



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 June 2007

56th Parliament

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

The Progress on Investigations provides a summary of the activities of Joint Investigatory Committees and Select Committees.

1. 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).

2. Select Committees may be established by resolution of either House of the Parliament and operate in accordance with the Standing Orders and not the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003.

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DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2815 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2838

Email: dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr S Leane and Ms J Mikakos.*

(Assembly) *Hon. A. Haermeyer, 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 June 2007

- **Literature review continued to be undertaken**
- **Follow-up work from the intrastate evidence seeking trip continued**

- **4 June – The Committee received evidence via teleconference from the Rural and Remote Australia Association. Representatives included:**
 - Ms Margaret Brown, National Chair HCRRA**
 - Ms Carmel Brophy, Project Manager HCRRA**
 - Ms Diane Walsh (NT member)**
 - Mr Keith Williams (NT member)**
 - Ms Val Lang (Vic member)**
 - Ms Alva Courtis (W.A member)**
 - Ms Moya Sandow (QLD member)**
 - Ms Jenny Hutchinson, Representative of National Rural Women’s Association**
- **4 June – Mr Shaun Singleton provided a briefing on Project STOP developed by the Queensland Pharmacy Guild**
- **Mr Dipak Sanghvi, President of the Victorian Pharmacy Guild and Ms Sue Bond, Training Manager of the Victorian Pharmacy Guild were also in attendance**
- **18 June - The Committee received evidence via teleconference from:**
 - Mr John Galloway, Chief Pharmacist, Pharmaceutical Services Branch, Department of Health Tasmania**
 - Ms Mary Sharpe the Deputy Chief Pharmacist**
 - Dr Mike Moynihan, President, Rural Doctors Association of Victoria**
- **21 June -The Executive Officer, Senior Legal Research Officer and Deputy Chair met informally with Dr John Whitlam from Munidpharma.**
- **25 & 26 June – Public Hearings were held at Level 8, 35 Spring Street Melbourne. The following witnesses appeared on 25 June:**
 - Mr Alan Eade & Mr Bill Barger, Metropolitan Ambulance Service**
 - Mr David Healy, Transport Accident Commission/Australasian College of Road Safety**
 - Dr Alex Wodak, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, Chapter of Addiction Medicine**
 - Mr Sam Biondo and Ms Chloe Duncan, Victorian Alcohol and Other Drugs Association (VAADA)**
 - Olaf Drummer and Dr Peter Cameron, Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine/Alfred Hospital**
 - Dr Phillip Swann and Mr George Mavroyeni, VICROADS**
 - Det-Supt Wendy Steendam, Insp. Steve James and Insp. Martin Boorman, Victoria Police**
- **The following witnesses appeared on 26 June:**
 - Mr Ange Vassallo**
 - Mr Steve Marty, Registrar, Pharmacy Board of Victoria**
 - Dr Rosemary McClean and Mr Mark Durran, Australian Drug Foundation (ADF)**
 - Dr Malcolm Hogg, Australian Pain Society**

Ms Gwenda Cannard, Reconnexion [Formerly TRANX]

Dr Mark Yates, Dr Harry Hemley and Mr Ben Harris; Australian Medical Association (Vic)

Future Activities

- **Public Hearings scheduled for 9 and 16 July**
- **Multicultural Forum scheduled for 9 July**
- **Industry Forum scheduled for 16 July**
- **20 July – 3 August, the Committee will be travelling to Canada and United States to gather evidence on Pharmanet and other prescription management systems**
- **VAADA Seminar on pharmaceutical drug misuse.**

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 June 2007

This inquiry has not yet commenced.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2832 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2818

Email: edic@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: Dr Vaughn Koops

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 INTO MANDATORY ETHANOL AND BIOFUELS TARGETS 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.

Activities during June 2007

- **The Committee held meetings on 4 June and 18 June 2007**
- **The Committee advertised a Call for Submissions for the Inquiry into Mandatory Ethanol and Biofuels Targets in Victoria in major newspapers, with a submissions date of 3 August 2007**
- **The Committee sent letters to 220 biofuels stakeholders to invite them to make submissions to the inquiry**
- **A delegation from the Committee visited the biodiesel production facility of Vilo Assets Management Ltd, in Laverton North.**

Future Activity

- **Biofuels inquiry public hearings July 30 and July 31 2007, Room G01, 55 St Andrews Place, Melbourne.**

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

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 June 2007

The Committee held public hearings on Monday 4 June 2007, with the following individuals/organisations:

- **Mr David Schmidt, Manager, State Schools' Relief Committee**
- **Mr Ashley Van Krieken, Executive Director, Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia**
- **Mr Steve Stewart, Sales and Marketing Manager, Apparel/Yarns, Macquarie Textiles**
- **Mr David Powers, Managing Director, Powers Textiles**

- Mr James Tonson, Project Officer, Victorian Student Representative Council
- Ms Georgia Kennelly, Student, University High School
- Ms Kera Burnham, Student, Northland Secondary College
- Mr Doug Flakemore, Student, Frankston High School
- Ms Jen Rose, Policy Officer, Youth Affairs Council of Victoria
- Ms Jacinta Cashen, President, Victorian Council of School Organisations
- Mr Les Twentyman, Outreach Worker, Open Family Australia
- Ms Sherene Hassan, Secretary, Executive Committee, Islamic Council of Victoria.

The Committee held public hearings on 25 June 2007, with the following individuals/organisations:

- Mr Anthony Sterpin, Managing Director, PSW Pty Ltd
- Ms Michele O'Neil, Victorian State Secretary, Textile, Clothing & Footwear Union of Australia
- Mr Tommy Clarke, Project Officer, Homeworkers Code of Practice
- Ms Gwen Harrison, Victorian Schoolwear Manager, Lowes
- Mr Graham Barrington, Director, CE Wise Pty Ltd
- Ms Liz Thompson, Campaign Coordinator, FairWear Victoria
- Mr David Wilkinson, Retired Teacher

Future Activities

The Committee will undertake an online survey of school principals, to collect quantitative data on issues associated with school uniform policy in schools

The Committee will conduct a public hearing at Princes Hill Secondary College, involving students and teachers from surrounding schools.

The Committee will conduct a hearing with primary and secondary school students in Parliament House in September.

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 June 2007

The Committee had received 42 written submissions to the inquiry, as at 30 June 2007.

Future Activity

The Committee will commence hearings in July 2007.

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 8682 2885 **Facsimile:** 8682 2858

Email: emc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

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

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 June 2007

- **20 Submissions received to date and posted on the Committee's website**
- **Further development of the Committee's website**
- **Preparation of databases**
- **Further development of stakeholder lists**
- **Candy Broad MLC visited East Timor for the 30 June 2007 Parliamentary elections as an international election observer, under the auspices of the Victorian Local Governance Association.**

Future Activities

- **Public hearings at Parliament House Melbourne scheduled for 28-29 August 2007**
- **Planning for proposed visit to Sydney and Canberra on 14-15 August 2007**
- **Committee invited to Boroondara Council's Cotham ward by-election on 21 July 2007 to view electronic vote counting procedures to be used by Victorian Electoral Commission.**

Other Activity

- **Natalie Wray appointed research officer to the Committee, effective 30 July 2007**
- **Nathaniel Reader and Felicity Lane appointed committee administration officers on a part-time basis.**

- (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 June 2007

- **First public hearing in Melbourne on 4 June 2007 with evidence provided by:**
 - **Mr B. Esplin, Emergency Services Commissioner, Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner**
 - **Mr N. Bibby, Chief Executive Officer , Country Fire Authority**
 - **Mr R. Rees, Chief Officer, Country Fire Authority**
 - **Mr P. Harris, Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
 - **Mr K. King, Executive Director, Land and Fire management, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
 - **Mr E. Waller, Chief Fire Officer, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
 - **Mr L. Fogarty, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
 - **Mr I. Christie, Director, Fire and Emergency Services, Parks Victoria**
 - **Mr C. MacDonald, Director, Logistics and Operations, VicForests**
 - **Mr E. Kelly, General Manager, Infrastructure Group, Melbourne Water Corporation**
 - **Mr G. Hayes, Manager, Emergency Management, Department of Primary Industries.**

- **Site visit at Kinglake National Park and public hearing at Kinglake on 18 June 2007. Evidence was provided by:**
 - **Mr P. Creak, Operations Manager, CFA Region 12, Country Fire Authority**
 - **Mr G. Conway, Operations Manager, CFA Region 13, Country Fire Authority**
 - **Mr B. Flowers, Mayor, Murrindindi Shire Council**
 - **Mr A. Daly, Municipal Fire Prevention Officer, Murrindindi Shire Council.**

- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

Future Activities

- **Public hearings on 3-5 July in Halls Gaps and Dunkeld. Site visit at several locations through the Grampians region**
- **Public hearing on 16 July in Melbourne**
- **Site visits in the Gippsland region and public hearings in Bairnsdale, Heyfield and Traralgon on 31 July to 2 August.**

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 due mid April 2007.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 3526 Facsimile: (03) 9651 3691

Email: fcfdc@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: Mr Johan Scheffer MLC

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.

Activities during June 2007

- Discussion of possible witnesses
- Public Hearings
- Preparation of databases.

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2850 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2818

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*

Chair: Mr B Tee, MLC

Executive Officer: Kerry Riseley

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.

Activities during June 2007

- **The Committee advertised a call for submissions in late June 2007. This was published in the Age, the Herald-Sun, the Australian Financial Review and the Weekly Times**
- **The Chair wrote to key stakeholders advising them of the call for submissions and inviting them to make a submission**
- **The Committee issued a media release in relation to the call for submissions on 29 June 2007.**

Future activity

- **Submissions to the Inquiry are due by 7 September 2007.**

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.

Activities during June 2007

- **The Committee commenced drafting a discussion paper on alternative dispute resolution**
- **The Committee was represented at a Department of Justice ADR Strategic Planning Conference**
- **The Committee received briefings from key stakeholders in relation to ADR.**

Future activities

- **Briefings from key stakeholders to continue**
- **Drafting of discussion paper to continue.**

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.

This Inquiry has not yet commenced.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Ms Kate Buchanan was appointed as a Research Officer to the Committee.**

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2826 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2858

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: Mr Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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,
Mr G Rich-Phillips,*

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

Chair: Mr B Stensholt, MP

Executive Officer: Ms V Cheong

2007-08 BUDGET ESTIMATES

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

Activities during June 2007

Questions on notice, unasked questions and redirected questions – responses received by Ministers.

Report on the 2007-08 Budget Estimates – Part Three – Draft report planning undertaken.

Future Activities

Report on the 2007-08 Budget Estimates – Part Three – Draft report to be considered by the Committee in August 2007.

Report on the 2007-08 Budget Estimates – Part Three to be tabled in Parliament in August 2007.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA

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

Activities during June 2007

Submissions continued to be received during June, in response to an advertisement calling for submissions placed in *The Age* and *The Herald Sun* in March 2007

The Committee adopted a list of attendees to invite to hearings.

Future Activities

The Committee will consider the submissions received, invite attendees and produce a timetable for public hearings.

INQUIRY INTO TRUSTEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOVERNING THE PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION FUND

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

Activities during June 2007

The Committee adopted a list of attendees to invite to hearings

Future Activity

The Committee will consider the submissions received and determine a timetable for public hearings.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

Activities during June 2007

Report of the Appointment of a person to conduct the financial audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's office tabled in Parliament 7 June 2007.

Report of the Appointment of a person to conduct the performance audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's office tabled in Parliament 21 June 2007.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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.

Activity during June 2007

Mr Paul Weller, MP, and the Executive Officer attended the 20th conference on Enhanced Vehicle Safety in Lyon France 18 – 21 June 2007. The theme of the conference was, Innovations for Safety: Opportunities and Challenges.

Future Activities

The Research Officer will commence work 2 July 2007

Public hearings, with the main government organisations and stakeholders, will be scheduled for August.

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 June 2007

Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

The Executive Officer met with the Secretary General of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport, and representatives from the World Road Organisation in Paris to discuss road funding issues.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Future Activity

The Committee will undertake an overseas study tour to examine leading edge vehicle technologies in Japan, United States and Europe in late August through to early September.

RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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Facsimile: 03 8682 2858

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Email: rrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Members:-

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

(Assembly) *Ms Kirstie Marshall, 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.

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 June 2007

Public Hearings

- **Public hearings were held successfully on 4 and 18 June in Melbourne**
- **Regional public hearings were held on the 27 and 28 June in Bendigo and Daylesford respectively**
- **Comments from the floor by community members were taken at the hearings.**

Committee Secretariat

- **Further development of the schedule of public hearings and site visits for 2007 and 2008**
- **Planning and organisation of regional hearings in Mildura and Swan Hill for late July, early August**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Daylesford and Bendigo public hearings**
- **Planning for late submissions**
- **Research on regional and rural tourism issues**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review**
- **Development of stakeholder lists**
- **Updating of the Committee website**
- **Move offices from Spring Street to St Andrews Place.**

Recruitment

- **Recruitment of research and office staff**
 - a) **Research Officer, Ms Cheryl Hercus**
 - b) **Committee Administration Officer, Mr Nathaniel Reader**

Future activities

- **Re-establishment of committee's office at St Andrews Place**
- **Preparation of briefing papers prepared for Mildura and Swan Hill public hearings**
- **Follow up from public hearings**
- **Briefing of the Committee on Inquiry issues and procedural issues**
- **Planning for regional hearings**
- **Summary of submissions received**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2895 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

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

Email: andrew.homer@parliament.vic.gov.au (Scrutiny of Bills)
helen.mason@parliament.vic.gov.au (Scrutiny of Regulations)
simon.dinsbergs@parliament.vic.gov.au (Administration)
sonya.caruana@parliament.vic.gov.au (Administration – Regulations)

Members:

(Council) *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 Chair), Mr Telmo Languiller, Mr Ryan Smith.*

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli, MP

Executive Officer: Andrew Homer

FULL COMMITTEE

Activity during June 2007

The Committee met on 4 and 18 June 2007, where it considered and adopted the following reports:

- **Alert Digest No. 7**
 - Accident Compensation Amendment Bill 2007
 - Courts Legislation Amendment (Judicial Education and Other Matters) Bill 2007
 - Outworkers and Contractors Legislation Amendment Bill 2007
 - Payroll Tax Bill 2007
 - Professional Standards Amendment Bill 2007
 - State Taxation Acts Amendment Bill 2007
 - Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Contribution Splitting and Other Matters) Bill 2007
 - Wills Amendment Bill 2007
- **Alert Digest No. 8**
 - Gambling Regulation Amendment Bill 2007
 - Magistrates' Court and Coroners Acts Amendment Bill 2007

SUBCOMMITTEES

Redundant Legislation

Mr Edward O'Donohue, MLC (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC
Mrs Inga Peulich, MLC
Ms Jaala Pulford, MLC

Activity during June 2007

The Subcommittee did not meet during June.

Regulation Review

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

Activity during June 2007

The Subcommittee met on 27 June 2007, where it considered and adopted the following Regulations:

- **Statutory Rules 2007**
 - SR No. 5 – Supreme Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.7) Rules 2007
 - SR No. 6 – Supreme Court (Chapter VI Amendment No.11) Rules 2007
 - SR No. 7 – Estate Agents (Fees)(Interim) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 8 – Associations Incorporation (Infringement Penalties Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No 9 – Co-Operatives (Infringement Penalties Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 10 – Fund Raising Appeals (Infringement Penalties Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 11 – Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 12 – Fisheries (Aquaculture Licences, Fees, Levies and Royalties) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 13 – Subordinate Legislation (Equipment (Public Safety) (Incident Notification) Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 14 – Road Safety (Vehicles) (Hybrid Vehicles Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 15 – Pipelines Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 16 – Electricity Safety (Equipment Efficiency)(Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 17 – Tobacco (Victorian Health Promotion Foundation) (Membership Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 18 – Sex Offenders Registration (Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 19 – Building and Construction Industry Security of Payment (Amendment) Regulations 2007
 - SR No. 20 – Transport (Infringements)(Penalties) Regulations 2007.

GAMING LICENSING SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002
Telephone: (03) 9651 8696 **Facsimile:** (03) 9651 6799

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

Members:

(Council) Mr Greg Barber, Mr Damian Drum, Mr Peter Kavanagh,
Mr Matthew Guy and Mr Martin Pakula

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO GAMING LICENSING

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on —

1. the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to post-2008 public lotteries licensing in Victoria pursuant to the Gambling Regulation Act 2003 (the Act) and any related matter;
2. the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to the extension of Tattersall's public lotteries licence until 30 June 2008;
3. the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to post-2012 Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) operator licensing in Victoria pursuant to the Act, and any related matter;
4. the adequacy or otherwise of the legislative and regulatory framework pertaining to the number, location, distribution and specification of EGMs in Victoria and any related matter;
5. the effectiveness or otherwise of current measures to minimise and address the incidence of problem gambling in Victoria, the merits of alternative measures and any related matter;
6. the financial position of the Community Support Fund (the Fund) described in the Act, including, but not limited to:
 - a. payments into the Fund under section 10.3.2 of the Act (and its predecessors);
 - b. payments from the Fund under section 10.3.3 of the Act (and its predecessors); and

- c. the criteria, processes and methodology for the selection of projects funded by payments referred to in sub-paragraph (ii) above; and
 - d. the community benefit statements prepared by those venues not required to contribute to the Fund;
7. any other associated matters dealing with gaming licensing issues.

Future Activity

- **Initial public hearings scheduled for 30 July and 3 August 2007.**

PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

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

Members:

(Council) Mr Peter Hall, Mr Peter Kavanagh, Mr Edward O'Donohue,
Ms Sue Pennicuik and Mr Matt Viney

Chair: Mr David Davis

Deputy Chair: Mr Brian Tee

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into —

1. the sale or alienation of public land for development;
2. the sale or alienation of public open space for the purposes of private development; and
3. the sale and development of public land and the relationship to the Melbourne 2030 policy and Green Wedges.

Future Activity

- **Possible background briefings from relevant Government Departments.**
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