



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 31 March 2007

56th 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 S Leane and Ms J Mikakos.*

(Assembly) *Ms A Barker, Mr H Delahunty, Mrs J Maddigan,
Mr A McIntosh and Mr D Morris.*

Chair: Mrs Judy Maddigan MP

Executive Officer: Sandy Cook

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

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 November 2007 on the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs in Victoria with particular regard to:

- (a) examining the nature, extent and culture of the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs;
- (b) examining the short and long term consequences/harms of the abuse/misuse of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs;
- (c) examining the relationship between benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs and other forms of licit and illicit substance use;
- (d) reviewing the adequacy of existing strategies for dealing with benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs misuse/abuse;
- (e) recommending best practice strategies to address the issue of benzodiazepines and other forms of pharmaceutical drugs, including regulatory, law enforcement, education and treatment responses; and
- (f) examining national and international legislation, reports and materials relevant to the issue.

Activities during March 2007

- **The Committee met on 15 March 2007 and considered the two references**
- **The secretariat provided a comprehensive briefing paper on the benzodiazepines inquiry, outlining progress to date**
- **Dr Malcolm Dobbin, Senior Medical Officer, Drug Policy and Services Branch, Department of Human Services also briefed the Committee.**

Future Activities

- **Committee resolved to advertise its terms of reference calling for submissions for the Misuse/ Abuse of Benzodiazepines and other forms of Pharmaceutical Drugs in Victoria**
- **Committee secretariat has arranged for expert witnesses to brief the committee on its inquiry**
- **Victorian rural and regional visits scheduled for May 2007.**

INQUIRY INTO JUSTICE AND CRIME STRATEGIES IN HIGH VOLUME CRIMES

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008 on justice and crime strategies in high volume crimes such as breaking and entering, which often involve young people - and the Committee is to recommend on:

- (a) strategies that will reduce high volume crimes with particular emphasis on residential burglaries being committed by young people; and
- (b) strategies that are effective because they change the environment in which these offences are likely to be committed .

Activity during March 2007

This inquiry has not yet commenced.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE 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/edic>

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Atkinson, Mr D Davis, Mr B Tee and Mr E Thornley*

(Assembly) *Hon. C Campbell, Mr. P .Crisp and Ms M. Thomson*

Chair: Hon. Christine Campbell, MP

Executive Officer: Mark Roberts (Acting)

INQUIRY INTO KEY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES IN VICTORIA'S FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2007 on the key competitive advantages underpinning the performance and growth in Victoria's financial services sector, particularly with regard to the sector's presence interstate, and recommend strategies to:

- (a) maintain this growth;
- (b) maximise employment opportunities from the sector's further expansion;
- (c) ensure the benefit of the sector's growth and operation are shared across the state; and
- (d) identify likely risks and impediments to the sector.

INQUIRY ON MANDATORY ETHANOL AND BIOFUELS TARGET IN VICTORIA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on mandatory ethanol and biofuels target in Victoria – and, in particular, the Committee is required to:

- (a) report on the merits or otherwise of a mandated target for alternative fuels including biofuels and ethanol;
- (b) report on whether a mandatory target should be 5% by 2010, 10% by 2015 or otherwise;
- (c) report on the measures required by Government to facilitate an alternative fuels industry in Victoria for transport and non-transport applications; and
- (d) report on how to maximise the regional economic development benefits of a mandatory biofuels target including jobs growth and investment potential.

Activity during March 2007

The Committee had its first meeting on 26 March 2007, where it considered the two references.

Data base of interested parties compiled.

Future Activity

Next meeting 16 April 2007

Advertising of references in media.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 9651 8309 Facsimile: 9651 8323

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr Nazih Elasmr, Mr Bernie Finn and Mr Peter Hall*

(Assembly) *Dr Alistair Harkness, Mr Steve Herbert, Mr Geoff Howard and
Mr Nicholas Kotsiras.*

Chair: Geoff Howard 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 October 2006 – March 2007

The Report was tabled in Parliament on 4 October 2006.

Future Activity

A government response is due by 4 April 2007.

DRESS CODES AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on dress codes and school uniforms in Victoria, in particular:

- a) the benefits and costs of mandatory school uniforms;
- b) the views of school communities about dress codes and school uniforms;
- c) the most cost efficient and practical uniform procurement arrangements;
- d) matters which need to be considered to ensure dress codes and uniform policies are consistent with anti-discrimination legislation and health promotion policies;
- e) appropriate enforcement and sanctions;
- f) appropriate exemption criteria and processes; and
- g) national and international trends.

Activities during March 2007

The Committee met to discuss the terms of reference and a general methodology for its completion

The Committee advertised the terms of reference, calling for written submissions to be forwarded by 4 May 2007.

Future Activity

The Committee will receive a briefing from the Minister for Education in April and then determine its schedule for public hearings.

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 1 March 2008 on effective strategies for teacher professional learning with particular regard to:

- a. the relationship between ongoing professional learning for teachers and teaching expertise;
- b. which factors will support high quality professional learning for teachers, including learning methods and environments for the development of professional knowledge, and the pedagogy relevant to professional development of teachers;
- c. national and international trends regarding ongoing professional learning for teachers and report on innovative initiatives;
- d. determining how best practice in ongoing professional learning for teachers can be delivered into schools and learning communities;
- e. examining the potential for greater cross-sectoral links between industry, training institutions and schools in the delivery of ongoing professional learning for teachers; and

- f. examining gender issues in the delivery of ongoing professional learning for teachers.

Activity during March 2007

This inquiry is yet to commence.

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000

Telephone: 9651 3570 **Facsimile:** 9651 3601

Email: emc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Ms Candy Broad, Mr Peter Hall and Mr Adem Somyurek*
(Assembly) *Hon Christine Campbell, Mr Michael O'Brien, Mr Robin Scott,
and Mr Murray Thompson.*

Chair: Mr Adem Somyurek MLC

Executive Officer: Mark Roberts (Acting)

INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE 2006 VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008 on the conduct of the 2006 Victorian State Election and matters related thereto.

Activities during March 2007

- **On 26 March 2007, the Committee met and elected Mr Adem Somyurek MLC Chair and Mr Michael O'Brien MP Deputy Chair**
- **Committee discussed the new inquiry.**

Future Activity

- **Further meetings will be held in April to discuss inquiry strategy and specific stakeholders**
- **Advertise for public submissions.**

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne, 3000

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

Email: enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mrs D Petrovich and Mr M Viney*

(Assembly) *Ms J Duncan, Mrs C Fyffe, Mr C Ingram, Ms T Lobato,
Hon J Pandazopoulos and Mr P Walsh*

Chair: Hon J Pandazopoulos, MP

Executive Officer: Dr Caroline Williams

INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON BUSHFIRES IN VICTORIA

Referred by the Legislative Council on 14 March 2007- to inquire into and report by 30 June 2008 upon the impact of public land management practices on the frequency, scale and intensity of bushfires in Victoria, and in particular -

- (1) the extent, timing, resourcing and effectiveness of prescribed burning on both crown and freehold land;
- (2) the manner in which prescribed burning is conducted, including how applicable codes of practice are employed;
- (3) the impact of prescribed burning and recent wildfires on Victoria's biodiversity, wildlife and other natural assets including water quality and quantity;
- (4) the reporting process applicable to prescribed burning programs;
- (5) the legislative and regulatory arrangements for prescribed burns and bushfire management;
- (6) the effectiveness of maintaining permanent, strategically placed fire breaks and containment lines throughout public land areas;
- (7) the provision and maintenance of large water points on crown land to assist with bushfire aerial taskforce operations;
- (8) the impact of traditional land uses such as timber harvesting, grazing, four-wheel-driving, hunting, camping, mining and prospecting on the scale and intensity of bushfires and the ability of relevant agencies to respond;

- (9) the provision and maintenance of serviceable access tracks and signage to assist with recreational and emergency requirements;
- (10) the impact of climate change on bushfires and public land management practices;
- (11) whether additional measures are required to provide a mechanism for the skills, knowledge and interests of local communities, and appropriate scientific expertise, to be better represented in the management of bushfire risk on public land;
- (12) the involvement of local communities in the management of fire; and
- (13) any other matter that impacts on the scale and intensity of bushfires in Victoria.

Activities during March 2007

- advertised the terms of reference in metropolitan and rural/regional newspapers calling for written submissions by 25 May 2007
- contacted over 300 stakeholders requesting written submissions
- background research.

Future Activities

- finalise schedule of public hearings and site visits
- continue background research.

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into the Production and/or Use of Biofuels in Victoria was tabled in October 2006.

Government response to biofuels report due mid April 2007.

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) *Mr Johan Scheffer, Mr. Adem Somyurek*

(Assembly) *Ms Liz Beattie, Mr. Martin Dixon, Mr. Jude Perrera,
Mrs E J Powell, Ms Mary Wooldridge*

Chair: Yet to be elected

Executive Officer: Paul Bourke

INQUIRY ON THE INVOLVEMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE BUSINESS IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 1 March 2008 on the involvement of small and medium size businesses in corporate social responsibility and, in conducting the inquiry, the Committee is to:

- (a) investigate current Australian initiatives where small and medium size businesses have developed innovative ways of working with governments and community groups to support communities;
- (b) examine the international context and emerging trends with overseas initiatives relevant to corporate social responsibility amongst small and medium size businesses aimed at tackling social disadvantage;
- (c) investigate how small and medium size businesses could play a role in tackling disadvantage in local communities and making communities stronger, particularly how they can partner with government and community groups to work in the areas of most need;
- (d) determine the barriers and the drivers for small and medium sized businesses to become involved in social responsibility initiatives and options for addressing those barriers and increasing the drivers;
- (e) examine the barriers to sustainability of business and corporate social responsibility initiatives for small and medium sized businesses.

Activity during March 2007

This inquiry is yet to commence.

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) *Mrs J Kronberg, Mr E O'Donohue and Mr B Tee*

(Assembly) *Mr C Brooks, Mr R Clark, Mr L Donnellan and Mr A Lupton*

Chairman: Mr B Tee, MLC

Executive Officer: Ms M Mason

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on property investment and property marketeers with particular regard to:

- a) reviewing the regulatory framework for the provision of property investment advice, with the objective of establishing how best to control the exploitation of Victorians in the context of keeping the burden on business as low as possible;
- b) the Commonwealth's role in regulating financial advice, and the ongoing work of the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs in considering regulation of this area.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2008 on:

- a) the reach and use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, including Government established ADR schemes and restorative justice schemes, so as to improve access to justice and outcomes in civil and criminal court jurisdictions and to reduce the need, where possible, for contact with the court system, particularly in marginalised communities;
- b) whether a form of Government regulation of alternative dispute resolution providers is appropriate or feasible so as to ensure greater consistency and accountability for Victorians wishing to access alternative dispute resolution.

INQUIRY INTO VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 September 2008 on the effect of vexatious litigants on the justice system and the individuals and agencies who are victims of vexatious litigants — and, the Committee should:

- a) inquire into the effectiveness of current legislative provisions in dealing with vexatious litigants;
- b) make recommendations which better enable the courts to more efficiently and effectively perform their role while preserving the community's general right of access to the Victorian courts.

Activities during March 2007

- **The Committee met for the first time on 19 March 2007 and is considering a timetable for the commencement of the three inquiries.**

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Level 3, 157 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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

Email: osisd@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) Mr Nazih Elasmr, Mr Matthew Guy and Ms Colleen Hartland

(Assembly) Ms Danielle Green, Mr David Hodgett, Mr Don Nardella, Mr George Seitz and the Hon Ken Smith

Chair: Mr George Seitz MP

Executive Officer: Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - to inquire, consider 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

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament by 30 September 2008.

Activities during March 2007

The Committee elected Mr George Seitz MP as the Chair and the Hon Ken Smith as Deputy Chair of the Committee

The secretariat provided a briefing to the new Committee and the Committee resolved to advertise the Terms of Reference on 24 March 2007, with the closing date of 4 May 2007, for submissions being received.

Future Activity

30 April 2007 Public Hearing, Parliament House. Interface Council Group and representatives from Economic Development units in Interface Councils

A number of Committee members and staff are to attend the following events relevant to the inquiry:

4 April 2007 The Victorian Tourism Industry Council Forum in Melbourne

20 April 2007 Facilitating Growth & Investment Conference (City of Darebin).

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Level 8, 35 Spring Street, Melbourne 3000

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

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council)

Mr Greg Barber, Mr Richard Dalla-Riva, Mr Martin Pakula, Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips,

(Assembly)

Ms Judith Graley, Ms Janice Munt, Mr Robin Scott, Mr Bob Stensholt, (Chair), Dr Bill Sykes, Mr Kim Wells (Deputy Chair),

Chair: Mr Bob Stensholt, MP

Executive Officer: Mark Roberts (Acting)

FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING

Activity during March 2007

On 5 March 2007, the Committee met and elected Mr B Stensholt MP as Chair and Mr K Wells MP as Deputy Chair of the PAEC for the 56th Parliament.

2006-07 BUDGET ESTIMATES

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

Activity during March 2007

Report on the 2006-07 Budget Estimates

- **Government response tabled on 14 March 2007.**

2007-08 BUDGET ESTIMATES

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

Activities during March 2007

On 5 March 2007, the Committee discussed the arrangements for the 2007-08 Budget Estimates hearings.

On 14 March 2007, letters sent to all Ministers and the Presiding Officers inviting them to attend estimates hearings in May 2007.

On 19 March 2007 the Committee considered and amended the PAEC 2007-08 Budget Estimates questionnaire.

On 26 March 2007 the Committee's 2007-08 Budget Estimates questionnaire was distributed to all Ministers and departments.

Future Activities

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

Organise budget briefing for Members of Parliament and their staff to be held on 3 May 2007.

REPORT ON THE 2004-05 BUDGET OUTCOMES

Report on the 2004-05 Budget Outcomes

- Government response tabled on 3 October 2006

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than the last sitting day in 2007 on the options for the next phase of strengthening government and parliamentary accountability in Victoria — and in particular the Committee is required to consider:

- (a) Parliamentary Committees;
- (b) question time procedure;
- (c) standards of parliamentary behaviour;
- (d) overseas travel by members of Parliament;
- (e) modernisation of Parliament including the permanent abolition of wigs and other archaic practices;
- (f) reform of the process of dealing with petitions.

Activity during March 2007

On 31 March 2007, an advertisement calling for submissions was placed in *The Age* and *The Herald Sun*.

Future Activity

The Committee will be briefed following the compilation of a list of interested parties and the scoping of the inquiry.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Activity during February/ March 2007

On 12 February 2007 the Committee's Executive Officer gave a presentation on PPPs to the Latrobe Study Group.

Future Activity

Awaiting government response due 4 April 2007.

AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

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

Activity during March 2007

The Committee received details of VAGO’s proposed reporting timetable for 2007.

Future Activities

The Committee will call for tenders for the financial audit of Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

The Committee will call for tenders for the performance audit of the Auditor-General’s Office.

The Committee will review reports of the Auditor-General presented to the Victorian Parliament between July 2006 and February 2007.

AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEES (ACPAC)

Activity during March 2007

Organised attendance for Committee members at the ACPAC conference held in Canberra, 11 to 14 April 2007.

Future Activities

The Chair, Committee members and the Committee’s Acting Executive Officer to attend ACPAC conference held in Canberra, 11 to 14 April 2007.

The Chair to present an activities report to ACPAC conference.

OTHER MATTERS

Activities during November 2006 – March 2007

On 14 November 2006, Research Officer of the PAEC briefed a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Finance on the PAEC’s role in the budget estimates process

On 26 February 2007, the Committee’s Acting Executive Officer briefed a delegation from Sri Lanka.

Future activities

The Chair and Deputy Chair are to meet with a delegation from the Legislative Assembly of Malaysia at a morning tea hosted by the Clerk of the Parliaments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Report on Private investment in public infrastructure

- Response due 4 April 2007

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) *Mr David Koch and Mr Shaun Leane*

(Assembly) *Mr John Eren, Mr Craig Langdon, Mr Terry Mulder,
Mr Ian Trezise, and Mr Paul Weller*

Chair: Mr John Eren, MP

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

INQUIRY INTO VEHICLE SAFETY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on vehicle safety – and the Committee should -

- (a) identify and prioritise those vehicle safety technologies that have the most potential for reducing the number of crashes and or the seriousness of injuries sustained in crashes;
- (b) compare the level of safety provided by these leading edge technologies with the minimum regulated standards (Australian Design Rules);
- (c) compare the rate of fitting of these leading edge technologies in Australia with that of other developed economies including Europe, the United States of America and Japan and identify any impediments to encourage their adoption;
- (d) review the level of manufacturers/importers de-specifying (decision not to fit) vehicle safety technologies commonly available overseas to vehicles imported and sold in Australia;
- (e) seek advice from high volume local vehicle makers and vehicle importers as to when the vehicles in their product ranges will have these high priority vehicle safety technologies; and
- (f) recommend strategies for encouraging vehicle manufacturers to fit leading edge vehicle safety technologies to vehicles sold in Australia and for increasing the public's knowledge and demand for these technologies.

Activities during March 2007

Advertisements were placed in the major metropolitan and regional newspapers inviting submissions

Correspondence was sent to more than 30 organisations seeking submissions. Organisations include: government bodies; lobby groups and motoring manufacturers.

Future Activity

Planning for briefings from key organisations has begun.

FEDERAL – STATE ROAD FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 September 2008 on Federal – State road funding arrangements – and the Committee should -

- (a) review current arrangements in Australia;
- (b) assess the current arrangements in Australia in respect of economic efficiency and equity;
- (c) make recommendations for improving Federal – State road funding arrangements in Australia.

Activity during March 2007

Work on this inquiry has not commenced

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Committee will meet with and hold informal briefings with VicRoads, Transport Accident Commission and Victoria Police on general road safety matters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE RECEIVED

Inquiry into Driver Distraction – Government Response tabled 27 February 2007.

Review of the Inquiry into the Incidence and Prevention of Pedestrian Accidents – Government Response tabled 15 March.

RURAL AND REGIONAL 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/rrc

Email: rrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Members:-

(Council) *Ms K Darveniza, Mr D Drum, Ms Wendy Lovell, Ms G Tierney
Mr John Vogels*

(Assembly) *Mr John Eren, Mr Russell Northe*

Chair: Mr Damian Drum MLC

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO TAXATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGED INVESTMENT SCHEMES (NON-FORESTRY)

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – to inquire, consider and report no later than 30 September 2007 on the potential economic impacts to Victoria's rural and regional businesses and communities as a result of the proposed changes to the taxation arrangements for Managed Investment Schemes (non-forestry), which have been recently announced by the Commonwealth; of particular interest are the impacts on investment, job creation, exports and resource use (water and land) —and, to this end, the Committee should consider the core issues of the:

- a) investment, job creation and exports which have occurred over the past three years in rural and regional areas as a result of Managed Investment Schemes;
- b) investment, job creation and exports, which is occurring in rural and regional areas following the planned transition period;
- c) net economic impacts on Victoria's rural and regional areas over the next five years;
- d) impacts on northern Victoria's irrigation water markets; and
- e) anticipated structural changes and the new industry opportunities in rural and regional areas —

and the Committee should make recommendations on any necessary or desirable actions that could be taken to assist Victoria's rural and regional businesses to adapt to the proposed changes in order to limit the potential negative impacts of the changes.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2007.

Activity March 2007

- **Discussion of Terms of Reference.**

Future activity

- **Planning for Inquiry.**

INQUIRY INTO RURAL AND REGIONAL TOURISM

Referred by the Legislative Council on 15 March 2007 – to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on —

- (1) the economic benefits of tourism in regional areas, including tracking the flow-on benefits through other regional businesses and industry;
- (2) potential impediments to the sustained growth of regional tourism, economic activity and jobs;
- (3) the effectiveness, at a National, State and local level, of current programs to promote and enhance tourism in regional Victoria;
- (4) initiatives to increase both international and domestic visitor nights in regional Victoria;
- (5) the efficacy of existing mechanisms at a National, State and local level to address the impact on regional tourism of natural events such as bushfires, floods and drought, and effective measures to drive long term economic recovery; and
- (6) opportunities to leverage private investment and commercial activity in regional tourism infrastructure, including ecotourism.

Activities during March 2007

- **First meeting held**
- **Research**
- **Preparation of briefing material**
- **Updating of the Committee website**
- **Executive Officer performance development activities.**

Future activities

- **Briefing of the Committee on Inquiry issues**
- **Finalisation of a meeting and regional hearings calendar**
- **Development of a Have Your Say website page**
- **Call for submissions advertisement**
- **Media Release for Call for Submissions**
- **Completion of the Inquiry mailing list**
- **Development of stakeholder lists**
- **Planning for regional hearings**
- **Planning for Melbourne hearings**
- **Literature review.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSES

Retaining Young People in Rural Towns and Communities – Response due 3 April 2007 (Report of the Rural and Regional Services & Development Committee, 55th Parliament).

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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Members:

(Council) *Mr Richard Della-Riva*, Mr Nazih Elasmr*, Mr Khalil Eideh, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Mrs Inga Peulich, Ms Jaala Pulford.*

(Assembly) *Mr Colin Brooks, Mr Carlo Carli (Chair), Mr Ken Jasper (Deputy), Mr Telmo Languiller, Mr Andrew McIntosh*, Mr Ryan Smith, Mr Murray Thompson*.*

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli, MP

Executive Officer: Andrew Homer

**Indicates Members of the Interim Committee from 19 December 2006 until 28 February 2007.*

FULL COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee had an Interim Committee from 19 December 2006 until 28 February 2007.

Activity during December 2006

- The Committee met on 21 December 2006, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 1 of 2006 of the 56th Parliament, concerning the following Bill.

Alert Digest No. 1

State Taxation Legislation Amendment (Housing Affordability) Bill

Activity during February/March 2007

- The Committee met on 12 February 2007, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 1 of 2007 concerning the following Bills.

Alert Digest No. 1

Control of Weapons Amendment (Penalties) Bill

Interpretation of Legislation Amendment Bill

Justice Legislation (Further Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill

Murray-Darling Basin Amendment Bill

Public Prosecutions Amendment Bill

Road Legislation (Projects and Road Safety) Bill

Senate Elections Amendment Bill

Water Amendment (Critical Water Infrastructure Projects) Bill

Water (Governance) Bill

- The Committee met on 26 February 2007, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 2 of 2007 concerning the following Bills.

Alert Digest No. 2

Parliamentary Legislation Amendment Bill 2007

Pay-roll Tax Amendment (Bushfire and Emergency Service) Bill 2007

Prahran Mechanics' Institute Amendment Bill 2007

Victims of Crime Assistance Amendment Bill 2007

- The Committee met on 9 March 2007 where it considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 3 of 2007 concerning the following Bills.

Alert Digest No. 3

Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Repeal of Part X) Bill 2007

Gambling Regulation Amendment (Review Panel) Bill 2007

Legal Profession Amendment Bill 2007

Livestock Disease Control Amendment Bill 2007

Major Events (Aerial Advertising) Bill 2007

Nuclear Activities (Prohibitions) Amendment (Plebiscite) Bill 2007

Public Prosecutions Amendment Bill 2006

- The Committee met on 26 March 2007, where it considered a number of progress items raised at the previous meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Redundant Legislation

Mr Edward O'Donohue, MLC (Chair)

Mr Carlo Carli, MP

Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC

Ms Inga Peulich, MLC

Ms Jaala Pulford, MLC

INQUIRY INTO A REVIEW OF REDUNDANT LEGISLATION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament by the last sitting day in 2008 on:

Redundant Corporations Laws Inquiry.

- (a) in conjunction with Chief Parliamentary Counsel, make recommendations on —
- (i) Acts of Parliament and provisions of Acts of Parliament which are unnecessary or redundant; and
 - (ii) legislative instruments made under an Act of Parliament and provisions of legislative instruments made under an Act of Parliament, which are unnecessary or redundant; and
 - (iii) Acts of Parliament and provisions of Acts of Parliament which are unclear, ambiguous or should be re-drafted; and
 - (iv) legislative instruments made under an Act of Parliament and provisions of legislative instruments made under an Act of Parliament which are unclear, ambiguous or should be re-drafted;
- (b) the implications of the national corporations regulatory framework and whether as a consequence of the referral of corporations powers to the Parliament of the Commonwealth any Victorian Acts should be repealed and if so whether any existing provisions should be saved by inclusion into other appropriate legislation; this consideration should include:
- (i) Companies Act 1961;
 - (ii) Companies Act 1975;
 - (iii) Companies (Application of Laws) Act 1981;
 - (iv) Securities Industry Act 1975;
 - (v) Securities Industry (Application of Laws) Act 1981;
 - (vi) Marketable Securities Act 1970;
 - (vii) Collusive Practices Act 1965 —

and, in the conduct of this inquiry, the Committee is requested to pursue the primary objects of reducing the number and complexity of Victorian Acts and legislative instruments, and ensuring that Acts and instruments are clearly expressed in accordance with modern drafting practices.

Activity during March 2007

- **The Subcommittee did not meet in March.**

Regulation Review

Mr Ken Jasper, MP (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Colin Brooks, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC
Ms Inga Peulich, MLC
Mr Ryan Smith, MP

Activity during February/March 2007

- **The Subcommittee met on 12 February 2007, where it considered and approved the following Regulations –**

Statutory Rules 2006

SR No. 62 – Plant Health and Plant Products Regulations 2006
SR No. 64 – Prostitution Control Regulations 2006
SR No. 66 – Transfer of Land (Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 68 – Building Regulations 2006
SR No. 76 – Infringements (General) Regulations 2006
SR No. 82 – Road Safety (General)(Vehicle Impoundment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 84 – Sustainable Forests (Timber Harvesting) Regulations 2006
SR No. 85 – Planning and Environment (Fees)(Indexation) Regulations 2006
SR No. 86 – Transport (Ticketing) Regulations 2006

- **The Subcommittee met on 21 February 2007, where it considered and approved the following Regulations –**

Statutory Rules 2006

SR No. 88 – Subordinate Legislation (Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Regulations 1996 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2006
SR No. 89 – Electoral (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 90 – Administration and Probate (Deposit Of Wills)(Fees) Regulations 2006
SR No. 91 – Zoological Parks and Gardens (Fees) Regulations 2006
SR No. 92 – Subordinate Legislation (Heritage (Historic Shipwrecks)(General) Regulations 1996 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2006
SR No. 93 – Retirement Villages (Records and Notices)(Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 94 – Second-Hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers (Exemption) Regulations 2006
SR No. 95 – Consumer Credit (Victoria)(Administration) Regulations 2006
SR No. 96 – Rail Safety Regulations 2006

SR No. 97 – Supreme Court (Chapter VI Amendment No.9) Rules 2006
SR No. 98 – Supreme Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.2) Rules 2006
SR No. 99 – Retirement Villages (Contractual Arrangements) Regulations 2006
SR No. 100 – Estate Agents (Retirement Villages) Regulations 2006
SR No. 101 – Domestic (Feral and Nuisance)(Animals Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 102 – Supreme Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.3) Rules 2006
SR No. 103 – Infringements (General)(Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 104 – Bail (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 105 – Estate Agents (General, Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 110 – Mineral Resources Development (Further Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 126 – Subordinate Legislation (Firearms Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2006
SR No. 127 – Sex Offenders Registration (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 128 – Racing (Specified Race-Course) Regulations 2006
SR No. 129 – Subordinate Legislation (Shop Trading Reform (Polls) Regulations 1996 – Extension Of Operation) Regulations 2006
SR No. 131 – Subordinate Legislation (Supreme Court (Sheriff’s Fees) Regulations 1996 – Extension Of Operation) Regulations 2006
SR No. 132 – Corrections (Victims Register)(Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 133 – Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 134 – Conservation, Forests and Lands (Infringement Notice) (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 135 – Planning and Environment (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 136 – Building (Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 137 – Heritage (Infringement Notice)(Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 138 – Transport (Infringements)(Further Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 139 – Transport (Conduct)(Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 140 – Conservation, Forests and Lands (Infringement Notice) (Fisheries) Regulations 2006
SR No. 141 – Conservation, Forests and Lands (Infringement Notice) (National Parks Amendment) Regulations 2006
SR No. 142 – Metropolitan Fire Brigades (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2006
SR No. 144 – Sentencing (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 145 – Infringements (General)(Further Amendment) Regulations 2006

- The Subcommittee met on 28 March 2007, where it considered and approved the following Regulations –

Statutory Rules 2006

SR No. 106 – Estate Agents (Infringements) Regulations 2006

SR No. 107 – Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation (Provision of Vehicles) Regulations 2006

SR No. 108 – Veterans (Patriotic Funds) Regulations 2006

SR No. 109 – Fisheries (Documentation) Regulations 2006

SR No. 111 – Extractive Industries Development (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 112 – Co-Operative Housing Societies (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 113 – Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use)(Infringement Notices)(Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 114 – Livestock Disease Control (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 115 – Plant Health and Plant Products (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 116 – Intellectually Disabled Persons' Services (Fees) Regulations 2006

SR No. 117 – Valuation of Land (General Valuation) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 118 – Land Regulations 2006

SR No. 119 – Children and Young Persons (Children's Court) (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 120 – Tobacco (Grand Prix Events) Regulations 2006

SR No. 121 – National Parks (Fees and Charges)(Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 122 – Fisheries (Further Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 123 – Country Fire Authority (Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 124 – Transport (Tow Truck)(Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 125 – Sentencing (Mental Health)(Amendment) Regulations 2006

SR No. 130 – Victorian State Emergency Service Regulations 2006