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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 30 April 2007**

**56<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

*Issued by Authority of the President of the Legislative Council  
and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*

The Parliamentary Committees of the Victorian Parliament are appointed pursuant to the ***Parliamentary Committees Act 2003***.

The functions of the **Joint Investigatory Committees** are detailed in sections 7 to 17 of the Act which, by section 33, also makes the following provisions regarding their role, sources of references and priorities in considering references:

- (1) A Joint Investigatory Committee must inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any proposal, matter or thing that is relevant to its functions and has been referred to the Committee-
  - (a) by resolution of the Council or the Assembly; or
  - (b) by Order of the Governor in Council published in the Government Gazette.
- (2) A resolution of the Council or the Assembly referred to in sub-section (1)(a) may specify a period of time within which the Joint Investigatory Committee must make a final report to the Parliament on the proposal, matter or thing.
- (3) A Joint Investigatory Committee may inquire into, consider and report to the Parliament on any annual report or other document relevant to the functions of the Committee that is laid before either House of the Parliament in accordance with an Act.
- (4) In carrying out its functions, a Joint Investigatory Committee must –
  - (a) give priority before all other proposals, matters or things being inquired into or being considered by the Committee-
    - (i) first to those proposals, matters or things referred to it by resolution of the Council or the Assembly; and
    - (ii) second, to those proposals, matters or things referred to it by Order of the Governor in Council published in the Government Gazette; and
  - (b) comply with any limitation of time specified under sub-section (2).

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

# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

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## **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**

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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 April 2007***

- **The Committee met on 16 and 30 April 2007 and were briefed informally by expert witnesses on the issues pertaining to the misuse/abuse of benzodiazepines and other pharmaceutical drugs**
- **The Committee developed a research proposal for the inquiry**
- **Literature review continued to be undertaken**
- **Calls for submissions were placed in the *Herald Sun* and *The Age* on 14 April 2007**
- **Calls for submissions were circulated to key agencies and individuals with expertise and an interest in the issue**

- **The Committee planned to travel to Canberra and Adelaide to speak with individuals and representatives of organisations with expertise in this area.**

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

- **Victorian rural and regional visits scheduled for 29-30 May 2007**
- **Public Hearings scheduled for 25-26 June 2007**
- **Industry Forum scheduled for 16 July 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 April 2007***

**This inquiry has not yet commenced.**

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

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**Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002**

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**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**

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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.

### ***Activities during April 2007***

- **Terms of reference for financial services inquiry advertised in media**
- **Letters calling for submissions from key stakeholders in the Victorian financial services sector sent out**
- **The Committee received a briefing on the financial services industry from representatives from the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **The Chair and staff to meet with members of the Melbourne Centre of Financial Studies on 14 May 2007**
- **Next meeting 21 May 2007**
- **The Committee is seeking a briefing from Invest Victoria.**

## **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 April 2007***

- **Literature review continued to be undertaken.**

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 9651 8309      Facsimile: 9651 8323

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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## Members:

(Council)      *Mr N Elasmir, Mr B Finn and Mr P Hall*

(Assembly)      *Dr A Harkness, Mr S Herbert, Mr G Howard and Mr N Kotsiras.*

Chair:      Mr Geoff Howard 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 April 2007***

**A government response was received by the Parliament on 4 April 2007 and tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 17 April 2007.**

## **DRESS CODES AND SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN VICTORIAN SCHOOLS**

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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 April 2007***

**On 16 April 2007, Ms Helen Clarke, Manager, Community and Stakeholder Relations Branch, Department of Education, briefed the Committee on the Department's current student dress code guidelines and other matters associated with the inquiry**

**The Committee held its first public hearings on 30 April 2007, with the following individuals/organisations:**

- **Mr Brian Burgess, President, Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals**
- **Mr Stephen Franzi-Ford, CEO, Association of School Councils in Victoria**
- **Dr Helen Szoke, CEO and Mr Matthew Carroll, Manager, Human Rights Unit, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission**
- **Ms Leanne McGaw, Coordinator, Youth Participation Program and Ms Nadia Mohamed, Project Officer, Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues**
- **Ms Gail McHardy, Executive Officer, Parents Victoria**

### ***Future Activity***

**The Committee will continue public hearings and other investigations for the inquiry.**

## **EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

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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 April 2007***

**This inquiry is yet to commence.**



# **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

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## **Members:**

**(Council)**            *Ms C Broad, Mr P Hall and Mr A Somyurek*  
**(Assembly)**        *Hon C Campbell, Mr M O'Brien, Mr R Scott, and  
Mr M Thompson.*

**Chair:**                Mr Adem Somyurek MLC

**Executive Officer:** Mark Roberts (Acting)

## **INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF THE 2006 VICTORIAN STATE ELECTION**

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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 April 2007***

- **Advertisements placed in the major newspapers inviting submissions by 1 June 2007**
- **Development of a Committee website commenced**
- **Preparation of databases**
- **Committee secretariat has arranged for expert witnesses to brief the committee on its inquiry**
- **Development of stakeholder lists.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **Mail out to interested stakeholders**
- **Further meetings will be held in May to discuss inquiry strategy and identify further stakeholders**
- **Planning for briefing by Electoral Commissioner**
- **Planning public hearings.**



# ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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## 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

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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 April 2007***

- **Chair and Executive Officer met with Ms Kim Christensen, Manager, National Interagency Coordination Center (USA); Mr Ewan Waller, Chief Officer and Mr Liam Fogarty, Assistant Chief Officer, Fire and Emergency Management (Department of Sustainability and Environment) to discuss the terms of reference and developments in the USA on 26 April 2007**
- **contacted stakeholders requesting written submissions**
- **finalised schedule of public hearings and site visits**
- **conducted research on public land management practices and bushfires in overseas jurisdictions**
- **21 submissions received**
- **ongoing background research and literature review**
- **Executive and Research Officer attended Parliament's first Sustainability Team meeting on 23 April 2007.**

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

- **Tour and briefing at the Department of Sustainability and Environment Emergency Coordination Centre on 21 May 2007**
- **attendance at Nature Conservation Council of NSW conference - Bushfire in a Heating World - 31 May – 1 June 2007**
- **summarise written submissions**
- **ongoing background research and literature review**
- **first public hearing on 4 June 2007 with the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Country Fire Authority and Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner.**

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

**Government response to Biofuels report due April 2007**

# **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002**

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## **Members:**

**(Council)**            *Mr J Scheffer, Mr A Somyurek*  
**(Assembly)**        *Ms L Beattie, Mr M Dixon, Mr J Perrera,  
Mrs E J Powell and Ms M Wooldridge*

**Chair:**                Mr Johan Scheffer MLC

**Executive Officer:**   Paul Bourke

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

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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.

### ***Activities during April 2007***

**Discussion of possible witnesses**

**Organisation of public hearings**

**Preparation of databases.**



# LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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**Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002**

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**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**

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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**

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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.

***Activities during April 2007***

**The Committee has decided to begin the Inquiry into Alternative Dispute Resolution first. Briefings from relevant organisations and experts are being organised. It is the Committee's intention to release a Discussion Paper when it calls for submissions**

**The Committee is currently without ongoing secretariat staff. A research officer has been employed for eleven weeks to assist with preliminary research and the Committee is receiving executive support from another Committee**

**Advertisements have been placed for new staff. Interviews will be conducted in the coming weeks for replacements.**

***Future Activity***

**Briefings from experts to begin.**

# **OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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**Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002**

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**Members:**

**(Council)**                Mr N Elasmr, Mr M Guy and Ms C Hartland

**(Assembly)**             Ms D Green, Mr D Hodgett, Mr D Nardella, Mr G Seitz and the  
   Hon K Smith

**Chair:**                     Mr George Seitz MP

**Executive Officer:**    Mr Sean Coley

## **INQUIRY INTO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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Terms of reference – received from 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 April 2007***

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

- 4 April 2007      The Victoria Tourism Industry Council Forum in Melbourne
- 20 April 2007      Facilitating Growth & Investment Conference (City of Darebin)
- 30 April 2007      Public Hearing

- Interface group of Councils  
Mr Ian Robins, CEO, Wyndham City Council  
Mr Neville Smith, CEO, Melton Shire Council  
Mr Meng Toh, Wyndham City Council
- Wyndham City Council  
Mr Ian Robins, CEO, Wyndham City Council
- Mr Greg Apland, Director of Economic Development & Planning
- Melton Shire Council  
Mr Neville Smith, CEO, Melton Shire Council
- Hume City Council  
Cr Gary Jungwirth, Mayor, Hume City Council  
Mr Brett Luxford, Manager, Economic Development  
Mr David Keenan, Director, City Sustainability
- Yarra Ranges Shire Council  
Ms Kim Swinson, Manager, Economic & Community Development  
Mr Ian Ada, Agribusiness & Tourism Officer
- Whittlesea City Council  
Mr John Francis, Director, Economic Development  
Mr Chris De Silva, Director, Planning & Development.

### ***Future Activities***

- 4 May 2007      The new Terms of Reference's closing date for submissions being received.

The next Public Hearing will be held on the 21 May 2007.

# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council)      *Mr G Barber, Mr R Dalla-Riva, Mr M Pakula and Mr G Rich-Phillips*

(Assembly)      *Mr B Stensholt, Mr K Wells (Deputy Chair), Ms J Graley, Ms J Munt, Mr R Scott and Dr B Sykes*

Chair: Mr B Stensholt MP

Acting Executive Officer: Mr M Roberts

## **2007-08 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

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

*Activities during April 2007*

Preparations for the budget estimates hearings continue

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

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

*Future Activities*

Public hearings are scheduled for the following dates:

DATE AND TIME	MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
<b>Thursday, 3 May 2007</b>		
3.00 pm – 5.25 pm	Hon. Steve Bracks, MP	Premier
5.25 pm – 6.00 pm		Multicultural Affairs Veterans' Affairs
<b>Friday, 4 May 2007</b>		
11.00 am – 1.00 pm	Hon. John Brumby, MP	Treasury
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm		Innovation Regional and Rural Development
3.00 pm – 3.45 pm	Hon. Theo Theophanous, MLC	Small Business
3.45 pm – 4.30 pm		Industry and State Development
4.30 pm – 5.30 pm		Major Projects

DATE AND TIME	MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
<b>Monday, 7 May 2007</b>		
2.00 pm – 2.30 pm	Ms Jacinta Allan, MP	Education Services
2.30 pm – 3.15 pm		Skills
3.15 pm – 3.45 pm		Employment
3.45 pm – 4.15 pm		Women's Affairs
<b>Tuesday, 8 May 2007</b>		
2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Hon. Bronwyn Pike, MP	Health
<b>Wednesday, 9 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Mr John Lenders, MLC	Education
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Hon. Lynne Kosky, MP	Public Transport
4.00 pm – 4.30 pm		Arts
<b>Thursday, 10 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 11.00 am	Mr Gavin Jennings, MLC	Community Services
11.00 am – 11.30 am		Aboriginal Affairs
2.00 pm – 3.30 pm	Mr Tim Pallas, MP	Roads and Ports
<b>Friday, 11 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 11.30 am	Presiding Officers - Hon. R Smith, MLC and Ms Jenny Lindell, MP	Parliamentary departments
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Hon. Bob Cameron, MP	Police and Emergency Services
4.00 pm – 4.45 pm		Corrections
<b>Monday, 14 May 2007</b>		
2.00 pm – 2.45 pm	Ms Lisa Neville, MP	Mental Health
2.45 pm – 3.30 pm		Children
3.30 pm – 4.15 pm		Aged Care
<b>Tuesday, 15 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 10.15 am	Mr James Merlino, MP	Sport and Recreation
10.15 am – 11.00 am		Youth Affairs
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Hon. John Thwaites, MP	Water, Environment and Climate Change
<b>Wednesday, 16 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 10.45 am	Hon. Peter Batchelor, MP	Victorian Communities
10.45 am – 12.00 noon		Energy and Resources
<b>Thursday, 17 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 10.30 am	Mr Richard Wynne, MP	Housing
10.30 am – 11.30 am		Local Government
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	Mr Joe Helper, MP	Agriculture
<b>Tuesday, 29 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 11.30 am	Hon. Justin Madden, MLC	Planning
<b>Wednesday, 30 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 10.30 am	Hon. Rob Hulls, MP	Attorney-General
10.30 am – 11.00 am		Racing
11.00 am – 12.00 noon		Industrial Relations
2.00 pm – 2.45 pm	Hon. Daniel Andrews, MP	Consumer Affairs
2.45 pm – 3.45 pm		Gaming
<b>Thursday, 31 May 2007</b>		
9.30 am – 10.45 am	Hon. Tim Holding, MP	Finance, WorkCover and Transport Accident Commission
10.45 am – 11.15 am		Tourism
11.15 am – 11.45 am		Information and Communication Technology

**Budget briefing for Members of Parliament and staff to be held on 3 May 2007**  
**2007/08 Budget Estimates – Part One to be considered, adopted and tabled by the Committee in May 2007.**

## **STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA**

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Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(14).

### ***Activity during April 2007***

Submissions received during April, as a result of an advertisement calling for submissions being placed in *The Age* and *The Herald Sun* in March 2007.

### ***Future Activity***

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

## **INQUIRY INTO TRUSTEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOVERNING THE PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION FUND**

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Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(13).

### ***Activity during April 2007***

On 21 April 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**

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

### ***Activity during April 2007***

Government response received 4 April 2007.

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

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

### ***Activities during April 2007***

On 30 April 2007, the Committee met with the Auditor-General and staff to discuss the 2007/08 Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) draft annual plan

Tenders calling for performance audit and the financial audit were placed in major newspapers on 28 April 2007 with a closing date of 14 May 2007.

### ***Future Activities***

- Committee to examine tenders for performance audit and the financial audit
- Committee to further discuss VAGO Budget for 2007/08 and provide comment on the VAGO draft Annual Plan 2007/08.



# ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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) *Mr D Koch and Mr S Leane*  
(Assembly) *Mr J Eren, Mr C Langdon, Mr T Mulder, Mr I Trezise and Mr P Weller*

Chair: Mr John Eren MP

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

## INQUIRY INTO VEHICLE SAFETY

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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.

### ***Activity during April 2007***

**The closing date for submissions is 11 May 2007.**

## **FEDERAL – STATE ROAD FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY**

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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 April 2007***

**Work on this inquiry has not commenced.**

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

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**The Committee met with VicRoads, Transport Accident Commission and the Accident Research Centre, Monash University for briefings on general road safety matters.**

### ***Future Activity***

**The Committee will meet the Assistant Commissioner for Traffic and Transport Services Department, Victoria Police.**

### ***Staffing Arrangements***

**Due to the restructure of the Parliamentary Committees generally, the Committee is currently without administrative support and a research officer. Advertisements have been placed for new staff. Interviews will be conducted in the next four weeks for replacements.**

# RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 1300 787 202 / 03 9651 3580

Facsimile: 03 9651 3691

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

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Members:-

(Council) *Ms K Darveniza, Mr D Drum, Ms W Lovell, Ms G Tierney and Mr J Vogels*

(Assembly) *Mr J Eren and Mr R 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)**

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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 April 2007***

- **Discussion of Terms of Reference.**

### ***Future activity***

- **Planning for Inquiry.**

## **INQUIRY INTO RURAL AND REGIONAL TOURISM**

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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 April 2007***

- **Completion of the inquiry mailing list**
- **Development of stakeholder lists**
- **Letters sent out soliciting submissions**
- **Call for submissions advertised**
- **Media release for call for submissions**
- **Organisation of Melbourne inquiries**
- **Organisation of regional hearings**
- **Research**
- **Preparation of briefing material**
- **Updating of the Committee website**
- **Development of a Have Your Say website page**
- **Finalisation of a meeting and regional hearings calendar.**

### ***Future activities***

- **Briefing of the Committee on Inquiry issues**
- **Planning for regional hearings**
- **Planning for Melbourne hearings**
- **Summary of submissions received**
- **Literature review.**

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

**Government response received for the *Retaining Young People in Rural Towns and Communities* report.**

# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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)  
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## Members:

**(Council)** *Mr K Eideh, Mr E O'Donohue, Mrs I Peulich and Ms J Pulford.*

**(Assembly)** *Mr C Brooks, Mr C Carli (Chair), Mr K Jasper (Deputy Chair),  
Mr T Languiller and Mr R Smith.*

**Chair:** Mr Carlo Carli MP

**Executive Officer:** Andrew Homer

## FULL COMMITTEE

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### *Activity during April 2007*

The Committee met on 16 April 2007, where it undertook an in-house training seminar concerning the Victorian Charter and considered and adopted Alert Digest No. 4 of 2007.

- **Alert Digest No. 4**

**Gambling and Racing Legislation Amendment (Sports Betting) Bill 2007  
Howard Florey Institute of Experimental Physiology and Medicine  
(Repeal) Bill 2007**

**Infertility Treatment Amendment Bill 2007**

**Road Legislation Amendment Bill 2007**

**Statute Law Repeals Bill 2006**

**Water Amendment (Critical Water Infrastructure Projects) Bill 2006**

- Professor Sarah Joseph from the Castan Centre for Human Rights, Monash University provided an in-house training seminar on the Victorian Charter of Rights and Responsibilities Act.
- That Mrs Inga Peulich MLC retires from service on the Regulation Review Subcommittee.

The Committee met on 30 April 2007, where it considered and adopted the following reports:

- **Report on the Statute Law Revision Bill 2006**

- **Alert Digest No. 5**

**Accident Towing Services Bill 2007**

**Building Amendment (Plumbing) Bill 2007**

**Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill 2007**

**Fair Trading and Consumer Acts Amendment Bill 2007**

**Gambling and Racing Legislation Amendment (Sports Betting) Bill 2007**

**Statute Law Revision Bill 2006**

## **SUBCOMMITTEES**

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### **Redundant Legislation**

**Mr Edward O'Donohue, MLC (Chair)**

**Mr Carlo Carli, MP**

**Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC**

**Ms Inga Peulich, MLC**

**Ms Jaala Pulford, MLC**

*Activity during April 2007*

The Subcommittee will meet shortly to consider the future conduct of this Inquiry.

### **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 April 2007*

The Subcommittee did not meet in April.

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