



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 November 2007

56th Parliament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, 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 November 2007

- **Drafting of Final Report continued**
- **Committee considered completed chapters**
- **October 31 - the Chair and the Executive Officer attended the launch of the ADF Report, 'Drugs and Driving in Australia, a survey of community attitudes, experience and understanding'.**

Future Activities

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

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 November 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 November 2007

- Preparation of draft report chapters.

Future Activities

- Committee meeting 3 December 2007
- Draft Biofuels report – to be considered.

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.

Activity during November 2007

The Committee adopted its final report on 27 November 2007.

Future Activity

The final report will be tabled in December 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 November 2007

The Committee did not hold any meetings or hearings for this inquiry during November 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 November 2007

The Committee agreed the following terms of reference for this inquiry:

The Committee will be exploring the reasons for and impact of geographical differences in participation in higher education and would be interested in receiving comment on:

- **variations in the number and type of university applications, offers, acceptances and completions in different metropolitan, rural and regional areas;**
- **influences of school retention rates, including enrolments and completions for VCE, VCAL and VET in schools on participation in higher education;**

- influences of participation in other post-school pathways, including TAFE enrolments and take-up of apprenticeships or other employment opportunities, on participation in higher education;
- potential geographic, economic, social, cultural and other influences on university applications, offers, acceptances and completions across Victorian communities;
- advantages and disadvantages of participation and non-participation in higher education for school leavers and their families and communities in different metropolitan, rural and regional areas;
- potential effects of geographical differences in participation in higher education on skills shortages and the Victorian economy; and
- strategies to address any barriers contributing to geographic differences in participation in higher education.

Future Activity

The Committee will formally call for written submissions on 2 February 2008, with a closing date of Tuesday 18 March 2008.

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 November 2007

- **Additional submissions received and placed on Committee website**
- **Committee Charter of Responsibilities adopted**
- **Briefing papers prepared on –**
 - Eligible Voting Age**
 - Electronic Voting – Voter Verifiable Paper Trail**
 - AdScam**
- **Report by Ms Candy Broad MLC on her visit to East Timor as an international election observer for the parliamentary elections placed on Committee's website**
- **Committee and secretariat view Leader Newspaper Group Competition "Roll-Up" – Enrolling to Vote.**

Future Activities

- **Further analysis and summary of evidence received from public hearings**
- **Draft report consideration by Committee**
- **Next meeting 3 December 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: Mr 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 November 2007

A public hearing was held in Melbourne on 19 November with evidence provided by:

- **Mr G. Lyttle, Chairman, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria;**
- **Mr T. Roche, Project Worker, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria;**
- **Mr T. Barker, The Peoples Review of Bushfires in Victoria since 2000;**
- **Professor P. Attiwill, The Peoples Review of Bushfires in Victoria since 2000;**
- **Mr D. Packham, The Peoples Review of Bushfires in Victoria since 2000;**
- **Mr I. Hamilton, The Peoples Review of Bushfires in Victoria since 2000;**
- **Ms J. Barnett, Research Officer, Victorian National Parks Association;**
- **Ms R. Bentley, President, Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria;**
- **Ms C. Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Forest Industries;**
- **Mr D. de Jongh, Senior Forest Policy Analyst, National Association of Forest Industries;**
- **Mr P. Dalidakis, Executive Director, Victorian Association of Forest Industries;**
- **Mr G. Featherston, Consultant, Victorian Association of Forest Industries;**
- **Mr R. Alder, General Manager, National Aerial Firefighting Centre; and representative of Australasian Fire Authority Council;**
- **Ms J. Butterworth-Gray, Chief Executive, Victorian Wine Industry Association; and**
- **Mr L. Chamberlain, Victorian Forest Campaigner, Wilderness Society.**

Public hearings were held in Mansfield on 26 November with evidence provided by:

- **Mr D. Roff, Chief Executive Officer, Mansfield Shire Council ;**
- **Mr K. Murphy, Senior Environmental Health Officer, Municipal Emergency Resources Officer and Municipal Fire Prevention Officer, Mansfield Shire Council;**
- **Cr S. Jeffcoat, Deputy Mayor, Mansfield Shire Council;**
- **Mr B. McNamara, Chairman, Alpine Valley Vignerons;**
- **Mr R. Walhquist, General Manager, Brown Bros Wines;**
- **Mr D. Maples, Chair, King Valley Vignerons Association;**
- **Mr S. Lowe, Whitfield grape grower;**
- **Mr A. Fairley, Chairperson, Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council;**
- **Mr B. Young, Executive Officer, Plantations North East;**
- **Mr D. Evans;**
- **Mr G. Stoney;**
- **Mr C. Lovick, Lovick Adventures and Lovick family;**
- **Mr L. Ingram, Secretary, Howqua Hills Progress Association;**
- **Mr R. Picton, Member, Goughs Bay Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr R. Scott, Member, Benalla and District Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr K. Badham, Member, Mansfield Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr D. Bain, Captain, Taminick Rural Fire Brigade; and**
- **Mr A. Ashworth.**

Public hearings were held in Mt Beauty on 28 November with evidence provided by:

- **Mr Jack Hicks, Vice-President, Alpine Conservation and Access Group;**
- **Mr Bob Adams, Media Officer, Alpine Conservation and Access Group;**
- **Mr Neville Robinson, Member, Alpine Conservation and Access Group;**
- **Mr John Carter, Manager Technical Services, Alpine Shire Council;**
- **Mr Darryl Farmer, Fire Prevention Officer, Alpine Shire Council;**
- **Mr Kevin Ritchie, Regional Director North East, Department of Sustainability and Environment;**
- **Mr Chris Rose, Manager East, Parks Victoria;**
- **Mr Peter Farrell Manager, Fire North East, Department of Sustainability and Environment;**

- **Mr Ewan Waller, Chief Officer, Department of Sustainability and Environment;**
- **Mr Alan Davies, General Manger North East, Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr Paul King, Operations Manager Region 24, Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr Rob Martin;**
- **Mr Piers Hartley;**
- **Mr Jim Crebbin; and**
- **Mr Peter McConarchy.**

Public hearings were held in Omeo on 29 November with evidence provided by:

- **Mr Neville Penrose, Regional Director, Gippsland, Department of Sustainability and Environment;**
- **Mr David Tainsh, Fire Manager, Gippsland, Department of Sustainability and Environment;**
- **Mr David Nugent, Parks Victoria;**
- **Mr Ben Rankin, Senior Fire Management Officer, Department of Sustainability and Environment;**
- **Mr Ewan Waller, Chief Officer, Department of Sustainability and Environment;**
- **Mr Simon Turner, Mountain Cattleman's Association of Victoria;**
- **Mr Chris Commins, Mountain Cattleman's Association of Victoria;**
- **Mr John Cook, Mountain Cattleman's Association of Victoria;**
- **Mr Gavin Hope, Operations Officer, Region 11, Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr peter Sandy, Omeo Group Officer, Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr Mack Stagg, Ex-Omeo Group officer, Country Fire Authority;**
- **Mr Graham Symons, Omeo Brigade Captain, Country Fire Authority; and**
- **Mr Fraser Barry.**

Future Activities

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

INQUIRY INTO MELBOURNE'S FUTURE 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 November 2007

- **This inquiry has not commenced.**

Future Activity

- **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 November 2007

- Public forum
- Organisation of 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, Mr Martin Foley, Mrs Judy Maddigan (member from 8 August 2007 until 30 October 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.

Activity during November 2007

- **The Committee held a public hearing in Melbourne on 12 November 2007. The following witnesses gave evidence at the public hearing:**
 - **Dr David Cousins, Director, Consumer Affairs Victoria**
 - **Mr Rob Pepicelli, Victorian Division, Australian Property Institute**
 - **Ms Corinna Dieters, Chair, Financial Planning Association of Australia and Mr Peter Dunn, Certified Financial Planner, Moneyplan Australia**
 - **Mr Neil Higgins, National Finance Manager and Mr Troy Gunasekara, Branch Manager, The Investors Club**
 - **Ms Monique Wakelin, Co-Founder, Wakelin Property Advisory**
 - **Mr Hugh Jones, Vice President, Real Estate Buyers' Agents Association of Australia**

- Mr Neil Jenman, Consumer advocate
- Mr Kerry Sharp, Victorian State Director, Association of Financial Advisers
- Mr Michael Hayes, Commercial Law Section and Ms Karen Cheng, Property and Environmental Law Section, Law Institute of Victoria.
- The Committee is hosting Law Foundation Legal Policy Intern, Mr Christian Farinaccio. Christian commenced a project to research and map the property investment industry using advertising and directories.
- The Committee continued conducting research in relation to this inquiry.

Future activities

- The Committee will continue researching and evidence gathering and 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.

Activities during November

- The Committee released a discussion paper on Alternative Dispute Resolution in September 2007. Submissions were due by 9 November 2007. The Committee has now received 23 submissions in relation to this inquiry. A number of extensions have also been granted.
- The Committee held a public hearing in Melbourne on 29 November 2007. The following witnesses gave evidence at the public hearing:
 - Mr Lawrence Reddaway, Victorian Chapter Chair, Professor Angela O'Brien, Senior Vice President, Mr Albert Monichino, Victorian Chapter Committee Member, Mr Gordon Tippet, CEO and Ms Gianna Totaro Executive Assistant, Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia.
 - Professor Tania Sourdin, The University of Queensland (Melbourne Campus)
 - Mr Peter Lauritsen, Deputy Chief Magistrate and Ms Anne Golsbrough, Supervising Magistrate, Family Violence & Family Law, Magistrates' Court of Victoria
 - Mr Mark Rumble, Director and Ms Laura Simmons, Program Co-ordinator, Salvation Army, Brayton Youth and Family Services

- A representative of the Committee attended an Institute of Arbitrators and Mediators Australia seminar on 'Arbitration in the fast lane.'
- The Committee continued conducting research and evidence-gathering in relation to this inquiry.

Future activities

- The Committee plans to hold further public hearings during December 2007 and in early 2008.

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.

Activities during November

- On 20 November 2007, the Legislative Assembly passed a motion to extend the reporting date for this inquiry from 30 September 2008 to 4 December 2008.
- The Committee is hosting a Law Foundation Legal Policy Intern, Mr Christian Farinaccio, who has commenced preliminary data collection in relation to the vexatious litigants inquiry, including conducting a search of the relevant Supreme Court files.

Future activities

- Research in relation to this Inquiry will continue.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Committee meetings were held on 31 October 2007 and 19 November 2007.
- Mrs Judy Maddigan, MP resigned as member of the Committee on 30 October 2007. Mr Martin Foley, MP was appointed to the Committee on 30 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 November 2007

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 Symonds, Cranbourne Rotary Club**
- **Tim Peterson, 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**

On behalf of the Committee, Committee Secretariat representative(s) attended the following events relevant to the inquiry:

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

**13 November 2007 Re-imagining the Australian Suburb – a
seminar presented by RMIT University, held in Melbourne.**

**15 November 2007 The Victoria Summit – a seminar presented by
the Victorian Employers' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI),
held at Parliament House, Melbourne.**

**21 November 2007 House Prices, Affordability and Risk: Housing
Policy Success, Now and into the Future – a seminar presented by
representatives from the International Centre for Housing and Urban
Economics (ICHUE), at RMIT University, Urban 45, Global Cities and the
University of Reading – held in Melbourne.**

Future Activities

- **Visit to Australian Synchrotron in Clayton, Melbourne, on 11 December, as part of the 'Australian Synchrotron Scientific Opening' symposium**
- **Ongoing research and literature review**
- **Future (2008) meetings planning**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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

2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Activities during November 2007

Responses to part one of the questionnaire from government departments, parliamentary departments and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office have been received.

Clarification of questions and liaison with departments and agencies conducted.

Part two of the questionnaire to all departments, parliamentary departments drafted for consideration by the Committee.

Review of Annual Reports for departments and agencies for financial compliance underway.

Overview of the State's financial outcomes researched.

Future Activities

Further report planning to be undertaken.

Analysis of questionnaire part one responses from departments and further research.

Clarification of questionnaire part two responses with departments.

Report drafting and Committee consideration.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA

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

Activities during November 2007

Report drafting and further research undertaken.

The Committee sought an extension of the reporting date to 31 March 2008 to allow for further research and consultation.

Future Activity

Draft report to be considered by the Committee.

AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

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

Activities during November 2007

The Auditor-General briefed the Committee on the development of his 2008-09 Annual Plan and annual budgetary estimates.

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

Noting of the draft performance audit report on the Auditor-General’s Office by John Phillips.

Future Activities

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

Consideration of the Response by the Minister for Finance to the Auditor-General’s Reports 2006-07.

Response to John Phillips’ Performance Audit Report on the Auditor-General’s Office to be drafted and considered by the Committee.

An update of the Protocol Statement between the Committee and the Auditor-General will be further considered.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Government response due 20 March 2008.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Planning of the Inquiry to commence in early 2008.

INQUIRY INTO TRUSTEE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GOVERNING THE PARLIAMENTARY CONTRIBUTORY SUPERANNUATION FUND

Government response due 11 April 2008.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Members:

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

Chair: Mr John Eren, MP

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

INQUIRY INTO VEHICLE SAFETY

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

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

Activity during November 2007

The public hearings continued. Intelligent Transport Systems (Australia), Honda Australia, Mazda, Hyundai, and Isuzu all provided evidence to the Committee.

Future Activity

Public Hearings will re-commence in the New Year and writing of the draft report will commence.

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 November 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 November 2007

The forty-nine submissions are now available online on the Committee's website.

The Committee received background briefings from the key agencies: Department of Infrastructure, VicRoads, Public Transport Safety Victoria, and the Victorian Railway Crossing Safety Steering Committee.

Future Activity

Site visits and public hearings are being scheduled for the New Year.

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

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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

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 November 2007

- **A Regional Public Hearing was held on 14 November in Echuca with the following witnesses appearing:**
 - **Mr Keith Baillie and Ms Carlie Bell – Campaspe Shire Council**
 - **Ms Maureen Bennett – Echuca-Moama Tourism**
 - **Mr Dean Oberin – Oscar W’s Wharfside Redside Grill and Deckbar**
 - **Mr Vern Beasley – Murray River Paddlesteamers Pty Ltd**
 - **Mr David Harper – Rich River Golf Club**
 - **Mr Frank Ryan – Port of Echuca**
 - **Mr Alan Richardson – Individual**

- **A Regional Public Hearing was held on 15 November in Shepparton with the following witnesses appearing:**
 - **Mr Kym and Ms Kaye Bernardi – Big4 Shepparton East Holiday Park**
 - **Ms Dawn Taylor – Shepparton Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
 - **Mr Fred O’Keefe – Broken River Vineyards**
 - **Ms Cheryl Hammer – Woodlands Estate Lavender Farm**
 - **Mr Sandy MacKenzie – Tourism Lakes and Ranges, and Burnt Creek Landcare**
 - **Ms Jane Starey – Tourism Lakes and Ranges, and Avenel Maze**
 - **Mr Bernard Schaff – Transglobal Destinations**

- Ms Pat Shone, Mr Bruce Tuhan and Mr Terry Harbor – Numurkah District Tourism Association
 - Ms Yvonne Newham – Numurkah Visitor Information Centre
 - Ms Sharlene Putman – Greater Shepparton Tourism Association
 - Mr Mark Francis – City of Greater Shepparton
 - Mr Fred O’Keefe – Individual
- A Public Hearing was held on 19 November in Melbourne with the following witnesses appearing:
 - Mr Peter Brohier – Former National Sea Highway Committee
 - Ms Cheryl Forge and Mr Don Dunstan – Public Interest Lobbyists
 - Mr Bob Farmer, Mr Lynn Oaten and Mr Earl Orenstein – Victorian Caravan Parks Association
 - Mr John Morse AM – Tourism Victoria and the Aboriginal Tourism Marketing Association
 - Mr Robert Freemantle – VicRoads
 - Ms Lois Peeler – Aboriginal Tourism Australia
 - Professor Peter Forsyth – Tourism Research Unit, Monash University

Committee Secretariat

- Planning and organisation of regional public hearings in Ballarat for December
- Briefing papers prepared for Ballarat public hearings
- Presentation to the Committee of a draft chapter outline and case study suggestions
- Presentation to the Committee, and deliberation on, draft report recommendations
- Further development of the schedule of public hearings and site visits for 2008
- Internet scan of inquiry related media
- Overhaul of Media Sources database to align outlets with regions
- Research on regional and rural tourism issues continued
- Costing and exploratory research in relation to 2008 hearings and site visits
- Ongoing background research and literature review continued
- Updating of the Committee website as required

Future activities

- **Public Hearings to be held in Traralgon, Lakes Entrance, Port Campbell, Lorne, Wodonga, and Yarrawonga in 2008**
- **Preparation of briefing papers for Public Hearings as required**
- **Processing of transcripts from Public Hearings and contacting witnesses as required**
- **Continuation 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**
- **Summarisation of submissions and witness information received**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review**

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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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

Activity during November 2007

The Committee met on the 19 November 2007, where it considered and adopted the following reports.

- **Alert Digest No. 15**

Children's Services and Education Legislation Amendment (Anaphylaxis Management) Bill 2007

Fair Trading and Consumer Acts Further Amendment Bill 2007

Gambling Legislation Amendment (Problem Gambling and Other Measures) Bill 2007

Health (Fluoridation) Amendment Bill 2007

Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 1) Bill 2007

Liquor Control Reform Amendment Bill 2007

Motor Car Traders Amendment Bill 2007

National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment Bill 2007

Police Regulation Amendment Bill 2007

Road Legislation Further Amendment Bill 2007

State Taxation and Accident Compensation Acts Amendment Bill 2007

Transport Accident and Accident Compensation Acts Amendment Bill 2007

Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2007

Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Bill 2007

SUBCOMMITTEES

Redundant Legislation

Mr Edward O'Donohue, MLC (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC

Mrs Inga Peulich, MLC
Ms Jaala Pulford, MLC

Activity during November 2007

The Subcommittee did not meet.

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 November 2007

The Subcommittee met on 13 November 2007, where it considered and adopted the following regulations:

- **Statutory Rules 2007**

SR No. 53 – Equipment (Public Safety) Regulations 2007

SR No. 54 – Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007

SR No. 55 – Subordinate Legislation (Professional Boxing and Martial Arts Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007

SR No. 56 – Magistrates' Court (Committals)(Amendment) Rules 2007

SR No. 57 – Magistrates' Court (Criminal Procedure) (Amendment) Rules 2007

SR No. 58 – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 59 – Working with Children (Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 60 – Disability Regulations 2007

SR No. 61 – Education and Training Reform Regulations 2007

SR No. 62 – Health Professions Registration Regulations 2007

SR No. 64 – City of Melbourne (Docklands Co-Ordination Committee) Regulations 2007

SR No. 65 – Docklands (Register of Rights) Regulations 2007

SR No. 66 – Transfer of Land (Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 67 – Country Fire Authority (Charges) Regulations 2007

SR No. 71 – Road Safety (General)(Prescribed Devices and Operator Onus Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 72 – Road Safety (Drivers)(Young Drivers) Interim Regulations 2007

SR No. 73 – Road Safety (General)(Young Drivers) Interim Regulations 2007

SR No. 74 – Road Safety (Road Rules)(Young Drivers) Interim

SR No. 76 – Environment Protection (Prescribed Waste)(Amendment) Regulations 2007

Regulations 2007

SR No. 77 – Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions) Regulations 2007

SR No. 78 – Valuation of Land (General and Supplementary Valuation)(Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 79 – Estate Agents (Fees) Regulations 2007

SR No. 80 – Heritage (Historic Shipwrecks) Regulations 2007

**SR No. 82 – Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use)
Regulations 2007**

GAMING LICENSING SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

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

Members:

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

Chair: *Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips*

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO GAMING LICENSING

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on —

1. the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to post-2008 public lotteries licensing in Victoria pursuant to the Gambling Regulation Act 2003 (the Act) and any related matter;
2. the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to the extension of Tattersall's public lotteries licence until 30 June 2008;
3. the conduct, processes and circumstances (including but not limited to the probity thereof) pertaining to post-2012 Electronic Gaming Machine (EGM) operator licensing in Victoria pursuant to the Act, and any related matter;
4. the adequacy or otherwise of the legislative and regulatory framework pertaining to the number, location, distribution and specification of EGMs in Victoria and any related matter;
5. the effectiveness or otherwise of current measures to minimise and address the incidence of problem gambling in Victoria, the merits of alternative measures and any related matter;
6. the financial position of the Community Support Fund (the Fund) described in the Act, including, but not limited to:
 - a. payments into the Fund under section 10.3.2 of the Act (and its predecessors);
 - b. payments from the Fund under section 10.3.3 of the Act (and its predecessors); and
 - c. the criteria, processes and methodology for the selection of projects funded by payments referred to in sub-paragraph (ii) above; and
 - d. the community benefit statements prepared by those venues not required to contribute to the Fund;
7. any other associated matters dealing with gaming licensing issues.

Activities during November

- Revision of evidence presented in relation parts 1 and 2 of the terms of reference
- Resolved to commence hearings in relation to parts 3 to 6 of the terms of reference.

Future Activity

Public Hearings in relation to parts 3 to 6 of the Terms of Reference proposed for 11 December 2007 with:

- Department of Justice
- Tattersall's Limited
- Clubs Victoria
- Tabcorp Limited
- Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation.

Further Public Hearings proposed for early 2008.

PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

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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

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 November

Public Hearings held on 7 & 8 November in relation to issues concerning the proposed sale and development of public land in and round Port Campbell and Apollo Bay, with evidence received from the following:

- **Sahara J Enterprises**
- **Port Campbell Community Group**
- **Warnambool Golf Club**
- **Corangamite Shire Council**
- **Port Campbell Fisherman's Association**
- **Protectors of Public Land**
- **Colac Otway Shire**
- **Apollo Bay and Kennett River Public Reserves Committee**
- **Otway Forum**
- **And a number of local residents.**

Public Hearings held in Melbourne on 19 November with evidence received from the following:

- **Department of Sustainability and Environment**
- **Municipal Association of Victoria**

Public Hearings held in Melbourne on 27 & 28 November with evidence received from the following:

- **Department of Planning and Community Development**
- **Hon Alan Hunt**
- **Interface Councils**
- **Save Our Suburbs**
- **City of Moonee Valley**
- **Green Wedges Coalition**
- **Frankston City Council**

Future Activity

Public Hearings proposed for 13 December 2007, with further public hearings proposed for early 2008.

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

