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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 31 AUGUST 2009**

**56<sup>th</sup> 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***.

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# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

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**Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002**

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**Website:**     www.parliament.vic.gov.au/dcpc

## **Members:**

**(Council)**        *Mr S Leane, Ms J Mikakos and Mrs A Cooté*

**(Assembly)**     *Mr H Delahunty, Mrs J Maddigan, Ms L Beattie and  
Mr D Morris.*

**Chair:**            Mrs Judy Maddigan

**Executive Officer:** Ms Sandy Cook

## **INQUIRY INTO JUSTICE AND CRIME STRATEGIES IN HIGH VOLUME CRIMES**

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Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007\* – to inquire into and report upon justice and crime strategies in high volume crimes such as theft and property related offences, which often involve young people, with the Committee to provide recommendations on:

- (a) causal factors that may influence patterns of high volume crime; with particular emphasis on repeat offences committed by young people; and
- (b) strategies that may be effective in addressing the underlying causal factors or recidivist patterns of offending.

\*extended to 30 November 2009 by the Legislative Assembly on 30 July 2008

### ***Activities during August 2009***

- Awaiting Government response
- On going mail out of Final Report

## **INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CRIME AGAINST THE PERSON**

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Referred by the Legislative Council on 29 July 2009 – for inquiry, consideration and report on strategies to reduce crime against the person in Victoria and, in particular:

- (a) the level, nature and incidence of crimes against the person in Victoria and the trends in recent years;
- (b) the impact of these crimes on vulnerable groups, migrants, overseas students and the elderly;
- (c) strategies to address these crimes and reduce their incidence and increase the apprehension and conviction of offenders;
- (d) the role of community policing and local community organisations; and

- (e) the level of police resources in Victoria and their distribution throughout the State;  
and to report by 30 August 2010.

***Activities in August***

- Literature search underway
- Proposal for undertaking Inquiry developed
- Background briefing with representatives from Victoria Police held on 31 August 2009
- Briefing on the law of assault prepared

**INQUIRY INTO PEOPLE TRAFFICKING FOR SEX WORK**

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The Committee is to inquire consider and report no later than 30 June 2010 into people trafficking for sex work including:

- a) the extent and nature of trafficking people for the purposes of sex work into Victoria from overseas;
- b) the inter-relationship (if any) between the unlicensed and licensed prostitution sectors in Victoria, and trafficking for the purposes of sex work;
- c) the current and proposed intergovernmental and international strategies and initiatives in relation to dealing with trafficking for the purposes of sex work; and
- d) the need for policy and legislative reform to combat trafficking for the purposes of sex work, in Victoria;

***Activities in August***

- Literature search underway
- Proposal for the conduct of the Inquiry developed.
- Research and drafting commenced for a briefing on the law and legal issues relating to people trafficking for sex work

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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Website: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic)

## Members:

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

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

Chair: Hon Christine Campbell

Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

## INQUIRY INTO IMPROVING ACCESS TO VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR 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 August 2009**

- Mail out of report continued
- Secretariat briefed meeting of the Victorian Government Librarians' Association on report, 20 August 2009

### **Future Activity**

- Government Response due December 2009

## **INQUIRY INTO THE VICTORIAN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY**

---

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 9 June 2009 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2010 on the state of manufacturing in Victoria – and, in particular, the Committee is requested to:

- (a) Explore the necessary criteria used by businesses to transfer offshore manufacturing to Victoria.
- (b) Identify and report on the factors which influence businesses in determining whether to manufacture in Australia or overseas including the consideration of:
  - (i) the retention of intellectual property rights;
  - (ii) maintaining consistent quality standards in line with both Federal and State laws;
  - (iii) probity matters;
  - (iv) assistance and incentives provided by governments; and
  - (v) the impact that the global deterioration in economic conditions in recent months will have on future decisions regarding manufacturing locations.

### ***Activities during August 2009***

- Secretariat attended VECI innovation and industry forum
- Stakeholder list and database prepared
- Submissions accepted and placed on Committee's website
- Literature reviewed
- Public Hearings convened on 6, 7 and 18 August 2009.

### ***Future Activities***

- Literature continues to be reviewed
- Public Hearings in Melbourne scheduled for 7 and 14 September 2009.

## **INQUIRY INTO STATE GOVERNMENT TAXATION AND DEBT**

---

Referred by the Legislative Council on 29 July 2009 – that the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report on the impact and effectiveness of increased State Government taxation (including land tax, payroll tax, stamp duties, State Government taxes and charges and development levies) and increased State Government debt on Victorian —

- (a) development;
- (b) competitiveness;
- (c) sustainability;
- (d) employment;
- (e) job creation; and
- (f) small businesses, including their national and international competitiveness under the State Government's current taxation arrangements;

and to table an interim report by 28 February 2010 and a final report by 30 September 2010.

***Activities during August 2009***

- Advertisements calling for submissions placed in selected newspapers
- Mail out to stakeholders.

***Future Activities***

- Research Officer recruitment September 2009
- Mail out continues.



# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2821 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: 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

## SKILLS SHORTAGES IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY

---

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2009 on skills shortages in the rail industry — and the Committee is to explore possible solutions and, in particular, is asked to consider:

- a) factors influencing recruitment and retention;
- b) demographic profile of the workforce and the outlook for future retirements and loss of skills;
- c) implications of the Victorian Industry and Manufacturing Statement commitment in relation to local content; and
- d) whether there is any need for increased training opportunities at university and trade levels and, if so, how industry can stimulate student/user demand.

### ***Activities during August 2009***

The Committee heard evidence from representatives of the following organisations on 10 August:

- TDT Training Victoria
- Group Training Association of Victoria
- University of Ballarat
- Victoria University
- Monash University

The Committee visited EDI Rail Workshops and the Rail Skills Centre, located in Newport, on 17 August.

### ***Future Activity***

The Committee will continue to accept written submissions and will conduct investigations in Queensland during September.

## **POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS TO BECOME A FOCUS FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITY LIVING**

---

To the Education and Training Committee — for inquiry consideration and report no later than 1 July 2010 on the potential for developing opportunities for schools to become a focus for promoting healthy community living, in particular:

- a) existing activities carried out by schools to promote holistic healthy living within their school communities involving healthy eating, active lifestyles, sun smart awareness and appreciation of the effects of harmful substances;
- b) successful programs which have been instituted in schools in other states or internationally;
- c) identify whether it is appropriate for the State to encourage schools to extend health programs to be directed at the broader school community and, if so, what the most effective and efficient approaches are;
- d) opportunities for linking with community leaders and forming partnerships with business and community organisations;
- e) existing broader health promotion policies and activities; and
- f) how school-based activities could relate and coordinate with these to maximise impact and efficiency.

### ***Activities during August 2009***

The Committee had received 105 written submissions as at 31 August.

The Committee commenced public hearings for the inquiry on 31 August. The following individuals/organisations were represented at the hearing:

- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
- Australian Health Promoting Schools Association
- Australian Health Promotion Association
- Professor Lawrence St Leger
- Kids – ‘Go for your life’

### ***Future Activity***

The Committee will continue to accept written submissions and conduct public hearings. It will also conduct meetings in Queensland during September.

## **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.

***Activity during August 2009***

A Government response was tabled in Parliament on 11 August 2009.

**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.

***Future Activity***

The Government response is due in January 2010.



# ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2885 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

Email: emc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

## Members:

(Council) *Ms C Broad, Mr P Davis 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 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.

### ***Future Activity***

- Government response due 7 November 2009.

## INQUIRY INTO VOTER PARTICIPATION AND INFORMAL VOTING

---

Committee self-generated new terms of reference on 5 May 2008, as follows -

Pursuant to Section 33(3) of the **Parliamentary Committees Act 2003**, the Electoral Matters Committee inquire into and report to Parliament upon issues relating to – (i) voter participation; and (ii) informal voting.

### ***Activity during August 2009***

- Report tabled on 30 July 2009 - mail out of report to interested individuals and organisations and follow up issues attended to

### ***Future Activity***

- Government response due 30 January 2010.

## INQUIRY INTO MATTERS ARISING FROM KOROROIT DISTRICT BY-ELECTION



---

Referred by the Legislative Council on 1 April 2009 to inquire, consider and report no later than 28 February 2010 —

- (1) on the deliberate misleading of the electors in the 28 June 2008 Kororoit by-election, whereby a pamphlet authorised by the Secretary of the Australian Labor Party was distributed that claimed “A vote for Les Twentyman is a vote for the Liberals” contributing, in the opinion of the Victorian Electoral Commissioner, to “an undesirable trend for candidates to take advantage or build on community misunderstandings of preferential voting with confusing statements”; and
- (2) as the Victorian Electoral Commissioner has suggested in his Report on the Kororoit District By-election held on 28 June 2008, whether the *Electoral Act 2002* should be amended to improve the operation of the misleading provisions of the Act so that such abuses are more likely to be successfully prosecuted.

### **Activities during August 2009**

- Public hearings conducted on 18 August 2009. The following witnesses appeared before the Committee.

Organisation	Witness/es
Victorian Electoral Commission	Steve Tully (Victorian Electoral Commissioner) Liz Williams (Deputy Victorian Electoral Commissioner) Paul Thornton-Smith (Senior Information and Research Officer)
Democratic Audit of Australia	Professor Brian Costar (Professor of Victorian State Parliamentary Democracy)
Australian Labor Party, Victorian Branch	Stephen Newnham (State Secretary and Campaign Director)
	Mark Polden 
	Professor Jock Given (Professor of Media and Communications)
Liberty Victoria	Michael Pearce SC (President)
	Phil Cleary
	William Robert Jacomb
	Associate Professor Ken Coghill
Port Phillip Greens	Ann Birrell (Co-convenor)
ANZSOG Institute for Governance	Howard Whitton 

### **Future Activities**

- Committee meeting on 14 September 2009 to consider draft report outline and timetable
- Reviewing transcripts of evidence received from public hearings, and submissions
- Writing draft chapters of report for Committee consideration.

# ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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

Email:            enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website:        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

Executive Officer:                Ms Caroline Williams

## INQUIRY INTO THE APPROVALS PROCESS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN VICTORIA

---

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 - to inquire, consider and report no later than 31 December 2009 on opportunities to reduce red tape associated with the approvals process for renewable energy projects in Victoria — in particular the Committee is asked to consider:

- (a) the major obstacles facing investors in large-scale renewable energy projects in Victoria, including environmental, planning and other regulations;
- (b) how Victoria compares to other Australian jurisdictions with regard to relevant approvals for renewable energy projects - in particular wind farms as they are the most common form;
- (c) opportunities to reduce risk and delays for investors, whether that be through streamlining regulatory processes, appeals processes or other costs/risks;
- (d) the likely future drivers of renewable energy in Victoria, particularly in the context of the carbon pollution reduction scheme and the expanded federal renewable energy target;
- (e) other reviews and inquiries covering similar issues — this would include the Australian Energy Market Commission's review of energy market frameworks in light of climate change policies and the Environment Protection and Heritage Council's report on impediments to environmentally and socially responsible wind farm development.

### **Activities during August 2009**

- 37 submissions received to date. Late submissions are being accepted
- Public hearing on 10 August in Melbourne with Environment Victoria, SMARTtimbers Cooperative, Environment Defenders Office, Western Plains

Landscape Guardians Association, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and Acciona Energy giving evidence

- Executive Officer attended Resources Victoria Technical Forum (19 August)
- Public hearing on 24 August in Ararat with Ararat Rural City Council, Ararat Greenhouse Action Group, Grampians Glenthompson Landscape Guardians, NewEn Australia and Renewable Energy Systems Australia giving evidence
- Briefing from Pacific Hydro and site visit to Challicum Hills wind farm on 25 August
- Briefing from Ms Yolande Stone, Director, Policy, Planning Systems and Reform, NSW Department of Planning in Melbourne (31 July)
- Organisation of forthcoming public hearings.

### ***Future Activities***

- Public hearings on 7 and 8 September in Port Fairy with Moyne Shire Council, City of Warrnambool, Corangamite Shire Council, Framlingham Aboriginal Trust, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Oceanlinx Limited, Macarthur-Hawkesdale Landscape Guardians, regional Department of Planning and Community Development and Department of Sustainability and Environment officers and Hot Rock Limited to give evidence
- Public hearings in Adelaide, 28-29 September.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT PROCESS IN VICTORIA**

---

The Legislative Council agreed on 29 July 2009 that pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report on the following:

The environmental effects statement process in Victoria, including the operation of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, and in particular —

- (a) any weaknesses in the current system including poor environmental outcomes, excessive costs and unnecessary delays encountered through the process and its mechanisms;
- (b) community and industry consultation under the Act;
- (c) the independence of environmental effects examination when government is the proponent; and
- (d) how better environmental outcomes can be achieved more quickly and predictably and with a reduction in unnecessary costs;

and to report by 30 August 2010.

### ***Activities during August 2009***

- Work has not commenced on this inquiry

# **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002**

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**Members:**

**(Council)**            *Mr B Finn, Mr J Scheffer,*

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

**Chair:**              Mr Jude Perera

**Executive Officer:** Dr Janine Bush

## **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 GOVERNMENT'S 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 then 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.

#### ***Activities during August 2009***

- Public hearing and informal briefings on 25 August 2009
- Drafting report.

#### ***Future Activity***

- Drafting report.

## **INQUIRY ON THE ADEQUACY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN VICTORIA**

---

The Legislative Council agreed on 29 July 2009 to a motion to refer a new reference to the Family & Community Development Committee requiring it to inquire, consider

and report on the adequacy and future directions of public housing in Victoria, including —

- (a) public housing waiting lists in Victoria;
- (b) the impact on individuals and families of waiting times to access public housing and how this varies by each segment;
- (c) the adequacy, quality and standards of Victorian public housing;
- (d) the safety and location of Victorian public housing and public housing estates; and
- (e) the impact of public housing need on specific groups, including women, seniors, the homeless, indigenous Victorians, refugees, people with a mental illness, substance abuse and/or disability;

and to report by 30 September 2010.

***Activities during August 2009***

- This inquiry has not yet commenced.
- Scoping brief prepared.



# LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: VPLRC@parliament.vic.gov.au

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## Members:

(Council)                    *Mrs J Kronberg, Mr J Scheffer*

(Assembly)                 *Mr C Brooks, Mr R Clark, Mr L Donnellan, Mr M Foley, Mrs Heidi Victoria*

Chair:                        Mr Johan Scheffer (from 20 August 2007)

Executive Officer: Ms Kerry Riseley

## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

---

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2009\* 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.

\* The reporting date was extended to 31 May 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 31 March 2009.

### **Activities**

- The Committee tabled its final report on 6 May 2009.
- The Government response is due to be tabled by 6 November 2009.

## REVIEW OF THE *MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (REGISTER OF INTERESTS) ACT 1978*

---

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 – that the Law Reform Committee:

- (1) be required to undertake a review of the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978 to consider and make recommendations on amending the Act; and
- (2) present the report on its review six months from the date of this resolution.\*

\* The reporting date was extended to 31 December 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 31 March 2009.

### **Activities during August 2009**

- The Committee held a public hearing on 10 August 2009 and received evidence from Mr Gary Crooke QC, former Queensland Integrity Commissioner.
- The Committee held a public hearing at Parliament House in Sydney on 17 August 2009 and received evidence from:
  - Dr Simon Longstaff, Executive Director, St James Ethics Centre
  - The Hon Peter Primrose MLC, President of the Legislative Council; Ms Lynn Lovelock, Clerk of the Legislative Council; The Hon Kayee Griffin MLC, Chair of the Legislative Council Privileges Committee
  - Mr Ian Dickson, New South Wales Parliamentary Ethics Adviser
  - The Hon Jerrold Cripps QC, Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption
  - Mr Paul Pearce MP, Chair, Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics, Legislative Assembly.
- The Committee sent a survey about the code of conduct and register of interests to all current members of the Victorian Parliament.
- The Committee reviewed all evidence received and considered key issues, themes and potential directions.
- The Committee is hosting a Law Foundation Legal Policy Intern, Mr Mahmud Begg, who is undertaking a research project on public debate about members of parliament and ethics.

### **Future activities**

- Drafting of final report will commence.

## **POWERS OF ATTORNEY**

---

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2009 on law reforms aimed at streamlining and simplifying powers of attorney documents to enable more Victorians to plan for their future financial, lifestyle and healthcare needs — specifically the Committee is asked to:

- (a) consider the differing formality requirements and terminology, and coverage of the power of attorney documents, governed by the Instruments Act 1958 and the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986;
- (b) establish whether the donor of a power of attorney has capacity to create a legally enforceable document and differing execution requirements and the different tests that apply;
- (c) clarify the powers granted by the donor when making a power of attorney;
- (d) examine ways of minimising abuse in relation to the execution of and exercise of powers under powers of attorney documents;
- (e) consider the issue of legal capacity in the context of when an enduring power of attorney is executed and activated; and

- (f) advise on the need for adopting potential safeguards such as the registration of documents (voluntary or mandatory).\*

\* The reporting date was extended to 31 August 2010 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 13 August 2009.

***Activities during August 2009***

- Research and literature review continued
- Submissions closed on 21 August 2009. The Committee has accepted 46 submissions to date
- The Committee was represented at Victoria Legal Aid's seminar Legal Issues for an Ageing Population in Frankston on 21 August 2009.

***Future activities***

- A number of late submissions are expected
- The Committee will commence holding public hearings in October 2009.



# OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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## Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmr, 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 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS IN OUTER SUBURBAN MELBOURNE

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Received from the Legislative Assembly on 9 October 2008.

To inquire, consider and report to Parliament on the major issues relating to the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products in the interface municipalities and peri-urban areas of Melbourne. In particular, the Committee is requested to:

- (1) Identify the types of agricultural sectors operating in interface municipalities and peri-urban areas;
- (2) Examine the role of agribusiness in enhancing economic growth, increasing jobs and the sector's contribution towards promoting healthy, sustainable and prosperous outer suburban areas;
- (3) Investigate the role of planning in encouraging the development of agribusiness;
- (4) Analyse the options for sustainable food production, including environmental stewardship and local food production;
- (5) Investigate impediments faced by the industry to its long term growth and sustainability and recommend options to resolve these barriers;
- (6) Highlight niche and well performing sectors operating in the interface of Melbourne, with particular reference to viticulture, horticulture and sustainable agriculture;
- (7) Examine exemplary programs supported by governments (at all levels), the private sector and non-government organisations, which assist the sustainability of the agribusiness sector; and
- (8) Investigate national and international initiatives relevant to these issues.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than 31 March 2010.

### **Activities during August 2009**

4 August 2009

Public Hearing – Cardinia Shire Council: Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham

- Cr Bill Pearson, Mayor, Cardinia Shire Council
- Gary McQuillan, CEO, Cardinia Shire Council
- Liam Hodgetts, Manager Strategic Development, City of Casey
- Ian Anderson, President, Cardinia Branch, Victorian Farmers Federation
- Peter Schreurs, Peter Schreurs & Sons; Tom Schreurs, J. & JM Schreurs & Sons; and Craig Arnott, Arnotts Vegetable Farms Pty Ltd
- David Nickell, Carl Firrito & John Cascone,
- Arthur Giaccotto, market gardener; Allan McDonald, asparagus grower; Maurice Cafra, organic farmer & asparagus grower; & Tim Knox, associate member of the Australian Asparagus Council
- Vin Morris, Agribusiness Officer, Cardinia Shire Council
- Tour of Casey and Cardinia agricultural areas and farm visits

25 August 2009

Public Hearing – Bass Coast Shire Council: Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre, Newhaven

- Peter Francis, Economic Development Manager, Bass Coast Shire Council
- Roslyn Jenzen, Economic Development Coordinator, Bass Coast Shire Council
- Moragh Mackay, Network Coordinator, Bass Coast Landcare Network
- Bill Cleeland and Ewen Carmeron, Bass Coast farmers
- Greg Price, Director, Alex Scott and Staff
- Alex Arbuthnot, Chairman; Geoff Kirton, Director; & Susan Webster, Executive Officer – Agribusiness Gippsland Inc.
- Tour of two farms in Newhaven

### ***Future Activity***

8 September 2009

Site visit – Williamstown and Laverton North

- Site visit to Aqueous Solutions premises in Williamstown, to be followed by inspection of a bore water desalination unit in Laverton North.

Public Hearing – Parliament House

- Ron Harris, Executive Director, Farm Services Victoria, Department of Primary Industries.
- Luke Wilson, Executive Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Division, Department of Primary Industries.

Report preparation and future public hearings

The Committee will prepare a report based on its recent overseas evidence seeking trip, in addition to beginning the drafting of its final report for the agribusiness inquiry. A number of further site visits and public hearings will also be scheduled between October and December, as part of the agribusiness inquiry.

## **INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CHANGE THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY\***

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Received from the Legislative Council on 29 July 2009.

That pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee is required to inquire into, consider and report on the following:

The impact of the State Government's decision to change the urban growth boundary on landholders and the environment and plans announced by the Government to introduce an increased development contribution for land in designated growth areas, including —

- (a) the likely quantum of the collections by Government;
- (b) mechanisms to ensure the contributions are directed only to the intended purposes;
- (c) the likely impact on the housing and development industries;
- (d) any unintended consequences including the impact on all landholders and purchasers to be impacted;
- (e) any displacement or replacement of Government spending likely to result from the increased collections; and
- (f) any alternative options, including any used in other jurisdictions; and to report by 30 November 2009.

## **INQUIRY INTO FARMERS' MARKETS**

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Received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 August 2009.

That pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee is required to inquire into, consider and report no later than 31 August 2010 into farmers' markets, and the Committee should:

- (1) Identify the types of farmers' markets operating in interface municipalities and peri-urban areas;
- (2) Investigate the history and growth potential of this form of retail/agricultural activity and the demand created for products sourced from interface and peri-urban areas;
- (3) Examine the structure, codes of practice, strategic planning and economic viability of farmers' markets and any barriers or impediments to their development and long term growth;
- (4) Examine how farmers' markets can contribute to increasing the viability of small scale farming enterprises located in the interface and peri-urban municipalities, especially in the designated 'Green Wedge' zoned land; and
- (5) Identify any barriers to access farmers' markets for producers to supply or retail at these markets

### **Activities during August 2009**

- This inquiry has not yet commenced.



# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

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**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 R Dalla-Riva, Ms J Huppert, Ms S Pennicuik, 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

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## **THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE**

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

***Activities during August 2009:***

Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports tabled September 2007-February 2008 (Round Three).

*Priority One*

- Improving Our Schools: Monitoring and Support; and
- Funding and Delivery of Two Freeway Upgrade Projects.

*Priority Two*

- Program for Students with Disabilities: Program Accountability; and
- Agricultural Research and Investment, Monitoring and Support.

Finalisation of research and drafting on priority one reports. The Committee considered the draft priority one reports in August with draft priority two reports to be considered in September. It is anticipated this report will be tabled in mid-September 2009.

Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports tabled March - June 2008 (Round Four).

*Priority One*

- Patient Safety in Public Hospitals; and
- Planning for Water Infrastructure in Victoria.

*Priority Two*

- Victoria’s Planning Framework for Land Use and Development
- Coordinating Services and Initiatives for Aboriginal People
- Records Management in the Victorian Public Service
- Delivering HealthSMART; and
- The Criminal Justice Enhancement Program.

In relation to Priority One reports, questionnaires were developed and sent to the Auditor-General and Departments. Invitations for public submissions advertised and letters to witnesses sent in relation to public hearings to be held on 23 September 2009.

#### *Discussions with the Auditor-General*

The Committee held discussions with the Auditor-General on:

- VAGO operational highlights and challenges;
- Results of VAGO's recent Parliamentary Survey; and
- The PAEC's 2007-08 *Financial and Performance Outcomes Report* – VAGO's response to PAEC recommendations on VAGO.

#### *Draft Performance Audit Specifications*

The following audit specifications were considered by the Committee in August 2009:

- Teacher Performance; and
- Effectiveness of Student Wellbeing Services and Programs

#### **Future Activities**

Tabling of the Committee's report *Review of the Findings and Recommendations of the Auditor-General 2007-08* in mid-September 2009;

Public hearings to be conducted for priority one reports, Round 4, on 23 September 2009;

Consideration of the evidence including questionnaire responses, transcripts, public submissions and other sources to commence. Research and drafting of reports for priority one and two reviews of Auditor-General's reports, Round 4, to commence. The Committee anticipates tabling of its Round 4 report by February 2010; and The Auditor-General is expected to consult with the Committee on his 2010-11 Annual Plan and on further audit specifications.

Committee consideration of:

- Draft specifications for proposed performance audits to be conducted by the Auditor-General;
- Round 3 Priority Two reports;
- Questionnaire responses from the Auditor-General and Departments and public submissions on Round 4 Priority One reports; and

Government response to the Committee's report on the *Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General's reports 2007 (Round Two)* is due 2 December 2009.

### **INQUIRY INTO A REVIEW OF THE *AUDIT ACT 1994***

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Terms of Reference for this Inquiry are:

- (a) review in its entirety the Act and its provisions, taking into account contemporary developments and emerging issues both in Victoria and similar jurisdictions so as to further strengthen public accountability in Victoria;
- (b) seek public submissions and hold hearings on the review of the Act;
- (c) consider the views of the Auditor-General of Victoria;

- (d) consider the views of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Treasury and Finance, as the appropriate central agencies of the Victorian government, on desirable reform and amendment of the Act; and
- (e) examine audit legislation in other jurisdictions both in Australia and overseas with a view to determining whether the legislation and practice in those jurisdictions might be relevant to review and reform the Act.

### **Activities during August 2009**

The Committee has:

- developed and endorsed a work program for this inquiry;
- considered an issues paper on the inquiry; and
- commenced the research of audit legislation in national and international jurisdictions.

### **Future Activities**

- Organise private discussions with the Committee and relevant stakeholders;
- Continue to research audit legislation in other jurisdictions; and
- Seek evidence from national and international jurisdictions.

## **INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FINANCE PRACTICES AND LEGISLATION**

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

Terms of reference are available via:

[www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/inquiries/finance\\_practices\\_legislation/terms.html](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/inquiries/finance_practices_legislation/terms.html)

### **Future Activities**

Government response to the Committee's Report *on New Directions in Accountability, Inquiry into Victoria's Public Finance Practices and Legislation* is due 4 December 2009.

On-going discussions with DTF maintained.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE 2009-10 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

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

2009-10 Budget Estimates Part Two Report

### **Activities during August 2009:**

- Planning of chapters, research and drafting progressed;
- Committee consideration of specific chapters and issues; and
- Consideration of responses from departments with further information to the Committee's clarification questions and questions on notice.

### ***Future Activity***

Analysis of issues and completion of the drafting of chapters for the *Report on the 2009-10 Budget Estimates Part Two* for Committee consideration anticipated tabling in Parliament in October 2009.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES**

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

### ***Future Activity***

Government Response to the Committee's report on the 2007-08 Financial and Performance Outcomes is due on 7 November 2009.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES**

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

### ***Future Activity***

Planning including Questionnaires to Departments on this new Inquiry is to commence in early October 2009.

# ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

## Members:

(Council) Mr D Koch and Mr S Leane

(Assembly) Mr J Eren, Mr C Langdon, Mr B Tilley, Mr I Trezise and Mr P Weller

Chair: Mr John Eren

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

## FEDERAL–STATE ROAD FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

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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.

\*Report date extended to 30 September 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2007.

### **Activity during August 2009**

- Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

## INQUIRY INTO THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN DESIGN RULES

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Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 9 September 2008 –

That, under s33 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, the Road Safety Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 November 2009 on the process of development, adoption and implementation of Australian design rules and to consider other worldwide practices with a focus on improving vehicle safety.

### **Activities during August 2009**

- The Committee travelled overseas for briefings in Wellington, New Zealand. Representatives from the Automobile Association of New Zealand, the Ministry of Transport and New Zealand Transport met with the Committee.

- The Committee then travelled to Sydney to conduct hearings with representatives from the Roads & Traffic Authority, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, and the University of New South Wales, Injury Risk Management Research Centre.

### ***Future Activity***

- Writing of the draft report continues.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS IN CAR PARKS**

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 –

That under s33 of the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003 the following matters be referred to the Road Safety Committee for inquiry consideration and report, no later than 31 May 2010, on the current rules and standards that apply to pedestrian safety in car parks and the Committee is to recommend potential measures that relevant authorities should consider to improve safety for pedestrians.

### ***Activities during August 2009***

- The Committee travelled overseas for briefings in Wellington, New Zealand. Representatives from the Ministry of Justice Crime Prevention Unit - Car Park & Safer Parking, the New Zealand Parking Association, Wellington City Council and Tenix Solutions New Zealand P/L met with the Committee.
- The Committee then travelled to Sydney to conduct hearings with representatives from the Pedestrian Council of Australia, Westfield, ARRB Group Ltd, NRMA Motoring Services, Woolworths Ltd and the Roads & Traffic Authority.

### ***Future Activity***

- Further public hearings are scheduled for September in Melbourne.

# 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](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rrc)

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## Members:

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

(Assembly) *Ms K Marshall and Mr R Northe*

Chair: Mr Damian Drum

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

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

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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 REGIONAL CENTRES OF THE FUTURE

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Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 27 May 2008 – to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 September 2009 on measures to build on the current Government's investment in regional Victoria, through further development and

enhancement of regional centres, focusing on the development of regional centres as places of economic, environmental, social and cultural innovation that enable regional Victoria to meet the challenge of predicted future population growth in this state, and, in particular, the Committee is required to report on:

- (1) measures that could be taken to encourage new and existing businesses, industries and government authorities to establish operations in regional centres;
- (2) the development of industrial land to support the economic base of regional centres;
- (3) the most effective investments in infrastructure to encourage business and industry development in regional centres, and to support and encourage further population growth in regional centres;
- (4) measures to promote strong social capital and high quality-of-life outcomes in growing regional centres; and
- (5) examples from other jurisdictions where promotion of population growth in regional centres has successfully occurred.

The Committee is required to report to the Parliament by 30 September 2009.

### ***Activities during August 2009***

- Committee Secretariat continued drafting Report on International Investigations
- Ongoing discussion and review of 2009 timetable
- Continued liaison with Consultant to assist with preparation of the draft Inquiry Report, and related matters
- Committee Meeting 35 was held on Monday 10 August 2009
- Committee Meeting 36 was held on Monday 31 August 2009.

### ***Future activities***

- Ongoing research in accordance with timetable for drafting of the report
- Updating and development of website content as required
- Preparation of draft report recommendations and chapters of the Final Report for the consideration of the Committee.

# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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**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)

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## 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

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### Exceptions and Exemptions to the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*

On the 16 December the Governor in Council referred Terms of Reference requiring the Committee to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament by 30 April 2009 on whether any amendments should be made to the exceptions and exemptions in the Equal Opportunity Act 1995.

### *Activities during August 2009*

- Continued to mail / email the Options Paper to interested parties.
- Public hearings held 4 and 5 August 2009 at Parliament House, Melbourne.
- Deliberative meetings held to discuss findings and consider first draft of the final report.
- Acknowledgement of submissions received
- Updating of the Committee website as required.

### *Future Activities*

- Ongoing analysis of information received via submissions
- Further deliberative meetings to consider the updated final report.

The Full Committee met on 10 August 2009, where it considered and approved:

- Alert Digest No. 9 of 2009  
Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment Bill 2009

Courts Legislation Amendment (Judicial Resolution Conference)  
Bill 2009  
Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009  
Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Employee Protection)  
Bill 2009  
Racing Legislation Amendment (Racing Integrity Assurance) Bill 2009  
Water Amendment (Non Water User Limit) Bill 2009

The Full Committee met on 31 August 2009, where it considered and approved:

- Alert Digest No. 10 of 2009  
Courts Legislation Amendment (Sunset Provisions) Bill 2009  
Energy and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 2009  
Gambling Regulation Further Amendment Bill 2009  
Human Tissue Amendment Bill 2009  
Justice Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2009  
Liquor Control Reform Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2009  
Local Government Amendment (Offences and Other Matters) Bill 2009  
Major Transport Projects Facilitation Bill 2009  
Personal Property Securities (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2009  
Tobacco Amendment (Protection of Children) Bill 2009

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

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### 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 August 2009***

The Subcommittee did not meet during August.

### 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 August 2009***

The Subcommittee met on 26 August 2009, where it considered and approved the following regulations:

SR No. 15 – Supreme Court (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2009  
SR No. 26 – Disability Amendment Regulations 2009  
SR No. 35 – Magistrates' Court (Arbitration) (Professional Costs) Regulations  
2009  
SR No. 51 – Supreme Court (Fees)(List Amendment) Regulations 2009  
SR No. 52 – Retirement Villages (Contractual Arrangements) Amendment  
(Formula) Regulations 2009

- SR No. 53 – Children’s Services Regulations 2009
- SR No. 67 – Country Fire Authority Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 68 – Road Safety (General) Amendment (Road Safety Camera) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 70 – Supreme Court (Fees) Further Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 71 – Trade Measurement Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 72 – Fundraising Regulations 2009
- SR No. 73 – Road Safety (Drivers) Amendment (Fees) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 74 – Road Safety (Vehicles) Amendment (Fees) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 75 – Chattel Securities (Registration) Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 76 – Disability Further Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 78 – Zoological Parks and Gardens Amendment (Fees) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 79 – Building Amendment (Fees) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 80 – Accident Towing Services Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 81 – National Parks (Fees and Charges) Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 83 – Magistrates’ Court (Committals) Rules 2009
- SR No. 82 – Plumbing Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 84 – Transport (Ticketing) Amendment (Mykis and Other Smartcards) Regulations 2009



# FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE

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Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696 Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

Website: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/SCFPA/](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/SCFPA/)

## Members:

**(Council)** *Mr G Barber, Ms C Broad, Mr M Guy, Mr P Hall and  
Mr P Kavanagh.*

**Chair:** Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

**Deputy Chair:** Mr Matt Viney

**Secretary:** Mr Richard Willis

## INQUIRY INTO DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONS

---

### Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on Victorian departmental and agency performance and operations.

### Substituted Members:

Mr Brian Tee for Mr Matt Viney

### ***Activity during August 2009***

- Follow-up on questions taken on notice from hearings with Victorian Funds Management Corporation and Growth Areas Authority.

### ***Future Activities***

- Further hearing with the Growth Areas Authority to take place on Monday 7 September 2009.
- Minister for Planning also invited to give evidence in relation to Growth Areas Authority performance and operations. Awaiting feedback on hearing time/date.

## INQUIRY INTO BUSINESS CASE FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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### Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on the estimated benefits and costs arising from the north-south pipeline, the Wonthaggi desalination plant, and the modernisation of irrigation infrastructure.

### Substituted Members:

Mr Damian Drum for Mr Peter Hall

Mr Brian Tee for Mr Matt Viney

Ms Wendy Lovell for Mr Matthew Guy (21 August 2009)

### **Activities during August 2009**

- Committee undertook site visits on 20-21 August focusing on north-eastern Victorian water infrastructure projects, specifically the Sugarloaf Pipeline and irrigation upgrades as part of the Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project.
- Public Hearings in Shepparton on Friday 21 August 2009, focusing on north-eastern Victorian water infrastructure projects, with evidence received from the following witnesses:
  - City of Greater Shepparton
  - Plug the Pipe
  - Goulburn-Murray Water and Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project

### **Future Activity**

- Further hearings to be determined.

## **INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE DATA**

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### Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on the capacity of hospitals to meet demand, standards and quality of care, resourcing and access levels, and the accuracy and completeness of performance data for Victorian public hospitals.

### Substituted Members:

Ms Colleen Hartland for Mr Greg Barber  
Mr Brian Tee for Mr Matt Viney (17 August 2009)  
Mr David Davis for Mr Matthew Guy (17-18 August 2009)  
Mr Brian Tee for Ms Candy Broad (18 August 2009)

### **Activities during August 2009**

- Public hearings on 17-18 August 2009 at Parliament House, with evidence received from the following witnesses:
  - Ambulance Employees Australia
  - School of Public Health and Preventative Medicine, Monash University
  - Department of Health
  - Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (Victorian Branch)
  - Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
  - Australian Medical Association, Victoria
  - Royal Australian College of Physicians
  - Dr Garry Lane
  - Prof Paddy Dewan

### **Future Activities**

- Further hearings to be determined.

# TRAIN SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

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Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696      Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

Website: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/trainservices/](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/trainservices/)

## Members:

**(Council)**      *Mr G Barber, Mr D Drum, Ms J Huppert, Mr E O'Donohue,  
Mr M Viney*

**Chair:**            Mr Bruce Atkinson

**Deputy Chair:**    Mr Shaun Leane

**Secretary:**        Mr Richard Willis

## INQUIRY INTO TRAIN SERVICES

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### Terms of Reference:

To inquire into the factors leading to and causes of failures in the provision of metropolitan and V/Line train services.

### ***Activities during August 2009***

- Analysis of transcripts from hearings with the Department of Transport and Connex Melbourne (Veolia Transport).
- Follow up questions taken on notice at hearings by the Department of Transport and Connex Melbourne (Veolia Transport).
- Various documents sought from Connex.
- Further witnesses being invited to give evidence at hearings on 22 September and 5-6 October.

### ***Future Activity***

- Further public hearings to take place on 22 September and 5-6 October.