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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 31 October 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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# 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	11
Environment and Natural Resources Committee	13
Family and Community Development Committee	17
Law Reform Committee	19
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee	23
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee	27
Road Safety Committee	29
Rural and Regional Committee	31
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee	35

## SELECT COMMITTEES

Gaming Licensing Select Committee	37
Public Land Development Select Committee	39



# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

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**Email:**        dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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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 October 2007***

- **Drafting of Final Report continued.**
- **Committee considered completed chapters.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **Report to be adopted and tabled.**

## **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 October 2007***

**This inquiry has not yet commenced.**

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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

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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

---

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 October 2007***

- **The Committee held a meeting on 8 October 2007**
- **The Minister for Rural and Regional Development briefed the Committee on the Victorian Government submission to the Inquiry into Mandatory Targets for Ethanol and Biofuels in Victoria.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **Committee meeting 19 November 2007**
- **Draft chapters of the biofuels report to be prepared**

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

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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

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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.

### ***Activity during October 2007***

The Committee continued drafting its final report and commenced report deliberations.

### ***Future Activity***

The Committee will continue report deliberations in November 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.

### ***Activity during October 2007***

**The Committee did not hold any meetings or hearings for this inquiry during October 2007.**

### ***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 October 2007***

**This inquiry has not yet commenced.**

# **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

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**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 October 2007***

- **Draft report outline and issues of interest updated**
- **Committee Inquiry timetable further developed**
- **Additional submissions received and placed on Committee website**
- **Consideration of Committee Charter of responsibilities**
- **Briefing papers prepared on –**
  - Forthcoming international elections**
  - Election expenditure**
  - 2008 USA electoral calendar**
- **Mr Steve Tully, Electoral Commissioner, Ms Liz Williams, Deputy Electoral Commissioner and Ms Sue Lang, Manager Communication, Education and Research Victorian Electoral Commission were in attendance, discussing the VEC's draft Corporate Plan 2007 – 2012, and other issues**
- **Ms Candy Broad MLC briefed the Committee on her visit to East Timor as an international election observer for the parliamentary elections**
- **Committee secretariat initiates monthly electoral watch briefing.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **Further analysis and summary of evidence received from public hearings**
- **Draft report writing and initial chapters commenced**
- **Next meeting 19 November 2007.**

# ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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## Members:

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

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

Chair:                                        Hon J Pandazopoulos, MP

Executive Officer:                        Mr Derek Benjamin

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

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

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

- (11) whether additional measures are required to provide a mechanism for the skills, knowledge and interests of local communities, and appropriate scientific expertise, to be better represented in the management of bushfire risk on public land;
- (12) the involvement of local communities in the management of fire;
- (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 October 2007***

**A regional hearing and site was held in Warburton on 8 October. Evidence at the public hearing was provided by:**

- **Peter Watkinson, Regional Manager Port Phillip, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
- **Annie Volkering, Regional Manager Melbourne Metropolitan, Parks Victoria**
- **Bernard Barbetti, Regional Fire Manager Port Phillip, Department of Sustainability and Environment**
- **Charmaine Quick, Manager Civil Assets, Melbourne Water**
- **Dr Patrick Lane, Senior Research Fellow, University of Melbourne**
- **John Schauble, Volunteer CFA Captain, Sassafras/Ferny Creek Brigade**
- **Grant Jack, Municipal Emergency Response Officer, Shire of Yarra Ranges**
- **Glenn Hunt, Executive Officer - Emergency and Safety Planning, Shire of Yarra Ranges**
- **Anna Marie Shew, Ferny Creek Fire Alert**
- **Gary Moran, Logging Contractor.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **Ongoing background research and literature review**
- **Public hearing in Melbourne on 19 November**
- **Public hearing and site visits in North East Victoria 26-30 November.**

## **INQUIRY INTO MELBOURNE'S FUTURE WATER SUPPLY**

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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 October 2007***

- **This inquiry has not commenced.**

### ***Future Activity***

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



# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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 October 2007***

- **Organisation of public forum**
- **Public Hearings**
- **Preparation of draft report chapters.**

# LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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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

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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.

### ***Activities during October 2007***

- **The Committee received a further three submissions into its Property Investment Inquiry.**
- **The Committee held a public hearing in Melbourne on 15 October 2007. The following witnesses gave evidence at the public hearing:**
  - **Mr Mark Armstrong, Director and Mr David Johnston, Director, Property Planning Australia**
  - **Mr Gerard Brody, Director – Policy & Campaigns, Consumer Action Law Centre**
  - **Mr John Hopkins, Chairman and Mr Noel Browne, General Manager, Property Investment Association of Australia and Mr Phil Emery, Program Director, DeakinPrime.**
  - **Mr John Moore, President, Property Investors Association of Australia**

- Mr Bryan Stevens, Chief Executive Officer, Real Estate Institute of Australia
  - An individual consumer (in confidence)
- The Committee was represented at three property investment seminars and the Property Expo held at the Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre
  - The Committee continued to seek input and evidence from individual consumers and members of the property investment industry.

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

- The Committee has scheduled a further public hearing for 12 November 2007
- The Committee will continue to be represented at various property investment-related events and seminars
- The Committee will host a Law Foundation Legal Policy Intern during November 2007. The intern will undertake a project to research and map the property investment industry
- The Committee will commence drafting its final report.

### **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.

#### ***Activity during October***

- The Committee continued to research and gather evidence in relation to this inquiry.

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

- The Committee released a discussion paper on Alternative Dispute Resolution in September 2007. Submissions are due by 9 November 2007
- The Committee plans to hold public hearings in November and December 2007.

## **INQUIRY INTO VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS**

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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 the effect of vexatious litigants on the justice system and the individuals and agencies who are victims of vexatious litigants — and, the Committee should:

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

### ***Activities during October***

- **Background research continued**
- **Preliminary meetings were held with key experts.**

### ***Future activity***

- **The Committee will host a Law Foundation Legal Policy Intern during November 2007. The intern will commence preliminary data collection in relation to the vexatious litigants inquiry.**

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

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- **A Committee meeting was held on 8 October 2007.**
- **Ms Helen Ross-Soden commenced as the Committee's Administration Officer.**



# OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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## Members:

(Council) *Mr 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 October 2007**

#### **8 October 2007 Public Forum – Cardinia Shire Council (CSC)**

- **Cr Kate Lempriere, Mayor, CSC**
- **Cr Bill Pearson, CSC**
- **Cr Graeme Legge, CSC**
- **Cr Doug Hamilton, CSC**

- Phil Walton, General Manager, Planning & Development, CSC
- David Young, President Cardinia Branch, Victorian Farmers Federation
- Mike Ellis, General Manager Assets & Development Services, CSC
- Fiona Hodges, General Manager, Community Wellbeing, CSC
- Andrew Facey, Director, Facey Developments
- Jeff Van Baardwyk, Director, A'van Campers Australia

**16 October 2007 Site Visit – Brunswick Business Incubator, Brunswick**

- Anthony O'Brien, Manager, Brunswick Business Incubator
- Tony Coppola, Secretary, Moreland Enterprise Development Centre Ltd
- Paul Smarrelli, Chairman, Moreland Enterprise Development Centre Ltd

**16 October 2007 Public Hearing – Parliament House, Melbourne**

- David Wilson, Business Coach
- Meg Parkinson, Deputy President, Victorian Farmers Federation
- Graham Ford, Executive Manager, Policy, Victorian Farmers Federation
- John Manson Burton, Australian Telecommunications Users Group Ltd

**23 October 2007 Public Forum – Shire of Yarra Ranges (SYR)**

- Cr Tim Heenan, Mayor, SYR
- Simon O'Callaghan, Economic Development Officer, SYR
- Anne Langworthy, Director, Centre for Regional Development, Swinburne University
- Ian Ada, Agribusiness and Tourism Officer SYR
- Christine Fyffe MP, Member for Evelyn
- Tony Forbes, Branch Manager, Wandin Seville Bendigo Bank Community Branch
- David Finger, Chairman, YV Fruits
- Brian Way, Board Member, Yarra Ranges Enterprise Centre Ltd
- Martin Cheney, Managing Director, Australian Fine Harvest Foods
- Ross Stephens, Yering Cottages

**29 October 2007 Public Forum – Nillumbik Shire Council (NSC)**

- Cr Warwick Leeson, Mayor, NSC
- Andrew Port, Manager, Major Projects and Business Services, NSC
- Julie French, Tourism and Business Development Coordinator, NSC
- Chris Chapple, President, Eltham Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Norm Williams, Vice President, Eltham Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Daryl Brook, Chairman, Nillumbik Home-Biz Network

On behalf of the Committee, the Committee's Research Officer attended the following event relevant to the inquiry:

**31 October – 1 November 2007 National Economic Development Conference 2007 – a conference presented by Economic Development Australia, held in Sydney.**

**31 October 2007 – Committee members and staff hosted a lunch for a visiting Canadian Economic Development Specialist, Mike Stotle, at Parliament House.**

## ***Future Activities***

### **7 November 2007 Public Forum – Casey City Council (CCC)**

- **Cr Colin Butler, Mayor, CCC**
- **Peter Fitchett, Director Planning & Development Services, Local Economic Development, CCC**
- **Ian Symons, Cranbourne Rotary Club**
- **Public Transport Users Association**
- **Virginia Simmons, Director & Chief Executive, Chisholm Institute**
- **Bruce Eddington, Becon Constructions Pty Ltd**

### **19 November 2007 Public Forum – Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPS)**

- **Greg Waters, President, Western Port Operations, Blue Scope Steel**
- **Ralph Kenyon, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Hastings**
- **Peter Lees, Coordinator, Western Port Business Centre**
- **Shane Murphy, Manager Economic Development, MPS**
- **Rebecca Manning, President, Mornington Chamber of Commerce**
- **Fraser Bell, Deputy Chairperson, Mornington Peninsula Tourism Inc**
- **Anita Buczkowsky, Executive Officer, SE Development Area Consultative Committee**



# **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

## **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 October 2007***

Draft report planning and preparation undertaken

On 8 October the Committee considered the draft report

On 11 October the Committee tabled the report in Parliament

Government response due 11 April 2008.

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006-07**

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### ***Activities during October 2007***

Draft report planning and preparation undertaken

The Committee considered the draft report

On 31 October, the report was tabled in the Parliament.

## **2006-07 BUDGET OUTCOMES**

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### ***Activities during October 2007***

Part one of the questionnaire sent to all departments, Parliamentary departments and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Clarification of questions and liaison with departments and agencies conducted

Scope and methodology for review of annual reports established

Report scope and planning undertaken.

### ***Future Activities***

**Further report planning to be undertaken**

**Part two of the questionnaire to be drafted and considered by the Committee.**

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

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

### ***Activities during October 2007***

**A private briefing was held with interested interstate parties**

**Report scope, planning and further research undertaken**

**Report drafting underway.**

### ***Future Activity***

**The Committee to consider the draft report.**

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

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

### ***Activities during October 2007***

**The Audit Sub-committee met and considered the scoping of a number of performance audits**

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

### ***Future Activities***

**Audit specifications of proposed new audits and follow-up reviews of Audit Reports to be further considered by the Committee**

**An update of the Protocol Statement between the Committee and the Auditor-General**

**Commencement of review of the Auditor-General's Annual Plan 2008-09**

**Review of processes for consideration of the annual budgetary estimates for the Auditor-General.**

# ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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

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

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

### ***Activity during October 2007***

**Two days of public hearings were conducted. The Committee took evidence from: GM Holden; Ford Motor Company; Toyota Motor Corporation; Autoliv; Mitsubishi Motors; and Bosch.**

### ***Future Activity***

**Public Hearings will continue in November.**

## **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 October 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 October 2007***

**Forty-eight submissions have been received. Submissions are currently being summarised for the Committee. Planning has commenced for briefings and hearings.**

### ***Future Activity***

**Briefings are scheduled in November.**

# **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 Kaye Darveniza MLC, Mr Damian Drum MLC, Ms Wendy Lovell MLC, Ms Gayle Tierney MLC, Mr John Vogels MLC

**(Assembly)** Ms Kirstie Marshall MP, Mr Russell Northe MP

**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**

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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 October 2007***

- **A Regional Public Hearing was held on 24 October in Horsham with the following witnesses appearing:**
  - **Mr Robin Neilson, General Manager of Planning & Promotion Services, and Mr Chris McClure, Promotions Manager and Major Events Coordinator, Horsham Rural City Council**
  - **Ms Dorothy McLaren, Coordinator, RuralAccess Wimmera**
  - **Ms Samantha Magill, Owner / Operator, Parkgate Resort**
  - **Mr Graeme Harris, Manager of Business & Community Development, Buloke Shire Council**
  - **Ms La Vergne & Mr Paul Lehmann, Owners / Operators, Pomponderoo Bush Retreat**
  - **Ms Mary-Lu Amos, Manager of Community Economic Development, West Wimmera Shire Council**
  - **Mr Steve Price, Owner, Asses Ears Wilderness Lodge**
  - **Ms Marion Matthews, Development Officer, Regional Arts Victoria**
  - **Mr George Powell, of St Helens Plains**
  - **Mr Chris McClure, Proprietor, Norton Estate Wines.**
  
- **A Regional Public Hearing was held on 25 October in Dunkeld with the following witnesses appearing:**
  - **Mr Hugh Koch, Tourism Manager, Southern Grampians Shire Council**
  - **Ms Joane McKnight, Board Chair, Kanawinka Geopark; Ms Liz Foreman, Tourism Manager, Glenelg Shire Council; and**

**Mr Michael Woodward, Committee Member, Volcanoes Discovery Centre at Penshurst; all representing the Kanawinka Geopark**

- **Ms Angelique Lush, Manager of Business and Tourism Development, Northern Grampians Shire Council**
- **Mr Graham Parkes, Chairman, Grampians Marketing Incorporated; and Ranger-in-Charge, Grampians National Park**
- **Ms Marie Willis, Owner / Operator, Quality Inn Grange Burn; and Member, Hamilton Accommodation Providers.**

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

- **Planning and organisation of regional hearings in Melbourne, Echuca and Shepparton for November**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Melbourne, Echuca and Shepparton public hearings**
- **Presentation by the Research Officer to the Committee on report issues and recommendations**
- **Further development of the schedule of public hearings and site visits for 2008**
- **Internet scan of inquiry related media**
- **Research on regional and rural tourism issues continued**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review continued**
- **Updating of the Committee website as required.**

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

- **Public Hearings to be held in Melbourne, Echuca and Shepparton in November**
- **Preparation of briefing papers for Public Hearings in Melbourne, Echuca and Shepparton**
- **Processing of transcripts from Public Hearings and contacting witnesses**
- **Commencement of collation of recommendations received from witnesses within submissions, for consideration and discussion by the committee**
- **Presentation of Chapter Outline to Committee**
- **Planning for drafting and consideration of report by the Committee;**
- **Overhaul of witness list database**
- **Costing and exploratory research in relation to 2008 hearings**
- **Summarisation of submissions and witness information received**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**



# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2891 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

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

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

## Members:

**(Council)** *Mr Khalil Eideh, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Mrs Inga Peulich and Ms Jaala Pulford*

**(Assembly)** *Mr Colin Brooks, Mr Carlo Carli (Chair), Mr Ken Jasper (Deputy Chair), Mr Telmo Languiller and Mr Ryan Smith*

**Chair:** Mr Carlo Carli, MP

**Executive Officer:** Andrew Homer

## FULL COMMITTEE

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### *Activity during October 2007*

The Committee met on the 8 and 29 October 2007, where it considered and adopted the following reports.

- **Alert Digest No. 13**

**Building Amendment Bill 2007**

**Education and Training Reform Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2007**

**Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2007**

**Energy Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2007**

**Graffiti Prevention Bill 2007**

**Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 1) Bill 2007**

**Royal Children's Hospital (Land) Bill 2007**

**Transport Accident and Accident Compensation Acts Amendment Bill 2007**

**Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2007**

- **Alert Digest No. 14**

**Agent-General and Commissioners for Victoria Bill 2007**

**Animals Legislation Amendment (Animal Care) Bill 2007**

**Crimes Amendment (Rape) Bill 2007**

**Electricity Safety Amendment Bill 2007**

**Energy Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2007**

**Equal Opportunity Amendment (Family Responsibilities) Bill 2007**

**Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2007**

**Melbourne and Olympic Parks Amendment Bill 2007**

**Port Services Amendment Bill 2007**

## Victorian Workers' Wages Protection Bill 2007

- Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 1) Bill 2007

### SUBCOMMITTEES

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#### 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 October 2007*

The Subcommittee met on 8 October 2007 with the consultants in furtherance of the inquiry.

#### 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 October 2007*

The Subcommittee met on 3 October 2007, where it considered and adopted the following regulations:

- Statutory Rules 2007
  - SR No. 36 – Guardianship and Administration (Fees)(Interim) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 37 – Extractive Industries Development Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 38 – Road Safety (Drivers)(Fees Amendment) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 39 – Road Safety (Vehicles)(Fees Amendment) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 40 – Architects (Amendment) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 42 – Evidence (Transcript Fees) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 43 – Victims of Crime Assistance (Procedure) Rules 2007
  - SR No. 44 – Supreme Court (Chapter V Amendment No. 3) Rules 2007
  - SR No. 45 – Subdivision (Registrar's Fees) Amendment Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 46 – Fair Trading (Safety Standard)(Babies' Dummies) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 47 – Subordinate Legislation (Estate Agents (Professional Conduct) Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 48 – Trade Measurement Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 49 – Transport Accident Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 50 – Gene Technology Amendment Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 51 – Chattel Securities (Fees Amendment) Regulations 2007
  - SR No. 52 – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Amendment No.18) Rules 2007
  - SR No. 63 – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Health Professions Amendment) Regulations 2007

**SR No. 68 – Transport (Passenger Vehicles)(Amendment) Regulations  
2007**

**SR No. 69 – Transport (Taxi Cabs)(Amendment) Regulations 2007**

**SR No. 75 – Water (Resource Management) Regulations 2007**



# **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:
  - 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.

***Activities during October***

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

- **Mr Adrian Nelson, former Tattersall's employee**

**Second Interim Report tabled 10 October 2007 incorporating further legal advice from Bret Walker SC dealing with powers to call for documents**

***Future Activity***

**Public Hearings in relation to parts 3 to 6 of the Terms of Reference proposed for December and early 2008.**

# **PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT 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/publicland/>

## **Members:**

**(Council)** Mr Peter Hall, Mr Peter Kavanagh, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Ms Sue Pennicuik, Mr Matt Viney (until 9 October 2007) and Mr Evan Thornley (from 9 October 2007)

**Chair:** Mr David Davis

**Deputy Chair:** Mr Brian Tee

**Secretary:** Mr Richard Willis

## **INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT**

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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 October***

**Total of 132 written submissions received by the Committee.**

**Public Hearings held on 8 October in relation to the Kew Residential Services development with evidence received from the following:**

- Mr John Hughes, Managing Director – Walker Corporation
- Mr Mike Randall, Development Manager – Walker Corporation

**Public Hearings held on 29 October with evidence received from the following:**

- Ms Trudy Hart, Director of Land and Property Group – Department of Treasury and Finance
- Mr Ian Gibson, Solicitor to Department of Treasury and Finance.

### ***Future Activities***

**Public Hearings proposed for November, including:**

- 7 November – Port Campbell public land issues
- 8 November – Apollo Bay public land

- **19 November – Department of Sustainability and Environment, and Major Projects Victoria**
- **27 November – Various Government bodies including Department of Planning and Community Development**
- **28 November – Various Groups**

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

