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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

To 31 July 2007

**56<sup>th</sup> 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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**[www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au)**

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# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

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**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**

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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 July 2007***

- **Literature review continued to be undertaken**
- **Follow-up work from the intrastate evidence seeking trip continued**
- **The Committee held a Public Hearing in Melbourne on July 9 2007 with the following:**
  - **Ms Beth Wilson, Health Services Commissioner, Ms Susan Joseph, Education Officer, Health Records Act, and Mr Michael McDonald, Manager Executive Services, Office of the Health Services Commissioner. (Private Briefing)**
  - **Dr Mark Stoope and Mr Peter Muhleisen, Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre**

- Ms Jill Clutterbuck and Mr Darren Tyrell, Australian Nursing Federation (Victoria)
  - Ms Heather Pickard, Victorian Nurses' Health Programme
  - Dr Con Constantinou, Health Manager, Medical Board of Victoria.
- The Committee held a Multicultural Forum in Melbourne on July 9, 2007 with the following:
    - Mr Eddie Micallef, Executive Member, and Mr Jeih-Yung Lo, Policy and Project Officer, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
    - Ms Thuy Bui, Drug and Alcohol Worker, North Richmond Community Health Centre
    - Mr Jacob Lee, Manager, Aged Care and Disability, South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre
    - Mr Loc Phan, Drug and Alcohol Worker, Australian Vietnamese Women's Welfare Association
    - Ms Wesa Chau, Multicultural Network Coordinator for North-West CALD partnership, Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities
    - Mr Bullent Agau, Mr Tut Pal Ding, and Mr Mayor Luk Lueth, Sudanese Lost Boys Association of Australia.
  - The Committee held an Industry forum in Melbourne on July 16, 2007 with the following:
    - Dr John Whitlam, Director – Medical Affairs, Munidpharma
    - Dr Greg Pearce, Medical Advisor, Alphapharm
    - Mr Tom Liebelt, Government Affairs Manager, GlaxoSmithKline
    - Mr Peter Thomas, National Security Manager, Sigma Pharmaceuticals.
  - Overseas Evidence seeking Trip July 20 – August 5, 2007.

***Future Activity***

- Aboriginal Forum to be held in Melbourne 20 August, 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 July 2007***

**This inquiry has not yet commenced.**



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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## 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

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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.

## INQUIRY INTO MANDATORY ETHANOL AND BIOFUELS TARGETS IN VICTORIA

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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 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 July 2007*

- The Committee held a meeting on 16 July 2007
- The Committee was briefed on issues pertaining to its biofuels inquiry by Regional Development Victoria and the Department of Primary Industries on 16 July 2007.

- The Committee convened a public hearing on Tuesday 31 July. The following witnesses presented evidence to the Committee:

<b>Witness</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Mr Chris Midgley, General Manager, Supply and Marine</b>	<b>Shell Australia</b>
<b>Mr John Lincoln Mr John Mikolajunas Mr Kevin Black</b>	<b>OES CNG Ltd</b>
<b>Mr David Cummings, Manager, Corporate Affairs and Public Relations</b>	<b>RACV</b>
<b>Mr John Honan, Managing Director Mr Martyn Evans, Consultant</b>	<b>Manildra Group</b>
<b>Mr Kevin Roberts, Vice President Mr Kenton Shaw</b>	<b>Australian Lot Feeders' Association Australian Pork</b>
<b>Mr Paul Martin</b>	<b>Grown Fuel</b>
<b>Mr Danny Goldman, Managing Director Mr David Vinson, Technical Director</b>	<b>Axiom Energy Ltd</b>

#### ***Future Activity***

- Biofuels inquiry public hearings August 6 and 27 (Room G01) and 20 August (Room G03), 55 St Andrews Place, Melbourne.

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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## 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

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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 July 2007*

The Committee held a public hearing on 31 July 2007 at Princes Hill Secondary College in Princes Hill. Involved in the hearing were students, teachers and parents from the Princes Hill Secondary College and Princes Hill Primary School communities.

The Committee launched an online survey targeting school principals in the government, Catholic and independent school systems. A random sample of 710 schools was selected for participation in the survey.

### ***Future Activities***

**The Committee will conduct a hearing with primary and secondary school students in Parliament House in September: 22 secondary schools will each send a delegation of four students to discuss issues in the Legislative Assembly and 8 primary schools will each send a delegation of 4 – 5 students to discuss issues in the Legislative Council.**

**The Committee will commence drafting a report 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 July 2007***

**The Committee commenced public hearings for this inquiry on Monday 16 July 2007. Appearing before the Committee were:**

- **Ms Joan Holt, General Manager, Curriculum Projects and Acting CEO and Ms Gabrielle England, Senior Project Manager, Curriculum Corporation.**
- **Mr Phil Brown, Executive Officer, Mr Gary Allen, Chair and Mr Glyn Milner, Board Member, Country Education Project.**
- **Professor Annette Gough, Member University, Australian Council of Deans of Education.**
- **Ms Susan Halliday, Chairperson, Mr Andrew Ius, CEO and Mr Geoff Emmett, Group Manager – Standards and Professional Learning, Victorian Institute of Teaching.**

***Future Activity***

**The Committee will continue public hearings throughout August and September.**

**GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION PARTICIPATION**

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on geographical differences in the rate in which Victorian students participate in higher education.

***Activity during July 2007***

**This inquiry was referred to the Committee on 18 July 2007.**

**This inquiry has not yet commenced.**



# **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

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

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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

## **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 July 2007***

- **Development of the Committee's website completed**
- **Preparation of databases and literature searches**
- **Further development of stakeholder lists for public hearings**
- **Candy Broad MLC provided Committee with a comprehensive analysis of her visit as an international election observer to East Timor for the 30 June 2007 Parliamentary elections**
- **Arrangements confirmed for Committee visit to Sydney and Canberra on 14-15 August 2007.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **Committee meeting with visiting delegation from the New Zealand's Justice and Electoral Committee – 7 August 2007.**
- **Public hearings at Parliament House Melbourne scheduled for 28-29 August 2007**

### ***Other Activity***

- **Natalie Wray commenced as research officer to the Committee, on 30 July 2007**





\* On 18 July 2007, the inquiry terms of reference were amended to include the impact of bushfires on the June/July 2007 Gippsland flood

***Activities during July 2007***

- **Regional hearings were held in Halls Gap on 3 July 2007 with evidence provided by:**
  - **Cr R. MacInnes, Horsham Rural City Council**
  - **Mr M. Duke, Manager, Infrastructure Development, Northern Grampians Shire Council**
  - **Mr P. Rogers, Manager, Infrastructure Operations, Northern Grampians Shire Council**
  - **Ms P. Pike, President, Friends of the Grampians/Gariwerd**
  - **Ms M. Sietsma, Member, Friends of the Grampians/Gariwerd**
  - **Mr C. Andrews, Acting Captain, Halls Gap Rural Fire Brigade**
  - **Mr K. Erwin, Representative, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria**
  - **Mr M. Boatman, Manager, Community Safety, Midlands-Wimmera area**
  - **Mr J. Athorn, Operations Manager, Region 16, Country Fire Authority**
  - **Mr I. Voigt, Regional Manager, South-West, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
  - **Mr E. Waller, Chief Officer, Fire and Emergency Management, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
  - **Mr R. Newnham, Regional Manager, Parks Victoria**
  - **Mr B. Hamer, Bushfire Recovery Manager, Grampians Region, Department of Human Services**
  - **Mr B. Clugston**
  - **Mr D. Thompson**
  - **Mr C. Holmes, farmer**
  - **Mr M. Stevens**
  - **Ms A. Stevens**

- **A site visit in the Grampians National Park and a regional hearing in Dunkeld were held on 4 July 2007. Evidence was provided by:**
  - **Mr G. Harper, Manager, Assets, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water**
  - **Mr R. Weatherly**
  - **Ms J. Weatherly**
  - **Mr N. Gunn**
  - **Mr J. Cayley, President, Hamilton Field Naturalists**
  - **Mr R. Zollinger, Vice President, Hamilton Field Naturalists**
  - **Mr A. Heard, Grampians Asset Protection**
  - **Mr S. Armytage, Grampians Asset Protection**
  - **Mr B. Crawford, Grampians Asset Protection**
  - **Hon R. Hallam**
  - **Mr J. Maine, Acting Director, Physical Services, Southern Grampians Shire Council**
  - **Cr M. Leeming, Mayor, Southern Grampians Shire Council**
  - **Cr C. Coulson, Southern Grampians Shire Council**
  - **Cr D. Robertson, Southern Grampians Shire Council**
  - **Mr L. Heard, Chair, Biodiversity Advisory Committee, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority**
  - **Mr D. Arnold, Land and Biodiversity Program Manager, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority**
  - **Mr D. Slattery**
  - **Ms H. McIntyre, Communications Officer, Victoria Valley Rural Fire Brigade**
- **A site visit in lands adjoining the Grampians National Park was held on 5 July 2007.**
- **A public hearing was held in Melbourne on 16 July 2007 with evidence provided by:**
  - **Mr N. Free, policy adviser, emergency management, Municipal Association of Victoria**
  - **Mr K. O'Loughlin, Chief Executive Officer, Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre**
  - **Mr S. Gentle, Victorian State Manager, Timber Communities Australia**
  - **Dr K. Tolhurst, Senior Lecturer, Fire and Ecology Management, School of Forest and Ecosystem Science, University of Melbourne**

- **Mr S. Ramsay, President, Victorian Farmers Federation.**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

***Future Activities***

- **Public hearings and site visit in the Gippsland area**
- **Public hearings and site visit in the Macedon area**
- **The inquiry's terms of reference will be advertised in the Gippsland region to notify stakeholders of amendments to the terms of reference and to invite submissions addressing the flood term of reference.**

**COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

**The Government response to the Inquiry into the Production and/or Use of Biofuels in Victoria was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 17 July 2007.**

# **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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

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**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**

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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 July 2007***

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



# LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2851      Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

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## 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:          Ms Kerryn Riseley

## 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.

### *Activity during July 2007*

- **The Committee advertised a call for submissions in late June 2007. Submissions continued to be received during July 2007.**

### *Future activities*

- **The closing date for submissions is 7 September 2007**
- **The Committee will consider the submissions received and produce a timetable for public hearings.**

## 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 July***

- **The Committee continued drafting a discussion paper on alternative dispute resolution**
- **The Committee was represented at a National Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council Research Forum**
- **The Committee received briefings from key stakeholders in relation to ADR.**

### ***Future activities***

- **Briefings from key stakeholders to continue**
- **Discussion paper to be finalised, advertised and sent to key stakeholders.**

### **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.**

# OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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**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

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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 July 2007*

**16 July 2007                  Public Forum - City of Whittlesea.**

- **City of Whittlesea**  
**Mayor Cr Kris Pavlidis**  
**Mr David Turnbull, Chief Executive Officer**
- **MAB Corporation**  
**Mr David Hall, General Manager, Business Parks**

- **McMullin Group**  
Mr John Purdey, Development Director
- **Site Visits in and around Whittlesea**

**Committee representatives attended the following events relevant to the inquiry:**

- 27 July 2007      The Janus Connection: What has been learned?**  
A conference co-ordinated by Hume City Council, held in Melbourne.
- 27 July 2007      Melbourne 2030 Seminar**  
A seminar hosted by Swinburne University, held in Melbourne.

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

**6 August 2007      Public Forum – Hume City Council**

- **Site Visits – Industry Tour in and around Hume**
- **Hume City Council**  
Mayor Cr. Gary Jungwirth  
Mr David Keenan, Director of Sustainability
- **Melbourne Airport**  
Ms Brooke Lord, External Affairs Manager, Melbourne Airport
- **Kangan Batman TAFE Skills & Training**  
Mr Peter Harrison, General Manager, Government Liaison/Student Services Group
- **Matchworks Employment**  
Ms Sophie Gordon, Manager
- **Mickleham**  
Mr John Ower, Landowner
- **Folkestone**  
Mr Oscar Guglielmi  
Mr John Lincoln
- **Sunbury Chamber of Commerce & Industry**  
Mr Peter Curtis, President

**20 August 2007      Public Forum – Melton Shire Council**

- **Attendees yet to be confirmed.**

**Committee representatives will attend the following events relevant to the inquiry:**

- 2 August 2007      National Logistics City Strategy Workshop**  
An event presented by the Institute for Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Victoria University, and the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, Victoria. Held in Melbourne.
- 7 August 2007      Industry Policy Challenges and the 2007 Federal Election**  
A Forum co-ordinated by the Centre for Public Policy, University of Melbourne, held in Melbourne.
- 16 August 2007      New Ideas for Australia's Cities: Urban '45' Summit**  
A Summit co-ordinated by RMIT University, held in Melbourne.

# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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## **Members:**

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

**(Assembly)** Mr B Stensholt (Chair), 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**

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

### ***Activities during July 2007***

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

Report on the 2007-08 Budget Estimates – Part Three – Proposed structure adopted by the Committee and 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 September 2007.

## **2006-07 BUDGET OUTCOMES**

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### ***Activity during July 2007***

The Committee received a briefing from Department of Treasury and Finance representatives on the annual reporting guidelines and the annual reporting process undertaken by government departments and their agencies.

### ***Future Activities***

Proposed structure of outcomes process and report planning undertaken

Development of questionnaires for Departments and relevant agencies.

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

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

### ***Activities during July 2007***

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

The Committee considered the submissions received and scheduled public hearings and private briefings to be held in August with possible hearings or briefings to be held in Sydney and Canberra.

The Committee received private briefings from interested parties.

Draft report planning undertaken.

### ***Future Activities***

The Chair to present a paper at the Australasia Study of Parliament Group 2007 Conference in Adelaide on 24 August.

The Committee will consider a timetable for public hearings to be held interstate in September.

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

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

### ***Activities during July 2007***

The Committee considered the submissions received and scheduled public hearings and private briefings to be held in August.

Draft report planning and research undertaken.

### ***Future Activity***

The Committee will consider the draft report in September.

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

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

### ***Activities during July 2007***

The Committee considered the process for scoping of performance audits undertaken by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

The Committee considered an accelerated program for follow-up reviews of Audit Reports tabled by the Auditor-General.

Commencement of a work program by the Auditor appointed for the performance audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

***Future Activities***

**The Subcommittee will be briefed by representatives of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office and consider the scoping of a number of performance audits.**

**Scoping of follow-up reviews of Audit Reports to be considered by the Committee.**

**Progress reports to be provided by the Auditor appointed for the performance audit of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.**





### ***Activities during July 2007***

The Research Officer for this inquiry commenced work on 2 July.

Public hearings were organised for August, and advertisements were placed on 28 July, in The Age and Herald Sun, inviting members of the public to the first of the hearings.

Arrangements for the overseas study tour commenced.

### ***Future Activities***

Public hearings will be held 6 and 13 August.

## **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 July 2007***

Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

## **INQUIRY INTO LEVEL CROSSINGS**

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Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 that the Road Safety Committee undertake the following inquiry –

That this House requires the Road Safety Committee to inquire into and report by 29 February 2008 on existing, new and developing technologies for implementation to improve safety at level crossings.

### ***Activity during July 2007***

A Research Officer has been assigned temporarily to assist with developing a database for this inquiry.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

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### ***Future Activity***

Jack Short, Secretary General, OECD International Transport Forum (until recently the European Conference of Ministers of Transport) was in Melbourne for one day, Wednesday 18 July 2007.

The Committee met with Mr Short over lunch in the Speaker's Dining Room, together with the Assistant Commissioner Traffic, Victoria Police, and the General Manager, Road Safety of both the TAC and VicRoads.

# RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 1300 787 202 / 03 8682 2884

Facsimile: 03 8682 2858

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

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

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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.

## 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 July 2007***

#### ***Public Hearings***

- **Regional public hearings were held successfully on 31 July in Mildura. The following witnesses appeared in Mildura:**

<b>Dani Harvey</b>	<b>Mildura Tourism</b>
<b>Helen Healy CEO</b>	<b>Helen Healy Organisation</b>
<b>Tim Knight President</b>	<b>Mildura-Wentworth Houseboat Owners Association</b>
<b>Julian Bowron Manager</b>	<b>Mildura Arts Centre</b>
<b>Andrew Millen CEO</b>	<b>Sunraysia Mallee Economic Development Board</b>
<b>Mark Eckel</b>	<b>Mildura Rural City Council Tourism, Festivals and Events Portfolio</b>
<b>Kristine Harrington</b>	<b>Manager, Mildura Visitor Information Centre</b>

#### ***Committee Secretariat***

- **Further development of the schedule of public hearings and site visits for 2007 and 2008**
- **Planning and organisation of regional hearings in Bright and Mansfield for late August, and Geelong in September**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Mildura and Swan Hill public hearings**
- **Planning for late submissions**
- **Research on regional and rural tourism issues**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review**
- **Updating of the Committee website.**

#### ***Future activities***

- **Public Hearing to be held in Swan Hill**
- **Preparation of briefing papers for Bright and Mansfield regional 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.**



## **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 July 2007***

**The Subcommittee did not meet during July.**

# **GAMING LICENSING SELECT COMMITTEE**

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**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**

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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:
  - 7) payments into the Fund under section 10.3.2 of the Act (and its predecessors);
  - 8) payments from the Fund under section 10.3.3 of the Act (and its predecessors); and
  - 9) the criteria, processes and methodology for the selection of projects funded by payments referred to in sub-paragraph (ii) above; and
- 10) the community benefit statements prepared by those venues not required to contribute to the Fund;
- 11) any other associated matters dealing with gaming licensing issues.

## ***Activity during July***

- **First interim report tabled on 17 July 2007 relating to production of papers and documents.**

***Future Activity***

- **Commencement of public hearings scheduled for 3 August 2007 in relation to lotteries licence process. Witnesses from Department of Justice and the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation.**

# **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.

### ***Activities during July***

- **Seven written submissions received**
- **Awaiting agreement from DSE and DTF to provide background briefings.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Commencement of public hearings and on-site visits.**