



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 31 January 2008

56th Parliament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

(Assembly) *Hon A Haermeyer, Mr H Delahunty, Mrs J Maddigan,
Mr A McIntosh and Mr D Morris.*

Chair: Mrs Judy Maddigan

Executive Officer: Ms 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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **The Final Report was Adopted on 5 December 2008**
- **The Final Report was tabled on 6 December 2008**
- **Mailout of Report**
- **Archiving of inquiry documents undertaken.**

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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **Review of literature commenced.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The Misuse/Abuse of Benzodiazepines and Other Forms of Pharmaceutical Drugs in Victoria — Response due 6 June 2008

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

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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **The Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion on 20 November 2007 to extend the reporting date for the Committee's Inquiry into Key Competitive Advantages in Victoria's Financial Services Sector from 31 December 2007 to 31 July 2008**
- **Drafting of final chapters of the report on Biofuels continued**
- **Committee met on 18 December 2007 to consider completed chapters**
- **Committee met on 23 January 2008 to consider final draft of the report**
- **Report of Inquiry into Mandatory Ethanol and Biofuels Targets in Victoria to be adopted and tabled in the first sitting week of 2008.**

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 N Elasmr and Mr P Hall*

(Assembly) *Mr M Dixon, Dr A Harkness, Mr S Herbert, Mr G Howard and Mr N Kotsiras*

Chair: Mr Geoff Howard

Executive Officer: Ms Karen Ellingford

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 December 2007 and January 2008

The Committee did not hold any meetings or hearings for this inquiry during December 2007 and January 2008.

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 December 2007 and January 2008

A mailout of over 700 stakeholders was conducted, inviting written submissions to this inquiry.

Future Activity

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

The first public hearings will be held in Melbourne throughout February – April. Regional hearings will be held during May – June.

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 December 2007 and January 2008

The Committee tabled its final report on 5 December 2007.

Future Activity

The Government response is due to be tabled by 5 June 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

Executive Officer: Mr 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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **Further preparation of Chapters of Draft Report**
- **Committee consideration of issues arising from Chapter Two of draft report**
- **Briefing papers prepared on a range of issues.**

Future Activities

- **Meeting with Hanover Welfare Services clients and staff on 25 February 2008 for discussion on electoral participation**
- **Further consideration of the draft report by Committee**
- **Next meetings 4 February and 25 February 2008.**

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 John Pandazopoulos

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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **Research and literature review.**

Future Activities

- **Ongoing 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.

Activities during December 2007 and January 2008

- **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

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Finn, Mr J Scheffer, Mr. A Somyurek*

(Assembly) *Mr W Noonan, Mr. J Perrera, Mrs E J Powell, Ms M Wooldridge*

Chair: Mr J Perrera

Executive Officer: Mr 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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **Preparation of draft report chapters.**

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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

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

Members:

(Council) *Mrs J Kronberg, Mr E O'Donohue, Mr J Scheffer (from 9 August 2007), Mr B Tee (member and Chair until 9 August 2007)*

(Assembly) *Mr C Brooks, Mr R Clark, Mr L Donnellan, Mr M Foley, Mrs J Maddigan (member from 8 August 2007 until 30 October 2007) and Mr T Lupton (member until 8 August 2007)*

Chair: Mr Johan Scheffer (from 20 August 2007)

Executive Officer: Ms Kerryn 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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **Two further submissions to this inquiry were received, taking the total number of submissions to 16**
- **The Committee commenced drafting its final report.**

Future activities

- **The Committee will consider the draft final report**
- **The Committee's final report will be tabled by 31 March 2008.**

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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **A further 11 submissions were received. The Committee has now received 32 submissions in relation to this inquiry. A number of extensions have also been granted.**
- **The Committee held a public hearing in Melbourne on 10 December 2007. The following witnesses gave evidence at the public hearing:**

The Victorian Bar

- **Mr Michael Heaton QC, Chair, Victorian Bar Dispute Resolution Committee**
- **Mr Tony Nolan SC, Victorian Bar Advanced Mediator**
- **Ms Danielle Huntersmith, Victorian Bar Accredited Mediator**
- **Mr Ross Nankivell, Legal Policy Officer**

Law Institute of Victoria

- **Mr Ian Lulham, Chair, LIV ADR Committee**
- **Ms Elissa Campbell, Solicitor, LIV Litigation Section**

County Court of Victoria

- **Her Honour Judge Davis**
- **Her Honour Judge Kennedy**

Supreme Court of Victoria

- **The Honourable Justice Murray Kellam AO**

Children's Court of Victoria

- **Judge Paul Grant, President of the Children's Court**

- **The Committee continued conducting research and evidence-gathering in relation to this inquiry.**

Future activities

- **The Committee will hold further public hearings in February and March 2008.**
- **Representatives of the Committee will travel to New Zealand in February 2008 to meet key stakeholders in relation to restorative justice.**

INQUIRY INTO VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 September 2008 on the effect of vexatious litigants on the justice system and the individuals and agencies who are victims of vexatious litigants and, the Committee should:

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

Activity during December 2007 and January 2008

- **A search was conducted of the Supreme Court files of persons declared vexatious litigants in Victoria.**

Future activities

- **Preliminary background research and scoping will continue.**
- **Preliminary meetings will be held with key stakeholders.**
- **An issues paper will be drafted.**

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmir, Mr M Guy and Ms C Hartland*

(Assembly) *Ms D Green, Mr D Hodggett, Mr D Nardella, Mr G Seitz and Hon K Smith*

Chair: Mr George Seitz

Executive Officer: Mr Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Referred by 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:

- (a) Examine existing local economic development programs being carried out by municipalities in outer suburban areas;
- (b) Identify the barriers to local economic development and the ways in which these can be addressed;
- (c) Investigate and recommend incentive arrangements for industry and the respective responsibilities of each tier of government;
- (d) Investigate the role of council local economic development units and the types of assistance they provide;
- (e) 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;
- (f) Identify export based operations and opportunities in outer suburban areas and recommend options to encourage their growth;
- (g) 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 December 2007 and January 2008

- Ongoing research and literature review
- Future 2008 meetings planned.

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

11 December 2007

Australian Synchrotron Scientific Opening Symposium – a symposium presented by the Australian Synchrotron, Clayton, Melbourne.

Future Activities

- **Ongoing research and drafting of report**
- **Public Hearings, Forums and Site Visits scheduled for March and April 2008.**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Mr Bob Stensholt

Executive Officer: Ms Valerie Cheong

2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Activities during December 2006/January 2007

Responses to part two of the questionnaire from government departments have been received.

Review of annual reports for departments and agencies for financial compliance continuing.

Future Activities

Further report planning to be undertaken.

Analysis of questionnaire part two responses from departments and agencies and further research to continue.

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(1).

Activities during December 2006/January 2007

Report drafting and further research undertaken.

The Committee received 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 December 2006/January 2007

Preliminary development briefs of the Auditor-General’s draft Annual Plan 2008-09 considered.

Consideration of the response by the Minister for Finance to the Auditor-General’s reports, issued during 2006-07.

Planning, scoping and prioritisation of reviews and follow-up of audit reports tabled by the Auditor-General in 2006-07.

Consideration of the Review of New Ticketing System Tender October 2007 audit findings and recommendations to be brought forward, as publicly announced.

Future Activities

Consideration of the Auditor-General’s draft Annual Plan 2008-09.

Reviews (including public hearings) and follow-ups of the findings and recommendations of various audit reports tabled in 2006-07 to be considered by the Committee.

The Audit Sub-Committee to consider the scoping of a number of performance audits.

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

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

Response to John Phillip’s report on the Performance Audit of the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (November 2007) to be developed and considered.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Activities during December 2006/January 2007

Scoping of new inquiry and preparation for hearings with Ministers.

Future Activities

Development of questionnaires for Ministers and departments

Conduct hearings

Development of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One and Part Two for tabling May-June 2008

Development of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part Three for tabling October 2008

NEW INQUIRY INTO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Future Activity

Terms of reference for a new inquiry to be scoped for consideration in February 2008

INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Government response due 20 March 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

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

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr D Koch and Mr S Leane*

(Assembly) *Mr J Eren, Mr C Langdon, Mr T Mulder, Mr I Trezise, and Mr P Weller*

Chair: Mr John Eren

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

INQUIRY INTO VEHICLE SAFETY

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

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

Activities during December 2007 and January 2008

The Committee reviewed the existing evidence, determined who the remaining witnesses should be and began preliminary drafting of report.

Future Activity

Public Hearings will re-commence in February and draft recommendations considered.

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.

Activities during December 2007 and January 2008

Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

INQUIRY INTO LEVEL CROSSINGS

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 –

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.

Activities during December 2007 and January 2008

The Committee planned a series of public hearings and site inspections for this inquiry, beginning with two days of inspections of crash sites in the western region of Victoria in February

A number of Committee members will also attend a one day workshop on Intelligent Transport Systems for Level Crossings, to be held 29 February 2008 in Port Melbourne.

Future Activity

Begin public hearings in March.

RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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Members:

(Council) Ms K Darveniza, Mr D Drum, Ms W Lovell, Ms G Tierney,
Mr J Vogels

(Assembly) Ms K Marshall, Mr R Northe

Chair: Mr Damian Drum

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 December 2007 and January 2008

- **Committee Meeting 13, held on 3 December 2007, considered the draft chapter outline, and commenced consideration of the draft recommendations**
- **Committee Meeting 14, held on 12 December 2007, continued with consideration of the draft recommendations**
- **A Regional Public Hearing was held on 12 December in Ballarat with the following witnesses appearing:**
 - **Mr John Gleeson – Ballarat Tourism Association**
 - **Ms Juliet Sheed and Ms Marion Da Costa – private citizens**
 - **Mr George Sossi – Ballarat Tourism**
 - **Ms Barbara Chalkley – City of Ballarat**
 - **Dr Mary Hollick and Dr Janine McDonald – University of Ballarat**
 - **Mr Peter Davies, Mr Victor Szwed, Mr Stephen Cornish, Dr Doug Lloyd and Mr Jonathan Osmond – Committee for Ballarat**
 - **Mr Graeme Johnstone – Clunes Tourist and Development Organisation.**

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**
- **Preparation of draft report chapters**
- **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**
- **Committee Secretariat representative attended *Midsumma Carnival and Victorians on Vacation* exhibition in relation to the Tourism inquiry.**

Future activities

- **Public Hearings to be held in Traralgon and Lakes Entrance in February**
- **Approval to be sought for Public Hearings to be held in Port Campbell, Lorne, Wodonga and Yarrawonga in 2008**
- **Approval to be sought to conduct an evidence seeking trip to New Zealand during 2008**
- **Preparation of briefing papers for Public Hearings as required**
- **Processing of transcripts from Public Hearings and contacting witnesses as required**
- **Preparation of draft chapters**
- **Planning for drafting and consideration of report by the Committee**
- **Continuation of presentation to committee of draft recommendations for consideration**
- **Summary of submissions and witness information received**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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

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

Members

(Council) *Mr K Eideh, Mr E O'Donohue, Mrs I Peulich and Ms J Pulford*
(Assembly) *Mr C Brooks, Mr C Carli (Chair), Mr K Jasper (Deputy Chair),
Mr T Languiller and Mr R Smith*

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli

Executive Officer: Mr Andrew Homer

FULL COMMITTEE

Activity during December 2007 and January 2008

The Committee met on the 3 December 2007, where it considered and adopted the following reports.

- Alert Digest No. 16

Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games) (Enforcement) Amendment Bill 2007
Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2007
Equal Opportunity Amendment (Family Responsibilities) Bill 2007
Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2007
Port Services Amendment Bill 2007.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Redundant Legislation

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

Activity during December 2007 – January 2008

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 December 2007 and January 2008

The Subcommittee met on 12 December 2007, where it considered and adopted the following regulations:

- **Statutory Rules 2007**

SR No. 81 – Terrorism (Community Protection)(Prescribed Standards) Regulations 2007

SR No. 83 – Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use)(Infringement Notices)(Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 84 – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Precursor Chemicals) Regulations 2007

SR No. 85 – Plumbing (Fees Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 86 – Magistrates' Court (Judicial Registrars)(Amendment) Rules 2007

SR No. 87 – Court Security (Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 88 – Crimes (Certified Statement of Conviction) Regulations 2007

SR No. 89 – Radiation Regulations 2007

SR No. 90 – Road Safety (Vehicles)(Heavy Vehicles Fees Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 91 – Supreme Court (Chapter I Amendment No.9) Rules 2007

SR No. 92 – Supreme Court (Chapter II Amendment No.7) Rules 2007

SR No. 93 – Supreme Court (Chapter VI Amendment No.12) Rules 2007

SR No. 94 – Supreme Court (Chapter VI Amendment No.13) Rules 2007

SR No. 95 – Subordinate Legislation (Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007

SR No. 96 – Subordinate Legislation (Co-Operatives Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007

SR No. 97 – Subordinate Legislation (Estate Agents (Contracts) Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007

SR No. 98 – Subordinate Legislation (Chattel Securities Regulations 1997 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2007

SR No. 100 – Gambling Regulation (Sports Betting Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 108 – Transfer of Land (Fees)(Further Amendment) Regulations 2007

SR No. 109 – Tobacco Regulations 2007.

GAMING LICENSING SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

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

Members:

(Council) Mr G Barber, Mr D Drum, Mr P Kavanagh, Mr M Guy and Mr M 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 December 2007 and January 2008

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

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

Future Activity

Further Public Hearings proposed as follows:

- **11 February 2008**
 - Macedon Ranges Shire Council
 - City of Moreland
 - Victorian Local Governance Association
- **12 February 2008**
 - Responsible Gaming Networks
 - Council of Gamblers Help Services
 - Chrysalis Insight
 - Victorian Council of Social Services
 - Grandparents Victoria
 - Duty of Care
 - City of Greater Geelong
- **18 February 2008**
 - Dr Charles Livingstone
 - Intralot
 - Dr James Doughney
 - Department of Planning and Community Development
 - City of Darebin
- **3 March 2008**
 - Salvation Army
 - InterChurch Gaming Taskforce
 - John Stansfield, Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand
 - AMC Convergent IT
 - Regis Controls.

PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

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

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

Members:

(Council) Mr P Hall, Mr P Kavanagh, Mr E O'Donohue, Ms S Pennicuik,
and Mr E Thornley

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 December 2007 and January 2008

Public Hearings held in Melbourne on 13 December 2007 with evidence received from the following:

- **Tourism Victoria**
- **Mirvac Group**

Public Hearings held in Melbourne on 30 and 31 January 2008 with evidence received from the following:

- **Professor Catherin Bull**
- **Parks Victoria**
- **National Trust**
- **City of Stonnington**
- **City of Greater Dandenong**
- **Associate Professor Mardie**
- **Department of Infrastructure**
- **Mr Peter Carroll**
- **VicTrack**

Future Activity

Further Public Hearings proposed as follows:

- **13 February 2008 – Caulfield Racecourse**
 - **Melbourne Racing Club**
 - **Glen Eira Council**
 - **Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trustees**
 - **Glen Eira Community Association**
 - **Glen Eira Residents Association**
 - **Mr Frank Penhalluriack**
 - **Mr Peter Brohier**
- **5 March 2008 – St Kilda Triangle**
- **17 March 2008**
- **18 March 2008**
- **3 April 2008**
- **21 April 2008**

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