



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 31 JULY 2009

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 with investigatory functions.

1. The Joint Investigatory 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 and Standing 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

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr S Leane, Ms J Mikakos and Mrs A Cooté*

(Assembly) *Mr H Delahunty, Mrs J Maddigan, Ms L Beattie and
Mr D Morris.*

Chair: Mrs Judy Maddigan

Executive Officer: Ms Sandy Cook

INQUIRY INTO JUSTICE AND CRIME STRATEGIES IN HIGH VOLUME CRIMES

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007* – to inquire into and report upon justice and crime strategies in high volume crimes such as theft and property related offences, which often involve young people, with the Committee to provide recommendations on:

- (a) causal factors that may influence patterns of high volume crime; with particular emphasis on repeat offences committed by young people; and
- (b) strategies that may be effective in addressing the underlying causal factors or recidivist patterns of offending.

*extended to 30 November 2009 by the Legislative Assembly on 30 July 2008

Activities during July 2009

- Drafting, editing and deliberation of the Final Report.
- Final Report adopted
- Final Report tabled on 28 July 2009
- Mail out of Final Report.

INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CRIME AGAINST THE PERSON

Referred by the Legislative Council on 29 July 2009 – for inquiry, consideration and report on strategies to reduce crime against the person in Victoria and, in particular:

- (a) the level, nature and incidence of crimes against the person in Victoria and the trends in recent years;
- (b) the impact of these crimes on vulnerable groups, migrants, overseas students and the elderly;
- (c) strategies to address these crimes and reduce their incidence and increase the apprehension and conviction of offenders;
- (d) the role of community policing and local community organisations; and

- (e) the level of police resources in Victoria and their distribution throughout the State;
and to report by 30 August 2010.

Activities in July

- 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: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Atkinson, Mr D Davis and Mr B Tee*

(Assembly) *Hon C Campbell, Mr P Crisp, Mr H Lim and
Ms M Thomson*

Chair: Hon Christine Campbell

Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

INQUIRY INTO IMPROVING ACCESS TO VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION AND DATA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 27 February 2008 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on the potential application of open source licensing to Victorian Government information – and, in particular, the Committee is required to:

- (a) report on the potential economic benefits and costs to Victoria of maximising access to and use of Government information for commercial and/or non-commercial purposes, including consideration of:
 - (i) public policy developments elsewhere in Australia and internationally; and
 - (ii) the types of information that will provide the greatest potential benefit;
- (b) consider whether use of open source licensing models, including Creative Commons, would enhance the discovery, access and use of Government information;
- (c) report on the use of information and communication technology to support discovery, access and use of Government information; and
- (d) identify likely risks, impediments and restrictions to open source licensing of Government information, including impacts on and implications for any existing cost recovery arrangements.

Activities during July 2009

- Mail out of report continued

Future Activities

- Government Response due December 2009

INQUIRY INTO THE VICTORIAN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 9 June 2009 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2010 on the state of manufacturing in Victoria – and, in particular, the Committee is requested to:

- (a) Explore the necessary criteria used by businesses to transfer offshore manufacturing to Victoria.
- (b) Identify and report on the factors which influence businesses in determining whether to manufacture in Australia or overseas including the consideration of:
 - (i) the retention of intellectual property rights;
 - (ii) maintaining consistent quality standards in line with both Federal and State laws;
 - (iii) probity matters;
 - (iv) assistance and incentives provided by governments; and
 - (v) the impact that the global deterioration in economic conditions in recent months will have on future decisions regarding manufacturing locations.

Activity during July 2009

- Advertisements calling for submissions placed in selected newspapers.
- Stakeholder list and database prepared
- Literature reviewed
- Arrangements made for Public Hearings.

Future Activity

- Submissions accepted and placed on Committee's website
- Public Hearings scheduled for 6 and 7 August 2009, and 7 and 14 September 2009.

INQUIRY INTO STATE GOVERNMENT TAXATION AND DEBT

Referred by the Legislative Council on 29 July 2009 – that the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report on the impact and effectiveness of increased State Government taxation (including land tax, payroll tax, stamp duties, State Government taxes and charges and development levies) and increased State Government debt on Victorian —

- (a) development;
- (b) competitiveness;
- (c) sustainability;
- (d) employment;
- (e) job creation; and
- (f) small businesses, including their national and international competitiveness under the State Government's current taxation arrangements;

and to table an interim report by 28 February 2010 and a final report by 30 September 2010.

Future Activity

- Call for Submissions to be advertised August 2009
- Research Officer recruitment August 2009.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2821 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: etc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmir 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

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.

The Committee will be exploring the reasons for and impact of such differences and would be interested in receiving comment on:

- a) variations in the number and type of university applications, offers, acceptances and completions in different metropolitan, rural and regional areas;
- b) influences of school retention rates, including enrolments and completions for VCE, VCAL and VET in schools on participation in higher education;
- c) 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;
- d) potential geographic, economic, social, cultural and other influences on university applications, offers, acceptances and completions across Victorian communities;
- e) 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;
- f) potential effects of geographical differences in participation in higher education on skills shortages and the Victorian economy; and
- g) strategies to address any barriers contributing to geographic differences in participation in higher education.

Activity during July 2009

The Committee tabled its final report in Parliament on Tuesday 28 July 2009.

Future Activity

The Government response is due in January 2010.

SKILLS SHORTAGES IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2009 on skills shortages in the rail industry — and the Committee is to explore possible solutions and, in particular, is asked to consider:

- a) factors influencing recruitment and retention;
- b) demographic profile of the workforce and the outlook for future retirements and loss of skills;
- c) implications of the Victorian Industry and Manufacturing Statement commitment in relation to local content; and
- d) whether there is any need for increased training opportunities at university and trade levels and, if so, how industry can stimulate student/user demand.

Activity during July 2009

The Committee conducted public hearings at Parliament House on 20 July, 23 July and 27 July. Organisations represented at the hearings were:

- Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development
- Engineers Australia
- Transport & Logistics Industry Skills Council
- Re-Engineering Australia Foundation
- Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
- Asciano (Pacific National)
- Downer EDI Rail
- Electrical Trades Union Victoria
- Connex Melbourne
- Australasian Railways Association, Rail Skills and Careers Council
- V/Line Passenger

Future Activity

The Committee will continue to accept written submissions and will conduct further public hearings and site visits.

POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SCHOOLS TO BECOME A FOCUS FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY COMMUNITY LIVING

To the Education and Training Committee — for inquiry consideration and report no later than 1 July 2010 on the potential for developing opportunities for schools to become a focus for promoting healthy community living, in particular:

- a) existing activities carried out by schools to promote holistic healthy living within their school communities involving healthy eating, active lifestyles, sun smart awareness and appreciation of the effects of harmful substances;

- b) successful programs which have been instituted in schools in other states or internationally;
- c) identify whether it is appropriate for the State to encourage schools to extend health programs to be directed at the broader school community and, if so, what the most effective and efficient approaches are;
- d) opportunities for linking with community leaders and forming partnerships with business and community organisations;
- e) existing broader health promotion policies and activities; and
- f) how school-based activities could relate and coordinate with these to maximise impact and efficiency.

Activity during July 2009

The Committee was receiving written submissions throughout July 2009.

Future Activity

The Committee will continue to accept written submissions and commence public hearings later this year.

EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 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.

Future Activity

The Government response is due in August 2009.

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2885 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2858

Email: emc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) Ms C Broad, Mr P Davis 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 POLITICAL DONATIONS AND DISCLOSURE

Referred by the Legislative Council on 16 April 2008 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 April 2009 on —

- (1) whether the *Electoral Act 2002* should be amended to create a system of political donations disclosure and/or restrictions on political donations; and
- (2) the outcome resulting from similar legislative reforms introduced in Canada, the United Kingdom and other relevant jurisdictions.

Future Activities

- Government response due 7 November 2009
- Political Donations forum on *Dollars and Democracy – How Best to Regulate Money in Australian Politics*, featuring Adem Somyurek, MLC, Chair, Michael O'Brien MP, Deputy Chair of Committee, Sue Pennicuik, MLC and John Roskam, Institute of Public Affairs and moderated by Peter Mares, ABC Radio National in Legislative Assembly chamber, Parliament House Melbourne on Monday 27 July 2009 for rebroadcast in August 2009.

INQUIRY INTO VOTER PARTICIPATION AND INFORMAL VOTING

Committee self-generated new terms of reference on 5 May 2008, as follows -

Pursuant to Section 33(3) of the **Parliamentary Committees Act 2003**, the Electoral Matters Committee inquire into and report to Parliament upon issues relating to – (i) voter participation; and (ii) informal voting.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 June 2009.

Activities during July 2009

- Secretariat continued to prepare inquiry material for Committee consideration

- Committee considered draft chapters of report at meetings on 13, 20 and 27 July 2009
- Committee adopted report on 27 July 2009 and tabled on 30 July 2009.

Future Activities

- Mail out of report to interested individuals and organisations
- Government response due 30 January 2010.

INQUIRY INTO MATTERS ARISING FROM KOROROIT DISTRICT BY-ELECTION

Referred by the Legislative Council on 1 April 2009 to inquire, consider and report no later than 28 February 2010 —

- (1) on the deliberate misleading of the electors in the 28 June 2008 Kororoit by-election, whereby a pamphlet authorised by the Secretary of the Australian Labor Party was distributed that claimed “A vote for Les Twentyman is a vote for the Liberals” contributing, in the opinion of the Victorian Electoral Commissioner, to “an undesirable trend for candidates to take advantage or build on community misunderstandings of preferential voting with confusing statements”; and
- (2) as the Victorian Electoral Commissioner has suggested in his Report on the Kororoit District By-election held on 28 June 2008, whether the *Electoral Act 2002* should be amended to improve the operation of the misleading provisions of the Act so that such abuses are more likely to be successfully prosecuted.

Activities during July 2009

- Advertisements seeking public submissions to inquiry placed in *The Age* and *Herald Sun* on 4 July 2009, with closing date for submissions 3 August 2009
- Private briefing from Mr Steve Tully, Electoral Commissioner, Victorian Electoral Commission scheduled for Monday 27 July 2009, postponed to public hearing.

Future Activities

- Submissions summarised, briefing pack for public hearings prepared for Committee members and witnesses invited to appear
- Public hearings in the Legislative Council Committee Room, second floor, Parliament House scheduled for Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 August 2009.

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: 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

Executive Officer: Ms Caroline Williams

INQUIRY INTO THE APPROVALS PROCESS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN VICTORIA

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 - to inquire, consider and report no later than 31 December 2009 on opportunities to reduce red tape associated with the approvals process for renewable energy projects in Victoria — in particular the Committee is asked to consider:

- (a) the major obstacles facing investors in large-scale renewable energy projects in Victoria, including environmental, planning and other regulations;
- (b) how Victoria compares to other Australian jurisdictions with regard to relevant approvals for renewable energy projects - in particular wind farms as they are the most common form;
- (c) opportunities to reduce risk and delays for investors, whether that be through streamlining regulatory processes, appeals processes or other costs/risks;
- (d) the likely future drivers of renewable energy in Victoria, particularly in the context of the carbon pollution reduction scheme and the expanded federal renewable energy target;
- (e) other reviews and inquiries covering similar issues — this would include the Australian Energy Market Commission's review of energy market frameworks in light of climate change policies and the Environment Protection and Heritage Council's report on impediments to environmentally and socially responsible wind farm development.

Activities during July 2009

- Background research on the approvals process for renewable energy projects in Victoria
- 34 submissions received to date. Late submissions are being accepted

- Public hearing on 6 July with the Clean Energy Council, Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action; Pacific Hydro; CitiPower and Powercor Australia; and Tract Consultants on behalf of Union Fenosa Wind Australia giving evidence
- Briefing from the Department of Primary Industries; Department of Sustainability and Environment and Department of Planning and Community Development on the terms of reference (21 July)
- Public hearing on 27 July with Tenax Energy, Ceramic Fuel Cells Ltd, Vestas Australian Wind Energy, AGL Energy and the Alternative Technology Association giving evidence
- Secretariat staff to attend Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering briefing on clean coal technologies (30 July)
- Organisation of forthcoming public hearings.

Future Activities

- Public hearings on 10 August in Melbourne at 55 St Andrews Place (1-4pm) with Environment Victoria, the Environment Defenders Office, SMARTimbers Cooperative and other witnesses to give evidence
- Secretariat staff to attend Resources Victoria Technical Forum (19 August)
- Public hearing in Ararat, 24-25 August.

INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT PROCESS IN VICTORIA

The Legislative Council agreed on 29 July 2009 that pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, the Environment and Natural Resources Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report on the following:

The environmental effects statement process in Victoria, including the operation of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*, and in particular —

- (a) any weaknesses in the current system including poor environmental outcomes, excessive costs and unnecessary delays encountered through the process and its mechanisms;
- (b) community and industry consultation under the Act;
- (c) the independence of environmental effects examination when government is the proponent; and
- (d) how better environmental outcomes can be achieved more quickly and predictably and with a reduction in unnecessary costs;

and to report by 30 August 2010.

Activities during July 2009

- Work has not commenced on this inquiry

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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

Email: fcde@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr B Finn, Mr J Scheffer,*

(Assembly) *Ms M Kairouz, Mr W Noonan, Mr J Perera, Mrs E J Powell,
Ms M Wooldridge*

Chair: Mr Jude Perera

Executive Officer: Dr Janine Bush

INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTORIANS WITH A DISABILITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS

To the Family and Community Development Committee — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on the provision of supported accommodation for Victorians with a disability and/or mental illness and, in particular, the Committee is asked to report on the current situation in Victoria and compare it to best practice in other jurisdictions regarding:

- (a) the standard and range of accommodation currently available;
- (b) the extent of accommodation and services currently available, including the different models for service delivery and funding;
- (c) the methods for measuring unmet demand for accommodation and how these can be improved;
- (d) the process for managing service quality;
- (e) availability of sufficient accommodation to meet future demand with an appropriate range of services;
- (f) access and service issues for particular groups, including rural communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and indigenous Australians; and
- (g) the impact on families of the current service provision of accommodation; and for the purpose of this inquiry 'supported accommodation' means public and private accommodation provided for people with a disability or mental illness who need additional support services but excludes mental health treatment services (SEC, PARC) and the disability forensic program (SFS).

INQUIRY ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S PROVISION OF SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION FOR VICTORIANS WITH A DISABILITY OR MENTAL ILLNESS

That this house requires the Family and Community Development Committee to inquire, consider and report, no later than 30 June 2009, on the state government's provision of supported accommodation for Victorians with a disability and/or mental illness with regard to the following:

- (1) description of current government funded supported accommodation, including the number and location of places, occupancy, staffing, demand management, methods of funding and oversight;
- (2) the adequacy of the current number of places and care provided in community residential units, residential institutions, community care units, secure extended care units, prevention and recovery care facilities and other forms of supported accommodation;
- (3) the adequacy and appropriateness of care and accommodation provided in various government, private and community facilities that accommodate clients with a disability or mental illness because of insufficient places in the specialist system, and in particular including supported residential services, boarding houses, public hospitals, nursing homes and SAAP funded services;
- (4) the impact on Victorian families of insufficient supported accommodation;
- (5) estimates of future supported accommodation needs and the appropriateness and transparency of the Government's management of demand and placement;
- (6) the government's response to unmet accommodation needs, including sources of funding, planning and delivery;
- (7) the ability of country Victorians to access supported accommodation and the appropriateness and quality of care they receive;
- (8) the ability of members of culturally and linguistically diverse communities to access supported accommodation and the appropriateness and quality of care they receive;
- (9) the appropriateness of the current mix of service providers, including government, private and community; and
- (10) alternate approaches addressing unmet needs in supported accommodation in Victoria.

Activities during July 2009

- Analysis of evidence & deliberation of key themes
- Identification of further evidence required.

Future Activities

- Ongoing thematic analysis of evidence
- Drafting report.

INQUIRY ON THE ADEQUACY AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN VICTORIA

The Legislative Council agreed on 29 July 2009 to a motion to refer a new reference to the Family & Community Development Committee requiring it to inquire, consider and report on:

The adequacy and future directions of public housing in Victoria, including —

- (a) public housing waiting lists in Victoria;
 - (b) the impact on individuals and families of waiting times to access public housing and how this varies by each segment;
 - (c) the adequacy, quality and standards of Victorian public housing;
 - (d) the safety and location of Victorian public housing and public housing estates; and
 - (e) the impact of public housing need on specific groups, including women, seniors, the homeless, indigenous Victorians, refugees, people with a mental illness, substance abuse and/or disability;
- and to report by 30 September 2010.

Activities during July 2009

- This inquiry has not yet commenced.

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: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/lawreform

Members:

(Council) Mrs J Kronberg, Mr J Scheffer

(Assembly) Mr C Brooks, Mr R Clark, Mr L Donnellan, Mr M Foley,
Mrs J Maddigan, Mr T Lupton, Mrs Heidi Victoria

Chair: Mr Johan Scheffer (from 20 August 2007)

Executive Officer: Ms Kerry Riseley

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2009* 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.

* The reporting date was extended to 31 May 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 31 March 2009.

Activities

- The Committee tabled its final report on 6 May 2009
- The Government response is due to be tabled by 6 November 2009.

REVIEW OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (REGISTER OF INTERESTS) ACT 1978

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 – that the Law Reform Committee:

1. be required to undertake a review of the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978 to consider and make recommendations on amending the Act; and
2. present the report on its review six months from the date of this resolution.*

* The reporting date was extended to 31 December 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 31 March 2009.

Activities during July 2009

- The Committee held a public hearing on 21 July 2009 and received evidence from the following witnesses:
 - Mr Brendan Donohoe, State Political Reporter, Seven Network
 - Ms Helen Versey, Victorian Privacy Commissioner and Mr Scott May, Policy and Compliance Officer, Office of the Victorian Privacy Commissioner
 - Mr Howard Whitton and Dr James Swansson, ANZSOG Institute for Governance
- The Committee was represented at the Australian Public Sector Anti-Corruption Conference in Brisbane
- The literature review, research and study of systems in comparative parliaments continued
- The Committee is hosting a Law Foundation Legal Policy Intern, Mr Mahmud Begg, who is undertaking a research project on public debate about members of parliament and ethics.

Future activities

- The Committee plans to hold further public hearings in Melbourne on 10 August 2009 and in Sydney on 17 August 2009.
- The Committee will undertake an analysis of all evidence received and develop a strategy for filling evidence gaps.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 — for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 December 2009 on law reforms aimed at streamlining and simplifying powers of attorney documents to enable more Victorians to plan for their future financial, lifestyle and healthcare needs — specifically the Committee is asked to:

- a. consider the differing formality requirements and terminology, and coverage of the power of attorney documents, governed by the Instruments Act 1958 and the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986;
- b. establish whether the donor of a power of attorney has capacity to create a legally enforceable document and differing execution requirements and the different tests that apply;
- c. clarify the powers granted by the donor when making a power of attorney;
- d. examine ways of minimising abuse in relation to the execution of and exercise of powers under powers of attorney documents;
- e. consider the issue of legal capacity in the context of when an enduring power of attorney is executed and activated; and

- f. advise on the need for adopting potential safeguards such as the registration of documents (voluntary or mandatory).

Activities during July 2009

- Mr David Darragh commenced as research officer responsible for this inquiry
- Preliminary research and a literature review were commenced.

Future activities

- Submissions to the inquiry close on 21 August 2009
- The Committee will hold public hearings in September and October 2009.

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 Elasmар, Mr M Guy and Ms C Hartland*

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

Chair: Mr George Seitz

Executive Officer: Mr Sean Coley

INQUIRY INTO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRIBUSINESS IN OUTER SUBURBAN MELBOURNE

Received from the Legislative Assembly on 9 October 2008

To inquire, consider and report to Parliament on the major issues relating to the production, processing and distribution of agricultural products in the interface municipalities and peri-urban areas of Melbourne. In particular, the Committee is requested to:

- 1) Identify the types of agricultural sectors operating in interface municipalities and peri-urban areas;
- 2) Examine the role of agribusiness in enhancing economic growth, increasing jobs and the sector's contribution towards promoting healthy, sustainable and prosperous outer suburban areas;
- 3) Investigate the role of planning in encouraging the development of agribusiness;
- 4) Analyse the options for sustainable food production, including environmental stewardship and local food production;
- 5) Investigate impediments faced by the industry to its long term growth and sustainability and recommend options to resolve these barriers;
- 6) Highlight niche and well performing sectors operating in the interface of Melbourne, with particular reference to viticulture, horticulture and sustainable agriculture;
- 7) Examine exemplary programs supported by governments (at all levels), the private sector and non-government organisations, which assist the sustainability of the agribusiness sector; and
- 8) Investigate national and international initiatives relevant to these issues.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament no later than 31 March 2010.

Activities during July 2009

Overseas Study Tour:

London: 13-14 July

Campaign for Protection of Rural England
New Covent Garden Market
Sustain, UK

Netherlands: 15-17 July

TransForum
ETC Urban Agriculture
Westland Greenport
Innovation Network

Toronto: 20-22 July

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs
Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors
Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee
 Rouge Park Alliance
 Whittamore Farms
 City of Toronto
 Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation
 Toronto Food Policy Committee
 Vineland Innovation & Research Station
 Government of Canada
 Lincoln
 Durham Region
 Beamsville
 Peninsula Ridge Winery

Portland, Oregon: 23-24 July

Metro, Portland
City of Portland
Washington County, Oregon
First Stop Portland
TriMet
Montinore Estates Winery
Smith Berry Barn
Al's Garden Centre

Future Activity

4 August 2009

Public Hearings – Cardinia Cultural Centre, Pakenham

- Cr Bill Pearson, Mayor Cardinia Shire Council
- Gary McQuillan, CEO Cardinia Shire Council
- Liam Hodgetts, Manager Strategic Development, City of Casey
- Ian Anderson, Dairy / Crops Cardinia
- Peter Schreurs, Vegetables, Casey
- David Nichol, Small Farms / Potatoes, Cardinia
- Arthur Giaccotto, Asparagus, Vegetables Cardinia
- Vin Morris, Agribusiness Officer, Cardinia Shire Council

25 August 2009

Public Hearings – Bass Coast Shire Council

INQUIRY INTO IMPACT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CHANGE THE URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY

Received from the Legislative Council on 29 July 2009

That pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee is required to inquire into, consider and report on the following:

The impact of the State Government's decision to change the urban growth boundary on landholders and the environment and plans announced by the Government to introduce an increased development contribution for land in designated growth areas, including —

- (a) the likely quantum of the collections by Government;
- (b) mechanisms to ensure the contributions are directed only to the intended purposes;
- (c) the likely impact on the housing and development industries;
- (d) any unintended consequences including the impact on all landholders and purchasers to be impacted;
- (e) any displacement or replacement of Government spending likely to result from the increased collections; and
- (f) any alternative options, including any used in other jurisdictions; and to report by 30 November 2009.

Activities during July 2009

- This inquiry has not yet commenced.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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(Council) Mr R Dalla-Riva, Ms J Huppert, Ms S Pennicuik, Mr G Rich-Phillips,

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

Chair: Mr Bob Stensholt

Executive Officer: Ms Valerie Cheong

THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

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

Activities during July 2009:

Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports tabled September 2007-February 2008 (Round Three)

Priority One

- Improving Our Schools: Monitoring and Support; and
- Funding and Delivery of Two Freeway Upgrade Projects.

Priority Two

- Program for Students with Disabilities: Program Accountability; and
- Agricultural Research and Investment, Monitoring and Support.

Drafting of reports is continuing, with reports to be considered by Committee in August. The Secretariat is waiting for further information from DEECD prior to finalising *Improving Our Schools: Monitoring and Support*.

It is anticipated this report will table in September 2009.

Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports tabled March - June 2008 (Round Four)

The Committee prioritised seven reports for follow up for Round 4

Priority One

- Patient Safety in Public Hospitals; and
- Planning for Water Infrastructure in Victoria.

Priority Two

- Victorias Planning Framework for Land Use and Development
- Coordinating Services and Initiatives for Aboriginal People
- Records Management in the Victorian Public Service
- Delivering HealthSMART; and
- The Criminal Justice Enhancement Program.

Draft Performance Audit Specifications

The following audit specifications were considered by the Committee in June 2009:

- Tendering and Contracting in Local Government; and
- Management of State Concessions to Pensioners and Beneficiaries.

Future Activities

Consideration of the evidence, research and drafting of reports for priority one and two audit reviews for Round 3;

The Auditor-General is expected to provide the Committee with further audit specifications; and

Work will commence for planning public hearings and advertising for public submissions for Round 4 of Auditor-General follow-up reviews.

Committee consideration of:

- Draft specifications for proposed performance audits to be conducted by the Auditor-General;
- Round 3 follow-up reports;
- Public submissions to be invited August 2009; and
- Public hearings for priority one audits, Round 4 to be conducted September 2009.

Government response to the Committee's report on the *Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General's reports 2007 (Round Two)* is due 2 December 2009.

INQUIRY INTO A REVIEW OF THE AUDIT ACT 1994

Terms of Reference for this Inquiry have been agreed to by the Committee. They are:

- review in its entirety the Act and its provisions, taking into account contemporary developments and emerging issues both in Victoria and similar jurisdictions so as to further strengthen public accountability in Victoria;*
- seek public submissions and hold hearings on the review of the Act;*
- consider the views of the Auditor-General of Victoria;*
- consider the views of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Treasury and Finance, as the appropriate central agencies of the Victorian government, on desirable reform and amendment of the Act; and*

- (e) *examine audit legislation in other jurisdictions both in Australia and overseas with a view to determining whether the legislation and practice in those jurisdictions might be relevant to review and reform the Act.*

Activities during July 2009

The Committee received evidence from the Secretary of Department of Treasury and Finance (representing Department of Premier and Cabinet) in a private meeting regarding amendments to the *Audit Act 1994*.

The Secretariat has:

- organised a private meeting for the Committee with the Auditor-General;
- prepared a draft scoping paper, which has been adopted by the Committee; and
- commenced researching audit legislation in national and international jurisdictions.

Future Activities

- Organising private discussions with the Committee and relevant stakeholders;
- Continue to research audit legislation in other jurisdictions; and
- Seek information from international jurisdictions.

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FINANCE PRACTICES AND LEGISLATION

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(3).

Terms of reference are available via:

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/inquiries/finance_practices_legislation/terms.html

Future Activities

Government response to the Committee's Report *on New Directions in Accountability, Inquiry into Victoria's Public Finance Practices and Legislation* is due 4 December 2009

On-going discussions with DTF maintained.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2009-10 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(3).

Activities during July 2009:

Clarification questions were sent to relevant departments

Planning of chapters, research and drafting has commenced.

Future Activities

Awaiting responses of clarification questions for Departments

Analysis of issues and drafting of chapters for the *Report on the 2009-10 Budget Estimates Part Two* for anticipated tabling in Parliament in October 2009.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(3).

Future Activities

Government Response to the Committee's report on the 2007-08 Financial and Performance Outcomes is due on 7 November 2009.

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: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rsc

Members:

(Council) Mr D Koch and Mr S Leane

(Assembly) Mr J Eren, Mr C Langdon, Mr B Tilley, Mr I Trezise and Mr P Weller

Chair: Mr John Eren

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

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.

*Report date extended to 30 September 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2007.

Activity during July 2009

- Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

INQUIRY INTO THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT, ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AUSTRALIAN DESIGN RULES

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 9 September 2008 –

That, under s33 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, the Road Safety Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 November 2009 on the process of development, adoption and implementation of Australian design rules and to consider other worldwide practices with a focus on improving vehicle safety.

Activities during July 2009

- Briefing papers were prepared for the upcoming overseas and interstate briefings.

- The Research Officer continued drafting the report.

Future Activity

- The Committee will attend overseas briefings in Wellington, New Zealand. Representatives from the Automobile Association of New Zealand, and New Zealand Transport will meet with the Committee.
- Following the overseas briefing, the Committee will then conduct hearings in Sydney, with representatives from the Roads & Traffic Authority, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, and the University of New South Wales, Injury Risk Management Research Centre.

INQUIRY INTO THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS IN CAR PARKS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 –

That under s33 of the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003 the following matters be referred to the Road Safety Committee for inquiry consideration and report, no later than 31 May 2010, on the current rules and standards that apply to pedestrian safety in car parks and the Committee is to recommend potential measures that relevant authorities should consider to improve safety for pedestrians.

Activities during July 2009

- The Committee accepted all received submissions. Letters of acknowledgement were sent to all individuals, companies and departments who made a submission to the Inquiry, and their submissions were made available on the Committee's website.
- The first public hearing was held on 27 July. Representatives from VicRoads, Victoria Police, Monash University Accident Research Centre, the Municipal Association for Victoria and the Transport Accident Commission appeared before the Committee.
- Briefing papers were prepared for the upcoming overseas briefing and interstate briefing.
- The Research Officer continued to review of submissions and relevant literature.

Future Activities

- The Committee will attend overseas briefings in Wellington, New Zealand. Briefings are to be made by representatives from the Ministry of Justice Crime Prevention Unit - Car Park & Safer Parking, the New Zealand Parking Association, Wellington City Council and Tenix Solutions New Zealand P/L.
- The Committee will then conduct hearings in Sydney. Representatives from the Pedestrian Council of Australia, Westfield, ARRB Group Ltd, NRMA Motoring Services, Woolworths Ltd and the Roads & Traffic Authority will appear before the Committee.

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 and Mr J Vogels*

(Assembly) *Ms K Marshall and 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 REGIONAL CENTRES OF THE FUTURE

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 27 May 2008 – to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 September 2009 on measures to build on the current Government's investment in regional Victoria, through further development and

enhancement of regional centres, focusing on the development of regional centres as places of economic, environmental, social and cultural innovation that enable regional Victoria to meet the challenge of predicted future population growth in this state, and, in particular, the Committee is required to report on:

- (1) measures that could be taken to encourage new and existing businesses, industries and government authorities to establish operations in regional centres;
- (2) the development of industrial land to support the economic base of regional centres;
- (3) the most effective investments in infrastructure to encourage business and industry development in regional centres, and to support and encourage further population growth in regional centres;
- (4) measures to promote strong social capital and high quality-of-life outcomes in growing regional centres; and
- (5) examples from other jurisdictions where promotion of population growth in regional centres has successfully occurred.

The Committee is required to report to the Parliament by 30 September 2009.

Activities during July 2009

- Committee Secretariat continued drafting Report on International Investigations
- Organisation of proposed attendance at conferences on rural and regional development
- Ongoing discussion and review of 2009 timetables
- Committee engaged a Consultant to assist with preparation of the Inquiry Report, and related matters
- Committee Meeting 34 was held on Monday 27 July 2009

Future activities

- Ongoing processing of transcripts of evidence
- Ongoing research in accordance with timetable for drafting of the report
- Updating and development of website content as required
- Preparation of draft report recommendations and chapter outlines for the consideration of the Committee.

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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

Exceptions and Exemptions to the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*

On the 16 December the Governor in Council referred Terms of Reference requiring the Committee to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament by 30 April 2009 on whether any amendments should be made to the exceptions and exemptions in the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*.

Activities during July 2009

- Continued to mail / email the Options Paper to interested parties.
- Analyse information received via submissions.
- Notices advertising Public Hearings booked for The Age and Herald Sun newspaper on 1 August.

On 20 July 2009 the Committee met and resolved to hold public hearings, 4 and 5 August 2009, as a result of issues raised by submitters to the Exceptions and Exemptions to the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*.

The Full Committee met on 27 July 2009, where it considered and approved:

- Alert Digest No. 8 of 2009
Courts Legislation Amendment (Sunset Provisions) Bill 2009
Human Tissue Amendment Bill 2009-08-06 Primary Industries Legislation
Further Amendment Act 2009
Primary Industries Legislation Further Amendment Act 2009
Residential Tenancies Amendment (Housing Standards) Bill 2009
Tobacco Amendment (Protection of Children) Bill 2009

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 July 2009

The Subcommittee did not meet during July.

Regulation Review

Mr Ken Jasper, MP (Chair)
Mr Carlo Carli, MP
Mr Colin Brooks, MP
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC
Mr Ryan Smith, MP

Activity during July 2009

The Subcommittee met on 22 July 2009, where it considered and approved the following regulations:

- SR No. 24 – Road Safety (Drivers)(Peer Passenger Restrictions) Interim Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 62 – Transfer of Land (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 34 – Magistrates' Court (Judicial Registrars) Amendment Rules 2009
- SR No. 39 – Magistrates' Court Civil Procedure (Amendment No.25) Rules 2009
- SR No. 42 – Supreme Court (Chapter II Amendment No.2) Rules 2009
- SR No. 43 – Supreme Court (Chapter V Amendment No.6) Rules 2009
- SR No. 44 – Supreme Court (Associate Judges Amendment) Rules 2009
- SR No. 49 – Magistrates' Court Civil Procedure Rules 2009
- SR No. 56 – County Court Miscellaneous Rules 2009
- SR No. 60 – Supreme Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.14) Rules 2009
- SR No. 38 – Subordinate Legislation (Health (Immunisation) Regulations 1999 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 54 – Subordinate Legislation (Residential Tenancies (Caravan Parks and Movable Dwellings Registration and Standards) Regulations 1999 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 55 – Subordinate Legislation (Public Transport Competition Regulations 1999 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 19 – Fisheries Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 46 – Road Safety (General) and Road Safety (Road Rules) Amendment (Mobile Phones and Seatbelts) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 50 – Aboriginal Heritage Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 61 – Infringements (General) Further Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 63 – Metropolitan Fire Brigades (Contributions) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 48 – Road Safety (Vehicles)(Heavy Vehicle Fees) Amendment Regulations 2009
- SR No. 57 – State Superannuation (Revised Scheme Medical Classifications) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 59 – Rail Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2009

- SR No. 64 – Country Fire Authority (Contributions) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 32 – Electricity Safety (Stray Current Corrosion) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 36 – Electricity Safety (Equipment) Regulations 2009
- SR No. 37 – Electricity Safety (Equipment Efficiency) Regulations 2009

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696 Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

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Members:

(Council) *Mr G Barber, Ms C Broad, Mr M Guy, Mr P Hall and
Mr P Kavanagh.*

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONS

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on Victorian departmental and agency performance and operations.

Substituted Members:

Mr Brian Tee for Mr Matt Viney

Activity during July 2009

- Follow-up on questions taken on notice from hearings with Victorian Funds Management Corporation and Growth Areas Authority.

Future Activity

- Further follow-up on questions taken on notice from hearings with Victorian Funds Management Corporation and Growth Areas Authority. Further public hearings proposed in relation to Growth Areas Authority. Reports to be tabled in due course.

INQUIRY INTO BUSINESS CASE FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on the estimated benefits and costs arising from the north-south pipeline, the Wonthaggi desalination plant, and the modernisation of irrigation infrastructure.

Substituted Members:

Mr Damian Drum for Mr Peter Hall
Mr Brian Tee for Mr Matt Viney

Activities during July 2009

- Consideration of public submissions.
- Organisation of site visits/public hearings in Yea/Shepparton

Future Activities

- Initial public hearings to take place on 21 August 2009 in Shepparton focussing on north-east Victorian water infrastructure projects.
- Further hearings proposed for September 2009.

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE DATA

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on the capacity of hospitals to meet demand, standards and quality of care, resourcing and access levels, and the accuracy and completeness of performance data for Victorian public hospitals.

Substituted Members:

Ms Colleen Hartland for Mr Greg Barber
Mr Brian Tee for Mr Matt Viney

Activities during July 2009

- Consideration of public submissions.
- Consideration of witnesses for August public hearings.

Future Activities

- Initial public hearings to take place on 17-18 August 2009 at Parliament House.

TRAIN SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

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Members:

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Mr M Viney*

Chair: Mr Bruce Atkinson

Deputy Chair: Mr Shaun Leane

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO TRAIN SERVICES

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into the factors leading to and causes of failures in the provision of metropolitan and V/Line train services.

Activities during July 2009

- Consideration of public submissions.
- Public hearings with the Department of Transport and Connex Melbourne (Veolia Transport) on 21 July 2009.
- Follow up questions taken on notice at hearings by the Department of Transport and Connex Melbourne (Veolia Transport).

Future Activity

- Further public hearing proposed for late 2009.
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