



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 September 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

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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 September 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.

Activity during September 2006

- **Mail out of interim report continued.**

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 tabled 14 September 2006.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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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 September 2006

- **Mail out of the reports continued.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS 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

Inquiry into the Viability of the Victorian Thoroughbred/Standardbred Breeding Industries – Report on the Standardbred Breeding Industries – Government response due 10 February 2007.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000

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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

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.

Activity during September 2006

Final deliberation of the draft report and recommendations.

Future Activity

Report to be tabled on 4 October 2006.

- public hearings were held in Melbourne on 4 and 11 September with the following witnesses giving evidence:

4 September 2006

- Mr Ron Bowden, CEO, Service Station Association of Australia
- Mr Keith Seyer, Director, Technical and Regulatory, Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries
- Mr Graeme Ford, General Manager, Policy and Mr Jerome Carslake, Senior Policy Advisor, Victorian Farmers Federation
- Mr Bill Frilay, Government Relations Manager, BP Australia
- Mr Peter Scott, General Manager External Affairs, Shell Australia

11 September 2006

- Mr John Spragg, Executive Officer and Mr Robert Parkes, National President, Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia
- Mr Martin Jones, Manager, Government Relations, CSR Ethanol
- Ms Michele Graham, Strategy & Research, and Mr Stewart Rendell, Development Manager, Australian Ethanol Ltd
- Dr Chris Hamilton, C H Energy Ltd
- Mr David Vinson, Technical Director, Axiom Energy Ltd
- Mr Collin Gillam, Chief Executive Officer, Mr B. Louey Gung, Managing Director and Ms Chantha Chey, Marketing Manager, Alternative Fuels and Energy Pty Ltd.

Future Activities

- Committee meetings are scheduled for 2, 9 and 16 October
- continued research and report drafting
- preparation for report printing.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE RECEIVED

Inquiry into the Energy Services Industry – Government response tabled 13 September 2006.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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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.

Activity during September 2006

- **Committee staff continuing research and further investigation of possible sites for inspection.**

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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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 was granted to June 2006. A further extension has been requested to September 2006.

Activities during September 2006

- Committee meetings to consider draft chapters
- Finalisation of drafting of the report
- Draft adopted
- Draft printed
- Final Report tabled on 14 September 2006.

Future Activity

- ongoing media monitoring.

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 was to make its final report to Parliament by June 2006. An extension has been requested to October 2006.

Activity during September 2006

- ongoing report drafting.

Future Activities

- finalisation of drafting
- consideration of draft report by Committee
- adoption of report
- 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

Inquiry into the Coroner's Act 1985 – Response due 14 March 2007

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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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*

Chair: 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.

Activities during September 2006

Following the Committee tabling its Report on its Inquiry into Building New Communities on 8 August 2006, the Committee secretariat distributed over 800 copies of the report to stakeholders and provided further information to interested parties, including additional copies of the report upon request.

On 25 September 2006 the Chair of the Committee, Don Nardella, MP and the Executive Officer presented a paper to the Governments and Communities in Partnerships Conference, which was held in Melbourne between 25-27 September 2006.

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Terms of reference – received by Order in Council on 27 July 2006

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

In particular, the Committee is requested to:

- 1) Examine existing local economic development programs being carried out by municipalities in outer suburban areas;
- 2) Identify the barriers to local economic development and the ways in which these can be addressed;
- 3) Investigate and recommend incentive arrangements for industry and the respective responsibilities of each tier of government;
- 4) Investigate the role of council local economic development units and the types of assistance they provide;
- 5) Examine and report on ways in which councils and government at all levels can encourage economic development, enhance and promote employment opportunities and attract new investment;
- 6) Identify export based operations and opportunities in outer suburban areas and recommend options to encourage their growth;
- 7) Identify new and emerging sectors and how they can assist economic development in outer suburban areas, including innovative examples of business incubators, home-based businesses and social enterprises; and
- 8) Examine national and international initiatives relevant to these issues.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament by 28 February 2008.

Activity during September 2006

The Committee advertised the new terms of reference and called for submissions.

Future Activity

The Committee secretariat will continue to review and analyse submissions received on its new inquiry and investigate relevant literature. A briefing paper will be prepared on issues raised in the submissions and the research literature, where relevant to the terms of reference.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Building New Communities – Response due 8 February 2007.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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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.

Activity during September 2006

On 14 September 2006, report on the 2006-07 budget estimates tabled in Parliament.

Future Activity

Report to be distributed.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Activity during September 2006

Draft report considered by the Committee on 25, 26, 28 and 29 September 2006.

Future Activity

Report to be tabled in Parliament on 4 October 2006 and distributed to interested parties.

OTHER MATTERS

Activity during September 2006

On 4 September 2006, the Committee's Executive Officer briefed a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Finance on the PAEC's role in the budget estimates process.

Future activities

On 29 September 2006, the Committee's 2005-06 annual report considered by the Committee.

The Committee's annual report for 2005-06 to be tabled out of session and distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Report on the 2004-05 Budget Outcomes

– Response tabled on 3 October 2006

Report on the 2006-07 Budget Estimates

– Response due 14 March 2007

Report on the Inquiry into Private Sector Investment in Public Infrastructure

- Response due 4 April 2007

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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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

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.

Activities during September 2006

Deliberative meetings held to consider draft report

Committee adopted report on 25 September 2006.

Future Activity

Report to be tabled on 4 October 2006.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Driver Distraction – Government response due 24 February 2007.

RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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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 Napthine and Mr P L Walsh*

Chair: Mr Ben Hardman MP

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

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 September 2006

- **Media monitoring**
- **Responding to public, media and stakeholder inquiries.**

Future activity

- **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 September 2006

- **Adoption of report by the Committee**
- **Finalisation of report for Adoption by the Committee**
- **Further development of drafts, and research completed as requested by the Committee**
- **Proofreading and editing of the report**
- **Finalisation of cover artwork**

- Finalisation of draft case studies (biographical) to be included in the report
- Printing of the report
- Finalisation of the Chairman's Foreword
- Drafting and finalisation of the media release
- Completion of the Inquiry mailing list
- Completion of correspondence thanking participants in the Inquiry.

Future activities

- Updating of the website
- Media Release and follow up
- Executive Officer performance development activities
- Development of Executive Officer performance plan.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

**Report on Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure for Business–
Response due 18 January 2007.**

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

Activity during September 2006

- The Committee met on 11 September 2006, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 10 of 2006 concerning the following Bills.

Alert Digest No. 10

Catchment and Land Protection (Further Amendment) Bill
City of Melbourne and Docklands Acts (Governance) Bill
Justice Legislation (Further Amendment) Bill
Public Sector Acts (Further Workplace Protection and Other Matters) Bill
Road Legislation (Projects and Road Safety) Bill
Sentencing (Suspended Sentences) Bill
State Taxation Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill
Transport (Taxi-Cab Accreditation and Other Amendments) Bill

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 September 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 September 2006

- The Subcommittee met on 4 and 27 September 2006, where it considered and approved the following Regulations –

Statutory Rules 2006

- SR No. 43 – Supreme Court (Chapter I Amendment No.1) Rules 2006
- SR No. 44 – Supreme Court (Chapter V Amendment No.2) Rules 2006
- SR No. 45 – Subordinate Legislation (Coroners Regulations 1996 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 46 – Magistrates' Court General (Fifth Waiver Period Amendment) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 47 – Wrongs (Part VB)(Dust and Tobacco-Related Claims) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 48 – Magistrates' Court General (Specified Agencies) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 49 – National Parks (Cape Howe Marine National Park) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 50 – Human Tissue (Removal of Tissue) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 51 – Chattel Securities (Fees) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 52 – Road Safety (Drivers)(Fees) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 53 – Road Safety (Vehicles)(Fees) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 54 – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Amendment No.16) Rules 2006
- SR No. 55 – Magistrates' Court (Criminal Procedure) Rules 2006
- SR No. 56 – Subordinate Legislation (Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions) Regulations 1996 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 57 – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006
- SR No. 58 – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Rodeo Permits) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 59 – Environment Protection (Ships' Ballast Water) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 60 – Planning and Environment (Fees)(Further Amendment) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 61 – Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Fees) Regulations 2006
- SR No. 63 – Fisheries (Salmonid) Regulations 2006

- SR No. 65 – Environment Protection (Vehicle Emissions)(Amendment) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 67 – Transfer of Land (Fees)(Further Amendment) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 69 – Magistrates’ Court (Outworkers) Rules 2006**
- SR No. 70 – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Volatile Substances)(Extension of Provisions) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 71 – Gambling Regulation (Infringement Offences) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 72 – Magistrates’ Court (Criminal Procedure)(Amendment) Rules 2006**
- SR No. 73 – Surveillance Devices Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 74 – Crimes (Assumed Identities) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 75 – Infringements (Reporting and Prescribed Details and Forms) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 77 – Evidence (Witness Identity Protection) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 78 – Crimes (Family Violence)(Amendment) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 79 – Plumbing (Fees) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 80 – Terrorism (Community Protection)(Chemicals and Substances) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 81 – Firearms (Amendment) Regulations 2006**
- SR No. 83 – Magistrates’ Court (Family Violence)(Amendment) Rules 2006**
- SR No. 87 – Magistrates’ Court Civil Procedure (Amendment No. 15) Rules 2006**
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