible Nation Building infrastructure.

As such I am pleased to advise that the Federal Government is sponsoring a preliminary feasibility study into this link. This study will be carried out by the Bureau of Transport and Communications Economics and will be part of a study to develop a nationally consistent framework for assessing Australia's infrastructure needs. This work follows on from the recent report of the National Transport Planning Taskforce.

Queensland Rail and the Queensland Government will cooperate with this initiative and will assess the implications of the study when it is finalised.

111. Policing, South Burnett Area

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the need for a boost in law and order facilities in South Burnett—

- (1) When will he heed calls from the Cherbourg community for the re-opening of the watchhouse there and a boost in policing capacity at the community?
- (2) When will Kingaroy station be upgraded to 24-hour capacity?
- (3) Will he reassure locals that there is no truth in rumours that the Nanango station will be downgraded?
- (4) Will all current one-man police stations in South Burnett remain open in the foreseeable future?

Answer:

(1) The current staffing levels at the Cherbourg Station are:

- two full time police officers,
- seven full time Aboriginal Community Police Officers, and
- eleven part time Aboriginal Community Police Officers.

There are no plans to alter these numbers.

The Cherbourg Watchhouse currently has the capacity to accommodate 12 inmates at any one time (8 males, 4 females). While this capacity could be increased to 20 inmates with some alterations, to re-open the Cherbourg Watchhouse would require major work. This includes the elimination of "suicide points", the installation of surveillance equipment and general repairs, painting, etc. The estimated cost would be approximately \$100,000. Extra staff would also have to be employed at the Watchhouse on a 24 hour basis. Given these upgrade and staff requirements, there are no plans to re-open the Cherbourg Watchhouse.

(2) There are no plans to increase the staff numbers at the Kingaroy Station to provide a 24 hour service. The staff level at the Kingaroy Station is in

accordance with the Police Service Staff Model. This model ensures an equitable distribution of police throughout Queensland considering, amongst other factors, local crime, traffic movements and population growth.

The present general duties staff allocation at the Station is eight officers, including the Officer in Charge. The staff level would have to be increased to a minimum of 15 officers (with an optimum level of 19 officers) for the Station to operate on a 24 hour basis. All after hours telephone calls to the Kingaroy Station are presently diverted to Gympie. In the event of urgent calls for assistance, Gympie police contact on-call staff in Kingaroy, who then respond accordingly.

(3) There are no plans to reduce the staff numbers at Nanango.

(4) There are no plans to close down any single officer police stations in the Gympie Police District.

112. Regional Health Plans

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to a discussion paper entitled "Planning for Future Health Services" which was issued in November 1994 by departmental officers of North Queensland Regional Health, and as Mosman Hall Hospital in Charters Towers was muted for closure in this discussion paper—

What is the current situation in regard to the review of regional health plans and when will a firm decision on the outcome of this discussion paper be made by the Northern Regional Health Authority and Queensland Health?

Answer:

The current situation with regard to the review of regional services plans is that a number of draft plans have been produced including a plan for the Northern Regional Health Authority. The discussion paper referred to was a consultation document designed to elicit community comment and submissions on the future planning of regional health services.

Following on from the release of the discussion paper seven submissions were received on the future of Charters Towers health services. The results of local consultation regarding the Charters Towers health services will be incorporated in further drafts of the regional services plan and no timeframe for the public release of the plan has been identified.

113. Tourist Industry, Bed Tax

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing—

With reference to a proposal before the Federal Government to impose a bed tax on the tourist industry—

(1) Is he aware of the catastrophic effect that this will have on the tourist industry in general and the Sunshine Coast area in particular?

(2) What action has he taken or does he intend to take to see that this proposed tax is not imposed on the struggling tourist industry?

Answer:

In response to the specific questions made by Mr Turner

(1) I am aware of the catastrophic effect that a bed tax would have on Queensland's tourist industry, including the Sunshine Coast region.

Tourism is one of this State's largest and most important industries, contributing over \$6 billion to the Queensland economy in the 1993-4 financial year. Over 120,000 people are directly employed in the tourism industry in Queensland.

(2) I made direct representations to my Federal counterpart, the Honourable Michael Lee, M.P., Minister for Communications and the Arts and Minister for Tourism on 16 March 1995, expressing this Government's total and unequivocal opposition to the introduction of an accommodation or bed tax. I pointed out that such a tax would impact considerably on the Queensland tourist industry, decreasing demand and the future rate of growth of the industry, as well as negatively affecting the profitability of tourist facilities. Further, I opposed the introduction of any new taxes on the tourism industry in general and argued that the tourism industry already contributes more than its fair share of total taxation revenues.

The Inquiry into the Impact of Australia's Taxation Regime on the Tourism Industry conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Banking, Finance and Public Administration has just released its report.

I am pleased to advise that the Inquiry recommends that the accommodation sector not be singled out for taxation. Reforms to sales tax, fringe benefits tax, and the diesel fuel rebate are also recommended in the Report.

114. Queensland Rail Staffing

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a question in the Budget Estimates 1994, the former Minister for Transport (Mr Hamill) said Queensland Rail could operate with a staff level of 6 000 employees and anticipated a level of 15 400 by June 1995—

(1) Will he give an assurance that these staff cuts will not be in the area of maintenance for both rolling stock and track personnel?

(2) How will Queensland Rail compensate these personnel for the loss of other jobs?

Answer:

Queensland Rail has been undergoing large scale restructuring for some time to ensure it will continue to meet the challenges of a highly competitive transport industry and to ensure that as a public enterprise it provides a positive return for investment. This restructuring program commenced

in 1990 and since that time staff numbers have reduced in the order of 6,000 to the current level of 15,650. Queensland Rail currently anticipates that it will have a staff level of approximately 15,500 by the end of June 1995.

Queensland Rail staff levels have been steadily declining for a number of years and this trend is expected to continue. Unlike other Australian rail systems, these reductions have not been as a result of service reductions and line closures. They have all occurred because of the vast improvements in Queensland Rail's labour productivity in recent years.

Five years ago Queensland Rail's labour productivity was pathetic by Australian let alone international standards. By instituting a comprehensive process of workplace reforms in close consultation with unions and staff coupled with an unprecedented capital investment program in new and upgraded facilities, workshops, depots and infrastructure, enormous productivity gains have been achieved. There is, however, considerable scope for further productivity gains in the future. In order to ensure Queensland Rail's long term competitiveness, this process will necessarily continue for several years to come.

In response to Mr Johnson's specific questions, I advise the House that:

- (1) Staff adjustments will continue to occur in Queensland Rail. These adjustments will continue to be carefully planned and implemented in line with ongoing workplace reforms and capital investment programs. Examples of current such programs include:
 - Main Line Upgrade (Brisbane-Cairns)—\$580 million
 - Mt Isa Line Upgrade —\$ 50 million
 - Freight Rollingstock Maintenance Facilities—\$70 million
 - Workshops Redevelopment (Centres of Excellence)—\$55 million
 - Mayne Electric Train Servicing Facilities—\$21 million
 - Major coal lines relay and Upgrading—\$40-50 million per annum
- (2) Queensland Rail personnel are already adequately compensated by guarantees of no forced redundancy or compulsory relocation coupled with a generous voluntary early retirement scheme which will operate until the end of 1998. Productivity improvement contributions by Queensland Rail staff are also recognised through payments made under Queensland Rail's second Enterprise

117. DBIRD and QSBC Offices

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

- (1) What was the total number of DBIRD and QSBC offices in Queensland in each of the years between 1989 and 1995?
- (2) Where were or are they located in each of the years and what were their staffing levels and budgets

Agreement (EA2) which will operate for two years from 1 November 1994 and under Subsidiary Agreements covering specific functions or locations which can be made under certain conditions pursuant to the provisions of EA2.

115. Drayton State School

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

- (1) Is he aware of the state of the Drayton State School toilet block?
- (2) If so, when can we expect to see action to ensure that this rapidly developing school is adequately catered for?

Answer:

I am advised by my Department that general repairs, external and internal painting were carried out in September 1994 by my Department.

There is no current backlog or outstanding preventative maintenance in relation to this block as the facility, although old, is operating satisfactorily.

The Principal has submitted the replacement of the toilet block on his 1995 Minor Works Needs Survey as the Number 1 priority.

Works of this nature are categorised as Minor Works projects, the Program for which is administered by the Department of Education.

116. Guidance Officers in Schools

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Education—

How many hours per week, for guidance officers, are assigned to the following schools in my electorate:

- (a) Cooroy State School, (b) Eumundi State School, (c) Tewantin State School, (d) Sunshine Beach State School, (e) Coolool State School, (f) Noosa District High School, (g) Sunshine Beach High School and (h) Coolool State High School?

Answer:

1. Guidance officers are allocated to schools in the Noosa electorate on the basis of days rather than hours.

2. School allocations are as follows:

SCHOOL	GUIDANCE OFFICER ALLOCATION
Cooroy State School	2 days per week
Eumundi State School	1 day per week
Tewantin State School	3 days per week
Sunshine Beach State School	1 day per week
Coolool State School	2 days per week
Noosa District State High School	Equivalent of 6 days per week
Sunshine Beach State High School	4 days per week
Coolool State High School	4 days per week

- (3) What were their main achievements and performance indicators in each year?
 (4) What was the total number of grants, the total value of each grant and type of grant each office handled over the period?

Answer:

- (1) In 1989/90, DBIRD had 7 offices and QSBC had 6. In 1990/91, DBIRD had 9 offices and QSBC had 8. From 1991/92 to 1994/95*, DBIRD had 13 offices. From 1991/92 to 1992/93, the QSBC had 8 offices. In 1993/94, the QSBC had 10 offices. In 1994/95*, the QSBC has 11 offices. (*Period ending 31/3/95)

(2)

Years	DBIRD			QSBC			
	Location	Staffing	Budget	Location	Staffing	Budget	
1989/90	Head Office	307	99,143,158	Head Office	36	2,959,000	
	Cairns	2	9,296	North Qld	3	189,000	
	Townsville	2	16,084	Cairns	3	180,000	
	Mackay	2	14,960	Mackay	3	43,000	
	Rockhampton	2	8,402	Gold Coast	3	173,000	
	Maryborough	2	10,882	Sunshine Coast	3	47,000	
	Toowoomba	2	8,478				
1990/91	Head Office	287	65,152,306	Head Office	43	3,801,000	
	Cairns	7	272,818	North Qld	3	226,000	
	Townsville	12	214,479	Cairns	3	192,000	
	Mackay	5	127,614	Mackay	3	195,000	
	Rockhampton	5	Included in HO allocations	Gold Coast	3	199,000	
	Maryborough	4	"	Sunshine Coast	3	197,000	
	Toowoomba	4	"	Brisbane Sth	3	Nil	
	Mt Isa	1	"	Brisbane Nth	3	Nil	
	Ipswich	1	"				
	Bundaberg	2	"				
	Sunshine Coast	1	"				
	Gold Coast	1	"				
	1991/92	Head Office	293	60,296,257	Head Office	43	3,247,000
Cairns		9	455,626	North Qld	3	180,000	
Townsville		12	657,628	Cairns	3	162,000	
Mackay		6	246,321	Mackay	3	173,000	
Rockhampton		9	428,323	Gold Coast	3	178,000	
Maryborough		4	192,268	Sunshine Coast	3	187,000	
Toowoomba		5	209,077	Brisbane Sth	3	168,000	
Mt Isa		2	133,290	Brisbane Nth	3	162,000	
Gladstone		4	220,873				
Ipswich		4	165,401				
Bundaberg		2	222,410				
1991/92	Sunshine Coast	5	226,768				
	Gold Coast	4	158,088				
	1992/93	Head Office	300	70,815,629	Head Office	43	3,213,000
		Cairns	9	547,895	North Qld	3	201,000
Townsville		11	1,039,854	Cairns	3	211,000	
Mackay		6	387,533	Mackay	3	189,000	
Rockhampton		8	732,144	Gold Coast	3	188,000	
Maryborough		4	226,811	Sunshine Coast	3	207,000	
Toowoomba		5	369,258	Brisbane Sth	3	182,000	
Mt Isa		2	133,849	Brisbane Nth	3	186,000	
Gladstone		5	184,518				
Ipswich		4	200,710				
Bundaberg		3	169,121				
1992/93	Sunshine Coast	5	254,446				
	Gold Coast	4	357,884				
	1993/94	Head Office	304	65,766,732	Head Office	35	2,859,000
		Cairns	8	683,612	North Qld	4	206,000
Townsville		12	936,550	Cairns	3	252,000	
Mackay		5	396,654	Mackay	3	200,000	
Rockhampton		8	652,407	Gold Coast	4	247,000	
Maryborough		4	191,598	Sunshine Coast	3	238,000	
Toowoomba		5	290,748	Brisbane Sth	3	211,000	
Mt Isa		2	127,492	Brisbane Nth	3	196,000	

	Gladstone	5	244,055	Toowoomba	1	62,000
	Ipswich	4.5	211,485	Rockhampton	2	50,000
	Bundaberg	3	214,710			
	Sunshine Coast	4.5	268,595			
	Gold Coast	4	262,954			
1994/95	Head Office	316.5	87,735,220	Head Office	35	2,692,000
(Period	Cairns	10	706,563	North Qld	0	185,000
to	Townsville	13	1,010,763	Cairns	3	261,000
31/3/95)	Mackay	5	311,785	Mackay	3	190,000
	Rockhampton	7	693,186	Gold Coast	4	261,000
	Maryborough	4	223,773	Sunshine Coast	4	265,000
	Toowoomba	5.5	268,105	Brisbane Sth	4	198,000
	Mt Isa	2	150,552	Brisbane Nth	4	244,000
	Gladstone	4	222,480	Toowoomba	2	103,000
	Ipswich	5.5	215,330	Rockhampton	2	101,000
	Bundaberg	3	210,521			
	Sunshine Coast	4.5	235,825			
	Gold Coast	5	237,750			

- (3) DBIRD's Head Office and Regional Offices are collectively responsible for performance of the four Departmental Programs, namely Business Development, Industry and Technology, Regional and Project Development, and Organisational Development and Services.

Achievements are as set out in the Program Statements. This information, which includes QSBC, is provided every year in the Budget Papers.

Individual units of the portfolio are aggregated into Programs in accordance with the Government's Program Management system.

Performance indicators are established against each of the Department's four Programs and are set out in the Department's annual Strategic Plans for each of the years in question. Similarly, performance indicators for the QSBC are set out in its Strategic Plan.

- (4) In the period 1989/90 to 1994/95 (period ending 31/3/95), the total number of grants provided by DBIRD was 3,638 and the total number of grants provided by QSBC was 432.

Grant	Location	Total No	Total Value
Industrial Supplies Office	Brisbane	6	4,270,000
QUT Chair in Quality	Brisbane	4	400,000
Meet the Buyers	Brisbane	2	110,000
Aust Quality Awards	Brisbane	3	75,000
Foundation Standards Australia	Brisbane	3	65,000
Quality Grants to Industry Associations	Brisbane	9	383,895
Other Grants to Industry Associations	Brisbane	7	228,250
Grants to Govt Depts	Brisbane	7	133,538
Grants to Industry	Townsville	1	25,000
	Brisbane	6	178,500
	Ipswich	1	1,649
	National	1	30,000
Grants to Regional Development Organisations	Toowoomba	1	5,000
	Townsville	1	2,000
Grants to Others	Brisbane	6	43,949
National Industry Extension Service	Brisbane	1,465	10,142,581
	Bundaberg	80	742,803
	Cairns	216	1,379,483
	Gold Coast	203	1,146,346
	Gladstone	79	595,283
	Ipswich	149	922,680
	Maryborough	145	1,318,047
	Mackay	80	588,697
	Mt Isa	19	175,050
	Rockhampton	42	317,228
	Sunshine Coast	116	691,394
	Toowoomba	143	1,234,998
	Townsville	145	1,088,349
Space Industry Development Centre	Brisbane	2	400,000
Collaborative Research Centres	Brisbane	7	3,930,000
	Brisbane/Townsville	2	80,000
	Townsville	1	125,000
QUESTnet	Brisbane/Gold Coast	1	160,000

	Brisbane/Townsville/ Toowoomba	1	906,000
	Townsville	5	300,000
	Rockhampton	1	10,000
	Toowoomba	1	10,000
National Procurement Development Program	Brisbane	6	679,800
	Ipswich	2	201,950
	Gold Coast	1	50,000
	Western Sydney	1	40,000
	Bundaberg	1	118,120
National Teaching Company Scheme	Brisbane	6	300,000
	Toowoomba	3	150,000
	Gold Coast	2	100,000
Qld Grants for Research and Development	Brisbane	29	4,703,897
	Townsville	4	409,969
	Gold Coast	4	271,654
	Maryborough	2	411,440
	Sunshine Coast	3	198,633
	Toowoomba	1	171,100
	Ipswich	1	14,946
IIB Industry	Brisbane	17	115,738
IT&T Industry Assoc Establishment	Brisbane	2	2,800
	Brisbane	2	110,000
Industry Relocation	Brisbane	2	150,000
IT&T Project	Brisbane	1	75,000
Remote Area	Toowoomba	2	17,466
Language Skills	Brisbane	1	10,288
	Cairns	1	
R&D	Gold Coast	2	9,800
Main Street	Maryborough	3	145,000
	Redcliffe	3	52,500
	Goondiwindi	3	30,000
	Ipswich	3	52,500
	Coolangatta	3	45,000
	Proserpine	1	20,000
	Hervey Bay	1	20,000
	Gordonvale	1	20,000
	St George	1	10,000
	South Burnett Region	1	40,000
Planning & Information Services	Qld	4	55,000
	SE Qld	1	35,000
	W Moreton	1	30,000
	Yatala	1	46,200
	Parkhurst	1	20,000
Regional Economic Development	Redcliffe	4	51,000
	Logan City	5	57,701
	Pine Rivers	5	23,550
	Redlands	6	45,645
	Brisbane	7	70,571
	Gold Coast	27	174,651
	Toowoomba	53	522,427
	Ipswich	23	235,541
	Sunshine Coast	30	290,462
	Rockhampton	62	549,683
	Gladstone	22	146,725
	Bundaberg	20	186,825
	Maryborough	36	258,087
	Townsville	78	783,041
	Cairns	59	705,125
	Mt Isa	12	97,130
	Mackay	28	287,920
Small Business Research	Townsville	3	34,710
	Brisbane	5	63,242
	Toowoomba	2	33,300
	Head Office	2	32,500
Peak Bodies Liaison Scheme	Brisbane	8	384,192
Women in Business and Industry	Cairns	1	19,900

	Brisbane	6	84,202
	Head Office	1	13,900
Management Skills Development Scheme	Brisbane	21	156,540
	Gold Coast	1	
	Sunshine Coast	1	
Major Project Incentives Scheme	Brisbane	16	17,748,818
	Cairns	2	4,000,602
	Gladstone	4	2,571,441
	Gold Coast	2	970,000
	Toowoomba	1	2,033,326
Business Plus (QSBC)	Brisbane	87	89,998
	Brisbane Sth	62	61,500
	Brisbane Nth	71	79,375
	Gold Coast	37	35,900
	Sunshine Coast	25	23,375
	Mackay	14	13,600
	Townsville	33	33,000
	Cairns	82	79,125
	Rockhampton	20	18,400
	Toowoomba	1	1,000

118. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

On what grounds was the building known as Newspaper Place selected as the future premises for the TAFE facility at Maroochydore?

Answer:

This is a matter for TAFE Queensland.

Administrative Services Department had no involvement in the selection of the Building known as Newspaper Place.

119. Overseas Visits by Business, Industry and Regional Development Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to overseas trips taken by the then Minister on the following dates—

- (i) 20-26 November 1993 to New Caledonia
- (ii) 5-12 September 1993 to Korea
- (iii) 19-24 March 1994 to Papua New Guinea

For each trip will he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)

(d) Other expenses

(3) Departmental expenses—

(a) Travel

- (i) land
- (ii) sea
- (iii) air

(b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)

(c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)

(d) Other expenses

(4) Government expenses—

(a) Travel

- (i) land
- (ii) sea
- (iii) air

(b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)

(c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)

(d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with

the normal requirements. In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation the overseas travel undertaken from 21 November to 27 November 1993, 4 September to 12 September 1993 and 19 to 24 March 1994.

The costs of these trips charges to my Ministerial Office were \$10,858.18, \$23,729.57 and \$10,395.66 respectively.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditure can be legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

120. Tarong Power Station

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) How much coal was in the bunker at the Tarong Power Station on each Monday for the past four months?
- (2) What was the lowest tonnage available in the bunker over that period and on what day was that figure reached?
- (3) How much coal is consumed by the power station on each normal operating day?
- (4) How much coal is consumed by the power station on each normal operating day?

Answer:

(1) The power station bunkers are kept full to supply the mills which pulverise coal for feeding the boilers. The coal stockpile is the power station's on site source of coal for the bunkers and the total stocks are shown below:

Midnight Sunday	Stock (t)	Midnight Monday	Stock (t)
04 Dec 1994	118,080	05 Dec 1994	124,833
11 Dec 1994	100,690	12 Dec 1994	112,746
18 Dec 1994	103,770	19 Dec 1994	106,816
25 Dec 1994	104,539	26 Dec 1994	90,839
01 Jan 1995	88,120	02 Jan 1995	73,285
08 Jan 1995	83,126	09 Jan 1995	86,494
15 Jan 1995	84,998	16 Jan 1995	92,385
22 Jan 1995	65,436	23 Jan 1995	78,177
29 Jan 1995	56,803	30 Jan 1995	67,642
05 Feb 1995	44,921	06 Feb 1995	53,627
12 Feb 1995	37,833	13 Feb 1995	42,136
19 Feb 1995	62,088	20 Feb 1995	71,399
26 Feb 1995	63,690	27 Feb 1995	65,519
05 Mar 1995	81,279	06 Mar 1995	81,772
12 Mar 1995	86,709	13 Mar 1995	86,346
19 Mar 1995	58,327	20 Mar 1995	53,669
26 Mar 1995	72,150	27 Mar 1995	73,309
02 Apr 1995	91,325	03 Apr 1995	91,492
09 Apr 1995	98,942	10 Apr 1995	101,759

(2) Total stocks reached 37,833 tonnes at midnight on 12 February 1995.

- (3) Average January 14,950 tonnes
Average February 13,610 tonnes
Average March 12,114 tonnes

122. Alligator Creek/Mount Elliot School Facilities

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the purchase of land by the Ahern Government in 1988-89 at Alligator Creek just south of Townsville for the location of school facilities and to Mr Elliott Pre-School—

- (1) Is the proposal to construct a pre-school facility on the site still supported by the Regional Education Office, departmental planners and the community?
- (2) Is he aware that the Goss Government removed the classroom supplies that had been delivered to the Mt Elliot site, as well as pre-fabricated buildings that were at the Stuart rail siding, immediately after coming to power in December 1989?
- (3) What was the rationale for this complete turnaround in advice?
- (4) Is the Government aware of the enormous and continuing residential growth in the area that makes such construction even more urgent?
- (5) What are the latest survey figures that are being used to preclude construction at Mt Elliot and when were they taken?
- (6) Is he aware of the problems confronting parents who have to deliver their children to another pre-school using Highway 1 and the major inconvenience this creates when other younger children cannot be left alone at home while transportation takes place?
- (7) What is the present construction plan for this facility, if any?

Answer:

The need for a primary and pre-school facility at Mt Elliot was investigated in detail in 1989. Construction of a primary school was not considered to be justified at that time.

The Department of Education would anticipate that provision of a primary school would be justified for an urban community of approximately 2,000 residential allotments.

Neither the base number of residences or the annual rates of development are indicative of the need for a Mt Elliot primary school at this time.

The indicators of education demand from the Alligator Creek/Mt Elliot area are the enrolment trends of the closest primary schools of Stuart State School, Oonoonba State School and Townsville South State School.

Of these three schools, Stuart State School, is the only school to have experienced an enrolment growth and this growth has occurred in the 1994 to 1995 year only. The other two schools of Oonoonba

and Townsville South experienced an enrolment decline over the last 4 years.

The Department of Education is aware of the many students who reside at significant distances from state school facilities. The Department of Education operates the School Bus Subsidy Scheme which funds the total cost of transportation when students reside greater than 3.2 km from a primary school and 4.8 km from a secondary school. There are many other rural and semi rural areas with students who travel to school.

There are presently no plans to construct a new school at Mt Elliot. This position is supported by the levels of demand at the nearest state school facilities.

123. Mangrove Planting

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

As it can cost \$535 to legally plant a mangrove in Queensland under the anti-green, anti-mangrove Goss Government, what is he going to do to cut these licensing fees and red tape of the Department of Primary Industries?

Answer:

The Goss Government is not anti-green or anti-mangrove. We are taking a very responsible approach to the protection of the marine environment. For example, the new Fisheries Act 1994 provides:

- Increased penalties for marine plant destruction.
- More fish habitat areas and extension of fish habitat areas to freshwater.
- Compulsory permits for mangrove removal or destruction.
- Ongoing research and monitoring of fisheries habitats.

Any planting of mangroves requires the collection of seeds or seedlings from mature mangrove communities and hence the requirement for authorisation under the Act.

The statutory fees associated with community regeneration projects would generally not exceed \$135. DPI would provide technical support and other services in such cases.

To date there have been no exemptions made to the fee for marine plant permits.

All statutory fees collected via marine plant permits are deposited to the Fisheries Research Fund. These monies are used to support research projects into fisheries resources, and in particular to provide information for proper management of these important nature resources.

124. Policing, Fortitude Valley/New Farm

Mr BEATTIE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

(1) Have the latest police initiatives in Fortitude Valley been successful?

(2) If so, have they led to a reduction in crime in the Fortitude Valley and New Farm areas?

Answers:

(1) Police initiatives in Fortitude Valley have been extremely successful. During the first three months of this year, operational strategies were implemented to target street offences and offences against the person in Fortitude Valley, and the incidence of break and enter offences in the New Farm area.

(2) A significant reduction in the offences targeted has been achieved when compared to the corresponding period in 1994 as follows:

	Jan-Mar 94	Jan-Mar 95	Variance
Good Order Offences	278	103	-62.95%
Offences Against the Person	159	90	-43.40%
Break and Enter	258	147	-43.02%

Factors contributing to the achievement of these results have included active coordinated patrols and beats, intelligence driven activities, the deployment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officers, community support and the Fortitude Valley security camera system.

125. Mackay Police Station

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the promise of a new police station at Mackay and as police still have to work in cramped and difficult accommodation—

(1) When will the new station be completed?

(2) Will it house all of the departments?

Answer:

(1) Current advice from the Administrative Services Department is that the new station is anticipated to be completed in September 1996.

(2) The new Police Headquarters will not house all sections working in the current Mackay Police Station. However, the sections not housed in the new headquarters will be accommodated in a totally refurbished and air-conditioned version of the current building. This work will commence upon completion of the construction of the new station.

Sections to be housed in the refurbished existing police station will be the Traffic Branch, Uniform Inquiry Section, Police Prosecutors, Training Officer. There will also be a Training Area, Gymnasium and an area to be used as a District Disaster Coordination Centre in the event of a major disaster, such as a cyclone or flooding.

126. Wages Growth

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to his forecast in the 1994-95 budget papers that AWE growth in Queensland will match that of the rest of Australia for the

forecastable future and to the Queensland Treasury Weekly Economic Report that shows Queenslanders are the lowest paid workers in Australia and given that in the same budget papers referred to above, he stated that average earnings in Queensland are projected to increase by 2.9% in 1994-95 compared to 3.5 percent for Australia—

- (1) Does this mean that in the current financial year Queensland wages will grow at a slower rate than the rest of the country?
- (2) What growth in (a) Queensland and (b) national earnings does his department forecast for 1995-96?
- (3) (a) is Queensland's forecast rate of wages growth more or less than the national and state rates of inflation and the CPI in these two financial years and (b) is the national AWE growth rate more or less than inflation or the CPI?
- (4) (a) For how many years has Queensland's rates of wages growth trailed the national figure and (b) what is the total percentage AWE loss of Queenslanders over that period compared to figures for Australia as a whole?

Answer:

(1) Yes, the Budget time forecasts of average earnings growth of 2.9% in 1994-95 for Queensland, compared with 3.5% in Australia, do mean that, in the 1994-95 year, Queensland average wages are expected to grow at a slower rate than the rest of Australia.

Growth in average earnings in Queensland has exceeded national earnings growth (when measured on a State accounts basis) for the previous three years. It was therefore to be anticipated that as the economy in the rest of Australia improved during 1994-95, that there would be stronger pressure for 'catch-up' wage increases than would be the case in Queensland.

(2) Treasury is currently in the process of reviewing all economic forecasts for the 1995-96 Budget, which will not be released until the Budget is brought down in May. However, the forecasts for 1995-96 made last year are for growth of about 3.5% for both Queensland and Australia.

(3) (a) More than. (b) More than.

(4) (a) In terms of AWOTE, annual growth in Queensland's earnings exceeded the national growth rate on only one occasion over the period 1985-86 to 1988-89. Over the period 1989-90 to 1993-94, growth in AWOTE in Queensland exceeded the national growth rate on three out of the five years. (b) In Queensland, AWOTE increased by 27% from the level in 1984-85 to the level in 1988-89 (nationally 30%). Over the period from 1989-90 to 1993-94, AWOTE in Queensland rose by 19% compared with 17% national. Total growth over this period was 58.3% in Queensland and 61.9% nationally.

127. Eastern Corridor

Mr JOHNSON asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the Eastern Corridor—

- (1) Has he finalised the corridor for this freeway?
- (2) Have the people on this route been fully consulted and given an opportunity to exhaust all appeal avenues open to them?

Answer:

The Government decided on the general alignment of the corridor in 1992 for the southern section and by adopting modified Option B for the northern section in August 1994.

The Impact Assessment Study draft reports for the northern and southern sections of the South Coast Motorway have been available for public comment. The two consultant's for the respective sections of the Motorway are now finalising their reports taking into account comments received.

The Government will not be making a decision on the detailed alignment of the corridor until the final reports are received and have been considered.

Extensive consultation with the community generally, and in particular with people along the route has occurred both before, and since the appointment of the Consultants to undertake the studies in October 1994. Opportunity has been provided at all stages for the community to have input into the studies.

As I have advised no decision has been made by the Government concerning the contents of the Impact Assessment Study's Reports.

128. Yeppoon TAFE Facilities

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the inadequate TAFE Annexe facilities in Yeppoon and as the population of the Capricorn Coast is increasing substantially—

Will new facilities be provided in the near future?

Answer:

In terms of service provision and equity, the TAFE Queensland participation rate for the Yeppoon area is approximately 23, 000 contact hours per 1000 persons aged 15 and over. This is higher than the State average of approximately 19, 000 and indicates that the area is well serviced at this stage.

The Institute leases Housden Place in Yeppoon. The lease on this property is currently being renegotiated to secure a four-year lease with a further 12 month option.

The Goss Government's commitment to vocational training in the Rockhampton area has come after years of shameful neglect by previous National and Liberal party governments. Funding for TAFE in this area has increased by approximately 43% since 1989, with an increase of 53% in student contact hours since that time. Matters in relation to TAFE capital works funding for the coming financial period are still being considered and I will be in a position to answer your question after the release of the State Budget.

129. Single Operator Signwriters

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the Workplace Health & Safety Act and the requirement for business and industries to be registered under the Act—

- (1) Why does a single operator signwriter operating out of his own garage have to be registered under the Act, when consideration is given to the fact that he sees clients in his own home?
- (2) What conceivable benefit is there to the operator or clients from being registered under the Act?
- (3) How many single operator signwriters pay a levy within the State of Queensland?
- (4) Is there any constitutional problem with this levy in light of the High Court decision in the Capital Duplicators case?
- (5) Given that a single operator signwriter operating from his own home is unlikely to hurt or affect anyone else, is it reasonable that he has to pay the levy?

Answer:

(1) The Workplace Health and Safety Act 1989 imposes obligations on employers and self-employed persons to protect the health and safety of themselves, employees and members of the public, during workplace activities.

The Workplace Health and Safety Regulation provides that a person must not occupy or use premises as an industrial workplace unless those premises are registered. An industrial workplace is defined as one on which certain designated activities are carried on. These are outlined in Schedule 5 of the Regulation.

The Workplace Health and Safety Act 1989 defines a workplace as any premises where work is or is to be or is likely to be performed by employees or self-employed persons. For the purpose of the Act a self-employed person means a person who works for gain or reward otherwise than under a contract of employment or apprenticeship whether or not that person employs 1 or more other persons. By virtue of both the Act and the Regulation a single operator signwriter operating out of his own garage is required to register these premises as an industrial workplace.

(2) The operator should benefit by an increased awareness of workplace health and safety issues through the availability from the Workplace Health and Safety Division of advice and information products, codes of practice and guidance notices relevant to the specific industry. Through registration, the operator facilitates the random audit program carried out by the Workplace Health and Safety Division. This mechanism promotes compliance with workplace health and safety requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in prosecution. The benefits to the operator's clients are obvious. They should be able to enter a business premises with the confidence that these premises are safe and free from danger and risk to health and safety.

(3) At present there are 53 single operator signwriters required to pay a registration fee in Queensland.

(4) No, the facts of the Capital Duplicators case are distinguishable from the requirement to pay a fee upon registration of a workplace.

(5) As the operator's home is considered a workplace, the objects of the Act are to protect all persons who may be present at that workplace or other parts of the premises from danger to health and safety in respect of any undertaking conducted, work performed or substance manufactured, stored, kept, supplied, used or produced at or from that workplace and to protect persons performing work from risk to health and to safety. This would include the operator himself, any members of the public or clients who may visit the place of work, any suppliers or anyone else at the workplace who may be affected by unsafe work practices—for example neighbours or passers-by.

130. Family Services Department, Woodridge

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the fact that in February, some personal files of clients of the Department of Family Services were found in the carpark of the Woodridge offices of the Department of Family Services—

- (1) Will she explain how security and concern for confidentiality can be so lacking that this should have happened?
- (2) What have her inquiries into this disgraceful incident revealed?
- (3) Have all files been recovered?

Answer:

(1) The confidential documents found in the car park of the Logan City Area Office of my Department were not files. They were drafts of letters and copies of documents which were intended for disposal. Documents of this nature are required to be placed in a security disposal bin. In this instance some staff wrongly placed documents in the general rubbish disposal system. From there, they were placed in an industrial rubbish bin in the carpark for collection. It appears that one of the plastic bags containing this rubbish was removed from and placed beside the large industrial bin by a person or persons unknown.

(2) My Director-General has received a detailed report on the incident. It has revealed that an error in procedures occurred in relation to disposal of these papers. Procedures within the office have already been reviewed and improved. In addition, staff have been counselled about their accountability and responsibility to dispose of rubbish correctly.

(3) It is not possible to categorically state that all papers have been recovered. Officers have retrieved all papers they could find on the day in question.

131. Clifford Park Racecourse; Toowoomba Turf Club

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing—

- (1) Why, on two occasions, have the lights at the Clifford Park Race Track in Toowoomba failed despite them having a generator which is designed to start automatically when there is a power failure?
- (2) How much money was lost to the Toowoomba Turf Club as a result of these two major breakdowns?

Answer:

In response to the specific questions made by Mr Veivers, I can advise the following:

(1) On 11th February, 1995 the area around Clifford Park Racecourse suffered a power blackout. The emergency generator did not commence operating automatically due to a faulty cable. This problem was rectified promptly.

On 18th March, 1995 further power failures were encountered in the area. On this occasion the emergency generator started automatically.

It should be noted that this generator is only a precautionary safety measure for the public and jockeys in the event of a power failure. The generator has the capacity to ensure the working of the racecourse security lights and one in four racetrack lights. In the event of a power blackout occurring mid-race there would be adequate lighting to avoid any potentially disastrous accidents to horse and jockey.

(2) The Toowoomba Turf Club has advised that an estimated maximum of \$6 415 was lost to the Club as a result of both incidents. The break-up is as follows:

Loss of off-course TAB commission	\$3 850
Loss of on-course tote commission	\$900
Refund nominations and acceptances	\$1575
Bookmakers' turnover levy	\$90

132. Landsat; Tree-clearing Guidelines

Mr HOBBS asked the Minister for Lands—

With reference to his department's new tree clearing guidelines and the \$7.7m allocation to establish a vegetation monitoring system using Landsat satellite imagery—

- (1) What data and equipment will be purchased for this purpose and at what cost?
- (2) What resources are needed to interpret the data and what is the form and estimated cost of these?
- (3) What will be the direct cost of using the satellite source?
- (4) Will the satellite imagery be able to determine the difference between old and new regrowth?
- (5) Will increased woody weed coverage be capable of being identified from existing timber?

- (6) Will landholders whose land shows a distinct increase or decrease in timber cover, as a result of satellite imagery, be advised by his department?

Answer:

(1) At present it is envisaged that satellite data which will benefit a range of vegetation and Land Use programs will be obtained statewide for 1988, 1990, 1995, 1996 and 1997. The direct cost of the satellite data is \$1,802,000. Equipment is required for the processing, integration, analysis, storage, transfer and field verification of satellite and ancillary data. The total cost of equipment will be approximately \$3,010,200.

(2) Approximately 17 staff are required for the processing, analysis and field verification of the selected satellite and ancillary data within a 3-4 year timeframe and the associated Greenhouse calculations. Staff and operating expenses for the monitoring system total \$2,909,750. As outlined in the previous answer equipment is also required for the monitoring system. The digital format of the monitoring system will enable the calculation of statistics about the increases and decreases in vegetation cover in addition to integration of this information with other data sets.

(3) The direct cost of the satellite data over Queensland will be approximately \$1,802,000, as already detailed in Answer One.

(4) Old and new regrowth may be identified on the majority of satellite imagery where we have acquired the imagery over a number of years. The extent and density of regrowth will also determine its visibility on the satellite imagery.

(5) Discrimination of increased woody weed coverage from existing timber on satellite imagery will depend on the extent, density and age of the weed infestation.

(6) This statewide project is not primarily concerned with increases and decreases in vegetation cover over individual land parcels. However, where significant decreases or increases are evident further information will be sought.

133. Diesel Locomotive Provisioning Shed, Whyte Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the current development of a diesel locomotive provisioning shed site at Whyte Island on the Brisbane River within Moreton Bay Marine Park—

- (1) On what date did her department issue a permit to allow mangroves to be cut from an area East of the railway line to facilitate this project, and was this date shown on the permit?
- (2) If the permit was left undated, what was the reason for this?
- (3) Was her department aware at that time that the Department of Primary Industries had issued a permit to Queensland Rail to cut mangroves on the site?

- (4) On what date did her department peruse and approve Queensland Rail's draft environment management plan for this project?
- (5) Does she regard the discharge of "treated water" from fuel spillages and washdown activities on this site into Moreton Bay as an acceptable environmental practice?
- (6) As both the Deputy Premier and Member for Lytton and the Chairman of the Port of Brisbane Authority had referred to this site as being free of industrial development (as late as 18 January), why was there no inter-departmental co-ordination of the site assessment?
- (7) Does she consider that a site located in a mangrove forest at the edge of tidal flats in the Moreton Bay Marine Park is ideal for the purposes of storage of 255,000 litres of diesel fuel and 15,000 litres of oil?

Answer:

(1) As provided for under the *Marine Parks Act 1982*, a marine park permit was issued to David Bywater of Queensland Railways on 30 November 1994, for the period 1 December 1994 to 1 December 1995, to enable construction of a locomotive provisioning shed in Port Drive, Lytton. The permit does not authorise the cutting of mangroves, as this is the responsibility of the Department of Primary Industries under the *Fisheries Act 1976*.

(2) The permit covered the period 1 December 1994 to 1 December 1995 and it was forwarded to Queensland Railways with a covering letter dated 30 November 1994.

(3) As is normal practice, the Department of Primary Industries was consulted in relation to this application and advice obtained that that Department intended to issue a permit for the removal of mangroves as provided for under the *Fisheries Act 1976*. I am advised a permit was subsequently issued by that Department on 6 December 1994.

(4) A draft environmental management plan (EMP) was submitted to the Department of Environment and Heritage with the marine park permit application, which was received on 13 October 1994. The EMP was examined during assessment of the application and found to be adequate to ensure that the risk of pollution or adverse impact on the marine park will be minimal.

(5) The EMP incorporates bunding around storage tanks to contain fuel and oil spillages, and a pollution management system to divert potentially contaminated water to oil/water separators. Such facilities will be installed in all fuelling and fuel storage areas. The EMP also provides for treatment of contaminated stormwater. I understand effluent from the oil/water separators plus any other wastewaters generated will be disposed of to Brisbane City Council's sewerage system. On the basis of these commitments by Queensland Railways, it was concluded that the marine park would be adequately protected from any spillages or wastes generated on the site.

(6) With regard to comments apparently made by the Deputy Premier and Member for Lytton and the Chairman of the Port of Brisbane Corporation, suggesting the site was to remain free of industrial development, I and my Department were unaware of any such commitments.

(7) The site of the provisioning shed covers an area of 3380 m² and is located partly on the existing rail corridor and partly on vacant Crown land. The entire site is situated above Mean High Water Spring Tides and as such, the reclamation works do not require approval under the *Harbours Act 1955*. However, approximately 200 m² of the site is below Highest Astronomical Tide and thus within the marine park.

Most of the site had a ground cover dominated by introduced grasses and is located above the mangrove line. The impact on mangroves should be minimal. The works involve the direct removal of a small number of mangrove trees (7 or 8).

In assessing the proposal, the issue of alternative sites was examined. This aspect had been investigated by Queensland Rail, which concluded that Whyte Island was the only site which satisfied the selection criteria. Siting the facility at Fisherman Islands, for example, was rejected as it does not meet the criterion of a minimum 900 metre length of rail line which does not disrupt other services. I understand that existing refuelling operations, which occur at various locations throughout the metropolitan area, cause significant disruption to road and rail traffic through the need for continual shunting, due to this criterion not being met. Also, excessive noise caused by shunting near residential areas adversely affects the local community and this was another reason a new site was required.

134. Music Teachers, Goondiwindi

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education—

(1) Will he follow in the footsteps of his predecessor with regard to music teachers for the Goondiwindi education area by seeking teachers for this area?

(2) Can the community look forward to having music teachers with the full range of musical skills that will ensure that students of this area will not be disadvantaged compared to their city counterparts?

Answer:

The instrumental music program began in Queensland schools in 1972.

It expanded to include Darling Downs region in 1974, however this was confined to the Toowoomba area.

In 1985 it expanded to include Warwick and Stanthorpe and in 1989 to include Dalby.

Since 1989 the Goondiwindi schools and community have funded a private instrumental music program. This privately funded program has grown to be very large.

Both Goondiwindi State High School and Goondiwindi State School have classroom music programs and have had for a number of years.

In 1994 a Darling Downs Instrumental Music Reference Group was formed to make recommendations on the management and expansion of Instrumental Music in the region.

The reference group recommended in November 1994 that an expansion occur in instrumental music in Darling Downs and that this expansion should include Goondiwindi.

The primary music teacher from Goondiwindi State School has been granted special leave on compassionate grounds for term 2 1995.

While every effort at the regional and central office level is being made to replace her, as yet nobody has indicated a willingness to accept this contract.

It is expected that the primary music teacher concerned will resume duty in term 3 1995.

At the beginning of 1995 the Department of Education was able to appoint a strings instructor for 2.5 days per week to take over the strings programs at Goondiwindi State School and Goondiwindi State High School. The schools and community continue to fund a woodwind, brass and percussion program.

Staffing constraints and the availability of suitable staff have been the two factors limiting further expansion in the area.

The Goondiwindi program will be considered for expansion in the light of the total staffing needs of the region.

135. Police and Corrective Services Officers, Custodial Responsibility

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to a letter dated 2 August 1994 to the Coalition Spokesman for Police and Corrective Services on the matter of the "Duty of Care" section 285 of the Criminal Code wherein he stated that he had Police Service advice that "... in a 'worst case instance', a police or corrective services officer with custodial responsibility for a prisoner who dies, could be charged with manslaughter or even murder"—

- (1) If any such officer was charged under section 285 of the Criminal Code with manslaughter or murder, what assistance would the Government provide for his or her defence?
- (2) Given your admission to Mr Cooper in a letter dated 25 May 1994 that a Corrective Services Commission inmate has contracted the HIV/AIDS virus while in custody, has any investigation of this matter included any consideration of a possible breach of section 285 of the Criminal Code by any officer or will such consideration be given?

Answer:

(1) The Government would not provide any assistance to an officer charged with manslaughter or murder under section 285 of the Criminal Code. Officers in this situation may expect to receive assistance from their Union. Additionally, they may be eligible to receive Legal Aid. Where an officer is

found to be innocent of such charges, and assistance has been forthcoming from the Union, the Government may choose to reimburse the Union part or all of the legal costs incurred. Decisions to make such reimbursements, however, will be based on the merits of each case individually.

(2) An Inspector was appointed pursuant to section 27 of the Corrective Services Act to investigate the matter of an inmate contracting the HIV virus. The terms of reference for the investigation required the Inspector to address the issue of negligence and of duty of care by relevant staff. The investigation concluded there was no evidence of neglect or breach of the duty of care by any Corrective Services officer.

136. State Purchasing Council

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

With reference to the regionalisation of the State purchasing function and the devolution of purchasing power into regional offices—

- (1) What was the total dollar value of purchases made from rural and regional businesses in Queensland in each of the financial years (a) 1990-91, (b) 1991-92, (c) 1992-93, (d) 1993-94 and (e) 1994-95 to date?
- (2) What was the total dollar value of purchases made from Queensland companies in each of the financial years (a) 1990-91, (b) 1991-92, (c) 1992-93, (d) 1993-94 and (e) 1994-95?

Answer:

No consolidated figures are maintained on a whole of Government basis to indicate total dollar values of purchases made from rural and regional businesses or Queensland companies.

Within the State Purchasing Policy, each Department is responsible for its own purchasing. The collection of consolidated statistics would require sophisticated cataloguing and data gathering information systems. To date, the development of such systems has been cost prohibitive, as witnessed by the efforts of the Commonwealth and other State Governments in this regard.

With this Government's regionalisation program, more purchasing is being undertaken in regional centres. Purchasing has moved from "lowest price" to "best value for money" purchasing and "whole of life" costing. This has increased opportunities for Queensland and regional businesses as it takes full account of local conditions, servicing, maintenance and costs other than the direct purchase price.

The State Purchasing Council meets regularly in regional areas to assist local business and industry to exploit opportunities for dealing with Government. This has been supported by the "Meet the Buyers" and "Buy Local" campaigns with some 10 000 suppliers attending Meet the Buyers activities.

Recent standing offer arrangements, such as those for office machines and photocopiers, have

included specific requirements for local servicing or the use of local agents in regional and rural areas.

Under the various national and international agreements, the Queensland Government is also seeking to ensure maximum opportunities for Queensland companies to secure Government business in other states and overseas.

As a Government, we have been actively working to ensure businesses in Regional and Rural Queensland are provided the opportunity to maximise their access to the \$3.6 billion spent by the Government each year on goods and services. And we will continue to do so.

137. Palm Beach Police Station

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to Burleigh Heads Police Station being closed at night and the inability of police from Broadbeach and Coolangatta stations to respond promptly to calls for help from residents in the 15 kilometre stretch of the Gold Coast from Miami to the border and to the high level of crimes against persons and property in the Palm Beach area—

Will he now give serious consideration to the need for greater police presence in the area and the establishment of a police station at Palm Beach?

Answer:

The Burleigh Heads Police Station provides a counter service between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. All calls for assistance outside of these hours are diverted to the Gold Coast Communications Centre who then task patrols operating from Burleigh Heads on a 24 hour basis to attend. All calls for assistance are attended to as promptly as possible, in accordance with priorities allocated to them by the Communications Centre.

The Palm Beach area is covered by both the Coolangatta and Burleigh Heads Police Divisions. A number of initiatives have been set in place to address crime in these areas, including the establishment of a dedicated "crime car" in the Coolangatta Division in February 1995. This two person unit performs regular patrols, targeting specific crime areas. This patrol is supplemented from time to time by a second unit, which is dedicated to performing duties in the north of the Division, including the Palm Beach area.

An arrangement is in place, whereby the resources of the Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta Police Divisions may be combined to provide additional patrols in Palm Beach area.

The Goss Government's commitment to policing the southern end of the Gold Coast is seen in the over 40 percent increase in police numbers at the Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta stations from 36 in 1989 under the National Party to 51 under Labor.

In addition to the existing personnel and material resources in the Burleigh Heads and Coolangatta Divisions, additional police resources are drawn from such areas as the Gold Coast Traffic Branch, Criminal Investigation Branch, Juvenile Aid Bureau,

Traffic Accident Investigation Squad and the Scenes of Crime Unit.

The Police Service believes the establishment of a police station at Palm Beach would not address current crime trends in that area. Rather that such trends are better addressed by the optimum use of existing police resources, well developed policing strategies and ongoing community support.

The policing service provided to Palm Beach currently meets the needs of that community. While there are no immediate plans to establish a police station in Palm Beach, the situation there will continue to be monitored by regional police management.

138. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Administrative Services—

- (1) What advertising was conducted to seek expressions of interest in the provision of a site or building to provide the new TAFE facility at Maroochydore?
- (2) What were the details of the responses received?

Answer:

This is a matter for TAFE Queensland.

Administrative Services Department had no involvement in the acquisition of the site and building for the new TAFE facility at Maroochydore, and therefore has no knowledge of the extent of advertising.

139. Ipswich TAFE College

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) Does the TAFE college director have the legal authority to order a staff member who is fit and healthy to take sick leave for an indefinite period?
- (2) Will he outline the events which recently occurred at Ipswich TAFE College after a teacher restrained a student who was throwing concrete at other students?

Answer:

(1) Common sense indicates such an order would be improper.

The Public Sector Management Commission has advised that no TAFE College Director covered by the *Public Service Management and Employment Act 1988* has the legal authority to order a staff member who is fit and healthy to take sick leave for an indefinite period.

(2) On 15 February 1995 during a bricklaying course, a student threw mortar at another student. I am advised by the department that the teacher, who was behind the first student at the time, slapped the student on the shoulder to obtain his attention.

That student's father formally complained to the Administrator of the Bremer Institute, (previously

Ipswich College) on 16 February 1995. Following this, the matter was investigated. The Administrator subsequently met with the teacher about this matter. During this meeting the teacher advised he was under stress from external sources and that he was going to take time off on stress leave.

Institute records show that the teacher took sick leave from 20 February to 10 March 1995 inclusive and from 15 March to 31 March 1995 inclusive.

I am advised by the department that no staff member at the Bremer Institute of TAFE has been asked to take sick leave.

The teacher in question has furnished medical certificates certifying that he was unfit for duty for the period of his sick leave.

140. Overseas Visits by Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development

Dr WATSON asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his overseas trips on the following dates—

- (i) October 1993 to Japan and Malaysia
- (ii) March 1994 to USA
- (iii) 18-20 April 1994 to Papua New Guinea
- (iv) 2-16 March 1995 to Germany and the United Kingdom

For each trip will he provide, separately, the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff
- (2) Ministerial expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses

- (4) Government expenses—
 - (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of Ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for Ministerial expenditure but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled reports in relation to the overseas travel undertaken from 10 to 15 October 1993, 3 to 18 March 1994, and 18 to 20 April, 1994. At the end of the 1994/95 financial year, I will table a report which includes details of my most recent overseas travel.

The cost of the four trips presently charged to my Ministerial Office are \$23,806.51, \$40,381.33, \$139.63 and \$22,530.31 respectively. With regard to the third trip, only minimal costs were incurred as I was a guest of the Papua New Guinea Government. Further, because the most recent trip was only completed on 16 March, 1995 some of the accounts for this travel are yet to be settled.

Unlike the open slather which existed under previous conservative governments, there are requirements for Ministerial expenditure which are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

141. Relocation of Townsville Railway Facilities

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the relocation of certain railway facilities in Townsville to the Wugiuri-Stuart-Cluden area—

- (1) What expenditure is proposed for the current year and future years in respect of the transfer from the City central area, and over what period will construction be phased?
- (2) What protective mechanisms are being put in place to assure the surrounding residential areas will not be affected by the imposition of this major facility?
- (3) Will compensation be made available to those who are able to show physical, financial or quality of life impact?
- (4) Has an assessment been made of the impact on residential values for adjoining areas prior to and following the decision to relocate?
- (5) What hours are envisaged for shunting and general train movement in relation to marshalling?
- (6) What proposals are in hand to lessen the noise, dust and light pollution on surrounding residents?
- (7) What security plans are proposed for the site?
- (8) Are site plans and artists impressions available?
- (9) What increased traffic volume is anticipated for the facility over the next five, ten and fifteen years?
- (10) What will be the variation in workforce numbers once the new facility is completed as against that applying at present?

Answer:

A study has recently been carried out of rail freight activity in Townsville and recommends relocation of certain facilities to Stuart. QR is presently considering the recommendations and, in particular, is examining financial and other implications of the proposals prior to any commitments being made.

In 1993, \$26 million dollars was committed to the construction of Wagon and Locomotive Maintenance depots of which \$22 million will have been spent by June this year and an additional \$4 million is anticipated to be spent in the next financial year. The project will be complete by September 1995. Future works in the area will be dependant upon decisions which are yet to be made arising from the abovementioned study.

The extent of protective mechanisms within the facility under construction includes a 150 metre wide landscaped buffer zone for the entire western frontage of the site and a three metre high landscaped earth mound within this zone as well as sound insulation to the western walls of depot buildings.

Any future developments will comply with the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) requirements and QR best practice.

In accordance with statutory and judicial supportive processes, compensation will be paid to any land owner whose property is acquired in whole or in part for the construction of the project. At this point in

time it is likely that only one land owner is so affected.

The development has been designed in such a way as to provide no greater impact than would have occurred had the area been developed for its alternative use for industrial development.

QR has agreed to provide significant buffer zones on the western side of the development and has agreed to the provision of a significant wildlife corridor on its land along Stuart Creek. Queensland Rail has done all in its power to ensure that other land in the Wulguru/Stuart area, which it recently sold, is not developed for anything other than residential purposes.

Considerable consultation has been undertaken with property owners in the area through the Stuart, Cluden and Wulguru Residents Action Group and these consultations are ongoing.

Following these consultations the facilities have been designed in a way that addresses and minimises impacts identified during the consultation.

The present development under construction, does not involve shunting activity and envisages minimum train movements with wagons being dropped off and picked up twice per day. Future movements will depend on the type of facility to be provided under subsequent stages of the development and this has not been determined at this stage.

The existing development includes bitumen roads for dust limitation, a buffer zone and landscaped noise mounds for sound attenuation and street lighting for limited night glare. Any future development would be subject to normal environmental legislation.

The Wagon and Locomotive facilities under construction includes signage and boom gates to restrict traffic access as well as security cameras within the buildings.

Future development will evaluate appropriate security measures as part of the design and consultation process.

Site plans and artists impressions of the development under construction are available and have been widely distributed via press and public meetings. Any future development will have plans and impressions prepared as part of the design and consultation process.

Freight tonnage is estimated to increase by 20 percent in five years and a further 30 percent in ten years depending on mining developments in north-western Queensland. The number of train movements will not increase proportionately due to efficiency improvements of track capacity and load consolidation.

The variation in workforce numbers with the closure of Townsville Workshops has been well publicised. 450 job losses were identified in July 1993. The facilities presently under construction at Stuart are providing approximately 78 jobs for Townsville.

QR acquired this site in the late 1940s specifically as a future freight and maintenance facility. Thus the construction of these facilities is not a new initiative

but rather has been a future feature of the area for a number of decades.

The alternative to QR's use of the site would have been industrial zoning and the special arrangements made by QR are likely to be well in excess of those which would have been provided for an industrial development.

142. Stress Leave by Teachers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many teachers have been placed on Diminished Work Performance during the past three years?
- (2) Of those who were placed on Diminished Work Performance, how many are still employed by the department?
- (3) How many teachers during the past three years have been granted stress leave?
- (4) How much money has this cost the department?
- (5) Of those on stress leave, how many were also on Diminished Work Performance?

Answer:

(1) 129 teachers were on Diminished Work Process since the quarter ending 31 December 1993. There could be other cases resolved at stage one which are not included.

(2) There are no statistics kept which will directly and reliably answer this question. The figures could be manually extracted from files held in regional offices, but could not be available to meet the timelines of this request. To extract this data would involve considerable effort with current information systems.

(3) Over the past three years Department of Education stress claims as calculated from CEDVET data to end January 1995. These figures include all staff. There is no data specific to teachers available.

1992/93	69
1993/94	214
1994/95	266

Although the numbers are increasing, the department employs over 50,000 staff; this is a very small percentage of employees. Specific strategies are being implemented to reduce the incidence of teacher stress.

(4) The cost to the Department for Workers' Compensation Stress Claims include all employees and do not have separate figures for teachers. The costs for the past three years are:

1992/93	\$935,538.00
1993/94	\$1,625,686.00
1994/95	\$3,719,705.00 (till 31 January 1995)

(5) There are no statistics available to show a correlation between stress leave and diminished work performance process. In the past the Queensland Teachers' Union has advised members placed on Diminished Work Performance process to take stress leave. Changes to the Act now make this technically impossible, but it is yet to be tested.

143. Bundaberg Hospital; Maryborough Hospital; Hervey Bay Hospital

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to regional hospitals in Queensland—

- (1) How many beds are available at the Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (2) How many beds are funded at the Hervey Bay Hospital as at 29 March 1995?
- (3) How many beds will there be available at the proposed new Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (4) What is the population catchment of the proposed new Hervey Bay Hospital?
- (5) How many beds are available at the Maryborough Hospital?
- (6) How many beds are funded at the Maryborough Hospital as at 29 March 1995?
- (7) What is the population catchment of the Maryborough Hospital?
- (8) How many beds are available at the Bundaberg Hospital?
- (9) How many beds are funded at the Bundaberg Hospital as at 29 March 1995?
- (10) What is the population catchment of the Bundaberg Hospital?

Answer:

(1) 38 beds. The term available beds refers to the number of beds, occupied or not, which are immediately available for use by admitted patients if required. They are immediately available for use if located in a suitable place for patient care, and there are nursing and other auxiliary staff available, or who could be made available within a reasonable period, to service patients who might occupy them.

(2) Available beds are appropriately resourced. The concept of funded beds is not relevant within the context of casemix based funding. With the introduction of casemix based funding from 1 January 1995, inpatient activity in the majority of Queensland public hospitals will be funded by Regions on the basis of the number of weighted separations achieved at a single statewide benchmark price.

(3) 130 beds.

(4) The catchment population is the proportion of immediate and nearby populations which utilise the hospital. It consists of a primary and a secondary catchment population. The new Hervey Bay Hospital will be part of joint, networked campus hospital for both Hervey Bay and Maryborough hospitals which will provide primary and secondary services to the catchment population which includes Hervey Bay City, Woocoo Shire and Tiaro Shire. It is estimated that the proportion of the catchment population that the new Hervey Bay Hospital will service will be 41,333 in 2001.

(5) 137 beds.

(6) Same response as for (2).

(7) The catchment population of the Maryborough Hospital includes the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Maryborough City, Woocoo Shire and

Hervey Bay City. The catchment population of the Maryborough Hospital in 1991 was 34,532 people and is estimated to be 40, 846 people in 1996.

(8) 186 beds are available, including 20 long stay beds being used for nursing home type patients.

(9) Same response as for (2).

(10) The catchment population of the Bundaberg Hospital includes the LGAs of Bundaberg City, Perry Shire and Burnett Shire (formally Gooburrum and Woongarra Shires). The catchment population of the Bundaberg Hospital in 1991 was 52,326 people, and is estimated to be 59,742 people in 1996.

144. Coombabah School

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to Oxley Drive at Coombabah and concerns about safety and traffic flow—

(1) When is it proposed to continue four-lane construction past the Coombabah School?

(2) When will lights be provided for safe pedestrian access across Oxley Drive to the Coombabah School?

Answer:

Current works priorities on Oxenford-Southport Road (Oxley Drive) include the realignment of the bends at Boykambil followed by the four-laning north from Lae Drive. If funds are available work may commence on these projects within the next three (3) years.

There is currently a set of pedestrian signals across Oxley Drive to the Coombabah State Primary School. These pedestrian signals provide a safe crossing of Oxley Drive to this school.

It is presumed that this question refers to the proposal for pedestrian signals across Oxley Drive near Limetree Parade to provide signalised access to Coombabah State High School from Runaway Bay. There are currently development proposals in the area between Oxley Drive and the Gold Coast Highway and it is likely that for safety and traffic operational reasons, this would include traffic signals on Oxley Drive to access the development. Such signals would incorporate pedestrian facilities to permit access across Oxley Drive. In the interim, Queensland Transport is planning to construct temporary pedestrian signals near Limetree Parade to provide a signalised crossing of Oxley Drive. When future development proceeds, these signals would be considered for incorporation into the future traffic signals on Oxley Drive which accesses the development. If funds permit, construction of the temporary pedestrian signals is expected early in the 1995/96 financial year.

145. Courthouse Facilities

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to Court House facilities in Queensland over the last five financial years till 30 June 1994—

(1) What funds have been expended on Capital Works at each Court House in each financial year and for what purpose?

(2) What funds have been spent on maintenance at each Court House in each financial year and for what purpose?

(3) What are the forward financial projections for funds to be spent on Capital Works at Court Houses over the next five years?

Answer:

As the answer to the question asked by Mr Beanland is too voluminous to be incorporated in Weekly Hansard, the information has been forwarded directly to Mr Beanland.

146. Performance Indicators for Industrial Estates

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to the Estimates debate in 1994, it was determined that there were no performance indicators for industrial estates—

(1) How is the performance of each industrial estate determined?

(2) What is the performance of each industrial estate for this year, the previous financial year and any other years that have been determined?

Answer:

(1) The old Industrial Estates Program (IEP) which was established in 1963 under the Industrial Development Act operated for nearly 30 years without any performance indicators for individual industrial estates or the IEP itself.

In 1990, a major review of the IEP identified some 68 estates, many of which were in regional areas and had failed to attract industries.

A two stage action plan was developed in response to this review. Firstly, an evaluation was quickly undertaken of the existing land portfolio. Assets which were clearly not suitable for industry were listed for disposal. Secondly, it was decided to establish a new Industry Location Scheme (ILS) within the context of the Government's market enhancement policy for economic development.

However, instead of the interventionist approach of the old IEP, the thrust of the ILS is to maximise the contribution of business and industry land from private developers and to influence Local Authorities to preserve land which is critical for economic development within their planning schemes. In the future, the ILS will only become actively involved in land where market gaps occur, which would be a barrier to projects, or where planning failures are unable to preserve land which is of strategic importance for the future needs of business and industry.

The land portfolio of the ILS will be managed through Strategic Land Management Plans for

each estate. These have been prepared with the above objectives in mind and, after wide consultation with local authorities, industry groups and real estate interests. These plans will be subject to periodic review over a three year program.

Existing estates have been allocated to five categories:

CATEGORY A—Not suitable for business or industry—to be sold to reduce debt.

CATEGORY B—Land suitable for business or industry but not satisfying market gaps or strategic planning failures—to be sold through a rational disposal program to reduce debt.

CATEGORY C—Land that can satisfy market gaps—retain for ILS program activities.

CATEGORY D—Strategic land which is important for future economic development—retain for ILS program activities.

CATEGORY E—Land which is currently occupied under lease—encourage freeholding where appropriate.

Performance indicators for the ILS have not been adopted on an estate basis but rather on a whole of program basis and relate to the goals of the scheme to 'ensure that business and industry is encouraged to locate in Queensland because appropriately zoned and serviced land is available at competitive cost'.

(2) The successful performance of the ILS has already been established through the withdrawal of the yearly consolidated fund contribution of up to \$10M and the level of sales achieved. In the 1993-94 financial year, these totalled \$22.5M and the target of \$21M for the current financial year is expected to be achieved. Forecast land sales for 1995-96 are \$18.9M.

Since the introduction of the ILS, DBIRD has maintained a record of the applications for land as an indicator of the demand on individual estates. Other outcomes measured include the number of jobs created and the amount of capital investment involved in the establishment of projects on ILS land. This data will be considered when reviewing the Management Plans, however, the intent to target market gaps and planning failures means that the economic performance of each estate can not be compared to commercial subdivisions. The land is only a tool to ensure projects can access suitable sites.

147. Moura Hospital

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Health—

- (1) As he has given an assurance that the Moura Hospital will not close, will he also assure the community that the proposed Ambulatory Care Centre which will be implemented in Moura will not mean the closure of all in-patient facilities so that Moura becomes simply a glorified out-patient centre?
- (2) Does he concur with his Central Regional Health Authority's Regional Planning Services report (Volume 1, page 9) which states that ambulatory care is defined as "a system by

which care is provided to a patient in a non-hospital admission context", and does this mean that there will in future be no hospital beds available for in-patient use in Moura, as stated in the current and projected separations table No. 24 on page 115 of the report?

Answer:

- (1) Inpatient facilities at Moura will be maintained.
- (2) The definition of "ambulatory care" used in the report is a reasonable definition.

The range of services proposed for Moura Hospital clearly incorporates an in-patient component. There is a commitment to maintaining the current level of inpatient services.

The provision of improved emergency care facilities will not be at the expense of current inpatient facilities, but rather represent an additional service.

148. Hospital Accounting and Payroll Systems

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What accounting systems and payroll systems are currently being used in each hospital?
- (2) Which four regional centres were inadequate in segregation of duties?
- (3) What internal controls were missing or not implemented.
- (4) What action was implemented to address the lack of segregation of duties between HRM and payroll?
- (5) What is the current situation?
- (6) What is the position with respect to the Right of Public Practice Scheme as at 31 December 1994?

Answer:

(1) The Queensland Government Financial Management System (QGFMS) is used by 11 Regional Health Authorities as their accounting system for monies received from Queensland Treasury. The Brisbane South and South Coast Regional Health Authorities currently utilise the Hospital Based Corporate Information System (HBCIS) as their accounting system. The Brisbane South Region will be using QGFMS from 1 July 1995.

There are presently four payroll systems in use in hospitals throughout Queensland Health: Regional Based Systems; Lend Lease Computa Pay; Lend Lease Caspay; and Lend Lease Prism Pay.

- (2) The centres in question have all addressed the problems highlighted in the report.
- (3) The Queensland Audit Office identified inadequate segregation of duties between the payroll and human resource management functions. Due to this inadequate segregation of duties some internal control weakness were identified.

(4) Action has been taken at all four sites to rectify these weaknesses.

(5) Action has been finalised at three of the four sites. The final site is currently undergoing a review to resolve any deficiencies.

(6) A standard computerised private practice billing system is now in operation at all sites in Queensland. The 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor General on audits performed in 1993-94 has recorded that the deficiencies have been adequately addressed. Financial Information on the Right of Private Practice Scheme on a Statewide basis is only collated at the end of the financial year from the Regional Health Authority year end financial statements. The position as at 31 December is not available.

149. Public Dentists in Rural Queensland

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the unacceptable situation in North West Queensland where there is no public dentist between Townsville and Mt Isa, Charters has not had the services of a public dentist for over 2 years, Hughenden and Richmond for the last 6 months and Julia Creek for the last 3 years, and the fact that the dentists who do visit these areas attend only to emergency cases, leaving waiting lists of up to two years in some cases—

Will he give an undertaking to (a) provide lucrative incentives to encourage more dentists to rural Queensland or (b) look at an alternative proposal for example Flying Dental Care along the same lines as the Royal Flying Doctor with the express purpose of servicing the rural and remote areas of Queensland on a more regular basis?

Answer:

Improved remuneration for dentists was provisionally approved by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission (QIRC) on 28 September 1994 for the duration of the current trials of integrated Oral Health Services and Team Dentistry. Results of the trials in all Regions will be reported to the QIRC on 25 May 1995 with a view to ratifying or reviewing these pay scales. A work value case for dentists has also been proposed by the Unions for consideration by the Commission.

The States are currently cooperating with the Commonwealth, under the Commonwealth Dental Health Program, to establish Demonstration Projects for the improved delivery of dental services to rural and remote/Aboriginal communities.

Queensland has submitted a proposal to provide regular service to remote/Aboriginal communities in the Central West and South West Regions, utilising attractive remuneration and other conditions of service for participating staff, rapid access by air and road and the use of modern dental equipment.

If proven successful, the intention is to implement a similar delivery system for all other rural and remote parts of Queensland.

150. World Heritage Listing of Fraser Island and Great Sandy Region

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the compensation package offered following the closure, logging and World Heritage listing of Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region—

- (1) How can she justify the claim that this package was a major job creation exercise when the thinning of commercial pine plantations was undertaken, bearing in mind this was previously carried out by forestry workers when at that time a redundancy package was in place laying off a number of permanent employees?
- (2) How can it be justified when the funds were used for road maintenance, garbage collection and other similar work usually carried out under normal maintenance arrangements?

Answer:

There were no existing Department of Primary Industries' staff employed on the non-commercial thinning of pine plantations in the Maryborough area at the time that this project was established as a Growth and Development Package project. Due to funding priorities, this work would not have been undertaken at that time.

The project was designed to provide temporary employment for timber industry workers displaced as a consequence of the decision to cease logging on Fraser Island. Since commencement, employment has been provided to eighteen workers at varying periods of time. Four workers are presently employed on the project. The non-commercial thinning of pine plantations will in the long term yield an economic return on monies expended.

The Queensland Government has continued to provide funding for park management in the Great Sandy Region. The Growth and Development Package has enabled park management to be upgraded to what would be expected for a World Heritage area and has provided funding for the employment of an additional fifty workers by the Department of Environment and Heritage on park management within the Region.

This Government has provided assistance to seventy timber industry workers displaced as a consequence of the cessation of logging on Fraser Island. More than \$11 million has been spent over the past four years from Package funds directly on projects designed to provide employment for these workers.

Nine displaced workers who have received Package Assistance have subsequently been able to establish successful businesses within the Region which are either providing additional employment or have employment growth potential.

Industry in the Region has benefited from financial assistance provided by the Package through the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development to fourteen businesses in the Region.

Funding was also provided towards an extension to the lower Mary River Irrigation Scheme through the construction of a pipeline from the Owanilla Diversion Channel to the Teddington Weir, tourism promotion has benefited to the extent of \$500,000 and funding of \$1.4 million has been provided towards the restoration, enhancement and promotion of Maryborough's heritage values.

Projects funded by the Package have generated employment of a substantial nature within the Great Sandy Region.

151. Forest Service Offices, South Burnett

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the staffing of forestry offices in South Burnett—

- (1) What are the current numbers of staff attached to the Murgon, Yarraman and Jimna forestry offices?
- (2) What were the figures in March 1989 and March 1994?

Answer:

	Office Based Staff	Field Staff		Total
			Salary Wages	
Murgon	1	2	0	(3)
Yarraman	9	3	10	(22)
Jimna	1	2	9	(12)

	March 1989			Total
	Office Based Staff	Field Staff	Salary Wages	
Murgon	6	2	2	(10)
Yarraman	7	4	8	(19)
Jimna	2	1	19	(22)

	March 1994			Total
	Office Based Staff	Field Staff	Salary Wages	
Murgon	1	2	0	(3)
Yarraman	9	4	8	(21)
Jimna	1	2	11	(14)

152. Ports Corporation Facilities

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the refusal by the Ports Corporation in 1994 to allow the general public and others to use the main sugar wharf, due to a perceived requirement of Workplace Health and Safety—

Will the public be denied access to areas such as Goodman Point, and the boat ramp and other areas within its jurisdiction, on the grounds of Workplace Health and Safety requirements?

Answer:

The Member for Hinchinbrook may be assured that this government and the Ports Corporation take seriously our responsibilities with respect to safety matters.

The main sugar wharf at Mourilyan is a "workplace" under the Workplace, Health and Safety Act and in 1994 the Ports Corporation of Queensland closed this area to the public and to commercial fishermen in the interests of safety both for the public and the terminal's workforce.

Goodman Point, while not intended to be utilised for future port expansion, can only be accessed through the commercial/operational port area. The PCQ intends restricting public access through the commercial port area as port activity intensifies. The feasibility of an alternative access to Goodman Point will be considered.

Access to the public boating facilities at Mourilyan will not be restricted. The PCQ has given an undertaking that the current level of public boating facilities will remain within the harbour.

In the event that the existing boat ramp and jetty need to be relocated, new public facilities would be made available prior to any closure of the existing facilities.

The Draft Mourilyan port plan was released to enable public consultation on such issues to ensure Mourilyan remains as a commercially viable port with appropriate boating facilities and most importantly with levels of safety for all concerned.

153. Mining Projects

Mr GILMORE asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to his previous statement in the Parliament indicating that he was only interested in development and had no concern whatsoever that remote areas of Queensland will inherit a legacy of nothing more than a hole in the ground from mining projects—

Does he agree with his factional colleague, Bill Ludwig, that it would be preferable for some greater benefit to be left behind as a result of the exploitation of minerals in our State?

Answer:

The answer to Mr Gilmore's question is "Yes, there should be a benefit from mining and there is".

One of the major benefits of the Queensland mining industry is that it underpins development in regional and remote areas of the State. The mining industry has built towns, it has built airstrips and it has helped underpin development of social infrastructure that is vital to these regions. One of the points that I frequently make in national and State forums is that this is one of the key benefits of the mining industry, its contribution in underpinning development in regional areas of Queensland.

The Queensland Government is working co-operatively with the mining industry to maximise the chances of new large-scale mining developments in this State. In the North West Province in particular,

a number of key mining industry developments are being considered that would further underpin development in regional areas of Queensland.

The mining industry has other important benefits for the State. It accounted for around six per cent of Queensland's Gross State Product in 1993/94. The industry generates over 50 per cent of the State's export income and directly employs over 16,500 people. Indirectly it employs over 50,000 people, many located in regional areas of the State.

Mr Gilmore's suggestion that remote areas of Queensland will inherit "nothing more than a hole in the ground from mining projects" is an insult to the steps being taken by the Queensland mining industry in relation to environmental protection and rehabilitation of mine sites and is typical of the increasingly hard-line anti-mining stance of the National Party under Mr Borbidge. Australian Bureau of Statistics show that total expenditure by the Queensland mining industry on environmental protection in 1992-93 was \$59.3 million, \$20 million higher than that spent in any other State (\$39.2 million was spent in Western Australia) and over 40 per cent of all such expenditure nationally.

154. Arterial Road, Beaudesert Shire

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

- (1) Is she aware of the current moves of Beaudesert Shire Council and developer, Springfield Land Corporation, with assistance from the Department of Transport and the Australian Army, to establish an arterial road along the southern boundary of the Greenbank Army Reserve without adequate consideration of alternatives?
- (2) Is she also aware that the land nominated for this roadway is awaiting gazettal by the Australian Heritage Commission and is recognised as a critical flora and fauna reserve in Southern Queensland and has been the subject of local residents' outcry for some months?
- (3) What action has she taken to protect the natural environment of this area?

Answer:

(1) I am aware of two potential road proposals in that area:

- (i) closure of the section of Goodna Road (also known as Old Logan Road) that passes through the Greenbank Army Training Area (GATA) and subsequent proposal to re-route the road along the southern boundary of the GATA and through the Springfield development site. The Commonwealth Department of Defence engaged a consultant (Dr M. Olsen) to consider alternative locations for the realigned Goodna Road with the preferred option utilising the existing firebreak on the southern perimeter of the GATA. Several other road locations were considered in the report. However, the preferred option

would have the least impact upon the nature conservation values of the area; and

- (ii) location of an arterial road (Beaudesert Western Bypass) which is proposed to connect the northern residential areas of Beaudesert Shire to the proposed Camira Bypass. The proposed Beaudesert Western Bypass is illustrated in the 'Future Road Network for Beaudesert Shire Report' by Veitch Lister Consulting. Exact route location has not been shown. However, this road is likely to impact on the conservation values of the GATA and southern end of the Springfield development site.

(2) Yes, I am aware that the GATA is currently proposed for inclusion on the National Estate Register by the Australian Heritage Commission. The local residents' concerns regarding future developments which have potential impacts on the GATA have been evident through the media and the residents' submissions on planning documents, such as the Springfield Development Control Plan.

(3) Officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) have provided input into the sub-regional structure planning process in the WESROC and SOUTHROC sub-regions which include the GATA and Springfield site to the west. The GATA and portions in the southern end of the Springfield site have been identified as Critical Conservation Land through this process. DEH has also had input into the Springfield Development Control Plan, specifically with respect to refining the Conservation designation in the southern end of the Springfield site which aims to conserve bushland areas providing linkages between GATA and the Spring Mountain—White Rock to the west. I have been advised of this input and support strong conservation planning compatible with strategic urban development.

155. Police Officers, Salary Allowance

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to the announcement on 23 November 1994 that the Police Service and the Police Union had reached an agreement whereby operational police would be paid a special 19 per cent of salary allowance in lieu of overtime penalty rates to allow for more flexible rostering of these officers during the prime crime times of evenings and weekends—

- (1) Is it administrative incompetence, chronic underfunding or both which has delayed the implementation of this agreement?
- (2) When will this agreement, allowing for more flexible rostering, come into effect?

Answer:

(1) It is somewhat ironic to note that while the Honourable Member Mr Cooper is questioning a perceived delay in the implementation process, the Queensland Police Union had publicly condemned the Queensland Police Service for its indecent

haste in attempting to bring the new system in so quickly.

The payment of 19 percent to Police is in lieu of shift and weekend penalties and public holiday loading, and is a part of a package of productivity issues affecting all Police Service employees through a Police Service Enterprise Agreement.

It must be stressed at the outset that the implementation process that has been entered into between the Queensland Police Service and all respondent Unions is currently on schedule and at no time has any of the implementation processes been delayed.

The implementation process commenced immediately after the Police Service Enterprise Agreement was ratified by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission on 17 January 1995.

The Service entered into negotiations with the three major unions having coverage of Police Service employees on matters requiring agreement prior to implementation. Agreement was achieved on 30 March 1995.

In the interim an eight day training workshop was held for Enterprise Agreement Implementation teams which was completed on 22 March 1995.

The implementation teams comprising Service and Union Representatives commenced work on 3 April 1995 and are proceeding to all Regions so as to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are put into place to accommodate the Enterprise Agreement including a system for payment of the 19 percent.

(2) It is anticipated that at the conclusion of the implementation team functions a decision to activate the new system will be taken in May 1995.

156. Toowoomba State High School, Computers

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the fact that the Toowoomba State High School's computer stock was (a) 7 Apple Computers—15 years old, (b) 18 Sperry Computers—10 years old, (c) 13 CCS Computers—8 years old, (d) 4 CCS Computers—6 years old, (e) 1 Epson Computer—6 years old, (f) 16 Compacts—4 years old, (g) 1 Computer—6 years old, (h) 30 terminals—Business Ed Centre and (i) 11 Hunts—4 years old at the end of 1994—

Will he immediately review this situation where a student population of 1,250 has access to just 71 computers, 25 of which are more than 10 years old, and bring the ratio up to the promised one computer for every ten students?

Answer:

The "Computer in Schools Project" was initiated by the Goss Government in 1992 as a five year initiative to allow schools greater access to computer hardware for student use. The Secondary Maintenance Program as part of this initiative has provided funds for the years 1992/93, 1993/94, and 1994/1995 to enable learning technology resources

in secondary schools to be repaired or upgraded or new equipment to be purchased.

A funding allocation of \$42 million over five years has been provided with an allocation for the 1994/95 year of \$9.2 million, and funding for the maintenance program for secondary schools of approximately \$4 million.

Since the project was initiated, Toowoomba State High School has received almost \$87,000 to undertake a program of repair, maintenance or upgrade of its computer stock.

The Computers in Schools Project is well on target in meeting the learning technology needs of schools in Queensland.

157. Rebate on Solar Hot Water Systems

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

How many applications for solar hot water system rebates have been processed since his Government announced its energy conservation program?

Answer:

No applications have yet been processed, as funds will only be available after 1 July 1995. Application forms will be made available shortly, and at that time, applicants will be asked to provide copies of receipts and other documentation.

The Government has given a commitment to pay the rebate on all approved solar hot water system purchases made after the 28 February 1995, the date of release of its Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Statement.

158. Sunshine Coast TAFE Facilities

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to the desperate rate of youth unemployment on the Sunshine Coast and the continuing demands of the housing industry for apprentices with prevocational TAFE training and access to block training—

(1) Why has the Goss Government failed to provide facilities for all plumbing, carpentry and cabinet making apprentices and pre-apprentices to be trained on the Sunshine Coast right through their apprenticeships without having to leave the area to train elsewhere?

(2) When will he upgrade these specific trade training facilities?

Answer:

(1) The Goss Government's commitment to expanding pre-vocational and apprentice training courses on the Sunshine Coast is evidenced by:

- an increase in the number of apprenticeship blocks from 58 in 1994 to 85 in 1995—a 46% increase in the number of training places in one year

the conduct of pre-vocational courses in plumbing, cabinet making and carpentry and joinery at the Cooloola Institute of TAFE in 1995

the establishment of a new Construction Training Centre in leased premises in Nambour in January 1995 for carpentry and joinery.

The Goss Government's commitment to vocational training in the Sunshine Coast-Cooloola region has come after years of shameful neglect by previous National and Liberal party governments. Funding for TAFE in the Sunshine Coast-Cooloola region has increased by 172% since 1989, with an increase of 251% in student contact hours since that time.

(2) Further expansion of training opportunities will be considered by the State Training Council for possible introduction later this year.

159. Police Resources, Beaudesert Electorate

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to police resources at the Beaudesert, Jimboomba, Rathdowney, Mt Tambourine and Browns Plains Police Stations—

- (1) How many patrol cars are permanently attached to each station?
- (2) How many permanent staff are attached to each station?
- (3) What are the staffing levels at each station for (a) night duty and (b) weekend duty?
- (4) How many CIB staff are based at each station?
- (5) What are the crime statistics for the Beaudesert Electorate?

Answer:

(1) With reference to patrol cars permanently attached to police stations, there are three at Jimboomba, one at Beaudesert, one at Rathdowney, one at North Tamborine, one at Canungra, and five (plus one motorcycle) at Browns Plains.

(2) With reference to permanent staff attached to police stations, there are seven at Beaudesert, 46 at Browns Plains (including three administrative officers), four at Canungra, 16 at Jimboomba (including one administrative officer), four at North Tamborine and one at Rathdowney. The administrative officer at Jimboomba performs duties at both that station and Beaudesert. It should be noted that the total number of staff at the stations identified is more than double the equivalent number for 1989. This is partly due to the Goss Government's delivery of the North Tamborine and Jimboomba Police Stations to accommodate extra staff.

(3) The staffing levels for each station are:

Station	Night Duty (Week Days)	Shifts Commencing After 2:00 pm	Shifts Commencing After 10:00 pm
Beaudesert	1	2 per day shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
Browns Plains		6.5 (daily average)	2 daily
Canungra	1	1 (daily average) shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
Jimboomba	1	3.6 (daily average) shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
North Tamborine	1	1.2 (daily average) shift every 3 weeks	supplies 1 officer for
Rathdowney		-	-
Weekend Duty	Day	Shifts Commencing After 2:00 pm	Shifts Commencing After 10:00 pm
Beaudesert	2	5 per fortnight	supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week
Browns Plains	18	20 per fortnight (CIB work extra 4 late shifts every 5 weeks)	8 per fortnight
Canungra	4	4 per fortnight	supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week
Jimboomba	10	10 per fortnight (CIB work extra 4 late shifts every 5 weeks)	supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week
North Tamborine	8	-	supplies 1 officer for 1 shift every week
Rathdowney	2	-	-

Weekend duty day shift figures are shown on a fortnightly basis.

Staff at Beaudesert, Canungra, North Tamborine and Rathdowney respond to high priority tasks outside rostered hours on an overtime call out basis.

After hours high priority tasks in the Jimboomba Police Division are attended to by night work crews from either Browns Plains or Beenleigh Stations.

(4) Browns Plains Police Station has six CIB staff attached to it, while the Jimboomba Station has two.

(5) As official crime statistics are not able to be generated on an electorate basis, it is not possible to provide any crime statistics specific to the Beaudesert Electorate. However, as the electorate comes within the Logan Police District, those statistics published for that district in the 1993/94 Police Statistical Review provide the best means of looking at reported crime for the area taking in the Beaudesert electorate.

160. Seaforth Electricity Supply

Mr TURNER asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the fact that power supplies to the coastal town of Seaforth, north of Mackay, have deteriorated to such an extent that blackouts are common and consumers are purchasing generators to ensure their lifestyle is not totally compromised—

- (1) What has he done about this scandalous situation?
- (2) Will he instruct the Mackay Electricity Board to upgrade the power supply to Seaforth?

Answer:

(1) I have sought advice from the Mackay Electricity Corporation (MEB) about the matters raised by the Honourable member. There has been an increase in the number of outages in the power supply to Seaforth recently, particularly during the last rainy season. Some of the interruptions were due to planned outages for maintenance. There have also been some complaints about variability in voltage.

In response to these concerns, MEB has undertaken both ground and aerial inspections of the line. One problem tree has been removed and a comprehensive program of trimming and selective route clearing will be completed over the next few months. The ground inspection has also identified several faulty cross arms and these are being replaced. A program of pole top inspections and any maintenance found necessary will take place over the next year.

A new recloser control box which was installed in November was later found to be faulty. This had caused excessive interruptions in the December to February period, and has been replaced. The voltage regulator at The Leap will be upgraded over the next few months, eliminating the voltage fluctuations that have been recorded.

(2) I am informed by MEB that the procedures and high level of expenditure detailed above should address these concerns and will result in the line returning to its previous level of reliability. The line has ample capacity. Fully utilised capacity will begin to be approached around the turn of the century and MEB has budgeted for construction of a \$2.9 million, 66 kilovolt line from Calen and a substation at Seaforth in 1998/1999.

161. Yeppoon Police Station

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

- (1) What is the current police establishment at the Yeppoon Police Station?
- (2) When will this station be upgraded to a 24-hour police station?

Answer:

(1) The current police strength at Yeppoon Police Station is fourteen officers, consisting of ten general police officers, two water police officers and two detectives. Supporting these officers are two administrative officers and one part time cleaner.

(2) There are no immediate plans to extend the operation of the Yeppoon Police Station to a 24 hours basis.

Rostering arrangements are in place to cover peak times so that there are no more than four hours between the end of the night shift and the commencement of the early morning shift. On Friday and Saturday nights, there are no more than two hours when the Yeppoon Police Station is not staffed by an on-duty police officer. No leave is granted during peak periods.

During times when the Station is not staffed, all calls for assistance are diverted to Rockhampton, where

patrols are tasked to attend. Urgent calls would obviously be dealt with as a priority.

162. Mourilyan Harbour

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

- (1) Will he provide details of who paid for the infrastructure at Mourilyan Harbour including the wharf, the sugar terminal conveyor and loading gantry, the sugar storage sheds and the molasses tanks and pumping equipment?
- (2) What charges are levied against the sugar industry for the loading of sugar at the terminal?
- (3) How are these charges justified?

Answer:

The Member for Hinchinbrook's questions relate to the port of Mourilyan and the funding arrangements between the Ports Corporation of Queensland and the Queensland Sugar Industry for port facilities.

Firstly, the Mourilyan Wharf itself was constructed by the Ports Corporation of Queensland (then the Harbours Corporation of Queensland) in the early 1960's using loan funds.

The remaining sugar industry infrastructure at Mourilyan including the sugar sheds, the shiploader etc were funded by the then Harbours Corporation under Part 9 of the then Harbours Act. This funding involved contributions from the sugar industry and/or loans guaranteed by the Harbours Corporation but repaid by the sugar industry.

The molasses tanks were funded by the Harbours Corporation through usage agreements with the molasses industry.

Secondly, a harbour due of \$0.85 per tonne is collected for the export of sugar and molasses in order to recoup investments made in sugar and port infrastructure.

The PCQ keeps accounts separately for each of its ports and produces an annual budget which details income and expenditure for the port of Mourilyan. Expenditure within the port covers:

- maintenance of port facilities;
- development of new or improved facilities such as the recent deepening of the entrance at a cost of over \$3 Million;
- port administration; and
- a contribution to the payment of a dividend to the Government.

163. Draft Animal Protection Bill

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to your comments at the Estimates Committee hearings in 1994 that \$25 000 had been allocated to progress the draft Animal Protection Bill—

- (1) At what stage is this draft legislation?
- (2) What consultation has occurred with producer groups?
- (3) Is it still proposed to appoint Department of Primary Industries officers as authorised inspectors under this legislation?
- (4) Will this lead to a conflict of interest for those officers, in that they are there to assist the beef industry and will be forced to police it as well?
- (5) How does he intend to resolve this?

Answer:

(1) The draft Bill is presently being updated by the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel and it is expected to be finalised towards the end of 1995.

(2) There has been wide spread consultation with both producer groups and community groups. In addition, an Animal Protection Act Review Committee was established to oversee the review of the current legislation. This Committee consisted of representatives of the United Graziers Association and the Cattleman's Union and representatives of intensive livestock production and extensive livestock production.

(3) Yes.

(4) No. Department of Primary Industries (DPI) officers who are appointed as inspectors under the proposed legislation will receive extensive training on their functions and powers under the proposed legislation. It should also be noted that DPI officers are currently appointed as authorised inspectors under other legislation (e.g. Stock Act 1915) where they are required to perform industry monitoring and inspection roles and generally conflicts of interest do not arise in these situations.

(5) As indicated above, it is not considered that conflicts of interest will arise by appointing DPI officers as inspectors under the proposed legislation.

164. Comments by Senator Ray; Criminal Justice Commission Operation Wallah

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to the Federal Minister for Justice's call for him to take the Criminal Justice Commission to task and the unjustified attack on the Commission, its Chairman and officers by Senator Ray—

- (1) Will he assist his Federal colleagues in their attempts to nobble the CJC?
- (2) Alternatively, will he endorse the professionalism and commitment of the CJC in its role as lead investigator in Operation Wallah, which has raised disturbing questions about the role of Federal Labor figures in frauds on the Commonwealth and illicit dealings in weapons technology?

Answer:

(1) and (2) The alternative courses of action suggested by the Member raise issues relating to the independence of the Criminal Justice Commission. Section 22 of the Criminal Justice Act 1989 requires that the Commission must at all times act independently. This is a statutory requirement which I have always been scrupulous in observing. The open letter from the CJC Commissioners published in the *Courier-Mail* of 3 April 1995 acknowledges that the Queensland Government has respected the CJC's independence. I will strenuously reject considering any course of action which would put that independence in jeopardy.

165. Bald Hills/Zillmere Railway Stations

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the problem of access to the Bald Hills and Zillmere railway stations by the elderly, disabled and parents with young children who find it difficult to cross the line because of the number of steps—

When will an "at rail level" pedestrian crossing be provided at both Zillmere and Bald Hills stations, similar to the one at Geebung which has automatic gates, lights and a sound warning device?

Answer:

Bald Hills station is situated such that the inbound and outbound platforms are side platforms and are therefore accessible by physically impaired persons by ramps.

Access between the platforms is via an overhead footbridge.

Zillmere station has a side platform for the outbound and an island platform for inbound. Access between the platforms is via an overhead bridge.

Access to the outbound platform is at footpath level and can be accessed by physically impaired persons. Access to the island platform is by an overhead footbridge only.

Geebung station is serviced by two side platforms with access between the platforms via an overhead footbridge. Access can also be gained by way of the pedestrian crossing at the vehicular level crossing at the Brisbane end of the platforms.

Neither Bald Hills nor Zillmere stations have vehicular level crossings adjacent to them.

Queensland Rail carried out an inspection of the suburban rail system to identify all existing at grade crossings and both pedestrian and vehicular crossings.

A program has been put in place to upgrade 42 existing pedestrian crossings at a cost of approximately \$110,000 each. The project has been programmed to complete six crossings per year. It is expected that the project will therefore be completed in the year 2000.

Additional pedestrian crossings are being provided at existing level crossings on the Cleveland line from Coorparoo to Lindum. Funding of these crossings has been provided from the Fisherman Islands Project.

The program only provided for upgrading of existing crossings and for safety reasons there are no proposals to install additional crossings at locations such as Zillmere and Bald Hills.

166. Mr and Mrs M. Tarbuck

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

With reference to my representations regarding Mike and Shirley Tarbuck of Stanthorpe and their Workers' Compensation claim—

Does this judgement mean that parents with their own children at their place of work will not be entitled to Workers' Compensation if the parent/employee are concerned about and report mistreatment of his/her own child, leading to dispute with the employer and ultimately to stress?

Answer:

The decision of the President of the Industrial Court does not preclude workers from making an application for workers' compensation benefits in those employment areas such as schools, where parents are employed and their children attend the same school.

However, for an entitlement to workers' compensation to exist, the injury must be employment caused. In dismissing the appeal against the Industrial Magistrate's decision, the President of the Industrial Court agreed with the Industrial Magistrate that Mrs Tarbuck's stress condition had at its foundation the parent/teacher and parent/principal relationship not the principal/teacher-aide relationship, i.e. her injury did not arise out of or in the course of her employment.

167. Stress Leave by Teachers

Mr QUINN asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) How many teachers lodged claims for leave due to stress in 1994?—
- (2) How many claims have been lodged to date in 1995?
- (3) How many of these teachers are principals?

Answer:

(1) The information available relates to compensable occupational stress claims. Other cases of stress-related leave may have occurred. However, in these instances, the medical reason for the leave is not usually specified.

During 1994, 412 workers' compensation claims for stress-related conditions were lodged with the Workers' compensation Board. To date, 349 or 85% of these claims were lodged by teaching staff.

Of these 349 claims lodged by teachers, 7 were rejected and 18 required no action (for reporting purposes only).

Two hundred and forty-two (69%) of these claims from 1994 have been finalised.

(2) The department currently has information available from the Workers' Compensation Board only for the months of January and February 1995.

Forty-three claims have been lodged for stress-related conditions over these two months. Of these, teaching staff lodged 36 claims (84%).

(3) Eleven school principals and three teachers-in-charge lodged stress claims with the Workers' Compensation Board between January 1994 and the end of February 1995. This represented 2% of the total claims for stress-related conditions lodged over this period. In addition, 3 deputy-principals lodged claims over this period.

Note that occupational information available from the Workers' Compensation Board relies on potential claimants accurately detailing this information at the time of application.

168. Juvenile Detention, Sunshine Coast

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

- (1) Where are juveniles detained on the Sunshine Coast when arrested by police?
- (2) How many juveniles can be held at one time on the Sunshine Coast?
- (3) How many juveniles are being held as at 30 March 1995 on the Sunshine Coast?
- (4) What is the average length of time juveniles are held in detention on the Sunshine Coast?

Answer:

(1) They are detained at the Maroochydore watchhouse or transported to Brisbane and held in a youth detention centre.

(2) There are in excess of 15 cells in the Maroochydore watchhouse.

(3) There were no juveniles held in custody on the Sunshine Coast on 30 March 1995.

(4) Information from police is that it takes 4—5 hours to process most young offenders. For most of the time the young person is in the police station and not detained in the cells. Only occasionally are juveniles held overnight in the watchhouse.

169. Business Regulation Review Unit

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development—

With reference to last year's Estimates debates and to the comments by the previous Minister that the methodology for determining a cost benefit analysis for regulation review has not been uniformly instituted across Government departments and to comments by the department head, Mr Boyle, that cost benefit analysis would be instituted during 1994-95—

- (1) Are all departments now using this standard cost benefit analysis; if so, what methodology is being used.

- (2) (a) What regulations have undergone this process, (b) which regulations have not and (c) for what reason?

Answer:

- (1) Yes—where they are required to do so.

The requirement (to apply the cost-benefit analysis) applies to all outstanding reviews under the Systematic Review Program and all new "significant" subordinate legislation.

Wherever departments have legislation within either of these two categories, an approved methodology is being applied.

The methodology itself is the "Cost Benefit Methodology for Regulatory Review" which was developed by Coopers and Lybrand in conjunction with the Business Regulation Review Unit of my Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development.

This methodology is the first of its kind in Australia and has attracted interest from the regulatory review agencies of other States and the Commonwealth and has helped to place Queensland at the forefront of regulatory reform in Australia.

The methodology itself is in four stages as follows:

- Stage I: Preliminary Analysis
- Stage II: Qualitative Analysis
- Stage III: Quantitative Analysis
- Stage IV: Combined Analysis

The results of each successive stage are used to determine whether or not proceeding to the next stage is warranted.

A good example of the results achieved through the application of the methodology can be found in the Department of Housing, Local Government and Planning review of the Local Government (Planning and Environment) Act during which economic benefits with a net present value of \$197M over 10 years were identified.

Not all results are so spectacular, however, because not all reviews produce changes worth costing.

For this reason, the methodology is not always applied as far as Stage III, where costs and benefits are quantified, because in most cases, the cost of obtaining the added information would be prohibitive.

- (2) With some exceptions, the methodology has been applied or will be applied to all legislation (both principal and subordinate) coming under the Systematic Review where the reviews of such legislation were current as at 30 September 1994.

The methodology has not been applied to reviews concluded prior to 30 September 1994 because it would have been counter-productive to re-open the issues so recently reviewed.

Also, training in the use of the methodology did not become available until mid-September 1994 following the Government's decision to use the methodology.

Since then, the Business Regulation Review Unit of my Department of Business, Industry and Regional

Development has trained over 200 officers in the use of the methodology and its application has since become widespread, as noted.

Other circumstances under which the methodology either would not or should not be applied, would include the outright repeal of redundant legislation because the application of the methodology would, in such cases, consume resources without improving the result.

170. Maroochydore TAFE College

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations—

- (1) What guidelines, requirements and/or specifications were provided by DEVETIR to the Department of Administrative Services for the provision of land or buildings in the Maroochydore area for a new TAFE college prior to the selection of Newspaper Place for this purpose?
- (2) In particular, was any price bracket, vicinity or parking capability detailed?

Answer:

- (1) The standard 'Client Request Brief', provided by the Department of Administrative Services Qbuild Property Management Section for the detailing of accommodation requirements for clients, was completed and forwarded to the Property Management Section in March 1994.

The Client Request Brief included the following:

"Considerations in determining location of new Maroochydore TAFE Centre

- a. in/next to Maroochydore CBD
- b. on major bus routes
- c. access to reasonable parking
- d. location can be rezoned to special use: education
- e. occupation for November 1994
- f. proximity to reasonable Child care"

- (2) No specific price bracket was detailed as each proposal would be considered on its merits. In relation to details regarding vicinity and parking capability, please refer to the answer to Question (1).

171. Overseas Visit by Tourism, Sport and Racing Minister

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing—

With reference to the overseas trip taken by him on 11-27 August 1994 to Canada and the United States of America—

Will he provide the following information—

- (1) Total cost of the trip including Minister and accompanying ministerial, departmental, government and statutory authority staff

- (2) Ministerial expenses—
- (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (3) Departmental expenses—
- (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses
- (4) Government expenses—
- (a) Travel
 - (i) land
 - (ii) sea
 - (iii) air
 - (b) Accommodation and meals (except meals as part of functions)
 - (c) Official functions—including those organised around meals (breakfasts, luncheons and dinners)
 - (d) Other expenses

Answer:

This Government has put in place a set of guidelines for the operations of Ministerial offices which are far more onerous than anything ever attempted by previous Queensland Governments. These guidelines cover not only the control and audit requirements for Ministerial expenditure, but also a reporting framework to ensure that Ministers are accountable to Parliament for the results of all overseas travel.

At the end of each year Ministers are required to table a statement for public disclosure which shows a range of categories of expenditure including expenditure on overseas travel. That statement will be made available to Parliament in accordance with the normal requirements.

In line with the Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Minister, I have tabled a report in relation to the overseas travel undertaken from 15 October to 1 November 1994.

The cost of the trip charged to my Ministerial Office was \$52,655.18.

The guidelines for Ministerial expenditure are quite clear as to what expenditures can legitimately be charged to the Department and those that are to be charged to the Ministerial Office. All expenditure, whether through the Ministerial Services Branch on behalf of Ministers or by the Department, is fully audited by the Auditor-General.

This accountability regime provides the assurance to Parliament and the people of Queensland that Ministers undertake overseas travel to achieve specific goals and then report on the benefits gained from the travel.

172. Hospital Staff Training; Health Education

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the 1995 Queensland Second Report of the Auditor-General on audits performed 1993-94—

- (1) What training has been given to the individual health services (hospitals) managers or CEOs to ensure they understand their financial and employee related responsibilities, including budgets, financial reporting and internal control systems?
- (2) Which non-Government organisations have been given funds for health education in the 1994-95 financial year?
- (3) How much has been given to each organisation and what performance was achieved compared with that required to justify the grant payment?

Answer:

(1) Training requirements are determined and reviewed in the 'Performance Planning and Review' process. Queensland Health encourages and facilitates continuing professional development.

(2) A list of non-Government organisations showing funds given for health education in the 1994/95 financial year is attached.

(3) Details of funds given to non-Government organisations are provided in my answer to (2).

Funded programs to non-Government organisations are monitored on an ongoing basis.

Grant Program Managers have advised all non-Government organisations are administering grants for health education satisfactorily, and in accordance with the conditions and performance criteria set out in service arrangements.

173. Schools, Clayfield Electorate

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to each of the State Schools and Special Schools in the electorate of Clayfield—

What are the numbers of (a) students enrolled at each school per year for the years from 1987 to date and (b) teachers, teacher aids and other staff at each school per year for the years from 1987 to date?

Answer:

SCHOOL	YEAR	PRE-SCHOOL	PRIMARY	SPECIAL	TOTAL	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YR 6	YR 7	
Ascot SS	1987	0	756	0	756	119	114	108	113	119	105	78	
	1988	0	775	0	775	117	110	101	113	116	118	100	
	1989	0	788	0	788	114	118	117	108	108	109	114	
	1990	0	794	0	794	115	121	126	140	87	114	91	
	1991	95	788	0	883	140	113	119	123	105	102	86	
	1992	99	785	0	884	109	129	110	119	114	104	100	
	1993	97	842	0	939	147	107	136	119	113	120	100	
	1994	100	808	0	908	120	137	102	126	103	103	117	
	Feb 95	94	738	0	832	94	103	107	128	102	100	96	
Eagle Junction SS	1987	0	427	0	427	70	52	71	65	54	60	55	
	1988	0	426	0	426	72	64	57	71	61	49	52	
	1989	0	445	0	445	77	63	71	58	69	58	49	
	1990	0	474	0	474	86	71	67	73	54	68	55	
	1991	50	474	0	524	92	73	66	68	66	48	61	
	1992	49	496	0	545	94	83	72	63	71	65	48	
	1993	50	526	0	576	75	96	76	72	65	75	67	
	1994	50	547	0	597	83	79	96	81	70	65	73	
	Feb 95	50	618	0	668	108	87	86	103	86	81	67	
HAMILTON SS	1987	0	48	0	48	9	8	3	9	5	8	6	
	1988	0	45	0	45	7	7	6	2	10	6	7	
	1989	0	42	0	42	12	6	8	2	2	7	5	
	1990	0	35	0	35	2	12	2	4	6	1	8	
	1991	0	31	0	31	5	3	7	5	5	4	2	
	1992	0	23	0	23	1	3	2	8	4	1	4	
	1993	0	36	0	36	9	7	4	2	8	4	2	
	1994	0	43	0	43	7	9	6	5	2	9	5	
		Feb 95	0	44	0	44	11	6	6	5	3	3	10
	Hendra SS	1987	0	58	0	58	6	11	7	15	2	8	9
1988		0	34	0	34	4	6	6	3	7	2	6	
1989		0	14	0	14	1	1	3	4	1	3	1	
1990		0	23	0	23	3	3	3	3	4	2	5	
1991		0	29	0	29	5	5	3	1	4	7	4	
1992		0	29	0	29	4	5	4	2	1	4	9	
1993		0	37	0	37	5	6	8	5	3	4	6	
1994		0	30	0	30	7	2	7	4	2	3	5	
		Feb 95	0	37	0	37	9	9	1	6	5	4	3
Newstead Spec School		1987	0	0	66	66							
	1988	0	0	67	67								
	1989	0	0	70	70								
	1990	0	0	67	67								
	1991	0	0	60	60								
	1992	0	0	57	57								
	1993	0	0	66	66								
	1994	0	0	51	51								
	Feb 95	0	0	47	47								
Nundah State School	1987	0	359	0	359	59	45	43	59	49	48	56	
	1988	0	374	0	374	46	64	47	47	63	59	48	
	1989	0	396	0	396	61	48	65	43	51	65	63	

	1990	0	378	0	378	58	62	46	56	44	54	58
	1991	0	385	0	385	55	63	62	46	58	50	51
	1992	0	368	0	368	50	49	58	62	39	60	50
	1993	0	377	0	377	59	46	56	59	56	42	59
	1994	0	336	0	336	37	55	40	51	59	50	44
	Feb 95	0	329	0	329	42	35	54	36	52	59	51
Pinkenba State School	1987	0	26	0	26	3	2	3	5	4	3	6
	1988	0	20	0	20	3	1	3	1	4	4	4
	1989	0	22	0	22	6	3	1	4	1	4	3
	1990	0	17	0	17	2	3	2	1	4	1	4
	1991	0	21	0	21	4	3	2	4	2	5	1
	1992	0	17	0	17	1	4	3	1	3	1	4
	1993	0	13	0	13	4		2	3	1	2	1
	1994	0	16	0	16	3	5		2	3	1	2
	Feb 95	0	16	0	16	2	3	6	0	2	2	1
Woolloowin State School	1987	0	146	0	146	17	28	21	16	17	28	19
	1988	0	161	0	161	20	21	29	27	14	16	34
	1989	0	160	0	160	25	27	23	26	27	16	16
	1990	0	162	0	162	25	21	30	20	25	23	18
	1991	35	148	0	183	16	22	23	20	18	24	25
	1992	27	144	0	171	29	19	18	16	18	18	26
	1993	44	127	0	171	18	22	22	15	13	17	20
	1994	34	107	0	141	18	14	19	10	16	14	16
	Feb 95	34	126	0	160	25	19	14	20	18	17	13

SCHOOL		1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Ascot	Teacher			35	35	34	36	35	36	37
	T/Aide			66	80	80	80	90	89	88
	Other (Perm)			2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Eagle Junction	Teacher				24.2	24.2	24.5	25.2	26.4	28.2
	T/Aide	76	76	76	96	96	97	99	100	102
	Other (Perm)					2	2	2	2	2
Hamilton	Teacher	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	3
	T/Aide	42	40	40	32	32	30	40	40	40
	Other (Perm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hendra	Teacher	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
	T/Aide	25	30	24	24	32	36	34	40	36
	Other (Perm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nundah	Teacher	18	18	19	18	18	18	18	17	16
	T/Aide	44	44	44	60	60	60	60	58	58
	Other (Perm)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Pinkenba	Teacher	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	T/Aide	30	30	32	40	36	28	28	28	28
	Other (Perm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woolloowin	Teacher	8	8	8	9	8	6	5	5	5
	T/Aide	60	60	59	60	60	78	44	44	44
	Other (Perm)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Newstead	Teacher	12	12	12	11	10	10	10.5	12	9.7
	T/Aide	60	60	110	135	130	130	130	130	120
	Other (Perm)	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

(i) Teacher Aides expressed in hours per week

(ii) Permanent Employees only counted

(iii) Variance in Teacher Aide time may reflect additional SPSS hours

174. Increase in SES Positions

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General and Minister for the Arts—

With reference to the Public Sector Management Commission Report to 30 June 1994 which shows that the number of Senior Executive Service level positions has increased by 22, from 25 at 30 June 1993 to 47 at 30 June 1994—

- (1) Will he detail the (a) designation, (b) salary and (c) location of each of the 22 additional positions, the previous positions (if not a new position)?
- (2) Will he detail the cost of upgrading the positions (including motor vehicles, credit cards, allowance expenses, superannuation salary) as well as any other costs?
- (3) What are the names of the persons now occupying the positions?
- (4) What were the names of the persons occupying the positions before upgrading?
- (5) What was the date of amalgamation of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Arts Division?

Answer:

(1) Yes. The information requested is contained in the following table. All positions save for one of the Consultant Crown Prosecutors are Brisbane based. The exception is located in Townsville. All positions save the four in Policy and Legislation Division were pre-existing Band 2 or Band 3 Contract positions. They were incorporated into the SES once the professional stream was established.

DESIGNATION	LOCATION	SALARY LEVEL	PREVIOUS POSITION DESIGNATION	LEVEL
Crown Law Division				
Crown Solicitor	Brisbane	SES 3(P)	Crown Solicitor	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Executive Legal Consultant	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Executive Legal Consultant	Band 2 Contract
Solicitor-General's Office				
Crown Counsel	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	Crown Counsel	Band 3 Contract
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions				
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Townsville	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Solicitor for Prosecutions	Brisbane	SES 2(P)	Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Band 2 Contract
Policy and Legislation Division				
Director, Court Practice and Procedure	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, Criminal Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, General Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, Public Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	
Director, Public Law	Brisbane	SES 1(P)	<i>New Position</i>	

(2) The cost of translation of the 18 positions amounts to \$77,268 per annum. This figure includes the salary increase, extra leave loading, superannuation and payroll tax, plus motor vehicles where appropriate.

All Band 2 officers had as part of their remuneration arrangements, the private use of a fully maintained Government Vehicle. Therefore, the lease cost to the department only increased by some \$45 per month each for the Consultant Crown Prosecutor Positions and that of the Solicitor of Prosecutions, and \$400 per month for the position of Crown Counsel (no private use vehicle under Band 3 contracts). The Crown Solicitor chose to keep his existing vehicle, so the increase in his salary allowance, \$600 per year, was incorporated there. The Executive Legal Consultants already had vehicles appropriate for their level.

The cost of creating the four new positions in the Policy and Legislation Division was \$356,000 per annum and this figure includes all costs detailed above. A separate new initiative funding proposal to establish these positions was approved by Treasury in early 1994.

(3) & (4) The information requested in questions 3 and 4 is contained in the following table.

POSITION	PREVIOUS OCCUPANT	CURRENT OCCUPANT
Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions		
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Michael Byrne	Michael Byrne
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Paul Rutledge	Paul Rutledge
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	David Meredith	David Meredith
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	David Bullock	David Bullock
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Peter Ridgeway	Peter Ridgeway
Consultant Crown Prosecutor	Kevan Townsley	James Henry
Solicitor for Prosecutions	David Field	David Field
Policy and Legislation		
Director, Court Practices and Procedures	Vacant	Vacant (N Stehn Acting)
Director, Criminal Law	Vacant	Garry Hannigan
Director, General Law	Vacant	Leanne Robertson
Director, Public Law	Vacant	Peter Byrnes
Crown Law Division		
Crown Solicitor	Ken O'Shea	Ken O'Shea
Executive Legal Consultant	Robert Boiston	Robert Boiston
Executive Legal Consultant	Ronald Davis	Ronald Davis
Executive Legal Consultant	William Isdale	William Isdale
Executive Legal Consultant	Francis Pulsford	Francis Pulsford
Executive Legal Consultant	John Tate	John Tate
Executive Legal Consultant	Robert Tindal	Robert Tindal
Executive Legal Consultant	Patrick Wedge	Patrick Wedge
Executive Legal Consultant	Bronwyn Thompson	Peter McDonald
Executive Legal Consultant	Vacant	Gordon Walker
Crown Counsel	Robert Campbell	Robert Campbell

While some names have changed, this occurred after the redesignation as SES staff. For instance, the Consultant Crown Prosecutor Mr Townsley retired after his entry into the SES.

(5) The date was 24 September 1992.

175. Police Officers, Salary Allowance

Mr COOPER asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to his claim that about 90 per cent of the Police Service are engaged in operational roles and the CJC's conclusion that "at best 73 per cent of the service occupy such roles"—

- (1) Is his claim, rather than the CJC's view, correct?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) When the Police Service and Police Union agreement on the payment of the 19 per cent of salary allowance in lieu of overtime penalty rates comes into effect, will only about 70 per cent of officers qualify and not the 90 per cent he claims have operational duties?

Answer:

(1) Both are correct on the basis of their respective definitions of "operational". The CJC estimate, in fact, refers to "direct service delivery".

(2) The Police Service adopted a definition of "operational" in December 1993 which includes officers performing duties in the State Crime Operations Command involving criminal investigation and intelligence gathering functions. The CJC definition does not include these officers.

The Police Service definition also includes police officers attached to the CJC; officers working in

specialist units such as the Water Police, the Special Emergency Response Team, the Public Safety Response Team, the Dog Squad, the Railway Squad and the Police Prosecution Corps; and First Year Constables. Again the CJC definition does not include these officers.

In addition, the CJC definition excludes all Commissioned Officers regardless of their role.

These differences in definition are acknowledged on page 93 of the CJC's report on the Implementation of Reform within the Queensland Police Service (August 1994).

(3) The 19% allowance is in lieu of afternoon and week-end shift penalties, not overtime. The actual number of officers who will receive the allowance will not be known until completion of the implementation phase of the Enterprise Agreement. However, it is not appropriate to regard "operational" police in the same sense as those who might be eligible to receive the 19% "operations shift allowance". The shift allowance will be applied to staff who are required to work a two or three shift roster over seven days a week. Not all "operational" police are required to work under such arrangements and so will not receive the new allowance.

They will, however, continue to be paid standard Award penalties whenever they work particular hours which would entitle them to such payment. Conversely, there are a number of non-operational

shift workers (e.g. Police Communications Centre) who may receive the allowance.

176. Special Needs Students

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Education—
With reference to the implementation of the plan to integrate Special Needs Students into Primary and Secondary classes—

- (1) What criteria is used to determine what level of support is needed in the classroom so that no child is disadvantaged by this plan?
- (2) What has been done to provide the necessary support staff in the classroom?

Answer:

(1) Initially when a student presents as having an educational need at a level requiring intensive support an ascertainment process is undertaken to outline the child's educational and program requirements. This program may be delivered through clustered services such as special education units or special school or in the regular class with support from the visiting specialist. Support such as teacher aide time, no of times the visiting specialist attends, specialised equipment, facilities modifications, and transport is discussed at the placement meeting. The amount of resources provided depends on the educational needs of the student, location, parent preferences, availability of resources and should take into account the needs of other children within the class, school and other schools.

(2) Extensive support is available to support students with disabilities. This includes:

- support teachers;
- Advisory Visiting Teachers;
- Guidance Officers; and
- speech therapists.

In the 1994/94 budget \$4.4 million was allocated in special initiative funds which supported an additional 76 teacher positions and 1 440 hours per week of teacher aide time. As well \$1 million was allocated to extra teacher aide time from the departmental budget.

Regions regular review resource allocations and in this review process take into account the needs of all students.

177. Animal Health Services

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to animal health services which are so vital to the viability of the State's livestock industries—

- (1) How many stock inspectors are currently employed by his department compared with the numbers at the same time in 1989 and 1992?
- (2) How many vets are currently employed by his department compared with the numbers at the same time in 1989 and 1992?

- (3) What is the total budget allocation for veterinary public health delivery in this year compared with 1989-90 and 1992-93?

Answer:

(1) There are currently 89 stock inspectors employed by the Department providing animal health services. There were 94 stock inspectors in 1992 and 146 in 1989.

(2) There are currently 41 veterinarians employed by the Department providing animal health services compared to 44 in 1992 and 61 in 1989.

Reductions in the numbers in (1) and (2) above have been due primarily to declining requirements in the National Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC). In addition, the Move Easy Stock Movement Authorisation System has resulted in substantial changes to work practices with the livestock industry acceptance of self-regulation through the filling-in and retention of waybills. Stock inspectors continue to provide an important audit role to ensure the integrity of this system which allows traceback of stock movements for disease control reasons.

(3) The expenditure on veterinary public health services for 1994/95 compared to 1992/93 and 1989/90 is:

	Expenditure \$
1994/95 (Estimated by QLMA from actual expenditure for eight months ended 28.2.95)	3,942,000
1992/93	
QDPI Meat Inspection Account	599,000
QLMA	3,360,000
TOTAL	3,959,000
1989/90	
QDPI Meat Inspection Account	3,416,000

Veterinary Public Health services are funded from income generated from slaughtering fees and, more latterly, accreditation fees.

The Veterinary Public Health Branch of the QDPI was transferred to the Livestock and Meat Authority of Queensland (now reconstituted as the Queensland Livestock and Meat Authority) on 8 August 1992.

178. Julia Creek State School

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to students at the Julia Creek State School who are forced to do French studies under the LOTE Program implemented by the Education Department and as these students receive only two periods of 30 minutes a week under the Telelearning Program which is supervised by a Teacher's Aide—

Can you give an assurance that this program will be upgraded so that the quality of the program and choice of languages is equal to that received by city students?

Answer:

- Negotiations were held with Julia Creek State School community in 1993 regarding students undertaking French supported by a teacher based at Cloncurry State School.
- Telelearning equipment has been installed at Cloncurry State School to support the program.
- Students in Years 6 and 7 at Gunpowder State School, Lorraine State School and Julia Creek State School receive two lessons of 40 minutes duration per week.
- The ratio of students to teachers is 17 to 1 for telelearning.
- At three-weekly intervals the French teacher from Cloncurry State School visits Julia Creek State School for face-to-face French lessons with a reduced student ratio of 6 to 1.
- On average, students receive more than 90 minutes per week for LOTE.
- To supplement the program additional resources and materials are provided to schools for follow up work with LOTE.

179. Townsville Area, Electricity Supply

Mr STONEMAN asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the parlous position of North Queensland in respect of security of electricity supply, both current and future, and more particularly the Townsville area—

- (1) What plans are in hand to provide a peak load capacity/facility for the region?
- (2) What plans are being made to ensure supply for commerce and industry in the event of major transmission line breakdown through cyclonic impact or other natural catastrophies?
- (3) To what stage has a proposal to locate a fuel fired turbine peak load facility in the Cluden area progressed?
- (4) If there is a planning schedule, what consultative interface is envisaged with the community?
- (5) What is the current supply demand on the regional authority in terms of base load and peak load?

Answer:

As announced on 19 April, the Government has decided that the 180MW Collinsville power station will be re-opened in 1998, after being closed by the National Party Government, of which you were a member. In addition, at least 110MW of 440MW of peaking plant to be installed in the period 2000-02 will be located at Townsville. These two developments will increase the generating capacity in North Queensland from 166MW to 456MW, with significant economic benefits from the deferral of new transmission works from Central Queensland and additional support for reliability of supply in the region.

The transmission system is designed so that full supply may be maintained with one major circuit out of service. All lines are designed to withstand severe weather conditions with specific reference to the area in which they are located. That is, the design of lines in north Queensland takes into account the potential for severe cyclonic winds.

As announced by the Premier on 19 April, at least an additional 110MW of peaking plant is to be located in the Townsville region. The Cluden site has been investigated and preliminary technical feasibility and environmental investigations have been completed.

A formal schedule for a Townsville development has not yet been developed. When a project is initiated, there will be a formal impact assessment process to which the community will be invited to contribute.

The demand supplied by NORQEB ranged from a minimum of 118MW to a maximum of 325MW over the period March 1994 to February 1995.

180. Forest Service Staff, Gympie

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the level of staff employed in the forestry districts in the Gympie area—

- (1) What is the current number of staff employed in (a) Gympie Forestry District and (b) Imbil Forestry District?
- (2) What were the staff numbers in these two districts in 1989?

Answer:

(1 & 2) Current number of staff at (a) Gympie Forestry District; (b) Imbil Forestry District—

(a) Gympie

Year	Salaried	Wages	Total
1989	62	124	186
1995	59	113	172

(b) Imbil

Year	Salaried	Wages	Total
1989	15	74	89
1995	20	117	137

181. Bermuda Street, South Coast

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the build up of traffic at the southern end of the Bundall Road-Bermuda Street link between Southport and Burleigh as a result of rapid residential and industrial development in the region and to increased congestion on the Burleigh connection road (Reedy Creek Road) particularly in respect of Marymount College—

When will Bermuda Street be completed through to the Pacific Highway via Burleigh Junction Industrial Estate to relieve traffic congestion where Bermuda Street ends at Reedy Creek Road?

Answer:

I have allocated funds in the later years of Queensland Transport's 5 year Roads Implementation Program towards extending the Southport Burleigh Road southwards to join with the Pacific Highway.

182. Fraser Island

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to Fraser Island—

- (1) How much money has been raised from camping and other fees charged to Fraser Island visitors over the last three years?
- (2) How has this money been spent?
- (3) What capital works programmes have been undertaken since the cessation of logging on the island?
- (4) What is the number, and the cost, of each ranger's residence on the island?
- (5) Is there a union required standard for rangers' residences; if so, what is that basic requirement?

Answer:

- | | | |
|-----|---------|-------------|
| (1) | 1991/92 | \$1,480,333 |
| | 1992/93 | \$1,475,080 |
| | 1993/94 | \$1,572,448 |
- (2) Money is expended on recreation management of the Fraser Island Recreation Area. This includes:
 - payment of interest and redemption on a Treasury loan;
 - payment of the cost of management of the permit system;
 - payment of salaries and wages for recreation management support staff and on-Island Ranger staff;
 - operational costs of recreation management and recreation infrastructure maintenance;
 - operational costs of monitoring and enforcement under the RAM Act;
 - replacement of plant and equipment; and
 - capital works for recreation infrastructure and a contribution to management infrastructure in line with the need to provide support for recreation management.
 - (3) Capital works projects undertaken since the cessation of logging include:
 - a) Construction of temporary barrack accommodation at Dundubara and Eurong for additional staff employed under the Growth and Development Package.
 - b) Purchase of plant and equipment necessary for the implementation of

Growth and Development Package projects eg:

- waste management system—purchase of trucks, roll-on/roll-off equipment, compactor unit and bulk bins; and
 - road management equipment—tractors, truck, grader and pallet timber.
- c) Construction of a viewing platform at Lake Birrabeen.
 - d) Construction of two houses for married staff at Eurong.
 - e) Construction of replacement generator sheds at Eurong and Central Station necessary to meet Workplace Health and Safety standards and to allow re-development of the camping area at Central Station.
 - f) Construction of fuel bunding for fuel storage tanks at Waddy Point, Dundubara, Eurong and Central Station to meet WPH&S requirements.
- (4) Prior to the cessation of logging, no staff accommodation had been provided at State Forest stations by the Department of Environment and Heritage. The staff accommodation provided at that time is included below. No cost data is held by the Department of Environment and Heritage for these houses and barracks unless indicated.

Department of Primary Industries, Forest Service

Location	Accommodation type	No Structures	Yr Const
Ungowa	Two-bedroom house	2	1959
	Four-room barracks	1	1960
	Three-room visitor quarters	1	1960
Central Station	Three-room barracks	2	1960
	Three-bedroom house	1	1986
	Three-room barracks	1	1986/87
Eurong	Caravan and annex	1	1986/87
	Three-room barracks	1	1985
Lake Allom Poyungan	Three-room barracks	1	late 1960/ early 1970

Department of Environment and Heritage

Location	Accommodation type	No Structures	Yr Const
Dundubara	Two-bedroom house	2	1978
Waddy Point	Two-bedroom house	1	1986
	Barracks (Cost \$450,000)	1	1991/92
	Four rooms plus 3 visitors		

Upon cessation of logging, the Government acquired accommodation facilities provided by the logging contractor. Some of these are used periodically by staff when working in these areas. These include:

Ungowa	One-bedroom bungalow
Poyungan	3 cottages—1 x one-bedroom, 2 x two-bedroom, 1 temporary quarters—barracks
Puthoo North Camp	2 temporary quarters—five rooms in total

Since cessation of logging, staff accommodation has been provided for additional staff employed to implement the Growth and Development Package. Details are as follows:

Location	Accommodation type	No Structures	Yr Const	Cost
Dundubara	Temporary five-room barracks	1	1992	\$ 71,664
Eurong	Temporary four-room barracks	1	1992	\$ 89,130
	Three-bedroom house	2	1994	\$200,564

(5) No. The terms of the Conservation, Parks and Wildlife Employees Award contains Supplementary Arrangement No 24 which deals with accommodation standards.

183. Moura Mine Disaster; Mine Safety Inspections

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

(1) What was the date and time of each inspection of each mine covered by the Central Queensland Mines Inspectorate in the six months prior to the Moura No 2 disaster?

(2) What was the classification of the inspector, eg mines inspector, mechanical inspector or electrical inspector, undertaking each of the inspections?

Answer:

Records of the Department of Minerals and Energy have the date of inspections but not the time of inspection.

For the purpose of the following information, an inspection is defined as a routine inspection or accident/incident investigation.

Mine Mine Inspections Central Division (Rockhampton)

Mine	Mining	Mechanical	Electrical	
Moura No.2	10/02/94	06/04/94	02/02/94	
	22/03/94	09/06/94	24/02/94	
	11/05/94		15/03/94	
	09/06/94		05/05/94	
	27/07/94		22/06/94	
Blackwater Mine	26/05/94	10/05/94	17/02/94	
			26/05/94	
Boundary Hill	28/07/94	Nil	02/03/94	
	26/07/94	07/04/94	Nil	
Cook Colliery	02/02/94	11/05/94	16/03/94	
	23/03/94		12/05/94	
	18/05/94		14/07/94	
	14/07/94			
Crinum	02/02/94	20/04/94	03/02/94	
	05/05/94		21/03/94	
	15/06/94		20/04/94	
	18/07/94		18/05/94	
Curragh	03/02/94	Nil	19/04/94	
	25/05/94			
	04/05/94	Nil	16/05/94	
Ensham	20/07/94	19/04/94	17/05/94	
	03/02/94	09/02/94	21/04/94	
Gordonstone	01/03/94	20/05/94	19/07/94	
	05/05/94			
	15/06/94			
Jellinbah	21/07/94			
	21/03/94	Nil	Nil	
	24/05/94			
	21/07/94			
Kenmare	Not operating during this period			
	Laleham	01/02/94	24/02/94	01/02/94
		22/03/94	12/05/94	26/04/94
		17/05/94		13/07/94
		21/07/94		
Moura	Open-cut	09/02/94	08/06/94	23/02/94
		28/02/94		19/03/94
		04/03/94		27/07/94
South Blackwater		08/06/94		
		22/03/94	23/02/94	16/02/94
Yarrabee		13/07/94		31/05/94
		21/03/94	Nil	11/05/94
Mine	Mine Inspections Northern Division (Mackay)			
		Mining	Mechanical	Electrical
	Blair Athol	23/03/94	19/05/94	13/04/94
	Goonyella/Riverside	01/02/94	15/02/94	12/04/94
Peak Downs		10/03/94		14/07/94
		12/04/94		
		25/05/94		
		19/07/94		
		22/03/94	07/02/94	14/04/94
Saraji		28/06/94	13/07/94	
		17/02/94	24/01/94	13/01/94
		14/07/94	17/02/94	27/04/94
Norwich Park		21/06/94		
		16/02/94	13/04/94	15/03/94
		18/05/94		02/06/94
Newlands		06/07/94		
		21/04/94	16/06/94	06/04/94
North Goonyella		29/07/94		
		10/02/94	31/05/94	09/02/94
		09/03/94		22/02/94
		13/04/94		07/04/94
		08/06/94		25/05/94
German Creek Mine		05/07/94		15/07/94
		20/07/94		
		17/03/94	15/02/94	17/05/94
		13/07/94		04/08/94
German Creek Central		03/08/94		
		08/02/94	05/05/94	25/02/94
		15/03/94		14/03/94
		28/04/94		11/05/94
		24/05/94		
German Creek Southern		12/07/94		
		15/02/94	04/05/94	16/03/94
		17/03/94	20/06/94	10/05/94
		05/05/94		
Oak Creek		20/07/94		
		17/02/94	16/02/94	23/02/94
		06/05/94	29/06/94	12/05/94
Oak Creek No.1			18/05/94	
			31/05/94	
		09/02/94	14/04/94	24/02/94
		16/03/94	29/06/94	28/04/94
		27/04/94		
Collinsville No.2		07/06/94		
		02/08/94		
		24/02/94	30/03/94	17/02/94
		07/04/94	29/07/94	23/03/94
Bocum		30/06/94		29/06/94
		23/02/94	28/04/94	18/02/94
		06/04/94	28/07/94	24/03/94
		29/06/94		30/06/94
Collinsville Open-cut				
		27/01/94	29/03/94	16/02/94
		25/02/94		22/03/94
		08/04/94		24/05/94
	01/07/94			

184. Sir Leslie Wilson Youth Detention Centre

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to an incident on 28 February 1995 when an inmate of the Sir Leslie Wilson Centre was handcuffed and taken to the Royal Brisbane Hospital after being found convulsing as the result of a drug overdose of cocaine and heroin—

- (1) Did this youth have regular unsupervised visits from a female friend at the detention centre?
- (2) How did the illegal drugs enter the detention centre?
- (3) What steps have been taken to improve the supervision of access visits?

Answer:

In the incident referred to, the provisional diagnosis from the Royal Brisbane Hospital was of an acute psychotic episode. There was a query as to the possibility of this being drug induced but no firm conclusions were drawn. The resident denied taking any substance.

- (1) No.
- (2) There is no evidence that illegal drugs entered the centre.
- (3) Procedures have been revised in relation to supervision and security in the visiting area. Staff must approve visits before they occur. A staff member is required to observe all visits.

All visitors belongings' are locked in lockers for the duration of the visit.

185. Free Bus Travel for Pre-school Children

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the establishment by the Education Department of excellent pre-school facilities throughout the State and as some pre-school children are unable to access free travel on school buses—

- (1) Will he give assurances that this anomaly will be rectified?
- (2) If not, what is the reason?

Answer:

The conveyance of students to and from school has always been a parental responsibility. Given the age of pre-school students, parents are expected to act as both transport provider and escort. Nevertheless, the government, taking into account some of the difficulties associated with transporting students to school has, for many years, provided limited assistance in certain circumstances.

Given the additional supervision required and the use of education programs which operate at times inconsistent with regular schooling, pre-school students are currently ineligible for assistance under school transport programs. In recognition of the additional access difficulties in rural areas, a concession was granted to this policy allowing pre-

school students to travel on kilometre-based contract services provided suitable arrangements could be made.

186. Debits Tax

Mrs SHELDON asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the outcome of the recent meeting of Commissioners for State Revenue and to concerns of the business sector that there will be a selective reinterpretation of debits tax on direct credited payments to employee accounts, so that debits tax will apply per employee, instead of per payroll—

Can he confirm that in this State there will be no retrospective or other charges to the application of debits tax on direct credits under existing legislation or as part of new legislation, such as the overdue Revenues Bill?

Answer:

I assume that the question is based on a recent report in The Australian Financial Review that Victoria was allegedly changing its interpretation of a provision in the Debits Tax Administration Act which would result in that tax being payable in respect of each electronic funds transfer from a taxable account.

I can assure the Honourable Member that this Government is not considering any retrospective or other changes to the administration of debits tax on direct credits as a result of the issue raised by the Victorian Office of State Revenue. The two Bills currently being prepared by the Office of State Revenue do not deal with debits tax.

187. Police Resources, Warwick Electorate

Mr SPRINGBORG asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

What were and are the numbers of operational Police officers and administrative personnel at (a) Allora, (b) Inglewood, (c) Texas, (d) Leyburn, (e) Yangan, (f) Killarney, (g) Warwick, (h) Stanthorpe and (i) Wallangarra Police Stations in 1989 and 1995 respectively?

Answer:

The following information is provided in respect of the abovementioned police stations:

	1989		1995	
	Operational	Administrative	Operational	Administrative
Allora	2	2		
Inglewood	3	1	3	1
Texas	3	1	2	1
Leyburn	1	1		
Yangan	1	1		
Killarney	2	2		
Warwick	33	3	38	5
Stanthorpe	8	2	8	2
Wallangarra	1	2	1	

Figures given for 1995 reflect the Queensland Police Service's Staffing Model, to be implemented in that year.

The Warwick District operational police and administrative support staffing levels have increased by 7% since 1989.

188. Sandalwood Export Industry

Mr PERRETT asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the recent depressed prices and potential for market chaos in the sandalwood export industry—

- (1) What processes do the Queensland Forest Service have in place to account for the origin of sandalwood harvested in Queensland, particularly in identifying which wood is cut from Crown land, Crown leasehold and freehold land in Queensland?
- (2) Is he satisfied with the processes?
- (3) How many sandalwood operators have been audited to trace the sources of sandalwood that they have dealt in?
- (4) What checks are done on the *bona fides* of companies or individuals entering sandalwood tenders offered by the Queensland Forest Service?
- (5) Since the Treasury benefits from royalties paid for sandalwood cut on Crown land, what measures have been taken to protect markets and thus the future of the industry and the royalty stream?
- (6) How many Forest Service officers are involved in policing the cutting of sandalwood?
- (7) What process is followed when suspect loads of sandalwood are intercepted?
- (8) Why has the price paid per metric tonne for sandalwood decreased dramatically in 1995?

Answer:

(1) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Forest Service has engaged a single contract harvester to harvest sandalwood from Crown land (including all Crown leasehold) in Queensland. All Crown land sandalwood is sold by the DPI Forest Service from a security yard in Richmond.

The *Forestry Act 1959* allows the DPI Forest Service to investigate suspected illegal harvesting of Crown land sandalwood and to prosecute where there is sufficient evidence.

The DPI Forest Service has no statutory authority in relation to sandalwood harvesting on freehold land in Queensland. However at the request of the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industries and Energy (DPIE), the DPI Forest Service inspects, wherever practicable, the freehold property nominated in an application for a License to Export. This inspection is to confirm that the sandalwood to be exported is sourced from the nominated freehold property.

(2) The total quantity and individual sources of all sandalwood exported from Queensland is monitored by the DPIE. Accordingly, through DPIE data, the DPI Forest Service has the ability to determine the quantity and source of freehold and Crown land sandalwood harvested in Queensland.

(3) Following the 1982 repeal of *Queensland Sandalwood Act 1934* and the subsequent recommencement of the sandalwood industry in

Queensland, there has been a number of suspected unauthorised operations involving the illegal harvesting of Crown land sandalwood.

These have been investigated under the *Forestry Act 1959* and/or the Criminal Code with 5 of these cases coming before the Court for prosecution or resulting in legal processes to recover State royalties.

(4) With regard to Australian Companies unknown to the DPI Forest Service, a company search will normally be done with the Australian Securities Commission to check their *bona fides*.

More importantly, no Crown land sandalwood is released to the successful purchaser until all the monies have been paid in full to the DPI Forest Service.

(5) The DPI Forest Service has a number of strategies in place to protect markets for sandalwood harvested from Crown land, the future of the sandalwood industry, and the royalty stream to the Queensland Government.

These include:

- Controlling the quantity and quality of Crown land sandalwood released to the market place at any time to avoid market saturation.
- Selling the harvested Crown land sandalwood at a market price via a tendering process to avoid a purchaser monopoly.
- Limiting the annual harvest of Crown land sandalwood to a conservative quantity to ensure a sustainable industry.
- Allocating part of the royalty from the sale of Crown land sandalwood to research into the propagation and growth of sandalwood.

(6) Two full-time DPI Forest Service officers, based in Hughenden, are involved in managing the harvesting of sandalwood on Crown land in Queensland.

Other Forest officers based in Central and South West Queensland assist where necessary in investigating suspected breaches of the *Forestry Act 1959* in regard to the possible illegal harvesting of sandalwood on Crown land.

(7) Forest Officers may make examinations and enquiries as may be necessary to ascertain whether the *Forestry Act 1959* is being breached by any person. At any time a Forest Officer may search and examine all containers, vehicles or other receptacles capable of holding forest products which includes sandalwood.

If the Forest Officer reasonably suspects sandalwood has been got or interfered with contrary to the Act, then the Forest Officer may seize the sandalwood. The person from whom the sandalwood has been seized may apply to the Court within 14 days of seizure for claim of ownership. The onus is on the person making the claim to establish ownership.

(8) The prices received by the DPI Forest Service for the sandalwood sold to date in 1995 have been satisfactory given the following combination of factors:

- Most of the sandalwood sold has come from Timber Management Permit areas on leasehold land in the Winton-Isisford region. The quality of most of this material was inferior to that normally sold from the Hughenden-Richmond basalt wall country. The Winton-Isisford sandalwood has a greater percentage of sapwood than that from the basalt soil country making it less valuable.
- There is normally a downturn in demand for sandalwood in the early part of each year following Chinese New Year celebrations.
- Recent uncertainty about the issuing by DPIE of Licenses to Export sandalwood, following the publicity arising from the Woodchip Export Licenses issue, may have worried some sandalwood purchasers.

189. Wivenhoe Dam

Mr LINGARD asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the listed storage capacity of the Wivenhoe Dam which is 1.15 million megalitres with an additional flood mitigation capacity of 1.45 million megalitres.

- (1) Has there been a decision to lift the water storage capacity of the dam following the decision to provide the Tarong Power Station with water?
- (2) If so, to what level?

Answer:

The Member for Beaudesert also asked me about Wivenhoe Dam and the flood protection it affords Brisbane during the recent debate on the Water Resources Amendment Bill. The following will serve to answer that question and the one on notice.

It is correct that the storage capacity of Wivenhoe Dam is 1.15 million megalitres and that the dam can temporarily store a much larger volume above the listed capacity for the purposes of flood mitigation.

The South East Queensland Water Board are the owners of Wivenhoe Dam. The legislation which established the Board requires that Wivenhoe Dam be operated in accordance with a manual of operational procedures for the purpose of flood mitigation. This manual requires Ministerial approval as does any amendment to the Manual.

The Manual defines a number of flood mitigation objectives including, as the most important, ensuring the structural safety of the dam.

To meet this objective, flood waters temporarily stored during one flood event must be discharged from the dam to bring the storage back to the 1.15 million megalitre level in order to avoid any risk associated with a second flood event occurring shortly after the first.

For this reason, and based on current assessments of the risks of flood inflows, it is not proposed by the Board, nor would it be likely that I would approve raising the storage capacity of Wivenhoe Dam.

In relation to the decision to provide supply to the Tarong Power Station from Wivenhoe Dam, I am advised that such use is unlikely to have any significant impact on supplies to urban consumers in South-East Queensland.

It is expected that the emergency pipeline to Tarong will only be used infrequently if, for example, droughts as severe as the current drought were to recur. The available supply from Wivenhoe Dam is at this time significantly in excess of the demand from the area served by Wivenhoe Dam. For example, the maximum annual demand on the Somerset, Wivenhoe, and Mt Crosby weir system to date has been approximately 230,000 megalitres compared with an available supply of nearly 390,000 megalitres.

In summary then, there is no need to raise the storage capacity of Wivenhoe Dam to meet emergency supply demands from Tarong Power Station nor would a raising be likely to be approved given the requirements of the approved flood operations manual.

190. Metalliferous Mines; Coalmines

Mr BORBIDGE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) How many (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines are currently operating in Queensland?
- (2) How many (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines have not paid the required rehabilitation security deposits?
- (3) How much money is currently held in trust by his department by way of security deposits for (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines?
- (4) How much money is outstanding in relation to (a) metalliferous and (b) coal mines?

Answer:

There are (a) about 1000 metalliferous and (b) 33 coal mines currently operating in Queensland.

I understand all mines have met the legislative requirements for security deposits. However, the Department of Minerals and Energy is currently implementing revised security arrangements in line with the Government's Environmental Management Policy for Mining.

There is (a) \$34 042 679 held for metalliferous and (b) \$20 093 792 held for coal mines.

The Department has received from mine operators commitments for additional securities of (a) \$5 802 595 from metalliferous mines and (b) \$98 119 484 from coal mines which are now due for payment in line with the Government's Environmental Management Policy for Mining.

191. Great Sandy Region

Mr SLACK asked the Minister for Environment and Heritage—

With reference to the Great Sandy Region growth and development package—

- (1) How much of the State allocation of \$21.2m has been expended?
- (2) How were those funds dispersed?
- (3) How much of the original Commonwealth allocation of \$16.5m has been spent?
- (4) How were those funds dispersed?
- (5) How much of the further Commonwealth commitment of \$13.5m has been spent?
- (6) How were those funds dispersed?
- (7) As Budget papers reveal significant sums from the package, involving both State and Federal funds, have not been spent, will those funds be expended in an extension of the program or have those funds lapsed?

Answer:

- (1) The allocation of \$21.2 million has been spent.
- (2) This amount was spent on business compensation payments:
 - for the relinquishment of all mining leases on Fraser Island;
 - for the closure of the Orchid Beach Resort on Fraser Island; and
 - to twelve timber related business organisations affected by the decision to cease logging on Fraser Island.

Amounts paid to individual recipients were assessed by Price Waterhouse.

- (3) \$15.4 million from the initial Commonwealth Package contribution has been spent.
- (4) This has been spent on:

	\$
Worker's Special Adjustment Package and Assistance	3,000,000
Maryborough Heritage Projects	1,400,000
Road Upgradings—Fraser Island	800,000
Thinning of Pine Plantations Project	500,000
Park Employment Projects	8,200,000
Miscellaneous Employment Creation and Regional Business Promotion	1,500,000

- (5) The Agreement with the Commonwealth Government in relation to supplementary financial assistance provided additional funding of \$9 million not \$13.5 million.

Expenditure to date is \$4.9 million.

- (6) The allocation of \$9 million was provided by the Commonwealth specifically to allow the recipients of business compensation to be paid an additional ex gratia amount to compensate for taxation assessed on the initial amount of compensation paid by the State Government.

The expenditure of \$4.9 million has been for this purpose.

Amounts payable were assessed by and paid to the Australian Taxation Office following verification by Price Waterhouse.

Through careful assessment of taxation exposure of companies, \$3 million of this specifically allocated

amount was saved by the Goss Government and was re-directed by the Commonwealth to other Queensland projects.

- (7) Funds remaining in the Growth and Development Package will not lapse and will be spent within the Great Sandy Region within the six categories of assistance agreed to by the Commonwealth.

192. Mine Safety Inspectors; Coalmines

Mr GILMORE asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

- (1) What was the establishment of mines safety inspectors in Central Queensland in March 1985?
- (2) How many inspectors were employed at that time?
- (3) How many coal mines were serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate in 1985?
- (4) How much coal was extracted in 1985?
- (5) How many persons were employed in coal mines in the Central Queensland Inspectorate area in 1985?
- (6) What is the establishment of mines safety inspectors in Central Queensland in March 1995?
- (7) How many are currently employed?
- (8) How many coal mines are serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate in 1995?
- (9) How much coal was extracted in the 12 months to the end of March 1995 in coal mines serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate?
- (10) How many persons are employed in coal mines in the Central Queensland Inspectorate area in 1995?

Answer:

- (1) In March 1985 the funded establishment was 4 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer in the Central Division (Rockhampton) and 3 Inspectors in the Northern Division (Mackay).
- (2) 4 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer were employed in the Central Division and 3 Inspectors were employed in the Northern Division.
- (3) 8 Underground Mines and 18 Open-cut Mines were serviced by Central Queensland Inspectorate—4 Underground Mines and 9 Open-cut Mines for each Division.
- (4) 62,349,000 tonnes of coal was extracted in the Central and Northern Divisions in the 1984-85 financial year.
- (5) A total of 8,509 persons were employed as at June 1985.
- (6) The funded establishment of staff positions in March 1995 comprised 3 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer in the Central Division and 4 Inspectors in the Northern Division.

(7) A total of 11 Inspectors, 2 Testing Officers and 1 Chief Inspector are currently employed in Queensland. This includes 3 Inspectors and 1 Testing Officer in the Central Division and 3 Inspectors in the Northern Division.

(8) 11 Underground Mines and 20 Open-cut Mines are currently being serviced by the Central Queensland Inspectorate—5 Underground Mines and 11 Open-cut Mines in the Central Division and 6 Underground Mines and 9 Open-cut Mines in the Northern Division.

(9) A total of 101,600,000 tonnes of coal was extracted between 1 February 1994 to 31 January 1995 in the mines serviced by the Central and Northern Division Inspectors. February and March 1995 figures are not yet available.

(10) In January 1995 a total of 9,199 persons were employed in the Queensland Inspectorate area of the Central and Northern Divisions.

193. Southport Broadwater Management Plan

Mr GRICE asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

In view of the fact that (a) when the first draft Broadwater Management Plan was released I was assured that this first draft was initial and a new draft would be forwarded to me and then comment would be sought from many areas, (b) on the morning of 30 March you released what I am told is the definitive management plan that could not even be sourced yesterday by the Parliamentary Library—

- (1) When will your secret management plan be available?
- (2) Is it too late to invite comment from local people?

Answer:

The Member for Broadwater can be assured that commitments made in respect of the initial draft management plan for the Southport Broadwater have indeed been honoured.

The initial draft was released seeking comment and input from local government authorities and from maritime related industries.

The latest draft has been released for public consultation and comment and was put on display in four centres in the Gold Coast area on Thursday 30 March 1995 immediately after I made that announcement.

This draft will remain on display until 28 April 1995 and can be seen at: the offices of the Gold Coast City Council at Evandale and Nerang, and the Marine Operations Base on Seaworld Drive, and the Queensland Transport office in Wardoo Street.

Copies of the draft management plan were mailed to key people, including the Member for Broadwater, and the Parliamentary Library on Friday 31 March 1995.

There is no secrecy about the draft plan, it is on public display.

It is not too late for local people to comment, it is on display so that people can see it and comment is invited.

The draft plan will be revised where necessary to reflect comments received from the public so that the final document presents a well balanced and acceptable arrangement to further maintain marine safety in the area.

194. Police Resources, Clayfield Electorate

Mr SANTORO asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

Will he provide the following information in relation to the Clayfield Electorate and the Northern Brisbane Police Region: (a) the detailed crime statistics for the years 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, (b) the clear up rate for the abovementioned years, (c) the number of police officers and support personnel allocated and actually on duty at the Clayfield electorate police stations and subsequently at the Clayfield police cluster headquarters in Boondall, (d) the details of any Government plans in relation to the sale of existing police stations in the Clayfield electorate and (e) the details of any Government plans to relocate the headquarters of the Clayfield police cluster from its current site in Boondall to another location, including the options being looked at?

Answer:

As official crime statistics are not able to be generated on an electorate basis, it is not possible to provide any crime statistics specific to the Clayfield electorate. However, as the electorate comes within the North Brisbane Police District and the Metro North Police Region, the annually published statistics for those areas provide the best means of looking at reported crime for the area taking in the Clayfield electorate. These figures have more recently been included in separate Police Service Statistical Reviews and previously have appeared in the Queensland Police Service Annual Reports. Such figures also include clear-up rates as well as expressing reported crime in raw numbers and rates so that population variations can be taken into account.

The staff composition within the whole Clayfield Police Division is made up of 60 general duties officers, 14 CIB officers, six JAB officers, six Traffic Branch officers and six Inquiries staff. These members are complemented by seven support personnel who are employed on a full time basis and one additional member who is a part time employee. Clayfield, Hamilton and Windsor stations are staffed by a police officer from the Clayfield Division Headquarters from Monday to Friday 9am-5pm. Scenes of Crime personnel are presently moving into Clayfield Station which will become one of the Regional Scenes of Crime Offices. In addition to the above, two police officers perform duties at the Toombul Police Shopfront.

There are no immediate plans for the sale of existing police facilities in the Clayfield electorate. As part of normal forward planning, there is a view within the Metro North Police Region that the Clayfield Police Division is one of four divisions within that region that would benefit from an all purpose building to accommodate all segments of the division. This would have to be viewed in the context of capital works priorities service-wide.

195. Release of Prisoners

Mr BEANLAND asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

With reference to each prisoner released from the Queensland prison system in 1994 and 1995, will he detail (a) the length of the sentence, (b) the crime for which each prisoner was convicted, (c) the length of sentence undertaken in prison, (d) when eligible for parole, (e) when released on parole, (f) when released on home detention, work release or some other day leave or weekend leave program, (g) whether the offender was imprisoned previously, (h) if so, the period between incarcerations and (i) how many occasions previously the offender had been imprisoned?

Answer:

The number of prisoners released from secure custody in the period between 1 January 1994 and 5 April 1995 is 4 226. To provide the numerous details requested about each of these people would place excess strain on the resources of the QCSC. If the member has any concerns about a particular offender, I shall answer him directly.

196. Shaping the Future

Dr WATSON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the advertising and information distribution program conducted by the Education Department with respect to the "Shaping the Future" policy—

- (1) How much was spent on (a) television and radio advertising and (b) producing each of the various public documents released?
- (2) How many copies of the pamphlets—"Shaping the Future—Queensland Curriculum Review—Information for Parents" were produced?
- (3) How many of these pamphlets were distributed to (a) each region and (b) each school within a region?
- (4) How many of these pamphlets remained uncollected at each region and at each school as of 31 March 1995?

Answer:

(1) The initial information package distributed late last year subsequent to the Government's announcement of the *Shaping the Future* initiatives included 13 500 copies of a 12 page booklet and 2000 sets of information sheets. The total cost was \$22167.82.

The public awareness campaign in February involved the production and transmission of a 45 second television commercial supported by a parent

information brochure available from local schools. The costs were:

TV commercial production	\$47 973.12
TV transmission	\$150 278.55
Brochure	\$44 228.05

(2) A total of 300 000 brochures was produced.

(3) Brochures were distributed as follows:

State schools—1 for every 2 students—203 300

Non-state schools—1 for every 3 students—52 200

School support centres—300 each—14 400

Regional offices—500/300/100 according to size—4 400

QCPCA—100

Reserve supply—25 600

(4) As at 31 March some 2000 copies of the brochure remain uncollected at regional offices and the reserve supply stands at 1950.

Brochures were distributed to schools so that each received approximately half that of the student enrolment. The TV commercial ended with the invitation to those that wanted further information to contact their local school for a copy of the brochure. Some schools in fact distributed all the brochures to classes particularly involved with *Shaping the Future* initiatives this year. Many such schools requested more brochures from regional offices and from central office here in Brisbane. Brochures were distributed to all state and non-state schools a total of almost 2000 school sites. It would be a very time consuming task to ascertain the number of brochures that remain uncollected at this time.

197. School Improvement Assistance Scheme

Mrs SHELDON asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to changes made by his Department to the SISS scheme, which has now become the School Improvement Assistance Scheme for major works improvement for schools—

- (1) Why, when school Parents and Citizens Associations were informed that they must have their applications in for major works by 30 April each year for funding in the following financial year, were no applications considered for the 1995-96 year?
- (2) Why are applications which are lodged by April 1995 being pushed forward to 1996-97?
- (3) Why were schools, like the Caloundra State Primary School, not officially notified of a change in the scheme which meant that they were no longer able to gain funding for the 1995-96 financial year?
- (4) Why was the only notification given to the Parents and Citizens Associations a small advertisement in the Noticeboard section of the Education Views magazine?
- (5) Why have the funding provisions under the School Improvement Assistance Scheme

been changed so that schools now can only apply for dollar-for-dollar subsidies for projects over \$40 000 leaving many schools who have current applications for funding ineligible?

Answer:

(1) The major projects component of the SIAS caters for projects such as swimming pools, assembly halls and activities buildings. There is a significant planning and fundraising time period associated with these projects. A three year planning cycle is a reasonable expectation. Subsidies allocated for major projects under both the new SIAS and SISS will be expended a considerable time after initial approval.

All projects approved under SISS will be honoured. The majority of expenditure on 'major projects' in 1995-96 will relate to projects approved under the old scheme.

Under the new scheme, as was the case previously, there is some flexibility to move funding for projects forward or back as required by school communities (e.g. communities often fall behind in their fundraising and advise that the project will be delayed).

(2) Major projects require forward planning as indicated above.

(3) Caloundra State School, like all other schools, will receive a direct grant in 1995-96 (estimated to be \$3 728). The 1994-95 payment will be \$1 263 as the school has already received \$ 2465 this financial year.

The president of the Caloundra State School Parents and Citizens Association received written advice of the changes in a letter written by the previous Minister of Education (letter dated 22 November 1994, copy attached). School principals were advised of the changes through regions. Further advice has been provided to schools in 1995.

(4) The notice in the Noticeboard section of Education Views was additional to the direct letter to parents and citizens associations.

(5) All projects approved for subsidy under the previous scheme will be honoured.

The direct grant (\$1 000 per school, \$3.80 per student), provided annually, is to assist with smaller projects.

198. Mr W. Cass

Mr J. N. GOSS asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

With reference to the dismissal by legislation of Mr W Cass from the Queensland Building Services Authority—

(1) Why was a termination payment not made to Mr Cass based on the same criteria as that applying to Mr Rod Richards who received \$350 000 after approximately 8 months employment?

(2) Why did he inform the Parliament that Mr Cass had not been sacked when the General Manager of QBSA told the Arbitration Commission that Mr Cass was "terminated by an Act of Parliament"?

(3) Is it correct that the Arbitration Commissioner's decision was that the Commission had no authority to consider the matter as Parliament had determined Mr Cass's dismissal?

(4) Why did he advise the Parliament that Mr Cass' job was redundant when the legislation said the "person goes out of office" not the position is redundant, yet Mr Cass continued to work in this position and the position has now been filled by another person?

Answer:

(1) Mr Cass received the termination payment to which he was entitled under the terms of his employment with the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA). The payment made to Mr Cass was in accordance with the approved benefits set out in the Public Sector Management Standard for Staffing Options to Manage Organisational Change in the Queensland Public Sector (the "Standard").

(2) Following a review of the QBSA by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu the position of Director, Home Building Advisory Service was abolished by amendments to the *Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991*. The Authority believed that the fairest approach was to treat Mr Cass as an employee displaced through organisational change.

Accordingly, the Standard was applied as it defines the appropriate process and compensation packages for such cases. Mr Cass was offered the full range of options available under the Standard. However he rejected all the Authority's attempts to resolve this matter and as a result was retrenched with appropriate compensation.

(3) Yes. Commissioner Swan agreed with the arguments presented by the QBSA, however she said that her determination did not solely relate to a consideration of the abolition by Parliament of the position held by Mr Cass.

(4) Mr Cass was employed in an acting capacity in the QBSA whilst the options under the Standard continued to be explored. During that time, Mr Cass was afforded the opportunity to apply for the position of Manager, Home Building Advice Division and following a merit selection process, another candidate was considered to be the most meritorious applicant and was duly appointed.

199. Noosa River Management Plan

Mr DAVIDSON asked the Minister for Lands—

Will he give consideration to involving the Noosa River Alliance Group in the drafting of the terms of reference for the Noosa River Management Plan?

Answer:

The Department of Environment and Heritage, Noosa Shire Council and my Department of Lands have all committed funds to employ a Consultant to

prepare a plan for the sustainable management of the Noosa River study area which will facilitate

- . the healthy state of the Noosa River
- . commercial operations
- . community use

The terms of reference for the report are being framed by those groups and the fourth member of the Planning Study Group, being the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Primary Industries.

The recently formed Noosa River Alliance has formally advised me of specific issues it believes should be incorporated in the terms of reference of the Consultant's Report. I have passed that request on to the Planning Study Group for consideration.

However, I am not prepared to have the Alliance formally join with the Planning study Group in setting the terms of reference. To do so would be to elevate the status of that group above the many other groups who also have a legitimate and worthwhile contribution to make to the Study.

All interest groups will be given equal and ample opportunity to contribute to the study once the terms of reference are set and a Consultant engaged.

200. Primary Industries Department, Gympie

Mr STEPHAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

With reference to the staffing level of the Department of Primary Industries office at Gympie—

- (1) What is the current number of staff attached to the Department of Primary Industries office at Gympie?
- (2) What were the figures as at 30 June 1989?

Answer:

1. Current number of staff at Gympie:

Salaried	90
Wages	34
TOTAL	124

2. Number of staff at Gympie as at 30 June 1989:

Salaried	94
Wages	42
TOTAL	136

201. Electricity Consumption

Mr FITZGERALD asked the Minister for Minerals and Energy—

With reference to the Government's decision to lower electricity tariffs and in view of the fact that electricity consumption is price sensitive—

- (1) What is the expected average energy sold per customer (kwh) in 1998 for (a) domestic, (b) commercial and (c) industrial electricity?
- (2) What is the expected (a) Standard weather (winter) maximum electricity demand for 1998

and (b) Standard weather (summer) maximum demand for 1998?

Answer:

The expected average energy sold per customer in the financial year ended at 30 June 1998 is— for the domestic sector 6,290kWh; and for the commercial and industrial sector 93,992kWh

Water heating is included in the domestic energy sales. For the commercial and industrial market, energy sold includes supply to Queensland Alumina Ltd (QAL) and Pacific Power but excludes consumption by Boyne Smelters Ltd (BSL).

- (a) the expected standard weather (winter) maximum electricity demand for 1998 is 5,900MW.
- (b) the expected standard weather (summer) maximum electricity demand for the financial year 1997/98 is 5,540MW.

The standard weather maximum electricity demand is the total generation on the Queensland Interconnected System at the time of peak demand under normal weather conditions for the season. BSL's electricity demand is included in the demand figures quoted.

202. Local Government Amalgamations; Local Government Commissioner

Mrs McCAULEY asked the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Rural Communities—

- (1) What local government areas of Queensland does he intend to refer to the Local Government Commissioner for investigation when his present references are complete, most of which will apparently be done by the end of 1995?
- (2) Does he envisage further possible amalgamations; if not, what activities will the Local Government Commissioner be occupied with until his term expires?

Answer:

(1) I expect to issue a number of minor references within the next month in response to requests received for external boundary alterations. These references will only be issued where each Local Government involved in the review supports the boundary alteration.

(2) The Local Government Commissioner holds two references which would permit him to make a recommendation for the amalgamation of Councils. These references flow from the Report of the Parliamentary Committee for Electoral and Administrative Review (PCEAR) and relate to-

- (a) the area of the Shire of Clifton and the area of the Shire of Cambooya; and
- (b) Fraser Island and the Great Sandy Region which includes the areas of the Cities of Maryborough and Hervey Bay and the Shires of Noosa and Cooloola.

Another 3 references involving boundary alterations that came out of the PCEAR process have also been made to the Commissioner. As well, the Commissioner holds a reference to review the composition of the Flinders Shire Council.

203. Bamaga Hospital

Mr HORAN asked the Minister for Health—

Will he advise if the single accommodation duplexes built at Bamaga Hospital for Nursing Staff are now to be used on a shared or single basis?

Answer:

An Interim Report and a draft Final Report of the Ministerial Task Force on Remote Area Nursing which I am about to consider, has recommended that new and replacement accommodation for nurses in remote areas be "a minimum of two bedroom, self-contained accommodation with a proportion of three bedroom houses suitable to accommodate nurses with families". The report does not propose any specific entitlement of individual nurses and the draft standard allows for "changing room configurations depending on individual staff and Regional Health Authority needs". A separate recommendation also proposes that Regional Health Authorities allocate housing on the basis of need rather than status of staff.

In May 1993, the Government approved, as part of the Remote Area Accommodation component of the Capital Works Program, the provision of accommodation for nursing staff at Bamaga. The Functional Plan and Economic Evaluation for Remote Area Accommodation in Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait identified the need for six units of accommodation for six registered nurses at Bamaga. This translated to two houses (2 units) and two duplexes (4 units), as detailed in the Project Definition Plan. The six units of accommodation currently under construction and nearing completion, were designed in accordance with the draft standard recommended by the Ministerial Task Force on Remote Area Nursing, with each unit satisfying the minimum two bedroom requirement. Additionally, Government approval was granted for the existing nurses quarters at Bamaga to be refurbished in order to provide accommodation for visiting health staff to the area.

Any additional health services planned for the Bamaga area, which have housing requirement implications, should be resolved through application for additional housing to the Government Employee Housing Scheme, prior to the commencement of the recruitment process.

204. Moranbah State High School

Mr MITCHELL asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the welding facilities at the Moranbah High School which are inadequate to accommodate the number of students participating in these vocational classes.

Will he give an undertaking to look at the possibility to increase or extend the area required to carry out welding classes at the school?

Answer:

Planning for the 1995-96 financial year Major Capital Works Program is underway. It commenced in August 1994 when all schools in Capricornia Region were surveyed to determine their needs. Moranbah State High School identified as its highest priority a new construction court.

Priorities for major capital works in Capricornia Region of the Department of Education covering some 174 schools were allocated as a result of consultation with each school support centre coordinator and the School Support Centre Advisory Council Standing Committee on Resources and Administration.

I am advised that a new construction court for Moranbah State High School has been given a reasonably high regional priority.

The level of funding provided will determine what projects on the priority list will be undertaken during 1995-96. Works are undertaken in priority order with the most needy projects provided first. This priority order is constantly under review because of sudden changes in population or urgent needs arising from unforeseen circumstances such as fires.

The situation at Moranbah State High School will be kept under review by officers of the department. These officers are however working within strict budget limits and must ensure that funds are distributed fairly and for the most effective results.

205. Sunshine Coast Health Services

Miss SIMPSON asked the Minister for Health—

Given that waiting lists for physiotherapy appointments for the public, excluding people who have been inpatients of Nambour Hospital or the fracture clinic, are conservatively 12 months long while at Royal Brisbane the wait-time for chronic physiotherapy cases is five to six weeks and for acute cases, two to three weeks—

What action is the Government going to take to ensure equity of access to health services, particularly for physiotherapy patients, on the Sunshine Coast?

Answer:

The Queensland Government's commitment to the principles of access and equity has seen the budget of the Nambour Hospital grow from approximately \$23m in 1988-89 to about \$45m in the current financial year.

Urgent physiotherapy outpatient referrals are seen within two to four weeks at the Nambour Hospital, which is similar to the waiting period at the Royal Brisbane Hospital. Consideration will be given to the need for additional physiotherapy services at the Nambour Hospital on receipt of increases in funding made under the Resource Allocation Formula for 1995-96.

206. Parking Area Redevelopment at Mourilyan Harbour

Mr ROWELL asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to a prediction that the sugar shipment out of Mourilyan Harbour will increase more than 50% by the year 2018 —

If the proposal to redevelop the boat ramp/car parking area at Mourilyan Harbour as an additional sugar storage shed does not proceed, where will the storage shed be constructed?

Answer:

As I have assured the Member for Hinchinbrook, this government and the Ports Corporation of Queensland (PCQ) are committed to responsible port planning and this is evidenced in the draft Mourilyan Port Plan presently undergoing public consultation.

A section of this port plan is devoted to a commodity analysis which forecasts a 2.5% per annum increase in sugar exports.

The timing, volume and location of any related increase in sugar storage will be a matter for the sugar industry to determine and the Ports Corporation will respond to the industry by attempting to accommodate any request for additional sugar storage at the port.

Rather than increase storage of raw sugar at the port it is feasible that the industry may decide that some storage could occur at the mills and I am certain such an option would be investigated fully by the sugar industry.

It is pre-empting the current port planning process to determine with certainty where any additional sugar storage would be located. However, two options which may be available are:

- extending the existing shed to the west,
- or, construction of a new shed behind the boat ramp car park.

The Ports Corporation has given an undertaking that the current level of public boating facilities will remain within the harbour. In the event that the existing facilities need to be relocated, new public facilities would be made available prior to any closure of existing facilities.

207. Numbering of Highway Exits

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the confusion suffered by interstate visitors as to which highway exit they should take to reach a particular destination, as highway exit signs are not (and cannot be) comprehensively labelled—

- (1) Will he give consideration to numbering exits (as happens in the United Kingdom and other European countries) in order to make travel on

our highways easier to manage for those unfamiliar with a particular region?

- (2) Will he give consideration to the Pacific Highway between the New South Wales Border and Brisbane for a pilot program for the numbering of highway exits?

Answer:

Advance Exit Signs and Exit Direction Signs on Highways are designed in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Qld).

The use of exit numbers was trialled on the first sections of the South East Freeway but it was found to be superfluous and the practice was dropped and the numbers removed.

The use of focal point destinations together with route numbers on exit signage gives positive information to motorists and can be correlated to information supplied on maps to enable motorists to negotiate the road network.

A further trial of Exit Numbers is not considered appropriate as it may cause confusion with the existing route numbering system used by Queensland Transport.

208. Bus Travel by Mature Age Students

Mr MALONE asked the Minister for Education—

- (1) Is it correct that adult students are not eligible for concessional student travel on school buses?
- (2) If so; (a) what is the reason and (b) will he remedy this anomaly?

Answer:

The primary intent of school transport assistance is to assist parents with the cost of transporting their dependent children to the nearest state school with the required year level should they live some distance from that school or their incomes qualify them for safety-net assistance.

The maintenance of existing school transport schemes is a major cost item for the government with a current operating budget of \$88m for the 1994-95 financial year. As a result it has always been necessary to focus limited resources on school-age students, particularly those in the compulsory years of schooling. Given this focus, it is considered that assistance for adult students falls outside the scope of current programs and does not constitute an anomaly.

Current eligibility guidelines for school transport assistance state:

The student must not have attained the age of 19 years at the time of application. A student 19 years or older may be eligible for assistance provided they are progressing directly from full-time study in Year 10.

This policy is consistent with that which applies to the Textbook and Resource Allowance.

209. Appointments to Magistrates Court Branch, Toowoomba

Mr HEALY asked the Minister for Justice and Attorney-General—

With reference to the fact that there has been no full time Registrar and Area Manager attached to the Magistrates Courts Branch, Courts Division, Toowoomba, for almost twelve months, and that the gazetted appointment on the 17 March of Mr Roger Stark's date of appointment to the position as being "date of duty",

When will Mr Stark take up the position and what action is being taken to fill two other Clerk (Administration) positions in Toowoomba that have been vacant for several months?

Answer:

Mr Stark was to have taken up duty on 26 April, 1995; but an appeal has been lodged against his appointment and he will not now take up duty until the appeal is determined.

A Selection Panel has been constituted under the Chair of Mr Stark, and the approved selection process will be followed in making appointments to the two vacant positions of Clerk (Administration) as soon as possible.

210. Queensland Industry Development Corporation

Mr QUINN asked the Treasurer—

With reference to the Queensland Industry Development Corporation—

Will he provide details of (a) the number of foreclosures of rural properties by the QIDC in the financial years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 to date, (b) the number of rural properties under review by the QIDC's new customer risk classification system for possible foreclosure and (c) the number of foreclosures currently being disputed through the court system?

Answer:

One of the objectives of corporatisation of the Queensland Industry Development Corporation (QIDC) was to introduce competitive neutrality, whereby QIDC would be at neither an advantage or a disadvantage relative to other financiers. It is considered that since other financial institutions are not required to place on the public record the number of properties under review for possible foreclosure then neither should QIDC.

As parts (a) and (c) of the question relate to matters of history and fact, information can be provided. However in relation to part (b) only general information on the operations of QIDC can be provided.

- (a) QIDC advises that the number of foreclosures of rural properties by the QIDC were five in 1990-91, eight in 1991-92, eight in 1992-93, nine in 1993-94 and five in 1994-95.
- (b) A recent survey of rural debt in Queensland indicated that 6% of farm businesses are either in danger of becoming non-viable, or are

considered non-viable. QIDC advises that the proportion of QIDC borrowers that are in these categories is less than the state-wide situation as indicated by the survey.

- (c) QIDC advises that there are no foreclosures currently being disputed through the court system.

211. Family Court of Australia, Family Reports

Mr LITTLEPROUD asked the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs—

With reference to the Department of Family Services' working relationship with the Family Law Court, whereby an officer prepares a family report for consideration by the Family Law Court during its deliberations.

- (1) Is she aware that these family reports are often pivotal in the decision making process?
- (2) Are these reports checked to ensure they are an accurate assessment of the family members concerned?
- (3) Will she detail the checks made to ensure these family reports are fair and accurate?

Answer:

(1) Mr Littleproud seems to be referring to reports concerning the welfare of children involved in custody, access or guardianship disputes for the Family Court of Australia, often called "Family Reports", which are ordered by Judges of the Family Court of Australia pursuant to Section 62A of the *Family Law Act 1975*. These reports are prepared by staff from the Court Counselling Section of the Family Court of Australia. Staff from the Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs are not involved in either the counselling sessions with family members nor the preparation of the report. Family Reports form part of the evidence before the court at a hearing, and outline the options which are in the best interests of the child and contain important information concerning assessments of family functioning, the relationships of both parents with the child, as well as other considerations relevant to the welfare of the child.

Any questions concerning Family Reports should be directed to the Commonwealth Attorney-General.

The Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs is sometimes requested to intervene in a custody or access dispute before the Family Court of Australia, in cases where there are allegations of child abuse and/or neglect, by an order pursuant to Section 91B of the *Family Law Act 1975*. In 1994 a protocol was developed to facilitate contact between officers of the Department and the Family Court of Australia. Section 91B Reports contain a summarised factual history of previous departmental involvement with family members including details of any investigations of allegations of child abuse and neglect. The 91B Reports do not contain assessments of family members as such and could not therefore, be

assumed to always be "pivotal in the decision making process" of the court in its deliberations about custody, access and guardianship.

(2) Section 91B Reports are accurate accounts of departmental involvement.

(3) Departmental officers consult closely with the child's Separate Legal Representative when preparing a Section 91B Report to ensure that the report is accurate and relevant to the issues in the Family Court proceedings. Officers preparing Section 91B Reports are supervised by their line managers. There is a further check on the accuracy of Section 91B Reports because the authors of these reports may be cross-examined in the hearing before the Family Court and the departmental records may also be subpoenaed by the parties.

212. Yeppoon Community Health Centre

Mr LESTER asked the Minister for Health—

With reference to the need for extra staff at the Community Health Centre at Yeppoon and as there is sometimes a three month wait for counselling at the centre—

What action will be taken to alleviate this situation?

Answer:

The new Yeppoon Community Health Services Centre is a tangible result of this Government's capital works program. The Centre provides a comprehensive range of health care services, including counselling services, to the population of the Capricorn Coast. Demand for the services available at the Centre has increased with the reduction of services provided by Centacare—a Catholic organisation providing family counselling services.

The Yeppoon Community Health Services Centre currently has no waiting list for urgent community health services and non-urgent cases being seen within two weeks.

213. Cecil Plains State School; Clifton State School

Mr ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Education—

With reference to the old School Improvement Subsidy Scheme which his Government has abolished in favour of the School Assistance Scheme—

Will the Minister give an assurance that both Cecil Plains and Clifton State Schools, who have been adversely affected by the change of policy, will receive necessary funding to assist with (a) the resurfacing of the Cecil Plains School tennis courts and (b) a shade area for Clifton State School?

Answer:

(1) Cecil Plains State School

No record is held of any claim for assistance for resurfacing the tennis courts. The school will be in receipt of an annual direct grant of approximately \$1 664 per annum from 1995-96. In 1994-95 there

will be no direct grant payment as the school has already received payment of \$2 792.35 in 1994-95 toward two garden sheds and playground equipment under SISS.

The table below provides a recent history of subsidy payments for Cecil Plains State School.

Table 1: Subsidy claims—Cecil Plains State School

Year	Description	Amount Paid	Total
1994-95	Garden shed	\$811.35	
	Garden shed	\$833.50	
	Playground equipment	\$1 147.50	\$2 792.35
1993-94	Freezer	\$200.00	\$200.00
1992-93	Hose for irrigation	\$300.00	
	Ground improvement	\$400.31	\$700.31
1991-92	Nil		Nil
1990-91	Ground improvements	\$690.00	\$690.00
1989-90*	Pie warmer	\$205.00	
	Fertiliser	\$67.87	\$272.87

* Excludes ride-on mower claim. Ride-on mowers are now provided by the Department.

Cecil Plains will receive an annual direct grant of \$1 664. In the period 1989-90 to 1994-95 the school has only once claimed in excess of this amount.

Cecil Plains SS is eligible to apply for assistance for major projects within the approved guidelines (i.e. no special consideration). For smaller projects, such as the resurfacing of tennis courts, direct grant funds should be used.

(2) Clifton State School

The school did seek subsidy on a shade area project (total cost \$9 600) on 17 November 1994. Under SISS, the subsidy payment on this project would have been \$4 800. Applications dated later than 14 November 1994 were returned to schools. The SISS was under review from 1993 and schools were anticipating a change. It was essential to have a cut-off date and the Clifton SS just missed that date.

Clifton State School will be in receipt of an annual grant of approximately \$1 724 from 1995-96. In 1994-95 the direct grant will be \$1 459 as the school was paid \$265 for a garden shed in December 1994 under the SISS. The table below provides a recent history of claims for Clifton State School.

Table 2: Subsidy claims—Clifton State School

Year	Description	Amount Paid	Total
1994-95	Garden shed	\$265.00	\$265.00
1993-94	Multipurpose court	\$14 179.50	\$14 179.50
1992-93	*Landscaping	\$2 090.00	
	Ground improvements	\$2 648.00	\$4 738.00
1991-92	Cricket pitch and nets	\$1 117.75	\$1 117.75
1990-91	Microwave oven	\$144.50	
	Trimmer	\$186.18	
	Tuckshop claim	\$162.50	\$483.18
1989-90	*Resurfacing tennis court	\$675.00	
	Urn	\$47.42	\$722.42

* Mowers excluded as they are now provided at full Government expense.

In both 1993-94 and 1992-93, Clifton State School claimed in excess of their direct grant payment.

214. Police Resources, Gold Coast

Mr CONNOR asked the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services—

What plans does the Government have to increase police resources on the Gold Coast in order to (a) provide more police on the beat, (b) provide more vehicles for patrol work and (c) decrease the response time to investigate reported crime?

Answer:

A number of initiatives have been implemented to provide more police on the beat on the Gold Coast. These have included the establishment of a Police Shopfront at Australia Fair on 26 September 1994, staffed by an additional two police officers and an additional administrative officer with resources allocated to allow four Saturday shifts and two Sunday shifts per week, as well as a supplement of overtime units. A Police Post was also established in Cavill Mall in November 1994. This Post was staffed with two additional police officers and an additional administrative officer, with resources allocated to allow three Saturday shifts and three Sunday shifts per week, as well as a supplement of eight hours per week overtime.

Temporary Shopfronts are currently operating at Pacific Fair, Broadbeach, The Pines, Elanora and Palm Beach. These Shopfronts operate during peak holiday and business periods.

While there are no immediate plans for an increase in police vehicles in the Gold Coast Police District, local senior officers believe a more effective rostering system, resulting from the pending implementation of the Police Service's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, will result in a more efficient use of vehicles already in the area (since sufficient officers will be available to operate as many vehicles as possible at all times).

The reliability of the existing police vehicle fleet has also been enhanced through the use of lower speedometer changeovers.

A number of initiatives have been set in place to decrease response times in the investigation of reported crimes. These include the introduction of an Information Management System (IMS) in October 1994 at the Police Communications Centre, Broadbeach, which has resulted in the improved coordination of tasking, with a subsequent improvement in response timings to calls for assistance. Additionally, the introduction of the Crime Reporting Information System for Police (CRISP) in March 1994 has served to decrease response times to investigate reported crime. Police using this system can telephone in information from a complainant's location and skilled data entry staff can enter it onto the computer system. This means that information is available immediately to investigating police. The system is further improved when initial police investigations are tasked within

24 hours and sufficient staff resources are allocated to allow follow up action to occur within the shortest possible time.

It should also be remembered in the context of any questioning of police presence on the Gold Coast that under the Goss Labor Government, police numbers in the Gold Coast Police District have increased at almost four times the rate of population growth in that district.

There will also be a greatly enhanced street presence delivered soon via the introduction of the enterprise bargaining agreement placing more police out during peak crime periods.

215. School Guidance Officers, Mooloolah Electorate

Mr LAMING asked the Minister for Education—

How many hours per week are Guidance Officers assigned to the following schools in my electorate: (a) Buddina State School, (b) Mountain Creek State School, (c) Buderim State School, (d) Mooloolaba State School, (e) Mooloolah State School, (f) Glenview State School, (g) Chevallum State School and (h) Mountain Creek High School?

Answer:

1. Guidance officers are allocated to schools in the Mooloolah electorate on the basis of days rather than hours.

2. School allocations are as follows:

SCHOOL ALLOCATION	GUIDANCE OFFICER
Buddina SS	2.5 days per week
Mountain Creek SS	1 day per week
Buderim Mountains SS	1 day per week
Mooloolaba SS	2 days per week
Mooloolah SS	.5 day per week
Glenview SS	.5 day per week
Chevallum SS	.5 day per week
Mountain Creek SHS	2.5 days per week

3. A school day is equivalent to approximately 6 hours.

216. Anzac Day Betting

Mr TURNER asked the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development—

With reference to the year of remembrance which marks 50 years since World War II ended—

- (1) Will returned soldiers face fines and charges if they are caught playing Two-up on Anzac Day?
- (2) Will the Government give consideration to making it legal for Two-up to be played on Anzac Days?

Answer:

(1) No. Playing Two-up in places other than licensed casinos is currently an offence under the Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1886. However, members of the Police Service traditionally have

exercised their discretion in relation to the offence of playing Two-up on Anzac Day. I would anticipate that the police will continue to exercise that discretion during the forthcoming 50th anniversary celebrations on Anzac Day.

(2) Yes. The Government is currently considering this matter in connection with the forthcoming Summary Offences Bill which will cover the gaming offences currently included in Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1886.

217. Fire Service

Mr BEATTIE asked the Deputy Premier, Minister for Emergency Services and Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Rural Affairs—

With reference to the Queensland Fire Service—

- (1) Is it correct that the previous National Party Government allowed Fire Brigades to run up massive capital works debts and overdrafts?
- (2) Is it correct that the previous Government introduced an urban fire levy, found that it would not adequately finance fire services in this State, but at the same time froze the levy for three years thereby freezing revenue for the service?
- (3) Is it correct to overcome this lack of funds, Fire Brigades were allowed to go into overdraft?
- (4) What steps have been taken by the Goss Government to overcome these chronic funding difficulties?
- (5) Have the massive debts and overdrafts built up under the previous National Party Government been paid off?
- (6) Is it correct that a continuation of National Party Government policy from 1989 to the present day would have crippled fire services with growing capital debts, overdrafts and frozen income?
- (7) What was the impact of this disastrous policy on the provision of vehicles and equipment for firefighters?
- (8) What initiatives have been taken by the Goss Government to improve fire services to the people of Queensland?
- (9) Has the fire service now been provided with new uniforms?
- (10) How many new firefighters have been trained in the last two years and how many are proposed for the next twelve months?

Answer—

(1) Yes. When the QFS was formed in 1990 it assumed responsibility for the following debts: Loans for Capital Outlays—\$29.6 million.

They included—

- \$7.478 million for the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board
- \$5.547 for the South Coast Fire Brigade Board
- \$1 million for Cairns
- \$1.295 for Rockhampton; and
- \$ 1.246 for Townsville.

In addition, overdrafts (largely to pay wages) totalled \$27.7 million, giving a total indebtedness of \$57.3 million.

(2) A Fire Levy System was introduced in 1984-85 replacing the insurance-based system which was flawed and inequitable.

There was an initial public reaction to the new levy system and the Liberal/National Party Government refused to increase domestic levies for four fiscal years even though costs were escalating.

The commercial levy was never appropriately implemented. I'm advised that the Minister of the day when responding to criticism told authorities to charge what they felt was a fair thing.

The result of this policy was that expenditure during the period exceeded income substantially.

(3) Yes. When Queensland Fire Service came into being in 1990, the level of the overdraft was \$27.7 million .

(4) Since this government came into power, fire service levies have been increased by at least CPI.

The overdraft has been reduced

1991	\$14.9 million
1992	\$10.2 million
1993	\$6.9 million
1994	\$0.8 million

This reduction has been achieved by careful management of Queensland Fire Service funds by way of saving in expenditure, foregoing of Capital Works, and at the expense of the Appliance Replacement program.

In 1994/95, levies were increased above CPI to provide for the first time, additional funds (\$5.0 Million) for capital works and appliance replacement.

The Queensland Fire Service Trust Fund should now stay "in funds" or "in the black" and future savings and growth can be applied to capital works and appliances.

The separate Fire Brigade Board loans for Capital Outlays were consolidated in 1990 for a single loan of \$29.6 million with the Queensland Treasury Corporation.

In 1993 the loan was renegotiated and extended for a further 5 years to reduce the interest and redemption payment figure from \$6.8 million to \$3.5 million per annum.

Savings were applied to overdraft reduction and made available for Capital Outlays.

(5) The balance of loans for capital outlays at June 1995 is expected to be \$18.5 million. The overdraft has been eliminated and the Trust Fund is in credit.

(6) Loan indebtedness for the Boards as at 30th June 1989 and 30th June 1990 indicated that the total loan indebtedness had grown from \$25,300,811 to \$29,636,298 in 12 months.

For example—

- South Coast had grown from \$5,243,324 to \$5,547,593;
- Metropolitan from \$6,097,663 to \$7,478,054;
- Townsville from \$504,026 to \$1,246,178.

If this had continued, it is estimated that the debt for 1994/95 would have been \$51,313,733.

This coupled with an overdraft total \$27.7 million and frozen income through frozen levies was a recipe for disaster with some Boards managing well and others going further and further into debt where if such a pattern continued, they would be unable to fund any Capital Works and in some cases not pay wages.

(7) The QFS in 1990 inherited a fleet of old vehicles, over 100 being more than 15 years old.

New turnout clothing was not supplied until after the election of the Labor Government.

Many fire stations were poorly maintained, in some cases unable to house modern fire appliances. Boots, helmets, gloves, breathing apparatus and other equipment in many cases could not be upgraded because of the poor state of the finances.

(8) The 1993/94 budget totalled for Capital Outlays was \$6.5 Million.

In the 1994/95 financial year, the Queensland Fire Service received an additional \$5 million revenue from an increased levy approved by the Government and from levy adjustments where anomalies were identified.

This financial year (1994/95) \$13.979 million was approved for capital works and vehicle replacements.

The major components of this allocation are:

. Appliances	\$9.34 million
. Fire Alarm System	1.60 million
. QES CAD	.50 million
. HRM payroll	.25 million
. Regional CAD	.25 million
. Hervey Bay Fire Station	.11 million
. Communication systems	.64 million
. Operational equipment	.45 million
. Other equipment	.83 million
	\$13.97 million

It is anticipated that all these funds will be expended with the exception of \$7 million carryover for Appliances which is due to contractual arrangements, long lead times and shipping delays in imported components from overseas.

Appliances: A total of 33 fire appliances at an estimated cost of \$9.34 Million will be ordered this financial year (1994/95).

This will provide:

- . 2 High Reach (33m or 100ft) Aerial Appliances to be located at Brisbane and Southport (approximate value \$1 million each);
- . 4 Telescopic Aerial Pumpers (approximate value \$500,000 each);
- . 10 Standard Urban Pumpers (approximate value \$300,000 each); and
- . 17 Pumper/Tankers for country centres (approximate value \$180,000 each).

Most of these vehicles will replace appliances more than 20 years old.

A prototype 4x4 Appliance is being developed for rapid intervention and rural/urban firefighting.

Appliances have been upgraded at Harrisville, Kalbar, Lowood, Rathdowney, Taringa, Wynnum and Acacia Ridge.

Communications: Joint Communication Centres will continue to be developed to provide a more cost effective and operationally efficient service.

An estimated cost of \$600,000 has been allocated to this initiative and will improve communications in Toowoomba and Cairns for Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Fire Service.

A cost saving of \$125,000 has been realised by sharing equipment.

More firefighters will be equipped with portable radio equipment in the continuing program to provide greater inter-personnel communications on the fireground. This continuing program is estimated to cost \$100,000 this year.

Radio Communications network upgrades in Mt Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Ingham, Atherton, Mareeba, Port Douglas, Innisfail, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Stanthorpe, Warwick, Maryborough, Hervey Bay, Gympie, Sunshine Coast, Cleveland, Capalaba and Beaudesert have been completed or being carried out at a total cost of \$300,000.

Regionalisation of communications to the Cairns Communication Centre will include fire alarm monitoring and radio traffic.

The statewide introduction of the portable radio battery maintenance program has occurred. This will result in a cost saving with improved battery life and operational readiness.

Auxiliary Firefighter communication has been improved with the development of remote area paging equipment and the implementation of an improved telephone recall system statewide. This will allow auxiliaries to respond faster to fire calls.

Fire Alarm Monitoring: The replacement of Automatic Fire Alarm Monitoring equipment will provide a more efficient monitoring system with less labour intensive involvement in the Firecom centres. At an estimated cost of \$1.6 Million this is required because of Telecom's technology upgrade to fibre optic cable.

Computer Aided Dispatch: The present Queensland Fire Service interim Computer Aided Dispatch system is being upgraded and will be introduced into Regions across the State pending the completion of specifications for a Queensland Emergency Services, Computer Aided Dispatch system.

A new Computer Aided Dispatch system has been installed at Fire Comm, Brisbane.

Research and Development: A Research and Development section has been established to carry out Research and Development projects on Queensland Fire Service equipment, uniforms, appliances and firefighting technology.

Research is being undertaken into Breathing Apparatus communications equipment to establish an improved communications system for Breathing Apparatus operations.

Queensland Fire Service is investigating a means of upgrading Distress Signal Units which are used with Breathing Apparatus at emergencies.

Research is being undertaken on the Telescopic Aerial Pump rebuild program—to refurbish ageing TAP appliances where cost effective.

Breathing Apparatus: The Fire Service has initiated a program to introduce breathing apparatus that will allow firefighters to enter inhospitable environments for a greater period of time and improve firefighter safety while increasing standardised breathing apparatus equipment.

This long duration usage breathing apparatus will allow up to 50 minutes to be spent firefighting instead of the present up to 35 minutes. Tenders were called on 24 February 1994 and following evaluations in December 1994, Fire Services are now awaiting approval for the recommended set from the National Association of Testing Authorities.

The Queensland Fire Service is closely monitoring the situation as the approval could take up to twelve months.

Buildings and Equipment: Queensland Fire Service has joined with Queensland Ambulance Service to establish a joint facility at Caboolture.

New Auxiliary fire station for Hervey Bay will be completed in June 1995.

Capital Works have been undertaken at the following stations: Jandowae, Miles, Roma, Wallangarra, Toowoomba, Anzac Avenue (Toowoomba) and Warwick.

Queensland Fire Service is currently establishing a panel of suppliers to supply Road Accident Hydraulic Rescue Equipment.

Fifty lengths of hose were delivered to Stradbroke Island fire station at a total cost of \$11,000.

Road Accident Rescue: Additional Road Accident Rescue equipment was supplied to Burleigh Heads, Gatton, Lowood, Boonah Loganlea, Millmerran, Miles, Allora and Charleville.

(9) Yes.

Protective Clothing: 2200 new style Turnout clothing outfits for permanent firefighters was developed in

consultation with the United Firefighters Union and are being issued this year at a cost of \$1.4 Million.

Permanent firefighters have been issued with new upgraded standard helmets.

Auxiliary firefighters are progressively being issued with new upgraded standard helmets this financial year.

Queensland Fire Service is seeking to improve the protection and quality of firefighting gloves and boots.

New firefighting gloves have been purchased and issued.

The contract for a further new issue will be let this year.

It is proposed to work with Australian manufacturers and to take advantage of new technology.

Research is being undertaken to provide improved Thermal protection to firefighters' Station wear uniforms (their normal walkout uniform of blue trousers and light blue shirt is not fire resistant) by using high technology fabrics.

(10) 67 recruits have been trained since January 1993.

The QFS Recruitment Process has been reviewed and improved.

A Statewide Program was conducted to inform potential candidates about the process and to encourage women and people from all community groups to consider the fire service as a career.

Over the next 18 months nearly 100 Queenslanders will commence careers with the Queensland Fire Service.

The recruitment process is almost complete and a recruit training course of 32 firefighters will be held commencing May 1995.

This will be followed up by two courses in 1995/96 for a further 64 recruits with an option for a third course.

The Honourable Member should be aware that the previous Government's financial mismanagement of Fire Service funding has made the tasks of our professional firefighters more difficult. I am personally very appreciative of their acceptance of the need for tight financial management and the resultant temporary reduction in capital spending.