



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 SEPTEMBER 2009

56th Parliament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Mrs Judy Maddigan

Executive Officer: Ms Sandy Cook

INQUIRY INTO JUSTICE AND CRIME STRATEGIES IN HIGH VOLUME CRIMES

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

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

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

Activities during August 2009

- Awaiting Government response
- On going mail out of Final Report

INQUIRY INTO STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CRIME AGAINST THE PERSON

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

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

and to report by 30 August 2010.

Activities in September 2009

- Literature search continued
- Advertisement in *The Age* and *Herald Sun* on 5 September 2009 announcing the Inquiry and calling for submissions.
- Mail out to key stakeholders and interested individuals announcing the Inquiry and calling for submissions.
- Arrangements made for Public Hearings which are to be conducted on 7 and 8 October 2009.

INQUIRY INTO PEOPLE TRAFFICKING FOR SEX WORK

The Committee is to inquire consider and report no later than 30 June 2010 into people trafficking for sex work including:

- a) the extent and nature of trafficking people for the purposes of sex work into Victoria from overseas;
- b) the inter-relationship (if any) between the unlicensed and licensed prostitution sectors in Victoria, and trafficking for the purposes of sex work;
- c) the current and proposed intergovernmental and international strategies and initiatives in relation to dealing with trafficking for the purposes of sex work; and
- d) the need for policy and legislative reform to combat trafficking for the purposes of sex work in Victoria.

Activities in September 2009

- Literature search continued
- Advertisement in *The Age* and *Herald Sun* on 5 September 2009 announcing the Inquiry and calling for submissions.
- Mail out to key stakeholders and interested individuals announcing the Inquiry and calling for submissions.
- In camera background briefing provided to the Committee
- Briefing prepared on the law and legal issues relating to people trafficking for sex work.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: edic@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Hon Christine Campbell

Executive Officer: Dr Vaughn Koops

INQUIRY INTO IMPROVING ACCESS TO VICTORIAN PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION AND DATA

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

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

Activities during September 2009

- Mail out of report continued
- Secretariat briefed Committees on report with a focus on research and procedural issues, 24 September 2009.

Future Activities

- Secretariat briefing Parliament Library on report, 23 October 2009
- Government Response due December 2009.

INQUIRY INTO THE VICTORIAN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

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

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

Activities during September 2009

- Submissions accepted and placed on Committee's website
- Submissions summarised and collated into table
- Literature reviewed
- Public Hearings convened on 7 and 14 September 2009.

Future Activities

- Literature continues to be reviewed
- Public Hearings in Canberra and Sydney scheduled for 27 – 29 October.

INQUIRY INTO STATE GOVERNMENT TAXATION AND DEBT

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

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

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

Activity during September 2009

- Research Officer recruitment September 2009

Future Activity

- Public Hearings in Canberra and Sydney scheduled for 27 – 29 October

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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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

SKILLS SHORTAGES IN THE RAIL INDUSTRY

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

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

Activities during September 2009

The Committee travelled to Brisbane and Rockhampton to conduct meetings with representatives of the following organisations:

- Rail Industry Leaders Group
- Queensland University of Technology
- CRC for Rail Innovation
- RailCom
- Queensland Rail
- Centre for Railway Engineering, Central Queensland University
- The Committee also visited The Workshops Rail Museum (North Ipswich), Queensland Rail Driver Training Centre (Rockhampton) and Queensland Rail Rollingstock and Component Services Workshop (Rockhampton).

Future Activity

The Committee will continue to accept written submissions and will conduct investigations in New Zealand during October.

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

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

- a) existing activities carried out by schools to promote holistic healthy living within their school communities involving healthy eating, active lifestyles, sun smart awareness and appreciation of the effects of harmful substances;
- b) successful programs which have been instituted in schools in other states or internationally;
- c) identify whether it is appropriate for the State to encourage schools to extend health programs to be directed at the broader school community and, if so, what the most effective and efficient approaches are;
- d) opportunities for linking with community leaders and forming partnerships with business and community organisations;
- e) existing broader health promotion policies and activities; and
- f) how school-based activities could relate and coordinate with these to maximise impact and efficiency.

Activities during September 2009

The Committee had received 108 written submissions as at 30 September.

The Committee conducted meetings in Brisbane with representatives of the Department of Education and Training, Queensland Health and the University of Queensland.

Future Activity

The Committee will continue to accept written submissions and conduct public hearings. It will also conduct meetings in New Zealand during October.

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.

Future Activity

The Government response is due in January 2010.

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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

Members:

(Council) Ms C Broad, Mr P Davis and Mr A Somyurek

(Assembly) Hon C Campbell, Mr M O'Brien, Mr R Scott and
Mr M Thompson

Chair: Mr Adem Somyurek

Executive Officer: Mr Mark Roberts

INQUIRY INTO POLITICAL DONATIONS AND DISCLOSURE

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

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

Future Activity

- Government response due 7 November 2009.

INQUIRY INTO VOTER PARTICIPATION AND INFORMAL VOTING

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

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

Activity during September 2009

- Mail out of report continued to interested individuals and organisations and additional follow up issues attended to.

Future Activity

- Government response due 30 January 2010.

INQUIRY INTO MATTERS ARISING FROM KOROROIT DISTRICT BY-ELECTION

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

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

Activities during September 2009

- Committee considered and adopted draft report outline at meeting on 14 September 2009
- Additional submissions received and posted on Committee website.

Future Activities

- Reviewing transcripts of evidence received from public hearings, and submissions
- Writing draft chapters of report for Committee consideration.

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2803 Facsimile: (03) 8682 2818

Email: enrc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Hon J Pandazopoulos

Executive Officer: Ms Caroline Williams

INQUIRY INTO THE APPROVALS PROCESS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS IN VICTORIA

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

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

Activities during September 2009

- Public hearings on 7 and 8 September in Port Fairy with Moyne Shire Council, City of Warrnambool, Corangamite Shire Council, Framlingham Aboriginal Trust, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Macarthur-Hawkesdale Landscape Guardians, regional Department of Planning and Community Development and Department of Sustainability and Environment officers and Hot Rock Limited giving evidence

- Briefing from Pacific Hydro and site visit to Portland wind farms on 8 September. Site visit at Keppel Prince Engineering, Portland
- Executive Officer attended Parliamentary science briefing on carbon capture and storage (17 September)
- Public hearings in Adelaide on 28 and 29 September with Wattle Range Council; Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure; Department of Planning and Local Government; Primary Industries and Resources SA; Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (Department of the Premier and Cabinet); RenewablesSA; Australian Geothermal Energy Association; AGL; Environmental Defenders Office, Australian Energy Market Operator; Wyatt and Associates; and Carnegie Wave Energy giving evidence
- Briefing from the Presiding Member of the Environment, Resources and Development Committee, Parliament of South Australia on wind farm report (29 September).

Future Activity

- Drafting of report.

INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS STATEMENT PROCESS IN VICTORIA

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

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

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

and to report by 30 August 2010.

Activity during September 2009

- Work has not commenced on this inquiry.

SOIL SEQUESTRATION IN VICTORIA

On Wednesday 2 September 2009 the Legislative Assembly directed the Environment and Natural Resources Committee to:

- (a) explore possible benefits to the agricultural industry;
- (b) explore possible environmental benefits;
- (c) consider methodologies for measurement of the effects of carbon sequestration, including any potential issues associated with the measurement of benefits;

- (d) identify the costs;
- (e) identify any possible harms or detriments;
- (f) identify linkages with the proposed carbon pollution reduction scheme and other relevant Federal Government policies;
- (g) identify linkages with existing Victorian Government policies; and
- (h) explore options for the Victorian Government to support the benefits (if any) of soil sequestration.

and to report by 31 August 2010.

Activities during September 2009

- Work has not commenced on this inquiry
- The Committee will advertise the terms of reference in mid October and call for written submissions.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Mr Jude Perera

Executive Officer: Dr Janine Bush

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

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

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

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

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

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

Activities during September 2009

- Waiting for a response from the Minister for Community Services and Mental Health for data and information from Mental Health and Drugs Division in the Department of Health and Disability Services Division in Department of Human Services relating to the Inquiry
- Drafting report for committee's consideration.

Future Activity

- Writing of draft report to continue
- Committee to consider draft report.

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

The Legislative Council agreed on 29 July 2009 to a motion to refer a new reference to the Family & Community Development Committee requiring it to inquire, consider and on the adequacy and future directions of public housing in Victoria, including —

- (a) public housing waiting lists in Victoria;
- (b) the impact on individuals and families of waiting times to access public housing and how this varies by each segment;
- (c) the adequacy, quality and standards of Victorian public housing;

- (d) the safety and location of Victorian public housing and public housing estates; and
 - (e) the impact of public housing need on specific groups, including women, seniors, the homeless, indigenous Victorians, refugees, people with a mental illness, substance abuse and/or disability;
- and to report by 30 September 2010.

Activity during September 2009

- Scoping brief prepared.

Future activities

- Research Officer recruitment October 2009
- Literature review
- Advertise call for submissions.

LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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Members:

(Council) Mrs J Kronberg, Mr J Scheffer

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

Chair: Mr Johan Scheffer (from 20 August 2007)

Executive Officer: Ms Kerry Riseley

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

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

- a) the reach and use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanisms, including Government established ADR schemes and restorative justice schemes, so as to improve access to justice and outcomes in civil and criminal court jurisdictions and to reduce the need, where possible, for contact with the court system, particularly in marginalised communities;
- b) whether a form of Government regulation of alternative dispute resolution providers is appropriate or feasible so as to ensure greater consistency and accountability for Victorians wishing to access alternative dispute resolution.

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

Activities

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

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

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

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

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

Activities during September 2009

- The Committee accepted one further submission to the Inquiry, taking the total number of submissions received to 28
- The Committee received some further responses to its survey about the code of conduct and register of interests that was sent to all current members of the Victorian Parliament in August 2009
- Mr Mahmud Begg, a Law Foundation Legal Policy Intern, completed a research project on public debate about members of parliament and ethics
- Drafting of the final report continued.

Future activity

- The Committee will consider the draft report.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

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

- (a) consider the differing formality requirements and terminology, and coverage of the power of attorney documents, governed by the Instruments Act 1958 and the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986;
- (b) establish whether the donor of a power of attorney has capacity to create a legally enforceable document and differing execution requirements and the different tests that apply;
- (c) clarify the powers granted by the donor when making a power of attorney;
- (d) examine ways of minimising abuse in relation to the execution of and exercise of powers under powers of attorney documents;
- (e) consider the issue of legal capacity in the context of when an enduring power of attorney is executed and activated; and
- (f) advise on the need for adopting potential safeguards such as the registration of documents (voluntary or mandatory).*

* The reporting date was extended to 31 August 2010 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 13 August 2009.

Activities during September 2009

- Research and literature review continued
- The Committee accepted a further 15 submissions to the Inquiry, taking the total number of submissions received to 62.

Future activities

- A number of late submissions are expected
- The Committee will commence holding public hearings in October 2009.

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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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 March 2010.

Activities during September 2009

8 September 2009

Site visit

- Aqueous Solutions premises in Williamstown, and inspection of a bore water desalination unit in Laverton North.

Public Hearing – Parliament House

- Ron Harris, Executive Director, Farm Services Victoria, Department of Primary Industries.
- Luke Wilson, Executive Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Division, Department of Primary Industries.

14 September 2009

- ‘Thriving or Just Surviving in Our Cities’ Seminar. Presented by Future Leaders in partnership with Melbourne Conversations, Federation Square, Melbourne.

The Committee began drafting a report on its recent overseas evidence seeking trip, in addition to beginning the drafting of its final report for the agribusiness inquiry.

Future Activities

6 October 2009

Public Hearing and Site visits at City of Whittlesea Council

- Jim Konas, Hellenic Cheese
- Gwynedd Hunter-Payne, Merri Merri Olive Estate
- Eric South, Glen Ard Cool Stores
- Judy Clements, Victorian Farmer’s Federation Whittlesea Branch
- Gordon Taylor, local farmer

27 October 2009

Public Hearing and Site visits at Yarra Ranges Shire Council

The Committee will continue preparing the overseas evidence seeking trip report and drafting of its final report for the agribusiness inquiry. A number of further site visits and public hearings will also be scheduled between October and December, as part of the agribusiness inquiry.

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

Received from the Legislative Council on 29 July 2009.

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

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

- (a) the likely quantum of the collections by Government;
- (b) mechanisms to ensure the contributions are directed only to the intended purposes;

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

Activities during September 2009

21 September 2009

- The Committee agreed to commence the UGB Inquiry

23 September 2009

- The Committee advertised the Inquiry calling for submissions with closing date of 12 October 2009.

Future Activities

12 October 2009

- Closing Date for Submissions

20 & 22 October 2009

- Public Hearings.

INQUIRY INTO FARMERS' MARKETS

Received from the Legislative Assembly on 13 August 2009.

That pursuant to the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee is required to inquire into, consider and report no later than 31 August 2010 into farmers' markets, and the Committee should:

- (1) Identify the types of farmers' markets operating in interface municipalities and peri-urban areas;
- (2) Investigate the history and growth potential of this form of retail/agricultural activity and the demand created for products sourced from interface and peri-urban areas;
- (3) Examine the structure, codes of practice, strategic planning and economic viability of farmers' markets and any barriers or impediments to their development and long term growth;
- (4) Examine how farmers' markets can contribute to increasing the viability of small scale farming enterprises located in the interface and peri-urban municipalities, especially in the designated 'Green Wedge' zoned land; and
- (5) Identify any barriers to access farmers' markets for producers to supply or retail at these markets

Activity during August 2009

- This inquiry has not yet commenced.

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 R Dalla-Riva, Ms J Huppert, Ms S Pennicuik, Mr G Rich-Phillips,*

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

Chair: Mr Bob Stensholt

Executive Officer: Ms Valerie Cheong

THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE

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

Activities during September 2009:

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

Priority One

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

Priority Two

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

The Committee considered and approved a final draft of the report.

The Committee’s Report, *Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports 2007-08* was tabled on 23 September 2009.

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

Priority One

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

Priority Two

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

In relation to Priority One reports, responses to questionnaires were received from the Auditor-General and Departments

Public hearings were conducted on 23 September 2009 with the Auditor-General, Secretaries of the Department of Health and Department of Sustainability and Environment and the CEO of the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority.

Draft Performance Audit Specifications

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

- Performance Reporting Across Government
- Access to Social Housing

Future Activities

The development of Questions on Notice arising from the hearings of 23 September 2009 for Round 4 audit reviews.

The development of questionnaires for relevant Departments and agencies for priority two audit reviews for Round 4.

Consideration of the evidence including questionnaire responses, transcripts, public submissions and other sources. Research and drafting of reports for priority one and two reviews of Auditor-General's reports, Round 4;

The Auditor-General is expected to consult with the Committee on his 2010-11 Annual Plan, his views on the Committees *Inquiry into Victoria's Audit Act 1994* and on further audit specifications; and

Anticipated tabling of the Committee's Round 4 report by March 2010.

Committee consideration of:

- Draft specifications for proposed performance audits to be conducted by the Auditor-General; and
- Responses to Questions on Notice from the Auditor-General and Departments and public submissions on Round 4 Priority One reports.

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

The Government's response to the Committee's report on the *Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General's reports 2007-2008* (Round Three) is due 23 March 2010.

INQUIRY INTO A REVIEW OF THE *AUDIT ACT 1994*

Terms of Reference for this Inquiry are:

- (a) review in its entirety the Act and its provisions, taking into account contemporary developments and emerging issues both in Victoria and similar jurisdictions so as to further strengthen public accountability in Victoria;
- (b) seek public submissions and hold hearings on the review of the Act;
- (c) consider the views of the Auditor-General of Victoria;
- (d) consider the views of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Treasury and Finance, as the appropriate central agencies of the Victorian government, on desirable reform and amendment of the Act; and
- (e) examine audit legislation in other jurisdictions both in Australia and overseas with a view to determining whether the legislation and practice in those jurisdictions might be relevant to review and reform the Act.

Activities during September 2009

The Committee has:

- commenced the research of audit legislation in national and international jurisdictions;
- developed questionnaires for specific organisations in international jurisdictions; and
- planned evidence-gathering consultations with organisations in national jurisdictions.

Future Activities

- Arrange private discussions with the Committee and relevant stakeholders;
- Continue to research audit legislation in other jurisdictions and develop questionnaires for consultations with organisations in national jurisdictions; and
- Seek evidence from national and international jurisdictions.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

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

Activity during September 2009

Commenced the planning of, scoping, report structuring and questionnaires for Departments and agencies.

Future Activities

Development and Committee consideration of a proposed structure and scope for the Inquiry;

Development and Committee consideration of a Part One Questionnaire (generic) incorporating an Explanatory Memorandum for sending to Departments and agencies; and

Review of the 2008-09 Annual Reports of Departments and 33 agencies for the development and Committee consideration of a Part Two Questionnaire (organisation specific) for sending to Departments and agencies.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2009-10 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Source of reference: *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, section 33(3).
2009-10 Budget Estimates Part Two Report

Activities during September 2009:

- Research and drafting of chapters on varying subject matters progressed;
- Committee consideration of specific chapters and issues; and
- Further clarification questions developed and consideration of responses from departments.

Future Activity

Final draft developed on the *Report on the 2009-10 Budget Estimates Part Two* for Committee consideration and anticipated tabling in Parliament in October 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

Activity in September 2009

Meetings conducted and on-going discussions held with senior representatives of the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Public Finance Bill Steering Committee regarding progress of the development of the *Public Finance Bill*.

Future Activity

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

INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

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

Future Activity

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

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Mr John Eren

Executive Officer: Ms Alexandra Douglas

FEDERAL–STATE ROAD FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS INQUIRY

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007 – for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 30 September 2008* on Federal – State road funding arrangements – and the Committee should –

- (a) review current arrangements in Australia;
- (b) assess the current arrangements in Australia in respect of economic efficiency and equity;
- (c) make recommendations for improving Federal–State road funding arrangements in Australia.

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

Activity during September 2009

- Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

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

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 9 September 2008 –

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

Activity during September 2009

- Drafting of the report continued.

Future Activity

- Draft report to be presented to the Committee for consideration.

INQUIRY INTO THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS IN CAR PARKS

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 4 December 2008 –

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

Activities during September 2009

- The Committee held a public hearing in Melbourne on 14 September 2009. Witnesses appeared before the Committee, representing:
 - City of Melbourne;
 - City of Stonnington ;
 - City of Boroondara;
 - Bayswater North Community Renewal - Paths and Parking Action Group;
 - Maroondah City Council;
 - Department of Planning & Community Development;
 - Wilson Parking Australia, and
 - WorkSafe Victoria
- Ongoing research and literature review
- Research Officer met with specialists at the ARRB group to gather data.

Future Activity

- Ongoing 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

Email: 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

Executive Officer: Ms Lilian Topic

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

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

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

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

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

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL CENTRES OF THE FUTURE

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 27 May 2008 – to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 September 2009 on measures to build on the current Government's investment in regional Victoria, through further development and enhancement of regional centres, focusing on the development of regional centres as places of economic, environmental, social and cultural innovation that enable

regional Victoria to meet the challenge of predicted future population growth in this state, and, in particular, the Committee is required to report on:

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

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

Activities during September 2009

- Committee Secretariat continued drafting Report on International Investigations
- Ongoing discussion and review of 2009 timetable
- Continued liaison with Consultant to assist with preparation of the draft Inquiry Report, and related matters
- Preparation of draft report recommendations and chapters of the Final Report for the consideration of the Committee
- Committee sought an extension for this Inquiry.

Future activities

- Ongoing research in accordance with timetable for drafting of the report
- Updating and development of website content as required
- Preparation of draft report recommendations and chapters of the Final Report for the consideration of the Committee.

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

Members

(Council) *Mr K Eideh, Mr E O'Donohue, Mrs I Peulich and Ms J Pulford*

(Assembly) *Mr C Brooks, Mr C Carli (Chair), Mr K Jasper (Deputy Chair),
Mr T Languiller and Mr R Smith*

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli

Executive Officer: Mr Andrew Homer

FULL COMMITTEE

Exceptions and Exemptions to the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*

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

Activities during September 2009

The Committee met on 7, 14, 21 and 28 September to discuss the inquiry findings and consider the draft final report.

The Committee timetable was changed and the final report will now be tabled on 10 November.

Future Activities

Deliberative meetings have been scheduled to consider updated sections of the draft final report.

Full Committee activities during September

On 14 September 2009 the Committee met and adopted:

- Alert Digest No. 11 of 2009
Courts Legislation Amendment (Judicial Resolution Conference) Bill 2009
Education and Training Reform Amendment (School Age) Bill 2009
Land Legislation Amendment Bill 2009
Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009
Major Transport Projects Facilitation Bill 2009
Valuation of land Amendment Bill 2009
Victorian Renewable Energy Amendment Bill 2009

SUBCOMMITTEES

Redundant Legislation

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

Activity during September 2009

The Subcommittee did not meet during September.

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 September 2009

The Subcommittee did not meet during September.

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/

Members:

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

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONS

Terms of Reference:

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

Substituted Members:

Mr Brian Tee for Mr Matt Viney

Activity during September 2009

- Further hearing with the Growth Areas Authority on Monday 7 September 2009.

Future Activity

- Minister for Planning invited to give evidence in relation to Growth Areas Authority performance and operations. Awaiting feedback on hearing time/date.

INQUIRY INTO BUSINESS CASE FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Terms of Reference:

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

Substituted Members:

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

Activity during September 2009

- Consideration of evidence received at hearings in August and follow-up of questions taken on notice.

Future Activity

- Further hearings to be determined.

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE DATA

Terms of Reference:

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

Substituted Members:

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

Activity during September 2009

- Consideration of evidence received at hearings in August and follow-up of questions taken on notice.

Future Activity

- Further hearings to be determined.

INQUIRY INTO BUILDERS WARRANTY INSURANCE

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on:

- the effectiveness of the current mandatory last resort Builders Warranty Insurance scheme in providing necessary and appropriate consumer protection and industry management;
- the specific role of government agencies in their effectiveness in managing and representing Victoria's registered builders under the current Builders Warranty Insurance scheme;
- any possible alternatives to the current Builders Warranty Insurance Scheme in Victoria; and
- any related matters.

Activity during September 2009

- On 7 September 2009, the Committee resolved to undertake the above inquiry and advised the Legislative Council of the new reference.

Future Activity

- Consideration of process and timelines including calling for written submissions.

TRAIN SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

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

Website: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/trainservices/

Members:

(Council) *Mr G Barber, Mr D Drum, Ms J Huppert, Mr E O'Donohue,
Mr M Viney*

Chair: Mr Bruce Atkinson

Deputy Chair: Mr Shaun Leane

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO TRAIN SERVICES

Terms of Reference:

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

Activities during September 2009

- Public Hearings on Tuesday 22 September 2009, with evidence received from the following witnesses:
 - Dr John Stone, GAMUT
 - Mr Kary Petersen, Manager – Transport & Mr Rowan Barker, Manager – Media & Communications, Tourism and Transport Forum
 - Mr Edward Dotson
 - Cr Samantha Dunn, Eastern Transport Coalition
 - Dr Paul Mees, Senior Lecturer in Transport Planning, RMIT

Future Activities

- Further public hearings to take place on Monday 5 October 2009, with evidence to be received from the following witnesses:
 - Prof Graham Currie, Chair in Public Transport, Monash University
 - Mr Peter Moore, Executive Director, UITP
 - Mr Dennis Watson, Upgrade Upfield Corridor Committee
 - Mr Daniel Bowen, President & Dr Tony Morton, Secretary, Public Transport Users Association
 - Ms Suzie Strain, Executive Officer, Metropolitan Transport Forum Cr Martin Zakharov, Secretary Metropolitan Transport Forum & Councillor, City of Maribyrnong & Mr Paul Hamilton, Manager Transport, City of Casey.
- Further public hearings to take place on Tuesday 6 October 2009, with evidence to be received from the following witnesses:
 - Mr Alan Osborne, Director, & Mr Chris McKeown, General Manager Safety Systems, Public Transport Safety Victoria
 - Mr Bernie Carolan, Metlink
 - Mr Paul Bennet, Director & Mr Brian Luber, Executive Manager Sales, Siemens Rail Services
 - Mr Rob Barnett, Chief Executive Officer, V/Line