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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 28 February 2006**

**55<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au)**

# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

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**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

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## **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 30 November, 2005.\*

### ***Activities during February 2006***

- **Discussion Paper continued to be circulated**
- **Ongoing analysis of literature, submissions and evidence gathered from Public Hearings**
- **Drafting of Final Report continued.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Drafting of Final Report continued.**

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\* Terms of Reference extended to 28 February 2006

## **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 tabled the Report on April 20 2005.

### ***Activity during February 2006***

- **Circulation of Final Report on request.**

## **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**

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**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 THE VIABILITY OF THE VICTORIAN THOROUGHbred/STANDARDbred BREEDING INDUSTRIES**

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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.\*

\* Terms of Reference extended to 31 March 2006

***Activities during February 2006***

**31 written submissions received as at 28 February 2006.**

**Report on the Thoroughbred Breeding Industry tabled on 9 February 2006.**

***Future Activities***

**Research and analysis of submissions and transcripts.**

**Drafting chapters for the Standardbred Breeding Industry Report.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into Labour Hire Employment in Victoria - Government Response tabled on 7 February 2006.**

**Inquiry into the Viability of the Victorian Thoroughbred/Standardbred Breeding Industries – Report on the Thoroughbred Breeding Industry - Government response due 9 August 2006.**

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

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

Chair: Steve Herbert MP

Executive Officer: Karen Ellingford

## PROMOTION OF MATHS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

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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 February 2006.

### **Activity during February 2006**

**The Committee finished deliberating on the draft report and recommendations.**

***Activity***

**The Committee tabled its report on Thursday 2 March 2006.**



7. the roles of State Government and Federal bodies in developing and regulating an energy efficiency services industry, including the impact that a future greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme might have.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 15 June 2006.

### ***Activities during February 2006***

- 31 submissions received to date
- organisation of interstate briefings to be held in March
- a public hearing was held on 6 February 2006 in Bendigo with the following witnesses:

**Mr John Pollock, Ecological Sustainable Development Project Officer and Mr Jeff Bothe, Industry Development Officer, Economic Development Unit, City of Greater Bendigo**

**Mr Terry White, Executive Officer, Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance**

**Ms Tamara Wood, Project Manager, Sustainable Energy Information Partnership, Bendigo Access Employment**

**Mr Andrew Walker, Manager Assets & Property, Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE**

**Mr Leigh Watkins, Senior Manager Strategic Markets, Bendigo Bank**

- the Committee inspected domestic solar power installations at the residence of Shelly Cohn and Simon Perrin in Bendigo on 6 February 2006
- a public hearing was held on 20 February 2006 in Melbourne with the following witnesses:

**Mr Nick Alsop, Greenhouse Program Coordinator and Mr John Tunney, Manager, City Sustainability Branch, City of Melbourne**

**Ms Alison Coe, Executive Director, Victoria Division, Mr Andre Kaspura, Policy Analyst, National Office, and Mr Deane Belfield, Member, Engineers Australia**

**Mr Phillip Pryor, Chief Executive and Mr Phil Wilkinson, Technical Manager, Australian Institute of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heating**

**Mr Damien Walsh, Group Manager Corporate Services and Mr John Yardley, Group Manager Personal Banking, mecu Limited**

**Mr Alan Pears, Director, Sustainable Solutions Pty Ltd**

**Mr Stephen Kenihan, Consultant Technical Advisor and Mr Peter Whittle, Finance Manager, ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability**

### ***Future Activities***

- **conduct interstate briefings in Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane on 7 – 9 March 2006**
- **preparations for 14 March 2006 public hearing in Melbourne**
- **continued research and analysis of literature, submissions and transcripts**
- **report drafting.**



# **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000**

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

**Email:**        fcdc@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 Paul Bourke

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

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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.

### ***Activities during February 2006***

- **The Inquiry's Terms of Reference advertised in the major metropolitan and regional newspapers**
- **Invitations to make a submission to the Inquiry sent to a range of relevant professional associations**
- **Committee staff continuing research and further investigation of possible sites for inspection**

- **Identifying witnesses for public hearings.**

# LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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**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, J.G. Hilton and D Koch.*

**(Assembly)**     *Ms D.A. Beard, Ms E.J. Beattie, 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 THE CORONER'S ACT 1985**

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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 was initially required to report to Parliament by 31 December 2005. An extension has been granted with the report now required by June 2006.

### **Activities during February 2006**

- **Committee consideration of report outline and direction**
- **drafting of final report.**

## *Future Activities*

- **report drafting.**

### **INQUIRY INTO THE ADMINISTRATION AND PROBATE ACT 1958**

Referred by Order of the Governor-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.**

### **INQUIRY INTO THE COUNTY COURT APPEALS**

Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 22 September 2005, to inquire into and report to Parliament on:

County Court Appeals with a particular regard to the following:

1. the historical justifications for appeals from the Magistrate's Court to the County Court being heard de novo and whether such justifications continue to exist;
2. the effects of the 1999 changes to County Court Appeals and the extent to which the procedures are applied in practice;
3. the desirability or otherwise of any change having regard to any changes to the seriousness of offences heard by the Magistrates Court;
4. the effect on the number of appeals should the current rights of appeal be changed;
5. if that number would be reduced, the savings to the County Court which would follow;
6. whether any proposed change would affect the way in which hearings in the Magistrates Court are conducted;

7. if so, whether any anticipated gains in the County Court from the proposed change would be outweighed by additional costs in the Magistrates Court;
8. in general, how the Magistrates Court and the County Court operate as one system, and what if any changes to that system will produce the best outcomes for the justice system.

This will be with a view to making recommendations on whether appeals from the Magistrate's Court to the County Court should continue to be hearings de novo, or whether they should be heard in some other way, and if so, what.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament by June 2006.

### **Activities during February 2006**

- **public hearings**

<b>13 February 2006</b>	
<b>Mr Paul Coghlan QC</b> <b>Director of Public Prosecutions</b>  <b>Mr Bruce Gardner</b> <b>Manager Policy</b>	<b>Office of Public Prosecutions</b>
<b>Her Honour Judge Jennifer Coate,</b> <b>President</b>	<b>Children's Court</b>
<b>Mr Rob Melasecca</b> <b>Chair, Criminal Law Section</b>  <b>Mr Michael McNamara</b> <b>Deputy Chair, Criminal law section</b>  <b>Mr James Dowsley</b> <b>Executive Committee member</b>	<b>Law Institute of Victoria</b>
<b>Superintendent Stephen Leane</b> <b>Manager, Legal and Corporate Policy,</b> <b>Corporate Strategy &amp; Performance</b>  <b>Sergeant Kyle McDonald</b> <b>Prosecutions Division Research &amp;</b> <b>Training Unit, Legal Services</b>  <b>Ms Penny Maroulis</b> <b>Policy Officer</b>	<b>Victoria Police</b>

<p><b>Dr David Neal SC</b> Member, Bar Council</p> <p><b>Dr Gregory Lyon SC</b> Secretary, Criminal Bar</p> <p><b>Mr Ross Nankivell</b> Legal Policy Officer</p>	<p><b>Victorian Bar / Criminal Bar Association of Victoria</b></p>
<p><b>Dr John Willis</b> Associate Professor,</p>	<p><b>La Trobe University Law School</b></p>
<p><b>14 February 2006</b></p>	
<p><b>Ms Anna Radonic</b> Principal Lawyer</p> <p><b>Ms H Atwa</b> Solicitor</p>	<p><b>Youthlaw</b></p>
<p><b>Mr Michael Wighton</b> Manager, Regional Divisions</p> <p><b>Tonye Lee</b> Policy and Research Officer</p>	<p><b>Victoria Legal Aid</b></p>
<p><b>Mr Bill Doogue</b> Public Officer</p> <p><b>Mr Robert Stary</b> President</p>	<p><b>Criminal Defence Lawyers Association (CDLA)</b></p>
<p><b>Chief Magistrate Ian Gray</b></p> <p><b>Magistrate Caitlin English</b></p> <p><b>Magistrate Maurice Gurvich</b></p>	<p><b>Magistrates' Court of Victoria</b></p>

- data collection project at County Court registry
- establishment of pilot project with County Court to record data relating to appeals for February/March/April 2006.

### *Future Activities*

- **meetings with additional stakeholders**
- **ongoing research activities and analysis of submissions**
- **undertake pilot project with County Court to record data relating to appeals for February/March/April 2006**
- **Committee meeting in Sydney.**

## **INQUIRY INTO THE LAW OF CONTEMPT OF COURT**

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Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 22 September 2005, to inquire into and report to Parliament on:

the law of Contempt of Court with particular regard to the following:

1. what are the aims of the law of Contempt of Court;
2. what conduct amounts, under the existing law, to Contempt of Court;
3. what are the features of the law of Contempt of Court which distinguish it from other laws;
4. where such features exist, is there a clear justification for them;
5. are the principles of the law of Contempt of Court sufficiently certain, or can criticism justifiably be made that they are inappropriately vague;
6. are the procedures currently adopted in relation to allegations of Contempt of Court fair, and do they comply with internationally recognised standards of fairness for such proceedings;
7. are the provisions of the law of Contempt of Court effective in achieving their ostensible aims.

This will be with a view to making recommendations on whether the existing law of Contempt of Court is adequate or whether any reform is required, and if so, what.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than the last sitting day of Spring 2006.

**Inquiry has not yet commenced.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into Warrant Powers and Procedures - response due May 2006**



# OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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

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Terms of reference – received by Order 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 to make its final report to Parliament no later than 31 March 2006.

***Activities during February 2006***

**The Committee finalised the overseas study tour report.**

**The Committee is seeking an extension in its final reporting date to 30 June 2006.**

***Future Activity***

**The Committee is drafting the final report.**

**A public hearing has been scheduled for 3 April 2006.**

# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

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**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, Ms G D Romanes and Mr A Somyurek.*

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

**Chair:** Hon C. Campbell, MP

**Executive Officer:** Ms M Cornwell

## **2004-05 BUDGET OUTCOMES**

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

### ***Activity during February 2006***

**Draft report prepared and forwarded to the Chair to review.**

### ***Future Activities***

**Draft report to be considered by the Committee on 6, 7, 8 and 9 March 2006.**

**Report to be tabled in Parliament and circulated to all departments and agencies.**

## **2006-07 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

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

### ***Activities during February 2006***

**Letters forwarded to all Ministers and the Presiding Officers inviting them to attend estimates hearings in June and July 2006.**

**Public hearings scheduled for the following dates:**

<b>DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>
<b>Monday, 5 June 2006</b> 3.00 pm — 3.35 pm 3.35 pm — 6.00 pm	<b>Hon Steve Bracks</b>	<b>Multicultural Affairs</b> <b>Veterans' Affairs</b> <b>Premier</b>
<b>Tuesday, 6 June 2006*</b> 3.15 pm — 4.15 pm 4.15 pm — 6.15 pm	<b>Hon John Brumby</b>	<b>State and Regional Development</b> <b>Innovation</b> <b>Treasury</b>
<b>Wednesday, 7 June 2006*</b> 3.15 pm — 6.15 pm	<b>Hon Lynne Kosky</b> <b>Ms Jacinta Allan</b>	<b>Education and Training</b> <b>Education Services</b>
<b>Thursday, 8 June 2006*</b> 3.00 pm — 4.00 pm	<b>Hon. Mary Delahunty</b>	<b>Arts</b> <b>Women's Affairs</b>
<b>Friday, 9 June 2006</b> 9.30 am — 12.30 pm	<b>Hon Bronwyn Pike</b>	<b>Health</b>
<b>Friday, 9 June 2006</b> 2.00 pm — 5.00 pm	<b>Hon Peter Batchelor</b>	<b>Transport</b>
<b>Tuesday, 13 June 2006*</b> 3.15 pm — 4.35 pm 4.35 pm — 6.15 pm	<b>Hon Tim Holding</b>	<b>Corrections</b> <b>Police and Emergency Services</b>
<b>Wednesday, 14 June 2006 *</b> 4.00 pm — 7.00 pm	<b>Hon Sherryl Garbutt</b>	<b>Community Services</b> <b>Children</b>
<b>Thursday, 15 June 2006*</b> 3.00 pm — 4.00 pm 4.30 pm — 5.30 pm	<b>Hon Bob Cameron</b>	<b>Agriculture</b>
<b>Friday, 16 June 2006</b> 9.30 am — 10.30 am 10.30 am — 12.00 noon	<b>Hon John Pandazopoulos</b>	<b>Tourism</b> <b>Gaming and Racing</b>

<b>DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>MINISTER</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>
<b>Friday, 16 June 2006</b> 2.00 pm — 3.00 pm	<b>Mr John Lenders</b>	<b>Major Projects</b>
3.00 pm — 3.45 pm		<b>WorkCover/TAC</b>
3.45 pm — 5.00 pm		<b>Finance</b>
<b>Monday, 19 June 2006</b> 3.00 pm — 4.30 pm	<b>Hon Andre Haermeyer</b>	<b>Financial Services</b>
4.30 pm — 5.15 pm		<b>Manufacturing and Export</b> <b>Small Business</b>
<b>Tuesday, 20 June 2006</b> 9.30 am — 10.00 am	<b>Hon Rob Hulls</b>	<b>Industrial Relations</b>
10.00 am — 11.00 am		<b>Attorney-General</b>
11.00 am — 12.30 pm		<b>Planning</b>
<b>Tuesday, 20 June 2006</b> 2.00 pm — 3.30 pm	<b>Presiding Officers</b> <b>Hon Monica Gould</b> <b>Mrs Judy Maddigan</b>	<b>Parliamentary Departments</b>
<b>Wednesday, 21 June 2006</b> 9.30 am — 10.15 am	<b>Mr Gavin Jennings</b>	<b>Aboriginal Affairs</b>
10.15 am — 12.00 noon		<b>Aged Care</b>
<b>Wednesday, 21 June 2006</b> 2.00 pm — 2.30 pm	<b>Hon Justin Madden</b>	<b>Sport and Recreation</b>
2.30 pm — 5.00 pm		<b>Commonwealth Games</b>
<b>Tuesday, 4 July 2006</b> 9.30 am — 10.15 am	<b>Hon John Thwaites</b>	<b>Victorian Communities</b>
10.15 am — 12.30 pm		<b>Environment</b> <b>Water</b>
<b>Tuesday, 4 July 2006</b> 2.00 pm — 3.00 pm	<b>Hon Theo Theophanous</b>	<b>Resources</b>
3.00 pm — 4.00 pm		<b>Energy Industries</b>
<b>Wednesday, 5 July 2006</b> 9.30 am — 10.30 am	<b>Hon Marsha Thomson</b>	<b>Information and Communication Technology</b>
10.30 am — 11.30 am		<b>Consumer Affairs</b>

DATE AND TIME	MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Wednesday, 5 July 2006 2.00 pm — 2.30 pm	Hon Jacinta Allan	Employment
2.30 pm — 3.30 pm		Youth Affairs
Thursday, 6 July 2006 9.30 am — 10.15 am	Ms Candy Broad	Local Government
10.15 am — 11.45 am		Housing

### ***Future Activities***

Letters to be forwarded to all Ministers/Departments confirming the arrangements for the estimates hearings

Prepare the budget estimates questionnaire which will be considered by the Committee in April.

Questionnaire to be distributed to all departments

Prepare briefing papers for the estimates hearings

Organise budget briefing for Members of Parliament and their staff for 1 June 2006.

### **REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS**

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

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

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

### **PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

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

#### ***Activity during February 2006***

Further work undertaken on the draft report.

#### ***Future Activities***

Draft report to be considered by the Committee

Report to be tabled in Parliament.

## **STATUTORY INDEPENDENT OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT LEGISLATION**

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

### ***Activities during February 2006***

Report (no. 67) tabled in Parliament on 8 February 2006 and distributed to interested persons/organisations.

### ***Future Activity***

Await the government's response to the recommendations contained in report no. 67.

## **AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE**

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

### ***Activity during February 2006***

Draft report on the review of the performance audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office considered and amended by a Sub-Committee on 13 February 2006 and adopted by the Full Committee on 20 February 2006.

### ***Future Activities***

Report (no. 68) to be tabled in Parliament on 2 March 2006 and distributed to interested persons/organisations

The Committee to consider proposed changes to the protocols between the PAEC and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

## **AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (ACPAC)**

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### ***Future Activity***

Chair of PAEC to present a paper at the mid-term conference of ACPAC to be held in Alice Springs, 26 to 28 April 2006.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

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### ***Activity during February 2006***

On 8 February 2006, the PAEC's submission in relation to exposure draft 142 (Financial Reporting of general government sectors by government) forwarded to the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

### ***Future Activity***

On 6 March 2006, the Committee to be briefed by the Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs on proposed changes to employment programs and how this may affect the reporting of performance measures in the 2006-07 budget.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES**

**Report on parliamentary control and management of appropriations**

– Response tabled 2 March 2006.

**Report on the 2005-06 Budget Estimates**

– Response due 30 May 2006.

**Report on a legislative framework for independent officers of Parliament –**

Response due 8 August 2006.

# ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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## 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:** Mr Richard Willis\*

\*Appointed as Acting Executive Officer until January 2007.

## REVIEW OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE INCIDENCE AND PREVENTION OF PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS

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On 7 March 2005, the Road Safety Committee resolved pursuant to Section 33 (3) of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, to review the recommendations made on pedestrian safety and report to Parliament on:

- (1) The Road Safety Committee's report on *Walking Safety, Inquiry into the Incidence and Prevention of Pedestrian Accidents*, tabled in Parliament, June 1999; and
- (2) The Government Response to the report tabled in Parliament, May 2000.

In particular the Committee shall examine:

- (a) The implementation of the recommendations accepted and supported by Government;
- (b) The recommendation not supported by Government and whether this recommendation needs to be re-presented in original or modified form;
- (c) New countermeasures to reduce pedestrian trauma, and
- (d) Any other issues relevant to this Inquiry.

### ***Activities during February 2006***

**A research officer commenced with the Committee on 6 February 2006.**

**Review existing evidence and recommendations from previous report.**

### ***Future Activity***

**Review of existing evidence and preliminary drafting of report, including planning for further public hearings.**

## **INQUIRY INTO DRIVER DISTRACTION**

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The Governor in Council, under section 33 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, has referred an Inquiry into Driver Distraction to the Road Safety Committee.

The Committee is required to inquire, consider and make recommendations on the role of driver distraction in causing crashes and, in particular to report on to Parliament on:

1. the prevalence of mobile telephone use by drivers and its impact on crash causes;
2. the prevalence of in-car video devices, their effect on drivers and impact on crash causes;
3. the types of other devices and activities, both inside and outside the vehicle, that may distract a driver's attention from the driving task and lead to unsafe driving;
4. the suitability and enforceability of existing laws concerning the use of mobile telephones and other electronic devices by drivers; and
5. the possible need for change to legislation or statutory requirements to implement any recommendations made as a result of the inquiry.

In conducting its inquiry, the Committee is requested to seek information from the manufacturers and distributors of mobile telephones and other electronic devices with in-car applications, research organisations, Government and non-government agencies, motoring organisations and the community.

In particular, the measures adopted to address the issue of driver distraction in other jurisdictions and countries should be examined.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 June 2006.

### ***Activities during February 2006***

**A public hearing was held at which representatives from Holden Ltd, ITS – Australia, Ford Motor Company, Royal Automobile Club of Victoria Ltd and the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association appeared before the Committee.**

**The Australian Automotive Aftermarket Association appeared before the Committee on 6 February 2006.**

**Informal hearings were held in Canberra and Sydney on 22 - 24 February with the following organisations: Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Department of Transport and Regional Services, Australian Automobile Association, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Australian National University, CSIRO ICT Centre, New South Wales Police, Insurance Australia Group and NRMA Motoring and Services, Marrickville Council, Pedestrian Council of Australia, ARRB Group, The George Institute for International Health (University of Sydney) and Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).**

### ***Future Activity***

**Review of existing evidence and preliminary drafting of report, including planning for further public hearings.**

# RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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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 February 2006**

- **Media monitoring of farm safety issues.**

## **INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BUSINESS**

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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 31 March 2006.

### ***Activities during February 2006***

- **The Draft Chapter Outline for the final report was considered by the Committee**
- **Consideration of draft recommendations for the report into Regional Telecommunications took place**
- **The research officer for the Inquiry into Regional Communications commenced work with the Committee**
- **Recruitment of an office manager took place**

- **Drafting of chapters for the report**

#### ***Future activities***

- **Continuation of drafting of chapters for the report**
- **Consideration by the Committee of draft chapters for the report**
- **The research officer will be attending the Australian Telecommunications User Group conference 2006**
- **The research officer will be investigating Broadband over Powerlines trial in Tasmania.**

### **INQUIRY INTO RETAINING YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL TOWNS & COMMUNITIES**

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Referred by Order of the Governor-in-Council on 17 January 2006, for inquiry, consideration and report to Parliament on:

The strategies to encourage and support young people to remain in or return to their rural towns and communities, with a particular regard to the following:

1. identifying and examining the factors that influence young people in deciding to remain in or leave the rural communities in which they reside;
2. identifying and examining the factors that influence young people in deciding whether or not to return to the rural communities in which they have previously resided following the completion of study, travel or other fixed or short term activities in other places, and
3. developing strategies and recommendations on steps that might be taken to increase the number of young people who decide to remain in or return to rural towns and communities.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 15 June 2006.

#### ***Activities during February 2006***

- **Recruitment of a research officer for the Inquiry into Retaining Young People in Rural Towns and Communities commenced**
- **Work commenced on the call for submissions, and advertising of the Inquiry**
- **The research officer attended a workshop on the new State Government Youth Policy in Bendigo as an observer, held by the Office for Youth and the Bendigo area Regional Rural Youth Action Network**
- **A budget allocation was received for the Inquiry**
- **Preliminary literature review undertaken**

- **Development of online consultation processes**
- **Development of primary contact list.**

***Future activities***

- **Organisation of Melbourne public hearing**
- **Organisation of South East and North Central regional hearings**
- **Launch of online consultation gateway.**

**COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**Inquiry into the Cause of Fatality and Injury on Victorian Farms - Response due February 2006.**

# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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## 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

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### *Activity during February 2006*

- The Committee met on 6 February 2006, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 1 of 2006 concerning the following Bills and a draft Bill from the Human Rights Consultation Committee:

#### Alert Digest No. 1

**Crimes (Document Destruction) Bill**

**Crimes (Family Violence)(Holding Powers) Bill**

**Crimes (Sexual Offences) Bill**

**Guardianship and Administration (Further Amendment) Bill**

**Infringements Bill**

**Justice Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill**

**Liquor Control Reform (Amendment) Bill**

**Terrorism (Community Protection)(Amendment) Bill**

**Transport Legislation (Safety Investigations) Bill**

#### Draft Human Rights Bill

The Committee also considered a draft Bill, circulated by the Human Rights Consultation Committee, which included a number of clauses that affect the role of the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee.

- The Committee met on 27 February 2006, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 2 of 2006 concerning the following Bills:

### **Alert Digest No. 2**

**Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment (Amendment) Bill**

**Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Volatile Substances) (Extension of Provisions) Bill**

**Education and Training Reform Bill**

**Interpretation of Legislation (Further Amendment) Bill**

**Land (St Kilda Triangle) Bill**

**Public Sector Employment (Aware Entitlements) Bill**

**Retail Leases (Amendment) Bill**

**Terrorism (Community Protection)(Amendment) Bill**

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

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### **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 February 2006***

- The Subcommittee has completed its references and currently has no inquiry before it.

### **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 February 2006***

- The Subcommittee did not meet during February.