



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 September 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOINT INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEES

Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee	5
Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee	7
Education and Training Committee	9
Electoral Matters Committee	13
Environment and Natural Resources Committee	15
Family and Community Development Committee	19
Law Reform Committee	21
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee	25
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee	27
Road Safety Committee	31
Rural and Regional Committee	33
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee	37

SELECT COMMITTEES

Gaming Licensing Select Committee	39
Public Land Development Select Committee	41

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 September 2007

- **Literature review finalised**
- **Follow-up work from the overseas evidence seeking trip continued**
- **Drafting of the Final Report continued.**

Future Activity

Finalise and adopt draft Report.

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 September 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 September 2007

- **The Committee held a meeting on 17 September 2007**
- **The Committee commenced work on the report of the Inquiry into Mandatory Ethanol and Biofuels Targets in Victoria.**

Future Activities

- **Committee meeting 8 October 2007**
- **Draft chapters of the biofuels report to be prepared**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: 8682 2821 Facsimile: 8682 2818

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr Nazih Elasmr and Mr Peter Hall*

(Assembly) *Mr Martin Dixon, 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 September 2007

The Committee held a public hearing with 126 primary and secondary school students, representing 30 schools from across Victoria, in the parliamentary chambers on Thursday 6 September. During the hearing, students considered and discussed issues outlined in a mock Bill drafted by the Committee specifically for the hearing.

The Committee commenced drafting its final report.

Future Activity

The Committee will commence report deliberations in October 2007.

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.

Activities during September 2007

The Committee heard evidence on Wednesday 12 September from the following witnesses:

- **Mr Brian Burgess, President, Victorian Association of State Secondary Principals**
- **Ms Meredith Peace, Vice President (Secondary) and Mr John Graham, Research Officer, Australian Education Union**
- **Dr Gaye Williams, Vice President and Dr Judith Anderson, Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia**
- **Mr Dave Kelly, Quality Associates International**
- **Mr Paul Martin, Victorian Association for the Teaching of English**
- **Mr Rodney Knight, President and Mr Michael Spurr, Executive Director, History Teachers' Association of Victoria.**

The Committee heard evidence on Monday 17 September from the following witnesses:

- **Dr Gerard Calnin and Dr Heather Schnagl, Association of Independent Schools of Victoria**
- **Ms Anne-Marie Ryan and Associate Professor John Henry, Smart Geelong Region Local Learning and Employment Network**
- **Ms Elizabeth Freeman, University of Melbourne**

- Mr Tony Brandenburg and Ms Lauren O'Grady, ICT in Education Victoria
- Mr Simon Pryor and Ms Elizabeth Burns, Mathematical Association of Victoria

Future Activity

The Committee will continue public hearings and commence drafting a final report.

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 September 2007

This inquiry has not yet commenced.

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 September 2007

- **Draft report outline and issues of interest updated**
- **Committee Inquiry timetable adopted**
- **Further submissions received and placed on Committee website**
- **Evidence received from public hearings forwarded to witnesses for correction**
- **Committee budget for 2007-08 finalised**
- **Committee secretariat observed Albert Park by-election proceedings and count**
- **Election funding briefing paper prepared**
- **Victorian Electoral Commission draft 2007-2012 Corporate Plan considered.**

Future Activities

- **Further analysis and summary of evidence received from public hearings**
- **Draft report writing underway**
- **Electoral Commissioner and Deputy to appear before Committee**
- **Next meeting 8 October 2007.**

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2803 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Hon J Pandazopoulos, MP

Executive Officer: Derek Benjamin

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

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

- (1) the extent, timing, resourcing and effectiveness of prescribed burning on both crown and freehold land;
- (2) the manner in which prescribed burning is conducted, including how applicable codes of practice are employed;
- (3) the impact of prescribed burning and recent wildfires on Victoria's biodiversity, wildlife and other natural assets including water quality and quantity;
- (4) the reporting process applicable to prescribed burning programs;
- (5) the legislative and regulatory arrangements for prescribed burns and bushfire management;
- (6) the effectiveness of maintaining permanent, strategically placed fire breaks and containment lines throughout public land areas;
- (7) the provision and maintenance of large water points on crown land to assist with bushfire aerial taskforce operations;
- (8) the impact of traditional land uses such as timber harvesting, grazing, four-wheel-driving, hunting, camping, mining and prospecting on the scale and intensity of bushfires and the ability of relevant agencies to respond;
- (9) the provision and maintenance of serviceable access tracks and signage to assist with recreational and emergency requirements;
- (10) the impact of climate change on bushfires and public land management practices;
- (11) whether additional measures are required to provide a mechanism for the skills, knowledge and interests of local communities, and appropriate scientific expertise, to be better represented in the management of bushfire risk on public land;
- (12) the involvement of local communities in the management of fire;

- (13) any other matter that impacts on the scale and intensity of bushfires in Victoria; and
- (14) the consequent impact of bushfires on the June/July 2007 Gippsland flood.*

* 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 September 2007

- **A regional hearing and site was held in the Mallee region on 12-13 September. Evidence at the public hearing was provided by:**
 - **Ms M. Chandler;**
 - **Mr A. Dowsley, Hattah Association;**
 - **Mr R. Stone, Secretary, Hattah Association;**
 - **Mr W. Eggleton, Committee Member, Hattah Association;**
 - **Mr H. Crothers, President, Underbool Branch, Victorian Farmers Federation;**
 - **Mr P. Crisp, Member for Mildura;**
 - **Mr P. O'Brien, General Manager, North-West Area, Country Fire Authority;**
 - **Mr W. Johnstone, Operations Manager, Region 18, Country Fire Authority;**
 - **Mr T. Wyatt, Group Officer, Murrayville Group, Country Fire Authority;**
 - **Mr T. Edgar, Regional Director, North-West, Department of Sustainability and Environment; and**
 - **Mr R. Newnham, Regional Manager West, Parks Victoria.**
- **Committee members and staff attended two conferences in September:**
 - **The Tassie Fire Conference, 19-21 September, Hobart; and**
 - **The 12th Annual Conference of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees, 19-21 September, Darwin.**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

Future Activity

- **Public hearing and site visit in the Warburton area.**

INQUIRY INTO THE MERITS OF SUPPLEMENTING MELBOURNE'S WATER SUPPLY

Referred by the Legislative Council on 19 September 2007- to inquire, consider and report no later than 31 December 2008 on the relative merits of supplementing Melbourne's water supply by some or all of the following means:

- 1) further water savings that can be achieved by increased conservation and efficiency efforts;
- 2) the collection of stormwater;
- 3) the re-use of treated waste water;
- 4) the use of groundwater;
- 5) small locally based desalination plants; and
- 6) any other optional water source which appears to the Committee to be appropriate.

Activity during September 2007

- **Inquiry research program to be developed.**

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2843 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2808

Email: fcdd@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr Bernie Finn, Mr Johan Scheffer, Mr. Adem Somyurek*

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

Chair: Mr. Jude Perrera

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 September 2007

- Discussion of possible witnesses for public forums
- Public Hearings
- Preparation of draft report chapters.

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: VPLRC@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) Mrs Jan Kronberg, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Mr Johan Scheffer (from 9 August 2007), Mr Brian Tee (member and chair until 9 August 2007)

(Assembly) Mr Colin Brooks, Mr Robert Clark, Mr Luke Donnellan, Mrs Judy Maddigan (member from 8 August 2007) and Mr Tony Lupton (member until 8 August 2007)

Chair: Mr Johan Scheffer, MLC (from 20 August 2007)

Executive Officer: Ms 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 September 2007

- The Committee advertised a call for submissions in late June 2007. Submissions closed on 7 September 2007. Ten submissions have been received to date. The submissions are available on the Committee's website
- The Committee received a background briefing on this reference by Dr David Cousins and Mr James Latham from Consumer Affairs Victoria
- The Committee was represented at the Working Together Forum convened by Consumer Affairs Victoria. The Chair presented on the Committee's work to-date and sought input on engaging consumers in the inquiry
- The Committee continues researching and considering innovative approaches for gathering evidence in relation to this inquiry.

Future activities

- The Committee has scheduled public hearings for 15 October 2007 and 12 November 2007
- The Committee will be represented at various property investment related events and seminars.

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 September

- **The Committee released a discussion paper on Alternative Dispute Resolution. This was direct-mailed to over 100 stakeholders and was also advertised in *The Age*. The discussion paper is available on the Committee's website**
- **The Committee was represented at a seminar on innovative hybrid dispute resolution processes held by the Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia**
- **The Committee is continuing to research and gather evidence in relation to this inquiry.**

Future activities

- **Submissions in relation to this inquiry are due by 9 November 2007**
- **The Committee will hold public hearings in late 2007.**

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.

Activity during September

- **Due to its heavy workload, the Committee decided to seek an extension for the tabling of this report. The Chair has written to the Manager of Government Business in the Legislative Assembly, seeking an extension for tabling the report until the last sitting day of 2008.**

Future activity

- **If the extension of the deadline for this inquiry is approved, the Committee will not commence work on this inquiry until it has completed its inquiry into property investment.**

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **A Committee meeting was held on 17 September 2007**
- **Committee staff attended training session on the use of Australian Bureau of Statistics data and, in particular, Census data**
- **A Committee Administration Officer has been appointed and will commence work with the Committee on 8 October 2007.**

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: osisdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

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.

Activities during September 2007

17 September 2007 Public Forum – Wyndham City Council

- **NuFarm representatives, Laverton North**
- **Mr Rohan Braddy & Mr S. Gately, Manbourin Enterprises Inc**
- **Mr Danien Ryan, Executive Officer, Western Melbourne Tourism**
- **Mr Barry Harvey, Chairman, Wyndham Industrial Liaison Development Committee**

- **Dr Vasiljevic, Senior Technician, Food and Biotech Section, Victoria University**
- **Mr N. Tsardakis, Mr J. Faranda, Mr M. Varasso, Mr H. Velisha and Mr C. Santamaria, Ratepayers of Werribee South**

Committee representatives attended the following events relevant to the inquiry:

19 September 2007 Tourism Investment in Victoria: Myth vs. Realities - A Forum presented by the Victoria Tourism Industry Council, held in Melbourne.

**27 September 2007 The Future of the Australian Car Industry
A symposium presented by Melbourne University, held in Melbourne.**

Future Activities

8 October 2007 Public Forum – Cardinia Shire Council

- **Phil Walton, General Manager**
- **Mike Ellis, General manager Assets & Development Services**
- **Fiona Hodges, General Manager, Community Wellbeing**
- **Andrew Face, Director, Facey Developments**
- **Rohan Braddy, Manbourin Enterprises**
- **Jeff Van Baardwyn, Director, A'van Campers Australia**

16 October 2007 Site Visit & Public Hearing, Melbourne

- **Brunswick Incubator
Tony Coppola, Secretary,
Paul Smarrelli, Chairman
Anthony O'Brien, Manager**
- **David Wilson, Business Coach**
- **John Burton, Australian Telecommunications Users Group Ltd**

23 October 2007 Public Forum – Yarra Ranges Shire Council

29 October 2007 Public Forum – Nillumbik Shire Council

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2862 **Facsimile:** (03) 8682 2898

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 (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

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

Activity during September 2007

Report on the 2007-08 Budget Estimates – Part Three – Draft chapters of the report adopted by the Committee.

Report on the 2007-08 Budget Estimates – Part Three – tabled in Parliament on 20 September 2007.

2006-07 BUDGET OUTCOMES

Activity during September 2007

Report planning undertaken.

Future Activities

Further report planning to be undertaken

Further development of questionnaires for departments and relevant agencies.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA

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

Activity during September 2007

Draft report planning undertaken

Future Activity

The Committee will consider the schedule for tabling the report.

INQUIRY INTO TRUSTEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOVERNING THE PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION FUND

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

Activity during September 2007

Draft report planning and research was undertaken.

Future Activity

The Committee will consider the draft report in October.

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

Activities during September 2007

Planning and research on follow-up reviews of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office reports was undertaken.

The Committee noted the annual report of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office incorporating the independent financial audit.

Future Activities

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

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

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006-07

Activity during September 2007

Draft report planning and preparation undertaken.

Future Activity

The Committee will consider the schedule for tabling the report.

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

Activity during September 2007

The Committee hosted an international delegation which was part of AusAID's Australian Leadership Awards and being run by the Melbourne-based Asia Pacific Journalism Centre in collaboration with the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers Association.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2846 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr David Koch and Mr Shaun Leane*
(Assembly) *Mr John Eren, Mr Craig Langdon, Mr Terry Mulder,
Mr Ian Trezise, and Mr Paul Weller*

Chair: Mr John Eren, MP

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

INQUIRY INTO VEHICLE SAFETY

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

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

Activities during September 2007

The Committee continued its overseas study tour. After departing Japan the Committee travelled to Detroit and met with both the Ford Motor Company and General Motors. In Washington there were meetings with: the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety and Federal Highway Administrations; the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety; Ferguson International Consulting Services; National Crash Assessment Center at George Washington University; and the American Trucking Association.

In Brussels there were meetings with: ACEM – the Motorcycle Industry in Europe; the European Commission’s DG Enterprise and Industry, and European Enhanced Vehicle Safety Committee; Euro NCAP and the European Transport Safety Council.

In Germany the Committee met with Siemens and the Federal Highway Research Institute in Munich, and with Bosch and DaimlerChrysler in Stuttgart.

Future Activity

Public Hearings will continue in Melbourne during October.

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 September 2007

Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

INQUIRY INTO LEVEL CROSSINGS

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 September 2007

Background research and planning have commenced for this inquiry. A few submissions have been received. Closing date for submissions is 5 October 2007.

OTHER ACTIVITY

The Executive Officer and the Research Officer attended a one day symposium on the car industry held at the Centre for Public Policy, Melbourne University, 27 September.

RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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

Email: rrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Members:-

(Council) *Ms Kaye Darveniza, Mr Damian Drum, Ms Wendy Lovell, Ms Gayle 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 September 2007

- **A Regional Public Hearing was held on 12 September in Geelong with the following witnesses appearing:**
 - **Mr Steve Blackley, CEO and Ms Lex Chalmers, Board Member – Western Coastal Board**
 - **Mr Terry Hickey, Deputy Executive Director and Mr Ross Stevens, Chairman – Geelong Otway Tourism**
 - **Mr Peter Kenny, Proprietor – Bellarine Estate Winery**
 - **Ms Dee Stewart, Chair, Mr Simon Loone, Tourism Coordinator, and Cr Dean Webster – Surf Coast Shire**
 - **Cr Bruce Harwood, Mayor – City of Greater Geelong**
 - **Mr Chris Tutungi and Mrs Carol Tutungi – Lorne Bush House Cottages**
 - **Mr Jim Cousins AO, Chairman and Mr Peter Dorling, Executive Director – Committee for Geelong**
 - **Mr Andrew Nosedo, Chairman and Mr Darren Chirgwin, Executive Officer – Otways Tourism Incorporated**
 - **Cr Joe Dicecco and Mr Mike Barrow, Economic Development Officer – Colac Otway Shire**
 - **Mr Terry Jongebloed, Proprietor – Clyde Park Winery**
 - **Mr Peter Slattery – McAdams Lane Pty Ltd**
 - **Ms Emma Bourke, Manager – Queenscliffe Visitor Centre**
 - **Ms Georgia Quill of Portarlington**
 - **Mr Charles Neal of Belmont**
 - **Mr Dennis Moore of Highton.**

Committee Secretariat

- **Planning and organisation of regional hearings in Horsham, Dunkeld and Melbourne for October**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Horsham, Dunkeld and Melbourne public hearings**
- **Further development of the schedule of public hearings and site visits for 2007 and 2008**
- **Research on regional and rural tourism issues continued**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review continued**
- **Updating of the Committee website**
- **A new Committee Assistant / Administrative Officer was appointed.**

Future activities

- **Public Hearings to be held in Horsham, Dunkeld and Melbourne in October, and Echuca and Shepparton in November**
- **Preparation of briefing papers for Public Hearings in Horsham, Dunkeld and Melbourne**
- **Processing of transcripts from Public Hearings and contacting witnesses**
- **Briefing of the Committee on Inquiry and procedural issues**
- **Planning and organisation of Public Hearings in Echuca and Shepparton for November**
- **Summarisation of submissions and witness information received**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2891 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 September 2007

The Committee met on 17 September 2007, where it considered and adopted Alert Digest 12.

- **Alert Digest No. 12**

Crimes Amendment (Rape) Bill 2007

Firearms Amendment Bill 2007

Fisheries Amendment Bill 2007

**Justice and Road Legislation Amendment (Law Enforcement)
Bill 2007**

Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2007

Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 1) Bill 2007

Working with Children Amendment Bill 2007

Future Activity

The Committee is due to report on the Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 1) Bill 2007 in early October.

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 September 2007

The Subcommittee did not meet during September.

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 September 2007

The Subcommittee did not meet during September.

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.

Activity during September

Public Hearings held in relation to parts 1 and 2 of the Terms of Reference with evidence received from the following:

- **Mr David White, Director – Hawker Britton**
- **Mr Danny Pearson, Director – Hawker Britton.**

Future Activities

Proposed second Interim Report to be published incorporating further legal advice from Bret Walker SC dealing with powers to call for documents

Further Public Hearings in relation to Lotteries Licences planned for November.

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 September

Total of 115 written submissions received by the Committee

Public Hearings held on 26 September in relation to the Kew Residential Services development with evidence received from the following:

- **Mr Andrew McIntosh MP - State Member for Kew**
- **Boroondara Residents' Action Group and Planning Backlash**
- **Boroondara City Council**
- **Kew Cottages Parents' Association**
- **Kew Cottages Coalition**

Public Hearings held on 27 September in relation to the Devilbend Reserve with evidence received from the following:

- **Mornington Shire Council**
- **Devilbend Foundation**
- **Devilbend Landcare Group**
- **Mr Neale Burgess MP, State Member for Hastings**

Future Activities

Public Hearings proposed for October-November, including:

- **8 October – Walker Corporation in relation to Kew Residential Services**
- **7 November – Port Campbell public land issues**
- **8 November – Apollo Bay public land**

Ongoing research and data collection with respect to the sale and development of public land.
