



---

# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 30 November 2008**

**56<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

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

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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## JOINT INVESTIGATORY COMMITTEES

<b>Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Education and Training Committee</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Electoral Matters Committee</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Environment and Natural Resources Committee</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Family and Community Development Committee</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Law Reform Committee</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Public Accounts and Estimates Committee</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Road Safety Committee</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Rural and Regional Committee</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee</b>	<b>31</b>

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE

<b>Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee</b>	<b>33</b>
---	-----------



# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

---

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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

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

## **Members:**

(Council) *Mr S Leane, Ms J Mikakos and Hon A Coote*

(Assembly) *Mr H Delahunty, Mrs J Maddigan, Ms Liz Beattie 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 November 2008**

- **Government response was received 30 May 2008**
- **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 .

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

***Activities during November 2008***

- **Review of literature continued**
- **Mail out of the Discussion Paper continued**
- **The Committee conducted a Seminar with Young People in Melbourne on 10 November 2008**
- **The Committee visited the Croydon Community School on 17 November 2008:**  
The Committee met with;  
**Ms Bronwyn Harcourt, Principal**
- **The Committee visited the First Stop Centre Program at Swinburne TAFE – Croydon Campus on 17 November 2008:**  
The Committee met with;  
**Mr John Middleton, VCAL Teacher**  
**Ms Julie Hanman, First Stop Worker**  
**Mr Anthony Gartner, Youth Worker**  
**Ms Noni Dorrell, Student Counsellor**  
**Ms Katherine Carragher, First Stop Worker**  
**Ms Mal Hand, VCAL Teacher**  
**Ms Debbie McLaughlin, VCAL Convenor**  
**Ms Rebecca Curtain, Youth Worker on placement**  
**Mr Joe Molnar, VCAL Teacher**

***Forthcoming Activity:***

**The Committee will conduct an Evidence Seeking Trip to New Zealand November 21- 28 2008**

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

---

---

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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

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

## Members:

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

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

Chair: Hon Christine Campbell, MP

Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

## INQUIRY INTO 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 October 2008***

- **Seventy nine submissions have been received to date and continue to be summarised**
- **Briefing papers prepared for members**
- **Committee Meeting/Public hearing held in Melbourne 27 October 2008**
- **Submissions continued to be published on the intranet.**

### ***Future Activities***

- **Submissions continue to be summarised**
- **Briefing papers to be prepared for members**
- **Future meeting – 27 November 2008.**

# 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

---

## 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 November 2008***

**The Committee continued deliberating the final report.**

### ***Future Activity***

**The Committee will continue deliberating the final report.**

## **GEOGRAPHICAL DIFFERENCES IN HIGHER EDUCATION PARTICIPATION**

---

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 June 2009 on geographical differences in the rate in which Victorian students participate in higher education.

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 November 2008***

**The research officer and executive officer attended a CEET seminar, *The destinations of Victorian schools leavers: key findings from the On Track project*, held at the Monash Conference Centre, Melbourne on 26 November 2008**

**The research officer commenced drafting a final report for the Committee's consideration.**

### ***Future Activity***

**The Committee will continue collecting evidence and drafting a final report.**

# 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 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.

### *Future Activity*

- Await Government response due December 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 November 2008*

- Secretariat continuing to summarise key points from public hearings and submissions for Committee consideration
- Briefing papers prepared for Committee members on a range of topics relating to inquiry
- Secretariat summarised evidence received from international study tour.

### *Future Activity*

- Secretariat to continue research and writing chapters of inquiry report.

## **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 November 2008***

- **Secretariat continuing to summarise key points from public hearings and submissions for Committee consideration**
- **Briefing papers prepared for Committee members on a range of topics relating to inquiry**
- **Secretariat summarised evidence received from international study tour.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Secretariat to continue research and writing chapters of inquiry report.**

## **NOVEMBER 2008 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

---

### ***Activities during November 2008***

**Secretariat observed electoral activities at**

- **City of Boroondarra - postal election;**
- **City of Banyule – attendance election; and**
- **City of Moreland – attendance at Glenroy voting centre on local government election day 29 November 2008.**

### ***Future Activities***

**Secretariat observing electoral activities at**

- **City of Stonnington - scanning of ballot papers on 1 December 2008; and**
- **VEC warehouse, Maribyrnong on 9 December 2008.**

## **OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

- **Committee meeting Iraqi delegation on 1 December 2008, to discuss electoral matters and issues of common interest**
- **Report on international study tour to be adopted by Committee on 2 December 2008 and tabled in Parliament on 4 December 2008**
- **Committee has received permission from the Presiding Officers to visit New Zealand in February 2009, to further inquiries into Political Donations and Disclosure and Voter Participation and Informal Voting – secretariat contacting suitable individuals and organisations to visit.**

# 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, MP

Executive Officer: Mr Derek Benjamin

## 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.

On the 9 October 2008 the Legislative Council resolved that the reporting date for the *Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply* be amended so as to require the Committee to present its report by 30 April 2009.

### ***Activities during November***

**As part of the *Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply* the Committee held a public hearing on 10 November 2008 at Parliament House in the LCCR from 1.20 pm - 4.30 pm.**

**The Committee heard evidence from the following witnesses:**

- **Ms Mary Crooks, Project Director**
- **Mr Wayne Chamley, Senior Project Officer  
Watermark Australia**
  
- **Mr David Mayes, Manager Strategic Planning and Sustainability**
- **Mr Alex Fearnside, Team Leader Sustainability**

- Ms Sheridan Blunt, Acting Team Leader Transport
- Mr Ralf Pfleiderer, Water Sensitive Urban Designer  
City of Melbourne
  
- Ms Andrea Bolch
- Mr Neil Rankine
- Mr David Wingfield
  
- Mr Paul Gaynor, President
- Mr Stephen Cannon, Member
- Mr Anton Vigenser, Member
- Mr Mike Dalmau, Member  
Victorian Water Forum
  
- Mr Stephen Cannon, Member
- Mr Neil Rankine, Member
- Mr Paul Gaynor, Member  
Watershed Victoria
  
- Mr Anton Vigenser, CEO  
Clean Oceans Foundation
  
- Mr Chris Harrison
- Mr Ken Pattison
- Mr Mike Dalmau  
Plug the Pipe

#### **ENRC Overseas Site Visit**

The Committee conducted an overseas evidence seeking trip on the 14 November and returned on 28 November 2008.

#### ***Future Committee Activities***

Further develop research program.

# **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

---

---

**Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002**

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

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

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

**Members:**

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

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

**Chair:**                         Mr J Perera

**Executive Officer:**         Vacant

## **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 November 2008***

- **Public Hearings held in Melbourne on 5 November, Mildura on 6 November, Shepparton on 18 November, Bendigo on 19 November and Ballarat on 20 November**
- **Analysis of Submissions underway.**

#### ***Future Activities***

- **Continued analysis of Submissions**
- **Analysis of Public Hearing transcripts**

# 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 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 (from 30 October 2007), 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**

- **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 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.

### ***Activity during November 2008***

- Literature review and drafting of final report.

### ***Future activities***

- Ongoing literature review and drafting of final report.
- The Committee will host a work experience student from the University of Melbourne who will contribute to research on this Inquiry.

## **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 November 2008***

- Drafting and finalisation of report.
- The Committee adopted the report on 17 November 2008.

### ***Future activity***

- The Committee will table its report in Parliament in early December.

# OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

---

---

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email:                            osisd@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

## Members:

**(Council)**                        *Mr N Elasmir, 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 August 2009.

### **Activities during November 2008**

- **The Committee and Secretariat contacted organisations and individuals requesting written submissions on its Inquiry into the Sustainable Development of Agribusiness in Outer Suburban Melbourne.**

- The Committee has been undertaking preliminary background research on agribusiness issues.
- The closing date for submissions (8 December 2008) has been extended to 2 February 2009, upon request to the Committee Secretariat.
- Committee Members, Don Nardella MP and David Hodgett MP, presented on the Local Economic Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne report at a Brotherhood of St Laurence hosted seminar on 20 November 2008.

***Future Activities***

- The Committee will plan a series of public hearings and site visits for the first half of 2009.

**COMMITTEE REPORT TABLED AND AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE:**

**Inquiry into Local Economic Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne – Response due April 2009..**

# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

---

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

**Members:**

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

**(Assembly)**                *Mr B Stensholt (Chair), Mr K Wells (Deputy Chair), Ms J  
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 November 2008:*

*Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports  
tabled July 2006-February 2007 (Round One)*

Committee considered draft chapters on:

- Condition of Public Sector Residential Aged Care Facilities; and
- The New Ticketing System Tender.

Committee considered and adopted the Report on the *Review of the findings  
and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports tabled July 2006-  
February 2007* for tabling.

Report on the *Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-  
General’s reports tabled July 2006-February 2007* tabled 13 November 2008.

### ***Draft Performance Audit Specifications***

Committee considered draft specifications in relation to:

- Privately provided public bus services;
- Integrated courts management system; and
- Withdrawal of infringement notices.

Final specifications were noted in relation to the Community Support Fund.

*Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports,  
Round Two*

Public hearings were conducted with various witnesses from:

- the Victorian Auditor-General’s Office;

- Department of Premier and Cabinet;
  - Department of Treasury and Finance;
  - Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development; and
  - The Victorian major Events Company
- in relation to:
- State Investment in Major Events
  - Maintaining Victoria's Rail Infrastructure Assets
  - Promoting Better Health Through Healthy Eating and Physical Activity

Responses from Departments to audit review questionnaires received and to be considered.

Public submissions on Priority One audit reviews, Round Two received and to be considered.

#### ***Future Activities***

Committee consideration of:

- draft report for Round Two audit reviews;
- draft specifications for proposed performance audits to be conducted by the Auditor-General; and

Response from the Auditor-General and the Government Response from Government on the Committee's recommendations Report on the *Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General's reports tabled July 2006-February 2007* due 13 May 2009

## **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](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec/inquiries/finance_practices_legislation/terms.html)

#### ***Activities during November 2008***

Committee considered and adopted the *Preliminary Report on New Directions in Accountability, Inquiry into Victoria's Public Finance Practices and Legislation*.

Committee received a briefing from Department of Treasury and Finance in relation to issues and status of the Public Finance Bill Project.

*Preliminary Report on New Directions in Accountability, Inquiry into Victoria's Public Finance Practices and Legislation* was tabled 13 November 2008.

#### ***Future Activities***

Consideration of submissions on the Preliminary Report.

Drafting, consideration and adoption of the final *Report on New Directions in Accountability, Inquiry into Victoria's Public Finance Practices and Legislation* for tabling in February 2009.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES**

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

### ***Activities during November 2008***

Review of annual reports commenced.

Questionnaire Part Two for Departments and related agencies developed for consideration.

Research and drafting of Report chapters.

### ***Future Activities***

Questionnaire Part Two for Departments and related agencies to be considered for distribution to departments and agencies in December 2008.

Further research and drafting of Report chapters.

Review of responses to Questionnaires from Departments, agencies and the Auditor-General

Clarification of responses to Questionnaires.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

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

### ***Future Activities***

Response from Government on the Committee's recommendations due 15 April 2009

## **2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES**

### ***Activities during November 2008***

Government response to Committee report received 19 November 2008.

### ***Future Activities***

Response from Government on the Committee's recommendations to be considered.



# 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 T Mulder, 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 November 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 December 2008 by resolution of the Legislative Council on 9 October 2008.

### **Activity during November 2008**

- **The Committee received a draft report and commenced deliberations.**

### **Future Activity**

- **Draft report to be adopted and tabled in December.**

## **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 November 2008***

- **Letters inviting submissions were sent to key agencies in Victoria and other states and territories. Advertisements calling for submissions were placed in The Age, Herald Sun, The Australian, as well as the Geelong Advertiser, Ballarat Courier and Bendigo Advertiser.**
- **Submissions close 6 February 2009.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Commence background research.**

# 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](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rrc)

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

**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 MLC

**Executive Officer:** Ms Lilian Topic

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

---

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

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

and the Committee should make recommendations on any necessary or desirable actions that could be taken to assist Victoria's rural and regional businesses to adapt to the proposed changes in order to limit the potential negative impacts of the changes.

The Committee is required to report to Parliament by 30 September 2007.

## INQUIRY INTO RURAL AND REGIONAL TOURISM

---

Referred by the Legislative Council on 15 March 2007 – to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on –

- (1) the economic benefits of tourism in regional areas, including tracking the flow-on benefits through other regional businesses and industry;
- (2) potential impediments to the sustained growth of regional tourism, economic activity and jobs;
- (3) the effectiveness, at a National, State and local level, of current programs to promote and enhance tourism in regional Victoria;
- (4) initiatives to increase both international and domestic visitor nights in regional Victoria;
- (5) the efficacy of existing mechanisms at a National, State and local level to address the impact on regional tourism of natural events such as bushfires, floods and drought, and effective measures to drive long term economic recovery; and
- (6) opportunities to leverage private investment and commercial activity in regional tourism infrastructure, including ecotourism.

#### ***Activity during November 2008***

- **Fulfilment of requests for copies of Final Report, as required.**

#### ***Future activity***

- **Deal with requests for copies of the Final Report and for information about the Inquiry status.**

### **AWAITING GOVERNMENT RESPONSE : DUE JANUARY 2009**

#### **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 November 2008***

- **Committee formally accepted submissions, at an ordinary deliberative meeting**
- **Committee conducted a regional public hearing in Geelong, with the following witnesses appearing:**
  - **G21 Geelong Region Alliance, local councils, Champions of the Bush Inc., Gap Development Corporation Pty Ltd, Barwon Water Board, Avalon Airport, Public Transport Users Group, Committee for Geelong, and interested members of the local population**
- **Committee conducted a regional public hearing in Ballarat, with the following witnesses appearing:**
  - **Local councils, University of Ballarat, MaxiTRANS Industries Limited, BEST Community Development, Committee for Ballarat, Commerce Ballarat, and interested members of the local population**
- **Committee conducted a site visit to Café BEST in Ballarat**
- **Committee conducted a regional public hearing in Morwell, with the following witnesses appearing:**
  - **Local councils, Gippsland Water, Patties Foods, Champions of the Bush Inc., Gippsland Area Consultative Committee, Monash University Gippsland Campus, Loy Yang Power, Australian Sustainable Industry Research Centre, Advance Morwell, and interested members of the local population**
- **Canberra Delegation Subcommittee deferred its planned visit to Canberra to meet with the Minister and officials of the Federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government**
- **Preparation for regional public hearings to be held during the remainder of 2008 in Shepparton and Bendigo**
- **Preparation of a proposal for overseas consultations in 2009**
- **Discussion and review of a proposed 2009 timetable**
- **Research and literature review continued**
- **Committee Secretariat enlisted a research assistant.**

### ***Future activities***

- **Organisation and coordination of public consultation program**
- **Research and writing of briefing material for regional hearings**
- **Consultation with stakeholders**
- **Processing of submissions received**
- **Summary of submissions and transcripts of evidence**
- **Briefing of the Committee on Inquiry issues**
- **Finalisation of Inquiry-related meeting and regional consultation program for 2009**
- **Ongoing research and drafting**

- **Preparation of a timetable for drafting of the report**
- **Preparation of draft recommendations and chapter outlines for the report**
- **Drafting of a proposal to visit other jurisdictions, and work towards meetings.**

# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

---

---

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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

Website: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/sarc](http://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 November 2008*

The Committee met on the 10 November 2008, where it considered and approved:

- **Alert Digest No. 14 of 2008**  
**Assisted Reproductive Treatment Bill 2008**  
**Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Bill 2008**  
**Research Involving Human Embryos Bill 2008**  
**Crimes Legislation Amendment (Food and Drink Spiking) Bill 2008**  
**Health Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2008**  
**Multicultural Victoria Amendment Bill 2008**  
**Police Regulation Amendment Bill 2008**  
**Professional Standards and Legal Profession Acts Amendment Bill 2008**  
**Public Administration Amendment Bill 2008**  
**State Taxation Acts Further Amendment Bill 2008**

## SUBCOMMITTEES

---

### Redundant Legislation

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

### ***Activity during November 2008***

The Subcommittee did not meet in November.

### **Regulation Review**

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

### ***Activity during November 2008***

The Subcommittee met on 26 November 2008, where it considered and approved the following Regulations:

- **Statutory Rules 2008**
  - SR No. 122 - Planning and Environment (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 117 – Supreme Court (Chapter V Amendment No.5) Rules 2008
  - SR No. 118 – Supreme Court (Chapter VI Amendment No.1) Rules 2008
  - SR No. 119 – County Court (Chapter 1 Amendment No.24) Rules 2008
  - SR No. 98 – Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 103 – Gambling Regulation (Race Fields) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 107 – Infringements (General) Further Amendment Regulations 2008
  - SR No.109 – Chattel Securities (Purchase Price) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 111 – Mental Health Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 127 – Crimes (Controlled Operations) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 130 – Transport (Tow Truck) Amendment Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 115 – Road Safety (General) Amendment (Fatigue Management) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 116 – Road Safety (Drivers) Amendment (Fatigue Management) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 108 – Infringements (Reporting and Prescribed Details and Forms) Amendment Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 113 – Marine (Infringements Amendments) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 110– Transport Superannuation Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 123 – Transport (Conduct and Infringements) Amendment Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 125 – Victorian Plantations Corporation (Register of Plantation Licences) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 112 – Chattel Securities (Registration) Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 120 – Children’s Services Further Amendment Regulations 2008
  - SR No. 121 – Environment Protection (Residential Noise) Regulations 2008
  - Compliance Codes under Section 149 Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
  - Ministerial Determination – *Retail Leases Act 2003*

# FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE

---

---

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

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

Website:                      [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/SCFPA/](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 DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONS

---

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on Victorian departmental and agency performance and operations for the previous financial year.

### ***Activity during November 2008***

- **Invitations sent to Departments and/or agencies to give evidence at public hearings.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Public hearings proposed for 10 December 2008 with VicForests.**

## 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.

### ***Activity during November 2008***

- **Written submissions invited. Closing date for submissions is 19 December 2008.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Public hearings proposed early 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.

### ***Activity during November 2008***

- **Written submissions invited. Closing date for submissions is 19 December 2008.**

### ***Future Activity***

- **Public hearings proposed early 2009.**
- 
-