



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 31 May 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 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

JOINT INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEES

Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee	5
Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee	7
Education and Training Committee	9
Electoral Matters Committee	12
Environment and Natural Resources Committee	14
Family and Community Development Committee	16
Law Reform Committee	19
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee	22
Public Accounts and Estimates Committee	23
Road Safety Committee	25
Rural and Regional Committee	27
Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee	30

SELECT AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Gaming Licensing Select Committee	33
Public Land Development Select Committee	35
Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee	36

DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

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Members:

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

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

Chair: Mrs Judy Maddigan

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 May 2008

- **Awaiting Government response**
- **Mail out of Report continued**

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 .

Activities during May 2008

- **Review of literature continued**
- **Received an informal background briefing from Prof. Chris Goddard, Australian Centre Child Abuse Research, Monash University – 5 May 2008**
- **Members of the Committee attended the 2008 Winter School Conference “Seen and Unseen Harms”, held in Brisbane – 12 May 2008**
- **The Committee held meetings in Brisbane on 13 May 2008 with the following representatives:**
 - **Inspector Bruce Graydon, Project Manager, Coordinated Response to Young People at Risk (CRYPAR) Programme, Queensland Police**
 - **Mr Brett Cutting, Project Coordinator (CRYPAR) Queensland Police**
 - **Professor Anna Stewart, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Mt Gravatt Campus, Griffith University**
 - **Professor Paul Mazerolle, Director, Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance, Mt Gravatt Campus, Griffith University**
 - **Dr Kate Freiburg, Senior Research Fellow, Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance Mt Gravatt Campus, Griffith University**
 - **Dr Susan Dennison, Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance Mt Gravatt Campus, Griffith University**
 - **Mr Siyavash Doostkhah, Director, Youth Affairs Network of Queensland**
 - **Mr Michael Tansky, Director, Office for Youth, Department of Communities**
 - **Ms Toni Craig, Acting Manager, Youth Justice and Conferencing, Office for Youth , Department of Communities**
 - **Mr Craig Hodges, Manager, Legislative Strategic Policy and Evaluation, Office for Youth, Department of Communities**
- **Received an informal background briefing from Mr Mark Watt, CEO and Ms Sarah Spencer, Manager, Evaluation and Research, Whitelion – 26 May 2008**

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

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Members:

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

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

Chair: Hon. Christine Campbell, MP

Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

INQUIRY INTO KEY COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES IN VICTORIA'S FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR

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.

The reporting date for the inquiry has been extended from 31 December 2007 to 31 July 2008.

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.

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.

Activity during May 2008

- **Research continued into the two inquiries — Financial Services Sector Inquiry and Public Sector Information and Data Inquiry.**

Future Activities

- **Public Sector Information and Data Inquiry**
 - (i) **Representatives from Committee to attend Conference on Building an Australasian Commons, Brisbane, June 2008.**
 - (ii) **Call for submissions – to be announced.**
 - (iii) **Mail out of discussion paper.**
- **Next meeting – Wednesday 11 June 2008.**
- **Report planning and research continues**

COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Inquiry into Mandatory Ethanol and Biofuels Targets in Victoria – Government Response due 7 August 2008

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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

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.

Activity during May 2008

The Committee advertised a call for further submissions in *The Age* and *Herald Sun*.

Future Activity

The Committee will continue its investigations and commence drafting a final report. Meetings have been scheduled in Canberra for June 2008.

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.

Activities during May 2008

The Committee continued to receive written submissions

The Committee conducted public hearings in Rosebud (12 May), Churchill (19 May) and Bairnsdale (20 May). The Committee also inspected the facilities at Gippsland Education Precinct.

Future Activities

Regional hearings have been scheduled in Robinvale (2 June) and Ouyen (3 June)

Meetings have also been scheduled in Canberra for June 2008

Further dates and locations are to be announced.

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 February 2008

The Committee tabled its final report on 5 December 2007.

Future Activity

The Government response was tabled on 27 May 2008 and is available on the Committee's website.

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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 May 2008

- Further preparation of chapters of draft report
- Members considered various electoral news articles relevant to the Inquiry
- Briefing papers prepared on a range of further issues.

Future Activities

- Committee to adopt draft recommendations of report
- Consideration of relevant issues raised in briefing papers by Committee
- Next meeting 2 June 2008
- Committee to adopt report on 11 June 2008
- Tabling of report on 26 June 2008.

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.

Activities during May 2008

- Committee considered scoping paper
- Letter seeking submissions sent to interested stakeholders.

Future Activities

- Submissions close 27 June 2008
- Public hearings scheduled at Parliament House on 23 and 24 July 2008.

New inquiry

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 May 2008

- Committee advertised terms of reference seeking submissions
- Letter seeking submissions sent to interested stakeholders.

Future Activities

- Submissions close 27 June 2008
- Public hearings scheduled at Parliament House on 23 and 24 July 2008.

OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Future Activities

- 28 July 2008 - Committee to meet with Mr Steve Tully, Victorian Electoral Commissioner, and Ms Liz Williams, Deputy Electoral Commissioner to discuss issues relating to November 2008 local council elections.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Members:

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

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

Chair: Hon J Pandazopoulos, MP

Executive Officer: Mr Derek Benjamin

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

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.

Activity during May 2008

- **Research and literature review**

Future Activity

- **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.

Activity during May 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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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.

Activity during May 2008

- **Preparation of draft report chapters.**

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 GOVERNMENTS 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 May 2008

- **Preparation of draft discussion paper**
- **Organisation of public hearings.**

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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Members:

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

(Assembly) Mr Colin Brooks, Mr Robert Clark, Mr Luke Donnellan, Mr Martin Foley, Mrs Judy Maddigan (member from 8 August 2007 until 30 October 2007) and Mr Tony Lupton (member until 8 August 2007)

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

Executive Officer: Ms Kerry Riseley

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 March 2008 on property investment and property marketeers with particular regard to:

- (a) reviewing the regulatory framework for the provision of property investment advice, with the objective of establishing how best to control the exploitation of Victorians in the context of keeping the burden on business as low as possible;
- (b) the Commonwealth's role in regulating financial advice, and the ongoing work of the Ministerial Council on Consumer Affairs in considering regulation of this area.

Activities during May 2008

- **The Committee tabled its final report on 10 April 2008**
- **The Government response is due to be tabled by 10 October 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.

Activities during May 2008

- **Representatives of the Committee travelled to New South Wales to examine initiatives in that state. Meetings were held with key stakeholders in relation to:**
 - **circle sentencing**
 - **youth justice conferencing**
 - **young adult community conferencing**
 - **post-sentence restorative justice**
 - **Community Justice Centres.**
- **The Committee accepted two supplementary submissions**
- **Planning commenced for two stakeholder forums. An Indigenous forum will be run in conjunction with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and a multicultural forum will be held in conjunction with the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria**
- **A member of the Secretariat attended a workshop on restorative justice in schools on 1 and 2 May 2008**
- **Members of the Secretariat attended the Victorian Association for Restorative Justice conference on 14 May 2008**
- **Members of the Secretariat attended a presentation about the Justice Statement II and the launch of the Law Reform Commission's Civil Justice Review.**

Future activities

- **The Committee will hold forums for Indigenous and multicultural stakeholders in June 2008**
- **A draft outline of the final report will be presented to the Committee**
- **The writing of the final report will be commenced.**

VEXATIOUS LITIGANTS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 4 December 2008 on the effect of vexatious litigants on the justice system and the individuals and agencies who are victims of vexatious litigants — and, the Committee should:

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

Activities during May 2008

- **The Committee engaged Dr Ian Freckelton SC to undertake research with judicial officers and court staff in relation to vexatious litigants. As part of this research, an application for ethics approval was submitted to the Department of Justice Human Research Ethics Committee and the Chair wrote to the heads of jurisdiction of four courts and tribunals to request their participation in the research**
- **The Committee was represented at a meeting of the Courts Practice Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria on 22 May 2008**
- **The Committee accepted three submissions into the inquiry**
- **Literature review continued.**

Future activities

- **Subject to approvals, Dr Freckelton will conduct interviews with judicial officers and forums with court staff**
- **Submissions to the inquiry close on 27 June 2008**
- **The Committee expects to hold public hearings in mid-2008.**

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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(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 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 May 2008

- **11-13 May 2008**
 - **Australian Regional Economies Conference, Terragal, NSW**
- **Ongoing research, literature review and drafting of report.**

Future Activity

Ongoing research and drafting of report

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

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Members:

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

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

Chair: Mr Bob Stensholt

Executive Officer: Ms Valerie Cheong

2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Activities during May 2008

- Draft report considered and adopted by the Committee on 5 May 2008
- Report tabled in Parliament on 8 May 2008.

AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

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

Activities during May 2008

- Research for drafting on reports on the Committee’s review of the findings and recommendations of priority one audit reports, namely, new Ticketing System Tender, Government Advertising and Condition of Public Sector Residential Aged Care Facilities and priority two reports
- Draft Annual Plan 2008-09 considered
- A number of draft performance specifications for proposed audits considered.

Future Activities

- Response to John Phillip’s report on the Performance Audit of the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office (November 2007) to be developed and considered
- Consideration of draft reports for priority one audit reviews
- Planning and scoping for next six-monthly reviews of tabled audit reports
- Consideration of a number of draft performance specifications for proposed audits.
-

INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Activities during May 2008

On May 8 2008, held the Budget Briefing breakfast for Parliamentarians and staff, held in conjunction with the Department of Treasury and Finance

Public hearings were conducted, with the Premier, Treasurer, Attorney-General, Presiding Officers, and Ministers

Further information requests and questions on notice arising out of hearings sent to Ministers

Drafting of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates report – Parts One and Part Two

Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One – tabled 29 May 2008.

Future Activities

- Public hearings to be concluded, with remaining Ministers and their portfolios
- Development and adoption of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates report – Part Two to be tabled in June 2008
- Planning, scoping and development of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part Three for tabling October 2008.

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FINANCE PRACTICES AND LEGISLATION

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

Activity during May 2008

- Planning and scoping of research investigations, including sources of relevant evidence gathering for new inquiry.

Future Activity

- Research, scoping, consultations and reporting on the Committee's inquiry into Victoria's public finance practices and legislation.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(1).

Government response, due 9 October 2008.

2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Government response due 8 November 2008.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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.

* The Reporting date was extended to 31 August 2008 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2007.

Activity during May 2008

- **Work on the draft report is progressing.**

Future Activity

- **The Committee will receive the draft report in June.**

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.

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

Activity during May 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.

* Report date extended to 31 October 2008 by resolution of the Legislative Council on 20 November 2007.

Activities during May 2008

Public hearings continued in May. The witnesses who appeared were from the following organisations:

- **ARRB Group Ltd**
- **Dr Eric Wigglesworth**
- **Australian Trucking Association**
- **Sinclair Knight Merz**
- **Victorian Railway Crossing Safety Steering Committee, Railway Crossing Technical Group**

Future Activity

- **The Committee is organising a forum for July.**

RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: 1300 787 202 / 03 8682 2884

Facsimile: 03 8682 2858

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

Email: rrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Members:

(Council) *Ms 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 MLC

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

INQUIRY INTO THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO TAXATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGED INVESTMENT SCHEMES (NON-FORESTRY)

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – to inquire, consider and report no later than 30 September 2007 on the potential economic impacts to Victoria's rural and regional businesses and communities as a result of the proposed changes to the taxation arrangements for Managed Investment Schemes (non-forestry), which have been recently announced by the Commonwealth; of particular interest are the impacts on investment, job creation, exports and resource use (water and land) — and, to this end, the Committee should consider the core issues of the:

- (a) investment, job creation and exports which have occurred over the past three years in rural and regional areas as a result of Managed Investment Schemes;
- (b) investment, job creation and exports, which is occurring in rural and regional areas following the planned transition period;
- (c) net economic impacts on Victoria's rural and regional areas over the next five years;
- (d) impacts on northern Victoria's irrigation water markets; and
- (e) anticipated structural changes and the new industry opportunities in rural and regional areas.

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 May 2008

- **Writing of Draft Chapters of the Final Report into Rural and Regional Tourism**
- **Review of Draft Chapters of the Final Report by the Committee**
- **A Committee Meeting was held on 05 May 2008 in Melbourne**
- **A delegation of Members and staff attended the Australian Regional Economies Conference in Terrigal NSW**
- **A Committee Meeting was held on 26 May 2008 in Melbourne.**

Committee Secretariat

- **Follow up work subsequent to Evidence Seeking Trip to New Zealand**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Australian Regional Economies Conference 2008**
- **Continuation of presentation to the Committee, and deliberation on, draft report chapters**
- **Research on regional and rural tourism issues continued**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review continued**
- **Updating of the Committee website as required.**

Future activities

- **Continuation of Committee budget and finance review**
- **Planning for drafting and consideration of report by the Committee**
- **Continuation of presentation to committee of draft chapters to the Committee for consideration**
- **Ongoing background research and literature review.**

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.

Activity during May 2008

- **The Terms were referred on 27 May 2008 by the Legislative Assembly**

Committee Secretariat

- **Formatting of Terms of Reference for new Inquiry**
- **Preliminary planning for advertising and distribution of Draft Terms of Reference**
- **Preliminary research commenced.**

Future activities

- **Continuation of Committee budget and finance review**
- **Briefing of the Committee on Inquiry issues**
- **Finalisation of Inquiry-related meeting and regional hearings calendar**
- **'Call for Submissions' advertisement**
- **Media Release for 'Call for Submissions'**
- **Development of the Inquiry mailing and stakeholder lists**
- **Distribution of Terms of Reference to stakeholders**
- **Planning for regional public hearings**
- **Planning for Melbourne hearings**
- **Literature review**
- **Research.**

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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

Activities during May 2008

The Committee met on the 5, 12, 26 and 29 May 2008, where it considered and adopted the following reports:

- **Alert Digest No. 5 of 2008**
 - Cancer Amendment (HPV) Bill 2008**
 - Children's Legislation Amendment Bill 2008**
 - Education and Training Reform Amendment Bill 2008**
 - Energy and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 2008**
 - Essential Services Commission Amendment Bill 2008**
 - Gambling Regulation Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2008**
 - Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2008**
 - Justice Legislation Amendment (Sex Offences Procedure) Bill 2008**
 - Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 3) Bill 2008**
 - Police Integrity Bill 2008**
 - Public Sector Employment (Award Entitlements) Amendment Bill 2008**
 - The Uniting Church in Australia Amendment Bill 2008**
 - Victorian Water Substitution Target Bill 2007**
- **Alert Digest No. 6 of 2008**
 - Appropriation (2008/2009) Bill 2008**
 - Appropriation (Parliament 2008/2009) Bill 2008**
 - Constitution Amendment (Judicial Pensions) Bill 2007**
 - Courts Legislation Amendment (Associate Judges) Bill 2008**
 - Criminal Procedure Legislation Amendment Bill 2007**
 - Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Volatile Substances) (Repeal) Bill 2008**
 - Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2008**
 - National Gas (Victoria) Bill 2008**

**Public Health and Wellbeing Bill 2008
State Taxation Acts Amendment Bill 2008**

- **Report on the Legislation Reform (Repeals No. 3) Bill 2008**
- **On the 9 May 2008 the Legislative Council referred the Police Integrity Bill 2008 for inquiry, consideration and report.**

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 May 2008

The Subcommittee did not meet in May.

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 May 2008

The Subcommittee met on 21 May 2008, where it considered and approved the following Regulations:

- **Statutory Rules 2007**
SR No. 138 – Environment Protection (Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans) Regulations 2007
- **Statutory Rules 2008**
SR No. 2 – Road Safety (General)(Prescribed Devices Amendment) Regulations 2008
SR No. 3 – Subordinate Legislation (Fisheries Regulations 1998 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2008
SR No. 4 – Fisheries (Fees, Royalties and Levies) Regulations 2008
SR No. 5 – Magistrates' Court (Fees, Costs and Charges) Amendment Regulations 2008
SR No. 6 – Magistrates' Court Criminal Procedures (Evidence – Audio Visual and Audio Linking) Rules 2008
SR No. 7 – Veterinary Practice Regulations 2008
SR No. 8 – Subdivision (Registrar's Fees)(Amendment) Regulations 2008
SR No. 9 – Rail Safety (Amendment) Regulations 2008
SR No. 11 – Children's Court (Evidence – Audio Visual and Audio Linking) Rules 2008
SR No. 12 – Supreme Court (Criminal Procedure) Rules 2008

- SR No. 14 – Public Administration (Review of Actions)(Amendment) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 16 – Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Prohibited Procedures) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 17 – Subordinate Legislation (Road Transport (Dangerous Goods)(Licence Fees) Regulations 1998 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 18 – Subordinate Legislation (Freedom of Information Regulations 1998 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 19 – Veterans (Patriotic Funds) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 20 – Liquor Control Reform (Prohibited Supply) Amendment Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 21 – Subordinate Legislation (Environment Protection (Prescribed Waste) Regulations 1998 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 23 – Victims of Crime Assistance (Delegation) Amendment Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 24 – Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Amendment Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 26 – Road Safety (General)(Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 27 – Road Safety (Drivers)(Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 28 – Road Safety (Road Rules)(Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 29 – Water (Lake Eildon Recreational Area)(Houseboats) Amendment Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 31 – Subordinate Legislation (Alpine Resorts (Management) Regulations 1998 – Extension Of Operation) Regulations 2008**
- SR No. 32 – Supreme Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.11) Rules 2008**
- SR No. 33 – County Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.23) Rules 2008**
- SR No. 34 – Subordinate Legislation (Retirement Villages Regulations 1998 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2008**

GAMING LICENSING SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

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

Members:

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

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO GAMING LICENSING

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on —

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

(7) any other associated matters dealing with gaming licensing issues.

Activities during May 2008

- **Final report tabled in the Legislative Council on 8 May 2008.**
- **The Committee ceased to exist upon tabling its final report.**

PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

Facsimile: (03) 9651 6799

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr Peter Hall, Mr Peter Kavanagh, Mr Edward O'Donohue, Ms Sue Pennicuik, and Mr Evan 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 May 2008

Public Hearings held on 20 and 22 May 2008 in regard to various public land use issues with evidence received from:

- **Mr Stephen McMillan, Managing Director – Citta Property Group**
- **Hon Justin Madden, MLC – Minister for Planning**
- **Hon Theo Theophanous, MLC – Minister for Major Projects**

Future Activities

- **Revision of evidence received to date.**
- **Possible further hearings.**

FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 9651 8696

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr Greg Barber, Ms Candy Broad, Mr Matthew Guy, Mr Peter Hall and Mr Peter Kavanagh.*

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO PORT PHILLIP BAY CHANNEL DEEPENING

Terms of Reference:

To examine the business case for the Port Phillip Bay channel deepening project as presented by the Port of Melbourne Corporation (PMC) and the Victorian government and the legal and financial arrangements between the PMC and Boskalis Australia Pty Ltd and/or its parent company, Royal Boskalis Westminster NV.

Activity during May 2008

- **Revision and analysis of 37 submissions received.**

Future Activities

Public Hearings proposed for 5 & 6 June 2008 with the following groups:

- **Port of Melbourne Corporation**
 - **Boskalis**
 - **Department of Infrastructure**
 - **VECCI**
 - **Victorian Freight and Logistics Council**
 - **Victorian Farmers Federation, and**
 - **Blue Wedges Coalition.**
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