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# **PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES PROGRESS ON INVESTIGATIONS**

**To 31 JULY 2010**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# **DRUGS AND CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

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**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 STRATEGIES TO REDUCE CRIME AGAINST THE PERSON**

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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 during July 2010***

- Literature review continued.
- Analysis of submissions and other evidence continued.
- Chapters drafted for Final Report

## **INQUIRY INTO PEOPLE TRAFFICKING FOR SEX WORK**

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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 during July 2010***

- The Final Report was tabled in Parliament on 8 June 2010
- Mail-out of the report
- Awaiting government response

## **INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF DRUG-RELATED OFFENDING ON FEMALE PRISON NUMBERS**

---

To the Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee - for inquiry, consideration and report no later than 31 August 2010 into the impact of drug related offending on female prisoner numbers, and the committee should:

- (a) examine the impact of drug related crime on the female prisoner population;
- (b) review the demographic profiles of women in custody for drug offences and the types of drug offences;
- (c) examine underlying causal factors which may influence drug related offending and repeat offending that result in women entering custody; and
- (d) recommend strategies to reduce drug related offending and repeat offending by women, including strategies to address underlying causal factors.

### ***Activities during July 2010***

- Literature review continued
- Analysis of submissions and other evidence continued
- Drafting of interim report commenced
- Planning of site visits to the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre and Cairnlea Housing Support Program in August 2010
- Preparation for public hearings to be held on 2 August 2010

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

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

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## **Members:**

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

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

**Chair:**              Hon Christine Campbell

**Executive Officer:** Dr Vaughn Koops

## **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 July 2010***

- Report adopted by Committee 2 July 2010, printed and tabled in Parliament on 28 July 2010
- Mailout of report to stakeholders.

### ***Future Activities***

- Mailout of report to stakeholders
- Updating of Committee website as required
- Archiving of records
- Government response to be tabled.

## **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.

### ***Activities during July 2010***

- Literature continued to be reviewed and drafting of report continued

### ***Future Activity***

- Report preparation

# EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne 3002

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

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## Members:

(Council) *Mr N Elasmr 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

## 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 July 2010***

- The Committee commenced formal deliberations on a draft report.

### ***Future Activity***

- The Committee will continue drafting and deliberating the final report.

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S BUILDING THE EDUCATION REVOLUTION (BER) PROGRAM IN VICTORIA

---

To the Education and Training Committee - to inquire into, consider and report on the administration of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) program in Victoria, with particular regard to:

- (a) the levels and appropriateness of any fees and charges imposed by Victorian Government agencies;
- (b) whether construction costs of BER projects are in line with industry standards;
- (c) the use of local builders and tradespeople during the construction of BER projects;
- (d) whether outcomes were of acceptable quality and suitable to the needs of each individual school;
- (e) the effectiveness of any measures put in place by the Victorian Government to ensure contracts to deliver BER projects are timely, transparent, accountable and represent best value for educational outcomes in Victoria; and
- (f) any other related matter; and

The Committee is required to provide an interim report to the Parliament by 31 August 2010 and a final report by 31 December 2010.

### ***Activities during July 2010***

- The Committee had received 58 written submissions as of 31 July 2010

### ***Future Activity***

- The Committee will consider the written submissions and commence drafting an interim report

## **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.

\*extended to 30 April 2010 by the Legislative Assembly on 24 November 2009.

### ***Future activities***

- The Government Response is due by 5 November 2010

# **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

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

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**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 Robin Scott (from 1 February 2010)

**Executive Officer:** Mr Mark Roberts

## **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.

***Future Activity***

- Government response due 11 September 2010.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE FUNCTIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF VOTING CENTRES**

The Committee self-generated new terms of reference on 3 May 2010 to consider and report to Parliament upon issues relating to the functions and administration of voting centres (including joint voting centres) giving consideration to issues of location, accessibility, participation and transparency.

***Activity during July 2010***

- Report mailed out to interested stakeholders

***Future Activity***

- Government response due 24 December 2010.

### ***Other Activities***

- Annual Statement of (Victorian) Government Intentions, February 2010, states the Committee is to evaluate the outcomes of the Commonwealth Government's electoral reform process and report to Parliament with recommendations for Victoria – with the calling of the federal election the release of Commonwealth Government White Paper on Electoral Reform has been postponed.
- Committee met with members of the Queensland Parliament's Law, Justice and Safety Committee on 28 July 2010 at Parliament House Melbourne for a discussion on electoral matters and in particular local government electoral issues.
- Committee executive officer to attend the Australasian Study of Parliament Group annual conference in August 2010.

# ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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## Members:

(Council) *Mrs D Petrovich and Mr N Murphy*

(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: Dr Caroline Williams

## SOIL CARBON SEQUESTRATION IN VICTORIA

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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 July 2010***

- Further development and drafting of report

### ***Future activities***

- Final drafting of report
- Deliberation, adoption and tabling 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.

### ***Activities during July 2010***

- Further development and drafting of report

### ***Future activities***

- Final drafting of report
- Deliberation, adoption and tabling of report

# FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

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## Members:

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

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

Chair: Mr Jude Perera

Executive Officer: Dr Janine Bush

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

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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).

- *The reporting date was extended to 15 December 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 31 March 2009.*

## 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.

\* *The reporting date was extended to 15 December 2009 by resolution of the Legislative Council on 2 April 2009.*

### **Activity**

- The Final Report was tabled out-of-session on 12 January 2010
- The Victorian Government tabled its response out-of-session on 12 July 2010

## **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 and 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 July 2010***

- Drafting of report chapters

***Future activities***

- Committee deliberating on report



# LAW REFORM COMMITTEE

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

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## **Members:**

**(Council)**                    *Mrs J Kronberg and Mr J Scheffer*

**(Assembly)**                *Mr C Brooks, Mr R Clark, Mr L Donnellan, Mr M Foley and Mrs H Victoria*

**Chair:**                      Mr Johan Scheffer (from 20 August 2007)

**Executive Officer:** Ms Kerry Riseley

## **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 July 2010**

- The Committee considered the draft report

### **Future activities**

- The Committee will adopt and table the report

## **ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECURITY AND SECURITY INFORMATION GATHERING FOR STATE GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS**

---

Referred by the Legislative Council on 24 March 2010.

That this House requires the Law Reform Committee to inquire into, consider and report no later than 30 September 2010 on the arrangements for security and security information gathering at the State Government's desalination plant under construction at Wonthaggi/Kilcunda and other similar construction projects and whether —

- (1) the rights of Victorians, including those engaged in peaceful and legitimate democratic expression, are being respected by these new arrangements, with particular reference to:
  - (a) contractual conditions relating to security information collection and sharing; and
  - (b) Memorandums of Understanding signed by the AquaSure consortium and firms with similar arrangements at other projects with government agencies and instrumentalities; and
- (2) any breaches of privacy have occurred or are likely to occur under these or associated arrangements and whether these arrangements are in the public interest.

### ***Activity during July 2010***

- The Committee accepted 10 submissions and 1 supplementary submission
- Research and literature review continued
- Drafting of the final report commenced

### ***Future activities***

- Drafting of the final report will continue

## **ACCESS BY DONOR-CONCEIVED PEOPLE TO INFORMATION ABOUT DONORS**

---

Referred by the Legislative Council on 23 June 2010.

That this House requires the Law Reform Committee to inquire into, consider, and provide an interim report by September 2010 and a final report by 2011 on —

- (a) the legal, practical and other issues that would arise if all donor-conceived people were given access to identifying information about their donors and their donor-conceived siblings, regardless of the date that the donation was made;
- (b) the relevance of a donor's consent or otherwise to the release of identifying information and the National Health and Medical Research Council's Ethical guidelines on the use of Assisted Reproductive Technology in clinical practice and research;
- (c) any practical difficulties in releasing information about donors who provided their gametes before 1 July 1988, because in many cases records are not available either because the procedure was carried out privately or records were not stored centrally;
- (d) the options for implementing any changes to the current arrangements, including non-legislative options;
- (e) the impact that any such changes may have on the donor, the donor-conceived person and future donor programs;
- (f) the impacts of the transfer of the donor registers currently held by the Infertility Treatment Authority to the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages; and

(g) the possible implications under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

***Activity during July 2010***

- The Committee released its call for submissions on 10 July 2010
- The Committee commenced research for this inquiry

***Future activities***

- The Committee will consider submissions received
- Drafting of the final report will commence



# OUTER SUBURBAN/INTERFACE SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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## Members:

**(Council)** *Mr N Elasmr, Mr M Guy and Ms C Hartland*

**(Assembly)** *Mr C Langdon, 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 May 2010.

\* *Report date extended from 31 August 2009 to 31 March 2010 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 31 March 2009.*

\* *Report date extended to 31 May 2010 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 2 February 2010.*

### **Future Activities**

- The Committee tabled its report on the Inquiry into Sustainable Development of Agribusiness in Outer Suburban Melbourne, on 26 May 2010 and awaits the Government response, due within six months of the tabling date.

## **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

*\*Report date extended from 31 August 2010 to 7 October 2010 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 8 June 2010.*

### **Activity during July 2010**

- 4 July 2010 – Site Visit to Lilydale Farmers' Market and meeting with:  
Mr Paul Martin  
Mr Geoff Welsh
- 7 July 2010 – Public Round Table in Melbourne. Participants were:  
Mr Ian Ada, Agribusiness Officer, Yarra Ranges Shire Council  
Mr Peter Arnold, Director, Regional Farmers Markets P/L  
Mr Alan Eagle, Secretary, Hawkesbury Harvest  
Ms Sam Edmonds, Executive Officer, Victorian Farmers' Markets Assoc.  
Mr Nigel Flannigan  
Mr Philip Jackson, Business Development Officer, Cardinia Shire Council  
Mr Vin Morris, Agribusiness Officer, Cardinia Shire Council  
Mr Anthony Sherry, Executive Director, Food & Beverage Group, DIIRD.
- 10 July 2010 – Site Visit to Sunbury Farmers' Market  
Briefing from Stallholders to Committee's Chair and Research Officer
- The Committee secretariat began drafting the report.

### **Future Activities**

- The Committee will commence deliberating on the report

# **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

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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 and Mr G Rich-Phillips

**(Assembly)** Mr B Stensholt (Chair), Mr K Wells (Deputy Chair), Ms J Munt (until 2 February 2010), Mr W Noonan, Mr R Scott, Dr B Sykes and Ms J Graley (from 2 February 2010)

**Chair:** Mr Bob Stensholt

**Executive Officer:** Ms Valerie Cheong

## **THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR–GENERAL’S OFFICE**

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

### **Activities during July 2010**

- Review of the findings and recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports 2008 (Round Five):
  - *Priority One*
    - *Managing Acute Patient Flows*
    - *Biosecurity Incidents: Planning and Risk Management for Livestock Diseases*
  - *Priority Two*
    - *Private Practice Arrangements in Health Services*
    - *Managing Complaints Against Ticket Inspectors*
    - *Enforcement of Planning Permits and School Buildings: Planning, Maintenance and Renewal*
- Review of the responses to the PAEC Questionnaires in relation to the *Priority One* and *Priority Two* audit reports received from the Auditor-General and Departments
- Responses to Questions on Notice arising from hearings for *Priority One* and further requests for information were received from Departments and agencies
- Questionnaires on *Priority Two* audit reviews were sent to Departments and agencies
- Progressed planning, development and drafting of the Committee’s report on *Biosecurity Incidents: Planning and Risk Management for Livestock Diseases* for Committee consideration
- Research and drafting of *Priority One* and *Priority Two* reports continued

### **Future Activities**

- Consideration of the evidence including questionnaire responses, responses to questions on notice, transcripts, public submissions and other sources of

information. Research and drafting of reports for priority one and priority two reviews of Auditor-General's reports, Round 5

- Committee consideration of draft specifications for proposed performance audits to be conducted by the Auditor-General
- The Government's Response in relation to the Committee's Report on *Review of the Findings and Recommendations of the Auditor-General's Reports 2008* (tabled 5 May 2010) is due by February 2011, when Parliament resumes.

## **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 July 2010***

- The Committee has continued:
  - Evidence-gathering and the research of audit provisions in national and international jurisdictions
  - Drafting of various questions and briefs for consultation with relevant experts
  - Examination of transcripts of evidence for identification of further issues
  - Progressive development of the draft report

### ***Future Activities***

- Review further evidence from national and international jurisdictions and transcripts of evidence
- Continued consultation with relevant stakeholders and experts
- Drafting of the Committee's Report, for anticipated tabling by October 2010

## **APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE AUDITORS OF THE VICTORIAN AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE**

*Source:* Sections 17 and 19 of the *Audit Act 1994* as amended.

### ***Future Activities***

- Committee consideration of preliminary reports, audit opinions and management letters, as appropriate, from the financial and performance auditors
- Tabling of respective final reports and audit opinions from the financial and performance auditors

## **INQUIRY INTO THE 2008-09 FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES**

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

### ***Future Activities***

- The Government Response to the Committee's *Report on the 2008-09 Financial and Performance Outcomes* (tabled 6 May 2010) is due by February 2011, when Parliament resumes

## **INQUIRY INTO THE PUBLIC FINANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY BILL 2009**

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### ***Activities during July 2010***

- The Committee received a reference from the Legislative Council on the *Public Finance and Accountability Bill 2009*. Work commenced on the report which is due in Parliament by 31 August 2010.

### ***Future Activities***

- Private briefings with selected key stakeholders to be held
- Transcript reviews of parliamentary debates, preparation and consideration of an approach paper, research and drafting on the report on the *Public Finance and Accountability Bill 2009*.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE 2010-11 BUDGET ESTIMATES**

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

### ***Activities during July 2010***

- Research, planning and drafting of chapters within the Part Three Report on the 2010-11 Budget Estimates for anticipated tabling in September 2010
- Clarification of Questionnaire responses with Departments and agencies
- The Committee considered several draft chapters

### ***Future Activities***

- Continued research, planning and drafting of chapters within the Part Three Report on the 2010-11 Budget Estimates for anticipated tabling in September 2010
- Committee consideration of draft chapters

## **PAEC ANNUAL REPORT 2009–10**

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### ***Activities during July 2010***

- The Committee completed its development of its 2009-10 Annual Report
- The Committee considered its draft 2009-10 Annual Report and agreed to table the Report
- The PAEC Annual Report 2009-10 was tabled on 27 July 2010



# ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE

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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

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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 1 September 2010 by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 22 June 2010.

### **Activity during July 2010**

- Five chapters of the Chair’s draft report were provided to the Committee for review.

### **Future Activity**

- Sixth (final) draft chapter to be given to the Committee for review.
- Report to be adopted

## INQUIRY INTO THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS IN CAR PARKS

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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.

### **Future Activity**

- The Government Response is due November 2010.



# RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEE

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Parliament House, Spring Street, East Melbourne, 3002

Telephone: 1300 787 202 / 03 8682 2884

Facsimile: 03 8682 2858

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

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

## Members:

(Council) *Ms K Darveniza, Mr D Drum, Ms W Lovell, Ms G Tierney and Mr J Vogels*

(Assembly) *Mr D Nardella 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)

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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 POSITIONING THE WIMMERA-MALLEE PIPELINE REGION TO CAPITALISE ON NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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That under s 33 of the *Parliamentary Committee Act 2003*, the Rural and Regional Committee be required to inquire into, consider and report no later than 31 August

2010 on positioning the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline region to capitalise on new economic development opportunities and, in particular, the Committee is required to:

- (1) identify the economic development opportunities that will arise as a result of the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline;
- (2) explore the strengths of the Wimmera-Mallee region as a business location, including an industry capability analysis to identify the industries that would be best placed to establish in this region;
- (3) identify the key factors that should be promoted to attract investment to this region; and
- (4) recommend actions that can be taken by the Victorian Government to support the region to capitalise on the opportunities arising from the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline.

The Committee is required to report to the Parliament by 31 August 2010.

### ***Activities during July 2010***

- The Secretariat updated the Committee's website, with transcripts from the Inquiry's hearings & submissions;
- Final writing and editing of the report chapters;
- The Secretariat drafted proposed Recommendations for the report;
- The Committee was provided a draft of the Report;
- The Committee discussed the Chapter Outline and a reporting timetable.

### ***Future activities***

- The Committee plan to adopt the Report on Wednesday 11 August 2010;
- The Report will be tabled in Parliament on Tuesday 31 August 2010 by the Chair, Mr Damian Drum in the Legislative Council and Mr Russell Northe in the Legislative Assembly.

## **INQUIRY INTO THE EXTENT AND NATURE OF DISADVANTAGE AND INEQUITY IN RURAL AND REGIONAL VICTORIA**

That this House requires the Rural and Regional Committee to inquire into, consider and report no later than 7 October 2010 on the extent and nature of disadvantage and inequity in rural and regional Victoria, and in particular to -

- (a) examine current evidence of disadvantage in rural and regional Victoria with a view to identifying the social groups most affected by disadvantage;
- (b) identify any gaps and weaknesses in methods for measuring, recording and capturing information on disadvantage and inequity in rural and regional Victoria;
- (c) identify the key factors of disadvantage and inequity in rural and regional Victoria, such as access to education, health care, employment opportunities, housing affordability and transport;
- (d) identify the geographical locations in rural and regional Victoria where disadvantage is most severe with a view to prioritising these areas for future action by Government;
- (e) identify rural and regional areas of significant disadvantage and inequity that may be masked by the comparative prosperity of surrounding areas;
- (f) investigate the impact of social and economic trends on the future of rural and regional Victoria in the context of disadvantage;

- (g) examine current Government responses to rural and regional disadvantage;
- (h) identify priorities for action by Government to tackle key rural and regional disadvantage issues;
- (i) examine measures taken at a local level to combat problems of hardship and disadvantage; and
- (j) investigate approaches in other jurisdictions to combat rural and regional disadvantage.

The Committee is required to report to the Parliament by 07 October 2010.

***Activities during June 2010***

- Writing and drafting of the report chapters took place throughout the month;
- Drafting of proposed recommendations for the report began;
- The Committee held a Public Hearing with Ministers Allan and D'Ambrasio on 26 July 2010.

***Future activities***

- The Committee will consider a draft Chapter Outline of the report, and a timetable for completion of the report;
- The Committee will consider proposed Recommendations for the report;
- Continuing writing of the report will take place in the next months.

*The report is to be tabled on 07 October 2010*



# SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

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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 N Burgess\*, Mr C Carli (Chair), Mr K Jasper  
(Deputy Chair), Mr T Languiller

Chair: Mr Carlo Carli

Executive Officer: Mr Andrew Homer

\* On 8 December 2009, Mr Ryan Smith MLA (Warrandyte) resigned from the Committee and Mr Neale Burgess MLA (Hastings) was appointed in his stead.

## FULL COMMITTEE

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### *Full Committee activities during July 2010*

On 26 July 2010 the Committee met and adopted:

- Alert Digest No. 10 of 2010  
Associations Incorporation Amendment Bill 2010  
Civil Procedure Bill 2010  
Energy and Resources Legislation Amendment Bill 2010  
Firearms and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2010  
Juries Amendment (Reform) Bill 2010  
Primary Industries Legislation Amendment Bill 2010

## SUBCOMMITTEES

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### **Redundant Legislation**

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

### *Activity during July 2010*

The Subcommittee did not meet during July.

### **Regulation Review**

Mr Ken Jasper, MP (Chair)  
Mr Neale Burgess, MP

Mr Carlo Carli, MP  
Mr Colin Brooks, MP  
Mr Khalil Eideh, MLC

***Activity during July 2010***

The Subcommittee met on 21 July 2010, where it considered and approved the following regulations:

- SR No. 26 – Road Safety (Vehicles) Amendment Regulations 2010
- SR No. 27 – Marine Amendment Regulations 2010
- SR No. 28 – Road Safety (Drivers) Amendment (Repeat Speeders Trial) Regulations 2010
- SR No. 29 – Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) (Infringement Notices) Amendment Regulations 2010
- SR No. 31 – Transport Accident (Impairment) Regulations 2010
- SR No. 32 – Building Amendment (Private Bushfire Shelter Construction) Interim Regulations 2010
- SR No. 33 – Road Safety (Vehicles) Amendment (Heavy Vehicle Charges) Regulations 2010
- SR No. 34 – Transfer of Land (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2010
- SR No. 35 – Road Safety (Drivers) and Road Safety (Vehicles) Amendment (Fees) Regulations 2010
- SR No. 36 – Chattel Securities (Registration) Amendment (Fees) Regulations 2010
- SR No. 37 – Conservation, Forests and Lands (Infringement Notice) Amendment Regulations 2010
- SR No. 38 – Subordinate Legislation (Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2000 – Extension of Operation) Regulations 2010
- SR No. 39- 2010 – Livestock Disease Control Amendment Regulations 2010
- SR No. 40 – Motor Car Traders Amendment Regulations 2010

# FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STANDING COMMITTEE

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Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002

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

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

## Members:

**(Council)** *Mr G Barber, Mr M Guy, Mr P Hall, Mr P Kavanagh and Mr B Tee\*.*

**Chair:** Mr Gordon Rich-Phillips

**Deputy Chair:** Mr Matt Viney

**Secretary:** Mr Richard Willis

*\* On 13 April 2010 Mr Brian Tee replaced Ms Candy Broad as the second nominee of the ALP on the Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration.*

## INQUIRY INTO BUILDERS WARRANTY INSURANCE

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### 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 July 2010**

- Public hearings were conducted on 27 July with representatives from QBE Insurance (Australia) Limited:

### **Future Activities**

- Drafting of final report.

## INQUIRY INTO VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION MAKING, CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL PROCESSES

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### Terms of Reference:

To inquire into and report on Victorian Government decision making, consultation and approval processes, and any knowledge and/or involvement of Ministers, Ministerial staff and/or Victorian Government officers since 1 December 2006 and in particular issues arising from media plans prepared within the Victorian Government since 1 December 2006.

### ***Activity during July 2010***

- Drafting of interim report

### ***Future Activities***

- The Committee is preparing its second interim report to present to the Legislative Council in August.

## **INQUIRY INTO DEPARTMENTAL AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE AND OPERATIONS**

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### Terms of Reference:

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

### ***Activity during July 2010***

- Nil

### ***Future Activities***

- Further activities to be confirmed by the Committee.

## **INQUIRY INTO BUSINESS CASE FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

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### 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

### ***Activity during July 2010***

- Nil

### ***Future Activity***

- Further activities to be confirmed by the Committee.

## **INQUIRY INTO PUBLIC HOSPITAL PERFORMANCE DATA**

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### 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

***Activity during July 2010***

- Nil

***Future Activities***

- Further hearings to be determined



# **TRAIN SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

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**Legislative Council, Parliament House, Spring Street, Melbourne 3002**

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

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

**Members:**

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

**Chair:**                              Mr Bruce Atkinson

**Deputy Chair:**                  Mr Shaun Leane

**Secretary:**                      Mr Richard Willis

## **INQUIRY INTO TRAIN SERVICES**

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Terms of Reference:

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

***Activity during July 2010***

- The Committee held a public hearing with Mr Jim Betts, Secretary, Department of Transport and Mr Bernie Carolan, CEO, Transport Ticketing Authority.

***Future Activity***

- Further hearings in relation to the Myki investigation to be determined by the Committee