



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 June 2006

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.

Activity during June 2006

- **Mail out of the Final Report continued.**

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

Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 17 January 2006, to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs in Victoria. In particular, the Committee is required to:

1. Examine the nature, extent and culture of the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs;
2. Examine the short and long term consequences/harms of the abuse/misuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs;
3. Examine the relationship between benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs and other forms of licit and illicit substance use;
4. Review the adequacy of existing strategies for dealing with benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs misuse/abuse;
5. Recommend best practice strategies to address the issue of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs, including regulatory, law enforcement, education and treatment responses;
6. Examine national and international legislation, reports and materials relevant to the issue.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than 15 June 2006.*

*Reporting date extended to 23 August 2006.

Activities during June 2006

- Letters circulated to relevant organisations inviting submissions
- Review of literature continued.

The following witnesses appeared at public hearings on 19 June 2006:

Mr George Mavroyeni, General Manager Road Safety; and Dr Philip Swann, Manager of Drugs, Alcohol and Fatigue, VicRoads

Dr Matthew Frei, Addiction Medicine Physician, Southern Health and Eastern Health

Ms Ros Burnett, Clinical Nurse Consultant; and Mr Frank Giorlando, Addiction Medicine Registrar, Southern Health –Interhospital Liaison Group.

Mr John Illott, Chief Executive Officer; and Mr Irvine Newton, Chairman Harm Minimisation Committee, Pharmaceutical Society of Australia

Dipak Sanghvi, President; and Maurice Sheehan, Director, The Pharmacy Guild of Australia (Victoria Branch)

Gwenda Cannard, Director, TRANX

Mr Steve Marty, Registrar, Pharmacy Board of Victoria

Dr Peter Harcourt, Chief Health Officer and Disability Strategy Programmes; and Ms Julie Harrick, Manager TAC Medical Panel, Transport Accident Committee (TAC)

The following witnesses appeared at public hearings on 20 June 2006:

Dr Mike McDonough, Medical Director Drug and Alcohol Services, Western Hospital

Mr John Ryan, Chief Executive Officer; Anex

Mr David Murray, Chief Executive Officer; and Mr Tony Palmer, Trainer and Consultant, YSAS

A meeting was held via teleconference with Ms Sue Alexander, Head of Regulatory Affairs and head of Operations, Roche products on behalf of Medicines Australia.

Future Activities

- Drafting of Interim Report
- Further Public Hearings to be held in July 2006.

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*

Inquiry into Strategies to Reduce Harmful Alcohol Consumption – Response due September 2006

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: (vacant)

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.*

* Reporting date extended to 30 June 2006

Activity during June 2006

- The Committee met with Professor Andrew Clarke on 19 June 2006 to discuss equine research, tax syndication and stamp duty issues.

Future Activities

- Research and analysis of submissions and transcripts
- Drafting chapters for the Standardbred Breeding Industry Report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

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

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 Perton.*

Chair: Steve Herbert MP

Executive Officer: Karen Ellingford

THE EFFECTS OF TELEVISION AND MULTIMEDIA ON EDUCATION IN VICTORIA

The Minister for Education and Training has requested that the Education and Training Committee investigate and report on how the role of multimedia in student learning and achievement has changed since the Family and Community Development Committee presented its report, *The effects of television and multimedia on children and families in Victoria*, in October 2000. The Committee resolved to undertake this inquiry in accordance with Section 33(3) of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003* on 14 March 2006. The Committee will focus on issues identified in Chapter 2, Multimedia and Education, and will report on:

1. the effects of current applications and usage levels of multimedia by young people on learning styles and educational achievement within different age groups and curriculum areas; and
2. whether students' media literacy needs have changed in recent years, in the context of rapidly increasing availability and use of multimedia by young people.

The Committee will report to Parliament by August 2006.

Activities during June 2006

The following witnesses appeared at public hearings on 5 June 2006:

Beaconhills College

Ms Fiona Gordon
Head, Teaching and Learning

ICT in Education Victoria

Mr Tony Brandenburg
President

Apple Computer Australia

Mr Steven Doyle, National Education Professional Development Manager

Mr Stuart Taylor, National Sales Manager for Education

Mr David Patrao, K-12 Education

Footscray City College

Ms Carolyn Woodhouse, Principal and Deputy President, Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals

Ms Stephanie Campbell, Head, Arts Department

A sub-Committee visited Park Ridge Primary School on 2 June 2006. Committee members held a public hearing/group discussion with teachers, followed by a separate public hearing/group discussion with students from across grades 3 – 6. Committee members also viewed the school's computer and multimedia facilities, visited a range of classrooms and inspected a wide range of children's multimedia related work samples.

A sub-Committee also visited Sherbourne Primary School on 9 June 2006. Committee members held a public hearing/group discussion with teachers from Sherbourne Primary School, Lower Plenty Primary School, Montmorency Primary School and Montmorency Secondary College. This was followed by a public hearing/group discussion with students from each of these schools. Committee members also viewed the school's computer and multimedia facilities and were shown by students how to use some of the equipment.

Future Activity

Committee members will continue to visit a range of schools throughout July and August. Report drafting and deliberations will commence in July.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into the promotion of mathematics and science education – Government response due 2 September 2006.

6. measures to promote the energy efficiency services industry, including the production of data on the performance of various technologies and information to identify and facilitate investment in the energy services industry; and
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.*

*Reporting date extended to 30 June 2006.

Activities during June 2006

- **The committee adopted the report of the inquiry into the Energy Services Industry on 5 June 2006**
- **The report was tabled on 15 June 2006**
- **Media release distributed and copies of the report sent to relevant stakeholders.**

Future Activity

Nominated members of the Committee to attend the 11th Annual Conference of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees, July 2006.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into the Energy Services Industry – Government Response due 15 December 2006.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

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.*

*Reporting date extended to 4 October 2006.

Activities during June 2006

- **Committee staff continuing research and further investigation of possible sites for inspection**
- **Identifying witnesses for public hearings.**

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, 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

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

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 June 2006

- **Committee meeting to consider draft chapters**
- **drafting of final report**
- **revision of chapters considered by the Committee.**

Future Activities

- **report drafting and revision**
- **tabling of report.**

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.

INQUIRY INTO THE COUNTY COURT APPEALS

Referred by Order in Council on 22 September 2005.

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 June 2006

- **compilation of data from County Court and statistical analysis**
- **report drafting.**

Future Activities

- **report drafting**
- **consideration of draft report by Committee**
- **tabling of report.**

INQUIRY INTO THE LAW OF CONTEMPT OF COURT

Referred by Order in Council on 22 September 2005.

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

Nil

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 Hon. L Argondizzo and The Hon. C. Hirsh*

(Assembly) *Ms R Buchanan, Mr M F Dixon, The Hon. Phil Honeywood, Mr D A Nardella and Hon K M Smith*

Chairman: Mr Don Nardella MP

Executive Officer: Mr Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO BUILDING NEW COMMUNITIES

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.

Following a request for an extension in the Inquiry reporting date, the Committee is now due to report to the Parliament on 31 July 2006.

Activities during June 2006

Mr Ted Baillieu MLA resigned from the Committee, replaced by the Hon. Phil Honeywood MLA

The Committee held deliberations on its inquiry into Building New Communities.

Future Activities

The Committee's report: Overseas Evidence Seeking Trip, (from the Committees' overseas study tour in late 2005), will soon be made available through the Parliamentary Library

The Committee secretariat is continuing to prepare the final report, as part of its inquiry into Building New Communities. The Committee will be continuing deliberative meetings to review and adopt the report in July 2006.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

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

2006-07 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 14.

Activities during June 2006

Background briefing papers on the budget estimates for all portfolios prepared.

Estimates hearings were held with the following Ministers and departmental officers:

5 June 2005

Hon Steve Bracks, MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Veterans' Affairs

Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary, Department for Victorian Communities

Ms Barbara Mountjouris, Director, Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs

Mr James Maclsaac, Director, Office of Senior Victorians and Veterans, Department for Victorian Communities

Hon Steve Bracks, MP, Premier

Mr Terry Moran, Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Ms Penny Hutchinson, Deputy Secretary, Sector Improvement, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Mr Chris Barrett, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Cabinet, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Mr John Denton, State Government Architect, Department of Premier and Cabinet

7 June 2005

Hon Lynne Kosky, MP, Minister for Education and Training

Ms Jacinta Allan, MP, Minister for Education Services

Mr Grant Hehir, Secretary, Department of Education and Training

Mr Jeff Rosewarne, Deputy Secretary, Office of Resources, Management and Strategy, Department of Education and Training

Ms Katherine Henderson, Deputy Secretary, Office of Strategy and Review, Department of Education and Training

8 June 2006

Hon Mary Delahunty, MP, Minister for Arts

Ms Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, Acting Director, Arts Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Mr Greg Andrews, Deputy Director, Arts Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Dr Dennis Carmody, Deputy Director, Arts Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet

Hon Mary Delahunty, MP, Minister for Women's Affairs

Mr Terry Healy, Deputy Secretary, Department for Victorian Communities

Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer, Department for Victorian Communities

Ms Fiona Sharkie, Director, Office of Women's Policy, Department for Victorian Communities

9 June 2006

Hon Bronwyn Pike, MP, Minister for Health

Ms Patricia Faulkner, Secretary, Department of Human Services

Mr Lance Wallace, Executive Director, Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Services, Department of Human Services

Dr Chris Brook, Executive Director, Rural and Regional Health and Aged Care Services, Department of Human Services

**Mr Alan Hall, Executive Director, Financial and Corporate Services
Department of Human Services**

Hon Peter Batchelor, MP, Minister for Transport

Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure

Dr Alf Smith, Deputy Secretary, Capital, Department of Infrastructure

Mr Bob McDonald, Executive Director, Corporate Resources, Department of Infrastructure

**Mr John Rogan, Executive Director, Freight, Logistics & Marine,
Department of Infrastructure**

Mr Jim Betts, Director of Public Transport, Department of Infrastructure

Mr David Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, VicRoads

13 June 2006

**Hon John Brumby, MP, Minister for State and Regional Development,
Minister for Innovation**

**Ms Fran Thorn, Secretary, Department of Industry, Innovation and
Regional Development**

**Ms Jane Niall, Deputy Secretary, Business Development, Department of
Industry, Innovation and Regional Development**

**Mr Lachlan Bruce, Executive Director, Strategy and Policy, Department
of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development**

**Ms Pam Anders, Chief of Staff to the Minister for State and Regional
Development**

Hon John Brumby, MP, Treasurer

Mr Peter Dawkins, Acting Secretary, Department of Treasury and Finance

**Mr Jeff Bryne, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Treasury and
Finance**

**Mr Joe Monforte, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Treasury and
Finance**

**Mr John Fitzgerald, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Treasury
and Finance**

14 June 2006

Hon Sherryl Garbutt, MP, Minister for Community Services

Ms Patricia Faulkner, Secretary, Department of Human Services

**Mr Arthur Rogers, Executive Director, Disability Services, Department of
Human Services**

**Mr Alan Hall, Acting Executive Director, Financial and Corporate
Services, Department of Human Services**

Hon Sherryl Garbutt, MP, Minister for Children

Ms Patricia Faulkner, Secretary, Department of Human Services

**Ms Gill Callister, Executive Director, Office for Children, Department of
Human Services**

**Mr Alan Hall, Acting Executive Director, Financial and Corporate
Services, Department of Human Services**

15 June 2006

Hon Bob Cameron, Minister for Agriculture

Mr Peter Harris, Secretary; Department of Primary Industries

Mr Dale Seymour, Deputy Secretary, Department of Primary Industries

Dr Bruce Kefford, Deputy Secretary, Department of Primary Industries

**Mr Shaun Condon, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Primary
Industries**

Dr Peter Appleford, Executive Director, Fisheries Victoria

**Dr Clive Noble, Executive Director, Research and Development,
Department of Primary Industries**

16 June 2006

Hon John Pandazopoulos, MP, Minister for Tourism
Ms Fran Thorn, Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development
Mr Greg Hywood, Tourism Victoria
Mr Jim Claven, Chief of Staff to the Minister for Tourism

Hon John Pandazopoulos, MP, Minister for Gaming and Minister for Racing
Ms Penny Armytage, Secretary, Department of Justice
Mr Ross Kennedy, Executive Director Office of Gaming and Racing, Department of Justice

Mr John Lenders, MLC, Minister for Major Projects
Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Department of Infrastructure
Dr Alf Smith, Deputy Secretary – Capital Department of Infrastructure
Mr Bob McDonald, Executive Director – Corporate Resources, Department of Infrastructure
Ms Pru Sanderson, Chief Executive Officer, VicUrban
Mr Sean Sweeney, Acting Executive Director, Major Projects Victoria
Mr Michael Hynes, Chief Operating Officer, Docklands and Major Inner Urban, Department of Infrastructure

Mr John Lenders, MLC, Minister for WorkCover and TAC
Mr Andrew Fronsco, Director, Financial Risk Management and Policy, Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Paul O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer, Transport Accident Commission
Mr Greg Tweedly, Chief Executive Officer, Victorian WorkCover Authority

Mr John Lenders, MLC, Minister for Finance
Mr John Fitzgerald, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Joe Monforte, Acting Deputy Secretary, Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Peter Carroll, Director, Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Murray Jones, Director, Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Steve Schinck, Director, Department of Treasury and Finance
Mr Roger Kluske, Manager of Sustainability, Victorian Government Property Group, Department of Treasury and Finance

19 June 2006

**Hon. Andre Haermeyer, MP, Minister for Financial Services Industry;
Minister for Manufacturing and Export and Minister for Small Business
Ms Fran Thorn, Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and
Regional Development
Dr Lynne Williams, Deputy Secretary, Business Support,
Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development
Mr Lachlan Bruce, Executive Director, Strategy and Policy, Department
of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development**

20 June 2006

**Hon. Rob Hulls, MP, Minister for Industrial Relations
Ms Fran Thorn, Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and
Regional Development
Mr Tim Lee, Deputy Secretary, Industrial Relations Victoria, Department
of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development
Mr Tony Lawrence, Workplace Rights Advocate**

**Mr Rob Hulls, Minister for Planning
Ms Genevieve Overall, Deputy Secretary, Department of Sustainability
and Environment
Mr Andrew McDonald, Chief Financial Officer, Department of
Sustainability and Environment
Mr Reed, Under Secretary, Portfolio Performance, Department of
Sustainability and Environment**

**Hon. Rob Hulls, MP, Attorney-General
Ms Penny Armytage, Secretary, Department of Justice
Mr John Griffin, Executive Director, Courts, Department of Justice
Ms Julia Griffith, Executive Director, Community Operations and
Strategy, Department of Justice
Ms Elizabeth Eldridge, Executive Director, Legal and Equity, Department
of Justice**

**Mrs Judy Maddigan, MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Hon Monica Gould, MLC, President of the Legislative Council
Mr Ray Purdey, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Mr Wayne Tunnecliffe, Clerk of the Legislative Council
Dr Stephen O'Kane, Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Services**

21 June 2006

**Hon Gavin Jennings, MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary, Department for Victorian Communities
Ms Angela Jurjevic, Executive Director - Aboriginal Affairs Victoria,
Department for Victorian Communities
Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Finance Officer, Department for Victorian
Communities**

**Hon Gavin Jennings, MLC, Minister for Aged Care
Ms Patricia Faulkner, Secretary, Department of Human Services
Mr James MacIsaac, Director, Office of Senior Victorians and Veterans,
Department of Human Services
Ms Jane Herington, Director Aged Care, Department of Human Services
Dr Chris Brook, Executive Director, Rural and Regional Health and Aged
Care Services, Department of Human Services
Mr. Alan Hall, Acting Executive Director, Financial and Corporate
Services, Department of Human Services**

**Hon Justin Madden, MLC, Minister for Sport and Recreation
Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary, Department for Victorian Communities
Mr Peter Hertan, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation Victoria
Department for Victorian Communities
Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Finance Officer, Department for Victorian
Communities**

**Hon Justin Madden, MLC, Minister for Commonwealth Games
Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary, Department for Victorian Communities
Ms Jennifer Samms, Director, Office of Commonwealth Games
Coordination, Department for Victorian Communities
Ms Meredith Sussex, Executive Director, Office of Commonwealth
Games Coordination, Department for Victorian Communities
Ms Brenda Glyn, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Commonwealth Games
Coordination, Department for Victorian Communities**

**On 27 June 2006 follow-up questions forwarded to the Minister for
Commonwealth Games; Minister for Education and Training and Minister for
Education Services**

**On 28 June 2006 follow-up questions forwarded to the Minister for Children;
Minister for Women's Affairs; Minister for Community Services; Minister for
Agriculture; Minister for Planning; Minister for Major Projects; Minister for
State and Regional Development; Minister for Multicultural Affairs; Minister
for Transport; Minister for Innovation; Minister responsible for Veterans'
Affairs.**

Future Activities

Public hearings scheduled for the following dates:

DATE AND TIME	MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Monday, 3 July 2006 1.30 pm — 2.50 pm 2.50 pm — 4.30 pm	Hon Tim Holding	Corrections Police and Emergency Services
Tuesday, 4 July 2006 9.30 am — 10.15 am 10.15 am — 12.30 pm	Hon John Thwaites	Victorian Communities Environment Water
Tuesday, 4 July 2006 2.00 pm — 3.00 pm 3.00 pm — 4.00 pm	Hon Theo Theophanous	Resources Energy Industries
Wednesday, 5 July 2006 9.30 am — 10.30 am 10.30 am — 11.30 am	Hon Marsha Thomson	Information and Communication Technology Consumer Affairs
Wednesday, 5 July 2006 2.00 pm — 2.30 pm 2.30 pm — 3.30 pm	Hon Jacinta Allan	Employment Youth Affairs
Thursday, 6 July 2006 9.30 am — 10.15 am 10.15 am — 11.45 am	Ms Candy Broad	Local Government Housing

In early July follow-up questions to be forwarded to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Arts; Minister for Health; Minister for Tourism; Minister for Gaming; Minister for Racing; Minister for WorkCover and TAC; Minister for Finance; Minister for Financial Services; Minister for Manufacturing and Export; Minister for Small Business; Minister for Industrial Relations; Attorney-General; Presiding Officers of Parliament; Minister for Aboriginal Affairs; Minister for Aged Care; Minister for Sport and Recreation; Minister for Corrections; Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Minister for Victorian Communities; Minister for Environment; Minister for Water; Minister for Resources; Minister for Energy Industries; Minister for Information and Communication Technology; Minister for Consumer Affairs; Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs; Minister for Local Government and Minister for Housing

Draft report to be prepared and considered by the Committee.

REVIEW OF AUDITOR–GENERAL’S REPORTS

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

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

Activities during June 2006

On 1 June 2006 the draft report was forwarded to the Chair to review

On 23 June 2006, a Sub-Committee discussed the major issues in the draft report.

Future Activities

Draft report to be revised and circulated to all Members of the Committee

Draft report to be considered by the Committee on 14, 16 and 18 August 2006

Report to be tabled in Parliament.

AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

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

Activity during June 2006

On 27 June 2006, the Committee forwarded to the Auditor-General its response to the VAGO draft annual plan for 2006-07.

Future Activity

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

OTHER MATTERS

Future activities

Committee to be briefed by Mr Simon Ramsey, President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, on a proposal to expand the mandate of the Auditor-General’s Office to include scientific environmental audits

The Electoral Commissioner to be invited to meet with the Committee

The Committee’s 2005-06 annual report to be completed and considered by the Committee in late August 2006.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

**Report on a legislative framework for independent officers of Parliament –
Response due 8 August 2006**

**Report on the 2004-05 Budget Outcomes
– Response due 27 October 2006**

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/rsc>

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

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

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.

Activity during June 2006

Public hearing held on 19 June 2006 with evidence received from the Australian Hotels Association, Breathometer and Sale Police.

Future Activities

Continue review of existing evidence and preliminary drafting of report

Anticipated tabling date – early October 2006.

INQUIRY INTO DRIVER DISTRACTION

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.*

*Reporting date extended to 30 August 2006.

Activities during June 2006

Review of existing evidence and preliminary drafting of report

First draft report circulated to members.

Future Activities

Public hearing scheduled for 3 July 2006 with VicRoads

Deliberative meetings scheduled for July and August to consider and adopt final report. Anticipated tabling date – late August 2006.

RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

Telephone: 1300 787 202 / 03 9651 3580

Facsimile: 03 9651 3691

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

Email: rrsdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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.

Activities during June 2006

- **Media monitoring of farm safety issues**
- **Committee resolved that further engagement with this issue is to be on an individual basis and that the Committee's active engagement has now concluded.**

Future activity

- Nil.

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 31 May 2006.

Activities June 2006

- **Complete for-adoption draft finalised, including significant changes to report due to wider environmental changes (commercial decisions, federal government policy announcements, determinations by regulators)**
- **Review of for-adoption draft report by Committee**

- **Adoption of report by Committee, as amended**
- **Preparation of report for printing and associated tabling activities.**

Future activities

- **Final compilation of report and printing**
- **Tabling of report in July 2006**
- **Distribution of report**
- **Ongoing media monitoring.**

INQUIRY INTO RETAINING YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL TOWNS & COMMUNITIES

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 4 October 2006.

Activities during June 2006

- **Revised plan of works completed and provided to Committee**
- **Draft chapter outlines / structure of report determined and discussed by Committee**
- **Summaries of Submissions, Minutes of Evidence, and Recommendations received prepared for, and discussed by Committee**
- **Discussion of report content / themes / recommendations commenced in Committee**
- **Research Officers attended meeting / briefing with State Demographer, Mr Jeremy Reynolds**
- **Additional information / data requested from Jeremy Reynolds**
- **Cover art / artist engaged to prepare cover drafts**
- **Draft case studies (biographical) prepared**
- **Draft case studies distributed to subjects for additional information.**

Future activities

- Finalisation of initial recommendation and thematic set by Committee
- Complete first draft preparation.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Nil

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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helen.mason@parliament.vic.gov.au (Scrutiny of Regulations)
simon.dinsbergs@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 June 2006

- The Committee met on 8 June 2006, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 6 of 2006 concerning the following Bills.

Alert Digest No. 6

Aboriginal Heritage Bill

Accident Compensation and Other Legislation (Amendment) Bill

Appropriation (2006/2007) Bill

Appropriation (Parliament 2006/2007) Bill

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Amendment) Bill

Electoral and Parliamentary Committees Legislation (Amendment) Bill

Evidence (Document Unavailability) Bill

Gambling Regulations (Further Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill

Health Legislation (Infertility Treatment and Medical Treatment) Bill

Land (Further Miscellaneous) Bill

Long Service Leave (Preservation of Entitlements) Bill

National Parks and Crown Land (Reserves) Acts (Amendment) Bill

State Taxation (Reductions and Concessions) Bill

Transport Legislation (Further Amendment) Bill

Victoria Racing Club Bill

- The Executive Officer, Mr Andrew Homer and Ms Lidia Argondizzo, MLC represented the Committee at the "Australian Bill of Rights – The ACT and Beyond" Conference in Canberra on 21 June 2006.

SUBCOMMITTEES

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 June 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 June 2006

- **The Subcommittee did not meet during June.**
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