



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 31 March 2005

55th Parliament

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

The Parliamentary 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).

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www.parliament.vic.gov.au

DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3541 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3603

Email: dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr J Scheffer and The Hon S M Nguyen.*

(Assembly) *Hon R Cooper, Ms K Marshall, Mr Ian Maxfield,
Dr B Sykes and Mr K Wells.*

Chair: Mr J Scheffer, MLC

Executive Officer: Sandy Cook

INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIES TO REDUCE HARMFUL ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 6 May 2003, to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on strategies to reduce harmful alcohol consumption. In particular the Committee is required to:

1. Investigate the nature, extent and culture of alcohol consumption on the Victorian community and the associated costs to the community.
2. Examine the role of alcohol advertising including its influence on harmful alcohol consumption and high-risk groups such as young people and Kooris.
3. Review the adequacy of existing strategies for reducing harmful alcohol consumption.
4. Recommend best practice strategies to address the issue of harmful alcohol consumption, including regulatory, law enforcement, education and treatment responses.
5. Examine national and international legislation, reports and material relevant to this issue.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 1 July, 2005.

Activities during March 2005

- **Discussion Paper continued to be circulated**
- **Literature review continued**
- **Analysis of submissions underway**
- **Planning of public hearings to be held on 13 and 14 April**
- **Planning of intra state and interstate meetings and site visits for April**
- **Research Officer attended seminar organised by the ADF on 1 March - *Should the legal drinking age be raised to age 21?***
- **John Scheffer, Bill Sykes and Secretariat staff attended seminar organised by National Drug and Research Institute on 8 March - *Future Directions - in prevention of alcohol and other drug related harm***

- **John Scheffer and Secretariat staff held meeting on 23 March with George Bray - Panel Member for the Independent Review of Liquor Licensing Law, WA**
- **John Scheffer attended the Koori Alcohol and Drug Network meeting on 30 March.**

INQUIRY INTO VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH MOTOR VEHICLE USE

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 3 June 2003 for inquiry, consideration and report on:

1. the incidence, prevalence, severity, cost and impact of violence associated with motor vehicle use;
2. a review of Victorian, national and international research into violence associated with motor vehicle use;
3. the effectiveness of strategies and initiatives relating to violence associated with motor vehicle use; and
4. the need for policy and legislative reform to reduce violence associated with the motor vehicle use at the state level.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 31 March 2005.

Activity during March 2005

- **Writing, editing and deliberation of draft report.**

Future Activity

- **Table Report April 2005.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Crime Trends — Fifth Report — Response due April 2003

Inquiry into Fraud and Electronic Commerce - *Interim response tabled 15 September 2004*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3592 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3691

Email: edc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Assembly) *Mr. H.F. Delahunty, Mr. B.J. Jenkins, Ms M. Morand and
Mr. T.G. Robinson*

(Council) *The Hons B.N. Atkinson, R.H. Bowden and N. Pullen*

Chairman: Mr. Tony Robinson, MP

Executive Officer: Dr. Russell Solomon

INQUIRY INTO LABOUR HIRE EMPLOYMENT IN VICTORIA

Terms of Reference received by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 3 June 2003.

- (a) The extent and breadth of labour hire employment in Victoria, including the:
- (i) employment status of workers engaged by labour hire companies;
 - (ii) use of labour hire in particular industries and/or regions; and
 - (iii) application of industrial relations, occupational health and safety, and workers compensation legislation.
- (b) the consequences of the use of labour hire employment. Consideration should be given, but is not limited, to:
- (i) the rights and obligations of labour hire employees, labour hire agencies and/or host employers under industrial relations, occupational health and safety, and workers' compensation legislation. Any ambiguity about the nature of rights and obligations between the three parties should also be considered;
 - (ii) the impact on industry skills levels;
 - (iii) contribution to the casualisation of the work force; and
 - (iv) the extent of any such consequences.
- (c) recommendations based on an assessment of the above matters and including consideration of:
- (i) the jurisdictional limitations of Victoria's industrial relations powers;
 - (ii) the recommendations of the New South Wales labour hire task force and the responsibilities of the New South Wales labour hire industry council (if established);
 - (iii) regulation in other Australian jurisdictions;
 - (iv) impact on business; and
 - (v) Worksafe Victoria campaigns and activities.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 31 May 2005.

Activities during March 2005

31 written submissions received as at end of March 2005

13 written responses received as at end of March 2005

Public Hearings held in Melbourne:

7 March 2005

- **Ms Kim Windsor, Director / Principal Consultant, Windsor & Associates**
- **Mr. Colin Fenwick, Director, Centre for Employment and Labour Relations Law, University of Melbourne**
- **Professor H. Glasbeek, Professor Emeritus and Senior Scholar Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Toronto**

21 March 2005

- **Mr. Rob Sheers, Director, Operations Division, WorkSafe Victoria**
- **Mr. Brian Cook, Director, Premium Division, Victorian WorkCover Authority**

Contacting organisations relating to the proposed overseas investigations.

Future Activities

Further research into labour hire employment in Australia and overseas

Drafting of chapters for the Final Report.

INQUIRY INTO THE VIABILITY OF THE VICTORIAN THOROUGHbred/STANDARDbred BREEDING INDUSTRIES

Referred by Order of the Governor in Council, on 1 February 2005 to inquire into and report to Parliament on the Viability of the Victorian Thoroughbred/Standardbred Breeding Industries with a particular regard to the following:

1. the strength of the Victorian thoroughbred/standardbred breeding industries compared to other Australian states;
2. the role of overseas breeding interests and the influence that they are having on the Victorian industry;
3. the extent to which the Victorian industries are being integrated at a national and international level;
4. the extent to which the Victorian industries have adopted international best practice;
5. employment and investment opportunities and patterns with particular emphasis in regional Victoria; and

6. the development of skills within the industries.

with a view to making recommendations on how the industries may be further developed.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2005.

Activities during March 2005

1 written submission received as at end of March 2005.

Contacting organisations relating to the proposed overseas investigations.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into the Economic Contribution of Victoria's Culturally Diverse Population —
Response due April 2005

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000

Telephone: 9651 8309 Facsimile: 9651 8323

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *The Hons Helen Buckingham, Peter Hall and Johan Scheffer*

(Assembly) *Ms Anne Eckstein, Mr Steve Herbert, Mr Nicholas Kotsiras,
Ms Janice Munt, and Mr Victor Perton.*

Chair: Steve Herbert MP

Executive Officer: Karen Ellingford

PROMOTION OF MATHS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 27 July 2004 to inquire into and report on opportunities to promote maths and science in Victorian education.

In particular, the Committee is requested to:

1. Determine which factors will support high quality teaching and learning of mathematics and science including teaching method and environment, subject knowledge, pedagogy, and teaching expertise.
2. Examine national and international trends and report on innovative initiatives that promote the teaching and learning of maths and science.
3. Determine how best practice in teaching of maths and science can be shared among schools and other education communities and identify other opportunities for cross government action.
4. Determine how new business, industry and research applications of mathematics and science can be integrated into schools and learning communities.
5. Examine the potential for greater cross-sectoral links between industry, tertiary and training institutions and schools in the promotion of mathematics and science education.
6. Examine gender issues in the teaching and learning of mathematics and science education.
7. Consider ways of promoting greater interest by suitably qualified people to undertake mathematics and/or science teaching careers.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by September 2005.

Activities during March 2005

The Minister for Education briefed the Committee on the background to the terms of reference

Planning and organising of public hearings and site visits continued.

Future Activity

Briefings from the relevant government departments, including DIIRD and DE&T, site visits and public hearings.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Suitability of Current Pre-Service Teacher Training Courses - Response due August 2005.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3533 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3537

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

Members:

(Council) *The Hons A Coote, D K Drum, J G Hilton, W Lovell*

(Assembly) *Ms J T Duncan, Ms J M Lindell and Mr G Seitz*

Chair: Ms J M Lindell, MP

Executive Officer: Dr Caroline Williams

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 27 April 2004. The Committee is required to:

1. Examine what practical low cost initiatives State or Local Governments can encourage that will:
 - promote efficiency of water use and supply and use of energy;
 - reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
 - increase the rate of recycling;
 - foster renewable energy use; and
 - improve energy efficiency.
2. Identify the barriers to increasing the rate of participation by individuals and households in recycling and conserving water, energy and other resources, and improving energy efficiency.
3. Identify other low cost opportunities for communities to participate in promoting and encouraging environmental sustainability.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 31 May 2005.

Activities during March 2005

85 submissions received to date

Preparation of draft report

Preparation of overseas visit report.

Future Activity

Committee meetings scheduled for 4 and 26 April 2005.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3526 Facsimile: (03) 9651 3691

Email: fcfdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *The Hon D Davis, Mr R Smith*

(Assembly) *Ms H McTaggart, Ms L Neville, Mrs E J Powell, Mrs H Shardey, and Mr D Wilson*

Chairman: Mr R Smith, MLC

Executive Officer: Mr P L Bourke

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF URBAN DESIGN AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC ART IN VICTORIA

Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 6 May 2003, to inquire into, consider, and make recommendations on options to improve the quality of urban design and increase opportunities for public art in development in Victoria and, in particular to report on:-

1. Mechanisms and good practice for the delivery of urban art outcomes, both by the public and private sectors, either as integral parts of development or as contributions to art works in the public realm.
2. The adequacy of existing programs and funding mechanisms for the delivery of and support of urban design and public art, and make recommendations for cost-effective improvement in these programs and mechanisms.
3. Recommendations for mechanisms to increase funding for urban design and public art, and in particular ways to forge partnerships between the public and private sectors for that purpose.
4. Recommendations to improve community understanding of, access to and active participation in urban design and public art.
5. The need for change to legislation or statutory requirements to implement any recommendations made as a result of the Inquiry.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 December 2005.

Activity during March

Inquiry has not yet commenced.

INQUIRY INTO ISSUES RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BODY IMAGE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE AND ASSOCIATED EFFECTS ON THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 18 January 2003, to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on issues relating to the development of body image among young people and associated effects on their health and wellbeing.

The Committee is requested to:

1. Identify factors which contribute to the development of body image among young people;
2. Consider:
 - the role of the media, family, the peer group and other potential factors in the development of body image;
 - other factors that impact on body image;
 - the associated health and other impacts of eating disorders, steroid use, and other manifestations of problematic body image, on young people;
 - gender differences in the development of problematic body image.
3. Analyse available medical research on the linkages between mental health and problematic body imagery;
4. Identify good practice in the promotion of positive body image among young people and how risk factors associated with negative body image can be combated;
5. Identify possible improvements to health promotion campaigns aimed at young people, that promote positive body image and self esteem;
6. Investigate the extent to which promoting positive body image and self esteem among young people can help to prevent associated health risks such as potentially dangerous weight loss methods, eating disorders, steroid use, exercise dependence or avoidance, obesity and mental ill health;
7. Consider whether further strategies are needed to enhance and promote positive body images among young people and, if so, what form the strategies should take (including non-legislative options) and whether these would be best developed by government agencies, the community sector or through partnership arrangements.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 April 2005.

Activities during March

Preparation of draft report

Public hearings in Melbourne.

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION OF THE FUNERAL INDUSTRY

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 20 January 2004, to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

The current regulatory framework, including self-regulatory mechanisms, that is relevant to the funeral industry and assess its adequacy, where necessary identifying options for industry and government to improve practices in the industry.

In particular the Committee is required to:

1. Identify all existing regulation and self-regulatory arrangements applying to the funeral industry in Victoria, including those covering practices associated with planning, health, employee safety and consumer protection.
2. Examine the adequacy of the current regulatory framework, taking into account:
 - the quantity and severity of complaints;
 - community perceptions of ethical standards;
 - public and environmental health concerns;
 - occupational and employee health and safety issues; and
 - consumer protection and fair trading issues.
3. Assess the nature and extent of problems in the industry and, if necessary, consider options to address these. Options could include, but not be limited to:
 - Standards of the conduct of funerals, including storage, transportation and physical treatment of deceased persons that protect public health and safety and ensure dignity and respect for the dead;
 - Standards of employee training and workplace support;
 - Planning requirements regarding the establishment of funeral parlours; and
 - Extending coverage and enforcement of fair-trading laws.
4. Identify the form any intervention should take and whether government agencies, industry bodies or a combination of the two would best undertake it. In particular consider non-legislative options such as the development of codes of conduct, accreditation schemes, education and training programs and the development of information products.

In considering this reference, the Committee should take into account:

Community experiences of the industry and the nature and extent of community concerns;

The level of consumer complaints;

Employee complaints and compensation claims within the industry;

Pricing practices;

The costs and benefits to the community of different approaches to regulation; and

Regulation and other activities being undertaken in other jurisdictions.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 April 2005.

Activity during March

Review of draft Chapters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Examining the Roles of Community Advisory Committees of Metropolitan Health Services - Response tabled in the Legislative Council on 24 February 2005.

Inquiry Examining the Impact on the Victorian Community and Public Hospitals on the Diminishing Access to After Hours and Bulk Billing General Practitioners - Response due April 2005

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3644 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3674

Email: VPLRC@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Ms D. G. Hadden, the Hons R.A. Dalla-Riva and D Koch.*

(Assembly) *Ms D.A. Beard, Mr R. Hudson, Mr A. G. Lupton and
Mr N. J. Maughan.*

Chairman: Mr R. Hudson, MP

Executive Officer: Ms M. L. Mason

INQUIRY INTO WARRANT POWERS AND PROCEDURES

Referred by Order in Council on 3 June 2003.

To inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

1. Victoria's existing warrant powers and procedures, including arrest warrants, warrants to seize property and search warrants; and
2. whether the existing laws should be amended, and in what way, having particular regard to the need to promote fairness, consistency and efficiency.

The Committee was initially required to report to Parliament by 31 March 2004. An extension has been granted with the report now required by the last day of the Autumn 2005 sittings of Parliament.

Activities during March 2005

- **drafting of final report.**

Future Activities

- **forum of agencies involved in PERIN matters**
- **draft report to Committee for consideration**
- **Committee meetings to consider draft.**

INQUIRY INTO THE CORONER'S ACT 1985

Referred by Order in Council on 7 December 2004

To inquire into and report to Parliament on the effectiveness of the Coroner's Act 1985 (the Act) and to consider whether the Act (excluding Part 9) provides an appropriate legislative framework for:

- (a) the independent investigation of deaths and fires in Victoria;
- (b) the making of recommendations to:
 - (i) prevent deaths and fires in Victoria; and
 - (ii) improve the safety of Victorians; and

(c) the provision of support for the families, friends and others associated with a deceased person who is the subject of a coronial inquiry.

In particular, the Committee is required to recommend any areas where the Act should be amended or modernised to better meet the needs of the Community.

In making its inquiry the Committee should examine equivalent legislation and its operation in other jurisdictions.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than 31 December 2005.

Activities during March 2005

- **draft discussion paper considered by Committee**
- **discussion paper to printer.**

Future Activities

- **advertise inquiry and call for submissions**
- **prepare stakeholder lists**
- **distribute discussion paper**
- **site visit to the Coroners Court and Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.**

INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND PROBATE ACT 1958

Referred by Order in Council on 3 June 2003.

To inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

The **Administration and Probate Act 1958** and in particular to have regard to issues including, but not limited to:

1. the desirability of new legislation and procedures to deal with the administration of a deceased person's estate.
2. whether the act should be amended to provide alternative mechanisms for the resolution of disputes that involve small estates;
3. whether the Magistrates Court and the County Court should also be given jurisdiction to deal with grants of probate and administration and deal with disputes relating to wills; and
4. whether amendments are necessary in relation to the charges and commissions of solicitors who also act as executors.

The Committee was originally required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2004. An extension has been granted to the last sitting day of the Spring sittings 2006. The commencement of this inquiry has been delayed to await the final report of the National Committee for Uniform Succession Laws.

Inquiry has not yet commenced.

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 8387 Facsimile: (03) 9651 8323

Email: osisdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) The Hons L Argondizzo and A K Somyurek

(Assembly) Mr E N Baillieu, Ms R Buchanan, Mr M F Dixon,
Mr D A Nardella and Hon K M Smith

Chairman: Mr Don Nardella MP

Executive Officer: Mr Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO BUILDING NEW COMMUNITIES

Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 18 January 2005, to inquire into and report to Parliament on issues relating to strengthening communities through improved community engagement in outer urban areas, including both developing and established communities.

In particular, the Committee is requested to:

1. Investigate existing forms of community engagement and recommend ways to strengthen and empower communities and build social capital;
2. Examine the role of community groups and all levels of government in promoting community engagement, with a view to strengthening outer suburban communities;
3. Investigate the role of new forms of communication, including the Internet and associated technologies, in supporting and enhancing community engagement;
4. Identify opportunities for increasing community engagement between Melbourne's outer suburban municipalities and communities;
5. Identify barriers to participate in various forms of community engagement and ways to overcome these barriers;
6. Investigate and report into how life-long learning, neighbourhood houses and other organisations can strengthen local communities;
7. Investigate and report on options for engaging, with a culturally diverse community, older persons, people with a disability and youth in the local community;
8. The role of volunteers and volunteer organisations in strengthening local communities;
9. The role of mentoring in the outer suburbs;
10. Examine national and international initiatives relevant to these issues; and
11. Investigate the implications of building new outer urban communities, on community cohesion in nearby rural communities, particularly during the transition period from rural to urban.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament no later than 31 March 2006.

Activities during March 2005

On 9 March, the Chair, Don Nardella, MP and Committee Member Ted Baillieu, MP, made a presentation at a planning seminar on elements of the previous inquiry into Sustainable Urban Design for New Communities in Outer Suburban Areas, hosted by Banyule City Council. The Executive Officer was also in attendance.

On 30 March, a number of committee members attended the Department of Victorian Communities hosted Government and Society seminar, 'Active Minds, Active Lives: Recreation, Sport and Community'.

On 31 March, the Chair and the Executive Officer were interviewed on Radio 3RPP on the Inquiry into Building New Communities.

The Committee appointed a new Research Officer, Mr Keir Delaney, who will be commencing with the Committee on 26 April 2005.

Future Activity

The closing date for applications for the Inquiry into Building New Communities is 8 April 2005.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into sustainable urban design for new communities in outer suburban areas – Response due April 2005.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3551 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3552

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/default.htm>

Members:

(Council) *The Hons B Baxter, B Forwood (Deputy Chair),
G K Rich–Phillips and Ms G D Romanes.*

(Assembly) *Ms C Campbell, Mr R W Clark, Mr L Donnellan,
Ms D Green, Mr J Merlino.*

Chair: Hon C. Campbell, MP

Executive Officer: Ms M Cornwell

2003–04 BUDGET OUTCOMES

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

Activities during March 2005

On 21 and 30 March 2005, the Committee considered and amended the draft report on the 2003-04 Budget Outcomes.

Draft report revised.

Future Activities

Revised report to be further considered at the Committee’s meeting on 4 April 2005.

Report to be tabled in Parliament and circulated to all Government Departments and Agencies.

2005-06 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 1968, section 4F (1) (b).*

Activities during March 2005

On 30 March 2005, the Committee considered and amended the PAEC 2005-06 Budget Estimates questionnaire.

On 31 March 2005, the questionnaire was distributed to all Ministers and Departments.

Future Activities

Public hearings scheduled for the following dates:

DATE AND TIME	MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Tuesday 10 May 10.00 am to 11.30 am	Presiding Officers	Parliamentary Departments
Tuesday 10 May 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Hon. Steve Bracks	Minister for Multicultural Affairs
	Hon. Steve Bracks	Minister for Veterans' Affairs
	Hon. Steve Bracks	Premier
Wednesday 11 May 9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Hon. John Brumby	Minister for State and Regional Development
	Hon. John Brumby	Minister for Innovation
Wednesday 11 May 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Hon. Bronwyn Pike	Treasurer
Thursday 12 May 9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Hon. Peter Batchelor	Minister for Health
Thursday 12 May 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm	Hon. R. Cameron	Minister for Transport
Friday 13 May 9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Hon. R. Cameron	Minister for Agriculture
	Hon. John Thwaites	Minister for Environment
	Hon. John Thwaites	Minister for Water
Friday 13 May 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Hon. John Thwaites	Minister for Victorian Communities
	Hon. Tim Holding	Minister for Corrections
Friday 13 May 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Hon. Tim Holding	Minister for Police and Emergency Services
	Hon. Lynne Kosky	Minister for Education and Training
Monday 16 May 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Hon. Jacinta Allan	Minister for Education Services
	Hon. André Haermeyer	Minister for Financial Services Industry
Monday 23 May 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm	Hon. André Haermeyer	Minister for Manufacturing and Export
	Hon. André Haermeyer	Minister for Small Business
	Hon. Gavin Jennings	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Tuesday 31 May 9.30 am to 12 noon	Hon. Gavin Jennings	Minister for Aged Care
	Hon. John Lenders	Minister for Major Projects
Tuesday 31 May 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Hon. John Lenders	Minister for WorkCover/TAC
	Hon. John Lenders	Minister for Finance

DATE AND TIME	MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Wednesday 1 June 9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Hon. Rob Hulls	Minister for Industrial Relations
	Hon. Rob Hulls	Minister for Planning
	Hon. Rob Hulls	Attorney-General
Wednesday 1 June 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm	Hon. Mary Delahunty	Minister for the Arts
	Hon. Mary Delahunty	Minister for Women's Affairs
Thursday 2 June 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Hon. Sherryl Garbutt	Minister for Community Services
	Hon. Sherryl Garbutt	Minister for Children
Friday 3 June 9.30 am to 11.45 am	Hon. Candy Broad	Minister for Local Government
	Hon. Candy Broad	Minister for Housing
Wednesday 8 June 9.30 am to 11.30 am	Hon. Theo Theophanous	Minister for Resources
	Hon. Theo Theophanous	Minister for Energy Industries
Wednesday 8 June 1.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Hon. Justin Madden	Minister for Sport and Recreation
	Hon. Justin Madden	Minister for Commonwealth Games
Thursday 9 June 9.30 am to 11.30 am	Hon. Marsha Thomson	Minister for Information and Communication Technology
	Hon. Marsha Thomson	Minister for Consumer Affairs
Thursday 9 June 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm	Hon. John Pandazopoulos	Minister for Tourism
	Hon. John Pandazopoulos	Minister for Gaming and Racing
Tuesday 21 June 10.00 am to 11.00 am	Hon. Jacinta Allan	Minister for Employment
	Hon. Jacinta Allan	Minister for Youth Affairs

Prepare briefing papers for the estimates hearings.

REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS

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

Activities during March 2005

Continued drafting chapters of the report on parliamentary control and management of appropriations

A draft of the easy English version of the recommendations contained in the report on Services for people with an intellectual disability was reviewed and amended.

Future Activities

In April 2005, an easy English version of the recommendations contained in report no. 60 to be distributed to interested individuals and community service organisations

In April 2005, draft report on parliamentary control and management of appropriations to be considered by the Committee

The Auditor-General to brief the Committee on a number of VAGO reports.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN THE VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR

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

Activity during March 2005

Continued drafting chapters of the report.

Future Activities

Complete draft report

Draft report to be considered by the Sub-Committee.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Activity during March 2005

Continue revising chapters of the report.

Future Activities

Finalise the draft report

Draft report to be considered by the Committee.

STATUTORY INDEPENDENT OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT LEGISLATION

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

Activity during March 2005

Draft report revised.

Future Activities

In April 2005, draft report to be considered by the Committee.

PERFORMANCE AUDIT PROGRAM

Source of reference: *Audit Act 1994*, section 15(2)

Activity during March 2005

The Committee received the final specifications for the performance audit on health purchasing practices.

AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

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

Activity during March 2005

On 30 March 2005, the Committee discussed the VAGO draft annual plan for 2005-06 and endorsed a response.

Future Activities

On 4 April 2005 the Committee to consider the VAGO draft budget estimates for 2005-06

The Committee to forward its response to the VAGO 2005-06 budget estimates to the Treasurer and the Presiding Officers

The Committee’s response to the VAGO draft annual plan for 2005-06 to be forwarded to the Auditor-General

The Committee to undertake a review of the findings and recommendations contained in the report of the independent auditor on the performance audit of the VAGO and discuss the report with the Auditor-General.

OTHER MATTERS

Activities during March 2005

On 7 March 2005, Professor Jean Shaoul, Professor of Public Accountability, University of Manchester met with the Committee’s Executive Officer to discuss the Committee’s inquiry into PPPs

On 8 March 2005, Professor Akiri Imori, Professor of Accounting, Aichi Gakuin University met with the Committee’s Executive Officer to discuss the PAEC’s work on environmental accounting and reporting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Report on the review of the Auditor-General’s special report no. 51 – Victorian Rural Ambulance Services: fulfilling a vital community need – Response due May 2005.

Report on the 2004-05 Budget Estimates – Response due May 2005.

Report on the review of the Auditor-General’s report on Services for people with an intellectual disability – Response due June 2005.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3634 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 3691

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *The Hon Barry Bishop, The Hon John Eren and The Hon Graeme Stoney, MLC.*

(Assembly) *Mr Alistair Harkness, Mr Craig Langdon, Mr Terry Mulder and Mr Ian Trezise, MP.*

Chair: Mr Ian Trezise, MP

Executive Officer: Ms A Douglas

COUNTRY ROAD TOLL

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 5 June 2003. The Committee is required to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

- (a) the incidence and causative role of speed, drugs, alcohol and fatigue in rural road crashes;
- (b) the role of the road and roadside environment in the causation and severity of crashes;
- (c) the role and potential contribution to crash causation of vehicle features such as cruise control and in car navigation systems;
- (d) the extent and effectiveness of enforcement activities in country Victoria;
- (e) measures which could be introduced to reduce the incidence and severity of crashes; and
- (f) the need for change to legislation or statutory requirements to implement any recommendations made as a result of this inquiry -

and, in conducting the inquiry, the committee is to seek information from government and non-government agencies, local government, motoring organisations and the community. In particular, the committee is requested to examine measures being developed and implemented in other jurisdictions and countries with significant and comparable rural road networks.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 31 March 2005.

Activity during March 2005

Commencement of deliberation of draft report.

Future Activity

Adoption of draft report.

CRASHES INVOLVING ROADSIDE OBJECTS

Referred by Legislative Assembly on 5 June 2003. The Committee is required to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

- (a) the incidence, causes and appropriate means of addressing road crashes involving vehicles leaving the road and colliding with roadside objects;
- (b) the liability and accountability issues relating to roadside utility poles, trees and other fixed objects;
- (c) appropriate risk management guidelines and practices for roadside hazard management in various speed zones; and
- (d) the need for change to legislation or statutory requirements to implement any recommendations made as a result of this inquiry -

and in conducting the inquiry, the committee is to seek information from government and non-government agencies, motoring and environmental organisations, local government, utility companies, the community and any other body responsible for the placement or removal of roadside objects. In particular, the committee is requested to examine practices in other jurisdictions.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 31 March 2005.

Activity during March 2005

Draft report adopted by Committee on 7 March

Report tabled in Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council on 22 March

Report distributed to 400 organisations and individuals.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Report on Crashes Involving Roadside Objects – Response due September 2005.

RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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Facsimile: 03 9651 3691

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

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Members:-

(Council) *The Honourables J M McQuilten and R G Mitchell*

(Assembly) *Mr M Crutchfield, Mr B P Hardman, Mr C Ingram,
Hon Dr D N Naphine and Mr P L Walsh*

Chair: Mr Ben Hardman MP

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF FATALITY AND INJURY ON VICTORIAN FARMS

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 6 May 2003 (amended 3 June 2003, further amended 16 December 2003 and 31 August 2004), for inquiry, consideration and report to Parliament on:

1. The main causes of fatality and injury on Victorian farms compared to other jurisdictions.
2. The matter and type of injuries on Victorian farms compared to other industries and jurisdictions.
3. Current programs and initiatives designed to improve occupational health and safety on Victorian farms.
4. Any impediments to sustaining improvements in farm safety.
5. The financial and social cost of death and injury on Victorian farms.
6. The need for further strategies to reduce the incidence of injury and fatality on Victorian farms, what form the strategy should take and whether they are best developed by government agencies, industry bodies, worker representatives or a combination of these. In particular the committee should consider the creation of further codes of practice or education and training programs.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 June 2005.

Activity during March 2005

- **The Committee considered drafts of Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 of the Farm Safety Report.**

Future activities

- **Members to consider further draft chapters in April**
- **Continue drafting chapters.**

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BUSINESS

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 3 June 2003, for inquiry, consideration and report to Parliament on:

The potential benefits to Victorian regional businesses from improved access to telecommunications infrastructure and services, in particular broadband infrastructure and services, and highlight any impediments that may stop businesses realising this potential. To this end, the Committee should consider the core issues of the:

1. current availability of telecommunication services at affordable prices for businesses in Victorian regional areas;
2. current availability of adequate telecommunications infrastructure for businesses in Victorian regional areas;
3. current level of competition in both the retail and wholesale telecommunications markets in Victorian regional areas;
4. current level of utilisation of available telecommunication infrastructure in regional Victoria;
5. effect that competition, in both the retail and wholesale telecommunications markets, has on the provision of telecommunication services to businesses in Victorian regional areas; and
6. effect that the current regulatory environment has on competition, in both the retail and wholesale telecommunications markets, in Victorian regional areas;

To make recommendations on any necessary or desirable actions that could be taken to assist Victorian regional businesses to be able to take advantage of any benefits from improved access to telecommunications infrastructure and services that may be identified.

The Committee should have regard to other reports that examine this matter in Victoria and other jurisdictions as well as on a national level and in particular:

1. The Telecommunications Services Inquiry 2000 (Besley);
2. The Regional Telecommunications Inquiry 2002 (Estens); and
3. "Australia's Broadband Connectivity" 2003 (Broadband Advisory Group).

This Inquiry has been proposed to examine the above matters with a focus on identifying growth opportunities for Victorian regional businesses through improving access to telecommunication services and infrastructure by improving the Victorian regional telecommunication market environment.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2004.

Activities during March 2005

- **An informal briefing with Telstra took place**
- **Proposal for a possible overseas visit in July/August 2005 submitted to the Speaker**
- **The Committee considered research timelines for 2005/06**

- **Drafting of a submission to the SARC Inquiry into e-democracy**
- **Organisation of public hearings for April and May.**

Future activities

- **Literature and submission review to be completed**
- **Public hearings to be organised for 2005**
- **Regional and rural visits to be organised for 2005**
- **Further work on planning the proposed overseas visit.**

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Country Football – Response due June 2005.

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 4008 Facsimile: (03) 9651 3674

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

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simon.dinsberg@parliament.vic.gov.au (Administration)

Members:

(Council) *The Hons. L. Argondizzo, A. Brideson*
(Assembly) *Ms L. D'Ambrosio (Chair), Mr K. S. Jasper, Mr M. A. Leighton,
Mr P. J. Lockwood, Mr A. J. McIntosh, Mr J. Perera and Mr M.
H. Thompson (Deputy Chair).*

Chair: *Ms Lily D'Ambrosio MP*

Executive Officer: *Andrew Homer*

FULL COMMITTEE

Activity during March 2005

The Committee met on 21 March 2005 to consider Alert Digest No. 3 of 2005 concerning the following Bills:

Charities (Amendment) Bill
Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement)
(Amendment) Bill
Courts Legislation (Judicial Conduct) Bill
Health (Compulsory Testing) Bill
Legal Profession (Consequential Amendments) Bill
Mitcham-Frankston Project (Amendment) Bill
National Electricity (Victoria) Bill
Outworkers (Improved Protection)(Amendment) Bill

SUBCOMMITTEES

Electronic Democracy

Mr Michael Leighton MP (Chair)
The Hon. Lidia Argondizzo MLC
Mr Peter Lockwood MP
The Hon. Andrew Brideson MLC
Mr Jude Perera MP
Mr Murray Thompson MP

Activity during March 2005

The Subcommittee met on 7 March 2005 to consider draft recommendations for its Final Report.

Equal Opportunity

Subcommittee of the whole Committee

Activity during March 2005

The Subcommittee did not meet in March.

Redundant Legislation

Mr Murray Thompson MP (Chair)
Hon. Lidia Argondizzo MLC
Ms Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Mr Michael Leighton MP
Mr Andrew McIntosh MP

Activity during March 2005

The Subcommittee did not meet in March.

Regulation Review

Mr Peter Lockwood MP (Chair)
Ms Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Mr Ken Jasper MP
Hon. Andrew Brideson MLC
Mr Jude Perera MP

Activity during March 2005

The Subcommittee met on 16 March 2005, considered and approved the following regulations –

Statutory Rules 2004

SR No. 148 – Royal Botanic Gardens Regulations 2004

SR No. 154 – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Amendment No.14) Rules 2004

SR No. 155 – Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use)(Infringement Notices) Regulations 2004

SR No. 156 – Evidence (Recorded Evidence) Regulations 2004

SR No. 157 – Mental Health (Statements) Regulations 2004

SR No. 158 – Road Safety (Drivers)(Alcohol and Other Drugs) Regulations 2004

SR No. 159 – Road Safety (General)(Alcohol and Other Drugs) Regulations 2004

SR No. 160 – Land Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2004

SR No. 161 – Land Tax (Indexation Factors) Regulations 2004

SR No. 162 – Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals (Amendment) Regulations 2004

SR No. 163 – Magistrates' Court (Arbitration)(Professional Costs) Regulations 2004

SR No. 164 – Confiscation (Further Amendment) Regulations 2004

SR No. 165 – Credit Regulations 2004

SR No. 166 –Travel Agents (Amendment) Regulations 2004

SR No. 167 – Credit (Administration) Regulations 2004

SR No. 168 – Fair Trading (Forms) Regulations 2004

- SR No. 169 – Motor Car Traders (Forms) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 170 – Second-Hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers (Forms) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 171 – Travel Agents (Forms) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 172 – Conservation, Forests and Lands (Infringement Notice)(Amendment) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 173 – Health Services (Supported Residential Services)(Amendment) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 174 – Plumbing (Fees Amendment) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 175 – Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 176 – Road Management (Works and Infrastructure)(Interim) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 177 – Road Management (General)(Interim) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 178 – Road Safety (Road Rules)(Scooters) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 179 – Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Fees) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 180 – County Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.14) Rules 2004**
 - SR No. 181 – County Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.15) Rules 2004**
 - SR No. 182 – Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance)(Interim) Regulations 2004**
 - SR No. 183 – Electricity Safety (Equipment Efficiency)(Further Amendment) Regulations 2004**
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