



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS

To 30 September 2008

56th Parliament

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

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

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

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

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

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

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DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: dcpc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: 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 September 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 September 2008

- **Review of literature continued**
- **Mail out of the Discussion Paper continued**
- **The Committee visited Broadmeadows Court and Koori Court on 3 September 2008 and met with:**
 - Mr Robert Kumar, Senior Co-ordinating Magistrate**
 - Ms Ann Collins, Koori Court Magistrate**
 - Mr Rick Roberts, Senior Registrar**
 - Ms Terrie Stewart, Koori Court Officer**
 - Ms Marie Ianni, Credit Bail Officer**
- **Call for submissions closed on September 08**
- **The Committee conducted Public Hearings in Melbourne on 8 September 2008:**
 - Appearing before the Committee were;**
 - Ms Julie Edwards, CEO Jesuit Social Services**
 - Mr Michael Gourlay, Policy Director Jesuit Social Services**
 - Ms Amanda Watkinson, Manager – Brosnan Centre, Jesuit Social Services**
 - Ms Georgie Ferrari, CEO YACVic**
 - Ms Jen Rose, Policy Manager YACVic**
 - Ms Sally Reid, Manager of Projects Centre for Multicultural Youth**
 - Ms Soo-Lin Quek, Centre for Multicultural Youth**

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, 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 September 2008

- **Seventy eight submissions have been received to date and continue to be summarised**
- **Briefing papers prepared for members**
- **Public hearings held in Melbourne on 8 and 30 September 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 October 2008**

Other Activities – Financial Services Sector Inquiry

- **Stakeholders advised that the Financial Services Sector Inquiry rescinded**

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2821 **Facsimile:** 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.

Activities during September 2008

The Committee conducted international investigations in Canada (2 - 5 September).

The Committee held public hearings for representatives of the early childhood education sector on Thursday 18 September 2008.

The research officer continued drafting the final report for consideration by the Committee.

Future Activity

The Committee will commence formal deliberations on 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.

Activity during September 2008

The Committee conducted international investigations in Canada (2 to 5 September).

Future Activity

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

ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2885 **Facsimile:** 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.

Activity during September 2008

- **Continue to mail out reports, as required**

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 September 2008

- **Submissions still being received and published on Committee's website**
- **Secretariat summarising key points from public hearings and submissions for Committee consideration.**

Future Activity

- **Draft outline of report to be submitted to Committee for consideration at meeting on 6 October 2008.**

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 September 2008

- **Submissions still being received and published on Committee’s website**
- **Secretariat summarising key points from public hearings and submissions for Committee consideration.**

Future Activities

- **Draft outline of report to be submitted to Committee for consideration at meeting on 10 November 2008**
- **Secretariat summarising key points from public hearings and submissions, for Committee consideration.**
- **OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

Activity during September 2008

- **Committee meetings held with electoral commissions and organisations in North America and the United Kingdom relevant to Committee’s overseas study tour into Political Donations and Disclosure and Voter Participation and Informal Voting, 22 August – 6 September 2008**

Future Activities

- **Prepare report on international study tour**
- **Committee meetings – 6 October 2008 and 27 October 2008**
- **Consideration given to Committee visit to New Zealand in February 2009, to further inquiry into Political Donations and Disclosure and Voter participation and Informal Voting.**

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.

Activities during September

As part of the *Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply* the Committee held a public hearing on 8 September 2008 at Parliament House in the LCCR from 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm.

The Committee heard evidence from the following witnesses:

- Mr Peter Harris, Secretary The Department of Sustainability and Environment;
- Mr David Downie, General Manager, Office of Water. The Department of Sustainability and Environment;
- Mr Ben Furnage, General Manager, Strategic Planning; Melbourne Water;
- Mr Chris Chesterfield, General Manager, Waterways , Melbourne Water;
- Mr Simon Ramsay, President; Victorian Farmers Federation;

- **Mr Graeme Ford, Executive Manager, Policy, Victorian Farmers Federation; and**
- **Ms Kelly O'Shanassy, Chief Executive Officer, Environment Victoria**

Site Visit to South Australia – 15-16 September 2008

Committee Members attended a site visit to Adelaide and met with SA water managers and stakeholders.

Future Activities

- **Site Visit to Queensland 20-21 October 2008**
- **Public hearing in Melbourne 27 October 2008**
- **Research program to be further developed.**

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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

Email: fcde@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

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

Chair: Mr J Perera

Executive Officer: Mr Paul Bourke

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).

Activities during September 2008

- **Terms of Reference and Discussion Paper continued to be sent to key stakeholders and interest groups**
- **Range of site visits conducted on 23 and 24 September**
- **Organisation of Public Hearings underway**

Future Activities

- **Public Hearing dates for October and November advertised and reminder that submissions are due by 10 October 2008.**
- **Public Hearings are scheduled as follows:**
 - **Traralgon on 21 October**
 - **Melbourne on 22 October**
 - **Geelong on 23 October**

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.

Activities during September 2008

- Literature review and drafting of final report
- The Committee's Executive Officer represented the Committee at the National Mediation Conference in Perth 10-12 September 2008 and presented on the Committee's Inquiry into Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Future activity

- Ongoing literature review and drafting of final report.

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 September 2008

- Literature review and drafting of final report.
- The Committee continued collecting information about persons declared vexatious in other Australian jurisdictions and undertook searches of Victorian court registry databases in relation to these litigants.
- The Committee conducted searches of High Court files in relation to proceedings brought by litigants declared vexatious in Victoria.

Future activities

- Ongoing literature review and drafting of final report.
- Dr Freckelton SC will finalise his reports on consultations with judicial officers and VCAT members and court and VCAT staff and will present his findings to the Committee.
- The Committee will hold a further public hearing on 6 October 2008.

Other activities

- The Committee was represented at an Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies seminar on Working with High Conflict Clients presented by William Eddy.

Ms Claire Barrance commenced with the Law Reform Committee on 23 September 2008. Claire is a third year law student participating in the Law Foundation's Legal Policy Internship program. She will complete a 20 day placement with the Committee.

OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: osisdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmr, 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 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Referred by the Legislative Assembly on 1 March 2007

To inquire, consider and report to Parliament on issues relating to strengthening communities through local economic development initiatives in outer suburban areas.

In particular, the Committee is requested to:

- (a) Examine existing local economic development programs being carried out by municipalities in outer suburban areas;
- (b) Identify the barriers to local economic development and the ways in which these can be addressed;
- (c) Investigate and recommend incentive arrangements for industry and the respective responsibilities of each tier of government;
- (d) Investigate the role of council local economic development units and the types of assistance they provide;
- (e) Examine and report on ways in which councils and government at all levels can encourage economic development, enhance and promote employment opportunities and attract new investment;
- (f) Identify export based operations and opportunities in outer suburban areas and recommend options to encourage their growth;
- (g) Identify new and emerging sectors and how they can assist economic development in outer suburban areas, including innovative examples of business incubators, home-based businesses and social enterprises.

The Committee is to make its final report to Parliament by 30 September 2008.

Activity during September 2008

- **The draft report was completed and adopted by the Committee, with the Committee resolving at its meeting on 16 September that the report be adopted and printed. The report is to be tabled at the next sitting period.**

Future Activity

- **The report will be tabled in the Parliament on 7 October 2008.**

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

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

Members:

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

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

Research and report drafting advanced in relation to:

- **The New Ticketing System Tender;**
- **Government Advertising;**
- **Condition of Public Sector Residential Aged Care Facilities; and**
- **Priority two audit review reports.**

Consideration of:

- **draft specifications for proposed audits in relation to:**
 - **Reporting of public hospital access indicators (replacement topic for Accreditation of overseas trained doctors audit);**
 - **Fraud: systems, policies and procedures in selected education providers (formerly titled Fraud – assessment of systems, policies and procedures); and**
 - **Community Support Fund.**
- **Response of Auditor-General to the Committee’s Report on the *2006-07 Financial and Performance Outcomes*.**

Progression of outputs for Round Two, follow-up reviews of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General Reports:

- **A call for public submissions was advertised on 20 September 2008, with a closing date of 24 October 2008 for submissions;**
- **Questionnaires sent to Department Secretaries and the Auditor-General in relation to high priority Round Two audit reports, specifically:**
 - **State Investment in Major Events**
 - **Maintaining Victoria’s Rail Infrastructure Assets**
 - **Promoting Better Health Through Healthy Eating and Physical Activity**

Future Activities

Development and consideration of:

- draft reports for high priority Round One audit reviews;
- draft specifications for proposed performance audits to be conducted by the Auditor-General; and
- preparatory work including a witness list for hearings anticipated to be conducted over 21-23 November 2008 on Priority One Inquiries.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES

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

Activities during September 2008

Review of Ministerial responses to questions on notice arising from hearings.

Further research and drafting of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates Part Three.

Committee consideration of various draft chapters.

Future Activity

Final drafting, Committee consideration and adoption of the Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates Part Three, for tabling October 2008.

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC FINANCE PRACTICES AND LEGISLATION

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

Terms of reference are available via:

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

Activities during September 2008

Progressing research, jurisdictional comparisons and preliminary drafting of the Report.

Further consultations undertaken with the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Auditor-General.

Consideration of responses to questionnaires on financial and performance reporting frequency received from national and international Treasury jurisdictions.

Future Activities

Consideration and release of preliminary report for discussion with relevant stakeholders

Drafting, consideration and adoption of the Report for tabling in December 2008.

INQUIRY INTO THE 2007-08 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

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

Future Activity

Planning, scoping and development of questionnaires for Departments and related agencies to be commenced and considered in October 2008.

PAEC 2007-08 ANNUAL REPORT

Activity during September 2008

Drafting of the Annual Report well-advanced.

Future Activity

Final Draft of the PAEC 2007-08 Annual Report for consideration, adoption and tabling in October 2008.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCOUNTABILITY IN VICTORIA

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

Government response to Committee report received 10 September 2008, to be considered further by the Committee.

2006-07 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Future Activity

Government response to Committee report, due 8 November 2008.

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

Email: rsc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: 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 September 2008

- Work on this inquiry has not yet commenced.

INQUIRY INTO LEVEL CROSSINGS

Referred by the Legislative Council on 18 July 2007 –

That this House requires the Road Safety Committee to inquire into and report by 29 February 2008* on existing, new and developing technologies for implementation to improve safety at level crossings.

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

Activity during September 2008

- Work progressed on the draft report.

Future Activity

- Draft report to the Committee for consideration.

RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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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 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.

Activities during September 2008

- **Fulfilment of requests for copies of Final Report**
- **Inquiry information and evidence archiving**

Future activities

- **Continuing liaison with stakeholders and responses to queries about the report**
- **Inquiry file archiving and organisation for next Inquiry**

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 September 2008

- **Executive Officer attended a Victoria Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry regional development forum in Bairnsdale**
- **Finalisation of stakeholder lists and invitation to make submission**
- **Drafting of an Inquiry timetable**
- **Research and literature review continued**

Future activities

- **Processing of submissions received**
- **Organisation of ‘workshops’ with experts for October**
- **Briefing of the Committee on Inquiry issues**
- **Finalisation of Inquiry-related meeting and regional hearings calendar**
- **Preparation of a proposal to conduct an overseas visit.**

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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Members

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

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

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli

Executive Officer: Mr Andrew Homer

FULL COMMITTEE

Activities during September 2008

The Committee met on the 8 September 2008, where it considered and approved:

- Alert Digest No. 11 of 2008
Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008
Courts Legislation Amendment (Costs Court and Other Matters) Bill 2008
Evidence Bill 2008
Family Violence Protection Bill 2008
Medical Research Institutes Repeal 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 September 2008

The Subcommittee met on 10 September 2008 to consider the final steps to bring this inquiry to a conclusion by December 2008. It is envisaged that the report on Redundant Corporations Laws Inquiry will be presented for

consideration to the Full Committee meeting on 10th November with the Sub Committee deliberating on a draft in early 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 September 2008

The Subcommittee met on 18 September 2008, where it considered and approved the following Regulations:

- **Statutory Rules 2008**

SR No. 56 – Transfer of Land (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2008

SR No. 43 – Magistrates' Court Civil Procedure (Amendment No. 22) Rules 2008

SR No. 65 – Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Rules 2008

SR No. 46 – Estate Agents (Professional Conduct) Regulations 2008

SR No. 47 – Sale of Land Amendment Regulations 2008

SR No. 50 – Wildlife (Game)(Hunting of Fallow Deer)(Amendment) Regulations 2008

SR No. 53 – Working With Children Amendment Regulations 2008

SR No. 54 – Introduction Agents Regulations 2008

SR No. 55 – Residential Tenancies Regulations 2008

SR No. 59 – Road Safety (General)(Learner Approved Motor Cycle Scheme Amendment) Regulations 2008

SR No. 39 – Estate Agents (General, Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2008

SR No. 42 – Public Transport Competition (Amendment) Regulations 2008

SR No. 49 – Conveyancers (Professional Conduct and Trust Account and General) Regulations 2008

SR No. 52 – Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria Regulations 2008

SR No. 58 – Evidence (Affidavits and Statutory Declarations) Regulations 2008

SR No. 37– Road Safety (Vehicles)(Heavy Vehicles Fees) Amendment Regulations 2008

SR No. 45 – Fair Trading (Safety Standard)(Hot Water Bottles) Regulations 2008

SR No. 38 – Trade Measurement Amendment Regulations 2008

SR No. 40 – Transport (Passenger Vehicles)(Amendment) Regulations 2008

SR No. 41 – Transport (Taxi-Cab Licences – Market and Trading)(Amendment) Regulations 2008

SR No. 44 – Travel Agents (Infringement Penalties) Regulations 2008

SR No. 51 – Serious Sex Offenders Monitoring (Amendment) Regulations 2008

SR No. 57 – Confiscation Regulations 2008

SR No. 48 – Conveyancers (Qualifications, Experience and Fees) Regulations 2008

PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT 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/publicland/

Members:

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

Chair: Mr David Davis

Deputy Chair: Mr Brian Tee

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC LAND DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference:

To inquire into —

- (1) the sale or alienation of public land for development;
- (2) the sale or alienation of public open space for the purposes of private development; and
- (3) the sale and development of public land and the relationship to the Melbourne 2030 policy and Green Wedges.

Activity during September 2008

- **Final report tabled on 11 September 2008.**

Future Activity

- **Nil - function of the Committee has now ceased.**

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

Chair: Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

Deputy Chair: Mr Matt Viney

Secretary: Mr Richard Willis

INQUIRY INTO PORT PHILLIP BAY CHANNEL DEEPENING

Terms of Reference:

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

Activity during September 2008

- **Final report tabled on 11 September 2008.**

Future Activity

- **Awaiting new inquiry.**
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