

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED

FROM 28 FEBRUARY 1978

191 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise when and where the Community Access Centre for Alice Springs will be provided?

Will the facilities and resources of the proposed Community Access Centre be made freely available to other local community organisations, including Aboriginal organisations?

What is the total staff establishment and salary levels proposed for the Community Access Centre?

Will this centre replace the functions of the Alice Springs Regional Council for Social Development?

212 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

1. What investigations have been made to date into the purchase of Willeroo-Scott Creek by the Northern Territory executive?
2. Has any money been spent in travel or otherwise to investigate the proposed purchase?
3. If money has been spent on travel or otherwise, on what authority was the money spent?

223 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

In respect of the new Darwin Town Planning Scheme that is on public exhibition until 30 March 1978 -

- (a) how many objections have so far been lodged; and
- (b) how many permits to build have been issued since 1 January 1978 in respect of parcels of land that have been the subject of public objection?

FROM 7 MARCH 1978

253 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Has the Northern Territory Port Authority signed a lease agreement with V.B. Perkins and Co? If so, when? If not, why not?

303 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

In the 1976-77 financial year, what was the amount of financial assistance provided by the Majority Party government to each Northern Territory amateur sporting body?

FROM 2 MAY 1978

306 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

What is the policy of the Majority Party on the ratio of taxi plates per head of population?

335 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Has the Northern Territory executive determined exactly what functions will be transferred from the Department of Construction to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 July 1978?

If so, what are these functions?

339 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise what amount of funds will be made available by the Northern Territory executive and when such funds will be available to complete the Commonwealth government's undertaking to the Alice Springs municipal council in relation to the construction of a new civic centre?

365 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

- (a) Has the NT executive received a warrant authority for the funding of the functions transferred on 1 January 1978?
- (b) If so, on what date?
- (c) On what date did the NT executive receive an undertaking from the Australian government to provide the additional \$1,396,535 to provide for funds for the functions transferred on 1 January 1978?
- (d) Will the Majority Leader supply me with a copy of the correspondence giving the undertaking?

369 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

How many qualified tradesmen are employed as tradesmen in the Northern Territory by -

- (a) Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?
- (b) Departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and in what trades?
- (c) Local government authorities, and in what trades?

372 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

- 1. How many adults live on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?
- 2. How many adults are employed on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?
- 3. How many adults are in receipt of unemployment benefits on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

374 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

During 1977 -

- (a) how many persons were apprehended in accordance with sections 6(1), 6(2), 9 and 11 of the Mental Defectives Ordinance;
- (b) in each of these categories, how many were remanded, and detained -

- (i) where; and
- (ii) for how long;
- (c) how many in each category were subsequently found to be mentally defective;
- (d) how many have been transferred to state institutions; and
- (e) how many have been transferred to state institutions under section 17 of the Mental Defectives Ordinance?

375 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

1. In what categories and in what amounts is welfare assistance being paid by the Department of the Northern Territory to residents of Aboriginal settlements?
2. After 1 July 1978 -
 - (a) will miscellaneous assistance continue to be provided on the same scale as at present;
 - (b) under what circumstances will persons without dependents receive miscellaneous assistance; and
 - (c) is it intended that a category known as "emergency assistance" be provided, as in Victoria?

379 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

How much money was allocated and how much has been expended, by the Social Development Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory, for miscellaneous general relief in the 1977-78 financial year?

380 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. When was Treasury approval sought by the Northern Territory executive to seek loan money for the Willeroo-Scott Creek venture?
2. When was the approval given?

381 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

What was the recommendation of the Department of the Northern Territory concerning new electricity charges? Specifically, what increase did it recommend for the domestic tariff and the commercial tariff?

Who made the decision to relate Northern Territory electricity charges to "similar tariffs" applicable in Townsville? On what basis was this decision made?

What percentage of total electricity consumption is consumed by -
(a) domestic users; and (b) commercial users?

As a result of the increased charges, how much extra revenue will be raised from - (a) domestic users; and (b) commercial users?

382 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

1. What is the composition of the Darwin Traffic Committee?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED

2. What are the functions of the Darwin Traffic Committee?

3. Are meetings of the Darwin Traffic Committee open to the public?

383 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

What is the cost to install the electricity supply at Larrimah?

FROM 9 MAY 1978

384 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr EVERINGHAM

How many persons have claimed exemption from jury service under section 11A of the Juries Ordinance?

385 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

In the last financial year for which full records are available -

1. How many metres of non-core and core drilling did the drilling section of the Mines Branch achieve?
2. What was the total expenditure by the Mines Branch on drilling during the year?
3. What was the cost per metre of core and non-core drilling during that period?

386 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. What are the precise clinical features in those Northern Territory cattle and sheep, goats and buffaloes suffering from the strain of blue tongue virus now being recorded in the Top End?
2. How many animals have been found to be clinically sick?
3. How many have died?
4. How can the disease be eradicated?
5. What financial burden and what responsibilities will this place on the government of the Northern Territory and the individual farmer?

387 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. Following on from the reply to my question on notice regarding the future plans of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch to actively encourage agricultural development in the Northern Territory, what stage have the negotiations reached between the Northern Territory executive and the Commonwealth to have the Northern Territory Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch included in the Commonwealth extension services grants scheme?
2. What other sources of finance are available to the branch for investigation and development of projects to help small landholders?

421 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

How many commercial users of electricity in the Northern Territory are there for each of the following units of consumed electricity for the last

quarterly period of billing -

- (a) up to 3,000; (b) 3,001 - 10,000; (c) 10,001 - 20,000; (d) 20,001 - 30,000; (e) 30,001 - 50,000; (f) 50,001 - 85,000; (g) 85,001 - 100,000; (h) 100,001 - 200,000; (i) 200,001 - 400,000; (j) 400,001 - 500,000; (k) 500,001 - 750,000; (l) 750,001 - 1,000,000; and (m) over 1,000,000?

422 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

How many domestic users of electricity in the Northern Territory are there for each of the following units of consumed electricity for the last quarterly period of billing -

- (a) up to 500; (b) 501 - 750; (c) 751 - 1,000; (d) 1,001 - 1,250; (e) 1,251 - 1,500; (f) 1,501 - 1,750; (g) 1,751 - 2,000; (h) 2,001 - 2,250; (i) 2,251 - 2,500; (j) 2,501 - 2,750; (k) 2,751 - 3,000; (l) 3,001 - 3,250; (m) 3,251 - 3,500; and (n) 3,500 and over?

482 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to establish a parliamentary public works committee of this Assembly to examine and report on Northern Territory civil works when this area of responsibility is transferred to his executive control?

483 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Is it a fact that a Mrs Stevens of Adelaide held the original mining exploration licence for the Nabarlek uranium deposits?
2. Is it a fact that Queensland Mines Ltd acquired from her the exploration licence for a sum in the order of \$1,025,000, plus a 1% interest in the value of all future uranium mined?
3. Will he advise what is the current value of the 1% interest on the value of the uranium mined at current market value?
4. Will he advise why the Northern Territory Mines Branch granted an exploration licence to Mrs Stevens who would appear to have had no sufficient financial resources or mining expertise at the time?
5. Will he advise further why the Mines Branch thought fit to accommodate Mrs Stevens by granting her a mining lease in 1971 solely for the purpose of effecting settlement of the agreement entered into between Mrs Stevens and Queensland Mines Ltd pending issue of a special mining lease over Nabarlek?
6. Is it correct that the 1% interest involved is worth some \$700,000 per year and that it will operate for eight years?
7. Does he know of any undertaking by Mrs Stevens that she will invest any of her money in the Northern Territory?

484 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

I refer to the Aboriginal Development Foundation and ask -

- (a) how many members does it have, who are the current office bearers, and what are their positions;

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED

- (b) are elections for this organisation held and, if so, when;
- (c) do members of the foundation meet and, if so, how often, and are their meetings advertised in the Aboriginal community generally;
- (d) what audit checks are carried out on the foundation's financial statement;
- (e) are financial statements available and, if so, to whom; and
- (f) is the foundation currently operating under the constitution lodged with and accepted by the Registrar of Companies and, if so, what is the date of incorporation?

92 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Why is the notice in Gazette No. 46, 18 November 1977, appointing the Territory Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council over the signature of the Administrator, and not the executive member as required in the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?
2. What are the qualifications of each of the members of the council with respect to section 80(3) of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?
3. Who were the unsuccessful candidates to the advisory council and what were their qualifications with respect to section 80(3).

ANSWER

1. Part one of the question was answered verbally in the House in the November-December 1977 sittings of the Assembly.

2. The answer to part two is set out below:

Mr W.T. Hare	Director of Territory Parks and Wildlife.
Mr K. Hyde	Scientific expertise in soil conservation, agriculture and arid zone land management.
Mr R.N.D. Miller	Extensive knowledge of the Territory and of the pastoral industry. Special experience in park management as deputy chairman and member of the Northern Territory Reserves Board during the past eight years.
Mr V.T. O'Brien	Extensive experience in land administration and legislation, plus expertise in park administration as a member of the Northern Territory Reserves Board.
Mr W. Rabuntja	Highly experienced in traditional Aboriginal law and culture and a well respected leader in the Central Australian Aboriginal community.
Miss D. Byrnes	Has detailed knowledge of parks in Central Australia and specialised knowledge of the tourist industry in relation to park management.
Mr G.R. Ryan	Extensive knowledge of the mining industry in the Territory (22 years) and long-term personal interest in conservation issues.
Mr M.K. Stewart	Detailed local knowledge of the Top End and of recreational interests of user groups.
Mr J.G. Yunupingu	Special knowledge of Aboriginal law and culture and chairman of the Northern Land Council.

3. Details of unsuccessful candidates remain confidential to the Administrator in Council.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

181 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

When will the third bore at Batchelor be equipped with a dual diesel-electric pump?

ANSWER

It is expected that the third bore at Batchelor will be equipped with a dual diesel-electric pump at the end of June 1978.

219 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

1. How many work-related accidents occurred in the Northern Territory during 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?
2. How much was paid out in workmen's compensation claims in 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?

ANSWER

Additional information (see answer 7 March 1978).

You were provided with an interim reply, advising that the information sought would be furnished when the necessary data had been collected.

Enquiries have now been completed and the answer to the question is as follows:

1. 1974-75 - 1,488
1975-76 - 1,760
1976-77 - 1,952
(claims received by insurers)
2. 1974-75 - \$1,222,000
1975-76 - \$1,558,000
1976-77 - \$1,723,615

220 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

1. Has approval been given, and if so when, for the erection of five town houses on Lot 1776, Banyan Street, Darwin?
2. Have objections been lodged to the zoning of Lot 1776, Town of Darwin, as R2 in the Darwin Town Plan?
3. If these objections are upheld, will the building be allowed to proceed?
4. Is the sewerage system in the area presently overloaded, and does it occasionally overflow?
5. What steps are being taken to upgrade the sewerage system in the area, in view of the zoning of the area for medium density housing in the Darwin Town Plan?

ANSWER

1. The Darwin Reconstruction Commission approved the erection of five town houses on Lot 1776, Banyan Street, Darwin at its meeting on 21 December 1976. The applicant was notified of the approval by the Urban Development and Town Planning Branch on 6 January 1977. A

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

building permit was issued on 25 May 1977.

2. No objections have been lodged to the zoning of Lot 1776 Town of Darwin, as R2 in the Darwin Town Plan. A number of objections have been lodged "to the building of town houses" on Lot 1776, Banyan Street. The Town Planning Board may accept these objections to the zoning of the land as R2.
3. Assuming the Town Planning Board accepts the objections as valid, no action can be taken by the Town Planning Board to revoke the building permit. Provided the developer complies with the provisions of the permit, the building can proceed, notwithstanding any proposed zone change in accordance with section 48(2) of the Town Planning Ordinance.
4. The sewerage system is not overloaded by the contributing population at present, nor would the addition of five town houses affect its carrying capacity. The sewerage system has occasionally overflowed due to blockages and ground-water infiltration during sustained wet weather. To date there have been no reported overflows in the 1977-78 wet season.
5. The Banyan Street sewers were repaired in 1977 to eliminate groundwater infiltration. In addition, sewage was diverted into the Central Zone Sewerage System, eliminating a pumping station, the limited capacity of which caused backup of sewage into these sewers. A program of testing house drains is in hand to remove groundwater and surface water from this street and the program will continually be reviewed in the light of the development occurring and the infiltration that cannot be contained. The rate of development would not indicate that there needs to be any augmentation within five years.

221 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

With reference to moneys invested by the Northern Territory Housing Commission in 1977 -

- (a) where was the money invested, for what periods of time and at what rate of interest; and
- (b) how much was loaned to the Home Finance Trustee, for what period of time and at what interest rate?

ANSWER

(a)

Approved Bank	Principal \$	Investment period	Term		Interest rate
			Months	Days	
N.S.W.	250,000	24. 1.77 - 10.10.77	8	16	9.9%
A.N.Z.	150,000	21. 2.77 - 9. 9.77		200	9.85%
C.T.B.	50,000	28. 2.77 - 30. 3.77		30	9.0 %
A.N.Z.	100,000	28. 2.77 - 29. 8.77	6	1	9.85%
C.B.A.	500,000	22. 4.77 - 27. 6.77		66	10.0 %
N.B.A.	500,000	18. 5.77 - 27. 6.77		41	10.0 %
C.B.A.	350,000	18. 8.77 - 17. 3.78	6	27	10.0 %
A.N.Z.	100,000	17. 8.77 - 17. 8.78	12		9.55%
A.N.Z.	100,000	29. 8.77 - 29. 5.78	9		9.85%
C.B.A.	150,000	9. 9.77 - 7. 4.78	6	29	10.0 %
C.B.Co.	800,000	19. 9.77 - 19. 9.78	12		10.0 %
N.S.W.	250,000	10.10.77 - 9. 1.78		91	10.0 %

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Approved Bank	Principal \$	Investment period	Term		Interest rate
			Months	Days	
N.S.W.	600,000	26.10.77 - 26. 6.78	8		9.5 %
A.N.Z.	600,000	26.10.77 - 26. 6.78	8		9.5 %
C.B.Co.	300,000	26.10.77 - 26. 6.78	8		9.5 %
C.B.A.	200,000	24.10.77 - 9. 5.78	6	15	10.0 %
C.T.B.	300,000	31.10.77 - 3. 1.78	3		10.0 %
C.T.B.	200,000	21.11.77 - 21. 2.78	3		9.75%
(b) Home Finance Trustee - government guarantee.					
"	300,000	23. 2.77 - 23. 2.78	12		9.5 %
"	500,000	11. 3.77 - 11. 3.78	12		9.5 %
"	2,000,000	26. 4.77 - 26.10.77	6		6.0 %
"	500,000	26.10.77 - 26.10.78	12		9.5 %
Aust. Savings Bonds	100,000	Invested to 1.2.83 (Redemption after one month notice)			10.5 %

222 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

How much, in total, was paid by the Australian government to employers of apprentices in the Northern Territory to cover days lost due to school in the financial year 1976-77?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

Expenditure in the Northern Territory in 1976-77 on employee subsidies under the National Apprenticeship Assistance Scheme (NAAS) and the Commonwealth Rebate for Apprentice Full-Time Training Scheme (CRAFT) totalled \$141,222.75.

249 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

In the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch in the Top End -

1. How many veterinary officers are available to help small farmers?
2. Briefly what are the complete additional areas of concern of these veterinary officers?
3. How many stock inspectors are available for help for small farmers?
4. How many extension officers are there, whose main work is to help and give field advice in situ to small farmers?
5. In what specific fields do these extension officers operate?
6. What are the future plans of the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch field extension officers to actively encourage the small animal and crop landholders to realise their full potential to build a stable base of agricultural production for the undoubted benefit of all of us in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. The branch has four veterinary officers located in Darwin. The duties of two of these are field orientated while those of a third are

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- confined to laboratory diagnostic work, e.g. post-mortems on commercial type animals.
2. The principal duties of veterinary officers are -
 - (a) safeguard public health from transmittable diseases, e.g. meat inspection at abattoirs, testing of dairy herds;
 - (b) health testing and issuing of permits for overseas livestock exports;
 - (c) disease investigation and control of commercial type animals, e.g. cattle, horses, pigs, goats, poultry and sheep;
 - (d) treatment of commercial type animals in remoter areas, and
 - (e) extension activities.
 3. There are five stock inspectors located at Darwin, four of whom are field staff.
 4. The branch has two officers whose main official responsibilities are to provide field extension services to producers in the Top End. In addition the branch has found it necessary to divert the professional position in horticulture to general district (extension) activities. The horticultural technical officer based in Darwin has as one of his major activities the provision of advisory services to horticultural producers throughout the Top End. The above officers are supported by the part-time extension activities of a number of staff specialising in particular aspects of agriculture such as animal production, pastures, crops, weeds, seeds, animal health, plant pathology, entomology, botany, agricultural chemistry and economics and marketing.
 5. The fields covered by the two full-time officers are pigs, poultry, dairying and Katherine district agronomy (extension). The latter officer is also responsible for district noxious weed control programs. The horticultural technical officer covers horticultural extension although a significant proportion of his time must be devoted to experimental work on horticulture. This has been made necessary by the diversion of the professional officer (horticulture) position to Darwin district (extension) work. In addition to extension work, the Darwin district officer is also responsible for district noxious weed control programs.
 6. The branch aims, through its extension services, to encourage producers to develop their potential by adopting more efficient and economic practices based on its own research, research conducted elsewhere and successful commercial experience. Techniques used by the extension service include - use of the media, branch publications, property visits, property demonstrations, field and open days, answering specific enquiries and arranging investigations of producers problems. The extent to which these aims can be achieved depends upon the continued availability of new and improved information on resources such as staff and finance for development of extension services and on the receptivity and ability of producers to put new techniques into practice. The branch has been concerned for some time with the adequacy of its resources to meet the ever increasing and sometimes changing needs and demands of producers for extension services. In the past the Northern Territory has been excluded from participation in the Commonwealth Extension Services Grants scheme (GESG) whereby state departments of agriculture have received special Commonwealth

fundings since 1948 to improve their extension and regional research services. CESC has had a major impact in the states with \$10m being made available in the last financial year. The scheme is currently under review and the department is seeking to have the Northern Territory included, although this would have to be by separate but parallel arrangements between the Northern Territory executive and the Commonwealth, outside the Commonwealth-states scheme. In addition the branch is seeking funds from other sources to enable more investigation and development of tropical fruit and vegetable crops which may be of particular importance to small producer-landholders.

250 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Further to my question 190 concerning stage 4 of the Alice Springs powerhouse, will he advise whether the generating sets to be installed will be compatible with existing sets and therefore save on tooling up and maintenance costs?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The Department of Construction has advised that the generating sets to be installed during the stage 4 extension to the Alice Springs power station will be fully compatible as regards operational requirements but not necessarily identical to the existing sets.

To ensure competitive tendering it is essential that all reputable engine manufacturers who can tender in the size range specified be given the opportunity to do so. During the analysis of tenders adjustments are made to the base tender price which take into account various factors, including those raised in the question, so that the generating set finally selected for purchase is the one which provides power at the lowest overall cost to the consumer.

251 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Further to my question on notice No. 154 concerning the condition of the road to Uluru National Park, will he explain what steps will be undertaken to upgrade the road to Uluru National Park, given that the term "re-sheet" usually refers to the sealing of the road and given that this road is not sheeted?

ANSWER

In order that I may answer the question accurately it is necessary for me to define "re-sheeting" and here I use the Australian standard definition for terms used in road engineering.

"Re-sheet" is to condition by adding a new layer of material of appreciable thickness which in simple terms means maintenance action to restore the pre-existing road surface, and this could be sealed or it could be a gravel or other type of surface. The honourable member's question is based on his understanding that re-sheeting usually refers to the sealing of a road.

There is currently a \$100,000 project under way to re-sheet 30 km, which I referred to in answer to question No. 154. This does not relate to a sealed road.

252 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. (a) What was the nature of the "political and industrial surveillance" which was carried on by Special Branch up to the time of its disbandment?
(b) How many people and of what rank were in Special Branch at the time of its disbanding?
(c) Were any files, dossiers, records, memoranda or notes held by Special Branch on private individuals who had not been charged with a criminal offence or were not under investigation for alleged criminal offences? If so, what became of those files, dossiers, records, memoranda or notes at the time of its disbanding?
2. What precise functions of Special Branch were taken over by the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Police Force when Special Branch was disbanded in August 1973? Which duties formerly performed by Special Branch have been added to the work of the Criminal Intelligence Section since August 1973, and at whose instigation?
3. When was the Criminal Intelligence Section of the Police Force created? What duties was it intended to perform? At whose instigation and for what reasons was it created? What duties does it presently perform?
4. Were any members of the Criminal Intelligence Section or any other section of the NT Police Force aware of, present at, or in any way involved in, illegal entries into premises of any organisations, businesses, or individuals at any time in 1976 or 1977?
5. What is the present strength of the Criminal Intelligence Section, and what was its strength in August 1973?
6. Since August 1973, have any and how many men or women formerly working in Special Branch commenced or performed duties in the Criminal Intelligence Section?
7. Does the Criminal Intelligence Section compile any information or material on NT residents who are known or believed to be opposed to the Joint Space Defence Research Establishment but who have committed no criminal offence in respect of that opposition?
8. Does the Police Commissioner or do any officers of the NT Police Force have an arrangement for the supply of political or industrial intelligence to any section of the Australian Security Service? If so, what is the basis?
9. What steps has the Majority Leader taken to assure himself that the Police Force does not compile information of a political or industrial nature on individuals within the NT who have not committed any criminal offence?
10. Have any wiretaps, telephone interceptions or other methods of electronic surveillance or eavesdropping been employed by or records of information so obtained been compiled by or kept by any members of the NT Police Force on any and how many occasions in each of the years since August 1973?

If so, on each occasion such methods were adopted -

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (a) by whom was the surveillance authorised;
 - (b) was the surveillance made on an individual or organisation who was or whose members were suspected of having committed a criminal offence; and
 - (c) on how many occasions were criminal charges laid against individuals and what charges were so involved on such occasion?
11. Has any section of the NT Police Force at any time since August 1973 supplied information of a political or industrial character concerning individual residents or group within the Northern Territory to any organisations or bodies funded by, or under the authority of, any foreign governments? If so, which organisations, and which foreign governments?

ANSWER

1. (a) It was concerned with the detection of activities thought to be subversive, and with the surveillance of public bodies for influences thought to be subversive.
- (b) One sergeant second class and two constables.
- (c) Yes. All documents relating to such matters were destroyed by burning.
2. Vetting and enquiries regarding applicants for appointment to police forces.

Vetting of employees for the Department of Defence.

Vetting of applicants for the Commission of Justice of the Peace.

Enquiries for the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs relating to aliens.

Consular and embassy enquiries in relation to aliens.

Issue of police certificates for visa purposes.

All Interpol enquiries regarding dissident groups.

Liaison duties with law enforcement bodies of other government departments as directed by the Commissioner of Police or his deputy.

Provide adequate security precautions for visiting dignitaries as directed by the Commissioner of Police or his deputy.

Handling of matters pertaining to Indonesian castaways.

No further formerly Special Branch duties have been added since.

3. Approval for the establishment of the Criminal Intelligence Section was given on 19.11.1973 but, except for the functions being carried out as listed above by one constable, the section did not become operational until 13.2.1974. The duties of the section are to gather intelligence on criminal activities and the movement of criminals. The section was established at the direction of the Commissioner of Police in order to gather intelligence relating to criminals. These duties are presently performed by the section.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4. There is no knowledge of any such instances. Activities as such are unlawful and would not be authorised or tolerated.
5. Present strength is one sergeant third class and two constables. The section was not in operation in August 1973; however, one constable continued the duties inherited from Special Branch as previously listed. When the section commenced on 13.2.1974 the strength was one sergeant third class and one constable.
6. One constable continued from Special Branch until 2.6.1976.
7. No.
8. No.
9. I enquired of the Commissioner of Police who told me that files are not kept on matters which are purely of a political nature or which refer purely to trade union activities.
10. So far as the Commissioner is aware there is one instance in relation to which tape recording of conversation between a Police Officer and a person suspected of criminal activities was attempted, for the purpose of gaining intelligence, but this was unsuccessful. The Northern Territory Police Force does not have sophisticated electronic equipment.
 - (a) the above was authorised by the Commissioner of Police;
 - (b) the one instance relates to an individual suspected of being involved in criminal activities;
 - (c) no criminal charge arose out of this instance.
11. No.

300 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Who is on the regular mailing list of the NT executive for press releases?

ANSWER

In addition to those of media representation, there are 26 addresses on the regular mailing list for the Northern Territory executive press releases. Most are heads of NT Public Service and Commonwealth departments and units. The others are the Administrator, the Leader of the Northern Territory Opposition, the Member for Nightcliff, the MHR for the NT and Senator Kilgariff.

A list of these addresses is attached:

Mr M. Elliott
Wildlife Unit
Berrimah N.T. 5788

General Manager
NT Housing Commission
Darwin N.T. 5790

Commissioner of Police
P.O. Box 63
Darwin N.T. 5794

His Honour the Administrator
Block 1
Mitchell Street
Darwin N.T. 5790

Director (Finance)
Dept. of Finance & Local Government
P.O. Box 4396
Darwin N.T. 5794

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Director
NT Correctional Services
P.O. Box 3196
Darwin N.T. 5794

Director
NT Emergency Service
P.O. Box 82
Darwin N.T. 5794

Primary Producers Board
P.O. Box 2245
Darwin N.T. 5794

Director (Local Government)
Department of Finance & Local
Government
P.O. Box 3369
Darwin N.T. 5794

Mr J. Isaacs
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302 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Why is it that some residents of Wulagi have been waiting for up to 15 months for the installation of private telephones?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The Anula and Wulagi suburbs were areas of major redevelopment after Cyclone Tracy and this necessitated the installation of an extensive underground cable system.

The final stages were completed in late 1977 and with the exception of one application (for which special difficulties in providing service still arise), outstanding applicants were contacted and all but one who accepted terms were connected by 3 March 1978. In the exceptional case the applicant is away from Darwin until May 1978.

304 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

Why is the fully-equipped dental therapy clinic at Wulagi School not in operation?

ANSWER

The dental therapy clinic at Wulagi School is not in operation because there are no dental therapists and assistants to staff it. Dental therapists and assistants will be provided as soon as necessary additional positions have been approved by the federal government.

305 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Since 1 January 1978 -

- (a) how many persons have been convicted for possession of cannabis;
- (b) how many persons have been convicted for dealing in cannabis;
- (c) how many persons convicted of offences relating to cannabis have been imprisoned; and
- (d) how many persons convicted of offences relating to other drugs have been imprisoned?

2. How many heroin users are there in prison?

ANSWER

1. (a) 13

(b) 5

(c) 2

(d) None.

2. None.

308 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

On what date did the payment from the Australian government for the transferred functions of 1 January 1978 arrive?

ANSWER

The existing financial arrangements between the Australian government and the NT executive do not provide for a Territory fiscus, and the Territory government therefore has not the authority to operate its own banking account. The development of the Territory fiscus and the independent

banking arrangements are scheduled to operate from 1 July 1978.

For the 1977-78 financial year funds provided by the Australian government are provided through the Commonwealth Public Account and access to the Public Account by the NT executive is by way of warrant authority issued by the Commonwealth government. There is no actual cash transfer.

Section 5 of the Allocation of Funds (Appropriation) Ordinances Nos. 1 and 2 1977-78 provided that the Executive Member for Finance and Planning may issue an order applying funds provided by the Treasurer in aid of the Department or the services in respect of which no or insufficient funds have been allocated. Because of a re-arrangement of the Commonwealth's administrative orders the functions for the provision of funds and control of government appropriations no longer lies with the Treasurer and now lies with the Minister for Finance. As the ordinance now stands the Executive Member for Finance and Planning cannot accept funds from the Minister for Finance.

During this session a bill to amend the Interpretation Ordinance was introduced (Serial 42). Following the passage of this bill and assent by the Administrator, an application will be made to the Administrator to gazette an order substituting Minister for Finance in the Allocation of Funds (Appropriation) Ordinances for Treasurer. This will remove the legal difficulty to the passage of funds to the NT executive. The Australian government has undertaken to provide an additional funding of \$1,396,535 to meet the expenditures arising from the transfers of 1 January 1978.

In the meantime, as an interim measure an order was issued in accordance with section 5 of the above-mentioned ordinances transferring funds from within the existing appropriations to provide for the services and functions transferred on 1 January 1978.

A copy of this order has been tabled. It will be necessary to revoke this order at a later stage following the receipt of the necessary warrant authority from the Minister for Finance.

336 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Supreme Court in its December 1977 sittings in Alice Springs overruled no less than seven decisions made by one of the Alice Springs magistrates?
2. What was the cost to the Crown Law Department of unsuccessfully defending these decisions?
3. Does the Majority Leader view with concern increasing signs that this magistrate has failed in his duty to properly dispense justice in the Summary Court in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Supreme Court at the sittings referred to in the question overruled a total of six decisions made by one magistrate.
2. It is not possible to extract any meaningful figure as to the cost of defending these decisions on appeal.
3. The magistrate concerned has rendered long and dutiful service to the Northern Territory. His retirement has just been announced.

337 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

1. Is it a fact that the uranium mining companies that plan to establish mines and milling plants in the uranium province intend to draw on the new Darwin power station for electricity to operate these mines and plants? If so, what amount of electricity will the companies use expressed as a proportion of the total amount of electricity generated?
2. What tariff will apply to the electricity supplied to these companies?
3. What is the attitude of the Northern Territory executive to the supply of this electricity to large mining companies, when Australian fossil fuel reserves are dwindling?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. At this stage a decision has not yet been made by the uranium mining companies as to whether they would generate their own power, draw from a common power plant in the Jabiru area, or draw on the Darwin power station. In the early stages it seems certain that each company will erect its own power plant for use during the construction stage, and a decision as to whether they will draw from a local generating plant, as opposed to reticulation from Darwin, will depend upon the economics at the time of construction.
2. The tariffs to apply for electricity supplied to the Jabiru area were discussed with the mining companies some years ago after detailed investigation of the feasibility study, but no firm decisions were made. In view of the present uncertainty as to the location of generation, no further discussions have taken place.
3. The NT executive policy is that, wherever feasible, mining companies or any other consumer should be supplied with electricity from a government supply.

338 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. Is he aware of the concern of present staff of the Department of Construction in Alice Springs about the problems associated with transferring to the Northern Territory Public Service and with future employment prospects?
2. Will present staff of the Department of Construction be consulted in respect of transfers, whether it be compulsory or otherwise?
3. Is the Northern Territory executive likely to freeze transfers for those who will not have a position in the Commonwealth Public Service after 1 July 1978 and who do not wish to join the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

1. I am aware of the concern of all staff of the Department of Construction and other areas involved in regard to the problems associated with the transfer to the Northern Territory Public Service as should be evident by my repeated press statements and assurances which I have given regarding the retention of rights of transferred employees. To further assist employees to understand the transfer arrangements, my Public Service Commissioner and senior officers of

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

the Australian Public Service visited Alice Springs and Tennant Creek during the week commencing 13 March 1978 and held discussions with employees scheduled to be transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 July 1978.

2. No. Section 84A of the Public Service Act provides for compulsory transfer of staff as functions transfer from the Australian Public Service to the Northern Territory Public Service. The authority for transfer of staff rests with the Minister for the Northern Territory.
3. The Northern Territory executive has no power to "freeze" transfers (whatever those words may mean). As I have indicated, staff of the Australian Public Service will be compulsorily transferred by the minister with the function and section 84A(3) of the Public Service Act provides, where a person has been transferred by the minister under section 84A(1) of the act, that person ceases to be an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service.

359 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

What steps will be taken to upgrade and improve the Alice Springs sewerage ponds before 1 July 1978?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The sewerage ponds in Alice Springs are considered adequate. However, there is a problem in the amount of effluent from the system which flows into Il Parpa swamp.

Investigations have proceeded for some time on alternative means of disposing of the effluent and an inter-departmental committee has agreed in principle to a proposal to dispose of this effluent by irrigation.

Funds have been provided to enable grading and survey of the irrigation area, and this work is expected to be completed by 1 July 1978.

The works required to enable the irrigation proposal to proceed are proposed for 1978-79.

360 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. What benefits will accrue to the Northern Territory from Professor Harry Messel's proposed crocodile project at Beatrice Hill Research Station from -
 - (a) an economic point of view; and
 - (b) a wildlife point of view?
2. If it is proposed that the University of Sydney work with the Territory Wildlife Commission on Professor Harry Messel's proposed crocodile project at Beatrice Hill Research Station, what is the break up of their interests in relation to -
 - (a) the number of staff each will employ;
 - (b) the amount of money each will put up for capital investment there for equipment, buildings, etc, and

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (c) the amount of money each will put up for the running costs of the project?

ANSWER

1. (a) The findings of the crocodile research project are expected to provide the basis for a study of the feasibility of commercial crocodile farming in the Northern Territory.

(b) It is expected that the project will reveal information concerning the biological characteristics and life-cycle of the salt water crocodile and concerning its optimal habitat. This information may help to prevent the extinction of the species, and may help to establish a significant tourist attraction in the Northern Territory.
2. (a) The crocodile research project is managed jointly by the University of Sydney and the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. However, the Beatrice Hill Research Station, which has been transferred to the project only recently by the Department of the Northern Territory, is expected to be run entirely by Professor Messel's staff. The number of staff which will be employed at the research station by the University of Sydney is unknown.

(b) It is expected that no major capital funds will be required for equipment and buildings, because most of the equipment needed is already in use and will only have to be transferred to Beatrice Hill.

(c) For the 1977-78 financial year the budgeted operating cost of the project exceeded \$400,000. The sum of \$50,000 was allocated in the Northern Territory budget as the Territory's contribution towards the project. Also the occasional services of a ranger of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, Northern Region will be provided for field work.

361 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

1. Does the Alice Springs power station operate on diesel fuel? If so, how much diesel fuel does the power station require, expressed in litres, per annum?
2. How is this diesel fuel transported to Alice Springs? How much diesel, petrol or other oil product does it require to transport the diesel fuel to Alice Springs?
3. Can the Alice Springs power station operate on other fuels? If so, what?
4. Can the Alice Springs power station be converted to run on other fuels? If so, what, and in respect of each, what is the estimated costs of conversion?
5. From where does the Alice Springs power station obtain its water supply? How much water is used per annum? Where is this water discharged?
6. What are the projected electricity consumption figures over the next 22 years, expressed as a percentage? What population growth projections are used in calculating the consumption figures?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

7. What proportion of electricity consumption is attributable to the following Alice Springs areas:

(a) Pine Gap installation; (b) industry; (c) domestic; (d) farm area, and (e) other?
8. What are the full details of electricity tariff rates for the above areas, together with all variations, if any, over the past five years?
9. Have projections been made as to future increases and or alterations to the electricity tariff rates? If so, please supply details.
10. What research and planning, if any, have been undertaken to establish alternative fuel sources and alternative methods of electricity supply production in the Northern Territory? Please supply full details, if any.

ANSWER

1. Yes. An amount of 16,619,137 litres was consumed in the 12 months ended 30 June 1977 and it is anticipated that an amount of 18,600,000 litres will be consumed for the period of 12 months to 30 June 1978.
2. The method of transportation to Alice Springs is at the discretion of the contract supplier. The bulk of the supplies are delivered by rail from South Australia. Information concerning the amount of diesel, petrol or other oil product required to transport the diesel fuel to Alice Springs is not available.
3. The Alice Springs power station could, with modification, operate on heavier grades of diesel fuel, residual fuel oil or natural gas.
4. Yes. The estimated costs of conversion would be as follows -
 - . heavier grades of diesel fuel - minimal.
 - . residual fuel oil - \$320,000.
 - . natural gas - \$500,000.
5. The Alice Springs town reticulated water supply system. An amount of 20,000,000 litres was used for the 12 month period ended 30 June 1977. The bulk of the water discharged is evaporated to the atmosphere from the cooling towers, and the balance from the evaporation pond.

A small quantity is used for domestic type purposes.
6. Projected electricity consumption figures are not available for the next 22 years. However, the projected electricity consumption figures over the next 10 years, expressed as a percentage, is 11.5% compounding annually. The population growth projection used in calculating the consumption figures is 3.5% compounding annually.
7. (a) Nil (not connected to town supply)

(b) 57.15%

(c) 37.60%

(d) 2.43%

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

(e) 2.82% (street lighting)

100.00%

8. Electricity rates which apply to all towns where electricity is distributed by the Department of the Northern Territory are as follows -

In force for period 1.7.67 to 30.6.76

Domestic rate (per quarter)

4.0 cents per unit for first 250 units
2.8 cents per unit for next 750 units
2.4 cents per unit for all units in excess of 1,000.

Commercial rate (per quarter)

4.0 cents per unit for first 5,000 units
2.8 cents per unit for next 45,000 units
2.4 cents per unit for all units in excess of 50,000.

In force from 1.7.76 (to 31.3.78)

Domestic rate (per quarter)

5.0 cents per unit for first 200 units
4.4 cents per unit for next 800 units
3.7 cents per unit for all units in excess of 1,000 units.

Commercial rate (per quarter)

6.0 cents per unit for first 5,000 units
4.2 cents per unit for next 30,000 units
3.75 cents per unit for all units in excess of 35,000 units.

In force from 1.4.78

Domestic rate

13.08 cents per unit for first 90 units
4.95 cents per unit for next 450 units
3.61 cents per unit for next 450 units
3.46 cents per unit for all units in excess of 990 units.

Commercial rate

12.04 cents per unit for first 900 units
8.50 cents per unit for next 3,600 units
7.40 cents per unit for next 25,500 units
5.20 cents per unit for next 60,000 units
3.75 cents per unit for all units in excess of 90,000 units.

9. The Department of the Northern Territory keeps the financial aspects of the electricity supply under constant review. Any alteration to the existing tariff structure is a matter for decision by the Administrator in Council.
10. Alternative fuel sources and methods of electricity supply considered for use in the Northern Territory include coal, natural gas, tidal power, hydro power, nuclear power and solar power as well as varying

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

types of fuel oils. More detail is available from the relevant published minutes of evidence presented to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. This committee has examined all major power station works carried out in the Northern Territory. Investigations are also proceeding into the establishment of a second power station in Darwin.

363 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Have designs been drawn up for a governor's residence in Darwin? If so, what is the cost; when will work commence, and what will be provided in the residence?

ANSWER .

The Northern Territory cabinet has decided that the present site of Government House should be retained and have accordingly commissioned the preparation of preliminary sketches for the development of the site so that it might properly fit the office of Administrator. It is noted that alterations to the existing structure will be kept to a minimum in keeping with its National Trust status. The sketches are expected to be presented towards the end of the month and redevelopment will probably extend over several years.

364 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

For what purpose will the tackle boxes valued at \$1,667 and mentioned on page 5 of the Northern Territory Government Gazette No. 10, 10 March 1978 be used?

ANSWER

The tackle boxes will be fitted out as first aid kits for issue to all police motor vehicles and motor cycles as standard equipment.

371 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Regarding the Katherine abattoir -

1. What is the investment of government money in the abattoir?
2. What percent of the total investment is this?
3. In the last killing season, having regard to the fact that 30,000 were killed at Katherine, how many were killed for shareholders and how many for non-shareholders?
4. What market will be available for non-shareholders this year, if the Katherine abattoir kills on the same basis this year?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. The government has no equity investment in the Katherine abattoir but the company holds a government loan of \$1.4m.
2. As the government has no equity investment the question does not arise.
3. On the best information available, 5169 or the 38,760 killed last season were owned by a shareholder.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4. Assuming no change from last year, non-shareholders' kill will represent 87% of the total.

373 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. How many government houses were vacated in the period 13 March 1978 to 7 April 1978?
2. How many of those houses were subsequently re-allocated by staff accommodation?
3. What are the reasons for the non-allocation of the remaining houses?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. Thirty government houses were vacated in the period 13 March 1978 to 7 April 1978.
2. Fifteen.
3. (a) Three houses were advertised as available to other tenants to purchase. No applications were received and these houses are now on offer to prospective tenants.
(b) Three houses are currently being advertised as available for other tenants to purchase.
(c) Two houses have been used as temporary accommodation. These have now been declared as structurally unsound and will be demolished.
(d) Four houses are scheduled for rehabilitation and upgrading. They will be reallocated when completed.
(e) Two houses required cleaning. One has been completed and is on offer. The other house was completed on 14 April 1978.
(f) One house recently vacated is on offer.

376 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he provide members of the Legislative Assembly with copies of recent reports of the Rand Corporation of California and the American Congressional Sub-committee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources on the hazards of the nuclear power industry?

ANSWER

I do not have copies of these reports. I suggest that where a member considers a report or publication to be useful for the information of the Assembly the proper approach is through the library committee of the Assembly, not through the executive.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

58 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

With reference to the legal opinion being prepared for the trustees of the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund by Mr Ian Barker QC - what were the instructions given to Mr Barker by the trustees, and from what source is Mr Barker to be paid for this opinion and under what authority?

ANSWER

The instructions given to counsel are privileged. The Commonwealth government authorised and provided payment of fees for counsel.

64 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

In respect of each of the following organisations -

1. Central Australian Aboriginal Medical Service;
2. Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service;
3. Central Australian Aborigines Congress; and
4. Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, Alice Springs -
 - (a) what numbers of persons are employed;
 - (b) what are the designations, remuneration received and other employment benefits of employees;
 - (c) who is responsible for the hiring and firing of employees;
 - (d) are the organisations' financial records and expenditure subject to audit and, if so, what are the details of such requirements; and
 - (e) are vehicle records and logbooks kept?

ANSWER

The answer to this question has been provided by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs direct to Mr Vale.

151 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in humpies in the Northern Territory will be required to pay \$2 a fortnight for garbage collection and maintenance of parks and gardens as from January, 1978?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in stage 1 houses will be required to pay \$5 a fortnight for such services under proposed new scales?

Is it a fact that Aboriginals living in stage 3 houses will be required to pay \$35 a fortnight as rent, as compared with \$13 a fortnight, as from January next year?

ANSWER

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs has advised that at this stage the answer to all three parts of the question is "no".

224 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

- (a) Were the establishments of all branches and sections of Australian Public Service departments that were transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978 fully staffed on 1 January 1978?
- (b) If the answer to (a) above is "no", how many vacant positions were transferred from the Australian Public Service to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ANSWER

The functions that transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 January 1978 were Law from the Attorney General's Department, Apprenticeship Board from Education and Town Planning from the Department of the Northern Territory. The answers to question No. 224 are:

(a) No.

(b) There were 22 vacant positions at the time of transfer.

301 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he give an undertaking to this House that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will not alienate any vacant crown lands to become a national park or reserve until any Aboriginal land claims over such lands are heard according to due processes of law?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission placed an advertisement in the NT News on 25 January 1978, calling for representation to be made with respect to proposals to vest areas of land in the commission.

No land will be so vested until representations received have been considered. In particular, no land in respect of which Aboriginal land claims have been made will be vested in the commission until those claims have been resolved.

307 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. Will he supply the Assembly with the calculation of Grants Commission officers of Territory revenue needs and expenditure needs, which he referred to in his press release of 22 February 1978?
2. Will he supply the Assembly with the calculations of the joint Treasury-Finance paper on revenue needs and expenditure needs?

ANSWER

1. My press release made no reference to expenditure needs, nor has there been any such calculation. As previously advised by the Executive Member for Finance and Planning, a preliminary assessment of revenue needs only was carried out by officers of the Grants Commission on behalf of a Commonwealth inter-departmental committee. Documents and reports of such committees are not available for release.
2. No. Again the matter relates to documents of a Commonwealth inter-departmental committee and are not available for release.

362 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Is it a fact that nuclear dating tests of the water being pumped from the Mereenie Basin for consumption in Alice Springs indicates that the water is some 2,500 years old?
2. Can it therefore be assumed that the heavy rains over recent years have not and will not replenish the basin?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

3. What is the estimated life span of the Mereenie Basin? What population growth projections are used in calculating the life span of the Mereenie Basin? Has the life span of the Mereenie Basin been re-estimated in the past five years? If so, what factors caused the need to re-estimate?
4. What proportion of the whole of the present and future consumption of water from Mereenie Basin is attributable to the following outlets in the Alice Springs area - (a) farm area; (b) Pine Gap JDRF; (c) power station; (d) sewerage ponds; (e) industry; (f) domestic; and (g) other?
5. Apart from the Mereenie Basin, what other areas are available to supply the town of Alice Springs with water? What is the estimated life spans of each of these areas? Has the water from these areas been tested to establish its age? If no, why not?
6. What consumption growth projections are used in the calculation of the life span of the Mereenie Basin?

ANSWER

1. Mereenie is a sandstone aquifer. It is one of many aquifers within the Amadeus Basin.

It is not true that the water pumped from the Mereenie sandstone is some 2,500 years old. The carbon dating work performed by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission indicated that the water could range in age from modern water to water which has been in the aquifer for in excess of 5,000 years. Such dating is but one of many tools used by groundwater hydrologists. Other indications suggest that the aquifer is being continually recharged and thus contains water of all ages up to possibly 15,000 years.

2. It cannot be assumed that heavy rains over recent years have not and will not replenish the groundwater reservoir. Water level data recorded by the Water Resources Branch shows a significant recharge mound derived from recent rains moving through associated aquifers towards the Mereenie sandstone.
3. The phrase "estimated life span" is without meaning unless qualified. The storage in the aquifer is sufficient to sustain the present draft for some 5,000 years. Changes in water requirements during such a period are impossible to predict. The capacity of the existing bore-field to extract the stored water and water moving into the aquifer is under regular review. Factors necessitating the reviews include changes in water level in the aquifer, changes in bore hold efficiency and changes in water usage resulting from changing patterns of consumer demand and changing population. The population of extrapolation used is updated on each occasion a review is conducted.
4. Figures are not available for future consumption of water from the Mereenie aquifer.

Present consumption from the aquifer in the area to the west of the airport apportioned to the categories listed is:

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Farm area	1%
Pine Gap JDRF	3%
Power station	1%
Sewerage system	30%
Industry	3%
Domestic (other than sewerage - mainly garden watering)	55%
Other (mainly watering of school grounds)	7%

5. Apart from the Mereenie sandstone aquifer other aquifers available within the Amadeus Basin include the Jay Creek limestone, the Pacoota sandstone and the Hermannsburg sandstone as well as aquifers within younger unconsolidated formations.

Outside the Amadeus Basin aquifers available include the Dulcie sandstone and sediments of the Ti Tree Basin. Opportunities exist for the development of surface waters either for direct use or use conjunctively with groundwaters.

The age of waters in these other areas varies from modern to exceeding 30,000 years but the question is not relevant to the provision of water for the town of Alice Springs.

6. The magnitude of the water resource stored in the Mereenie aquifer is so huge as to render any consumption growth projection pointless. The ability of the borefield to pump such water as may be required to maintain the water supply to town consumers is reviewed annually.

366 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

With regard to apprentices in the Northern Territory -

- (a) How many are employed by Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?
- (b) How many are employed by departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and in what trades?
- (c) How many are employed by local government authorities, and in what trades?

ANSWER

- (a) 91 - electrical fitter and mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, boiler maker/welder, fitter and machinist, motor mechanic, carpenter and joiner, diesel mechanic, plumber and drainer, sheet metal worker, instrument fitter, plant mechanic;
- (b) 2 - electrical fitter and mechanic, motor mechanic;
- (c) 1 - motor mechanic.

367 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

How many first year apprentices were employed in 1978 -

- (a) by Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?
- (b) by departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative

Assembly, and in what trades?

- (c) by local government authorities and in what trades?

ANSWER

- (a) 29 - electrical fitter and mechanic, refrigeration and air conditioning mechanic, boiler maker/welder, fitter machinist, motor mechanic, carpenter and joiner, diesel mechanic, plumber and drainer, sheet metal worker;
- (b) nil;
- (c) 1 - motor mechanic.

368 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

1. With regard to female apprentices in the Northern Territory -
- (a) How many are employed by Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?
- (b) How many are employed by departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and in what trades?
- (c) How many are employed by local government authorities, and in what trades?
2. How many female apprentices are employed in the Northern Territory, and in what trades?

ANSWER

1. (a) 2 - fitter and machinist, motor mechanic;
- (b) nil;
- (c) nil.
2. 31 - cook, printer, radio and television mechanic, instrument fitter, fitter and machinist, ladies' hairdressers, spray painter.

370 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. In Wells Street, Ludmilla, over the past three years, how many traffic accidents have there been?
2. Can an impact study be made of the very serious and increasing traffic problem in Wells Street?

ANSWER

1. Details of traffic accidents in Wells Street are not available for all of the past three years. The Australian Bureau of Statistics could not supply figures for 1975. Because of poor street lighting and the number of unsafe vehicles in Darwin after the cyclone, figures for 1975 would not give a real indication of any current problem which might exist in Wells Street. In 1976 and 1977, there were two traffic accidents in Wells Street - one in October 1976, in which a car collided with a pole, and one in March 1977, in which a rider fell from his motorcycle. In each case, one person was injured.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

In the same two years, there were a total of ten traffic accidents in Bagot Road at its intersection with Wells Street. No deaths were reported but twelve people were injured. Each of these ten accidents was a two-vehicle collision. In January and February 1978, there were no traffic accidents either in Wells Street or at its intersection with Bagot Road. As the Bureau of Statistics does not collect information on traffic accidents which do not involve death or injury, no figures can be given for "minor" accidents in Wells Street.

2. The problems of Wells Street were previously studied by the Darwin Traffic Committee. After considering all available evidence, the committee concluded that it could recommend the closure of Wells Street until an alternative could be found to give access to the area and to relieve pressure on the Bagot Road - Stuart Highway intersection. Current efforts are now being directed to that end.

377 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What is the estimated expenditure in the Northern Territory Public Service during 1977-78 for each of the following employee benefits -
(a) salaries; (b) district allowance; (c) higher duties allowance;
(d) recreation leave fares; (e) long service leave; (f) annual leave;
(g) travelling allowance on recreation leave; (h) additional isolation leave; (i) annual leave loading; (j) other.

ANSWER

1. The estimated expenditures in 1977-78 are as follows -

(a) salaries and allowances	13,809,150
(b) district allowance	<u>1,187,200</u>
Total salaries and allowances	<u>\$14,996,350</u>

Items (c), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and (j) are included as a component of the estimated expenditure under item (a) - salaries and allowances. They are not separately identified in department financial records.

2. Item (d) - recreation leave fares are included under departmental travelling and subsistence allocations and are estimated to total \$500,300 in 1977-78.

378 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

How many government houses in the Northern Territory are currently occupied?

ANSWER

There are 4,786 government dwellings in the Northern Territory currently occupied. This includes both houses and flats.

388 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it true that another party was interested in purchasing the NADC properties around November-December 1977?

ANSWER

I do not propose to answer any questions relating to the Willeroo project as immediately after question time the Executive Member for Transport and Industry will be seeking leave to make a statement on Willeroo and this should give ample opportunity for any debate on the matter.

389 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that Queensland Mines has commenced mining of uranium at the Nabarlek site this dry season? Is it also true that the environmental impact study has been done and that Queensland Mines has reached an agreement with the Northern Land Council?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the advance notice which enabled me to do a bit of homework on this. The answer to the first part of his question is that Queensland Mines is hopeful that it can commence on uranium mining this year but agreement with Aborigines is firstly required. Government legislation to provide for marketing authority needs to be introduced and the rent resource tax dilemma must also be resolved. But if these matters can be resolved within the next six to eight weeks and the company's environmental impact study is approved, all efforts will be made by the company to undertake some construction work during the latter half of the dry season.

In reply to the second part of the question, the company has completed an environmental impact study and this was gazetted for public comment for eight weeks commencing on 20 December. Submissions have been received from various interested individuals and parties, and the company is now in the process of preparing its final environmental impact study for presentation shortly to the Australian government for approval.

In reply to the third part of the question, Queensland Mines has not yet reached an agreement with the Northern Land Council, as has been reported in the newspapers last week, and further negotiations are expected to be undertaken this week.

390 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise whether or not a company known as Williams Aviation has recently been granted a charter licence to operate out of Central Australia?

ANSWER

There has been no charter licence issued to Williams General Aviation. I read from the text of a telex from the Department of Transport to myself: "Concerning Williams General Aviation and RFDS, licence has been issued to Williams General Aviation for a period from 24 April 1978 to 31 March 1979 for use in Northern Territory of two aircraft engaged solely on ambulance functions for RFDS and no other work".

391 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Can he advise the House what stage consideration of objections on the Town Plan and schedule has reached? When will this be completed and will he table the amended plan and schedule in the Assembly at that time?

ANSWER

The town planning unit is preparing all the information for the Town Planning Board to consider the objections which have been lodged to the Darwin Town Plan and the schedules attached to that plan. The board will be having a special meeting of something like a full week, commencing on the 15th of this month, to consider those objections. After that period notice has to be served by statutory requirements on those persons who have had objections overruled so that they may be given the opportunity to appear before the board in person in support of their objections, if they wish to do so, and this means we are still at least a couple of months away from finalising the Darwin Town Plan. As for the honourable member's request that I table the plan in this Assembly, I would have to consider that matter further. It is not an action that has been taken in the past, I understand. However, when the plan is completed it will be formally gazetted and the necessary steps will be taken to ensure that it is a valid document and is available to the public.

392 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that fire sprinklers are only being installed on the first and second floors of the new Casuarina Hospital? If so, what precautions are being taken for safety and fire prevention on the remaining floors? I believe also that the Casuarina Hospital is modelled on similar lines to the Woden Hospital in Canberra. If so, how many floors of the Woden Hospital have fire sprinklers?

ANSWER

I had to go to the Department of Health to get a reply for the honourable member on this matter and the reply I have received from the department is thus: The sprinkler system in Casuarina Hospital is confined to the basement only. Other floors are monitored by thermal detectors and they are equipped with hose, reels and fire doors, as well as additional hand extinguishers in high risk areas. The fire system conforms with modern practice and has been approved by the Commonwealth Fire Officer. The system at Woden is essentially the same, with the exception of certain refinements built into the Casuarina Hospital.

393 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

Has the executive member been approached by the Craft Association of North Australia for allocation of premises in Darwin? Are their current premises to be demolished? Will he assure the Assembly that no action on the removal of the current premises will be undertaken until alternative accommodation is found for the Craft Association?

ANSWER

I am not able to answer the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question in detail. I will certainly seek the information he seeks and advise him during the course of these sittings.

394 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

Can he advise the results of the recently completed trade mission to both Southeast Asia and the Middle East?

ANSWER

All I can give is an interim answer. From all accounts the trade mission was very successful in its investigatory role. I will be tabling a report in the next few days.

395 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question concerns the recommendations and report of the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, the honourable Mr Justice Toohey, which has been forwarded to the minister in respect of the Borroloola land claim. Would he undertake to take all necessary steps to see if the report can be tabled in the House?

ANSWER

I will certainly undertake to table a sufficient number of copies of the report in this House as soon as it becomes generally available, but it is certainly unlikely to be made available to me before it is made available to other members of the public.

396 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he tell the House what other sites were considered for the siting of the proposed museum and art gallery in Darwin?

ANSWER

I think it is sufficient to say that no proposed siting of any building in the Northern Territory, particularly in Darwin, has ever been given more thorough scrutiny than this particular application by the Museums and Art Galleries Board for a site for a museum. It was a most exhaustive inquiry over a period of about two years. Indeed, the Museums and Art Galleries Board used every resource available to it, as did the executive when it considered the siting. We have had the officers of the Department of Construction involved, the officers of the Town Planning Board involved, the Department of Finance and Planning involved. We have had independent architects involved; we have had consultants from Melbourne involved. Every possible site was closely examined and scrutinised by the Museums and Art Galleries Board before it made a recommendation to the executive and then, after that recommendation was made, the executive again requested a thorough examination of all available alternative sites. Nothing could have been carried out more thoroughly, Mr Speaker, and on the basis of that exhaustive advice that has been available to the executive, the present decision was made. I might add, Mr Speaker, that that decision is also subject to an environmental impact statement being prepared under the Commonwealth legislation and at this stage it is by no means a total fait accompli. We and the community will look forward, I think with considerable interest, to the results of that environmental impact study.

397 Mr HARRIS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is consideration being given to the relocation of the Yarrowonga zoo to an area at Fogg Dam?

ANSWER

Certainly not by myself.

398 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

In view of the announced decision to build a museum on the Bullocky Point site and also to extend the boat ramp near the ski club, can he inform me and inform the clubs that occupy land along that Vestey Beach area whether their applications to change their leases will now be considered - or whether they will continue to be delayed for 12 months, while a survey is done by the town planning people?

ANSWER

I think the best way to answer that question is to say that applications by both existing clubs for changes to their leases, or I imagine the honourable member was referring to requests for additional land to be included in their leases, and indeed new applications which are received from time to time for land in Darwin - and quite often those new applications are for foreshore land - are under continuous review. The situation changes from time to time. At present a foreshore management study is being undertaken, as I indicated to the House previously. Decisions on the future of the Darwin Sailing Club and the Darwin Trailer Boat Club, in particular, will not be made until that report is available and considered.

399 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Can the executive member advise me when the Northern Territory Housing Commission will finalise its restoration program? Is he also able to tell me the number of dwellings that are yet to be restored?

ANSWER

There are approximately 400 Housing Commission houses in Darwin yet to be upgraded. 209 of these are included in the coming financial year's program; 40 of them are yet to be let in the remainder of this financial year and 150 have yet to be completed, although contracts have been let. The estimated date for completion of the whole upgrading program is expected to be the end of 1979, subject to the availability of funds in the forthcoming financial year.

400 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will the member table in this House full details of the legal opinion which he sought from the Northern Territory Department of Law concerning the involvement of Alderman Marinucci in the letting of the building contract to the Sicoma company by the Alice Springs council? If so, when, and if not, why not?

ANSWER

I thought the days of witch-hunts were over. I am giving consideration to that matter quite independently, on the question asked by the honourable member for MacDonnell, as he would be well aware from the press statement I made in Alice Springs last week. After I have given due consideration to that legal opinion, I will then make a decision as to whether or not it is proper to table it here. As I indicated in that press

statement, I personally have absolutely no objection whatsoever to tabling that particular legal opinion. However, the wishes of the Alice Springs Town Council have to be taken into account, because of the obvious fear of showing their hand and the prospect of the honourable member of MacDonnell trying to get some sufficiently foolish stooge to make an application to the court along the lines that he has already indicated he would do in his vindictive campaign for some incredible reason against what I believe is a very honourable man in that town council.

401 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he advise the House as to the current stage of negotiations between the Commonwealth and the Anglican Church of Australia regarding the acquisition of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

I believe there has been some action on this particular matter of late. However, I will seek the information and advise the honourable member during these sittings, rather than attempt to advise her without sufficient background information.

402 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

When is the laundry at the Casuarina Hospital going to be operational? Also is it true that when this laundry is commissioned, it is going to be used by other sections within the Health Department? If so, by whom?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the Casuarina Hospital laundry is already operational and has been now for some time. It is also my understanding that every section within the Department of Health will be having its laundry done in the central laundry complex. The various parties that would be involved would include general surgeries, health clinics and what have you in the immediate environs of Darwin.

403 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to introduce legislation in these sittings for the registration of surnames of children according to the custom of the families, rather than by the surnames of the father only?

ANSWER

It is certainly my intention to introduce this legislation at an early date and I have, in fact, given instructions to the Department of Law for the preparation of the legislation. I cannot say for certain whether the legislation will be ready for this sittings, as I think already we have about 50 bills for introduction on this occasion. However, I would expect, if it is not introduced at this sittings, it will be introduced at the June sittings which is only four or five weeks away.

404 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question concerns the large number of left-hand-drive vehicles in Central Australia. Will he undertake to ensure that in future all of these vehicles are affixed with a standard-type warning sign?

ANSWER

Perhaps if the honourable member would approach me privately about this, I will certainly look into it and if we can help him out, we will.

405 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that the wildlife section of the Department of the Northern Territory recently spent over \$500 on fishing equipment for the Prime Minister's afternoon fishing visit in a sanctuary where us ordinary mortals are not permitted to wet a line? If that is true, could the honourable executive member endeavour to find out what has happened to that fishing equipment since?

ANSWER

I cannot really answer the honourable member's question off the top of my head. I am aware that the Prime Minister was the guest of Mr Yunupingu on this particular occasion and perhaps we should take the matter up with him, but I will clarify with the parks commission as to whether they indeed spent \$500 on fishing equipment for the Prime Minister and I will also find out why we mortals cannot get a slice of the action.

406 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of the fact that some \$4.5m is being spent on building a health laboratory at the Casuarina Hospital - mainly, I believe, to study tropical diseases - can the honourable executive member advise me if any special facilities are being incorporated for the purpose of studying radiation disorders which may assist our new uranium industry?

ANSWER

I do have a reply from the department on this particular question. The first phase of the laboratory complex at the Casuarina Hospital is valued at \$4.1m. This building will contain conventional clinical laboratory and blood bank facilities to service patients in the hospital. The second phase, if and when built, will contain public health laboratories including laboratories that will have radiation protection equipment. If I could just say to honourable members of both sides of the House that, if we could get 24 hours notice of questions, it would enable us to complete the exercise at the time the question is actually asked.

407 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Now the Hooker Corporation has pulled out of the Brinkin subdivision, what decision has been made by the executive to allow the Darwin Community College to expand into that area?

ANSWER

An application by the Darwin Community College is being looked at at the present time, along with other applications for use of land in the northern suburbs which has been relinquished by the Hooker Corporation back to the Commonwealth. The executive is waiting for a report on these matters in order to make a decision.

408 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that hospitals in the Northern Territory discriminate between

Aboriginals and Europeans and others in their recording procedures for patients and, if so, why?

ANSWER

There is a system within the Northern Territory Health Service where people are shown on their medical history cards as Aboriginal or as Europeans, but I would like to point out for the honourable member's benefit that this is only done as a departmental procedure at the request of the patient and is not something which is normally done by a clerk standing behind a counter who makes a physical assessment. It is purely at the request of the patient.

409 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Is the public at this stage able to purchase government caravans in lots of less than 25?

ANSWER

It seems not generally understood that the Department of the Northern Territory is in fact selling caravans which are surplus to its requirements in single lots. There seems to be a general feeling in the community that they are only being released in lots of 25. The last time that single lots were sold was on 21 March when 30 vans were auctioned and there is to be a further auction in the near future at which 12 vans will be sold in single lots.

410 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that there is now no orthodontist available at the Commonwealth Dental Clinic to treat new patients requiring orthodontic care? I understand that continuing patients are being treated by the orthodontist who was there previously but new patients are not being accepted. What action is being taken to overcome this problem?

ANSWER

I am aware that for 12 months the Department of Health has been advertising and seeking vigorously for orthodontists who would be prepared to fill positions in the Northern Territory. There are three positions available and I believe the salaries are in the \$25,000 to \$26,000 bracket. However, it is very hard to get any starters and riders for these positions. It would appear that orthodontists can make so much money, living in congenial surroundings on the Gold Coast, that they have no ambition and no pioneering spirit that would bring them to the Northern Territory. The department has advertised in the United Kingdom and Canada and, in fact, had a response from both countries to their advertisements which cost a lot of money and took a lot of time. There are orthodontists available to us from America but public service rules preclude the employment of non-British people in this area and for this reason we are not able to avail ourselves of this opportunity. One of the benefits we hope to have after we assume the responsibility of health is that, as an independent body, we will not be held responsible by the Commonwealth Public Service Commissioner and we will be able to go out and obtain orthodontists on the open market whatever their nationality.

I would like to say, for the honourable member's benefit, that the picture is not an encouraging one. It is simply a matter of supply and demand.

People who have the ability and the qualifications have no interest in coming to the Northern Territory. If any member of the public can suggest any ways of luring them here - and I do not think money is a problem - we are more than happy to consider these.

411 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

Is he able to advise me if there is any proposal to bituminise Casuarina beach access road which continues on from Parer Road to the beach? If so, when is the construction of this section likely to commence?

ANSWER

I am not aware of such a proposal. By the tenor of the question, I would expect that it would be a Darwin City Council matter. I will try to track the answer down for the honourable gentleman later in the day.

412 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

I would like to ask a supplementary question regarding orthodontists. I know in the past - and it probably still happens - that when there has been a shortage of various medical and dental specialists in the Northern Territory, the Health Department has made arrangements with various other government services in the south to bring visiting specialists up for a short time. Is it possible to do this with orthodontists?

ANSWER

It is possible to do what the honourable member has suggested but there is some difficulty in it. I can indicate that we are currently bringing a doctor from Adelaide to complete all the orthodontic work that has been started by the former departmental orthodontist. He is under contract with the department and the amount of money that it will cost us this year, just for him to finish off, is in the vicinity of \$35,000 for a part-time role in coming up every couple of months to spend a couple of days. The difficulty is that orthodontists established down south have so much work on their plate that they have no desire, ambition or encouragement to come to the Northern Territory on any basis at all.

413 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

Can he tell the House of the recent discussions on blue tongue and is any new light on the horizon? Is the incident of blue tongue in the Territory as bad as it has been painted?

ANSWER

It is time that I again reported to the Assembly on the blue tongue situation. It is a serious disease and the chance of infection in sheep flocks in the south is very strong. From the Territory's point of view, the executive has endorsed a proposal to construct a laboratory for \$160,000, a virology laboratory out at Berrimah, with something like \$80,000 worth of equipment and, of course, staff for that proposal would also cost a fair bit of money. But as I said, I think it is probably about time that I again prepared a statement for the House and I will do that within the next few days.

414 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

What are the latest developments concerning the proposal to construct an

overpass on Trower Road at Rapid Creek? Is it true that plans for this have been deferred?

ANSWER

It is not true that plans for an overpass on Trower Road at Rapid Creek have been deferred. It is a very important part of our forward program and it is one that we would like to see at the top of the priority list. I cannot give an assurance as to exactly when that overpass is likely to be commenced but certainly it is very high on our list of priorities.

415 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it true that Mr Allan Ashley has been appointed as the head of the new Department of Treasury?

ANSWER

It is true that negotiations are in train which I hope will result in the appointment of Mr Ashley as Under-Treasurer to the Northern Territory. However, I think it is premature to say at this stage that his appointment has gone through because it has to be done by the Executive Council.

416 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

Is he able to advise me if any provisions have been made in forward estimates to provide more bus shelters in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The exact details are not in front of me today but certainly provision has been made and I hope I will be able to report back to him at a later time.

417 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

In view of the large number of cattle now going through the trucking yards of the Alice Springs abattoir and the subsequent increase in dust nuisance, can consideration be given to concreting those yards?

ANSWER

I would be delighted to take the honourable member's suggestion on board. We have to look at a wide range of things in the context of large numbers of cattle flowing through the Alice Springs abattoir this year - that is, in consideration of road proposals and the facilities that he mentions. Certainly, we will have a look at that as soon as we can.

418 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

Can the executive member advise if the stormwater drain system on the Darwin Community College grounds has been investigated with a view to taking action to protect children playing in the area? Would a mesh gate perhaps prevent children entering the underground pipe system which I believe they can navigate themselves up as far as the Casuarina Police Station?

ANSWER

I suppose such navigational prowess is easy to understand; they just

follow a pipe upstream. This issue is being viewed with considerable concern by all the authorities involved and discussions between the college, city council and the Department of Construction are currently taking place. A number of possible solutions are being examined including the erection of a mesh gate to prevent access.

419 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that, on that section of Trower Road presently under construction between Francis Street and Ryland Road, there is still a pedestrian crossing which of course is only half available and that children are using this as a pedestrian crossing with grave risk to life and limb? Four children just missed being killed last week. In view of where it is, has he received a recommendation for its temporary closure or the stationing of police officers, who are in short supply of course, at that particularly dangerous crossing?

ANSWER

The question of pedestrian crossings and children's crossings is under examination at the present time by the Department of Transport and Industry and the city council. I am sure the departmental people who are looking into this are aware of the problems of the Trower Road pedestrian crossing. It is quite obvious to me that if it cannot be fixed tomorrow, well, it will probably be fixed the next day. During that period obviously there would be some hazards attached to the fact that the pedestrian crossing is still there. We hope to come up with a solution for all crossings and this involves, as I have mentioned in this House before, access by buses into schools and things of that kind. Certainly, when we can get onto it, we will.

420 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that the number of complaints about dogs has steadily increased these past few months? If so, when does he propose to introduce amendments to the Control of Dogs Ordinance to help solve this dreadful situation?

ANSWER

I am not only aware that the number of complaints has increased; as a matter of fact, I think I am getting them all. If for no other reason than for a little bit of peace, I will be doing everything I possibly can to try once again in this place to introduce legislation which may do something towards alleviating this problem. I know, Mr Speaker, as you would know, that sponsors of bills have been attempting this probably as long as this building has been here and generally with about zero success. In fact, seeing all the complaints I am getting are increasing, as the honourable member points out, then I suppose it is a negative result. So once again I will try to make an attempt, in consultation with groups who are involved in canine clubs and organisations, to come up with legislation which will not inhibit the genuine enjoyment of pets of this type but certainly very strongly discourage people from letting their animals run riot around our suburbs.

423 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

This question is in identical terms to the one I asked yesterday. Is he aware that another party was interested in purchasing the NADC properties around November-December 1977?

ANSWER

My answer to the honourable Leader of the Opposition is the same as I gave yesterday.

424 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Did the Majority Leader or any other person authorised by him request the receiver of NADC to cease negotiations with another potential purchaser of the NADC properties during the trial crop period?

ANSWER

Perhaps it would be easier to put an end to this train of speculation by the Leader of the Opposition. I was not aware that any other party was interested in purchasing Willeroo and that has been made plain right throughout. I would be very interested to hear who this other party is, that is alleged to have been interested in purchasing Willeroo. No-one on my authority - because I did not know that there was anybody interested in purchasing Willeroo - asked the receiver to put paid to any negotiations with another party.

425 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

In view of the fact that the Marrara sporting complex has been a proposal for several years, is the executive member in a position to advise me when a decision will be made to offer this land on McMillans Road to interested sporting bodies? Is the executive member also able to indicate the number of groups interested in obtaining this land for sporting development?

ANSWER

The question raises two prospects. The first one is that, in order for the Marrara area to become available to sporting bodies, a suitable form of tenure would have to be made available to them. I am submitting to the executive a proposal varying the provisions of the Local Government Ordinance in their effect on the Crown Lands Ordinance for a period during which councils throughout the Territory may offer leases to sporting bodies. The great difficulty in the past has been the very limited term of tenure, so the executive will be examining this. I have also approved of my department recommending to the Department of the Northern Territory that the entire Marrara area be handed over to the city corporation with the proviso that it be made available to those sporting bodies that require it. When the two of those things join together, it will be a matter for the city corporation to make the allocation of leases to sporting bodies. I could not give him an exact figure on the number of applications. Certainly, there is considerable interest by a number of sporting groups in obtaining secure tenure for development of those lands. The security of tenure is clearly necessary in order that they may raise funds in order to develop their facilities.

426 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

To what extent did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board sign cheques and order seed for the Scott Creek-Willeroo venture?

ANSWER

I have not looked at the records to know the extent of his actions in the areas the honourable member refers to. I will have a look at the papers available to me and report back to him.

427 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Has anything definite been decided yet on the future use of the railway land within the Darwin area?

ANSWER

Australian Railways have called for tenders seeking interested persons to approach them and ask for leases of various railway land within the Darwin area. I understand there have been a number of applications that were successful and the railways are in the process of drawing up leases with these people. There are parts of the railway land in Darwin already being used and I believe in these cases the existing uses will be formalised in the form of a lease. The main railway corridor through Darwin still remains vacant and Australian Railways are prepared to look at any proposals to relinquish this land where necessary for the purpose of roads and other uses by the government.

428 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

To what extent did the chairman or other officers of the Primary Producers Board negotiate with the receiver of NADC and on whose authority, between November 1977 and March 1978 inclusively?

ANSWER

The honourable member asks for the extent; this means the fine detail, which also means the dates, the times and so on. I am not in possession of that detailed information. If there are some special days about which he wishes to make specific allegations, we will answer his question when he defines it effectively for us.

429 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

In consideration of your recent remarks regarding coastal surveillance groups and realising that some form of regular training is advantageous to the personnel, has consideration been given to reintroducing a program whereby young Aboriginal men do short periods of training with the armed services?

ANSWER

No consideration has been given by me or my executive to reintroduce a program whereby young Aboriginal men may do service with the armed forces. I understand that in fact at the present time there are young Aboriginal men of Crocker Island who have made application to join the Australian army and they are presently going through their intake process. The Northern Territory executive, however, has given consideration or, at least, I myself have given consideration to proposals that Aboriginals should be

brought into the coastal surveillance network. We have a firm proposal in this regard which we have submitted to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs with a view to obtaining funds for the proposal. I understand that this proposal is one that meets with the approval of the honourable member for Arnhem.

430 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

During the last session of the Assembly held in March, reports from the Darwin Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund were presented to federal parliament but not to this House, as is required under the trust. Could the honourable Majority Leader advise the House why we did not receive the same courtesy and when he expects to be able to present those reports?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have this matter looked into today. If there are any outstanding reports, I will arrange for them to be presented during the course of this sittings.

431 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Can the executive member advise me if any decision has been made to allow Manton Dam to be used as a recreational area for marine craft? I understand the Department of Health has no objection to this proposal.

ANSWER

This is an area that my colleague, the Executive Member for Finance and Planning, is investigating in terms of planning. It is a matter that has been raised previously, in the last Assembly, and is under investigation. I was unaware that the Department of Health had withdrawn any opposition to it. That is in another portfolio of my colleague, the Executive Member for Resources and Health. We are investigating this but as the honourable member has raised the subject again, I will take it on board to see if a decision can be speeded up.

432 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

I do not think this one needs any detailed research. Did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board have written authorisation from the receiver or the secured creditors of NADC to buy and sell assets on the Scott Creek-Willeroo properties?

ANSWER

I do not know. I do not know whether he had a letter to that effect or not. I have not seen a letter of that nature and I would be surprised if there was anything untoward about any communication between the receiver and Mr Jettner. The member heard the statement yesterday; he knows the details made available in the House.

433 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Are freehold land subdivisions being processed through to the issue of titles at the present time?

ANSWER

Yes. There are approximately eight applications for subdivisions being

processed at present. In order to speed up the processing of freehold subdivisions, I am drawing up policy guidelines for subdividers. They are badly needed as there have never been any guidelines for applicants for subdivision, other than that provided by the ordinance. I hope to finalise these guidelines by Friday of this week. I have an ad hoc committee that I am consulting with on the subject and we will be putting these guidelines to the Town Planning Board for its consideration, and hopefully adoption, whereby they can be released. Those persons applying for subdivision will then have a very clear guide as to what will be approved and what will not.

434 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House how much money the Primary Producers Board advanced to the receiver of Scott Creek-Willeroo to pay outstanding debts?

ANSWER

I understand a loan has been approved for an amount of \$150,000.

435 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

Following on from the answer given to me by the honourable executive member, when I asked about the Woodcutters lead-zinc ore body on 6 December, have the government officers and branches he mentioned managed to draw up the plan that will allow exploration for further ore and thus allow this valuable ore body to be brought into economic production?

ANSWER

I have been advised by the Mines Branch that, since the honourable member's question early in December, inter-departmental discussions have been going on between the various branches in the department to try and establish the exploration program and the management of the program that should be undertaken in the area. I believe that unexpected problems have arisen on the question of the legality of the activities which the company wishes to carry out in this particular area. Until this matter is resolved, little further progress can be made.

436 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

Has an assessment of the Scott Creek-Willeroo project been carried out by an independent firm of pastoral consultants? If so, by whom? Will the executive member table the report?

ANSWER

An independent assessment has been carried out by the company, AACM. No, we are not prepared to table the report. It is a private report and its access is limited to the executive. In addition to that report there is a further assessment being carried out by the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch.

437 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

After 1 July 1978 what functions are to be handed over to local government? I specifically refer to the Corporation of the City of Darwin. However, I am sure that other local government bodies in the Northern Territory would appreciate some specific information as to what their responsibilities might be after that date.

ANSWER

It has long been the policy of the CLP to investigate the devolution of powers to local government organisations and this, or course, must be done in the closest consultation with local government. The process of this consultation has been going on for some time now. I have some proposals to put to the executive, probably within the next week. When the executive examines those proposals it will then go back to the local governments concerned and, in accordance with the recent amendment to the Local Government Ordinance, we will then be able to transfer those functions which are agreed to between the parties as being proper for transfer and at a time when local government is able to take them over. If we are going to use the term "government", in the terminology local government, then I think we should see local councils as being the form of government for the towns under the general auspices and along the general guidelines of policy of the state-type parliament and government of the day.

438 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What approaches, if any, have been made to overseas sources for the funding of the purchase of the NADC properties?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, no approaches have been made to overseas sources for the funding of the purchase of the Willeroo property other than perhaps by the receiver himself and, of course, I cannot answer for him, although it appears here this morning that we are being asked to answer for what the receiver has done in many cases. Enquiries were made by my department at my request as to what the going interest rates were on funds available overseas but that was simply to get a yardstick on what sort of interest we should be asking for.

439 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he tell us who approved the loan of \$150,000 advanced by the Primary Producers Board to the receiver of the NADC properties?

ANSWER

I understand that it is the function of the Primary Producers Board to approve its own loans, although there is a limit on the amount that it can actually remit under signature and amounts of over \$20,000 have to be referred to the executive member for his signature.

440 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

My question is directed to the Executive Member for Transport and Industry, although I must admit everybody on his side seems to refer to him as the Cabinet Member for Industrial Development. The House has not been shown the courtesy as yet of being told the new titles for the honourable cabinet members.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I resent that remark honourable member. I am not on his side; I am impartial.

Mr ISAACS: I said honourable members but I did not intend any disrespect to yourself, Sir. I am sorry. I was not referring to statements made by yourself, Mr Speaker.

Does the Executive Member for Transport and Industry intend introducing legislation into the Assembly, validating the actions of the Primary Producers Board in making a cash advance to the receiver of NADC and as a supplementary question to that just asked by the member for Sanderson, at what interest rate was the cash advance made to the receiver?

ANSWER

There is some proposal for amending legislation to the Encouragement of Primary Production Ordinance but I doubt if we are proceeding with that proposal at this present time. On the other question about the interest rate - I have not seen the paper work so I do not know exactly what the interest rate is. It is not always definite that an interest rate is a certain figure and the interest rates on some loans I have signed have varied because of special circumstances.

441 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Are there any long-term plans for tourism or defence developments in the Cox Peninsula area?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any particular long-term plans for the future use of Cox Peninsula. I do not have any information on what the Australian defence authorities may propose for its future use and we certainly have not been approached by anyone from the tourist industry proposing any particular use of the area. I have heard that the area could be subject eventually to an Aboriginal land claim which could, in fact, affect any applications for use of land on Cox Peninsula. However, there are already some freehold lots on Cox Peninsula, as well as a sizeable lease to the Radio Australia facility over there.

442 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Did the Northern Territory executive approach the receiver of NADC in the first instance to purchase the properties through Elders?

ANSWER

I have never heard of Elders - I presume the company that the honourable member for MacDonnell is referring to is Goldsborough Mort - being involved in this transaction at all. It is a complete surprise to me.

443 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

I direct my question to the Treasurer.

Mr SPEAKER: The correct title is the Cabinet Member for Treasury. I will have these names given to the members today and I hope you will get used to them.

Mr DONDAS: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Are there any current proposals for a new subdivision at Lee Point-Casuarina? If so, is the subdivision to be a government or a private subdivision?

ANSWER

There is no particular subdivision planned in the area north of the exist-

ing suburb of Tiwi. The next subdivision to be drawn up or completed - not completed, Malak has to be completed first - but the next subdivision after that would be one north of Wulagi which subdivision is proposed to be called Leanyer. At this stage I could not give a firm undertaking whether that subdivision will be put to private developers or whether it will be developed in the way most development in Darwin has proceeded in the past and that is by the Department of Construction doing most of the necessary works and letting contracts to the private sector for the actual development.

444 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

What payments have been made by the Primary Producers Board to its chairman for work undertaken on the NADC property?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer that question. If the honourable gentleman would put all his questions in the one package, I might do a bit better than getting up each time.

445 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Could he advise if any officers of his department have been able to undertake a survey into the operations of sand miners and other extractive industry people operating in the Howard Springs area, bearing in mind the remarks he made when he put through the legislation restricting unlawful activities in this respect?

ANSWER

It would be pretty difficult for me to send any officers of my department to do this job because I only have four, and this function is currently the responsibility of the Department of the Northern Territory. However, I am aware that the environmental geology section and the soils conservation section of the Mines Branch have been maintaining a limited surveillance over sand mining in the area. There are some sand mining or excavation licences that were issued by the Waters Resources Branch and Lands Branch which are current until 30 June and these will be able to function up until that time. Some areas where the licences to extract have lapsed are currently being covered by topsoil, so that growth can be generated in the area and the damage to the surface where the extraction has taken place can be reduced to a minimum. The surveillance will be limited probably until after July and, even at that stage we will be relying pretty heavily on public information to catch the illegal sand miners. As the honourable member would be aware, there are 32 square miles and more out there that are being mined illegally by people who have no responsibility towards the community and are only looking after themselves. It is not possible for a band of ten, twelve or even twenty men to catch them unless the public is prepared to cooperate in the exercise with us.

446 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

What is the value of the crop planted at Scott Creek-Willeroo over the December-January period?

ANSWER

I can answer that question in several ways, I should imagine. However,

Mr Speaker, I think these sorts of questions should probably go on notice; the fine details of these particular transactions escape me.

447 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Will the member advise this Assembly of the criteria used in the selection of prison officers? Will he further advise us of the content and duration of training schemes for prison officers and will he tell us how many Territory prison officers have had the advantage of those schemes?

ANSWER

Normally, that is definitely the type of question I would request to be put on notice. However, seeing the honourable member has raised the question in the House, I will endeavour to have the information provided to her as soon as possible.

448 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

I asked him a question on 7 March 1978 on notice relating to a lease agreement being signed between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority and I have had no reply to that question. I ask it again: has the Northern Territory Port Authority signed a lease agreement with V.B. Perkins and Company? If so, when? And if not, why not?

ANSWER

The question can be answered by me. The lease agreement has not been signed. As to why - there are some legal complications with some of the clauses and those clauses are currently being negotiated by the Solicitor-General, on behalf of the Port Authority, with the Perkins company.

449 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he advise what the true feeling of the Hooker Creek residents is towards Constable Jennings?

ANSWER

I understand from the honourable member for Stuart that this question is asked by him on your behalf, Mr Speaker. It is a difficult question for me to answer because the honourable member for Victoria River and myself and the Hooker Creek community reached an agreement at our meeting at Hooker Creek that we would not do anything to prolong the fuss and bother that was raised over certain incidents at Hooker Creek. All I can do is refer honourable members to the fact that the Police Commissioner apparently did not proceed with the transfer of the two police officers at Hooker Creek and I think the facts speak for themselves.

450 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he advise the Assembly when the Ombudsman Ordinance will be put into effect and when the Northern Territory ombudsman will be appointed?

ANSWER

It is certainly hoped that the Ombudsman Ordinance will be brought into effect on 1 July. This is subject to negotiations presently going on with the Commonwealth ombudsman, through the Prime Minister's Department. It

is the wish of the Commonwealth that our ordinance come into operation at that time. I hope there will be no delay and obviously an ombudsman will have to be appointed as soon as possible thereafter.

451 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he tell us who is responsible for undertaking the architectural design work for the proposed museum and art gallery which is to be constructed at Bullocky Point? Can he also say whether any private architectural firms were involved in the architectural design work and, if so, can he give us the names of these private architectural firms?

ANSWER

In answering the question, I am more than prepared to discuss the entire museum and art gallery proposal with any member of the Opposition in my office, including looking at the plans and going right through the whole thing. The honourable member for Fannie Bay has already taken that opportunity and I would suggest that the honourable member for Sanderson do the same thing. It is necessary to bear in mind that the design work on the new museum and art gallery proposal has been going on for quite a long time. Everyone, right down to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, has been involved in the conceptual stages of that plan. If the honourable member wishes to be fully informed as to what the current position is in relation to the museum proposals, she is more than welcome to come and see me.

452 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Has an agreement yet been reached with Australian Railways on the purchase of the railway houses at Parap? If not, can he tell us when he anticipates that this matter will be completed?

ANSWER

There has been no finality in negotiations with the railways on purchasing their properties, not only at Parap but throughout the Northern Territory, which the railways are seeking for the Northern Territory government to take off their hands. There will be amendments introduced in this Assembly during these sittings that will allow the Housing Commission to manage the houses until such time as the arrangements for purchase or transfer can be finalised. At the rate we are reaching agreement on a number of matters with the Commonwealth, which have a bearing on the negotiations with the railways and the price of the houses to be transferred, I would hope that we may even be able to complete much of the arrangements for purchase by 1 July 1978.

453 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that Northern Territory pensioners are not entitled to any concessions on rail travel interstate? If he is aware of this - I can assure him that it is true - what does he intend to do to ensure that Northern Territory pensioners are given the same rail travel concessions as pensioners in the rest of Australia?

ANSWER

I accept the word of the honourable Leader of the Opposition that that is indeed the case. What we would need to determine is whether there is a reciprocal agreement between the states and their own rail systems. If

some reciprocal agreement has been arrived at between the states, then most certainly in my capacity of Community Development, I will have my officers look into the matter as a question of priority, and see whether the Transport Ministers' Conference, or whatever is appropriate, can have Northern Territory pensioners included in that scheme. I thank the honourable member for the suggestion.

454 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he tell us what amount the Betting Control Board originally proposed to allocate to the Pine Creek Race Club during the current financial year? Was that amount subsequently altered and, if so, why was it so altered?

ANSWER

I will have to ask that that question be put on notice.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

405 Mr TUXWORTH (Resources and Health) (by leave): The House may recall that yesterday in answer to a question from the honourable member for Arnhem on the Prime Minister's recent fishing trip, I undertook to seek further information on the matter. I am informed that the fishing equipment used on the expedition was purchased by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission for the purpose of providing equipment for this and other expeditions of its kind. I am advised that the total outlay was \$307 and was charged against the commission's maintenance vote for northern management. It is expected that the equipment will be divided between Nourlangie and Cobourg Peninsula and be used for future excursions of this nature.

The honourable member ended his question with a reference to the fact that mere mortals were not permitted to fish in the particular place the Prime Minister was taken to. In response to this, I would point out that the trip was at the invitation of the chairman of the Northern Land Council, Mr Yunupingu. A senior official of the Chief Secretary's Department warned Mr Yunupingu of the consequences that might flow from his invitation to the Prime Minister to fish at Dreaming Waters and was told that Mr Yunupingu was aware of the consequences and accepted the responsibility.

455 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

What steps have been taken to resolve the taxi dispute, having regard to the hardship being experienced now by taxi owner-drivers due to the need for renewal of registrations and the prospect that they will be forced into the position of being out of work whilst having the means of employment quite prominently in their carports or garages?

ANSWER

I apologise that the taxi industry matter has been long drawn out and is still not quite resolved. I have a telegram from the association which I received into my hand as I walked into the House. I will read this telegram out because it does highlight part of the problem.

We have sent a telegram to the Minister for the Northern Territory requesting his urgent attention re taxi dispute. The text is as follows: "Sir, your urgent attention required re taxi dispute and getting no satisfaction from Cabinet Member for Transport, Roger Steele, or Majority Party, dispute has dragged on for four months. Urgent legislation required immediately. People will be forced out of work, also forced to work outside of the law to survive; have been given the run around and members are getting very disgruntled. Further information, phone Darwin 81 3243, T. Johnson, for and on behalf of Associated Cabs and Hire Cars.

Well, sending a telegram to the Minister for the Northern Territory would be like wiring for Father Christmas to come back in May of this year.

However, I did apologise for the delay and submissions are being considered from all parts of the Northern Territory, not just one little segment in Darwin. Drafting instructions will be issued very soon.

Before considering the issue of new licences which is part of the plea that is being made to us - and there is a question on notice from the honourable Leader of the Opposition in regard to the formula - I am of a mind to investigate further the last year's income of owner-drivers, before determining a ratio of cabs to population. I would hate to send broke the long-term members of the industry.

Speculation has been made that there will not be enough taxis during the current dry season and I propose that, subject to applications to the registrar, the short-term requirements of the tourist operators may be catered for by the issue of permits.

456 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has he had the opportunity to read the transcripts of the proceedings of the public hearing held in Darwin last week of the federal parliamentary expenditure committee, inquiring into forestry operations in the Department of the Northern Territory? Does he plan to attend the next public hearing of the committee which I understand will be held in Canberra shortly, and does he anticipate, as a result of this inquiry, making substantial changes in the operation of the Forestry Branch after it is transferred to his control?

ANSWER

I welcome this question from the honourable member for Fannie Bay. Unfor-

tunately, I have not as yet had the opportunity to read the full transcript of the parliamentary committee's hearings in Darwin last week. I have, however, had a brief oral report on the hearings and some of the things that came out at the hearing certainly did disturb me, although I have been rather concerned in relation to the Forestry Branch for some time. I cannot say with any degree of certainty at this stage what steps will be taken when forestry comes under the control of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. For a start, however, I have amalgamated the forestry function for administrative purposes with the Soil Conservation Branch and the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, in what I believe is virtually a conservation portfolio. I am working on administrative directions which I propose to give to the director of Parks and Wildlife and the director of the Forestry Branch in relation to the way that I see the combined setup operating. I have not concluded the preparation of these administrative arrangements but I certainly hope to do so before the end of this month.

457 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that Mr Ted D'Ambrosio, a candidate in the election for alderman in Lyons ward at last Saturday's election, has formally requested that the poll for that ward be declared invalid? Could he advise this Assembly and the public what gave rise to that request and what is the present position?

ANSWER

I can answer the first part of the question but to answer the second part - what gave rise to the request by Mr D'Ambrosio for the poll in the Lyons ward to be declared invalid - I suppose would require something of a legal opinion, which is contrary to Standing Orders. I believe that this matter is of such interest to the public and to this House that perhaps, with indulgence, I might go into the situation as it is seen at the moment.

Mr SPEAKER: As long as you do not contravene Standing Orders.

Mr ROBERTSON: I have no doubt, Mr Speaker, that I would be pulled up instantly.

The original difficulty came, of course, on the wish of Mr Sydney Brooks to withdraw from consideration as an alderman for the ward of Lyons. He advised the town clerk, as returning officer, on 10 April that it was his intention due to health and personal reasons to discontinue his contesting that seat. The town clerk, acting as returning officer, quite properly advised Mr Brooks there was no provision within the Local Government Ordinance for a prospective alderman to withdraw from an election. So the fact of the matter is that Mr Brooks, at law, remained a candidate right throughout. He was never at any stage, within the meaning of the ordinance, not a candidate. Therefore any move by Mr D'Ambrosio - and I can understand his disappointment after so many years serving the city corporation - was without foundation in law. He simply could not request the annulment of that election on the basis of another candidate's withdrawal because the withdrawal never occurred.

The election for the city corporation, of course, has given us a few lessons. We have learnt quite a lot from it. There are a number of other areas that we will have to look at as a result of that election. Naturally, we are going to have to find a method through amendment to the legislation to allow for the withdrawal of a candidate for alderman, because this

sort of thing most certainly will happen again in the future where, during the period between nomination and polling day, a man falls ill and with the best intention in the world cannot continue. There are other matters which must be looked at. Another one which readily comes to mind, if I might just finish off on this note, is that there is no provision in the present legislation to cover the eventuality, now that we have introduced the ward system, of insufficient candidates actually nominating. So that and a number of other lessons were learnt from this election last Saturday.

458 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

This question follows on from that asked by the honourable member for Tiwi. Can the honourable member give an assurance to this Assembly that priority will be given to drafting legislation to cover the taxi industry? Can he give an assurance that it will be given much more priority than indicated in the letter written to the secretary of the Darwin Taxi Drivers Association on 7 April 1978 where his acting director said: "Obtaining a drafting priority before July this year will be impossible. At the earliest, I would not expect to introduce legislation until much later in the year"?

ANSWER

I am unable to give the assurance that the honourable gentleman requires.

459 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I refer the member to my question in February this year about arterial roads when he said that a study was being made and he expected papers to come forward to the executive in the near future. Can he advise us whether that study has been completed and has the question of arterial roads been considered by the executive?

ANSWER

No, the matter has not been referred to our executive at this date. Obviously, it will have to be done fairly soon because the financial year is closing now and we are making preparations for the coming financial year, whereupon decisions will have to be made as to expenditure on additional arterial roads around Darwin.

460 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

In the light of the recent cut in airline services to Groote Eylandt, can he inform the Assembly if Ansett, MMA or TAA airlines have been approached regarding a decision to improve the service Darwin-Groote-Darwin and Darwin-Groote-Gove-Darwin?

ANSWER

In November last year I made strong representations to both MMA and Peter Nixon regarding the cuts in air services to Groote Eylandt. Following on from that, TAA proposed two extra direct Darwin-Groote-Darwin flights per week and I anticipate an answer from the federal Department for Transport on that application shortly. Support has been indicated for the introduction of those extra services and in addition to these representations, in recent weeks the Executive Member for Resources and Health has made representations on behalf of the mining town to expedite the earlier introduction of these services.

461 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Can we expect the position of the dental therapist at Anula and Wulagi schools to be filled soon after 1 July this year, if the Prime Minister does agree to the transfer of the health functions to the Northern Territory executive on 1 July 1978?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as a part of my mind-reading exercise I have a prepared answer for the honourable member. The Department of Health informs me that an additional dental therapist and assistant have been recruited for the dental service and will open up Anula in the near future. Another therapist is under recruitment to open a further school dental clinic in the Alice Springs area and it is also hoped, Mr Speaker, to obtain additional positions in the not too distant future to enable the clinic at Wulagi and Nakara schools to open.

Mr Speaker, if I could just add to that some comment on my concern at the approach of the federal government in obtaining staff to serve us, as honourable members of this House would be aware, in recent days in the last month the Public Service Commissioner granted to the Department of Health an additional 60 positions to get them over their problems in the Northern Territory. However, there was a rider to that, Mr Speaker, that there were to be no further dental recruitments in that 60 positions. This is the very thing we would hope to overcome once the function becomes a Northern Territory responsibility, because there is no doubt in my mind that the bureaucrats in Canberra are quite out of touch with the needs of this area.

462 Mr DOOLAN to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has he met with local managers of TAA and Ansett to put the case for a reduction in the cost of airfares to and from the Territory? Has he written to the managing directors of these companies to further his case for a price reduction? If so, can he now advise this Assembly the results of his representations, particularly on the introduction of Apex fares for Territorians?

ANSWER

I did write to either the managing directors or the general managers of both airlines regarding the introduction of cheaper fares for the Northern Territory, and in particular the Apex type of fares. I had not received replies from the companies, so I then wrote to the Minister for Transport. After writing to the Minister for Transport, some days later I received replies from firstly TAA and subsequently I think Ansett. Neither of the replies was terribly satisfactory. However, TAA have arranged that some of their senior people will be coming to Darwin in the next month or so and they have asked them to meet me to discuss the matter. I have, of course, readily agreed to meet them.

463 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is the Northern Territory government endeavouring to hold the interest of overseas importers following the trade delegation's visits to Southeast Asia and the Middle East?

ANSWER

I indicated the other day that we would be tabling a report of the trade mission's findings. Certainly, when that report is examined we would be looking at ways of furthering the inquiries and keeping the interest going that was created by the trade delegation. At this stage I cannot outline to the House just what proposals we may have in mind. In the Department of Industrial Development there will be created a position for overseas marketing extension and no doubt further activity in this area will flow from that. At this early stage I am unable to give a clear outline of what the plans will be.

464 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

The reason I ask this question is that I have heard recently that there has been a cutback in the original estimate of the proposed Nhulunbuy area school. At one time there was high priority on that school. Can the executive member tell me if the plans have been finalised for the proposed high school at Nhulunbuy and will tenders be called this year?

ANSWER

As the honourable member for Nhulunbuy may be aware, final plans are never drawn up until after the hearings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Works. It is anticipated that this committee of the federal parliament will deal with this matter in June this year. The tender target is still early 1979 and sketch plans suitable for the purpose of the standing committee are already finalised. There has been to my knowledge - and I have sought assurance on it - no cutbacks proposed at all, no deferral proposed, but it is necessary for the law of the Commonwealth to be complied with, including referral of such projects to the standing committee on public works.

465 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Can he inform the Assembly whether or not the environmental impact statement on the East Arm power station has been completed and, if so, will he table the report?

ANSWER

I understand that such an environmental impact statement has not been completed.

466 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Has the city council yet received leases for the three blocks of land on which it is proposed to build neighbourhood centres in Darwin?

ANSWER

I do not know the answer to the question but will seek the information and advise the honourable member during these sittings.

467 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Has the Northern Territory Environmental Council made any approach to the executive member with regard to the proposed solar village project 35 kilometres south-east of Darwin?

ANSWER

Briefly, no. I have not had any approach from the Environmental Council on this particular exercise, although I do believe they have had discussions with the Majority Leader some time in the past. I would place on record, though, my concurrence with the concept that the Environmental Council has embarked on in the fringe area of Darwin. As soon as the Department of Mines and Energy is formed after 1 July, I would hope to play a more active role of support to this organisation in this particular exercise.

468 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

If the Prime Minister agrees to the transfer of the education functions on 1 July this year, would he give consideration to the question of making funds available for stocking libraries in Anula and Wulagi schools?

ANSWER

The honourable member never gives up an opportunity to do a little pork barrelling in her electorate; good on her, because that is what she is there for. The question is highly speculative and it would be improper for me to make any comment at this stage. As for the provision of books in all schools throughout the Territory, most certainly it would be the desire of my government, when it becomes a government, to ensure that proper library facilities are made available to all schools in the Territory.

469 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

With reference to the recently published Aboriginal mortality rate for the Northern Territory in the year 1977, could the honourable member advise me if the Northern Territory is in a worse position than other states, and if there is any particular reason for such a high death rate?

ANSWER

I do have a prepared answer from the Department of Health on this because I was anticipating a question on it, as I was with the dental centre in the schools. The reply I have had from the department is as follows:

Some of the comments on the recently published Aboriginal infant mortality rate for the Northern Territory for the year 1977 have been misleading. Firstly, it should be appreciated that the Northern Territory is the only state in Australia which is able to quote a figure and there is absolutely no evidence to say that the Northern Territory position is inferior to the situation in other states.

However, the number of Aboriginal births in the Territory is relatively small being 829 in 1977. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per thousand live births and is unduly affected by relatively small variations in infant deaths, which number 62 last year. It should be appreciated, Mr Speaker, that the Northern Territory Aboriginal infant mortality rate fell dramatically from over 80 prior to 1973 to a low 50's in 1974, 1975 and 1976. The upswing to 74.8 in 1977 may be little more than a statistical undulation.

In answer to the second part of the question, the fact that the Aboriginal infant mortality rate is so much higher than the non-Aboriginal figure reflects the environmental and nutritional standards of Aboriginals in

the Territory which is further evidenced by the high number of low-weight births. The situation is further complicated by the higher Aboriginal birth rate which was 37.3 per thousand last year. This is roughly twice the national average. This in turn leads to greater family size. The outstation movement, with its effect on antenatal attendance, could also be an additional factor.

However, Mr Speaker, for more than five years the Department of Health has stressed the need for improvements in environmental conditions if Aboriginal health standards are to improve markedly. The government intends to give priority to this problem when it takes over responsibility for health, hopefully in the near future.

470 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to establish a parliamentary public works committee of this Assembly to examine and report on civil works programs following the transfer of those powers to his executive?

ANSWER

I ask that the honourable member for Nightcliff put that question on notice.

471 Mr VALE to Mr ROBERTSON

This question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. In view of the fact that the north of Australia is in Southeast Asia, does he intend to establish a university college with facilities for tropical medicine, tropical veterinary science and tropical agricultural science, to cater for people in the north of Australia and its neighbours in these essential fields?

ANSWER

The areas covered by the questions are matters which have been concerning my colleague, the Executive Member for Transport and Industry, in his responsibility for Primary Industry. Certainly, this executive is very concerned about proper research facilities being made available for the primary industry sector and, needless to say, we would be sharing those facilities with our Asian neighbours. In respect of the question: should we establish a university in the Northern Territory - I think it would be reasonable to suspect that this will be a long time in coming. We are very rapidly reaching the stage in many facilities or curricular areas where we have a college of advanced education in the Darwin Community College as it is, as we are now offering degree courses and more creditations are likely to come through. This is very encouraging. The difference, of course, between the college of advanced education and the university is the level of research facilities and it is a very expensive business when you get into professorial chairs. I think that would be some distance in the future.

As for the role of education in the Northern Territory with out Southeast Asian neighbours, it is very significant already. We have the Australasian Adult Educators Conference in Darwin this year. We have the Sixth Symposium of Inspectors of Schools of Southeast Asia and Pacific Regions and the Commonwealth in Darwin in mid-1979. We also have, under the auspices of a Commonwealth foundation, the establishment shortly of a Commonwealth professional centre which involves Southeast Asian countries very intimately with the Northern Territory. All these things taken together, Mr

Speaker, it would seem that the Northern Territory is cooperating in the field of education and is intending to cooperate even further with South-east Asian countries. I have no doubt that my colleague will look at the matter of the sharing of facilities for agricultural and veterinary science research.

472 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

What has the government done to assist the former staff members of SAATAS in an application for a charter operator's licence?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot speak for the government except to say that personally, when notice was given of the withdrawal of the SAATAS company, our party supported the employees of SAATAS as best we could. We gave an assurance to the Darwin manager that we would support his application - not to the exclusion of other applications, but we would support his application - for a charter licence to operate out of Darwin. I personally rang the manager of SAATAS in Alice Springs, Kevin Turnbull, and asked if there was anything I could do to assist him with an application for a licence or whatever he chose to do. That is about where it rests at the moment. The proposition is that a company, to be called Air North, be formed by Mr Hardy and some of the business people in the town. I do not know just where that application is at the moment but that is the information I have.

473 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Has a decision be made about the future of the old Darwin golf course at Fannie Bay? Does he anticipate that it will be incorporated into the East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would not like to pre-empt any future decision on the future of the old Darwin golf course. I understand it sits a bit between the city corporation's jurisdiction and the jurisdiction of the East Point Reserve Board. This matter will have to be looked at carefully with all considerations being taken into account. I would not like to give any further answer than that at the present time.

474 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

When can I expect a reply to question No. 383 on notice - that is, what is the cost of installing the electricity supply at Larrimah - which was given to him on 19 April?

ANSWER

I am not sure when the honourable Leader of the Opposition can expect a reply to that question. It has not come to my notice. It is obviously still within the administrative machinery that questions on notice go through before they normally end up on the respective executive member's desk for approval prior to being supplied to the questioner. I will have the matter chased up and see if it can be expedited.

475 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question without notice is again asked on behalf of the member for

Elsey. Can he advise how many properties and farms have been surrendered in the last 12 months in the Northern Territory? I do not know whether I am allowed to include the next question into this one. Is he aware of the continuous faults in the land-line carrying ABC news from Sydney to the Northern Territory and what can we do about it?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable executive member should answer the first question and leave the second one.

ANSWER

If I may, I will answer the first one and ask for the second one to be put on notice. I am not aware of any properties or farms that have been surrendered in the last 12 months. However, it is known that some mortgagee sales have occurred. Information on these mortgagee sales is somewhat difficult to obtain on short notice. However, if the honourable member wishes to have the information, I will endeavour to obtain it for him before the end of these sittings.

476 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

This is another attempt at pork barrelling for my electorate. I understand that funds were made available by the DRC for the planting of trees in the public car park abutting the Wulagi shopping centre. Why have the trees not been planted and when might we expect the planting to take place?

ANSWER

It seems that if we are going to expect the Darwin Reconstruction Commission to do it now, we will have to declare another "back to Darwin week" and probably have an arbor day with it. I have no information whatsoever on the honourable member's question but will certainly look into it. I imagine that the trees would either have overgrown their pots at this stage or be dead.

477 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Is he aware of any decision about the future use of the land and buildings on the old Arafura Hostel site?

ANSWER

No. The future of the site, I understand, is still under consideration. There are a variety of possible future uses for the site and it is under consideration by the relevant parties.

478 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

This question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is he aware of allegations made by the National Cattle Union director in the Queensland Country Life edition of 20 April? If so, are the statements in that edition factual or merely an indication of Mr Cassel's pathological hatred of the federal Minister for Primary Industry, the Honourable Ian Sinclair?

ANSWER

I have seen the article that the honourable member for Stuart refers to

and certainly that article does contain serious allegations against the federal government. It would be up to them to answer the allegations rather than myself because they are quite detailed and they would involve a lot of research. As to the second part of the question, obviously I am not qualified to make comment on that.

479 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he tell the House whether the Majority Party executive has considered the establishment of a central purchasing authority to enable it to purchase goods and stores for the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

I ask that the honourable member for Sanderson place that question on notice.

480 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware of moves within the pest control industry for the licensing of operators using pesticides, and is he supporting this move and intending to introduce legislation to regulate the industry?

ANSWER

I am aware that in some states of Australia there are very strong moves to license people who are heavily involved in the use and control of pesticides. I am not aware of the present state of the formulation of legislation in the Northern Territory but in the event of it becoming an Australian national standard, we will most certainly pick it up.

481 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that items of heavy plant are receiving licence renewals which are endorsed to the effect that they cannot use certain roads at certain times? If this is so, is it a permanent or temporary arrangement?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the exact details, although the question could be described as being correct - that some restrictions or regulations have been placed on slow-moving vehicles. It is certainly part of our plan, eventually, to provide fast-moving lanes and have slow-moving vehicles off the roads at certain times. However, to answer the question properly, I will refer it back to the department so that the answer can be adequate.

485 Mr DONDAS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has a date been set with Western Australia and Queensland for a conference to implement the proposed coast-watch service for Northern Australia?

ANSWER

Earlier this year the director-general of my department wrote to the under-secretaries of the premier's departments in Queensland and Western Australia, seeking agreement for a meeting of appropriate officials to discuss the practicality of establishing a volunteer coast-watch service. So far there has been no official response other than the announcement by the Premier of Queensland that he would support such a service. Last week the under-secretaries were again contacted and an early response is expected. I would expect this response to be favourable and can assure the Assembly that we will have a meeting as soon as possible.

486 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

My question concerns the recent fishing activities of the Prime Minister in Dreaming Waters wildlife sanctuary and is a result of legal advice I have received. Could the honourable executive member inform this House of the names of all non-Aboriginal members of the party that fished in Dreaming Waters and does the wildlife section intend to prosecute these people under section 25A of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Ordinance?

ANSWER

I will have to ask that that question be placed on notice.

487 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

I understand that a health centre is planned for the Howard Springs area. Could the honourable executive member advise the current situation?

ANSWER

My understanding is that there is provision for the construction of a health centre in the Howard Springs area. I believe this centre is to be incorporated with the new school that is to be built in the area and that the contract for it has been let to Sitzler Bros and that the completion date for the contract is December 1978.

488 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he confirm that the teenage son of the chairman of the Primary Producers Board was employed at Scott Creek-Willeroo by the Primary Producers Board on adult wages during his school holidays at a time when nearly 4,000 people were registered as unemployed in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

489 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the honourable executive member advise me the present situation with regard to repairs to the industrial staff amenities building at the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

I will have to ask that that question be placed on notice.

490 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he indicate to this House when he expects to introduce legislation repealing the present Mental Defectives Ordinance and replacing it with modern legislation?

ANSWER

Off the top of my head I cannot give the honourable member an assurance on the proposed introduction date for this new legislation. I can assure the honourable member that this side of the House shares the same concern about the inadequacies of the existing legislation as the honourable member does herself and we are doing everything we can to have it brought forward.

491 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he confirm that a number of Aborigines who worked at the Willeroo project between December and March were not actually paid by the Primary Producers Board?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

492 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that there has been a number of submissions put before the executive by persons interested in obtaining casino licences for Darwin and Alice Springs? If so, can the executive member advise me when it is likely that a decision will be made to grant licences for casino operations at these centres?

ANSWER

It is a fact that submissions have been placed before the executive for the consideration of casino licences. The total number of applicants in all is 15, of whom three are international interests who would be prepared to come to the Northern Territory and invest in such a scheme as the operation of a casino. A short list has been established of the proponents who would be considered and with whom the Northern Territory government will have further discussions. On this short list, there are three large companies and four local companies who would have very acceptable proposals. At this stage, Mr Speaker, the proposals in principle have to be discussed with the department and there is a lot more information to be obtained from the proponents of these schemes.

I would also like to point out to honourable members of the House, Mr Speaker, that before anybody can be given a licence to operate a casino in the Northern Territory, legislation has to be introduced in this House and honourable members will have more than a reasonable opportunity to discuss the matter at that stage. In any event, I would not envisage further developments taking place before Christmas this year.

493 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House what was the interest rate given to the receiver of NADC for the advance of \$150,000 by the Primary Producers Board and over what period of time was the loan for?

ANSWER

I ask the Leader of the Opposition to place his question on notice.

494 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that he has requested legislation to amend the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance to include the TAB system of betting?

ANSWER

At this stage there has been no direction given to the draftsman to prepare legislation for the introduction of TAB. However, Mr Speaker, it would be fair to say that any consideration of this matter would be closely allied to the service that is rendered to the public by the existing book-making fraternity.

495 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Can he now tell us the estimated value of the crop on the Scott Creek-Willeroo project which was used as a lien for the loan? Have the crops yet been harvested and if not, when will they be harvested?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

496 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he tell the House what was the purpose of the Encouragement of Primary Production Bill of which notice was given last week? Can he tell us why it was allowed to lapse and can he also inform us whether he will be re-introducing that bill or a similar bill in this Assembly?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

497 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

Could the executive member please tell me the number of taxis involved in the current taxi dispute?

ANSWER

I understand there are six licences involved in the current disputation and that resolution may be some time away. I indicated to the House the other day that there would be no early resolution of the problem and that legislation would be drafted as soon as the policy instructions can be given to the draftsman. We forecast there will be no introduction of that type of legislation before July.

498 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

What was the legislative basis upon which a loan of \$150,000 was extended by the Primary Producers Board to the receiver of Scott Creek-Willeroo?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

499 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that future radio and TV licences have to go before a public inquiry?

ANSWER

I am advised that all commercial radio and TV stations in the Northern Territory have to go before a public inquiry for the renewal of their licence. If I may just comment briefly, I think this is a real good thing. The standard of news services is virtually non-existent, as far as the commercial stations are concerned, and we would see that better competition could be afforded the major news reporting service in this area if it was recommended to the inquiry that the minor services be asked to provide a proper news service.

500 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the honourable executive member advise me what progress has been made with the new health facilities at Alyangula?

ANSWER

My understanding of the Alyangula situation is that a new health centre and two houses were to be constructed at Alyangula and a contract was let to Gateway Investments who went into liquidation. I believe the construction phase reached about 50% completion and the Department of Construction is now calling for tenders to complete the rest of the facility and that the intended completion date, if all goes well and to target, would be December 1978.

501 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he inform the Assembly what the terms of settlement were between the Department of the Northern Territory, acting on the advice of Mr Ian Barker QC, and Technic Ten, the Perth-based consultant company, to settle the suit brought by Technic Ten against the Darwin Reconstruction Commission?

ANSWER

I certainly cannot inform the Assembly of those terms of settlement. I do not know them myself and, as far as I am concerned, it is a matter entirely within the province of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and or the Department of the Northern Territory. I believe any question in this regard would be better asked in the federal House.

502 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Health ministers from all states met in Sydney last Friday to consider the

implications of federal government cutbacks in health spending and changes in health insurance. Was the executive member invited to this meeting? If so, did he attend? If not, are these changes likely to affect the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the meeting held in Sydney last Friday was to be chaired by the New South Wales Minister for Health, the honourable Mr Stuart, and it was to be in fact a joint Commonwealth-state meeting to consider the implications of any changes to Medibank. I believe the federal minister did not attend the meeting in the final analysis, mainly because federal Cabinet had deferred any proposals on changes to Medibank at that time. The Northern Territory was not invited to attend the meeting. I do not know the reason for this, Mr Speaker, other than the fact that the Northern Territory is not a signatory to the Medibank agreement, as are the states, and for that reason we may not have carried the weight that the New South Wales Minister for Health was looking for in his agreement.

503 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

In order to clear up a great deal of public confusion which is current, could the executive member make a public announcement concerning the accessibility of areas within the Alligator Rivers region? Would he clearly define in that public announcement areas to which public access is: one, unrestricted, two, restricted; and three, prohibited?

ANSWER

I will take note of the honourable member's point and see whether a statement can be placed before the House at a suitable time.

504 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

What assistance will the Bush Fire Control Council be providing for farmers in the rural area during the coming dry season?

ANSWER

I understand there will be various levels of assistance - that is, assisting farming communities in forming voluntary units, providing advice and expertise and training volunteer groups, construction of fire breaks and hazard reduction, attending various farmers' meetings in an advisory capacity, purchasing additional trailer units to be deployed in strategic areas, selected aerial control burning in areas that could threaten farmers, monitoring of the wildfire risk areas and advising property owners accordingly and, where resources are available, assisting in the control of wildfire.

505 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I refer to his announcement last month that a new office building would be erected by the Housing Commission at Casuarina. Was the Corporation of the City of Darwin consulted before the executive member announced that the council would be one of the tenants of the building?

ANSWER

There was a meeting called of interested parties to discuss which govern-

ment departments would be interested in taking space at a complex which might be built at Casuarina and, in addition to this, circulars were sent to all relevant departments including local government on the subject. The information I have available to me is that they did indicate an interest in having some space in the Northern suburbs. Therefore, they were indicated in papers on the subject as a potential tenant. If I recall rightly, it was for very few people - only two or three - to be located out in the northern suburbs. However, if the honourable member wants further information, I will endeavour to gather it for her.

506 Mr VALE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he advise what progress has been made towards formulating a policy for the Northern Territory Public Service housing?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Public Service consultative council has established a subcommittee to examine the matter of a housing policy for the Northern Territory Public Service. The subcommittee includes a senior representative from the Department of the Northern Territory Housing Branch and the chairman of the Housing Commission. The committee has met twice; it is well advanced with its work and will be meeting again within a week. It is expected that the subcommittee will have completed its work by the end of May and will have reported to the consultative council. The consultative council will review the matter and make a recommendation to the Public Service Commissioner. In the light of the report from the consultative council, the Public Service Commissioner will determine and is expected to promulgate a housing policy for the Northern Territory Public Service within the first two weeks of June.

507 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What is the contractual relationship between the Northern Territory executive and Professor Daniel O'Connell, referred to by the member for Casuarina in his dissertation on Westminster the other day? Is Professor O'Connell the same gentleman who is the constitutional advisor to the Queensland government?

ANSWER

Professor Daniel O'Connell is a distinguished jurist and a former professor of jurisprudence at either Adelaide or Flinders University of South Australia. In fact, Professor O'Connell is an author who has written internationally accepted works - for instance, on the lives of such statesmen as Cardinal Richlieu, the grey eminence behind Louis XIII, King of France.

Mrs O'Neil: He was a conservative, too.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Yes, he was a very effective conservative too. Professor O'Connell is presently an Oxford don. I think he is professor of mediaeval or modern history at one of the Oxford colleges.

Mrs Lawrie: If it's mediaeval, it should help us.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Well, we are trying to bring you out of the dark ages but you are really not anxious to come. The fact of the matter is that Professor O'Connell was a member of a party sent by the Queensland government to the Northern Territory in January, as part of a response by a

number of state governments to a request that the Northern Territory executive passed on to all state premiers for assistance. The Queensland government sent Professor O'Connell up to talk to us with this party because Professor O'Connell happened to be in Brisbane at the time. I have certainly established no contractual relationship with Professor O'Connell. The Northern Territory's constitutional adviser is well known to the Leader of the Opposition because I have passed a copy of his opinion onto the Leader of the Opposition and to every member of this House. He is Professor Geoffrey Saywer, Professor of Constitutional History of the Australian National University.

The fact of the matter is that the Queensland government made a swift and helpful response to our request for assistance and has helped us in drafting legislation and in a few other areas. In fact their help can be contrasted to the lack of help displayed by some other state governments, and I would certainly except Tasmania from that statement.

508 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Could he tell me when - an approximate date will suffice - the last meeting of the Place Names Committee was held?

ANSWER

I will attempt to find the answer to the honourable member's question at a later time, or at least determine the answer, and let him know later this day.

509 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that a company called Urangesellschaft Australia Pty Ltd has applied for an exploration licence over an area comprising some 356 square miles from the Blackmore River to the eastern boundary of the 32-square-mile area? Can he inform us what rights an exploration licence confers upon the licensee, and can he inform us what the statutory period for the lodging of objections is?

ANSWER

I am aware that Urangesellschaft has taken out an application for an exploration licence in the area that the honourable member mentioned and I have some comments that I would like to pass on to the honourable member and the House to explain the situation. Before doing so, I would like to point out two things. The first one is that the Mines Branch in the Northern Territory has traditionally placed mining reserves over built-up areas or residential areas to prevent any such situation which would enable mining companies to take out licences over residential town sites and residential areas. In the Darwin situation, the Mines Branch has not been able to keep abreast of the development in the rural areas and has consequently left some areas that are not covered by a mining reserve - areas over which, in fact, mining companies are entitled to take out an exploration licence. The other point I would like to make before going on is that, in the event of a mining company making an application for an exploration licence, there is no provision under the existing law - and I regard this as a deficiency - for the Administrator to refuse the application. Having accepted the application, he is then obliged to go through many statutory moves to enable the exploration licence to come before him for final decision.

The applications, totalling some 300 square miles, were lodged by Uran-gesellschaft Australia Pty Ltd on 15 August 1977 for exploration licences Nos. 1706 and 1707. Their location, Mr Speaker, is on a map that I have here which I am quite happy to make available to the honourable member.

In accordance with section 38E(5)(b) of the Mining Ordinance, notice of the application has been given within the past few days to the 1,016 private landholders affected by the applications. Mr Speaker, this is a statutory provision wherein the Mines Branch is obliged to advise any landholders - be they pastoralists, Aborigines, private leaseholders or whatever - of an application over their area. The applications will also be advertised, probably on 16 May 1978, and as the objection period expires 28 days from the date of advertisement, this effectively gives private landholders six weeks in which to lodge their objections to the application for exploration licence. Any objections received are notified to the applicant who is afforded the opportunity to make a written answer to the objection and this in turn is transmitted to the landholder by the Mines Branch. If the objector is not fully satisfied, it is also possible for the mining company to consult directly with the landholder as to the terms and conditions under which they will operate on his land. If the objection is still unresolved after completion of these procedures, this must be taken into account by the Administrator when the application for exploration licence is finally put up for decision, and it is then that the Administrator has a prerogative to determine whether or not the application should be granted in respect of the particular block of land.

Mr Speaker, if an exploration licence is granted over private land, a number of additional provisions are always included to protect the interests of the landholder. An example of such provisions is shown in the attached draft document which I would also like to make available to the honourable member, in which conditions are included specifically to cover operations on private land. There is provision in the Mining Ordinance for compensation to be paid for any damage to improvements or loss of use of private land. This has always been in the ordinance, Mr Speaker, and is actively being used daily between mining companies and private landholders. This is administered by requiring the applicant for an exploration licence which covers private land to lodge a substantial bond. Compensation for damage may be agreed upon between the applicant and the landholder or, failing such an agreement, may be assessed by the mining warden and payment made under provisions of the bond held by the Mines Branch.

In practice, Mr Speaker, it is very rare that satisfactory arrangements for access to private land cannot be agreed on between the applicant and the landholder. It should be noted that, in the initial stages of exploration, work generally consists of regional investigations such as airborne geophysical surveys and geological studies which involve only minimal disturbance to the ground. If encouraging indications are obtained during these regional investigations, follow-up work such as drilling is usually confined to a very small portion of the exploration licence area. If as a result of the work on an exploration licence, a minable ore body is discovered, the proposals for its development are put forward. Applications for the lease would then have to be made which again are subject to safeguards providing hearings at the Warden's Court at which further objections from landholders may be lodged.

I would like to take the opportunity to allay any fears that the honourable member for Sanderson or members of this House may have about the

application lodged by the company. It is perfectly normal in terms of their operation. As honourable members of the House would know, the company is obliged each year to surrender 50% of its existing holding and there is very little likelihood of any of the final part of its holding being taken up in the Darwin area.

510 Mr ISAACS to Mr SPEAKER

In view of the fact that you asked for questions to be brief and to give very little details, I wonder if you would ask executive members to make their replies to questions also brief?

ANSWER

I accept the question. It is the practice in all parliaments that answers to questions should be as full as possible. This is usually done on the assumption that it is a genuine question and the reply should be full enough to preclude the question from being asked again. I think you will find that in Standing Orders. I have no intention of trying to curtail the length of answers.

511 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

I am a bit apprehensive about asking this question of the executive member for Health and Resources, but could he advise whether there are any plans for improving the health service in the Finke area?

ANSWER

My understanding is that there is already a health service in the Finke area and I also believe there are plans going on at the moment to upgrade the service. I believe the Department of Health has entered into an agreement with the Australian Inland Mission, by making provision of funds - through what mechanism I cannot be sure, but I think the amount is \$48,000 - for the provision of a new health facility in the Finke area. My understanding is also - and I am sure honourable members will be happy to hear this - that the construction of the new facility is going to be carried out by the Aputula Building Company in Finke which is a wholly-owned Aboriginal company.

512 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

What arrangements have been made for pupils of older schools which do not have the benefit of dental therapy units, which are being established in the new schools, to benefit from the provision of these facilities?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable member to place that question on notice because I believe it is a question that is worthy of a detailed answer and I do not have the information at the moment.

513 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it true that the town clerk of the Corporation of the City of Darwin, acting as the returning officer in the recent city council elections, was paid an honorarium in addition to salary for the conduct of the Darwin City Council elections?

ANSWER

This is one of those questions which may take a little time to answer. The answer to the question in fact is no. He was not paid an honorarium at all; he was paid an additional salary within the provisions of section 85 of the Local Government Ordinance.

If I may deal with that section - because this is something that I know the Leader of the Opposition is concerned about and I think the air should be cleared on it once and for all. Section 85(1) states:

The Council may, not less than 14 days before nomination day, appoint a person to be the Returning Officer to preside at an election.

And then (1)(a) of that section says:

If no person is appointed under the last preceding subsection, then the Clerk shall be the Returning Officer.

It is clear that it has got into the minds of some people that the clerk, having been appointed in lieu of a person, is not a person within the meaning of section 85 of the ordinance. My advice is that this is quite incorrect. The clerk was appointed, in fact, pursuant to the provisions of section 85 of the Local Government Ordinance, as he was appointed to the position of returning officer more than 14 days before nomination day and is therefore a perfectly legitimate person for subsection (2) of section 85 to apply to. This simply says:

The Council shall, before appointing a person ...

and they have appointed a person, a returning officer -

... determine the amount of the fee to be paid to him as Returning Officer ...

And then it goes on with other provisions.

It is worth the honourable Leader of the Opposition being aware that this man spent some 51 hours outside of his normal working time. That surely, within labor philosophy, would be way above and beyond the call of duty. I would doubt the Leader of the Opposition would be implying, as a member of the Labor Party, that a man is not to be rewarded for his work. Indeed the clerk, acting not as clerk but as returning officer appointed under section 85, was paid in respect of long hours of work which he did outside his normal course of duty. It is not unusual for this to happen. In fact, it is quite standard. Indeed, on one occasion I understand he worked about 17 hours straight, from Saturday right through counting on Saturday night and into Sunday morning. Although I may have had some apprehensions about it when this was first brought to my attention, I now think that the action taken by the council in paying this man for the work he did was perfectly proper.

514 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

Has the Northern Territory executive decided yet on a Territory name for the new reflectorised number-plates?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory executive has decided and the new number-plate will

look something like this, the name "NT - Outback Australia" is on the bottom of the number-plate, and the \$250 award will go to Hodgson River School.

515 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

My question is in relation to the Douglas-Daly experiment station which is on a sublease from Douglas Station, owned by Sir William Gunn, now in liquidation. Could he advise the present tenure situation? It is my understanding that it is a 12-monthly term, expiring on 30 June. Why was the Douglas-Daly experiment station established on such a weak tenure basis, considering the amount of money spent there and that it was established for the purpose of closer settlement in the Tipperary land system? Is it a fact that the whole deal started on a mates-basis deal between Sir William Gunn and the ex-Director of Agriculture, Bill Curteis, over the loan of a Tipperary bulldozer?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice. It is too long to answer.

516 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr PERRON

Why was the North Australian Show Society showgrounds, which has about \$750,000 investment in buildings and fences etc, zoned O2 which I understand is for open space in the recent Town Plan?

ANSWER

It seems to me that an O2 zoning for the Show Society area is probably quite appropriate. It is primarily an open-space zone. However, it has a number of permitted uses including indoor recreation - which I guess is a reasonable description of Show Society type activities - and in addition to that, there are 22 consent uses under an O2 zone. This provides a wide range of flexibility for the land in question to be used for a range of purposes but primarily directed as use by the public, even though the public can of course be charged fees for entry and the like. I think it is quite a suitable zoning for the Show Society.

517 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to establish juvenile aid panels in the Northern Territory to augment and supplement the work of the Juvenile Court?

ANSWER

I cannot give any definite answer to the honourable member for Nightcliff on her question at the moment. I suggest that she place the question on notice and I will take it up with the Department of Law which is working on this particular problem. Certainly I would say that by the next Assembly we may be able to make certain announcements which I think would give quite a deal of heart to people working in the juvenile aid field in the Northern Territory.

518 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

My question is in connection with a statement that was made recently in the Northern Territory News by Joe Fisher concerning the tourist appeal of buffalo. Does the Northern Territory executive intend to allow buffalo to remain in the Kakadu National Park or is the eradication program which is currently carried out in wildlife reserves to be extended to the national park?

ANSWER

I think this question would properly be in the province of the Northern Territory parks commission to reply to and I will endeavour to have a reply from them in answer to the honourable member later in the sittings.

519 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Does the executive member have any information on the proposed off-shore quarantine station which would be used to screen refugees?

ANSWER

The only information we have on it at this stage is that the federal government is contemplating establishing such a quarantine station. The only comment I would make on it is that this party would wholeheartedly support such a proposal because we believe the greatest threat we have to us at the moment in the north is the introduction of exotic diseases that would prejudice our position.

520 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Is it a fact that private individuals on the recent Northern Territory trade delegations, although their travel expenses were subsidised by the government, are not obliged to divulge any of their findings with regard to future overseas markets available to the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I do not know how you would put them under that sort of obligation. If there were private transactions which they were currently engaged with, well obviously, they would want to keep silent on the names of those people involved. Certainly, the general theme would be the types of transactions and the market opportunities open to the Northern Territory. I think that would probably cover the question.

521 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Could he tell me approximately what amount of money has been made available for the control of such noxious weeds as victacide, flannel weed, cassia weed and other common noxious weeds on crown land in the Top End, bearing in mind the legal obligation of private landholders to try and eradicate these weeds?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

522 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

How many rooms at Nakara Primary School are being used by the Department of Education for its curriculum and media sections and when is the Department of Education going to remove these sections from the Nakara school to allow the premises to be used for its original intention of teaching children?

ANSWER

The Nakara Primary School is not one which we could normally apply the term "rooms" to. It is what is termed an "open plan school" and it is limited as to the number of rooms it has. It has areas or units. The information I have on this particular school - incidently it is a question anyone could anticipate because there always seems to be some jealousy of people in the curriculum area using anything to do with space for students. The fact is that unless we have curriculum direction in our schools, then there is not much point going to school ...

A member: Put them in another building.

Mr ROBERTSON: Well, the honourable member says put them in another building. Perhaps if he could lease us one, we might be in business. The normal student accommodation consists of two infant units and four primary units, each of which are designed to accommodate a number of class groups. In addition to that, there is a library. Of these areas, the Nakara school is occupying the two infant units and one primary unit while the remaining three primary units and the library are occupied by the curriculum and media branch and its personnel. The Department of Education has on its works proposal for 1978-79 a new curriculum and media centre to be constructed on the site of the former Rapid Creek Infant School.

523 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

In view of the serious allegations that have been made about the role of the Primary Producers Board in relation to the Scott Creek-Willeroo complex, will the Majority Leader request an immediate special audit to be carried out by the Commonwealth Auditor-General?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the very serious allegations that have been levelled in respect of the proposed purchase of Willeroo. I have heard of allegations that someone was paid adult wages when, in fact, he was a child. That is the only allegation, as far as I can see, that concerns the actual expenditure of money. I think the honourable member for Victoria River, with some of his usual innuendo, inferred that money might have been spent on an aeroplane charter. I have investigated that and found it was quite untrue. The charterer, Mr Tilly of Katherine, in fact told the honourable member for Victoria River before he spoke in this House on the subject that the bills had gone to the person concerned and not to the Primary Producers Board. So, we can see the level of honesty and fair representation that has been given to the whole thing in this House. The fact of the matter is that there is absolutely no requirement, that I can see, for a special audit. The accounts of the Primary Producers Board will be audited in the usual way by the Auditor-General when the time comes.

524 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Has the Department of Correctional Services approached the Department of

Health to arrange a special security area at the Casuarina Hospital for sick prisoners?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the Department of Health has not been approached in this matter and there is no proposal for a security area in the new hospital.

525 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Who was the employer of the housekeeper who worked on the Willeroo complex during the Christmas and New Year period?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

526 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

What is the current bank overdraft rate for borrowings up to \$100,000 and borrowings over \$100,000.

ANSWER

I would have to say that I have no idea what the current bank overdraft rates are.

527 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

I understand there is currently litigation involving the taxi plate owners and the taxi licence holders. Could the honourable member please clarify the situation?

ANSWER

I am sorry about this but it involves about a page and a half of reply. On Wednesday 3 May a request was made by the registered owner and licence holder of public hire car licence 105, to transfer the public hire car licence and registration to another vehicle. At the time the registration expired, which was Sunday 7 May, this application was refused by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, acting on legal advice that he could not approve this. The reasons for this were as follows:

On Friday 5 May the vehicle from which the above transfer was requested was presented by the person who has stated he is the legal owner of the vehicle and sought re-registration. This was not granted because there was nothing to indicate authorisation by the registered owner and licence holder. The request earlier in the week that I have already referred to, in fact, suggested that the necessary authority would not be forthcoming. It was, however, indicated to this applicant there would be no objection to him obtaining normal registration for the vehicle. To date, no such request has been received so the vehicle is currently unregistered.

I understand the registered owner and licence holder is taking legal action to have the registrar allow him to register the vehicle he presented on Wednesday 3 May and unless the decision of the registrar is overturned, it is expected that the public hire car licence involved will have lapsed.

Requests have been made for temporary public and even private hire car licences and the build-up of tourist demand with "Back to Darwin" has been used as a reason for this. This is not possible, however, because the ordinance requires any issue to be put to tender. It has been necessary to hold back consideration of public hire car licences while the difficulties of the current situation are untangled. But I have already indicated that favourable consideration will be made to applications for special tourist purposes permits and licences to cover sightseeing requirements.

We have a difficult problem because the 1973 changes to the legislation aim specifically at giving licences value. This was introduced by the former member for Ludmilla. While it seems clear that it was not envisaged that leasing arrangements would develop, this has happened and the law is silent on the matter. It is accepted by all parties that legislation is needed to remedy the various problems. It is unlikely that all will agree to the same solution but I hope we can tackle the matter constructively and not treat it as a political point-scoring exercise. In saying this, I am sure the honourable Opposition members are aware that the main problems have come from the legislation supported by all members at the time. Hansard debate of Wednesday 21 February 1973, page 125, refers to that legislation.

We are intending to issue drafting instructions to improve the legislation for the taxi situation in the Northern Territory. As I have said before, however, I cannot assure members of the priority that the legislation will receive because there are many pressing drafting requirements but I am looking at practical avenues of reducing interim difficulties and plan to call tenders for additional plates after examination of all the factors involved.

528 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

When did the consulting firm AANCM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo complex? Has this firm completed its investigations and how much will this firm be paid for its investigations?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

529 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Can he give an assurance to this House that questions being placed on notice regarding the Scott Creek-Willeroo affair will not suffer the same fate as question 212 which has been on notice since December?

ANSWER

I am sure that when all the difficulties of sorting out the transfer of powers to this Assembly in July are resolved, the streamlining and the exercise of getting questions back a little faster will resolve itself.

530 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

What is the present situation regarding the permanent building structures at Tracey Village? I specifically refer to the building which houses the Tracey Village Social Club, Wanguri Creche, the doctor's surgery etc. Is this building structure to be handed over to the Corporation of the City

of Darwin as intended or is it to remain under control of its present administrator, the Department of Administrative Services?

ANSWER

The Department of Administrative Services will be bowing out of the Tracey Village complex entirely. The area known as the Darwin Reconstruction Village will transfer back to the Department of Defence. Members will probably know that it is being used as a youth hostel at the moment. The Tracey Village complex itself will be handed over to the Darwin City Corporation. The Department of Administrative Services and the Valuer-General's Department are at the moment doing a rental valuation in respect of that property which, in my understanding, will be quite nominal. When those administrative details are worked out, the program for the transfers can be brought into operation. Just to repeat the point, Mr Speaker, the Department of Administrative Services no longer have any role in that area.

531 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

Who ordered the planting of the trial crops at the Scott Creek-Willeroo complex?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

532 Mr OLIVER to Mr ROBERTSON

Has the future role of the Sadadeen High School been determined and, if so, for what purpose is it intended to use that facility?

ANSWER

I might say that the resolution of the problem of the role and future of the Sadadeen High School is a classic example to me of the level of cooperation which now exists between the Northern Territory division of the Department of Education and myself. In fact at the risk of perhaps saying the wrong thing, for all intents and purposes, policy-wise, I now virtually control the NT division of the Department of Education. I mean that quite seriously. There is no major policy decision taken by that group without my clearance. It is a demonstration that this executive is capable of taking it over at any time due to the fact that it has now had long experience in the policy area, with the Department of Education, of the function of education.

In specific answer to the question, the division hopes to appoint a principal of the Sadadeen High School in July this year - let us call him a commissioning principal - who will take charge of the program in the same manner as a medical registrar does in hospitals, being a commissioning registrar.

It is proposed to open Sadadeen as a fully comprehensive secondary high school and a second secondary high school for Alice Springs. Initially, years 8 and 9 will be commenced and the years will be built up from there, through to full matriculation. It is not proposed to zone Alice Springs in respect of the existing Alice Springs high school vis-a-vis that of the Sadadeen high school. Detailed arrangements as to bussing will be made, having regard to the geographic location of both schools.

Further, there has been concern expressed that if both high schools are to become fully comprehensive high schools, then it is going to be difficult for parents, of course, to choose between the two. Well, as with all high schools in cities, they take on their own character as a result of the nature of the building, its location and, of course, the various attitudes and attributes of the principals and staffs. I am quite sure that the parents will be well served by the new high school, as they are now being well served by the old high school. They will not be in competition in my view but will complement each other.

533 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House whether in November or December 1977, advice was sought from the Lands Branch on the Northern Territory executive's proposal to purchase the Scott Creek-Willeroo property? If not, why not and, if advice was sought, what was the advice?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place that question on notice.

534 Mr COLLINS to Mr ROBERTSON

My question is asked in connection with recent statements by the honourable member concerning the Northern Territory Teachers Federation being out of touch with the wishes of teachers regarding the formation of the new Northern Territory Education Commission. In respect of the 1,400 members of the Teachers Federation, is the honourable member aware of the procedures that have been taken by the NTTF to advise these people of their policy on this matter and to solicit contributions from teachers to it, and is the honourable member aware of a recent meeting of staff at Casuarina High School that passed a motion supporting the NTTF and condemning the honourable member for the statements he has made?

ANSWER

I will deal with the last part of the question first. I most certainly received what could only be described as a rather rude and impertinent telegram from someone who purported to represent the Casuarina teaching fraternity.

Mr Collins: Forty-five out of forty-six.

Mr ROBERTSON: If that particular vote was taken from that particular school, then of course it was not taken having regard to all the information available. I have now been advised yesterday of the procedures which the Northern Territory Teachers Federation has taken in respect of advising its members of its policy and that series of circulars sent out by the NTTF would indeed demonstrate that they have made an effort to seek the views of their members. The reality of the matter, to get back to the regional meeting in Darwin, is that the Northern Territory Teachers Federation proposal was handsomely defeated or deferred on the grounds that teachers had not been consulted. It is all very fine for the Northern Territory teachers service to make an effort - and I recognise that it has made an effort - and then claim, because they have made an effort, that the opinion they are putting up necessarily reflects the rank and file view. Quite clearly, when you have a figure of something like 38 to 18 of the teachers at that regional meeting and those teachers only went to that regional meeting in my view of the matter because of the nature of the article appearing on page three of the NT News - they were scared into going to it - and remembering this is the fourth attempt of the NTTF

to get that regional branch meeting going, having got there as a result of this article on page three of the NT News, they then instructed the Northern Territory Teachers Federation not to proceed with that policy any further until such time as they had had a chance to look at it. I think those facts speak for themselves. No argument can get over the fact that the representative group of this region of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation believed they were not consulted as a result of that policy.

I might take the opportunity to state publicly, as I have stated in other forums and in press statements which do not seem to get printed, that I thank the Northern Territory Teachers Federation and COGSO and the executives of both those organisations for the courtesy and help they have given the executive in coming to a decision in relation to education. I make that quite clear. But for the Northern Territory Teachers Federation to come out with a statement the other day that I have denied them interviews is a scandalous untruth. The fact of the matter is they have met with me on numerous occasions and on no occasion have I ever denied the executive of either of those bodies a right to interview with myself and indeed the Majority Leader has personally met with them twice. We have attended their conferences; we have opened their conferences; we have attended their social functions. I have sat down at the sailing club and had a beer with them so I could be exposed to them, so they could really give me a hard time if they wished. To say that we have not consulted from my side is absolute nonsense.

535 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr STEELE

Can the honourable member inform the House what is the legal position with the issuing of Northern Territory aircraft charter licences?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory has no legal responsibility or ability at all in the area of the issue of air charter licences. However, I did speak to the Minister for Transport last night about this matter and he has indicated to me that he was quite pleased to transfer the licensing of air charter aircraft to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly as soon as it could be expedited. This is properly a state-type function and we do not see that it would be any different in the Northern Territory than what it is in the other states.

536 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of the fact that Tuckwell Court is available for independent pensioners and that Tracey Lodge has now been completed for the frail aged, what action is being taken by the Department of Health to build the Harry Chan Memorial Nursing Home for pensioners requiring that accommodation?

ANSWER

The short answer is I do not know, but I will endeavour to find out and answer the honourable member later in these sittings.

537 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Is there a proposal somewhere to develop a policy for feral animals in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There is no proposal before us as yet. There is a proposal, however, to invite representatives of CSIRO, the Bureau of Animal Health, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, the Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory, the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch to form a committee to study the requirements of the future policy needs of the Top End of the Northern Territory, based on the abundance of buffalo and the fact that there is quite a lot of food there going to waste and there is a need for some conservation in these areas. It is in my court to put that committee together but, as yet, I have been unable to secure the resources to form that committee. However, the committee will be formed in the next couple of months and we hope to commence our studies.

538 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Why did the Northern Territory executive reject the Primary Producers Board proposal to lend money to the receiver of the Scott Creek-Willeroo properties in January this year?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place that question on notice.

539 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is it true that Crown Law officers advised the Primary Producers Board they are responsible for the payment of wages to workers employed on the Scott Creek-Willeroo complex during the period 1 to 31 March?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I did not bring my crystal ball to work today. Could the honourable gentleman place his question on notice.

540 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

Why has the Primary Producers Board now made an advance of \$150,000 to the receiver when in early January the Northern Territory executive rejected a proposed loan by the Primary Producers Board to the receiver?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

541 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Having regard to the apparently excellent results he has had with the Commonwealth Department of Education, could he advise if he has had any success in reinstating the high school theatrette in the Dripstone High School?

ANSWER

I had hoped to have some definitive news for the honourable member on this question - she is properly concerned and she knows that I am concerned about it. I had hoped to be able to answer the question properly in the very near future. I can assure her that I appreciate her efforts to get this theatre reinstated. Let me make the distinction between the level of cooperation between myself and the NT division, and myself and the Commonwealth Treasury.

542 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

I preface my question by saying that I have received a number of complaints regarding the method in which barramundi fishing licences are being issued. Have there been any barramundi licences issued recently and what is the criteria for obtaining a barramundi fishing licence?

ANSWER

I understand that something like 20 applications have been received for fishing licences in recent weeks and that five people were selected for the issue of those licences. The criteria is that the applicant must have official, qualified fishing experience; that the applicant must have a certain amount of capital investment and must have resided in the Northern Territory over a period of time. The points system that has evolved from discussions with the industry and the Fisheries Branch is a fair one although maybe it could be improved like most of these systems.

543 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that the honourable member has received a personal communication from the private secretary of the honourable executive member for Finance and Planning, on that honourable member's headed paper, asking for assistance from the honourable member for that private secretary to obtain a licence to keep in his personal possession Northern rosella and honeyeater? Is it true that this person had previously been refused a licence by the department and, if this is true, does the honourable member intend to accede to his request?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be put on notice.

544 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

Because of the recent problems regarding the floor space or area in the recent extensions to the pre-school at Nhulunbuy, can the honourable executive member assure me that, in future planning, pre-schools will be designed for double floor space, rather than building pre-schools with larger area than single units but which do not meet the requirements or the criteria for double space units?

ANSWER

I am at something of a loss to follow exactly what the honourable member is getting at. I have no doubt that it is an area he has made a very close study of. I would be more than happy to talk with him about it after the House rises.

545 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the honourable executive member advise me when the retiling of the waiting areas and surgery at the Nightcliff Dental Clinic will be completed?

ANSWER

I do not know when the tiling in this community health centre is going to be completed. I am aware that it has been a matter of concern and that the Department of Construction let the contract on 3 May for this work to be done.

546 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise whether he has considered the legal opinion of the NT Department of Law in relation to the Alice Springs Corporation in the letting of the building contract to the Sicoma Company and, if so, will he now undertake to table the full details of that legal opinion to clear the name of Alderman Marinucci, and will he also undertake to review the Local Government Ordinance as a matter of urgency to eliminate the present deficiencies as highlighted by the Marinucci affair?

ANSWER

In answer to the question, the first observation I might make is that he is a fine gentleman to be talking about clearing the names of people. The fact is that it is the honourable gentleman opposite who has set out in a deliberate campaign to smear that man's character...

Mr Perkins: Answer the question.

Mr ROBERTSON: In answer to the question, Mr Speaker, under no circumstances would I table or make public any opinion of the Crown Law Office as long as that honourable gentleman over there maintains his threat, as I said in this place earlier, to find a stooge to go to court and to further attempt to smear the name of that alderman.

547 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

In view of the recent decision on a site for the Museum and Art Gallery complex and a promise of the Majority Leader in this Assembly about six months ago that a decision would be made soon on a site for the performing arts complex, can the honourable member tell us if a site has been chosen for a performing arts complex?

ANSWER

The answer to that question is no.

554 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

There has been an announcement through the press that the federal government and the Northern Land Council have agreed to this Assembly's participation in the management of Kakadu National Park. Could the honourable Majority Leader make a statement to the House outlining our degree of participation?

ANSWER

It will not be a very long statement, Mr Speaker. The degree of participation of the Legislative Assembly, or rather the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission which is, of course, established under local legislation, in the management or control of the Kakadu National Park will be very limited indeed. There will be provision for a degree of voluntary consultation - shall I call it - on the part of the federal Director of Parks and Wildlife with the Territory commission. A Territory permanent head will be able to be seconded to the coordinating committee, as I understand it is to be called, to be established by the federal government representing different departmental interests in the national park, and of course, it is interesting to note that all these federal departments now seem to have considerable interest in the Kakadu National Park and are moving in in a big way just at the time when responsible self-government, which was supposed to have meant Territory control, is being devolved on the Legislative Assembly. There is one, I think, important concession that we have gained and that is that the Territory Director of Parks and Wildlife can, if he considers there is any breach of the environmental provisions going on within the Park, apply to the Supreme Court on behalf of the Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. I think perhaps that is the most significant concession that was granted.

I can only say this, that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has a declared policy which was, I believe, the first motion it adopted at its first meeting, that there should be no mining on national parks and it is remarkable to see that the Australian Labor Party whose policies I thought accorded with that policy - which, of course, is not one of the policies of the federal Parks and Wildlife Service because that service is a creature of the federal government which is very anxious, together with the Northern Land Council, to see mining go ahead there - it is remarkable to see that the Australian Labor Party is going to support in the Senate the government's legislation to mine uranium and to establish these other particular bodies.

555 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he indicate, when a plan of management is drawn up for the Kakadu National Park, if officers of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will have charge of enforcement in the area and, if not, to what degree may they participate?

ANSWER

If and when a plan of management is prepared, Territory officers will only have such authority in the park as may be given to them by the federal Director of Parks and Wildlife. It is possible, I understand, that some of them may be seconded to the federal Parks and Wildlife Service if that is the desire of the federal director. To date in our dealings with the federal director we have not noticed any desire on his part to have very much to do with Territory Parks and Wildlife officials. It will not have escaped the notice of honourable members that the federal Director of Parks and Wildlife is a member of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. He has however, I understand, only availed himself of the opportunity

of attending one of the four Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission meetings since he has been a member of that commission.

556 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Could he please tell me if any decision has been made to upgrade the present Darwin Public Library?

ANSWER

Members will be aware that work is to commence on the new Casuarina Public Library. Of course, this brings into question the whole future of the previous Darwin library. It is proposed to examine very thoroughly the requirements of library services for the city of Darwin and more particularly for the entire Northern Territory. The inference there, of course, is the provision for the Northern Territory of a state-type library service. This study is now being undertaken. We are seeking the assistance of Dr Chandler from the Australian National Library Service in Canberra who very generously has offered his services to the Northern Territory free of charge. The only expenditure which the Northern Territory will face will be for his accommodation and travel. We anticipate his report will be available very shortly after he visits us and based upon that information and based upon other considerations, the future of a state-type library service will be determined.

557 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

Could the executive member give an assurance that the Rapid Creek school will receive top priority in the 28-week program to up-grade electricity reticulation in the Rapid Creek area?

ANSWER

This is the first time this matter has come to my attention. I feel it would be unwise of me to give an undertaking here without investigating the facts, so I cannot give the assurance that the honourable member seeks.

558 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

This question is being asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise what steps are being taken to provide job opportunities for local youths at Northern Territory meatworks?

ANSWER

In reply to your question, Sir, I understand that you yourself have taken the initiative on this and talked to representatives of the meatworks industry yourself. Certainly, it would be our wish that local people be recruited and trained in meatworks operations. One of my senior people will ask him to call in and pass this particular message on to the meatworks management.

559 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

Can he tell us if and when traffic lights will be installed in front of the Darwin High School?

ANSWER

I mentioned before my hearing but I am a bit concerned about the honour-

able member's eyesight because, when I come to work every morning, I am sure there is a post there that looks like the commencement of a traffic light at the pedestrian crossing.

560 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

Has he observed that there is no indication of height clearance on the Bagot Road overpass? Could he undertake to find out the reason why this has not been indicated and will he rectify the matter?

ANSWER

I did not hear the question and would ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

561 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

Does the Department of Health have any plans for health facilities at Peppimenarti?

ANSWER

In September-October last year, the Department of Health was preparing to put in installations for the health sister and the health clinic at Peppimenarti. However, they were overtaken by the wet. They were not able to procure, in the short time available to them, the demountable units that they wanted and get them into Peppimenarti before the wet started. The department has effectively lost six months at this stage in supplying these facilities which are sorely needed at Peppimenarti. When I was at Peppimenarti last week, the matter was raised again with me by the council and they expressed their concern that the buildings proposed for installation in the Peppimenarti settlement were, in fact, too big to be brought along the bush road from Daly River to Peppimenarti and they asked what was going to be done about it. I have asked that the department look at this and give me advice as to whether the buildings are too big to be moved into Peppimenarti by truck. If they are too big, then we would have no option but to use a knock-down, panel-type building that can be carried in by truck and erected in sections.

562 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

When will a start be made on the compilation of Northern Territory statistics on, firstly, work accident and, secondly, the loss ratio of NT workmen's compensation insurance?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

563 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he inform us whether it is intended by the Northern Territory executive to establish, some time after 1 July this year, a government printing establishment to be independent of the Commonwealth government printer?

ANSWER

I understand the government printer's establishment will be transferred to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly's control as at 1 July. I understand the new building being established on the Stuart Highway near Ross Smith Avenue will be transferred to the Legislative Assembly,

together with all the staff and all the other assets of the government printer. It looks as though we will have a government printer who is independent of the Commonwealth's control.

This question gives me a chance to express my appreciation and that of all members of the Northern Territory executive and, I think all members of this House, for the hard work the government printer and his staff have put into preparing the massive amount of legislation that has been introduced at this session. Obviously, self-government would not have been possible without the hard work and great degree of cooperation received by this Assembly, and by the executive members in particular, from the government printer and his people.

564 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

Could he tell me when the fountain near the police headquarters will be repaired and operating again?

ANSWER

I cannot tell the honourable member when the fountain will be repaired and running again. I will ask the Police Commissioner, whose responsibility I believe the fountain would be, to attempt to have it repaired and running again as soon as possible.

565 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

What laboratory facilities are available in the Northern Territory for processing samples from the uranium province taken by government agencies for radiation and pollution control?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory, and in fact all the states in Australia, are currently using the facilities of the Australian Radiation Research Laboratories in Melbourne. This laboratory is run conjointly by the Department of Health and the Australian Atomic Energy Commission.

566 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Has he received a report from the government departments inquiring into home-maker services? If he has, can he tell us what its recommendations were and whether he will be implementing them?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for that question. I was unaware that she had come across the information - the block 2 sieve again. The study of home-maker services for the entire Northern Territory is something that has exercised our attention for quite some time. A long series of negotiations have taken place between the Housing Commission, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Department of Social Security and my department. We have now pretty well finalised the mechanism by which that very useful and needed service in the Northern Territory will be organised. I would undertake to make a detailed statement during the course of the June sittings on our proposals.

567 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What role will the electoral office have in the Chief Secretary's Department after 1 July 1978? Does he envisage that the Australian Electoral

Office will still conduct Territory elections or will we adopt the Western Australian model of separate electoral enrolment for federal and state elections?

ANSWER

The role of the electoral office will be to conduct Territory elections. I have not come to any final decision in relation to the latter part of his question which I think related to whether there would be separate Territory electoral rolls and a separate electoral office mechanism. Without committing myself at this stage, because I think the matter should be given some more thought than I have been able to give it at this stage and I must confess that it comes about last on the list of priorities, I would think the Northern Territory electoral officer - and I believe there should be a Northern Territory electoral officer who should be a permanent official attached to my department - should cooperate, as far as possible, with the Australian Electoral Office and I would think that, if we could share the rolls then that would be well and good. I do not see any particular reason for having separate rolls.

568 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

When might I expect a reply to my question 223 which has been on the notice paper since 28 February 1978?

ANSWER

As I have explained to this House I think twice during these sittings, questions that are placed on notice normally go to the department for answering before they come to executive members for final approval and release. Sometimes questions are fed into the department and we do not know about them. I am not aware of the question the honourable member refers to or what that particular question is about, so I am unable to give her an answer.

569 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is the Majority Leader aware of the boating accident this week, approximately 100 kilometres from Gove, in which several persons were missing? Can the Majority Leader tell me if a decision will be made very soon to base a police boat at Gove, similar to the Darwin-based boat, Norlaw?

ANSWER

I heard of the tragic accident at sea near the Marchinbar Islands where, I think, Mr Fitzgerald and two of his sons have been presumed lost. I am sure the honourable member for Nhulunbuy will tender my sympathies to the unfortunate widow who has in one stroke been deprived of three members of her family and, I think, left with only one son. The actual situation is, however, that even had there been a police boat at Nhulunbuy, I do not really see how it could have saved these people who were apparently sucked down in a whirlpool.

There is need, though, for a better police boat for Gove. There is now only a 16 or 19-foot aluminum boat there. A submission did come before the executive which I recall earlier this year for a number of police boats and that submission contained estimates of cost. These estimates of cost have been placed in our budgetary estimates and I would hope that some start can be made on the commissioning of a further series of police boats later this year.

570 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

In his capacity as manager of government business in this House, did he hear a comment by the honourable member for Arnhem at a meeting of the Kakadu Society last night which might have been seen by people present as bringing this Assembly into public ridicule?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker, I did hear such a comment much to my amazement last night. My recollection of the comment was, "This meeting is as big a shambles as the Legislative Assembly". Having regard to the nature of that meeting and the appalling manner in which it was run, and having regard to the guffaws and clapping and cheers that followed the honourable member's comment, and having regard also to the fact that several members who were present complained to me this morning, I am contemplating putting it in writing and referring it to you, Mr Speaker, for your judgment as to whether or not it should be referred to the Privileges Committee.

Mr COLLINS: Mr Speaker, could I ask you, Sir, for your advice as to how it is possible for me to answer that statement. I do confess, Mr Speaker, I am not aware how it is possible and ask your advice on the subject.

Mr SPEAKER: I will see what the complaint is and let you know.

Mr COLLINS: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

489 Mr TUXWORTH (Resources and Health) (by leave): The honourable member for Port Darwin asked the other day whether I could present the position in relation to the repairs to the industrial staff amenities building at the Darwin Hospital. The answer to the honourable member's question, Mr Speaker, is that tenders have been called for the work by the Department of Construction. These tenders will close on 11 May 1978 and it is expected that the work will be completed about two months after the letting of the contract.

536 The honourable member for Fannie Bay asked a question concerning the Harry Chan Home. The answer I have from the department in relation to this question is as follows: in conjunction with the Department of Construction, the design for the Harry Chan Home has been completed and a site is available. The project has had to be deferred because of economic considerations and its present status is that it is included in this department's forward estimates for construction in the 1981-82 financial year.

Mr Speaker, I have some further questions which I would like to answer now, asked of me, I believe, by the honourable member for Arnhem.

518 The first question was: does the executive intend to allow buffalo in Kakadu National Park or has the previous established buffalo eradication program been extended to the whole park? The reply I have, Mr Speaker, from the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is as follows: The general policy is that feral animals, including buffaloes, should not remain in the Kakadu National Park. The previously established eradication program was conducted only in the Alligator Rivers and Woolwonga wildlife sanctuaries. This has been extended to the park areas south of the Arnhem Highway. The area north of the Arnhem Highway, at present comprises two pastoral leases and the CSIRO study area and vacant crown lands. Public tenders for the removal of buffalo were called for these

crown land areas during 1976-77 and 1977-78.

- 503 I also had a further question, Mr Speaker, relating to access within the proposed Kakadu National Park, including details on which areas are accessible. The Parks and Wildlife Commission has provided me with the following reply: A major proportion of stage 1 of the proposed Kakadu National Park is comprised of the Woolwonga and Alligator Rivers wildlife sanctuaries. Visitors to these sanctuaries requires entry permits; otherwise access is illegal. It is the intention of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to continue to manage these areas as wildlife sanctuaries until the Kakadu National Parks has been declared and a formal management plan prepared for the park.

At a recent meeting of the commission, the following guidelines concerning access to the area were adopted:

1. In Woolwonga, access is restricted except for approved scientific study. However fishermen will continue to be permitted access to the Nourlangie camp area.
2. Access to the Alligator Rivers sanctuary during the wet season is prohibited but during the dry season access to selected areas will be permitted.
3. Nourlangie Rock - day visitation only allowed; no overnight camping in the vicinity of Nourlangie Rock or Little Nourlangie Rock. Camping will be permitted in the Muirella Park area.
4. Access to Deaf Adder Creek will not be permitted beyond camp 3 at the gorge entrance.
5. Access to Jim Jim Falls, Twin Falls and Graveside Gorge will be permitted. This will be restricted to 4-wheel-drive vehicles and walkers.
6. Access to Lightning Dreaming and Cannon Hill beyond Obiri Rock is restricted to people engaged on bona fide scientific studies.
7. Access to Mount Brockman is prohibited but access will be permitted to Radon Creek within daylight hours.
8. Access to all areas will be controlled by permit and will depend on weather and environmental conditions.

Permits may be obtained in Darwin or at the Patonga and Nourlangie ranger stations in the area.

Mr Speaker, the above provisions are subject to confirmation or amendment by the Northern Land Council and only represent interim controls until a detailed plan of management of the park has been prepared.

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