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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 31 October 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)**

## PLEASE NOTE

Following the expiry of the Parliament on 31 October 2006\*, the Parliamentary Committees ceased to hold office and all incomplete inquiries lapsed as from that date. No further edition of the *Progress on Investigations* will therefore be published until after the committees have been reappointed in the next Parliament.

Please contact the Joint Committee Administration Office on (03) 9651 3500 or [jcao@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jcao@parliament.vic.gov.au) with any inquiries.

\*due to the forthcoming State election on 25 November 2006



# **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.

### ***Activity during October 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 October 2006***

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

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

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

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

**Inquiry into the Misuse/Abuse of Benzodiazepines and other forms of Pharmaceutical Drugs in Victoria — Response due February 2007**

# **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:** (vacant)

## **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.\*

\* Reporting date extended to 30 June 2006

### ***Activity during October 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**

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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

## **THE EFFECTS OF TELEVISION AND MULTIMEDIA ON EDUCATION IN VICTORIA**

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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 October 2006***

**Report was tabled on 4 October 2006.**

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

**Inquiry into the Effects of Television and Multimedia on Education in Victoria - Government response due April 2007.**



# ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000

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

Email: [enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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

## Members:

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

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

Chair: Ms J M Lindell, MP

Executive Officer: Dr Caroline Williams

Acting Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

## INQUIRY INTO THE PRODUCTION AND/OR USE OF BIOFUELS IN VICTORIA

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Referred by Order of the Governor in Council on 27 July 2006.

That the Environment and Natural Resources Committee investigate the potential for Victoria to manufacture and use biofuels for transport applications.

The Committee is asked to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on:

- current manufacture, availability and use of biofuels for transport applications in Australia and Victoria;
- potential environmental, economic and social impacts of increased manufacture and use of biofuel for transport applications;
- the impact of reducing reliance on oil imports as a result of increased use of biofuel for transport;
- barriers to and incentives for increased use of biofuel for transport;
- the role of government in the manufacture and use of biofuels for transport.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 17 October 2006.

### ***Activities during October 2006***

- report drafting
- Committee meetings held on 2, 9 and 16 October 2006 to consider the draft report
- report adopted and printed
- Inquiry into the Production and/or Use of Biofuels in Victoria report tabled on 25 October 2006
- mailout of report to stakeholders.

## COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into the Production and/or Use of Biofuels in Victoria - Government response due April 2007.



# 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: [fcfdc@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:fcfdc@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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

## Members:

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

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

Chairman: Mr R Smith, MLC

Executive Officer: Mr 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.\*

\*Reporting date extended to 4 October 2006.

### **Activity during October 2006**

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



# 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:** Dr Peter J Chen (acting)

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

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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 October 2006***

- finalisation of report draft
- report editing
- preparation of report draft for adoption
- adoption of final report
- printing of final report
- tabling of final report on 24 October 2006
- preparation and distribution of media release
- distribution of report copies.

### ***Future Activities***

- ongoing media monitoring.

## **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

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 October 2006***

- Ongoing media monitoring
- Correspondence with members of the public.

### ***Future Activity***

- Ongoing media monitoring.

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

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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 LAW OF CONTEMPT OF COURT**

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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**
- **Inquiry into County Court Appeals – Response due 24 April 2007**



***Future Activities***

The secretariat will continue to undertake background research on the new Inquiry into Local Economic Development in Outer Suburban Areas, pending the composition of committees in the next parliament

A briefing paper will be prepared on issues raised in the submissions and the research literature to date, 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**

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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:** 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

## **PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

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

### ***Activities during October 2006***

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

**On 13 October 2006, the Chair of PAEC gave a presentation to students at the University of Melbourne.**

## **OTHER MATTERS**

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### ***Activity during October 2006***

**On 17 October 2006, the Committee's annual report was tabled out of session.**

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

### **Report on the 2006-07 Budget Estimates**

- **Response due 14 March 2007**

### **Report on Private investment in public infrastructure**

- **Response due 4 April 2007**



# ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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

Email: [rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto: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

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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 October 2006***

**Final report tabled on 4 October 2006**

**Mail-out to stakeholders.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

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

**Review of the Inquiry into the Incidence and Prevention of Pedestrian Accidents – Government response due 4 April 2007.**



# RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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

Email: [rrsdc@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto: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 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 May 2006.

#### ***Activities October 2006***

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

#### ***Future activity***

- **Responding to any queries.**

### **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 4 October 2006.

#### ***Activities during October 2006***

- **Tabling of report**
- **Distribution of media release and follow up**
- **Completion of the Inquiry mailing list**
- **Mail out of report**
- **Completion of correspondence thanking participants in the Inquiry**
- **Organisation of attachment for the research officer**
- **Development of research officer and executive officer performance plans.**

***Future activities***

- **Updating of the website**
- **Responding to queries**
- **Preparation of Inquiry material for archiving**
- **Executive Officer performance development activities**
- **Executive Officer contribution to annual plan.**

**COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Report on Retaining Young People in Rural Towns and Communities –  
Response due April 2007**



# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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

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

Email: [andrew.homer@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.homer@parliament.vic.gov.au) (Scrutiny of Bills)  
[helen.mason@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:helen.mason@parliament.vic.gov.au) (Scrutiny of Regulations)  
[simon.dinsbergs@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto: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

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### *Activity during October 2006*

- The Committee met on 2 & 4 October 2006, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest Nos. 11 & 12 of 2006 concerning the following Bills.

#### Alert Digest No. 11

**Civil Unions Bill**

**Environment Protection (Amendment) Bill**

**Gambling Regulations (Limitation of Number of Gaming Machines) Bill**

**Owners Corporations Bill**

#### Alert Digest No. 12

**Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring (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 October 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 October 2006***

- The Subcommittee did not meet in October.
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-