



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 April 2008

56th Parliament

*Issued by Authority of the President of the Legislative Council
and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

The Progress on Investigations provides a summary of the activities of Joint Investigatory Committees and Select Committees with investigatory functions.

1. The Joint Investigatory Committees of the Victorian Parliament are appointed pursuant to the ***Parliamentary Committees Act 2003***.

The functions of the **Joint Investigatory Committees** are detailed in sections 7 to 17 of the Act which, by section 33, also makes the following provisions regarding their role, sources of references and priorities in considering references:

- (1) A Joint Investigatory Committee must inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any proposal, matter or thing that is relevant to its functions and has been referred to the Committee-
 - (a) by resolution of the Council or the Assembly; or
 - (b) by Order of the Governor in Council published in the Government Gazette.
- (2) A resolution of the Council or the Assembly referred to in sub-section (1)(a) may specify a period of time within which the Joint Investigatory Committee must make a final report to the Parliament on the proposal, matter or thing.
- (3) A Joint Investigatory Committee may inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any annual report or other document relevant to the functions of the Committee that is laid before either House of the Parliament in accordance with an Act.
- (4) In carrying out its functions, a Joint Investigatory Committee must –
 - (a) give priority before all other proposals, matters or things being inquired into or being considered by the Committee-
 - (i) first to those proposals, matters or things referred to it by resolution of the Council or the Assembly; and
 - (ii) second, to those proposals, matters or things referred to it by Order of the Governor in Council published in the Government Gazette; and
 - (b) comply with any limitation of time specified under sub-section (2).

2. Select and Standing Committees may be established by resolution of either House of the Parliament and operate in accordance with the Standing Orders and not the ***Parliamentary Committees Act 2003***.

* * * * *

www.parliament.vic.gov.au

TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOINT INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEES

Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee	5
Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee	7
Education and Training Committee	9
Electoral Matters Committee	13
Environment and Natural Resources Committee	15
Family and Community Development Committee	17
Law Reform Committee	21
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee	23
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee	25
Road Safety Committee	29
Rural and Regional Committee	31
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee	35

SELECT AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Gaming Licensing Select Committee	39
Public Land Development Select Committee	41
Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee	43

DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2815 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2838

Email: dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/dcpc>

Members:

(Council) *Mr S Leane and Ms J Mikakos.*

(Assembly) *Hon A Haermeyer, Mr H Delahunty, Mrs J Maddigan,
Mr A McIntosh and Mr D Morris.*

Chair: Mrs Judy Maddigan

Executive Officer: Ms Sandy Cook

INQUIRY INTO THE MISUSE/ABUSE OF BENZODIAZEPINES AND OTHER FORMS OF PHARMACEUTICAL DRUGS IN VICTORIA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 November 2007 on the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs in Victoria with particular regard to:

- (a) examining the nature, extent and culture of the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs;
- (b) examining the short and long term consequences/harms of the abuse/misuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs;
- (c) examining the relationship between benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs and other forms of licit and illicit substance use;
- (d) reviewing the adequacy of existing strategies for dealing with benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs misuse/abuse;
- (e) recommending best practice strategies to address the issue of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs, including regulatory, law enforcement, education and treatment responses; and
- (f) examining national and international legislation, reports and materials relevant to the issue.

Activities during April 2008

- **Awaiting Government response**
- **Mail out of Report continued.**

INQUIRY INTO JUSTICE AND CRIME STRATEGIES IN HIGH VOLUME CRIMES

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008 on justice and crime strategies in high volume crimes such as breaking and entering, which often involve young people – and the Committee is to recommend on:

- (a) strategies that will reduce high volume crimes with particular emphasis on residential burglaries being committed by young people; and
- (b) strategies that are effective because they change the environment in which these offences are likely to be committed .

Activities during April 2008

- Review of literature continued
- The Committee undertook a night time site visit of the CBD with representatives of Victoria Police - 5 April 2008
- Received an informal background briefing from Ms Jan Noblett, Director Youth Services and Juvenile Justice Department, Department of Human Services - 14 April 2008.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Misuse/Abuse of Benzodiazepines and Other Forms of Pharmaceutical Drugs in Victoria — Response due 6 June 2008.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2832 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2818

Email: edic@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic>

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Atkinson, Mr D Davis, Mr B Tee and Mr E Thornley*

(Assembly) *Hon. C Campbell, Mr. P .Crisp and Ms M. Thomson*

Chair: Hon. Christine Campbell, MP

Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

INQUIRY INTO KEY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES IN VICTORIA'S FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2007 on the key competitive advantages underpinning the performance and growth in Victoria's financial services sector, particularly with regard to the sector's presence interstate, and recommend strategies to:

- (a) maintain this growth;
- (b) maximise employment opportunities from the sector's further expansion;
- (c) ensure the benefit of the sector's growth and operation are shared across the state; and
- (d) identify likely risks and impediments to the sector.

The reporting date for the inquiry has been extended from 31 December 2007 to 31 July 2008.

INQUIRY INTO MANDATORY ETHANOL AND BIOFUELS TARGETS IN VICTORIA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on mandatory ethanol and biofuels target in Victoria – and, in particular, the Committee is required to:

- (a) report on the merits or otherwise of a mandated target for alternative fuels including biofuels and ethanol;
- (b) report on whether a mandatory target should be 5% by 2010, 10% by 2015 or otherwise;
- (c) report on the measures required by Government to facilitate an alternative fuels industry in Victoria for transport and non-transport applications; and
- (d) report on how to maximise the regional economic development benefits of a mandatory biofuels target including jobs growth and investment potential.

INQUIRY INTO IMPROVING ACCESS TO VICTORIAN PUBLIC INFORMATION AND DATA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 27 February 2008 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on the potential application of open source licensing to Victorian Government information – and, in particular, the Committee is required to:

- (a) report on the potential economic benefits and costs to Victoria of maximising access to and use of Government information for commercial and/or non-commercial purposes, including consideration of:
 - (i) public policy developments elsewhere in Australia and internationally; and
 - (ii) the types of information that will provide the greatest potential benefit;
- (b) consider whether use of open source licensing models, including Creative Commons, would enhance the discovery, access and use of Government information;
- (c) report on the use of information and communication technology to support discovery, access and use of Government information; and
- (d) identify likely risks, impediments and restrictions to open source licensing of Government information, including impacts on and implications for any existing cost recovery arrangements.

Activities during April 2008

- **The Committee met on 7 and 14 April 2008**
- **Inquiry into Improving Access to Victorian Public Information and Data — Mr David Hanna, Deputy Secretary of Economic Policy and Planning and CEO of the Innovation Economy Advisory Board at DIIRD, briefed the Committee on 7 April on issues surrounding this inquiry**
- **Inquiry into the Financial Services Sector — The Minister for Industry and Trade briefed the Committee on 14 April on the inquiry**
- **Research continued into the inquiries.**

Future Activities

- **Next meeting – Monday 12 May 2008**
- **Report planning and research continues.**

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Mandatory Ethanol and Biofuels Targets in Victoria – Government Response due 7 August 2008

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 8682 2821 Facsimile: 8682 2818

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/etc>

Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmir and Mr P Hall*

(Assembly) *Mr M Dixon, Dr A Harkness, Mr S Herbert, Mr G Howard and
Mr N Kotsiras*

Chair: Mr Geoff Howard

Executive Officer: Ms Karen Ellingford

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2008 on effective strategies for teacher professional learning with particular regard to:

- (a) the relationship between ongoing professional learning for teachers and teaching expertise;
- (b) which factors will support high quality professional learning for teachers, including learning methods and environments for the development of professional knowledge, and the pedagogy relevant to professional development of teachers;
- (c) national and international trends regarding ongoing professional learning for teachers and report on innovative initiatives;
- (d) determining how best practice in ongoing professional learning for teachers can be delivered into schools and learning communities;
- (e) examining the potential for greater cross-sectoral links between industry, training institutions and schools in the delivery of ongoing professional learning for teachers; and
- (f) examining gender issues in the delivery of ongoing professional learning for teachers.

Activities during April 2008

A Sub-Committee attended a familiarisation tour of three group training/industry sites in Dandenong, Croydon South and Brunswick on Monday 21 April. This event helped to build understanding on issues relevant to the inquiry into teacher professional learning and inquiry into geographical differences in participation in higher education.

The terms of reference were re-advertised in the Education Times and an online submission facility was created on the Committee's website.

The Research Officer represented the Committee at the following teacher professional learning events:

- Wednesday 2 April 2008: Developing Learning Plans for Professional Learning Team Leaders run by the Teacher Learning Network**
- Wednesday 16 April 2008: Hampton Park Primary School Performance and Development Culture Open Session**

Future Activity

The Committee will continue its investigations and commence drafting a final report. Meetings have been scheduled in Canberra for June 2008.

GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION PARTICIPATION

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on geographical differences in the rate in which Victorian students participate in higher education.

The Committee will be exploring the reasons for and impact of such differences and would be interested in receiving comment on:

- (a) variations in the number and type of university applications, offers, acceptances and completions in different metropolitan, rural and regional areas;
- (b) influences of school retention rates, including enrolments and completions for VCE, VCAL and VET in schools on participation in higher education;
- (c) influences of participation in other post-school pathways, including TAFE enrolments and take-up of apprenticeships or other employment opportunities, on participation in higher education;
- (d) potential geographic, economic, social, cultural and other influences on university applications, offers, acceptances and completions across Victorian communities;
- (e) advantages and disadvantages of participation and non-participation in higher education for school leavers and their families and communities in different metropolitan, rural and regional areas;
- (f) potential effects of geographical differences in participation in higher education on skills shortages and the Victorian economy; and
- (g) strategies to address any barriers contributing to geographic differences in participation in higher education.

Activities during April 2008

The Committee received a further 49 written submissions, bringing the total to 127 written submissions as at 30 April 2008. The Committee will continue to accept written submissions throughout 2008.

The Committee advertised the inquiry in rural and regional newspapers and in relevant TAFE and university campus publications.

The Committee conducted public hearings in Melbourne on Monday 14 April 2008 with representatives of the following organisations:

- LLEN (Local Learning and Employment Network) Executive
- Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- National Union of Students
- National Tertiary Education Union
- Victorian Farmers Federation

A sub-Committee attended a familiarisation tour of three group training/industry sites in Dandenong, Croydon South and Brunswick on Monday 21 April. This event helped to build understanding on issues relevant to the inquiry into teacher professional learning and inquiry into geographical differences in participation in higher education.

The Committee conducted public hearings in Hamilton on Monday 28 April 2008 with representatives of the following organisations:

- Glenelg and Southern Grampians LLEN
- Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN
- South West Regional Youth Affairs Network
- The Hamilton and Alexandra School
- Monivae College
- Portland Secondary College
- Baimbridge College
- Good Shepherd College
- Youth Education Program, Southern Grampians Adult Education
- Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation
- RMIT University, Hamilton Campus
- South West TAFE
- Dhauwurd Wurrung Elders Corporation

The Committee conducted public hearings in Colac on Tuesday 29 April 2008 with representatives of the following organizations:

- Colac Otway Shire Council
- Warrnambool City Council
- South West LLEN
- Smart Geelong Region LLEN
- Colac Otway Youth Council
- South West Association of Post-Primary Principals
- Barwon Adolescent Taskforce (BATFORCE)
- Deakin University
- Institute of Koorie Education, Deakin University
- Deakin University Student Association
- Gordon Institute of TAFE

The Committee also heard evidence from young people and parent representatives from Hamilton, Colac and surrounding communities.

Future Activities

The following regional hearings have been scheduled:

- **Rosebud (12 May)**
- **Churchill (19 May)**
- **Bairnsdale (20 May)**
- **Robinvale (2 June)**
- **Ouyen (3 June)**

Meetings have also been scheduled in Canberra for June 2008.

Further dates and locations are to be announced.

DRESS CODES AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on dress codes and school uniforms in Victoria, in particular:

- (a) the benefits and costs of mandatory school uniforms;
- (b) the views of school communities about dress codes and school uniforms;
- (c) the most cost efficient and practical uniform procurement arrangements;
- (d) matters which need to be considered to ensure dress codes and uniform policies are consistent with anti-discrimination legislation and health promotion policies;
- (e) appropriate enforcement and sanctions;
- (f) appropriate exemption criteria and processes; and
- (g) national and international trends.

Activity during February 2008

The Committee tabled its final report on 5 December 2007.

Future Activity

The Government response is due to be tabled by 5 June 2008.

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 8682 2885 Facsimile: 8682 2858

Email: emc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/emc>

Members:

(Council) *Ms C Broad, Mr P Hall and Mr A Somyurek*

(Assembly) *Hon C Campbell, Mr M O'Brien, Mr R Scott, and
Mr M Thompson*

Chair: Mr Adem Somyurek

Executive Officer: Mr Mark Roberts

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE 2006 VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008 on the conduct of the 2006 Victorian State Election and matters related thereto.

Activities during April 2008

- **Further preparation of chapters of draft report**
- **Briefing papers prepared on a range of further issues**
- **Future meetings confirmed for May/June 2008 for consideration and adoption of final report**
- **Committee secretariat attended address by Associate Professor Patricia Sykes, Department of Government at American University, Washington DC and 2007-08 Fulbright Australian National University Distinguished Chair in American Political Science, on the 2008 American presidential election.**

Future Activities

- **Committee to adopt draft recommendations of report**
- **Consideration of relevant issues raised in briefing papers by Committee**
- **Next meeting 5 May 2008.**

New Inquiry

INQUIRY INTO POLITICAL DONATIONS AND DISCLOSURE

Referred by the Legislative Council on 16 April 2008 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 April 2009 on —

- (1) whether the **Electoral Act 2002** should be amended to create a system of political donations disclosure and/or restrictions on political donations; and
- (2) the outcome resulting from similar legislative reforms introduced in Canada, the United Kingdom and other relevant jurisdictions.

Activity during April 2008

Committee considered new inquiry terms of reference and secretariat to prepare scoping paper for next meeting.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2803 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/enrc>

Members:

(Council) Mrs D Petrovich and Mr M Viney

(Assembly) Ms J Duncan, Mrs C Fyffe, Mr C Ingram, Ms T Lobato,
Hon J Pandazopoulos and Mr P Walsh

Chair: Hon J Pandazopoulos, MP

Executive Officer: Mr Derek Benjamin

INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON BUSHFIRES IN VICTORIA

Referred by the Legislative Council on 14 March 2007- to inquire into and report by 30 June 2008 upon the impact of public land management practices on the frequency, scale and intensity of bushfires in Victoria, and in particular -

- (1) the extent, timing, resourcing and effectiveness of prescribed burning on both crown and freehold land;
- (2) the manner in which prescribed burning is conducted, including how applicable codes of practice are employed;
- (3) the impact of prescribed burning and recent wildfires on Victoria's biodiversity, wildlife and other natural assets including water quality and quantity;
- (4) the reporting process applicable to prescribed burning programs;
- (5) the legislative and regulatory arrangements for prescribed burns and bushfire management;
- (6) the effectiveness of maintaining permanent, strategically placed fire breaks and containment lines throughout public land areas;
- (7) the provision and maintenance of large water points on crown land to assist with bushfire aerial taskforce operations;
- (8) the impact of traditional land uses such as timber harvesting, grazing, four-wheel-driving, hunting, camping, mining and prospecting on the scale and intensity of bushfires and the ability of relevant agencies to respond;
- (9) the provision and maintenance of serviceable access tracks and signage to assist with recreational and emergency requirements;
- (10) the impact of climate change on bushfires and public land management practices;
- (11) whether additional measures are required to provide a mechanism for the skills, knowledge and interests of local communities, and appropriate scientific expertise, to be better represented in the management of bushfire risk on public land;
- (12) the involvement of local communities in the management of fire;

- (13) any other matter that impacts on the scale and intensity of bushfires in Victoria; and
- (14) the consequent impact of bushfires on the June/July 2007 Gippsland flood.*

* On 18 July 2007, the inquiry terms of reference were amended to include the impact of bushfires on the June/July 2007 Gippsland flood.

Activities during April 2008

- **Research and literature review**
- **Public hearing in Melbourne on 7 April 2008 with evidence provided by:**
 - **Mr P. Harris, Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
 - **Mr D. Nugent, Deputy General Manager and Director Fire and Emergency Services, Parks Victoria**
 - **Mr R. Rees, Chief Officer, Country Fire Authority**
 - **Mr E. Waller, Chief Officer Fire and Emergency Management, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
 - **Mr D. Pollard, Chief Executive Officer, VicForests.**

Future Activity

- **Ongoing research and literature review**

INQUIRY INTO MELBOURNE'S FUTURE WATER SUPPLY

Referred by the Legislative Council on 19 September 2007- to inquire, consider and report no later than 31 December 2008 on the relative merits of supplementing Melbourne's water supply by some or all of the following means:

- (1) further water savings that can be achieved by increased conservation and efficiency efforts;
- (2) the collection of stormwater;
- (3) the re-use of treated waste water;
- (4) the use of groundwater;
- (5) small locally based desalination plants; and
- (6) any other optional water source which appears to the Committee to be appropriate.

Activity during April 2008

- **This inquiry has not commenced.**

Future Activity

- **Inquiry research program to be developed.**

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2843 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2808

Email: fcdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/fcdc>

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Finn, Mr J Scheffer, Mr. A Somyurek*

(Assembly) *Mr W Noonan, Mr. J Perera, Mrs E J Powell, Ms M Wooldridge*

Chair: Mr J Perera

Executive Officer: Mr Paul Bourke

INQUIRY ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE BUSINESS IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 1 March 2008 on the involvement of small and medium size businesses in corporate social responsibility and, in conducting the inquiry, the Committee is to:

- (a) investigate current Australian initiatives where small and medium size businesses have developed innovative ways of working with governments and community groups to support communities;
- (b) examine the international context and emerging trends with overseas initiatives relevant to corporate social responsibility amongst small and medium size businesses aimed at tackling social disadvantage;
- (c) investigate how small and medium size businesses could play a role in tackling disadvantage in local communities and making communities stronger, particularly how they can partner with government and community groups to work in the areas of most need;
- (d) determine the barriers and the drivers for small and medium sized businesses to become involved in social responsibility initiatives and options for addressing those barriers and increasing the drivers;
- (e) examine the barriers to sustainability of business and corporate social responsibility initiatives for small and medium sized businesses.

Activity during April 2008

- **Preparation of draft report chapters.**

INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTORIANS WITH A DISABILITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS

To the Family and Community Development Committee — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on the provision of supported accommodation for Victorians with a disability and/or mental illness and, in particular, the Committee is asked to report on the current situation in Victoria and compare it to best practice in other jurisdictions regarding:

- (a) the standard and range of accommodation currently available;
- (b) the extent of accommodation and services currently available, including the different models for service delivery and funding;
- (c) the methods for measuring unmet demand for accommodation and how these can be improved;
- (d) the process for managing service quality;
- (e) availability of sufficient accommodation to meet future demand with an appropriate range of services;
- (f) access and service issues for particular groups, including rural communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and indigenous Australians; and
- (g) the impact on families of the current service provision of accommodation; and for the purpose of this inquiry 'supported accommodation' means public and private accommodation provided for people with a disability or mental illness who need additional support services but excludes mental health treatment services (SEC, PARC) and the disability forensic program (SFS)

INQUIRY ON THE STATE GOVERNMENTS PROVISION OF SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTORIANS WITH A DISABILITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS

That this house requires the Family and Community Development Committee to inquire, consider and report, no later than 30 June 2009, on the state government's provision of supported accommodation for Victorians with a disability and/or mental illness with regard to the following:

- (1) description of current government funded supported accommodation, including the number and location of places, occupancy, staffing, demand management, methods of funding and oversight;
- (2) the adequacy of the current number of places and care provided in community residential units, residential institutions, community care units, secure extended care units, prevention and recovery care facilities and other forms of supported accommodation;
- (3) the adequacy and appropriateness of care and accommodation provided in various government, private and community facilities that accommodate clients with a disability or mental illness because of insufficient places in the specialist system, and in particular including supported residential services, boarding houses, public hospitals, nursing homes and SAAP funded services;

- (4) the impact on Victorian families of insufficient supported accommodation;
- (5) estimates of future supported accommodation needs and the appropriateness and transparency of the Government's management of demand and placement;
- (6) the government's response to unmet accommodation needs, including sources of funding, planning and delivery;
- (7) the ability of country Victorians to access supported accommodation and the appropriateness and quality of care they receive;
- (8) the ability of members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities to access supported accommodation and the appropriateness and quality of care they receive;
- (9) the appropriateness of the current mix of service providers, including government, private and community; and
- (10) alternate approaches addressing unmet needs in supported accommodation in Victoria.

Activity during April 2008

- **Preliminary discussions.**

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2851 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: VPLRC@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lawreform>

Members:

(Council) Mrs Jan Kronberg, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Mr Johan Scheffer (from 9 August 2007), Mr Brian Tee (member and chair until 9 August 2007)

(Assembly) Mr Colin Brooks, Mr Robert Clark, Mr Luke Donnellan, Mr Martin Foley, Mrs Judy Maddigan (member from 8 August 2007 until 30 October 2007) and Mr Tony Lupton (member until 8 August 2007)

Chair: Mr Johan Scheffer, MLC (from 20 August 2007)

Executive Officer: Ms Kerry Riseley

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on property investment and property marketeers with particular regard to:

- (a) reviewing the regulatory framework for the provision of property investment advice, with the objective of establishing how best to control the exploitation of Victorians in the context of keeping the burden on business as low as possible;
- (b) the Commonwealth's role in regulating financial advice, and the ongoing work of the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs in considering regulation of this area.

Activity during April 2008

- **The Committee tabled its final report on 10 April 2008.**

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008 on:

- a) the reach and use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, including Government established ADR schemes and restorative justice schemes, so as to improve access to justice and outcomes in civil and criminal court jurisdictions and to reduce the need, where possible, for contact with the court system, particularly in marginalised communities;
- b) whether a form of Government regulation of alternative dispute resolution providers is appropriate or feasible so as to ensure greater consistency and accountability for Victorians wishing to access alternative dispute resolution.

Activities during April 2008

- **The Committee accepted seven further submissions. A total of 39 submissions have now been received**
- **A review of all evidence received was commenced**
- **A strategy for filling evidence gaps was developed.**

Future activities

- **The Committee will undertake a study tour to New South Wales in May 2008**
- **The Committee will hold a forum for multicultural stakeholders in June 2008.**

VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 4 December 2008 on the effect of vexatious litigants on the justice system and the individuals and agencies who are victims of vexatious litigants — and, the Committee should:

- a) inquire into the effectiveness of current legislative provisions in dealing with vexatious litigants;
- b) make recommendations which better enable the courts to more efficiently and effectively perform their role while preserving the community's general right of access to the Victorian courts.

Activities during April 2008

- **The Committee released an issues paper on vexatious litigants and advertised for public submissions to the inquiry**
- **The Committee wrote to key stakeholders seeking information about the operation of current Victorian legislative provisions relating to vexatious litigants**
- **The Committee wrote to stakeholders in the Commonwealth, states and territories seeking information about vexatious litigants in those jurisdictions**
- **The Committee commenced research into declared vexatious litigants in Victoria based on court and other public documents**
- **Literature review continued.**

Future activities

- **Submissions to the inquiry close on 27 June 2008**
- **The Committee expects to hold public hearings in mid-2008.**

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2826 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

Email: osisdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/osisdc

Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmir, Mr M Guy and Ms C Hartland*

(Assembly) *Ms D Green, Mr D Hodgett, Mr D Nardella, Mr G Seitz and Hon K Smith*

Chair: Mr George Seitz

Executive Officer: Mr Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007

To inquire, consider and report to Parliament on issues relating to strengthening communities through local economic development initiatives in outer suburban areas.

In particular, the Committee is requested to:

- (a) Examine existing local economic development programs being carried out by municipalities in outer suburban areas;
- (b) Identify the barriers to local economic development and the ways in which these can be addressed;
- (c) Investigate and recommend incentive arrangements for industry and the respective responsibilities of each tier of government;
- (d) Investigate the role of council local economic development units and the types of assistance they provide;
- (e) Examine and report on ways in which councils and government at all levels can encourage economic development, enhance and promote employment opportunities and attract new investment;
- (f) Identify export based operations and opportunities in outer suburban areas and recommend options to encourage their growth;
- (g) Identify new and emerging sectors and how they can assist economic development in outer suburban areas, including innovative examples of business incubators, home-based businesses and social enterprises.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament by 30 September 2008.

Activities during April 2008

- **23 April 2008 Public Hearing in Melbourne**
 - **Chris DeAraugo, Manager National Community Enterprise, Bendigo Bank**
 - **Sam Steele, Acting Director, Industry & Trade Policy, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development**
 - **Peter Seamer, Chief Executive, Growth Areas Authority**
- **Ongoing research, literature review and drafting of report.**

Future Activities

- **11-13 May 2008**
 - **Australian Regional Economies Conference, Terragal, NSW**
- **Ongoing research, literature review and drafting of report.**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2862 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2898

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec

Members:

(Council) *Mr G Barber, Mr R Dalla-Riva, Mr M Pakula,
Mr G Rich-Phillips,*

(Assembly) *Mr B Stensholt (Chair), Mr K Wells (Deputy Chair), Ms J
Munt, Mr W Noonan, Mr R Scott, Dr B Sykes*

Chair: Mr Bob Stensholt

Executive Officer: Ms Valerie Cheong

2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Activities during April 2008

Responses from departments and agencies to clarification questions assessed.

Draft chapters considered and adopted by the Committee.

Future Activities

Final draft of report to be undertaken and considered by the Committee.

Adoption and tabling of the report in May 2008.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(1).

Activity during April 2008

Final report tabled in Parliament 9 April 2008.

Future Activity

Government response due 9 October 2008.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

Source of reference: *Audit Act 1994*, sections 17(1) and 19(2).

Activities during April 2008

Continuation of public hearings on the findings and recommendations of priority one audit reports tabled in 2006-07 namely, new Ticketing System Tender, Government Advertising and Condition of Public Sector Residential Aged Care Facilities.

The Auditor-General's Budget and final Annual Plan 2008-09 considered.

Consideration by the Audit Sub-Committee of a number of draft performance audit specifications namely:

- Patient flow and bed management in public hospitals
- Sustainability of the docklands precinct development
- Achievement of literacy benchmarks in Victoria
- CASES21

Future Activities

Response to John Phillip's report on the Performance Audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (November 2007) to be developed and considered

Research and reports on the Committee's review of the findings and recommendations of priority one audit reports, namely, new Ticketing System Tender, Government Advertising and Condition of Public Sector Residential Aged Care Facilities.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Activities during April 2008

Responding to queries on questionnaires sent to Premier, Treasurer, Attorney-General, Presiding Officers, all Ministers and Departmental Secretaries

Planning of the Budget Estimates report – Parts One and Part Two

Confirmation and finalisation of the schedule of hearings with Ministers and Departmental Secretaries in May and June 2008

Organisation of the Budget Briefing breakfast for Parliamentarians and staff with the Department of Treasury and Finance

Future Activities

Conduct hearings in May and June

Development of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One and Part Two for tabling May-June 2008

Development of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part Three for tabling October 2008

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FINANCE PRACTICES AND LEGISLATION

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(3).

Activity during April 2008

Planning and scoping of research investigations, including sources of relevant evidence gathering for new inquiry.

Future Activity

Research and reporting on the Committee's inquiry into Victoria's public finance practices and legislation.

**INQUIRY INTO TRUSTEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOVERNING THE
PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION FUND**

Government response was due 11 April 2008.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2846 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rsc>

Members:

(Council) *Mr D Koch and Mr S Leane*

(Assembly) *Mr J Eren, Mr C Langdon, Mr T Mulder, Mr I Trezise, and Mr P Weller*

Chair: Mr John Eren

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

INQUIRY INTO VEHICLE SAFETY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008* on vehicle safety – and the Committee should –

- (a) identify and prioritise those vehicle safety technologies that have the most potential for reducing the number of crashes and or the seriousness of injuries sustained in crashes;
- (b) compare the level of safety provided by these leading edge technologies with the minimum regulated standards (Australian Design Rules);
- (c) compare the rate of fitting of these leading edge technologies in Australia with that of other developed economies including Europe, the United States of America and Japan and identify any impediments to encourage their adoption;
- (d) review the level of manufacturers/importers de-specifying (decision not to fit) vehicle safety technologies commonly available overseas to vehicles imported and sold in Australia;
- (e) seek advice from high volume local vehicle makers and vehicle importers as to when the vehicles in their product ranges will have these high priority vehicle safety technologies; and
- (f) recommend strategies for encouraging vehicle manufacturers to fit leading edge vehicle safety technologies to vehicles sold in Australia and for increasing the public's knowledge and demand for these technologies.

* The Reporting date was extended to 31 August 2008 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2007.

Activity during April 2008

Work on the draft report is progressing.

Future Activity

The Committee will receive the draft report in June.

FEDERAL–STATE ROAD FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 September 2008* on Federal – State road funding arrangements – and the Committee should –

- (a) review current arrangements in Australia;
- (b) assess the current arrangements in Australia in respect of economic efficiency and equity;
- (c) make recommendations for improving Federal–State road funding arrangements in Australia.

* The reporting date was extended to 30 September 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2007.

Activity during April 2008

- **Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.**

INQUIRY INTO LEVEL CROSSINGS

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 —

That this House requires the Road Safety Committee to inquire into and report by 29 February 2008* on existing, new and developing technologies for implementation to improve safety at level crossings.

* Report date extended to 31 October 2008 by resolution of the Legislative Council on 20 November 2007.

Activities during April 2008

Public hearings continued throughout April. The witnesses who appeared were from the following organisations:

- **VLine**
- **Asciano/Pacific National**
- **Connex Melbourne**
- **Australian Rail Track Corporation**
- **ITS Australia**
- **Transport Certification Australia**
- **Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists & Managers**
- **Safety Institute of Australia**

Future Activity

- **Public hearings will continue in May.**

RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: 1300 787 202 / 03 8682 2884

Facsimile: 03 8682 2858

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rrc

Email: rrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Members:

(Council) Ms K Darveniza, Mr D Drum, Ms W Lovell, Ms G Tierney, Mr J Vogels

(Assembly) Ms K Marshall, Mr R Northe

Chair: Mr Damian Drum MLC

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO TAXATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGED INVESTMENT SCHEMES (NON-FORESTRY)

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – to inquire, consider and report no later than 30 September 2007 on the potential economic impacts to Victoria's rural and regional businesses and communities as a result of the proposed changes to the taxation arrangements for Managed Investment Schemes (non-forestry), which have been recently announced by the Commonwealth; of particular interest are the impacts on investment, job creation, exports and resource use (water and land) — and, to this end, the Committee should consider the core issues of the:

- (a) investment, job creation and exports which have occurred over the past three years in rural and regional areas as a result of Managed Investment Schemes;
- (b) investment, job creation and exports, which is occurring in rural and regional areas following the planned transition period;
- (c) net economic impacts on Victoria's rural and regional areas over the next five years;
- (d) impacts on northern Victoria's irrigation water markets; and
- (e) anticipated structural changes and the new industry opportunities in rural and regional areas —

and the Committee should make recommendations on any necessary or desirable actions that could be taken to assist Victoria's rural and regional businesses to adapt to the proposed changes in order to limit the potential negative impacts of the changes.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2007.

INQUIRY INTO RURAL AND REGIONAL TOURISM

Referred by the Legislative Council on 15 March 2007 – to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on –

- (1) the economic benefits of tourism in regional areas, including tracking the flow-on benefits through other regional businesses and industry;
- (2) potential impediments to the sustained growth of regional tourism, economic activity and jobs;
- (3) the effectiveness, at a National, State and local level, of current programs to promote and enhance tourism in regional Victoria;
- (4) initiatives to increase both international and domestic visitor nights in regional Victoria;
- (5) the efficacy of existing mechanisms at a National, State and local level to address the impact on regional tourism of natural events such as bushfires, floods and drought, and effective measures to drive long term economic recovery; and
- (6) opportunities to leverage private investment and commercial activity in regional tourism infrastructure, including ecotourism.

Activities during April 2008

- **A Regional Public Hearing was held on 02 April 2008 in Newhaven, Phillip Island with the following witnesses appearing:**
 - **Mr David Wilson – Cape Paterson Caravan Park**
 - **Mr Christian Stefani, Mr Mike Nichols – Prom Country Tourism Association and South Gippsland Shire Council**
 - **Mr Ash Belsar – Out There Outdoor Adventure**
 - **Mr Geoff Moed – A Maze N’ Things**
 - **Mr Fergus Cameron – Phillip Island Operations, Destination Phillip Island**
 - **Mr Kim Storey – Phillip Island Tourism Association**
 - **Mr Peter Francis, Mr Ken Hore, Ms Stephanie Symes – Bass Coast Shire Council**
- **The Committee, at Meeting 17, continued to consider DRAFT recommendations to be included in the Final Report**

Committee Secretariat

- **Briefing papers prepared for Newhaven public hearings**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Murray High Country public hearings**
- **Planning and organisation of Evidence Seeking Visit to New Zealand in late April**
- **Planning and organisation of resources for delegation attending Australian Regional Economies Conference in mid-May 2008**
- **Continuation of presentation to the Committee, and deliberation on, draft report recommendations**
- **Continuation of preparation of draft report chapters**

- **Research on regional and rural tourism issues continued**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review continued**
- **Updating of the Committee website as required**

Future activities

- **Processing of transcripts from Public Hearings and contacting witnesses, as required**
- **Continuation of Committee budget and finance review**
- **Planning for drafting and consideration of report by the Committee**
- **Continuation of presentation to committee of draft recommendations and chapters to the Committee for consideration**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2891 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

Email: andrew.homer@parliament.vic.gov.au (Scrutiny of Bills)
helen.mason@parliament.vic.gov.au (Scrutiny of Regulations)
simon.dinsbergs@parliament.vic.gov.au (Administration)
sonya.caruana@parliament.vic.gov.au (Administration – Regulations)

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/sarc

Members

(Council) Mr K Eideh, Mr E O'Donohue, Mrs I Peulich and Ms J Pulford

(Assembly) Mr C Brooks, Mr C Carli (Chair), Mr K Jasper (Deputy Chair),
Mr T Languiller and Mr R Smith

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli

Executive Officer: Mr Andrew Homer

FULL COMMITTEE

Activities during April 2008

The Committee met on the 7 April 2008, where it considered and adopted the following report:

- **Alert Digest No. 4**

- Animals Legislation Amendment (Animal Care) Bill 2007
- Co-operatives and Private Security Acts Amendment Bill 2008
- Crimes Amendment (Child Homicide) Bill 2007
- Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment Bill 2008
- Education and Training Reform Amendment Bill 2008
- Environment Protection Amendment (Landfill Levies) Bill 2008
- Essential Services Commission Amendment Bill 2008
- Justice Legislation Amendment (Sex Offences Procedure) Bill 2008
- Land (Revocation of Reservations) Bill 2008
- Police Integrity Bill 2008
- Working with Children Amendment Bill 2007

The Committee also considered and adopted:

- **Annual Review 2007 – that was tabled on Tuesday 8 April 2008.**

On the 17 April 2008 the Legislative Assembly referred the Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 3) Bill for inquiry, consideration and report.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Redundant Legislation

Mr Edward O'Donohue, MLC (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC
Mrs Inga Peulich, MLC
Ms Jaala Pulford, MLC

Activity during April 2008

The Subcommittee did not meet in April.

Regulation Review

Mr Ken Jasper, MP (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Colin Brooks, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC
Mr Ryan Smith, MP

Activity during April 2008

The Subcommittee met on 23 April 2008, where it considered and approved the following Regulations:

- **Statutory Rules 2007**

- SR No. 129 – Subordinate Legislation (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 130 – Owners Corporation Regulations 2007
- SR No. 133 – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Fees) (Further Amendment) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 136 – Subordinate Legislation (Second-Hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 137 – Travel Agents Regulations 2007
- SR No. 141 – Subordinate Legislation (Infertility Treatment Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 142 – Magistrates' Court Civil Procedure (Amendment No.21) Rules 2007
- SR No. 143 – Fisheries (Western Port)(Amendment) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 144 – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 145 – Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (Public Authorities)(Interim) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 146 – Health (Pest Control)(Qualifications and Training) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 147 – Gene Technology (Further Amendment) Regulations 2007
- SR No. 148 – Radiation (Tanning Units Amendment) Interim Regulations 2007
- SR No. 149 – Transport (Taxi-Cab Industry Accreditation) Regulations 2007

SR No. 150 – Transport (Taxi-Cab Network Service Provider Accreditation Exemptions) Regulations 2007

SR No. 151 – Road Safety (Road Rules)(Young Drivers) Regulations 2007

SR No. 152 – Road Safety (Drivers)(Young Drivers) Regulations 2007

SR No. 153 – Road Safety (General)(Young Drivers) Regulations 2007

SR No. 154 – Road Management (Works and Infrastructure) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 155 – Road Safety (General)(Engine Reading Devices Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 156 – Road Safety (General)(Prescribed Devices and Other Amendments) Regulations 2007

- **Statutory Rules 2008**

SR No. 1 – Subordinate Legislation (Children’s Services Regulations 1998 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2008

GAMING LICENSING SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/gaminglicensing/>

Members:

(Council) Mr Greg Barber, Mr Damian Drum, Mr Peter Kavanagh, Mr Matthew Guy and Mr Martin Pakula

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO GAMING LICENSING

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on —

- (1) the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to post-2008 public lotteries licensing in Victoria pursuant to the Gambling Regulation Act 2003 (the Act) and any related matter;
- (2) the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to the extension of Tattersall's public lotteries licence until 30 June 2008;
- (3) the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to post-2012 Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) operator licensing in Victoria pursuant to the Act, and any related matter;
- (4) the adequacy or otherwise of the legislative and regulatory framework pertaining to the number, location, distribution and specification of EGMs in Victoria and any related matter;
- (5) the effectiveness or otherwise of current measures to minimise and address the incidence of problem gambling in Victoria, the merits of alternative measures and any related matter;
- (6) the financial position of the Community Support Fund (the Fund) described in the Act, including, but not limited to:
 - (a) payments into the Fund under section 10.3.2 of the Act (and its predecessors);
 - (b) payments from the Fund under section 10.3.3 of the Act (and its predecessors);
 - (c) the criteria, processes and methodology for the selection of projects funded by payments referred to in sub-paragraph (ii) above; and
 - (d) the community benefit statements prepared by those venues not required to contribute to the Fund;
- (7) any other associated matters dealing with gaming licensing issues.

Activities during April 2008

- **Revision and consideration of evidence presented at public hearings.**
- **Drafting of final report.**

Future Activity

- **Final report to be tabled by 9 May 2008**

PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/publicland/>

Members:

(Council) Mr Peter Hall, Mr Peter Kavanagh, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Ms Sue Pennicuik, and Mr Evan Thornley

Chair: Mr David Davis

Deputy Chair: Mr Brian Tee

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into —

- (1) the sale or alienation of public land for development;
- (2) the sale or alienation of public open space for the purposes of private development; and
- (3) the sale and development of public land and the relationship to the Melbourne 2030 policy and Green Wedges.

Activities during April 2008

Public Hearings held on 3 and 21 April 2008 in regard to various public land use issues including Royal Park, Gardiners Creek, Chicquita Park, Carlton Gardens, Wantirna issues, road reservation issues, Camberwell station development and Pt Lonsdale.

Future Activity

Further Public Hearings proposed for 20 May 2008.

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/SCFPA/>

Members:

(Council) Mr Greg Barber, Ms Candy Broad, Mr Matthew Guy, Mr Peter Hall and Mr Peter Kavanagh.

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO PORT PHILLIP BAY CHANNEL DEEPENING

Terms of Reference:

To examine the business case for the Port Phillip Bay channel deepening project as presented by the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PMC) and the Victorian government and the legal and financial arrangements between the PMC and Boskalis Australia Pty Ltd and/or its parent company, Royal Boskalis Westminster NV.

Activities during April 2008

Terms of reference advertised, with 33 submissions received. Submissions closed 28 April 2008.

Future Activity

Public Hearings proposed for May 2008.
