

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II.

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

An asterisk preceding an entry in the index indicates
that an answer has not yet been received.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

Government Assistance for Tradesmen to Visit Remote Areas

44 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What assistance will the government provide to enable electrical, plumbing and building tradesmen and inspectors to visit remote centres such as Borroloola to assist home owners?

From 24 February 1981

Katherine Electricity Supply

133 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will electricity to be reticulated to the new water supply at Donkey Camp near Katherine be extended to cater for consumers and future subdivisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the \$1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the Tennant Creek region?

3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?
4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?
2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?
2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?
2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine Corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

From 1 December 1981

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is being spent on the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign?
2. For what reason was the contract awarded to a southern firm?
3. Has any contact been made with the liquor industry with a view to controlling the nature of liquor advertising?

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As a number of people have lost their savings in the Collia tin mine affair,

- (a) what detailed action has been taken by the Department of Mines to settle the matter;
- (b) how much money has been lost by people involved;
- (c) how much did Mr Ken Day receive for the tin he mined from Collia;
- (d) why has he not explained in the Legislative Assembly what action the government has taken;
- (e) did the Department of Law recommend that anybody be charged over the affair and, if so, why was not that recommended action proceeded with;
- (f) was the government's lack of action coloured by the fact that Mr Day was once the head of the Progress Party, whose votes had helped the Country Liberal Party;
- (g) what is now being done about the matter; and
- (h) are police trying to contact the previous leaseholder who disappeared and, if so, do they know in which state he is residing?

Public Housing in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Katherine, (v) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?
2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?
3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?

2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these review?
3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reasons is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?
2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from \$510,000 to \$475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?
2. How many were transferred?
3. What was the average length of stay per patient?
4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?
2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?
3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?
2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

From 9 March 1982

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Rapid Creek Water Gardens Project

596 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek water gardens project already had 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the gardens will look like, what was (a) the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project, and (b) what was the cost of the third sign?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?
2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?
3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephones for new private or government subdivisions?

Katherine Town Boundaries

619 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Katherine Municipal Council applied to have the town boundaries extended?
2. If so, (a) has the application been made as a result of any government action, and (b) what benefits would be expected to flow from an extension of the town boundaries?

ILO Conventions

622 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that the Minister for Industrial Relations informed the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 18 November 1981 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 3098) that on 26 May and 3 June 1977 the Northern Territory indicated by letter that in its view the Aboriginal population of the Territory does not constitute a dependent, indigenous population for the purposes of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?

2. Who wrote the letter and on what date and by what means did the Northern Territory government authorise it?
3. Is he aware that a former Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations informed the former Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 4 October 1977 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 1607) that a review instituted by his department in April 1977 had revealed inconsistencies between provisions in the Northern Territory Apprentices Ordinance and the ILO convention?

Standards Set by ILO Conventions

623 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by those International Labour Organisation conventions which the ILO lists as basic human rights conventions but which Australia has not yet ratified, viz.:
 - (a) No. 135 - Workers' Representatives, 1971;
 - (b) No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations, 1975;
 - (c) No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978; and
 - (d) No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981?
2. What views has the NT government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of each of these conventions?
3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning each of these conventions?

ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights

624 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1966 ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights which Australia signed in December 1972 and ratified in August 1980?
2. What views has the Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of this convention since it entered into force in March 1976?
3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have discussions or consultations taken place between the Territory and Commonwealth governments concerning this convention?

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

625 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1980 Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women?
2. What views has the Northern Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of the convention?
3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning the ratification of the convention?

Juvenile Crime in NT

626 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has there been an increase in the incidence of juvenile crime in the Northern Territory?
2. If so, (a) can he provide figures to demonstrate this increase, (b) what are the causes of this increase, (c) what action is to be taken to rectify the situation, and (d) what are the main offences being committed?
3. What is the average age of juvenile offender?
4. (a) How many juvenile inmates are in NT institutions and how does this figure compare with that for the same period last year? (b) What is the average length of stay for a juvenile inmate?

School Leavers Entering Apprenticeships

636 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the problems that school leavers, particularly those not living with their parents, face when entering apprenticeships?
2. If so, what does the NT government do or intend doing to enable such disadvantaged youths to enjoy equality with their peers?

From 16 March 1982

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Aboriginal Community Work Program

641 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. The Northern Territory government initiated the Aboriginal Community Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years, which was to conclude in January 1982. Has this occurred?
2. Has a report been compiled for consideration by the government agency reviewing the program?
3. If so, when is it anticipated that the government will table this report?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Computers, Department of Education

648 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Did the Department of Education hire Price Waterhouse to draw up a report on its use of computers at all levels?
2. If so, (a) when was the report given to the department, (b) is it available for scrutiny, and (c) is it true that the department has 14 different types of word processors?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

Koolpinyah Pastoral Lease

650 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government intend to accept part of Koolpinyah lease in exchange for granting Koolpinyah management an additional lease?
2. If so, what is (a) the location and area of land Koolpinyah is to relinquish to the government, and (b) the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinyah?

Koolpinyah Boundaries

651 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I refer to the proposed 'Rationalisation of Boundaries for Koolpinyah' and ask: is it a fact that both the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority recommended against the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries and, if so, on what information did Cabinet agree on 22 December 1981 to accept in principle the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries?

From 25 May 1982

In vitro Fertilisation Research

653 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the NT government, through the Department of Health, intend to provide funds for further research into *in vitro* fertilisation as Northern Territory couples are affected by it?

Grants-in-Aid, Nhulunbuy Sporting Bodies

654 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORTS and RECREATION

I refer to his answer to question No. 605 and ask what was the break-down of the \$27,199 provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980-81?

Dangerous Goods Act Commencement

655 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why has the Dangerous Goods Act, assented to in January 1981, not yet come into operation?

Tender, RFDS Hangar, Alice Springs

656 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Who was the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at Alice Springs airport?
2. Was this decision consistent with the Tender Board's recommendation?
3. What were the grounds on which the decision was based?

Repairs and Maintenance, Rapid Creek Primary School

657 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the department have to (a) repair and cyclone proof the roof of the older part of the Rapid Creek Primary School, including the covered way area, (b) paint, (c) replace furniture, and (d) repair gutters in the older part of the school, and (e) bituminize the school carpark?

Excursion Funds, Millner and Rapid Creek Schools

658 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How much did (a) Millner, and (b) Rapid Creek schools receive in excursion funds from the department in (i) 1979-80, (ii) 1980-81, and (iii) 1981-82?

Land Purchases, Northlakes and Brinkin

659 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the government purchased, or does it intend to purchase, blocks of land at the Northlakes Country Club Estate and at Brinkin?
2. If so, for what purpose has the government made or intend to make these purchases?

Recreation Lake, Alice Springs

661 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I draw his attention to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority report tabled in the Assembly on 11 March 1982 in which, in relation to Welatje Terre, the proposed site for the recreation lake, it was stated that it was hoped that alternative locations for the proposed development may be identified in the near future, and ask:

1. Is he able to advise of any such alternative sites?
2. What is the relative feasibility of each site in comparison with Welatje Terre?
3. If no alternative sites have been identified, will the government proceed with construction of a recreation lake at Welatje Terre and, if so, when will the work commence and when is the project expected to be completed?

National Parks, MacDonnell Ranges

663 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 586 regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask:

What other 'acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells', and for what purposes is the Conservation Commission seeking to acquire such land?

Flagpoles, NT Buildings

664 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 587 and ask:

What is the cost of the supply of flagpoles for erection at all Northern Territory buildings?

Sales of Housing Commission Units

665 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have purchased housing units of various types since the government announced its home purchase scheme in October 1981?
2. How many units of various types have been released for sale in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine since the scheme was announced?
3. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have listed their names with the Tenancy Section of the Housing Commission expressing interest in purchasing units of various types?

Accommodation for Single-parent Families

666 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the Housing Commission require evidence of custody of children from single-parent families who apply for rental accommodation?

Drilling and Exploration, Magellan Petroleum

667 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What are the details of the current drilling program being pursued by Magellan Petroleum in central Australia?
2. What is the (a) registration number of, and (b) nature of exploration on each E.L. held by the company?
3. What funding has been committed to the exploration program either (a) in general, or (b) for each E.L.?

Medical Evacuations

668 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors in the Territory from August 1980 to August 1981?
2. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors from 1 September 1981 to 31 March 1982?

Education Staff, Banka Banka

670 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many staff positions does his department fund at Banka Banka?
2. Of these, (a) how many are members of the community, and (b) how many were recruited from outside the community?

School, Ayers Rock

671 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many school-age children are currently living at Ayers Rock?
2. When will his department provide a school for these children?

Community Adviser, Ayers Rock

672 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will his department fund the position of community adviser at Ayers Rock?
2. If not, why not?

Relocation of Pintubi

673 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When does he expect the findings on the review of the relocation of the Pintubi at Kintore and elsewhere to be made known to the Kintore community and relevant government departments?

Petrol Sniffing Workshop

674 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What action has resulted from an interdepartmental workshop on petrol sniffing held at Papunya on 24 February 1982?

Blasting, Sadadeen Hills

675 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation took place, if any, with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable erection of a water tank?

Beef Trade with South-east Asia

676 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does he realise that the attitude of NT meat processors towards our northern neighbours Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines directly affects the BTB eradication campaign and the development of the beef industry in the NT?
2. If so, will he review the licences of abattoirs that do not accept the NT policy of seeking trade with South-east Asia?

Beef for South-east Asia

677 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In view of the crisis situation which exists in the NT beef industry, will he take urgent steps to contact Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to determine if beef killed to Australian domestic standards is acceptable and if they require quotes and proposals to supply?

Award Wages, Katherine Meatworks

679 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government realise that its efforts to develop the beef industry in the Top End are being hampered by the Katherine Meatworks

making over-award sweetheart agreements with AMIEU members?

2. Will the government ensure that this meatworks operates under the AMIEU award or on contract kill as do other meatworks in the Territory?

Shop Leases, Jabiru

681 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many of the 7 speciality shops available for lease in Jabiru have been leased?
2. To whom have they been leased?
3. What is the period of each lease?
4. What are the terms and conditions of each lease?

Supermarket Lease, Jabiru

682 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Which company has been given the lease of the supermarket at Jabiru?
2. What is the period of the lease?
3. What are the terms and conditions of the lease?

Development Costs, Jabiru

683 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a formal cost sharing arrangement on the funding of the development of Jabiru between the JTDA and the mining companies been signed?
2. If yes, what are the details of this cost sharing agreement?

Operational Funding, Jabiru

684 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has an agreement been reached between the JTDA and mining companies over the funding of the operational costs of the town?
2. If yes, what are the details of this agreement?

Rating System, Jabiru

685 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was a rating system for Jabiru introduced on 1 July 1981 as indicated in page 22 of the JTDA Annual Report?
2. If yes, what are the details of this rating system?

Administration Staff, Jabiru

686 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

How many people are (a) employed, and (b) at what levels, in the town administrator's office in Jabiru?

Aboriginal Education Allocations

687 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What financial allocations were received from the Commonwealth government for Aboriginal education in 1980-81 and 1981-82?

2. Did Dhupuma College (a) ever receive a specific allocation of Commonwealth funding and, if so, (b) when, (c) how much, and (d) for what purpose?

Salt and Lime Supplies

- 688 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM
What action is being taken to supply NT needs for salt and lime?

Encouragement of Horticulturists

- 690 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION
What practical encouragement is being given to horticulturists in the Katherine district to grow vegetables and fruit in competition with growers 2,000 miles away?

Cost of Transfer, Regional Office

- 691 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH
What were the removal and re-establishment costs involved in the transfer of the Northern Region office from the old Darwin hospital to Casuarina?

From 1 June 1982

Firearms, Security Guards

- 692 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER
What, in general terms, are the regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards, and what type of training and level of competence in the use of firearms by private security guards is required in the Northern Territory?

Life Sentences

- 693 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
In relation to life sentences imposed in the Territory, (a) how many persons are presently serving life sentences, (b) what is the average length of the actual sentence served, (c) are there any administrative procedures for the review of life sentences, and (d), if so, what are they?

Golden Perch

- 694 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION
1. Has the Department of Primary Production thoroughly examined the possible impact of the introduction of golden perch into Top End streams?
 2. If so, is he confident that there will not be any harmful effects of such an action?
 3. Will he make available to the Assembly the report of his department on the possible impact of the introduction of these fish when it is complete?

From 3 June 1982

Sealing, Bees Creek Road

695 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A great number of residents of my electorate are forced to use Bees Creek road as an access road to the Stuart Highway, sometimes several times each day. Could he advise if and when the government intends to upgrade and seal this badly corrugated dirt road?

Boundaries, Koolpinyah Station

696 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On 9 March 1982 he advised the Assembly that the matter of redrawing the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station was under consideration. Is he yet in a position to provide further information on this matter?

Mt Wells Battery

697 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells Battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?
2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment by Singellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells Battery and associated leases?
3. If so, when will this be resolved?

Student Assistance

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

ANSWER

The Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme (TEAS) is a scheme administered by the Commonwealth Department of Education whose Darwin office supplied the following information:

- (a) As at June 1980 - 100
As at June 1981 - 120 (preliminary figure only).
- (b) As at June 1980 - 77
As at June 1981 - Not known.

St Vidgeon Station and Eva Valley Station

346 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- 1. What is the future of St Vidgeon Station where Aborigines are building stock yards, etc.?
- 2. What is the future of Eva Valley Station?

ANSWER

The future of St Vidgeon and Eva Valley Stations depends on the mortgagees involved exercising their rights.

Interpreter Service for Aborigines

469 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

- 1. What action does the government intend taking in response to the working party's report on the need for Aboriginal interpreter services in the NT?
- 2. If such services are to be established, what will be (a) their nature, (b) their funding, and (c) anticipated commencement date?

ANSWER

- 1. The working party recommended the establishment of an Aboriginal interpreting service through the combined resources of Aboriginal organisations and the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments.

Consultation on this matter has already taken place with the Institute for Aboriginal Development and the School of Australian Linguistics which are presently offering training programs for interpreters. Correspondence has been forwarded to the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs seeking his views on the report's recommendations, and the likelihood of Commonwealth funding being made available for this service. To date no response has been received from the minister.
- 2. If a service is established, it is proposed that Aboriginal organisations will train interpreters and operate a service. The interpreting service would be initially funded by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments as a pilot project with an anticipated commencement date during 1982-83.

The interpreting service would be co-ordinated by the NT government, which at the commencement would also develop the service in the Top End

pending the availability of Aboriginal organisations to do so. It is intended that from the commencement the service in the centre would be developed by an Aboriginal organisation.

Department of Community Development - Counselling

475 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many officers are involved in counselling in the Department of Community Development?
2. What are the qualifications of the officers?
3. What is (a) the average caseload, and (b) the average number of clients seen per week by each counsellor?
4. What percentage of the clients are Aboriginal?

ANSWER

1. There are 14 officers involved in counselling in Correctional Services Division and 29 in Community Welfare Division.
2. The qualifications of these officers vary but include degrees in social work, degrees in behavioural and social sciences, other tertiary qualifications including Associate Diplomas in Welfare Work and some are qualified by experience and on-the-job training.
3. (a) The average caseload in Correctional Services Division is 40 per officer.

The workload of Community Welfare workers is varied and includes many single contacts as well as ongoing cases, so it is not realistic to talk in terms of caseloads.

(b) Average number of clients seen per week is 11 for Correctional Services officers and 18 for Community Welfare workers. These figures were obtained from a recent sample of case contact statistics kept by the department.
4. According to a survey of cases conducted by Correctional Services Division in November 1981, 51% were identified as Aboriginal.

An analysis of Community Welfare case contact statistics covering the period September 1980 to September 1981 showed that 40% of clients were Aboriginal.

Prawning Licences

493 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many prawning licences were granted by the Department of Primary Production in 1979-80 and 1980-81?
2. How many prawning licences were in existence as at 30 June (a) 1978, (b) 1979, (c) 1980, and (d) 1981?

ANSWER

Throughout Australia licences in the fishing industry are renewed on a calendar year basis. This is also the case for relicensing in the northern prawn fishery.

Vessels authorised to fish in the northern prawn fishery (strictly the Declared Management Zone) are required to hold a Commonwealth licence for proclaimed waters and a Queensland or Northern Territory licence when they enter the territorial waters administered by either of these governments. However, it has been agreed administratively that all vessels authorised

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

for the northern prawn fishery should hold the 3 licences.

The following table details the numbers of licences issued over the last 4 years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Commonwealth Licence</u>	<u>Northern Territory Licence</u>
1978	286	173
1979	291	207
1980	292	256
1981	292	280

NTDC Loans

494 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. How many applications for Northern Territory Development Corporation loans were received from the agricultural and horticultural industries in (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
2. How many applications were successful and for what activities were loans granted?
3. What was the average repayment period associated with loans granted?
4. Were any interest or repayment holidays granted on any loans to the rural sector?

ANSWER

1. (a) Applications received in 1979-80 were 6.
(b) Applications received in 1980-81 were 15.
2. Thirteen applications were successful for the following activities:
 - cropping development - purchase of seed and machinery;
 - turf farming;
 - banana plantation; and
 - debt reconstruction) rural adjustment scheme.
farm irrigation)
3. The average repayment period associated with loans granted was for 8.5 years.
4. The maximum repayment holiday granted on loans to the rural sector was 12 months.

Detoxification Centres

499 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the government support the establishment of detoxification centres, pick-up services and halfway houses for the Northern Territory?
2. What is the government's attitude to the introduction of a concessional differential on low alcohol beer?

ANSWER

1. A range of facilities for people experiencing problems with alcohol and other drugs is currently provided by the Northern Territory government and by community organisations supported financially by the government.
2. The Northern Territory government supports the concept of a price differential for low alcohol beer. The difficulty arises, however, in that liquor licence fees, which are under the control of the Northern Territory government, account for only a small portion of

the retail price of beer. Even completely abolishing liquor licence fees on low alcohol beer would result in a reduction of no more than 3 or 4 cents per can. This differential would be insufficient to effect a change in beer consumption patterns.

The Commonwealth government collects excise duty of 52 cents on each litre of beer. We have asked the Commonwealth to consider adjusting excise to establish a price differential on low alcohol beer, as recommended by the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare, however, the Commonwealth government has consistently refused to do so.

Darwin Central Community Health Centre

503 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government considering relocating the Darwin Central Community Health Centre and, if so, where is it to be located and for what reasons?

ANSWER

The Darwin Central Community Health Centre has been relocated to the ground floor, MLC Building, Smith Street.

Health facilities at the old Darwin hospital site have been relocated because of the disproportionate expense of maintaining the site and the MLC Building site is a more centrally located one.

Chest X-rays - National Tuberculosis Act 1948

504 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since the introduction of the 'user pays' medical and health charges on 1 September 1981, (a) what arrangements have been made by his department under the *National Tuberculosis Act 1948* for the general public to have chest X-rays at no charge at general hospitals throughout the NT, and (b) if arrangements have been made will they be advertised in the media throughout the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

No special arrangements exist under the *Natioanl Tuberculosis Act 1948* between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory. Prior to 1 September all patients seeking x-ray diagnosis at a hospital received this treatment free. As from 1 September persons suspected of suffering from tuberculosis have been treated the same as other patients. If they are 'disadvantaged' persons all treatment is free. Persons in receipt of a pension under the *Tuberculosis Act* receive free treatment.

It is the policy of the Northern Territory government to encourage all people in the Northern Territory to either seek a Department of Social Security health care card or, if not eligible, to seek coverage under health insurance. This policy has been extensively advertised in the media.

Attendance Figures at Outpatients

505 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. From 1 September to 31 October 1981, how many people (a) who attended outpatients departments in NT hospitals, and (b) who were hospitalised, were (i) insured, (ii) uninsured, or (iii) held disadvantaged and PHB cards?
2. How do those figures compare with those for the same period during 1980?

3. What was the percentage of Aborigines in each of those categories?

ANSWER

1. Between 1 September and 30 October, 29,109 people visited outpatients. Statistics on the number of insured and uninsured are not available. Those people exempted from charges under the Commonwealth disadvantaged classifications totalled 5,969.
2. Statistics of insured, uninsured and disadvantaged were not kept last year.
3. Aborigines represent 9% of total outpatients. Within this group, exemptions (including those awaiting confirmation) are 91%. Aborigines represent 44% of total inpatient bed days. Within this group, exemptions (including those awaiting confirmation) are 95%.

Non-urgent Outpatient Treatment

506 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people wanting non-urgent treatment at outpatients departments in NT hospitals have not been seen because they have not had the necessary fee since 1 September 1981?

ANSWER

No such figures are kept.

Anti-depressant Medication

507 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Are patients in NT hospitals who are not suffering from a psychosis prescribed anti-depressant medication without their knowledge and consent? If so, under what conditions?
2. How many (a) inpatients, and (b) outpatients were prescribed anti-depressant medication during 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. I am advised that all patients who receive anti-depressant or other medication are given explanation of their treatment so as to ensure informed consent to treatment.
2. There is no accurate way of assessing the number of inpatients and outpatients prescribed anti-depressant medication in 1980-81 without examining all individual medical records for these patients.

Allocations to Community Health Centres

508 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much is he allocating from the Commonwealth's general revenue fund of \$20.6 million to community health centres, hospitals and school dental services for each hospital, and community health centre?
2. How much is the NT government allocating to these areas in 1981-82, for each community health centre, hospital and school dental service?
3. What was expended under these headings in 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. The \$20.6 million is treated as general revenue and is not specifically broken up between individual hospitals, health centres, etc. Commonwealth funding covers only a portion of the total expenditure by the NT government on these services.

2. Allocations for NT hospitals in 1981-82 are as follows:

	<u>\$ million</u>
Casuarina	30.481
East Arm	1.078
Katherine	3.597
Tennant Creek	2.456
Alice Springs	14.253
Gove District	3.665
Jabiru	<u>0.218</u>
Total Allocation to Hospitals	<u>55.748</u>

Budgets are not allocated to individual health centres and school dental units as these are incorporated in the operation costs of the department's 3 regions and central office. The allocations for health services expenditure in 1981-82 are as follows:

	<u>\$ million</u>
Darwin and Katherine Region	10.047
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	5.962
East Arnhem Region	2.856
Central Office	<u>8.897</u>
Total Health Services Allocation	<u>27.762</u>

3. Expenditure in 1980-81 on hospitals and health services was as follows:

	<u>\$ million</u>
(a) <u>Hospitals</u>	
Casuarina	27.933
East Arm	0.977
Katherine	3.184
Tennant Creek	2.055
Alice Springs	12.222
Gove District	<u>3.244</u>
Total Hospitals Expenditure	<u>49.615</u>
	<u>\$ million</u>
(b) <u>Health Services</u>	
Darwin and Katherine Region	9.135
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	5.501
East Arnhem Region	2.618
Central Office	<u>7.873</u>
Total Health Services Expenditure	<u>25.127</u>

Drug Education Program in NT

509 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What are the drug education programs to be conducted in the Northern Territory during 1981-82?

ANSWER

The following drug education programs will be conducted in the Northern Territory in 1981-82:

- Drugs as a Social Issue - To be presented to primary, secondary and community college students, as well as community groups.
- Everyday Drugs - This program is particularly aimed at women.
- Parents and Drugs - To be presented to parents and teachers.

- Risks, Dares and Challenges - This program is aimed particularly at primary school students in years 6 to 7, and parents.
- Healthy Lifestyle - A public information display emphasising proper exercise, diet control and leisure activities.
- How Much Is Too Much - An information program on alcohol aimed at community groups.

Commonwealth Health Grants

510 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Commonwealth provided \$9 million for health planning and research in the form of grants to the states and the Northern Territory (on a \$1 for \$1 basis) and to institutions and persons?
2. If so, (a) how much has been allocated to the Northern Territory, and (b) for what purposes?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth has provided for a total of \$400,000 to be paid to the states and the Northern Territory for health planning and research during 1981-82.

The grants are available on a dollar for dollar basis to encourage the development of states and Territory health planning units.

For 1981-82 the Northern Territory has been allocated \$10,000, and it is proposed to utilise these funds in the compilation of a computerised bank of Aboriginal health statistics.

Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid

511 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action has been taken to correct the following unsatisfactory controls relating to grants-in-aid commented upon by the Auditor-General in 1978-79 and found to be still unsatisfactory in 1980:

- (a) inadequacies in the promulgated conditions for grants;
- (b) the absence of reference to formal acceptance of the conditions and purpose of grants;
- (c) the legal entity of grantees;
- (d) the withholding of moneys for non-compliance with grant conditions;
- (e) the lack of current formalized departmental procedures and guidelines covering functional responsibilities and criteria for the evaluation of grant applications and the monitoring of performance of grantees; and
- (f) the apparent absence of follow-up action by his department in certain instances where it is not evident that grantees had complied with the conditions of grants?

ANSWER

- (a) Various inadequacies in the promulgation of the 'Conditions of Grants' booklet were adjusted in the first amendment to the conditions during October 1980.
- (b) Recipients to formally accept conditions. Under section 6.5 of the conditions, recipients are required to formally accept the conditions outlined in the booklet. Forms are forwarded to the recipients who are required to sign and return the forms to regional offices.
- (c) Legal entity of grantees. Under section 4.6 of the conditions, recipients are required to provide evidence of their registration

under the Northern Territory Associations Incorporation Act. At present the evidence required is a certificate of registration under the Act.

- (d) Withholding of moneys. No funds are released until the organisation adheres to all the preliminary conditions, i.e., acceptance of conditions, receipt of registration certificate, details of insurance coverage and names of office bearers.
- (e) Formal departmental procedures and guidelines to assess applications for grants-in-aid were issued on 15 December 1980.
- (f) Generally no funds are released to grantees until the preliminary conditions are adhered to. Once payments are released the grantees are monitored on a regional and head office to ensure compliance with the conditions.

Expenditure on Aids to Disabled People

516 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he ascertain and advise how the funds were spent in 1980-81 which the Commonwealth provided for aids to disabled people who were not eligible under Commonwealth-state programs?

ANSWER

There was no expenditure under the program of aids for disabled people in the Northern Territory during 1980-81.

Funds were received from the Commonwealth on 19 June 1981, and have been carried forward to be spent during 1981-82.

Applications to Health Department for Grants-in-Aid

519 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many (a) applications for grants-in-aid were lodged for 1981-82, and (b) which organisations were unsuccessful?

ANSWER

1. There were 66 applications for grants-in-aid for 1981-82
2. The Darwin Women's Centre and the Katherine Women's Shelter were unsuccessful.

Variations between Bed Cost in NT Hospitals

520 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why do the bed costs in NT hospitals vary between \$78 and \$254, and where does this variation occur?

ANSWER

The variation in bed-day costs between the hospitals is a function of various factors including the degree of specialist treatment provided, age and design of the hospital, and the cost disabilities of different locations.

Staff Reductions at Darwin Hospital

523 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Which staff organisations at the Darwin Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their memberships?

2. In which areas have staff reductions already been effected?
3. How many people have been affected to date?

ANSWER

1. All staff organisations at the Darwin Hospital have agreed to staff reductions affecting their membership.
2. All categories of staff have been reduced.
3. Apart from non re-engagement of limited tenure employees, reductions have been achieved by selective non-replacement of staff who voluntarily resigned. To date the staff establishment has been reduced by 65 positions.

Separate Facilities at Darwin Hospital

529 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has he rejected his working party recommendations to erect separate facilities at Darwin Hospital for psychiatric, the handicapped and geriatric patients?
2. If so, why?
3. If not, has any money been allocated for their establishment in 1981-82, and when does he expect such facilities to be operational?

ANSWER

The government has approved in principle the erection of appropriate facilities for mentally handicapped and geriatric patients.

No funds have been provided for the establishment of new facilities in 1981-82.

It is essential that maximum utilisation of Darwin Hospital facilities be made before further capital expenditure is considered.

Nursing Home Care

530 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many elderly patients does he anticipate are in need of nursing home care?
2. How many are Aborigines?
3. Are there any plans to establish separate facilities for the elderly Aborigines?

ANSWER

1. It is anticipated that there are 70 elderly people in need of nursing home beds in Darwin, 10-20 in Katherine and Tennant Creek and 80 in Alice Springs.
2. The actual number of Aborigines in need of nursing home care is not known. What appears to be consistent in most Aboriginal communities is that there is a reluctance to send aged relatives away to be cared for in town. There are however exceptions to this view as the relatives of aged persons from Papunya and Yuendumu prefer their elderly to be cared for at Hetti Perkins Nursing Home.
3. There are no plans to establish separate facilities for elderly Aborigines, i.e., separate nursing homes. Methods of care for elderly Aborigines should be culturally relevant, and if possible provision

made to maintain people in their own community.

Disadvantaged Cards

532 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many people does he estimate could be classified as disadvantaged who have not yet received a disadvantaged card and what percentage of these are Aborigines?

ANSWER

The responsibility for determining disadvantaged status rests with the Commonwealth Department of Social Security.

There are no statistics available to me which would enable the estimate requested by the honourable Member to be made.

My department believes from observations made by staff in the field that a large number of Aborigines are not yet covered.

Psychiatric Services

533 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the overall strategy of the government to improve psychiatric services?
2. What are seen as the main priorities?

ANSWER

1. The strategy of the government is to provide the most efficient high quality care for psychiatric patients of the Northern Territory. To this end, psychiatric patients have been transferred from the Darwin annex to the main Darwin Hospital at Casuarina. As well, the arrangement with South Australia whereby some long term patients are accommodated in South Australian institutions is being formalised.
2. The main priorities are:
 - (a) the improvement in the quality of psychiatric care;
 - (b) the examination of the various options for improved facilities in the Northern Territory; and
 - (c) negotiations with South Australia on the formal agreement.

Health Funding

535 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. When does he expect to re-examine the Territory's revenue raising capacity with the Commonwealth Minister for Health?
2. Is he compiling the necessary statistics previously not available, to strengthen our case for additional Commonwealth funding? If so, what do these statistics comprise?

ANSWER

1. The Commonwealth has indicated that it is prepared to re-examine the revenue raising capacity of the States and the Northern Territory. To date 2 submissions have been made to the Commonwealth, the most recent using data to the end of January 1982. These submissions are currently under consideration by the Commonwealth.
2. Yes, all necessary statistics are being compiled as from 1 September 1981. The statistics will indicate the number of patients who are

disadvantaged and those who are chargeable. The categories are further broken down into Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal.

Staffing Levels in NT Hospitals

541 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Where does he expect staffing levels in Territory hospitals to be reduced and by how many and when?

ANSWER

Reductions have been achieved at all NT hospitals by natural attrition in all areas. The hospital staffing levels are kept under constant review and raised or lowered as appropriate.

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

546 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many Aboriginal teaching assistants are expected to be employed in 1981-82 and at which homeland centres?

ANSWER

47 Aboriginal teaching assistants are presently employed in 38 outstations. Applications are being processed as they arrive and another 10 are expected to be employed by the end of semester 1.

Locations and present approvals are indicated below in regions with applications now being received and or processed noted in brackets alongside.

EAST ARNHEM

<u>Ramingining</u>	Balinjora	1
	Mulnanganuk	1
	Gadgi	(1)
<u>Milingimbi</u>	Dipirri	1
	Gumugumuk	1
	Langarra	2
	Bala Atjuwa	1
<u>Angurugu</u>	Bickerton Island	1
	Yambaugwa	1
<u>Yirrkala</u>	Baniyala	1 + Ab. NTTS Member
	Gururumuru	2 *
	Wandawuy	3 *
	Gagan	2 *
	Dhalinbuy	1
	Bawaka	1 *
<u>Numbulwar</u>	Walker River	1
<u>DARWIN NORTH</u>		
<u>Maningrida</u>	Jimardi	2
	Kopanga	1
	Gamedi	1
	Gorang Gorang	1
	Boldjan	1
	Kubumi	1
	Margabdan	1

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

DARWIN SOUTH

<u>Oenpelli</u>	Manmoyi	2
	Gumarirnbang	1
	Mikinj Valley	1
	Gumborlomborlom	(1)
	Mamadawerre	1
	Gurrgurrh	1
	Nabarlek	2

KATHERINE

<u>Bamyili</u>	Eva Valley	1
<u>Roper Valley</u>	Mainoru	1
	Badawarrka	1
<u>Ngukurr</u>	Nalawan	1
	Castello	1
	Namilwerre	(1)
	Bawanda	(1)
<u>Borrooloola</u>	Robinson River	(1)
	Yamirri	(1)
	Wadadagla	(1)

ALICE SPRINGS

<u>Papunya</u>	Central Camps	1 (1)
	Kintore	2
<u>Utopia</u>	Kurrajong	1 (1)
	Ammaroo	1 (1)

NOTES:

The figures are current for Friday 5 March, but fluctuate greatly as do nominated 'teachers' employed in the communities.

Positions are generally part-time, or shared between 2 persons, by agreement and have in the past been resourced from each central school's pool of assistant teachers. Some additional employment was arranged through the composite use of assistance to isolated children funds at locations where no assistant teacher was employed. Each one is indicated by an asterisk. Prior to 1982 DAA funded several positions through the local councils.

The increase in 1982 is through an arrangement with the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs and is seen as a temporary measure to be negotiated further with the Commonwealth if we are to assume their responsibilities on a more permanent basis.

In addition approximately 15 teachers are fully occupied in outstation visiting programs. In addition the production of and local modification of school of the bush and tracks materials requires considerable involvement of teachers and literacy production resources in each central community.

Hospital Treatment of Cases of Domestic Violence

549 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. When a woman presents to a NT hospital with injuries or illness which she identifies as being caused by domestic violence, what procedures does the hospital follow?

2. What mechanism does the hospital have to ensure the victim is referred to other assistance she may require?
3. In the past 12 months, what number and percentage of (a) outpatients attendances, and (b) inpatient stays were related to domestic violence?

ANSWER

1. When a woman presents to a Northern Territory hospital with injuries or illness and admits or volunteers that they are the result of domestic violence, she is encouraged to discuss her domestic situation with a social worker. If the woman agrees, the police are informed and attend the patient in the hospital.
2. Social workers who see victims of domestic violence make them aware of all avenues of support and assistance available to them. If legal, financial or accommodation assistance is required, arrangements are made.
3. No statistics are kept.

Child Protection Consultative Committee

550 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. Has the Child Protection Consultative Committee yet been established?
2. If so, has it begun collecting statistics on the incidence of domestic violence?
3. Is any other agency collecting similar data relating to domestic violence affecting adults?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Child Protection Education and Policy Committee was established in Darwin in October 1978. A branch of the committee was later established in Alice Springs in July last year.

The committee is composed of representatives from the Departments of Health, Education, Law, Community Development and the Police Force, the agencies most involved in child protection issues. Its main role is the promotion of community awareness and education, the co-ordination of community support services, consultation regarding policy matters as well as research in the area of child abuse.

2. The committee's mandate is specifically in the area of child abuse which is only one form of domestic violence.

The committee has not been in a position to engage in any extensive research into the incidence of child abuse. There is no full-time member of the committee and all the members are fully committed to their respective professions and such research would necessarily be time-consuming.

Nevertheless, in 1980 the committee conducted a survey in all the primary schools in the Darwin area into the incidence of child abuse among primary school children. Unfortunately the response was not sufficient for the committee to make other than the general conclusion that child abuse does exist at a very real level and that there is a need for community education.

The Community Welfare Division of the Department of Community Development keeps statistics on all cases of suspected child abuse reported to them. However, until mandatory reporting is introduced, the true incidence of child abuse is difficult to determine.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

During 1981 there were 130 reports of suspected child abuse made to the Department of Community Development, of which 72 were substantiated.

3. The Northern Territory Police do not collect any data relating to domestic violence affecting adults.

Douglas-Daly and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Stations

553 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What hectareage of Douglas-Daly Experimental Station and Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station have been transferred from the Department of Primary Production to the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority?

ANSWER

The Douglas-Daly Regional Farm was previously a sub-lease from Douglas Station, but was included in the land purchased from Douglas by ADMA to provide security of tenure to the department. Therefore, there was no transfer of DPP lands to the authority.

No area of land has been transferred from the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station to the authority. However, the authority is currently occupying an area of land that was previously part of the UARES that is now incorporated within the Finnis River Aboriginal Land Claim.

A 'Memorandum of Understanding' exists between the department and the authority on the use of this area.

Bilingual Education Programs

576 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will staff numbers in bilingual education programs in schools in the southern directorate be maintained next year?

ANSWER

Staffing levels for all government functions and programs are subject to evaluations of performance and priorities and to budgetary considerations.

Molyhill Mine in Central Australia

592 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Have officers from the inspection and safety section visited the Molyhill mine in central Australia recently?
2. If so, what were their comments and recommendations regarding dust suppression and the use of cyanide?
3. Were copies of the officers' report made available to Molyhill employees and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Yes. The dates and visits are as follows:

7 April 1981 - electrical inspector; 28 May 1981 - electrical inspector; 24 June 1981 - inspector of machinery, safety promotion officer, chief occupational hygienist; 30 June 1981 - electrical inspector; 3 July 1981 - district inspector of mines, Director Industrial Safety, machinery inspector; 12 August 1981 - electrical inspectors; 4 September 1981 - machinery inspector; 3 November 1981 - inspector of mines; 24 November 1981 - inspector of mines, electrical inspector, chief metallurgist; 16 December 1981 - inspector of mines, machinery inspector, lease draftsman; 27 January 1982 - electrical inspector.

2. The district inspector's report in the record book does not take up the question of dust or cyanide.

A possible dust problem was recognised earlier in the year in one of the machines and this had been referred to the chief occupational hygienist for investigation which he undertook in June. He would evaluate whether there was a problem.

He reported that:

'On 24 June a visit was carried out by the Department's Senior Chemist, Safety Promotions Officer and Chief Occupational Hygienist, when a general lecture was given on occupational hygiene. The mine was working at the time and dust samples were taken. However, it was learned that night that the mine was to cease operations the next day and so the samples were never processed. No entry was made in the Mine Record Book as these officers were not inspectors and had no statutory right or obligation to make such entries. The matter was discussed with the District Inspector on return to Alice Springs.'

The district inspector of mines, after his July visit, brought the situation to the attention of Mr M. Uhlman, the manager, when he telephoned him on 28 and 29 July. An investigation was to be made into whether there was provision for dust suppression in the original design of the impactor. Information was sought from the New Zealand manufacturer, but in the meantime the plant was closed down.

The manager called at the district office on 4 August and at that time indicated that he would be laying off 14 men about 24 August. This was later followed by a letter confirming the transfer of the plant to a care and maintenance basis from 1 October.

Cyanide had been taken to the plant for investigation work to be conducted by the company's metallurgist. A little was used but extensive tests did not eventuate and the drums were stored in a locked enclosure. There was no need for comment as the storage was adequate, being kept in a locked cage in the open and provisions are made in the Mine Safety Control Act for the handling of cyanide.

Employment at Molyhill from district inspector's records;

30 June 1981 - 41; 31 July 1981 - 34; 31 August 1981 - 18;
30 September 1981 - 17; 31 October 1981 - 7; 30 November 1981 - 5;
31 December 1981 - 4.

From the information gathered:

Production from the pit stopped on 24 August. Cleaning up continued until 1 October. Care and maintenance continued until November. Drilling crews only were on site in November-December.

3. The district inspector's reports are written in the mine record book during each visit. Omissions in the record book relating to weekly reports by the mine manager were pointed out by the inspector on his visit on 20 July and recorded in the record book.

It is the responsibility of the manager to make available mine record book entries to any person on the mine site and there is no indication that the manager withheld information of record book entries. However, as mentioned there was nothing in the content of any of the entries which referred to dust or cyanide.

Aboriginal Health Workers

593 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does his department have a policy of employing Aboriginal health workers on mobile rural health teams and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has a policy of using Aboriginal health workers wherever possible in rural areas. In situations where mobile health teams visit outstations from such communities as Yuendumu and Warrabri, Aboriginal health workers are an integral part of the teams.

However, where teams travel to locations where health workers are stationed a health worker may not be included in their entourage in order not to offend many of the tribal and clan differences.

Superannuation Salary Deductions for NT Public Servants

601 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

1. What amount has been deducted from the salaries of NT government employees for superannuation purposes since 1 July 1978?
2. What amount has been forwarded by the NT government to the Commonwealth Superannuation Fund Investment Trust Account since 1 July 1978?
3. How much of the total amount deducted from employees' salaries for superannuation in the NT since 1 July 1978, has (a) been kept in the NT, (b) to what purpose has it been put, and (c) what rates of interest has been earned on this money?

ANSWER

1. Since 1 July 1978, the total amount deducted from the salaries of NT government employees for superannuation purposes has been approximately \$28 million.
2. All of the amounts deducted have been forwarded to the Commonwealth Superannuation Fund Investment Trust Account, as required under the Commonwealth Superannuation Act 1976.
3. (a) None of the amounts deducted have been kept in the NT.
(b) Amounts deducted from NT employees' salaries have been invested by the Investment Trust along with all other money received. As part of its investment program, the trust has made direct investments in the Northern Territory totalling some \$8.54 million since 1 July 1978. This amount includes the purchase of Custom Credit House, Minerals House and Construction House and a mortgage loan of \$1.5 million to a Darwin based company.

In addition, some of the trust's investments in Commonwealth bonds, Telecom inscribed stock and shares and debentures in companies that undertake part of their operations in the Northern Territory could be considered as indirect investment by the trust in the Northern Territory.

- (c) The most recent figures available on the Investment Trust's earning rate relate to the financial year 1979-80. The annual earning rate of the fund for 1979-80 was 9.637%. This figure takes account of windfall income, income transfers, etc., and represents the average earning rate on contributors' equity.

Because of the possibility of unavoidable delays in the prescription of the annual earning rate the regulations provide for

the prescription of an 'exit' rate to apply during the period following the year for which an annual rate has been prescribed. The current 'exit' rate for the period from 1 July 1980 is 11.5%, and this rate is used in the calculation of benefits payable to persons who leave the fund before the annual rate for 1980-81 is prescribed.

Housing Commission Rental Increases

604 Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the recent Housing Commission rental increases, will he advise the Housing Commission rent review formula for both public service and general public housing, the annual rent review documentation including the source and effect of the resulting calculations - in other words how this formula was arrived at - and a comparison between NT rents and appropriate southern rents?

ANSWER

Annual rent reviews in respect of general housing are carried out in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Housing Act. Although not specifically covered in the Housing Act the annual review of public service rents is conducted along similar lines. The formula is detailed in the Act which requires that the following components be used: principal and interest; maintenance; rates and taxes; insurance; vacancies and defaults; administration.

The totals of these components estimated for 1981-82 were: general public \$2,431 and staff \$3,745. It must be stressed that these figures are the average over all types of dwelling per scheme. These amounts are then apportioned according to dwelling type and location. The Public Service Commissioner determines the rent to be charged for public service housing. In determining this rent the Public Service Commissioner has regard to the economic rent required by the Housing Commission to meet component costs and the general levels of rental paid by members of the general public to the Housing Commission. Any deficit is made up by Treasury.

It is difficult to compare Northern Territory rents with rents in southern states due to differing circumstances and the wide variety of rents charged in various locations. Some indication can, however, be given by the table below:

<u>3-Bedroom House</u>			
Darwin NTPS	\$ 60.00	** Sydney	\$ 90-160
Darwin GP	\$ 57.50	** Melbourne	\$ 75-130
* Darwin Private	\$140.00	** Perth	\$ 50-75
** Brisbane	\$ 65-80	** Canberra	\$ 65-85

* Valuer-General's Report, May 1981.

** Real Estate Institute of Australia, November 1981.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign

607 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What action will his department take to provide grids on public roads to assist control of cattle during the TB and brucellosis eradication campaign?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production is surveying the need for cattle grids throughout the Territory. It has 4 main areas of concern which are:

1. Which roads require cattle grids.
2. Where existing fences cross existing roads or new roads, does responsibility for the grid lie with the Department of Transport and Works?
3. Where new fences are erected which cross public roads the responsibility appears to lie with the owner.
4. Where new fences are required to be erected for the purposes of brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication, responsibility lies with the owner as things now stand.

This question of responsibility for the grid is under consideration by the department at the moment as part of the general review of the needs of industry to comply with eradication requirements.

Electricity Supply Around Katherine

609 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What progress is being made towards providing electricity to (a) Katherine Gorge, (b) the 15-mile Farm (KREC), and (c) the low-level area and rural development?

ANSWER

Katherine Gorge

The design and specification for the Katherine Gorge feeder has been completed and is being checked.

Considerable technical input was required for this particular line as wooden cross-arms and flying fox protection caps are to be used to improve reliability of this proposed feeder.

The project will be released for tender by late March.

Katherine Rural Education College

A general route for the power line has been established and negotiations are being held with the Department of Education regarding funding of the line.

Low Level Area and Rural Development

NTEC is in consultation with the Department of Transport and Works regarding the provision of electricity supply to lots 1 to 6 along the low level road.

Fire Fighting Equipment in Elsey Electorate

621 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What fire fighting equipment is available at (a) Mataranka, (b) Beswick, (c) Bamyili, (d) Numbulwar, and (e) Ngukurr?
2. Are residents in these centres recruited to form volunteer fire brigades?

ANSWER

Mataranka is supplied with adequate fire fighting equipment by both the NT Fire Service and the Public Works Division of my department. The NTFS also provides training and servicing of its equipment.

Beswick, Bamyili, Numbulwar and Ngukurr all have the appropriate hand-held extinguishers or hoses installed in power houses, Department of Education, health buildings and police stations. This equipment is supplied and serviced by my department. An itemised list of equipment appears at the

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

end of this answer.

Should residents in these areas wish to form their own volunteer brigade the NTFS would be happy to provide training assistance as it does in other areas of the Territory.

Equipment supplied and serviced by Public Works Department:

Key: S.A. - soda ash; W.S.P. - water stored pressure; B.C.F. - powder; F.H.R. - fire hose reel; CO₂ - gas; D.C.P. - dry chemical powder; Hyds. - hydrants.

NUMBULWAR

School - 3 x 9 l S.A., 1 x 9 l W.S.P., 6 x 1.5 kg B.C.F.,
3 x 3 kg B.C.F., and 2 F.H.R.
Power house - 3 x 7½ lb CO₂.
Education houses - 5 x 1.5 B.C.F., 1 x 7½ lb CO₂, 1 x S.A., 1 x 5 lb
D.C.P., 4 x 9 l foam, 3 x 9 l W.S.P., and 6 Hyds.

BAMYILI

School - 20 x W.S.P., 2 x A.F.F.F., 2 x 5.4 kg B.C.F.,
20 x 1.4 kg B.C.F., and 4 Hyds. and hose.
Police - 9 x 1.4 kg B.C.F., and 5 x W.S.P.

NGUKURR

Power house - 2 x 9 kg C.D.P.
Education - 12 x W.S.P., and 12 x 1.4 kg B.C.F.
Health - 4 x 1.4 kg B.C.F., and 4 Hyds. and hoses.

MATARANKA

Police - 2 x W.S.P., 2 x 1.3 B.C.F., 4 x 3 B.C.F.,
2 x 27 B.C.F., 1 x .9 B.C.F., and 2 Hyds. and hose.
Health - 6 x 1.3 B.C.F., and 1 x .9 B.C.F.
Education - 1 water gas, 1 x 4.5 D.C.P., 1 x 1.3 B.C.F.,
1 x .9 B.C.F., and 2 Hyds. and 1 hose.
Transport & Works - 4.5 D.C.P., and 1 x W.S.P.

BESWICK - FIRE EQUIPMENT

Community Development - 6 x 9 l W.S.P., 2 x 1.3 kg B.C.F., and 1 x 3 kg
B.C.F.
Kitchen - 1 x 1.3 kg B.C.F.
Workshop - 3 x Aquis Film Foaming Foam and 1 x 5.4 kg B.C.F.
Residences - 2 x 9 l water (gas expelled), 2 x 1.3 B.C.F., and
1 x 2.2 B.C.F.
Health - 1 x 9 l W.S.P., 1 x 2.2 kg D.C.P., and 1 x 1.3 kg
B.C.F.
Accommodation - 1 x 9 l W.S.P., 1 x .9 kg B.C.F., and 2 x 1.3 kg
B.C.F.
School - 7 x 9 l W.S.P., 4 x 1.3 B.C.F., and 1 x 2.2 B.C.F.
Accommodation - 3 x 1.3 B.C.F., and 1 x 9 l W.S.P.
Power house - 2 x 22 kg D.C.P., 2 x 5.4 kg B.C.F., 2 x 30 m F.H.R.,
and 3 fire hydrants + hose.

Equipment supplied and serviced by Northern Territory Fire Service.

MATARANKA

- 3 x 30 m x 38 mm delivery hose, 1 only "J" adaptor, 1 only branchpipe and nozzle, 1 only hydrant key, 8 fire hydrants, and 1 booster pump fitted to water supply.

Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust Account

627 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that Aborigines on Groote Eylandt have a trust account of \$4m yielding more than \$400,000 per annum interest?
2. Are these Territorians subject to a means test for social service benefits?

ANSWER

1. The Groote Eylandt Aboriginal Trust has over a period of 15 years built up capital of approximately \$4.8m from mining rents and royalties in order to provide for the future of its people when mining is finished. Income on investments for the year 1980-81 totalled \$430,828.
2. Aboriginal people are subject to means testing for social service benefits as are other Territorians. Possession of assets by individuals is not necessarily a disqualifying factor except where those assets are earning an income. The Department of Social Security applies the income test equally to all people. The bulk of the trust's income for the year 1980-81 was devoted to community purposes.

Payments under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act

629 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

In 1981, (a) how many payments, and (b) in what amounts, were made under the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act?

ANSWER

Payments made by the Territory under the provisions of the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act in 1981 totalled \$10,261. There were payments of the following amounts:

	<u>Compensation</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Total</u>
20 January	3,960	301	4,261
27 March	4,000	-	4,000
28 August	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>9,960</u>	<u>301</u>	<u>10,261</u>

Department of Health Debt Collectors

630 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the Department of Health arranged contracts with debt collectors?
2. If so, which debt collecting firms have been contracted to serve each hospital or departmental administrative area?
3. In the case of each of the Territory's 5 hospitals, (a) what is the designation of the officer who makes the decision to use the debt collecting service to obtain payment of outstanding accounts, (b) in how many cases of failure to pay has the debt collection service been used to recover funds, and (c) how much money has been so recovered?

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

ANSWER

1. Yes, an agreement of 6 months duration was entered into on 20 October 1981.
2. Daytona Services, Darwin, have been engaged to serve all of the Health Department establishments throughout the Territory.
- 3.(a) Specific guidelines for scheduling unpaid accounts to the debt collector are laid down in a departmental charging manual. Debtors who have not responded to requests for payment are passed to the debt collector after 14 days.
Officers in each establishment are required to follow those guidelines.
- (b) 2,485 cases.
- (c) \$3,590. In addition Daytona Services have established a number of debtors who have obtained health care cards since treatment and are subsequently exempt from payment.

Hospital Payments by Instalments Scheme

631 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many patients who have received treatment at a Territory hospital or community health centre have elected to pay through an instalments scheme?
2. Are departmental staff instructed to offer a payment by instalments scheme to patients who cannot settle their accounts in a lump sum?

ANSWER

1. 293 patients.
2. Yes. Departmental policy provides for payment by instalments where a debt cannot be paid in cash or assigned to the department. All staff involved in patient charging have been issued with this instruction in the form of a departmental charging manual.

Staffing in Territory Hospitals

632 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many extra staff have been employed at (i) Darwin Hospital, (ii) Alice Springs Hospital, (iii) Katherine Hospital, (iv) Tennant Creek Hospital, and (v) Gove District Hospital to perform extra clerical and cashier duties associated with the new funding arrangements?

ANSWER

Additional staff have been employed at the following hospitals to perform extra clerical and cashier duties associated with the new funding arrangements:

Darwin Hospital 3; Alice Springs Hospital 3; Tennant Creek Hospital 1 (part-time); Gove Hospital Nil; and Katherine Hospital 1.

Psychiatric Inpatients

633 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the rate of readmission of psychiatric inpatients (a) voluntarily, and (b) involuntarily under the Mental Health Act?
2. What is the average length of stay in hospital for (a) voluntary, and

(b) involuntary patients?

3. Are persons who are involuntarily detained required to pay hospital fees?
4. How many patients are currently involuntarily detained?

ANSWER

1. Statistics on the rate of readmission of psychiatric inpatients are not kept.
2. (a) The average length of stay for voluntary inpatients for the year ended 30 June 1981 was 23.8 days.
(b) The average length of stay for involuntarily detained inpatients for the year ended 30 June 1981 was 12.3 days. Of the 34 patients involuntarily detained during this period 21 patients transferred to voluntary status and 4 patients were transferred interstate. The figure of 12.3 days does not include those patients detained in interstate institutions.

The abovementioned statistics were obtained from the Northern Territory Department of Health Annual Report 1980-81.

3. Persons detained in hospital under a court order issued under the Mental Health Act are exempt from payment of hospital fees.
4. Sixteen patients are currently (5 May 1982) detained involuntarily. They are all located interstate.

Public Servants

635 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

How many (a) Commonwealth, and (b) NT public servants were employed in the NT on 31 January 1982?

ANSWER

- (a) Commonwealth - 1,832.
- (b) Total number of NT public servants employed as at 31 January 1982, 11,008 (this includes 844 staff employed outside the Public Service Act, and 161 employees on leave without pay).

In addition, there are a further 3,205 staff employed in various NT government authorities which are outside the Public Service Act, as follows:

- 1,857 in NT Teaching Service;
- 940 in Electricity Commission;
- 330 in Darwin Community College;
- 12 in Jabiru Town Development Authority;
- 12 in Palmerston Development Authority;
- 14 in Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority;
- 7 in Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority; and
- 33 in Community College of Central Australia (teaching staff).

Beef Tenderising Techniques

637 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is he or his department promoting tenderising techniques such as tender stretch and electrical rectal stimulation to make Territory beef acceptable to Darwin housewives?

ANSWER

The government has for some time promoted the home sales of Territory beef and the Chief Minister recently directed the department to step up the campaign and to examine ways and means of making a wider selection of Territory produced quality cuts available to the Northern Territory housewife.

Such developments will cover beef sales production, presentation, packaging and promotion together with the investigation of aids to achieve quality production including tenderising techniques, etc.

Quite recently the department has had a request from a Darwin abattoir for help in developing the usage of such aids and the department is doing everything it can to help.

Hospital Costs, Katherine

638 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. During (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, (i) what did it cost to operate Katherine Hospital, and (ii) what was the bed occupancy rate?
2. What is the estimated cost of operating Katherine Hospital for 12 months with a bed occupancy rate of 85%?

ANSWER

1. (a) 1979-80 - (i) \$3,113,418; (ii) 78.2%; and
(b) 1980-81 - (i) \$3,615,284; (ii) 89.8%.
2. Because of the changes proposed within the Katherine Hospital, which have yet to be finalised, no budget has yet been settled.

Motor Vehicle Accidents

639 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the NT Police Force keep separate figures on motor vehicle accidents involving (a) Territory residents, (b) tourists, (c) Aboriginal Territory residents, and (d) non-Aboriginal Territory residents?

ANSWER

No. The only split up of motor vehicle accidents is in relation to fatalities. These are recorded under Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal only.

Pine Creek Hall

642 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much money (a) has been allocated for the Pine Creek Hall, (b) how much was actually spent, and (c) what happened to any moneys left over during the financial years (i) 1974-75, (ii) 1975-76, (iii) 1976-77, (iv) 1977-78, (v) 1978-79, (vi) 1979-80, and (vii) 1980-81?
2. Has there ever been an audit of the Pine Creek Hall trust account? If so, where can a copy be procured?
3. If the answer to 2. is no, why has not there been an audit?
4. Who were the trustees of the hall as at 16 December 1981?

ANSWER

1.	Year	(a) Money Allocated	(b) Expenditure
(i)	1974-75	*	*
(ii)	1975-76	*	*
(iii)	1976-77	2,440	2,462
(iv)	1977-78	5,736	5,499
		<u>NT Self-government</u>	
(v)	1978-79	4,500	2,430
(vi)	1979-80	4,000	3,400
(vii)	1980-81	3,000	2,324

(c) Moneys left over have formed a surplus in the bank account of the trustees of the reserve. An extensive program will be embarked upon shortly which will effectively use all surplus funds.

* NOTE: A diligent search of the Commonwealth files relating to this matter has failed to find copies of the financial returns prior to 1976-77 financial year.

2. Regulation 7(2) of the Crown Lands (Recreation Reserve) Regulations requires that the financial statement of reserves of this nature be audited. An audit has been performed for each of the financial years listed above, and copies of the auditors' reports may be obtained from the Chairman of Trustees.

3. Not applicable.

4. The trustees for the Playford (Pine Creek) Recreation Reserve, Reserve No. 979, as at 16 December 1981 were: Mr J. Ah Toy, Mr E. Ah Toy, Mrs J. Arnold, Miss M. Liddy, Mrs K. Frazer, Mr B. McPhee, and Mrs M. Moar.

NTEC Employees - Remuneration and Benefits

643 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Which NTEC employees are (a) paid remuneration and or salaries other than at NTEC award rates, (b) what are the salaries paid in these cases, and (c) what other benefits do these people receive by way of, (i) exclusive use of high standard motor vehicles, (ii) credit cards, and (iii) expense accounts?

ANSWER

(a) Assistant General Manager (Commercial).
Assistant General Manager (Planning).
Assistant General Manager (Engineering).
Assistant General Manager (Manpower).
Secretary.
Chief Accountant.

(b) Salaries paid are as follows:

	<u>Salary</u>	<u>Territory Allowance</u>
AGM (Commercial)	\$ 34,804	\$ 1,966
AGM (Planning)	\$ 33,304	\$ 1,966
AGM (Engineering)	\$ 35,804	\$ 1,966
AGM (Manpower)	\$ 33,304	\$ 1,966
Secretary	\$ 34,780	\$ 1,966
Chief Accountant	\$ 33,304	\$ 1,966

(c) (i) Vehicles are not used exclusively by the officers concerned.

Each is permitted home garaging of a vehicle, usually a Mazda 626 or Datsun Bluebird.

- (ii) The group of officers referred to have a credit card to use for travel and accommodation.
- (iii) With the approval of the Board, reimbursement is made of expenditure incurred during the course of their duties.

NTEC Employees - Award Negotiations

644 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Were negotiations for a new NTEC employees award conducted on 30 November 1981, 1 December 1981 and 2 December 1981 at the Travelodge and other places?
2. If so, (a) during the course of these negotiations was a food and drink bill for entertainment on the evening of 30 November 1981 signed in the name of an Assistant General Manager, who was not present, by another person, and (b) what was the amount of the bill?
3. What are (a) the details of all interstate trips made by the Assistant General Manager (Industrial) of NTEC during 1981, (b) the reasons that made each trip necessary, and (c) were any of the trips made for the purpose only of picking up consent judgments of an industrial tribunal?

ANSWER

1. Yes, at the Travelodge conference room.
- 2.(a) Yes. The bar had closed and NTEC management had left. Subsequently, the Manager of Travelodge accompanied by the bar waitress requested Mr J. Lawson of the Electrical Trades Union to sign the docket for \$53 as acknowledgement of the expenditure. Arrangements had been previously made for all expenses to be paid in one account at the end of the 3-day conference, therefore a separate account for the \$53 was not expected on that evening. Mr Lawson phoned the next day to advise he had signed on NTEC's behalf.
- (b) \$53.
- 3.(a) Details of the interstate trips made by the Manager (Industrial) during 1981 are as follows:

11. 1.81	Melbourne	ACTU conference - shorter working week
11. 2.81	Melbourne	ACTU conference - shorter working week excluding APEA, ACOA
2. 4.81	Melbourne	Full Bench hearing - ACTU meeting
14. 4.81	Adelaide	HEC Tasmania, NSW, WA - conference on shorter working week
6. 5.81	Melbourne	Full Bench hearing - shorter working week
20. 5.81	Melbourne	Full Bench hearing
10. 6.81	Sydney	Federal union conference chaired by ACTU re NTEC log of claims
12. 7.81	Melbourne	Claims by ACOA, APSA, ETU heard before Commissioner Brown
30. 8.81	Sydney	Demarcation dispute hearing (SHPS) before Commissioner Brown

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

20. 9.81	Melbourne	SEC (Victoria) ETSA, HEC Tasmania - discussions re wage and condition demands
1.10.81	Brisbane	Commissioner Brown - APEA hearing re new award interventions of POA, ADSTE
12.10.81	Sydney/Cooma	Chairman and Manager Industrial attended conference on disputes SMHEA
10.11.81	Melbourne	Commissioner Brown - hearing re NTEC log of claims - APEA, ADSTE, APSA
30.11.81	Sydney	Commissioner Brown - hearing with federal unions re variations to NTEC award
8.12.81	Melbourne	Consent variations to award - APSA, ACTU conference before Commissioner Brown and subsequent hearing on Darwin negotiations 30 November 1981 to 4 December 1981.

(b) The reasons for each trip are included above.

(c) No - but the NTEC (Employees) Award 1980 is a consent award and all variations are discussed with Commissioner Brown prior to the official hearing and consent matters are included.

Grants-in-Aid 1980-81

646 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. In 1980-81, under the Grants-in-Aid scheme to voluntary community organisations working in the youth, sport and recreation field, how much money was given to these organisations for (a) administration, (b) equipment, (c) facilities, (d) salary subsidies, (e) special projects, (f) training-coaching, and (g) travel subsidies?
2. How much money under the Grants-in-Aid scheme was given to community service organisations in 1980-81?

ANSWER

1. In 1980-81 youth, sport and recreation grants were made to community organisations as follows:

Administration	\$ 29,295.00
Equipment	\$ 28,788.00
Facilities	\$ 774,729.00
Salary subsidies	\$ 175,513.16
Special projects	\$ 120,916.80
Training/coaching	\$ 33,238.45
Travel subsidies	\$ 83,551.95
TOTAL	\$ 1,246,032.36

2. A total of \$1,799,154.27 was given to community service organisations in 1980-81. This amount includes those listed above, as well as the following:

Aboriginal recreation program	\$ 452,490.81
Vacation care	\$ 80,631.10
Life. Be in it	\$ 20,000.00

Mung Beans, ADMA Markets

647 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has ADMA yet established firm export markets for mung beans to be

purchased by the authority this season?

2. If so, where are these markets?

3. What progress is being made with the ADMA market strategy generally?

ANSWER

1. The ADMA estimates that approximately 100 tonnes of mung beans will be produced this season and as this crop shows significant potential, in the order of 40 tonnes will be retained for seed supplies for the 1983 crop.

The remaining 60 tonnes will be offered to buyers both within Australia and in Singapore, when graded samples are available. The authority announced an indicative price of \$350 per tonne for mung beans, but as world price is above that, it feels confident that returns to growers will be most attractive.

2. The Chairman of the authority has made contact with importers in Singapore and, in addition, importers in the United States and Hong Kong have also advised the authority of their interest.
3. The authority has now established a detailed program for handling both grain crops and horticultural crops. The 4 principal crops to be handled through the authority's grain receival depot are sorghum, maize, mung beans and peanuts. Details for delivery to the depot have been made available to farmers and it is anticipated that receivals will commence in mid-April.

Growers delivering to the depot will be paid the following first advances:

Sorghum - \$91 per tonne; maize - \$126 per tonne; mung beans - \$266 per tonne; peanuts - \$245 per tonne.

These prices are significantly higher than prices ruling on the east coast of Australia. For example, the first payment for sorghum in Queensland is \$70 per tonne.

All likely users of feed grains in the NT have been contacted by the authority and they have shown substantial support for having one body organise their supplies of grain.

The authority is also handling horticultural produce on an agency basis, and in a few months time will resume the marketing of rockmelons both interstate and overseas.

Access Road, Bynoe Harbour

652 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What (a) type of development is envisaged that would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road currently being constructed parallel to the old Mandorah Road, (b) what parts of Cox Peninsula will the road reach, (c) where will it end, and (d) what is the estimated total cost of the planned work?

ANSWER

(a) The development of the community at Belyuen generates traffic volumes warranting upgrading the road to the standard presently being constructed. In addition, increasing development in the pastoral, fishing, mining and recreational industries necessitates an upgraded level of service.

(b) & (c) The current 5-year forward program includes proposals to join

the seal between the Blackmore River and Pioneer Creek and to commence some realignment through Bulldog Pass. Further work beyond Bulldog Pass has not been assessed or programmed.

- (d) Bridge and roadworks completed to date have cost \$1.1m. Bridgeworks to be completed this year are valued at \$0.6m. Expected cost of the future works on the current forward program is in the vicinity of 2.3m.

Excursion Funds, Millner and Rapid Creek Schools

658 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How much did (a) Millner, and (b) Rapid Creek schools receive in excursion funds from the department in (i) 1979-80, (ii) 1980-81, and (iii) 1981-82?

ANSWER

The notional excursion allocations under school based funding are as follows:

Millner:	1979-80 - \$ 700;	1980-81 - \$ 650;	1981-82 - \$ 811.
Rapid Creek:	1979-80 - \$ 700;	1980-81 - \$ 600;	1981-82 - \$ 728.

Electricity, Daly Waters

660 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

Under the memorandum of understanding, provision of electricity to all gazetted townships is guaranteed. Is Daly Waters a gazetted town, and if so, why is there no town supply?

ANSWER

There is no guarantee under the Inter-governmental Memorandum of Financial Understanding that a gazetted town will be supplied with electricity by the Northern Territory Electricity Commission.

Daly Waters is a gazetted town under the Crown Lands Act.

All towns in which NTEC now operates are gazetted towns. NTEC does not operate in all gazetted towns but in 18 out of a total of 29. Any decision of NTEC to operate in any gazetted town where it does not now operate would involve considerations of the impact on the cost of NTEC operations as the costs would exceed the tariff revenue.

Police Planning Group

662 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to comments by a spokesman for the NT Police in the NT News on 22 February 1982?
2. If so, which officers comprise the 'planning group' which has developed 'a major crime plan to ensure the efficiency of investigation of serious crimes in remote localities'?
3. What aspects of the use of batons has been under review by the planning group?
4. What new procedures for investigation developed by the planning group have been implemented?

ANSWER

1. Yes. However, the article in the NT News of 22 February 1982 creates a false impression. The police denial in relation to the issue of

bush batons related to a denial that batons would be issued for specific use against Aboriginal people.

2. The 'planning group' referred to in the newspaper article has been involved in a study of batons and not the investigation of serious crime in remote localities.
3. The planning group has considered the lack of a more efficient means of defence between the extremes of use of a short rubber truncheon and a firearm in certain situations.
4. The new procedures of investigation refer to a major crime plan, the implementation of which is under the control of a chief superintendent, recently bolstered by a superintendent, both of whom are independent from the 2 major geographic commands, viz. Northern Command (Darwin based) and Southern Command (Alice Springs based).

Health Clinic, Napperby

669 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has agreement been reached on a suitable site for the proposed health clinic at Napperby Station and, if so, when will the clinic be erected?

ANSWER

A site has been agreed to by the owner of the station and the Laramba Community.

An amount of \$6,000 has been approved under the grants-in-aid scheme to assist the Laramba Community in erecting the prefabricated clinic.

Erection work will be undertaken by skilled labour from the Laramba Community and is expected to commence by the end of May 1982. The clinic is expected to be operational by the end of June 1982.

Foreign Owned Pastoral Leases

678 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many pastoral leases in the Northern Territory are held by foreign interests?
2. Will he provide a list of these stations and details of their ownership?

ANSWER

1. At present, out of a total of 238 pastoral leases in the Northern Territory, 35 are held by foreign interests.
2. Ownership details are publicly available from the Registrar-General's office.

Excise Duty, Fortified Wines

680 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the need to discourage consumption of fortified wines by Aborigines, will he recommend that Commonwealth excise duty be charged so that the basic unit price will be more competitive with other kinds of liquors?

ANSWER

There is at present no Commonwealth excise duty on Australian wines and to impose a duty for the purpose suggested by the honourable member would be a penalty on all consumers. The federal government has consistently

resisted imposing such a duty. In any case a duty would not necessarily achieve the aim of discouraging consumption of fortified wine.

The Northern Territory Liquor Commission, in cooperation with other agencies, is taking definite steps to alleviate drinking problems among Aborigines. Among other action, fortified wine sales have been restricted and some 'dry' areas are dry to any liquor except beer. I have asked the Liquor Commission to keep the option recommended by the honourable member under review with the object of recommending excise duty if such a course becomes necessary.

Petrol Bowser, Mataranka

689 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Was the Shell petrol bowser at Mataranka found to be inaccurate in 1981, and threatened with closure in March 1982?
2. If so, has the fault been rectified?

ANSWER

1. Both Shell petrol bowzers (driveway flowmeters) situated at the Mataranka Hotel were found to be correct in October 1981, and again in March 1982. However, both distillate flowmeters, owned by Shell, are of the bulk delivery type and not suitable nor of a design approved by the National Standards Commission for the use to which they have been put. (Accurate delivery at low flow-rates and volumes of less than 90 litres not being guaranteed). In October 1981 a new proprietor had taken over the Mataranka Hotel and was unaware of the situation in relation to the distillate flowmeters so temporary permission was granted for continued use of the flowmeters and a letter was sent to Shell on 4 November 1981 requiring the matter to be rectified. In March 1982 the matter had not been rectified. Consequently a Verification Certificate was not issued and the flowmeters could not be used pursuant to the Weights and Measures Act.
2. This situation has now been resolved. Shell have purchased an NSC approved bowser for the sale of distillate and are in the process of installing the same at the Mataranka Hotel.

Arthurell and Buckley Case

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

There has been much comment on the recent indictment for murder in the Supreme Court in Alice Springs against Arthurell and Buckley being changed to one of manslaughter. As Attorney-General, have you any comment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not propose to comment on the actions of the Crown Prosecutor in Alice Springs. There are internal arrangements in the Department of Law whereby law officers of the Crown delegate their authority for the presentation of the indictments on behalf of the Crown and indeed in the case of filing a nolle prosequi I might say that I reserve the latter to myself except when I am absent from the Territory and the Solicitor-General has the authority and the power to file a nolle prosequi. Whatever the internal arrangements are within the Department of Law, in the final analysis, I do recognise that the decision in any particular case where it is difficult or impossible to refer to superiors does lie with the prosecutor. In view of the controversy that surrounded this particular matter, I sought, through the Solicitor-General, a report or explanation from Mr Norman, the Assistant Crown Solicitor in Alice Springs, of the reasons for his taking the action that he did. The report is marked confidential. However, I have pointed out to the Solicitor-General that I would perhaps be called upon to use this in the Assembly at this sittings and I do not regard the report as confidential. I did not seek it on that basis; I sought it as the man's political superior. I also propose to table with the report from the Assistant Crown Solicitor a copy of the transcript of proceedings before His Honour Mr Justice Kearney of Alice Springs on Wednesday 21 May 1982 at 2.05 pm which proceedings relate to the sentencing of the 2 people referred to by the honourable member for Alice Springs. Mr Speaker, I seek the leave of the Assembly to table these 2 documents.

Leave granted.

Use of Firearms by Security Guards

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What in general terms are the regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards and what type of training and what level of competence in the use of these firearms by private security guards are required in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am unable to give a detailed answer to the Leader of the Opposition. Nevertheless, I understand the Registrar of Firearms has fairly stringent conditions for the issuing of any firearm licence as prescribed and laid down within the act. I can certainly provide full details to the Leader of the Opposition, probably before the conclusion of the sittings and certainly if he would like to put it on notice.

Sports Insurance

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

Last year the Northern Territory government initiated moves to have the issue of sports insurance fully investigated. What has been the result of this Northern Territory government initiative?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in 1980 there was a very serious injury to one of our Territory sportsmen, Stem Edwards. He was a rugby player. There was strong public feeling that the Northern Territory government should investigate the setting up of

some kind of sporting insurance. After representations from sporting organisations, the Chief Minister sent out 122 letters to the various sporting organisations in the Northern Territory of which he only received 14 replies. Consequently, 10 of those replies led to discussions with the Territory Insurance Office regarding sporting insurance.

Recently, another Territory sportsman, a motor cyclist named Clive Baxter, received a very serious injury whilst competing. The call for sports insurance was made again. I am quite happy to tell members of the Assembly that sports insurance does exist. It exists through 3 venues: the Casplan which is part of the Confederation of Australian Sports Industry; the Aussieplan which is made up by a group of insurance companies; and the TIO.

The TIO has a policy for a premium of about \$46 made up from 2 parts. For a \$25 premium, compensation of up to \$50,000 can be paid for very serious injuries or death. The payment for the loss of a finger is 30% of that \$50,000. A player can pay a further \$21 per season to be eligible for medical benefits of up to \$500 plus about \$200 a week for up to a year. For \$46 a year, a rugby player can insure himself for \$50,000 and also for payment of up to \$200 a week. The rugby league season works out to about 24 games including the finals. For about \$2 a game, a player can cover himself through the Territory Insurance Office. In contrast, a netball player can insure herself or himself for \$5 per season receiving the same benefits of up to \$50,000 or payments of \$150 a week while the injury remains. There is certainly an avenue for Territory sportsmen to insure themselves. The Territory Insurance Office is also open for Aussieplan which covers sports such as motor cycling, car racing and stock car racing. Because of the nature of injuries that can be sustained in those particular sports, the TIO has sought the agency from Aussieplan to implement premiums on its behalf in the Northern Territory. Through this, even in those dangerous sports, insurance is available. I have asked the TIO to advertise the fact that it has sports insurance and I believe that those advertisements will appear in the local newspapers in the next couple of weeks. Also, this week, I will be sending a letter to every Territory sporting organisation relating to particular plans and schedules that are available through TIO. In answer to the honourable member's question, we have been working very hard towards providing cover and I thank TIO and the Treasurer for implementing such a scheme.

Failure to Fluoridate Water Supply

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why were the people of Darwin not informed that fluoride was not being added to the water supply for nearly 12 months? Will he give an undertaking to the Assembly that if this situation recurs in the future people will be informed promptly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would point out to the honourable member for Fannie Bay that the control and admission of fluoride to the Darwin water supply is properly the responsibility of the Minister of Transport and Works. The government fully supports the admission of fluoride to water supplies in the Northern Territory as a part of the caries prevention program in dental care. However, while the Department of Health is the sponsoring department for the program, it does not have the operational control over it. The honourable member's question is really: 'Why weren't the people advised?'. I can only say that I did not advise anybody because I did not know. The moment that it was brought to our attention, the matter was rectified and the people were advised. I believe that, even during this period, there were members of the dental profession in Darwin who were aware that there was no fluoride in the water and were recommending to their clients that they take fluoride tablets of their own volition.

Under those circumstances, I think it would not have been unreasonable for those members of the dental profession to bring it to the attention of authorities. I can give the member an assurance that we too are concerned at the lapse and that every effort will be made to see that it does not happen again. If it does happen again, we will undertake to contact the member and her constituents and everybody else in the Northern Territory to tell them what care they should take.

Jabiru Town Advisory Council

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he give me details of the proposed initial operation of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council so that a streamlined operation can ensue after the recent elections?

ANSWER

The Jabiru Town Advisory Council elections were held on Saturday 22 May 1982 and the results as declared by Mr A.T. Hangan, the returning officer, on 24 May 1982 are as follows: Atkinson 127, Bartlett 39, Court 102, Crone 92, Danielson 145, Green 109, Hobby 30, Main 138, McLaren 87, Nitschke 60, Smith 60, Tenthly 97, Urquhart 64 and Ward 74. Mr Hangan declared that Kaye Teresa Danielson, Eric Macdonald Main, David Neil Atkinson, David G. Green and Gilmore Alexander Court were duly elected as members of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to announce that the 3 nominated representatives will be Mr Geoff Stolz, the Chairman of the Jabiru Town Development Authority, Mr Ray McHenry, the Co-ordinator General, and Mr Allan MacIntosh, the senior staff member of Energy Resources of Australia, a man who has been resident of Jabiru for many years. By many people, he is regarded as the pioneer of Jabiru.

Mr Speaker, officers of the JTDA will be meeting with the elected representatives on Wednesday evening, on an informal basis, to discuss some preliminary matters which we hope will lead to an early first meeting of the council. Certainly, I would like to bring before this sittings of the Assembly an amendment to the Jabiru Town Development Act which will enable the formal constitution of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. The election is the most significant milestone in the life of this new town. I look forward with keen interest to the progressive establishment of the town advisory body and I hope to be able to attend the first formal meeting of that body myself.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Course Commencement

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action has he taken to expedite the commencement of the BA degree course at the Darwin Community College?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have noted the honourable member's interest in this matter over the last few days. It is a shame that he cannot get his facts right occasionally.

There are 3 elements involved in the commencement of the Bachelor of Arts course or any new degree course at the Darwin Community College or anywhere else in this country. Of course, the first one is accreditation. If it is conducted in a university then that is assumed. The second is the Tertiary Education Commission's approval for that course to commence. The third is for the Commonwealth government to ensure recurrent funding for the course.

Since the commencement of the Commonwealth Act, responsibility for advanced education in this country lies solely with the Commonwealth in respect of any advanced or degree course. An agreement was entered into at the last Perth conference of the Australian Education Council that no state would commence an advanced level course without the clearance of the Tertiary Education Commission and without direct funding by the Commonwealth. While, of course, that suited the states and the Commonwealth to prevent the massive duplication that was occurring in many areas of advanced education throughout the Commonwealth, we could not see then the disadvantage at which we would be placed as a result of that decision.

Mr Speaker, the position at the moment is that the course is accredited, subject to the employment of additional staff which requires additional Commonwealth money, additional library resources in particular and resources generally. The Tertiary Education Commission has repeatedly indicated, through its various reports, that it is opposed to the establishment of an internally-conducted Bachelor of Arts course at the Darwin Community College, a view which is wholly rejected by the government and, I dare say, by every member of the Assembly. Nonetheless, in its last letter to the Post School Advisory Council at the end of January this year, the TEC indicated that it recognises there has been a very strong desire for a Bachelor of Arts course to be commenced here. It must be very astute indeed; its powers of observation stagger me. It has pointed out that that being the case, while it still objects to the launching of such a course, there are certain conditions upon which it would agree to it.

Its acknowledgement of its willingness to agree to it is contained in a most extraordinary letter of 29 January. It says, on the one hand, and I will read from it: 'In its report on the proposal to establish a University of the Northern Territory, the commission indicated that it would consider proposals for the introduction of new UG3 level courses' - that is, associated diploma level courses - 'at the Darwin Community College within the level of funding available for the 1982-83 triennial. It did not however support the diversion of resources' - and that word is very important later on - 'to provide courses such as the proposed Bachelor of Arts by internal mode'. Mr Speaker, it favours the Northern Territory being tied to some other university elsewhere and doing it through a new school of external studies which is recommended for establishment by the TEC. It goes on to say that the TEC maintains this view but, 'in light of the apparent strong support for the course in the Northern Territory, it would not object to the introduction provided it can be assured that the course can be offered within the already legislative resources and without prejudicing the provision of existing courses in either the advanced or TAFE areas of the college'. It then goes on to say: 'In relation to the request for additional funds, I have to advise that, as funding for the triennium is fixed, there is no possibility that funds allocated to the Darwin Community College can be increased for the 1982-83 period'. That is funds overall not just the proposed Bachelor of Arts course for which it has quite consciously said no additional funds will be available. 'Furthermore, it cannot be assumed that the commission would be prepared to recommend a level of funding for the next triennium, 1984-87, specifically to accommodate the course'. That is the Bachelor of Arts course.

On the one hand, we have the Tertiary Education Commission saying to us that it would not object to the course commencing provided it would not in any way affect the existing courses or indeed the UG3 courses which it has subsequently approved. The funding shall be within the allocation already made for 1982-84 and there will be no additional funds for 1984-87 and beyond to accommodate the course. We are in a total catch-22, and the Tertiary Education Commission and the Commonwealth know this. We cannot commence the course without additional resources being made available and without adversely affect-

ing those courses which are already running - that is, by way of having to impose quotas. The moment you impose quotas, the normal usage of the English language says it would affect the course. Worse still, if within the funding made available in this triennium the Darwin Community College was to wind down at least on growth if not on existing quotas and student numbers for existing courses, what would happen to us in the next triennium if, as the TEC has made clear, there is no guarantee of additional Commonwealth funding? As the course grows in student numbers and in the required number of lecturers under the report of the accreditation panel, the net result would obviously and of necessity be a significant reduction in the level of existing courses. This flies entirely in the face of what the TEC itself has said about its being essential that these things do not happen. Coupled with that, there is no guarantee of Commonwealth funding to cover the course. The Commonwealth has made it clear that, if any state were to go into the provision of advanced courses outside of the TEC's funding and recommendations, then the Commonwealth would seriously consider reducing that state's general subventions by the equivalent amount of the cost of mounting that course.

The TEC has indeed placed us in an absolutely impossible position with this letter. I have had a series of drafts from the Darwin Community College which went as far as suggesting that perhaps the TEC would accept quotas being imposed on existing courses. The letter before me clearly outrules that as a possibility. Further, we cannot have a situation where we have no guarantee of funding for the next triennium. The result would be catastrophic for existing courses.

As the honourable member is aware, there is to be another meeting of the Australian Education Council in Alice Springs in July and, no doubt, the Acting Chairman of the Tertiary Education Commission will be attending. Certainly, the federal minister will be attending. I intend to point out as forcefully as I can the dilemma in which this letter and the present Commonwealth attitude places the Northern Territory. For a number of reasons, not least of which is to form the basis of a secondary teacher education program, we require a Bachelor of Arts course. Given the present attitude of the TEC and the Commonwealth it is absolutely impossible. I intend, as forcefully as I possibly can, to point out to the Commonwealth minister the impossible position in which they have placed the college and the Northern Territory in its aspirations. I hope the matter can be resolved but the only way it can be resolved is a guarantee of funding by the Commonwealth for this course.

Emily Gap Farm Area

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of the concern expressed by residents in the Emily Gap farm area who are not connected to the sewerage system? Can he advise when those residents might reasonably expect to be connected to the sewerage system in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would hope that the department will be in a position to call tenders for that work in about 2 weeks' time.

Bridge Across Rapid Creek Mouth

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

At what stage are the investigations into the possibility of a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek? Will he make available at this sittings details of traffic flows expected to be generated from such a bridge?

ANSWER

There is no plan at this stage to bridge the Rapid Creek mouth.

Sadadeen East Industrial Subdivision

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the Gazette of 14 May in which there is a note that a contract has been arranged with Willing and Partners of Darwin for a headworks storm-water drainage study of the Sadadeen East industrial subdivision. Does the government intend to proceed with the development of the Sadadeen East industrial subdivision regardless of the outcome of his series of talks with the Mbantuarinya Council in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has not changed its plans in relation to this subdivision. I have been holding a number of talks with Aboriginal groups in Alice Springs over the last several weeks and it is quite obvious that there is a great deal of disagreement even among Aborigines themselves in Alice Springs as to what is or is not regarded as a sacred site. There is considerable disagreement amongst some Aborigines as to the traditional hierarchy of the ownership of the Alice Springs area. There is also a lot of dissatisfaction about some of the organisations which purport to speak on behalf of all Aborigines. Unfortunately, there has been a tendency for Europeans to regard Aborigines in too broad a classification. It would be much the same as looking at the white population of Australia as all being Europeans without having regard to the various cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

There is considerable disagreement between the Aboriginal groups on various issues. Whilst I am continuing my investigations into this matter in Alice Springs, and have arranged for other people to make further inquiries on my behalf to try and get a satisfactory resolution, the government's plans have not changed.

Sadadeen East Industrial Subdivision

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Which people has he directed to make inquiries on his behalf in regard to the Sadadeen East industrial subdivision?

ANSWER

I think it is inappropriate for me to announce to this Assembly the names of all of those persons who work for me or for the government and what their relative tasks are. I feel that a minister has the ability to direct people as he sees fit within his powers to undertake inquiries and investigations. I do not see why I should disclose any further information on this subject.

Local Government Funding from Commonwealth Tax-Sharing Arrangements

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

An alderman recently informed me that the Darwin City Council was only receiving 1.75% of personal income tax under the Commonwealth tax-sharing arrangements. The agreed amount is 2%. Is he able to inform me if the Darwin City Council is receiving the 2% agreed to under the Commonwealth tax-sharing arrangements.

ANSWER

It would be a matter in which the Northern Territory government would have no say. It is part of the Commonwealth's revenue distribution from tax revenues. The figure, as I understand it, is 2%. Any funds sent to the Northern Territory under that 2% arrangement would have to be by way of tied grants. We would be obliged to hand that on to local government at the rate of 2%. Quite clearly, that alderman is in error.

School Councils

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will he introduce the legislation necessary to enable school councils to be incorporated under the Education Act?

ANSWER

I hope that I am not on the pension before it happens. I would like to inform honourable members as to the difficulties in this proposal. The Council of Government Schools Organisations put to me its request for legislation to allow for automatic incorporation of school councils under the Education Act. That request came in the form of 1 sentence. We must examine just what that entails. I have a very detailed submission before Cabinet at present which I am quite happy to inform the Assembly was deferred at the last Cabinet meeting for further legal consideration.

What we are really attempting to do by way of amendment to the Education Act is to provide a mechanism covered substantially by the Associations Incorporation Act. All honourable members know the complexity of that act. All of the powers and privileges which go with incorporation and perpetual seal are, as a matter of law, required to be parallel to those contained in the act that I have just mentioned. It is not a matter of a simple amendment schedule. What we are trying to do is incorporate in 1 piece of legislation the protection, powers and privileges contained in a complete act of this parliament. It has resulted in an extremely difficult legal dilemma. I have referred the matter back to the Department of Law for further consideration. The Department of Law quite rightly has grave reservations about this Assembly embarking upon that particular course of action. I am aware that a number of school councils, in frustration, are thinking of incorporating under the Associations Incorporation Act. I would very much like to discourage that. I am hoping it can be resolved under the act which relates to education and that they do not consider sending their statutory returns and so on to the Registrar-General who surely has enough to do without having to worry about multiple school councils being registered under the Associations Incorporation Act. Nonetheless, any proposal to legislate for automatic incorporation with a seal carrying perpetual succession and judicial notice must of necessity be an extremely complex legal exercise.

Pet Meat Regulations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he tell me if pet meat regulations will demand that pet meat be died with methyl violet, brilliant blue or some other aniline dye?

ANSWER

Regulation 46 of the regulations under the Abattoirs and Slaughtering Act currently provides that pet meat must be identified by dusting all surfaces with powdered charcoal or by spraying them with a prescribed dye, namely methyl violet or tartrazine. In fact, only tartrazine has been used by pet meat operators. Sometimes, this dye is not easily seen with the naked eye, particularly when the meat is minced. The meat substitution fraud highlighted the need for pet meat to be more easily identified. The eastern states have agreed to adopt brilliant blue dye to identify meat. I am preparing the addition of brilliant blue to the list of prescribed dyes in regulation 46(3) of the Abattoirs and Slaughtering Act. This will ensure that Northern Territory pet meat can continue to be sold in eastern Australia. Any pet meat that enters the eastern states that is not stained with brilliant blue dye will be destroyed. Meat stained with tartrazine can continue to be sold in the Northern Territory and in South Australia. Pet meat in Western Australia has to be strip branded with blue dye.

Temporary Fire Station at 14-Mile

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following a commitment by the minister on talkback radio last week that the temporary fire station at the 14-mile will be manned throughout the dry season, why was the station closed yesterday which was a very high fire risk day? Is it still his intention to honour the assurance he gave last week?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, because the station was not open yesterday, I have asked for a full report from the fire brigade. When I have it, I will pass that information to the member for Nhulunbuy. I might add that I was disappointed to hear that the station was not manned yesterday, particularly as it was a very high fire risk day.

Fog Bay Prawn Fishery

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he received a reply to the telex he sent to the Northern Fisheries Committee asking for their support for the Territory's proposals for the forthcoming meeting to discuss possible protection of Fog Bay?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a reply has been received from the federal minister in which he says that, in view of the information available to him through the various committees that service the government, he is not prepared to reconvene the Australian Fisheries Council at this particular time. Instead, he has suggested that the Northern Fisheries Committee provide a wider basis for the submission to go through the standing committee which will meet in August for further consideration by fisheries' ministers in October at the Australian Fisheries Council.

Pet Meat Regulations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

If it is to be mandatory to dye pet meat purple or blue, can he tell me what regard he has paid to the pet meat industry or the views of pet owners?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, on 21 December 1981, a public meeting was convened to enable all persons concerned with the pet food industry to discuss this particular question and the provisions of the new legislation. This meeting was advertised in the local press and people were invited to submit objections, recommendations and so on. The situation is that any pet meat which in future enters the eastern states and is not dyed with brilliant blue will be destroyed. Consequently, if the Northern Territory pet meat operators wish to market in those states, they will be required to conform with those requirements. Obviously, the people involved in the meat substitution business have created a lot of stress for themselves and others by not having requirements like this. Pet meat stained with tartrazine can continue to be sold in the Northern Territory and South Australia so that options remain for Northern Territory pet meat operators.

Commonwealth Houses

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HOUSING

What progress has been made in arranging for the transfer of 24 Commonwealth houses to the Northern Territory government where the occupants have accepted voluntary transfers to the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the details of this matter. If the honourable member cares to place a question on notice or write to me, I can certainly give him the information.

Mr Smith: I have already written.

Free Trade Zone in the NT

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

How would a free trade zone aid the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question is certainly a very general one and would probably be much better answered by me in an adjournment speech. In fact, I have said much on the subject already in public forums and in this Assembly. I have absolutely no doubt that a free trade zone located adjacent to Darwin would be a tremendous boom to the Territory economy especially if it were related to the completion of construction of the railway from Alice Springs to Darwin. My Office of Policy and Planning is presently working on a detailed submission to put to the federal government for the establishment of a free trade zone within the next 12 months or so. You would appreciate that such a submission must be in considerable detail and we will certainly be up against considerable opposition. I would like to say that I have already had indications of support from ministers in the Queensland government. It appears that we may be able to get some support from some of our colleagues elsewhere in Australia for this most important breakthrough in the interests of northern development.

Bynoe Harbour Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

During the last sittings, I asked the minister what development is envisaged that would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road constructed parallel to the old Mandorah Road, what parts of the Cox Peninsula will the road reach and where will it end. The minister asked me to place this question on notice and I wonder if he could give me an answer at this sittings.

ANSWER

The honourable member did not place the question on notice. However, I will obtain that information and provide it to him later in the sittings.

Cane Toads

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

The cane toad poses a very real threat to the environment of the Northern Territory. What steps has the government taken to ensure that the cane toad is kept out of the Territory?

ANSWER

I know that the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production are both extremely concerned at the prospect of the cane toad, that presently seems to be based mainly in Queensland, moving eventually into the Northern Territory. I do not want to say that such an event is inevitable because I hope that it is not but I understand that cane toads are now prevalent in the gulf area in Queensland. It would seem that, unless we can erect something in the nature of a cane toad fence rather like the rabbit fence that they used to have between the states of Queensland and New South Wales from memory, it seems that the canetoad may eventually at least move into the gulf

area of the Northern Territory. This is a shame. I do not really think that cane toads have any evil effect on the environment. The problem is that they are most offensive and obnoxious. The Conservation Commission will be doing everything it possibly can, in cooperation with its fraternal bodies in Queensland especially, to ensure that toads do not get into the Northern Territory.

Since a recent incident which occurred on an aircraft coming to Darwin from Cairns when some very misguided practical joker apparently let loose some cane toads on the plane, letters have been written to TAA, Qantas, Ansett and Airlines of Western Australia asking them to attempt to step up inspection procedures of people boarding planes. Letters will also be written to departments in Queensland asking them if they can assist and cooperate in this way. Mr Speaker, every practical step will be taken to try to keep cane toads out of the Northern Territory but it is a rather difficult task when you have almost insane people moving around the country who are prepared to play practical jokes of that type.

Grumman Trackers

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Following the representations both he and I and other people have made to the Minister for Defence, has he received any assurance that the Grumman Trackers which were to have been mothballed will be redeployed in northern Australia for northern surveillance and defence?

ANSWER

I wrote to the then Minister for Defence at the time when I understood that the Grumman Tracker aircraft would be coming off HMAS Melbourne. I suggested that they should be based in Darwin so that the crews could continue to obtain good operational experience. To the best of my knowledge, I have received no response to that letter at this stage. I am grateful to the honourable member for Nightcliff for reminding me of the matter because apparently my office has not operated on that one. Certainly, I will follow it up with the new Minister for Defence, the Honourable Ian Sinclair. I am not certain whether he will be attending the federal Cabinet meeting to be held in Darwin in the course of the next several weeks. If he is, I will raise it with him there but I will certainly be writing to him again seeking some positive response from him.

Emily Gap Farm Area

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer him to a previous question and answer on the connection of sewerage services at the Emily Gap farm area and to the fact that I have received representations on that matter, and ask why he did not respond to my communications to his office on this matter?

ANSWER

I did receive the telex from the honourable member early last week. Consequently, I only found out myself last Thursday that I was able to proceed with the full program of providing sewerage services in Emily Gap. I returned to Darwin from a Cabinet meeting at Cobourg Peninsula last Friday and have been so busy that I just forgot to tell him that I had finally obtained Cabinet approval to proceed with the full development in that area.

Mudginberri and Munmarlary Pastoral Leases

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the current position and standing of the Mudginberri and Munmarlary pastoral leases?

ANSWER

The former Mudginberri and Munmarlary pastoral leases are in fact now owned by the Commonwealth under a freehold title.

Mudginberri Export Abattoir

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position of the Mudginberri export abattoir?

ANSWER

I understand that a group headed by Mr J. Pendavis is attempting, in co-operation with the Northern Land Council, to reopen and recommence operation of the Mudginberri abattoir. I am sure that you, Mr Speaker, and all honourable members will be extremely pleased to hear this. Mr Pendavis has told me that he has a contract with a German concern worth \$5m over the next 12 months for the supply of buffalo game meat to the German market. This can only be of great value to the Northern Territory economy. I think it is most important that we attempt to retain these markets and avoid situations caused when abattoirs close for a year and then reopen only to find that they have lost what are pretty tight markets. The problem is that the titles to Mudginberri and Munmarlary are presently freehold in the Commonwealth. It is very difficult to assist Mr Pendavis by way of finance. The NLC, not being yet title holder, is unable to grant him anything other than an indication that it will give him a lease for a term of years. I believe that security was to have been taken over certain chattels, the plant of the abattoirs, for quite a substantial loan. You will appreciate, Mr Speaker, that I do not want to go into full details of all the financial arrangements here simply because Mr Pendavis is entitled to some confidentiality. He has applied to the NTDC for a very substantial amount of money. Security is the problem. The government does want to see the project go ahead. It realises its worth to the Northern Territory. I should perhaps mention that I was informed late yesterday that the Gagudju Association appears now to have bought in to the transaction and it seems to be claiming ownership of the chattels. This issue too will have to be cleared up and that can only further complicate the matter. Late last night, I spoke to the Co-ordinator General and asked him and Mr Pendavis to try to bring all the parties together around a table with a view to resolving the whole situation as quickly as possible to try to have the abattoir opened in May. I think the situation could be resolved if the NLC were prepared to guarantee to the NTDC the performance by Mr Pendavis of the terms of the security to repay the substantial loan of money.

'Boozers are Losers' Campaign

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The cost of the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign against alcohol abuse was some \$175,000. Will he make public the evaluation of that 'Boozers are Losers' campaign which was carried out by the Health Department?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put the question on notice. I will obtain the details and advise her.

Private Doctor a Nhulunbuy Community Health Centre

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has there been any agreement reached between a private doctor and the Department of Health regarding office space in the Nhulunbuy Community Health Centre? If such an agreement has been reached, what are its terms?

ANSWER

I ask the member to put his question on notice.

Register of Members' Interests Bill

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the government intend to proceed with the Register of Members' Interests Bill which has been on the Notice Paper since 1980?

ANSWER

At this stage, I am not sure that the government intends to proceed with this particular piece of legislation. I seem to recall a second-reading debate where there was a deal of acrimony about the terms of the bill. It seems to have stayed on the Notice Paper ever since. The Assembly was very much divided over the provisions of that particular bill and it may well be that it will have to lapse from the Notice Paper and a further piece of legislation introduced. Frankly, I have not given it a great deal of attention over the past year or so.

Housing for Aboriginal Health Workers

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer him to an undertaking he gave in October last year in regard to housing for Aboriginal health workers on Aboriginal communities. Has his department contacted these health workers in all regions to establish their housing requirements and has he advised the Housing Commission of those requirements?

ANSWER

For the benefit of the honourable member, I point out that housing for public servants is really the prerogative of the Chief Minister. However, I would just make the point that, so far as accommodation for health workers in remote areas is concerned, this contentious issue has been going on now for some time and with some difficulty. One of the answers to a question that I put to a meeting of health workers in Alice Springs and again in Darwin a year later was very simply this: would you please advise us what is the nature of the accommodation you want in your respective communities? That question was very deliberate because, in the past, we have been very good at building buildings in communities, particularly in remote areas, that were not accepted by the people concerned and, in some cases, were abandoned. While I am quite warm to the idea of providing accommodation for health workers - and this will become increasingly important as we Aboriginalise the Rural Health Service - there is a need for Aboriginal health workers to tell us what they perceive as their needs in terms of accommodation. From that point, we will have something from which to go forward. It would be unfortunate and unnecessary for the Northern Territory government to build 3 and 4-bedroom brick homes as the needs are perceived by our community and find out after some time that they were not what the Aboriginals wanted and that they would have been much happier with something else. Mr Speaker, the matter is not a dead issue by any means. It is one that still needs to be negotiated and I am more than happy to do my bit. I would emphasise again that the prerogative in this area lies purely with the Chief Minister.

Buffalo Shooting

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he tell me why the tenders called for the shooting and taking of buffaloes in the Mudginberri, Munmarlary, Cairncurry Plain and Cannon Hill areas have been withdrawn?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am advised that these buffalo tenders were withdrawn as a result of a negotiated agreement between the Commonwealth, the Northern Territory and the proposed operator of an abattoir in the area. These areas are under Commonwealth control. It is clear that, as part of the arrangements with the Chief Minister that were mentioned earlier in answer to another question, the Commonwealth did not want the Northern Territory to let tenders for the collection of buffalo from these areas because it obviously has other plans in mind.

Budget Reduction for Gove District Hospital

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Could he confirm or deny that in excess of \$140,000 will be slashed from the budget of the Gove District Hospital?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask him to place his question on notice.

Use of Tourists to Eradicate Feral Animals

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TOURISM

Has he considered using tourists, particularly international tourists interested in hunting, to eradicate feral animals such as buffalo and pigs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, eradication of feral animals has been addressed in many ways over the last few years. I believe that a couple of years ago we were paid a visit by a distinguished army gentlemen from Canberra who had similar thoughts in mind. He came in response to an inquiry made of him by the then head of the department. As far as the tourists are concerned, there is a very small market for trophy animals which is currently serviced by 2 safari operators in the Top End. They operate to a very strict code of ethics. I do not believe that the plan suggested by the honourable member would be viable but I thank him very much for his question.

Housing for Aboriginal Health Workers

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to the previous question on housing for Aboriginal health workers and his answer to that question. Is he saying that his department is awaiting advice from Aboriginal health workers as to their housing needs?

ANSWER

Most certainly I am waiting for advice from the conference of Aboriginal health workers in both the northern and southern divisions that I have addressed in the past 2 years on this particular matter. I do not recollect receiving a communication from these groups in relation to the discussions we have had on their perceived accommodation needs. If any such information has been submitted, it has not been brought to my attention.

Redistribution of Electoral Boundaries

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the government to call for a redistribution of electoral boundaries in the Northern Territory in 1982? If not, when is it the intention of the government to have such a redistribution?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not yet studied the census results for the Northern Territory closely but I think it is fairly obvious to most people in the community that a redistribution of seats in this Assembly will become necessary as a result of the provisions of the self-government act which relates to the tolerances that must exist between seats representing areas of the Northern Territory. Therefore, it will become necessary, if my presumptions are correct, for a redistribution to take place.

The government has not considered this formally at this stage and no steps have been taken as yet to organise a redistribution. There are still at least 2 years of the government's term to run and, technically speaking at least, it may not expire until August 1984. There is more than adequate time for a redistribution to take place. If a redistribution were to take place too early, I believe that it would lead to confusion amongst the people that we are supposed to be representing. Whilst this is something that I do bear in mind, it is not something that I have on the urgent list at this stage. It is possible that we could do something before the year is out. Now that the Opposition Leader has raised it, I will look at it more closely within the next month or 6 weeks and decide, in consultation with my Cabinet colleagues, what steps should be taken. At present, the government has not decided on any steps to be taken in relation to a redistribution.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In the interests of brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication in the Northern Territory, what will happen to the buffalo in the Mudginberri, Munmarlary, Cairncurry Plain and Cannon Hill areas in view of the fact that the tenders for the removal of buffalo in these areas has been withdrawn?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, Cannon Hill and the Cairncurry Plain are no longer viable tender areas for buffalo harvesting. The Cannon Hill tender area is currently being amalgamated into Mudginberri, and Cairncurry Plain into Munmarlary tenders. Consequently, 2 tenders will operate now instead of 40. The government has withdrawn its tenders and new tenders will now be issued and operated by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. The national parks involvement arises from an agreement with the Aborigines on the operation of the Mudginberri abattoir. These areas of private property are owned by Aborigines and, if local pet meaters want to operate on them outside of the tender arrangements, they will have to negotiate directly with the Aborigines. With regard to the tuberculosis and brucellosis eradication program and buffalo on Commonwealth land, from now until 1984, as many buffalo as possible will be cleaned out of all Crown-owned land, including the Commonwealth land, through the tender system. In 1984 destocking will commence. The government has a proposal about to go before the Cabinet which provides for marshalling yards to be established in the general region of Annaburroo. A plan has been devised to accept female buffalo which will not be allowed to go to slaughter this year. Females under 3 years will have to go through a domestication process either on a government-controlled establishment or on a private property which has an approved domestication program. The government will purchase those females from the catchers and will allocate them after one satisfactory TB test that

has been undertaken. As I indicated, these plans are preliminary. They are before the government and we will announce this proposal in the weeks ahead.

Aboriginal Health Worker Training Scheme

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have discussions taken place with the Aboriginal communities concerned about the proposed reorganisation of the Aboriginal Health Worker Training Scheme in the East Arnhem and northern regions? When will those concerned be advised of the government's intentions in this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some time ago Dr John Hargrave was appointed as Assistant Secretary of Health within the Department of Health in the Northern Territory. Since his appointment, he has embarked on a review, with the departmental people concerned, on the future of Aboriginal Health Worker Training Service, as we now know it, and the training systems and methods that we should adopt in the future, where we should situate the training centre and how it should be run. I can advise the honourable member that there has been a great deal of consultation at just about every level of the department, from Dr Hargrave through to the health workers in the field.

The current thinking of the department, as I am aware of it, is that the health training centres for Aboriginal workers, as we know them in Darwin and Gove, will cease to operate. Katherine will be the administrative centre for the Aboriginal health worker training program. In fact, the training program will be run by an institute of which most of the management members will be Aboriginals or people very heavily involved in the Aboriginal Health Worker Training Scheme. I do not know the exact structure of this part of the department but, if the honourable member is interested, I will be more than happy to provide it for her.

Mr Speaker, let me also say that there are strong demands coming from within the department at the moment at all levels for the training of Aboriginal health workers to be more formally recognised, and that they have a greater level of training so that they can progress in a very orderly and recognised manner. I can only say that the process of evaluation that is going on at the moment is really one of evolution rather than revolution. As the program firms up, probably before the end of this year, I will be in a position to advise on the specific details. If the member for Fannie Bay so desires, I will make a statement in the Assembly next week.

Public Service Housing Sales Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Are any changes to the public service housing sales scheme under consideration in respect of officers who are purchasing their houses in Darwin under the scheme and are subsequently transferred to remote localities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you and all honourable members would be aware of the public service home sales scheme. It is a scheme that is strongly supported by the government because we do want our public servants to put down roots in the Northern Territory. Therefore, we have made the terms of the scheme as favourable as we possibly can. Bearing in mind the fact that people out in the cold grey world at present are in fact paying up to 22% to obtain money to buy themselves a roof over their head, you will be pleased to hear that employees in the public service under certain levels can purchase their houses at an interest rate commencing at 8½%. You would appreciate that this scheme has been put forward by the government with the genuine desire that public servants avail

themselves of it and become permanent residents of the Northern Territory. We believe in that because we believe it gives us a more stable public service. Certainly, houses are readily saleable but, when one buys a house, it has a greater psychological effect on one than when one is just renting. It increases one's commitment to the place where one is living.

Mr Speaker, the government has been disappointed over the past few years at the rate at which public servants have actually taken up what we consider to be an extremely generous offer to purchase. We have been examining ways as to how we can increase the acceptability of the scheme to public servants. From time to time, suggestions have come forward to Cabinet. Obviously, a gradual upward movement in public service rents must make the public service home sales scheme much more acceptable to public servants, especially when one bears in mind that, at present, public service rents would run at approximately 33.33% of rents payable outside the public rental through the Housing Commission. It is not that I believe that we should want the general rates of rental to be high - we certainly do not - but it is a question of supply and demand. Most of the schemes which seem to come forward from time to time to build substantial amounts of rental accommodation seem to run into problems with planning objections and things like that. Obviously, the supply has to go through the gauntlet of many obstacles to attempt to keep up with the demand.

Mr Speaker, I am sure that the honourable member for Sanderson would only ask this question on the basis of an informed source. Perhaps I did not catch the innuendo. I am not aware of any particular differentiation that would exist between public servants in remote localities and public servants in urban areas. The position is that, in remote localities, many public servants are unable to purchase their homes for various reasons. Most of us know the reasons for that in Gove. I think the same reason operates in Alyangula. In most Aboriginal communities, if not all, purchase is impossible. We are attempting to enable public servants in Jabiru to buy their houses. Certainly we are working on that. It is a very complex situation, perhaps even more complex than the situation in Gove. There the land is owned by the Aboriginal people. The company holds a lease over the town. The only sort of security that can be given is a sublease for a term of years. I think the mining company's lease in Gove expires in about 32 years. Therefore a judgment must be made as to whether one wants to buy something that has a very finite life. I am sure that when most of us consider buying a property in the normal situation we think of it as being there forever. In Gove, people have to balance the various pros and cons and decide whether to purchase if and when the opportunity arises. I think it will arise shortly as a result of amendments that were passed for Housing Commission tenants and public servants to buy their houses. They will have to make what is a difficult decision in those circumstances.

If I have misunderstood the question asked by the honourable member for Sanderson, I would be happy to discuss the matter with her later or perhaps she would like to give me notice. Quite frankly, the question she asked did not ring any particular bell with me.

Old Darwin Hospital Area

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Future use of the old Darwin hospital area has been a concern to many of my constituents. Have any further proposals for the use of that land been considered or put forward and, if so, is he able to inform me what those proposals are?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I advised the honourable member at the last sittings that a proposal had been received which was unacceptable to the Department of Health. At that time, I was taking the matter to Cabinet. At this stage, I can only

advise the honourable member that we have not been able to identify people who see the use of that hospital for a private hospital as a viable proposition. That does not mean that there is not someone out in the world who could operate it as a private hospital. We just have not found anyone. At this stage, I can advise the honourable member that the Health Department has wound down its activities on the site. We have transferred the accommodation to the Public Service Commissioner's Office for its control. The maintenance and control of the buildings now lie with the Department of Transport and Works. If any proposal of interest should come before us before the government has done something with the buildings in the years to come, I will advise the honourable member. Certainly, there has not been anybody who is prepared to take it on.

Gunn Point

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to public access for recreational purposes to the Gunn Point area. In December, during the sittings of this Assembly, the Chief Minister advised that a second draft plan of management was being prepared by the Conservation Commission. Has such a plan been received and will he release it for public scrutiny and comment?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, no such plan has been received from the Conservation Commission. Certainly, I do not recall reading one and I think I would have. Therefore, all I can do at this stage to satisfy the honourable member for Nightcliff is to say that I will have inquiries made of the Conservation Commission as to the status of that proposed recreational area plan. I know that various other matters have come before Cabinet or my ministerial colleagues have discussed them with me. I believe that steps are in hand to upgrade the road into Gunn Point. I know that the Forestry Unit of the Conservation Commission, at my direction, relinquished its tenure on certain land and buildings at Gunn Point and has handed this over to the Department of Community Development with a view to the Gunn Point Prison reserve being stabilised and the rest of the area being made available for public recreation. These things have been happening. This is a matter actually dear to the hearts of a couple of people in Cabinet so it comes up from time to time. I suppose that I had better pull my weight and try to get this recreation plan out of the Conservation Commission as soon as I reasonably can. I have every intention of producing the completed document for the edification of all honourable members. As you would appreciate, Mr Speaker, ministers take an interest in their portfolios although we probably do not always succeed to the satisfaction of everyone in this room. If we do read such documents, we occasionally send them back in the hope that, at least in our opinion, they will be improved. That is what has happened in this case.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he been officially notified by Airlines of Northern Australia that it intends to cut back its operations to 5 services per week to Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs? Is he aware that the services may be cut to 3 per week, and will he assure the Assembly that any such moves will be resisted by his government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received a proposal from Airlines of Northern Australia. I actually received it about a fortnight ago. In that proposal it requested the government to consider reducing the frequency of services to the centres mentioned by honourable member. Its proposal was for a 5-day-a-week jet service,

Monday through Friday, and presumably some kind of commuter service on either Saturday or Sunday. Over the past 12 months, Airlines of Northern Australia lost nearly \$1m and asked the Northern Territory government if it would review its proposal because it did not want to lose any more money. I discussed the proposal with my Cabinet colleagues and we have taken the view that, until such time as full consultation takes place with the Tennant Creek council and the Katherine council, we will not consider it further. I have asked Airlines of Northern Australia to go down with officers of the Department of Transport and Works to talk to the people in Tennant Creek and Katherine. Once we have received advice from those places, we will be able to consider the proposal.

I might add that, over the last 12 months, Airlines of Northern Australia has provided what I consider to be a good and efficient service to the Centre, particularly in light of the fact that, after the collapse of Northern Airlines, there was a loss of confidence in those areas for people using air services. I think it has taken Airlines of Northern Australia at least 12 months to regain that confidence. In its proposal, it states it does not intend to tamper with other services such as the Alice Springs-Ayers Rock run. That will continue twice a day, 7 days a week. The government has an agreement with Airlines of Northern Australia that, if there are only 2 or 3 passengers going to Ayers Rock on any one day, a smaller aircraft may be used.

The subject of the use of smaller aircraft on Saturday or Sunday will be considered when talks are arranged with the operators when we receive advice from the officers after discussions with the council. We shall try to arrange for flights on Saturdays and Sundays between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and Katherine and Darwin. However, it is a matter of economics. At the moment, there are only about a half dozen passengers who travel from Alice Springs to Tennant Creek, Tennant Creek to Katherine and then on to Darwin. I have been told that sometimes the aircraft has between 15 and 30 passengers. That is misleading because many of those weekend passengers are not charged in full. They are charged \$5 or \$10. For example, I believe that Airlines of Northern Australia moved a group of boy scouts around one weekend and only charged them \$5 in order to give them a ride to another centre.

There is not a lot of traffic on the weekend. I think we have to be sensible about this. We want this service and I believe that frequency of services has been provided in the past 12 months. Now there is a departure from that but I believe that a jet service that can operate 5 days a week will engender more traffic between those centres. The agreement we had with Airlines of Northern Australia through Ansett Transport Industries was that it would provide a jet service within 2 years. I believe that it would like to start this service early in August.

TEC Letter on BA Degree Course

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

This follows on an answer he gave me yesterday in connection with the BA degree course at the Darwin Community College. Would he advise the Assembly whether the letter he received in January from the TEC has been made available to anyone in the relevant faculty at the Darwin Community College and would he be prepared to supply me with a copy of that letter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, most certainly I would make a copy of that letter available to the honourable Leader of the Opposition. As to the first part of the question, the draft suggested replies were provided to me by the Darwin Community College on the basis of that letter. I assume from that that the college must have a copy of it.

Installation Cost to Tap Water Supply on Arnhem Highway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that, if landholders down the Arnhem Highway wish to tap into the mains taking water to the proposed Humpty Doo village centre, it will cost \$5000 for each installation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member forewarned me of this question. It is important to distinguish between fees levied by my department for tapping and meter installation and those incurred by each landholder for the installation of a pressure-reducing valve and delivery pipeline. Tapping fees range from \$30 for a 50mm main to \$80 for a 150mm main. Similarly, the cost of meter installation varies from \$30 to \$50 depending on the width of the main. Installation of a pressure-reducing valve and delivery pipeline is undertaken as a private arrangement and is not the responsibility of my department. The cost involved could vary considerably depending on the size and service, the length of pipeline and the type of the terrain involved.

Aerial Medical Base for Arnhem Region

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the base for aerial medical operations for the Arnhem region to be moved from Nhulunbuy to Katherine?

ANSWER

Could I advise the honourable member that, at this stage, there is no proposal to move the aerial medical base from Nhulunbuy to anywhere else. I would also advise the honourable member that, as stated in the press, there is a review going on at the moment within the department on the future of the aerial medical and aerial support operations. That is for both the northern and southern regions. If the member has any particular point that he would like to be considered by the internal inquiry, I would be more than happy to see that it finds its way to the department.

Rehabilitation Facility for Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer him to a report in the NT News of 14 May in which he suggested that evidence of the effectiveness of the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign is that there was an increased number of people attending rehabilitation facilities in Darwin, particularly at Amity House. When will he ensure a similar cost effectiveness assessment will be possible in Alice Springs by assisting the establishment of a similar rehabilitation facility in that town?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, let me say to the honourable member that I am very conscious of the fact that not only in Alice Springs but in Tennant Creek, Katherine and Nhulunbuy we have yet to establish satisfactory rehabilitation units. I might point out to the honourable member that the slowness in establishing these units is not the want of money or the lack of will but the wherewithal in terms of manpower and facilities to provide the sorts of services that we need. I believe that one of my challenges for this 12 months is to see that, in each centre, we have rehabilitation units established for the care of people who have severe alcohol or drug problems. If the member has any suggestions, I would be only too pleased to listen to them. In fact, at this stage, I would advise the honourable member that I have gone to the trouble of writing to a wide range of groups including religious orders to ask them whether they would be prepared to assist in the field that we are about to

enter because the work is very onerous. It needs people with a great deal of personal commitment to the work. Providing all the services through the department is not the answer.

South-east Asian Beef Markets

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he assure Territory cattlemen that the government is making every effort to gain greater access to the South-east Asian beef markets?

ANSWER

It is true that the Northern Territory government, since 1 July 1978 and even before that, has made strenuous attempts to achieve greater marketing capacity, in particular to diversify away from the American market which has had a stranglehold on the marketing regime for Northern Territory cattle, particularly the Top End, since about 1959. In following those strenuous efforts, Mr Speaker, you yourself led a delegation in April 1978. Delegations again went overseas to South-east Asia in 1978, in September 1980, in October 1981, in January 1982, in February 1982 and in February-March 1982. I think the government has been very active in this area. In addition to that, a proposal to market domestic standard beef has been submitted to the Australian government. The Chairman of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation is not particularly impressed with this proposal. However, we have also contacted the overseas trading countries that may wish to adopt this proposal and we believe that it is a realistic one. Obviously, our efforts have not resulted in any major successes except that we have established firm friendship over the years. If we keep on with our marketing impetus, in the long haul we will be successful.

Fire Station at 14-Mile

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that there is no water available at the fire station at the 14-mile in the Darwin rural area and that there has not been for some time. In fact, the fire tender has to go into the Darwin Rural Caravan Park to fill up? Is he also aware that the telephone that is connected to this waterless fire station is also non-functional? It does not matter if people cannot ring up because the fire brigade cannot put the fire out anyway.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that what the Leader of the Opposition has said is true. Apparently, somebody has got into the 14-mile station and has taken a few of the facilities away. This has stopped the men from manning it. I understand that someone has stolen the toilet, disrupted the electricity supply, diverted the water supply and this had made the station uninhabitable. I believe it will be operational by tomorrow.

Fred's Pass Police Office

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What will be the future of the Fred's Pass Police Office when Palmerston becomes habitable?

ANSWER

I think that the future of the Fred's Pass Police Office is brighter than the 14-mile fire station. If any of the inhabitants of the rural area see fit to steal the toilet from the Fred's Pass Police Office, they will be in big trouble. I think what the member for Tiwi is referring to is the future of Fred's Pass Police Office after the establishment of a police facility at Palmerston. I believe that the Fred's Pass Police Office will remain open

after the Palmerston Police Station is established. Work should soon start on the new police headquarters at Berrimah. After that has been completed, all police patrols or at least those out of normal business hours will be made from that headquarters.

Bees Creek Road

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

There are a great number of residents in my electorate who are forced to use Bees Creek Road as an access road onto the Stuart Highway, sometimes several times a day. Could he advise if and when his government intends to upgrade and seal this badly corrugated dirt road?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Santa Teresa Police Station

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the request for the permanent staffing of the police station at Santa Teresa preferably by a policeman who is a family man and, if so, has he made any decision in this regard?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure that the permanent staffing of Santa Teresa police station by a police officer who is a family man would be in the best interests at all times of his family. In any event, we have a policy in the police unit these days that these remote areas stations, wherever possible, be staffed by 2 policemen and preferably 3 policemen. You must have 3 policemen to ensure that 2 are always on the job. In these remote area stations, the police spend half their time more or less keeping themselves operational. They have their generators and vehicles to maintain before they can even start their police work. I do remember a request coming in from Santa Teresa for a full-time police officer to be based there. The story is that there is a police facility there that they man at weekends. They man it at weekends because that is when things become pretty horrid from time to time at Santa Teresa. The reason they become horrid is that some people at Santa Teresa - and I am not slurring the community at all; I know them well - imbibe too freely of spirits and other liquors. This changes their personalities considerably and they become aggressive and nasty whereas most times they are happy, gentle and generous. The solution is not to have 1 policeman at Santa Teresa. At times when you have these problems, you need a platoon of policemen and it would be unfair on a policeman to base him there alone. It is a community problem and the community has to face it. When I am going around Aboriginal communities, many say there are considerable police facilities in Aboriginal communities. Almost every Aboriginal community wants a policeman in the belief that it will stop the grog problem there. One cannot just agree to it because it will not stop the grog problem, as experience has shown, and it will make life very hard for 1 poor policeman and intolerable, in many cases, for his family.

I think the answer that has been given to the Santa Teresa community is that we are sorry but we will not base a policeman permanently at Santa Teresa. Santa Teresa has been put on the list of places that will be given consideration for the establishment in due course of a full-time police facility. For the information of members, to establish a police station these days in a remote area costs \$1m for the police station and houses. From the latest budget estimates, it can be seen that it is not a cheap thing to do and therefore it has to be worth while.

The present Commissioner of Police, in whom I have complete faith and confidence, has said that the police should be mobile. They should not be tied down to look after generator sets and things like that where it can be avoided. They should get around and do their police work. His view is that, whilst a police presence in strategic areas is necessary, it is more necessary to get the police moving around amongst the community where they can be seen. In simplistic terms, for instance, he would prefer that a police car be pulled up on Bagot Road talking to 1 offender, with its blue lights flashing, than there be 3 motor cycle policemen roaming up and down Bagot Road attracting little attention. He feels that police should be very visible.

I hope I have not disgraced too much from the point. It is a very complex situation. Police are sent to Santa Teresa at weekends. We sympathise with the plight of the community but essentially it is a community problem. Communities have been put on the list and none of them will be missed. It will take time, Mr Speaker.

Red Cross Facility at Darwin Hospital

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is there a proposal for the Red Cross to relinquish its facility at Darwin Hospital in Casuarina and for it to be taken over by a private pharmacy?

ANSWER

I have absolutely no knowledge of the honourable member's proposition, Mr Speaker.

Liquor Commission Employee

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why was a member of his personal staff on the interviewing panel to select an employee for the Liquor Commission which was, of course, an appointment within the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have anything to do with the appointment of people to interview panels or boards of appeal or anything within the public service. From time to time, the Public Service Commissioner's Office contacts my office to see whether certain people are available to sit on a board or an interview or what have you. I do not influence this nor have anything to say about it. It is a public service matter and I leave it in that area.

Medical Condition of Donald Tait

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the medical condition of Donald Tait, a prisoner at Darwin Prison who, it is alleged, has been fasting for in excess of 80 days?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in partial answer to the question, the motion for which notice was given yesterday by the honourable Leader of the Opposition will be debated today. Let us face reality. The Irish record has been broken well and truly. It is absolutely impossible that the gentleman is not eating. The last medical report I had a couple of days ago indicated that Mr Tait's general health - particularly his blood pressure - was greatly enhanced. In fact, it has been brought back to normal without medication. The gentleman is in no danger whatsoever. Quite clearly, of course, if anyone continues not to eat properly for a very lengthy period of time, that person will end up in trouble. There is no problem at the moment.

Police Station for Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What sort of police station will operate at Palmerston, with what facilities, how many staff and how many working hours per day?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a nice question. There will be a shop-front police station built at Palmerston eventually. It will be staffed according to the demand and will remain open for up to 16 hours a day. For the first period, demountable facilities, which I understand are at Jabiru, will be placed at Palmerston to cover the patrol of construction sites and provide other police facilities. As I said earlier, when the new Berrimah police complex is completed, located as it will be in a very central situation, all mobile patrols, at least after business hours, will generate from Berrimah.

Cost of Display at Royal Easter Show in Sydney

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What was the approximate cost of the Northern Territory display mounted at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney last month?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my understanding of the Northern Territory involvement at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney was the use of the audio visual program mounted in the amphitheatre which has been used for that purpose over many years. That particular exercise was very successful. Some 17,500 people actually sat down and watched that audio visual program. I attended there for 1½ days and worked on the stand myself. It was a very successful exercise, far better than any we have done before. I do not have the actual cost but it involved the wages and salaries of several people from our tourist bureaux and the rent of space at the Royal Sydney Showground.

Basketball Courts at Darwin Community College

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I understand that the government has received a request to provide \$3000 to resurface basketball courts at the Darwin Community College to enable the under-16 national netball titles to be held in Darwin. Does the government intend to meet this request?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the reason for the request was to enable the 2 parts of this sporting carnival to be held in proximity to each other. It would be obvious to all members that that is not a function of the Department of Education. On the other hand, clearly there was no other avenue of government funding which would be directly responsible or in a position to be held responsible for such a grant. I believe it to be a particularly worthwhile exercise and additionally it will upgrade the Darwin Community College courts. I was quite happy to approve the grant.

Blood Tests for Drugs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware of the existence of practical tests to detect drugs, other than alcohol, in blood? What is the cost and reliability of such tests and how simple are they to administer?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is that I am not aware of any tests that are available. If it would be of any help to the honourable member, I will ask the department to pursue the matter and to investigate whether such tests are available.

Fire Prevention Services for Winnellie Area

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that the principal fire prevention vehicle for the Winnellie area is 1 Bedford truck carrying a 1000 gallon tank? Is it intended that the facilities be upgraded considering that this fire station services a heavy industrial area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, my understanding of the fire service at Winnellie is that it provides a service to the industrial area and some infrastructure to the rural area. The Darwin and the Casuarina stations cover areas which they can reach in about 4 or 5 minutes. I understand that the equipment at Winnellie may be old but it is adequate. At the same time, there are proposals to upgrade certain pieces of equipment in the next financial year.

Boundaries of Darwin City Council

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has an official approach been made by the Darwin City Council to extend its boundaries?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, the answer is no.

Winter Uniforms for Southern Region Police

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister indicate whether or not winter uniforms will be made available for police in the southern region this year?

ANSWER

I cannot answer this question specifically. I would be surprised if winter uniforms would be withheld from police serving in the southern region this year if it has been the practice to issue them in previous years. I think the police have certain clothing entitlements. I am quite certain that the Police Commissioner will ensure that those entitlements, which are contained in the police award, are met.

Koolpinyah Station Boundaries

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

On 9 March during the last sittings, the minister advised that the matter of redrawing the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station was under discussion by the government. Is he yet in a position to advise anything further regarding such discussions?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Wells Building

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he yet advise the date of the proposed demolition of the Wells Building?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member the exact date. However, I can tell her that tenders will be called shortly for the demolition of the Wells Building.

Land Grants to Old Timers' Group

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he tell me what criteria are adopted when considering a grant of land to an old timers' group?

ANSWER

The government does not discriminate against old timers' groups at all. The criteria used for assessing applications for land for an old timers' group are much the same as that for other community and sporting-based groups. Checks are made firstly on the bona fides of the group concerned. From time to time, we have applications from people who, though perhaps genuine in intent, are not quite aware of the requirement of owning land and the expense involved. The selected area is examined for its availability or not. The resources of the group are examined. Many community-based groups would be making applications to the government for assistance to develop land which the government grants them. Checks are made as to whether there is a likelihood that the group's application would be supported by the relevant arm of government. In regard to an application for land in rural Darwin which has been received from a rural group representing old timers, I can advise the honourable member that the application is being processed at present.

Federal Subsidy for Electricity Costs

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Has the government received an assurance that the federal government will extend the subsidy on the fuel used in the generation of electricity as well as a guarantee of capital funds for the construction of the new power-station? What approximately will be the level of the subsidy for the financial year 1982-83 and what is the level of the contribution of the Commonwealth government to the construction of the Channel Island power-station?

ANSWER

This matter has taken up considerable time of myself and the Chief Minister over the last several months in a continuous series of meetings with federal ministers and the Prime Minister. There have been other meetings with federal officers by officers of our Treasury Department, NTEC, the Northern Territory energy consultant and others. The matter has been referred a couple of times to federal Cabinet and has gone a number of times to the Territory Cabinet. At this stage, it has not been completely resolved. There are still negotiations about ongoing operational subsidies for the Northern Territory as well as assistance by the federal government for the Territory to obtain additional generating capacity for the longer term as mentioned in the Memorandum of Understanding. Honourable members will be aware that the subsidy from the federal government which has existed since self-government for the generation and indeed capital expansion of the electricity system in the Northern Territory has been very substantial. It has represented some 50% of the cost of running the Northern Territory electricity supply and has in effect meant that all Northern Territory electricity consumers have been paying bills which represent about 50% of the actual cost of generating and distributing that electricity.

The matter of further subsidy is certainly very important to the Territory because enormous sums are involved. The annual subsidy at present is in the vicinity of \$50m. We have been negotiating with the Commonwealth on what basis this arrangement will continue. As soon as some definite position is resolved with the Commonwealth, we will certainly be informing the people of the Northern Territory.

Sacred Sites

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What constructive consideration is he giving to the involvement of considerations of sacred sites in the planning processes of his department in Alice Springs and other centres in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the planning process* and the land development process in the Northern Territory have existed for some time and are fairly clear. There is a series of public measures involved to elicit comment from the community, be they Aboriginals or others, as to how they see the development of our towns and suburbs. There are opportunities for them to object and suggest alternatives. Various arms of government regularly consult with Aboriginal organisations on particular projects which are planned for the Northern Territory. In addition, there are procedures under the Sacred Sites Authority in the Northern Territory whereby Aboriginal sacred sites or alleged sacred sites can be put forward for registration and, more importantly, declaration. That in turn provides a measure of protection for Aboriginal groups which have sacred sites declared as sacred sites.

Advertising of Frozen Fish

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Most people are aware of the dangers of refreezing food products. In that context, is it an offence to advertise fish as fresh when they have been frozen?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will refer the question to the legal people.

Letting of Contract to Brisbane Firm

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is it a fact that a contract was granted to a Brisbane firm Retrographics for \$0.25m giving that company a 5% margin on the basis that it was a local industry? Is it true that the contract was granted on 31 March, the same day that this company applied to have its business name registered in the Territory, thus making it ineligible for such a 5% allocation? What action has the Treasurer taken on this matter?

ANSWER

I am unaware of the matters the honourable member raises but I will certainly institute immediate inquiries and report to the Assembly on the next sitting day.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns recent criticism of the proposed Yulara Tourist Village. Can he reply to the criticism concerning the type of accommodation which is presently under consideration?

ANSWER

Yesterday, I tabled various documents relating to the Yulara Tourist Village project and I notice that, in the last few days, the Chairman of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association, who incidentally is one of the operators of a motel at Ayers Rock which is due to be closed down in approximately 1984 pursuant to various arrangements made many years ago when the motels were first leased, has criticised the nature of the accommodation proposed to be established at the Yulara Tourist Village. The burden of his complaint has been that there is no middle range or low-cost accommodation for tourists such as that available at Ayers Rock at present where the motels are of a relatively low standard and, in some cases, of rudimentary construction. Obviously, the amount being charged to persons using the motels, particularly package deal tourists, is relatively low. Most of the tourists who use the motels at Ayers Rock also use the motels at Alice Springs where they pay a rate which is certainly higher than they pay at Ayers Rock at present. The best answer to the question might well be for honourable members to look at the various proposals contained in the documents that I tabled yesterday. I will also read a couple of letters, one written by myself to Mr Bucholtz and a second more recent letter written by the Director of the Conservation Commission to Mr Bucholtz. The first is dated 1 April and is from myself to Mr Bucholtz:

Thank you for your letter of 16 February on the above which I regret I have not answered earlier. The answers to your questions are as follows. Firstly, the figures quoted by White Industries Limited are estimated tariffs used for the purpose of establishing viability of the hotel operations and the resort generally. They are not necessarily the tariffs to be applied to the hotels. These tariffs will be a matter for the hotel operators themselves and there is no suggestion that they have to adhere to those quoted in the development documents. The tariffs of over \$100 per room per night, to which you referred, are those tariffs used above after allowing for inflation in later years for the purposes of the analysis. They are not necessarily those which will apply to the resorts. Tariffs of \$80 and \$60 per room per night for the 5-star and 4-star accommodation respectively will mean that tour operators will be offering room rates of \$40 and \$30 per head respectively for accommodation and I am advised that these rates are not substantially higher than that currently applicable on a per head basis.

It is the government's intention that the opening of new facilities will be phased in with the termination of the existing leases.

Mr Speaker, I think that is what is continuing to generate a great deal of heat and light. The village is planned to be operational towards the end of 1984.

As to the progress of the project, the necessary legal agreements and documentation between the government and White Industries are in the final stages of preparation and site works are expected to commence in the very near future. The development of one 250-room hotel instead of 2 hotels, one of 200 rooms and one of 100 rooms, was an option considered by White Industries with a view to minimising capital costs. The option was, for various reasons, rejected and the development is proceeding as originally conceived; that is, with the 2 hotels initially.

Completion of the facilities will proceed in the following order: firstly, camp grounds, bunkhouses and associated facilities; secondly, resort No 1, 100 rooms; thirdly, resort No 2, 200 rooms, hotel, retail complex and other buildings and facilities; fourthly, in December, discussions had not then been held with the various Aboriginal groups in the area on housing accommodation. These discussions are currently in progress to determine their requirements and the appropriate solutions. Please accept my assurances that the government has been involving the tourist industry in the Yulara Village Project to keep it informed on development. However, you will also appreciate our desire to ensure that information about the project is factual and not taken out of context. To achieve this, we will be endeavouring to improve public knowledge and awareness of all aspects of the project as soon as the current negotiations are finalised.

There is considerable correspondence from the Director of the Conservation Commission in between, but I think this is the last letter to Mr Bucholtz from Dr Letts. It is dated 25 May;

I refer to your letter dated 21 May, detailing a request from your association for an alteration in the standards of accommodation to be provided at the proposed Yulara Tourist Village resort. In your letter to the Chairman of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission, dated 27 April 1982, you detailed the results of the survey conducted by your association amongst major tour operators to determine what the tourist industry will require by way of accommodation at Yulara.

As you know, this information has been tabulated so that it may be checked against the market analysis for the Yulara resort prepared by Peat, Marwick and Mitchell. At our meeting on 17 May 1982 with the Chairman of the Tourist Commission, you explained the views of industry representatives about the range and adequacy of accommodation to be built at Yulara and it was noted that these were somewhat different from the views expressed by organisations contacted by the consultants. In some instances, different people in the same organisations expressed different views.

Overlooking that point, I outline the full range of accommodation which was envisaged and, relating this to the tabulated summary of your survey, it appeared there was not nearly as much difference between the market and the current plans as has been contended. I do agree, however, that previous publicity and briefings have tended to centre on the poor facilities and there is a need for further communication between the commission and the industry to present a full picture of the total range of accommodation options.

At our meeting on 17 May you agreed to extend your survey further and provide additional information and I understand this will now be available by Wednesday 27 May.

In fact, as I understand it from Dr Letts and Mr Poole, the Tourist Commission Chairman, on the understanding that additional information would be provided at a further meeting, there was an agreement that, in the meantime, there would be no communication between the parties via the media. In breach of his undertaking to the 2 government officials, Mr Bucholtz straight away issued a press statement to the media and to date, as far as I am aware, has not provided the additional information that he undertook to provide.

Whilst the agreed scheme for the Yulara tourist resort includes the construction of one 3-4 star hotel of 100 rooms and one 4-5 star hotel of 200 rooms, it should be stressed that detail of design has only just commenced and matters of interior finish and standards are yet to be determined. The information being provided by your association will be taken into account when this is done. Negotiations will also commence in the near future with potential end users and the final standards and design detail will need to ensure that these facilities are sold to meet the existing market at economic rates. The design of the camping area facilities will be flexible enough to cope with the increased domestic market expected following the sealing of both the Peterman Road and most of the Stuart Highway. The camp grounds will also include bunkhouses to cater for 126 persons in the lower tariff range.

The construction program is being developed to cater for projected increases in demand on accommodation at Ayers Rock and takes into account the capacity of the building industry and the desirability of establishing a cash flow. The program will not damage the tourist industry but will enhance the facilities available to visitors to Ayers Rock.

As negotiations with end operators proceed, the course of action to be taken with respect to booking requests for the 1984 tourist season will be determined. Leases on existing motels extend to the end of 1984 and it is anticipated that these facilities will accept bookings until that time. I look forward to receiving the additional survey information to be provided by you.

Mr Speaker, it is unfortunate that this controversy has blown up publicly. It is unfortunate in many ways that the existing motels have to close but that decision was taken quite a long time ago by the Reserves Board or the Park and Wildlife Commission or the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service even before this government came on the scene. I do believe that it is a decision we must adhere to because the motels are, generally speaking, not of a very good standard and, furthermore, they are located very close to the rock within the national park. We are trying to make this a model concept for tourist development by harmonising with the environment, a concept that should be capable of being followed successfully in other areas of Australia. The tourist facilities will be all concentrated at the Yulara Tourist Village area. I can certainly understand Mr Bucholtz's personal feelings about having to close his motel in a foreseeable time. Nonetheless, there are opportunities for people presently at Ayers Rock in the village if they choose to avail themselves of them. I understand that at least 2 other motel operators at Ayers Rock have made application to be involved in the village project and I know of 1 other motel operator who is seeking to involve himself elsewhere in the tourist industry in central Australia. To the best of my knowledge, Mr Bucholtz has not taken any such step as this.

Mr Speaker, the position is that we will do everything we possibly can to cooperate with existing operators. We will do all we can to meet the requirements of the industry and, indeed, it is to meet the requirements of the industry that the Yulara Tourist Village project is going forward. It is supported by detailed feasibility studies and I have no doubt that when it is completed it will meet the requirements of the industry.

Removal of Motels in Ayers Rock Vicinity

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that the Chairman of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association has repeatedly asserted over the last few days the preparedness of motel operators to remove their motels from the vicinity of Ayers Rock, and that he bitterly resents the accusations of self-interest made by the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I received a telex from the Chairman of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association only yesterday or the day before. Quite frankly, it was an abusive telex and it made no mention of such preparedness to remove his operations adjacent to Ayers Rock.

Barramundi Management Plan

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

A barramundi management plan was introduced in January of this year. Is he able to inform me what progress has been made with the management plan for the barramundi fishery?

ANSWER

The major objective of the plan was to reduce the potential fishing effort within the barramundi fishery that was becoming an increasing threat to the livelihood of barramundi fishermen and the barramundi resource. I am pleased to say that to date the plan has been extremely effective in reducing the potential fishing effort. Figures to hand show that the number of barramundi licences issued in 1981 was 111. To date this year, 87 licences have been issued, 10 whole licences have been surrendered and 79 net units have been bought back under the net buy-back system. This represents an expenditure of \$79,000. In total, 134 net units have been removed from the fishery under this plan. This includes units redeemed by the reduction in net length. These figures represent to date a percentage reduction in potential fishing effort on 1981 which equals 36.3%. Mr Speaker, continuing consultations are taking place with the industry as to the future management of the barramundi fishery. To date, no firm decisions have been taken about other modifications to the management regime.

Royal Commission into the Australian Meat Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does he intend to take any action following the statements made by Mr Lawrence Ah Toy to the Royal Commission into the Australian Meat Industry? Mr Ah Toy stated that a well-known problem in the meat industry in the Northern Territory was alcoholism and corruption among DPP inspectors. I for one would like those statements either substantiated or laid to rest?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter has not been put finally to rest. In fact, I have been asked to give evidence at the Royal Commission in Melbourne. I was unable to do so in Darwin because of other pressures. I think it was a very unfortunate reference in that it undermines the quality and the operation of those dedicated people of the Northern Territory meat inspection service. We will address this matter in due course.

Air Fare Concessions for Old-age Pensioners

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will details be available regarding air fare concessions to old-age pensioners?

ANSWER

As honourable members would be aware, it is proposed by the government to introduce the scheme on 1 July. I am currently putting a submission to Cabinet as to the exact method of operation of the scheme. The dilemma with this sort of matter is the rate of the protection the government provides against abuse of the taxpayers' money and the administrative cost in providing that protection. If watertight systems are introduced, the genuine recipients of such schemes are put to a great deal of frustration.

There are a number of different options available. There could be a system of warrants by the government for one way of a return trip. One would assume the safest way to do that would be for the warrant to cover the return trip so that in fact the government is not paying for a person to export himself from the Northern Territory. Nonetheless, from the airlines' point of view and from the pensioner's point of view, there is quite a lot of rigmarole involved in such a system.

Another way would be for the department to issue a warrant to the pensioner for the full value of the return air trip upon the payment of half in cash or by cheque to the department. By far the simplest way would be for the department to give the cash to the pensioner or eligible person to half the value of the nominated trip. Obviously, that would be the most simple way but it would also be the method most open to abuse. I suppose the department could require the pensioner to retain his ticket for 6 months after the trip is made. If abuse of the system is suspected, the department could ask for the ticket. Then we have the problem of a pensioner undertaking the trip and genuinely losing his ticket. Where does that leave us?

It is not an easy problem. The convenience of the airlines involved has to be considered. They staff their establishments to the business of running an airline and not to complex government systems. On the other hand, this has to be offset against the protection of the public interest in that it is the taxpayers' money that is involved. All of these options will be considered by Cabinet, hopefully, on Friday. I may be able to give some information to the Assembly during the course of the sittings next week.

Farmers Co-operative at Adelaide River

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it a fact that the farmers cooperative at Adelaide River is to be closed down? Has this pressure been applied by the Chairman of ADMA and does this leave ADMA in a total monopoly position regarding the purchase and sale of feed grains in terms of local production in the NT and the Kimberleys?

ANSWER

As with all Northern Territory Development Corporation loans the details of the clients' affairs are confidential. The co-operative represents the interests of a number of rural producers and, accordingly, I am prepared to give the honourable member some information. The co-operative has been in serious financial difficulty over an extended period and consultations have taken place between it and the NTDC. It has been decided that it would be in the best interests of all concerned for the cooperative to discontinue its activities. To precipitate such a winding down, the NTDC, in consultation with the co-operative, intends to call in outstanding loans.

I would like to place on record my comments that the Adelaide River co-operative has played an important role in the development of cropping in the Douglas-Daly area. It finds itself in difficulty due to the fact that volumes of grain from the northern region are still relatively low and substantial capital costs have been required for its operation. A course of action is now being determined by the NTDC in consultation with the co-operative to effect the co-operative's winding down.

Repairs to Assembly

Mrs LAWRIE to SPEAKER

Can he indicate to the Assembly the cost of the repairs which have just been carried out to this antiquated building to stop it falling down around our ears?

ANSWER

About \$32,000.

Eye Specialist for Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise what the present situation is concerning the recruitment of an eye specialist for Alice Springs Hospital and also what is the general situation concerning the recruitment of specialists for Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I can advise him that, since early last year, we have had considerable difficulty recruiting eye specialists for Alice Springs. There are 2 specialist positions in the town and one became vacant last year as a result of a resignation and the other one became vacant by a promotion when Dr Mahmood was transferred to Darwin. The very short answer is that it is not a problem of money and it is not a problem of will or desire. There is a very great difficulty at the moment in attracting eye specialists to the Territory. In fact, the department will be advertising Australia-wide again in the next couple of weeks to try to attract people to the positions.

I am not hopeful at this stage that we will get a successful applicant but I can assure the honourable member that processes are being put in train to ensure that, by locum or some other system, we do have these services available to the people of Alice Springs until the positions are filled permanently. I might also advise that we have been looking for some time for a specialist anaethetist and there has been some difficulty also in recruiting someone to this position. Again, it is not a matter of the department's will or desire or a lack of money. It is simply the fact that we cannot get people to apply for the positions that we advertise.

Commencement of Mining Act

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As there is some conflicting advice on this question, could he please inform me when it is expected that the Mining Act 1980 will be brought into operation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, off the top of my head, it is 1 or 2 July 1982, but I will obtain the information for the honourable member and confirm it in writing.

Minister for Health's Visit to Hermannsburg

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to the press release he put out after a visit to Hermannsburg in which he referred to a putative invitation by a group of traditional owners, and to yesterday's copy of the Centralian Advocate in which was published a statement that the Hermannsburg Council President had refuted claims by the minister that he had been invited to visit the settlement. Did he receive such an invitation and from whom?

ANSWER

I did receive an invitation. While I would normally be happy to advise the honourable member whom it came from, I think there are times when it would be appropriate for me to say: 'Mind your own business'. On this particular occasion, I received representations from Alice Springs when the department and NTEC were negotiating with the traditional owners over the pipeline. The honourable member would be aware that we had some difficulty, in the early stages, over the Aboriginals' understanding of what the government was trying to do in acquiring and securing an easement for the pipeline from Palm Valley to Alice Springs. Very simply, as I understand it, the traditional owners affected by the Palm Valley pipeline project live in or around or are related to Hermannsburg in some way. I was asked to go and explain the government's position. They acceded to that and I was happy to go. I could not argue with the premise that I was not invited by the president of the Council. Certainly, he did not invite me and I never inferred at any stage that he did. But I did receive an invitation from constituents who also happen to be traditional owners in this matter. I went not to talk to traditional owners but to constituents.

From time to time, ministers of this government will be required to talk to people in the Northern Territory who have interests in land claims, leases, sacred sites and a whole range of other things with which the government deals. I do not wish at any stage to intrude on the activities of the land councils or to offend the principles of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act in negotiations. When a constituent asks me to come and talk to him, I feel that I am obliged to do that. On this particular occasion, I went to Hermannsburg at the request of constituents. I advised the Central Land Council that I was going. It sent a representative to the meeting and I had absolutely no difficulty with that person. I believe that the meeting was satisfactory. Points of concern were raised and discussed and the exercise was very productive and a fruitful one.

McMinns Lagoon Pumping Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the population in Darwin that can be served from the McMinns pumping station and what steps are being taken to increase its capacity and duplication?

ANSWER

A population of 90,000 people can be served from the present pumping station. At the moment, we are duplicating the Darwin River Dam to McMinns pumping station line.

Transfer of Particular Health Services to Private Enterprise

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Given that the Health Department is currently negotiating with various private firms to hand over drug and medical supply, radiology, pathology and pharmacy services - all traditionally supplied by the Health Department in the

Northern Territory - and given the concern of Health Department staff and members of the public about the implications of these proposals, when will the minister announce details of the government's intentions to hand over these services to private enterprise?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is nothing the government can do to prevent private people coming to the Northern Territory to establish pharmacy, x-ray, pathology or any other health services. In fact, in the rest of Australia, this is quite a normal function. So far as the Health Department is concerned, and I have said this on several occasions, it is reviewing everything it is doing, particularly in relation to how private operators may enter the field in the Northern Territory. That is something we cannot stop even if we wanted to. People should be able to have the choice of doing one thing or the other. Could I assure the honourable member that, so far as consultation with the staff is concerned, that is going on continually. I believe that I have spoken to every section of the hospital administration at Darwin Hospital. My most recent discussions were with the people involved in pathology. We met for 2 hours one night to discuss the matters that were under consideration. I would emphasise the point that there are no big secrets and no devious schemes. There is nothing to hide. I am happy to tell other people anything that I know about it. When there is some definite proposal to put to people, I would be more than happy to discuss it with them if they feel there is a need.

Transfer of Particular Health Services to Private Enterprise

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of his intention to offer the people of the Northern Territory a choice in services, will he ensure that public services continue so that people will have a choice between public and private services?

ANSWER

I believe that there will always be a requirement for services within our health facilities. For instance, let me say there is no way that we could close the pathology section of Darwin Hospital. That is quite an unrealistic proposition. There will always be a need for us to provide a level of pathology service in the hospital. If a section of the population transfers its business to some other area, that is a matter for the people concerned. In any event, we will need to maintain x-ray, pathology and a whole range of other services in our hospitals to a satisfactory level.

Liquor Act and Summary Offences Act

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when the recently passed amendments to the Liquor Act and Summary Offences Act will come into force?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Acting Chairman of the Liquor Commission has advised me that he is in close consultation with a range of parties, particularly councils and people like the Conservation Commission over the declaration of restricted areas. As soon as his negotiations and discussions with these people have been concluded, we will be in a position to proceed with the new laws. At this stage, we hope that the amendments become effective on 2 July, but there are things that might cause delay.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that Airlines of Northern Australia was granted a 7% increase in fares on the Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs run in the last few days?

ANSWER

Yes, but I might add that the independent air fares inquiry approved that increase. We were notified of it and it was just a matter of rubber stamping that decision.

Cleaning up of Government Land

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In past years, money has been set aside by the government to clear properties controlled by the government of weeds and long grass. Has money been set aside for cleaning up purposes this year?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. The Department of Lands will continue to have a sum of money allocated for the maintenance of Crown land. It is quite impossible to keep all Crown land completely mowed and maintained in a satisfactory manner because it is extremely expensive once one gets out of the heart of town. Most honourable members who are concerned with the maintenance of Crown land are primarily concerned with Crown land in town. The conditions of various blocks of land can be brought to the attention of either my office or the Department of Lands with requests that they be maintained or rubbish removed. That is the function of the Department of Lands in this regard.

Free Trade Zone in NT

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns his statement that research has been carried out into a free trade zone in the Northern Territory. Would the Chief Minister be prepared to publish the results of this research in a Green Paper on the feasibility of establishing a free trade zone in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is my normal practice when I send a submission like this to the Commonwealth government to make it public and, in fact, to obtain as much publicity for it as I possibly can. Honourable members have been recipients from time to time of various submissions that I have made in respect of particular aspects of Territory economics or life. I will certainly be following my normal practice on this occasion. The submission that will be presented in due course to the federal government will be widely circulated not just to members of this Assembly but to governments, parliamentarians, unions and industry groups right around Australia with a view to gaining the maximum possible support. Unfortunately, in our present situation where we have limited federal representation - 2 senators and 1 member of the House of Representatives - we need to try to bring together a coalition of interests that support us and to lobby as strongly as we can in consultation with them.

The one big plus that I think became very much impressed on my mind during my recent visit to Alaska and Hawaii was the fact that those 2 states very much prized the fact that they have equal senate representation in the United States Senate with all other states. The former Governor of Alaska said to me: 'There are 40 million or more people in New York State and they have got 2 senators and we have 400,000 people and we have 2 senators'. They feel that puts them in a stronger position in the union. In Hawaii, it was the same story. Un-

believably the present Governor of Hawaii said to me. 'Well, California has 38 million people and we have 2 million people. But we have 2 senators and they have 2 senators and that is the thing, son, you had better press'.

The situation in Australia is that each state has 10 senators and, therefore, I feel that the influence of the Northern Territory in the Commonwealth of Australia would be much enhanced if we had an additional 8 senators. Then, it would not be half as necessary for ministers such as myself to lobby around Australia to pick up support for things that the Northern Territory badly needs.

Rationalisation of Rates in Berrimah Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the landholders in the Berrimah area receive an answer to their frequent requests for rationalisation of their rates?

ANSWER

I assume from the honourable member's question that she refers to those landholders in the Darwin rates area who have their properties adjacent to other than sealed roads. There is a widely held misconception by people in the rural area that rating includes such matters as sewerage, water, electricity and so on. It does not. That is not what rating is tied to. It is tied to the normal municipal services provided by city and town councils.

The disparity as the people down there see it is that they are adjacent in many cases to very poor roads indeed. I am certain that, when the Valuer-General values the properties upon which the rates are levied, he would take into account quality of access. Nonetheless, many of these properties are adjacent to areas which are being used for commercial purposes such as quarrying, cement manufacturing and so on. The Valuer-General must have regard to properties adjacent to commercial properties. They would be properly zoned and therefore valued as if they could be used for that purpose. Therefore, many rural dwellers find themselves with very poor roads but fairly high unimproved capital values. If one applied the Darwin act to them, they feel, with some justification, that they would be considerably disadvantaged. Mr Speaker, the problem in trying to overcome it by way of a differential rating or rationalisation of rating, as the honourable member puts it, is difficult. The differential rating provisions which this Assembly recently saw fit to pass only apply to areas of land within municipalities, within town council boundaries. Of course, the other provision that this Assembly passed in relation to differential rating was that that land be used, either fully or substantially, for the purpose of income accruing to the ratepayer. Quite obviously neither of those provisions would apply to people in the area known as the Darwin rate area. Incidentally, there is no provision for the minister to declare different boundaries within that area. The act, quite specifically, prevents him from doing that. Therefore, the area to which the honourable member refers cannot be dealt with individually and a separate rate struck by the minister in respect of that area as opposed to the area immediately across the Stuart Highway which is also an area where full services are provided.

Mr Speaker, this is a matter of considerable concern, not only to myself but to my Cabinet colleagues. We have recently discussed this at length and certainly I am assuming that I have a charter from my Cabinet colleagues to have this matter sorted out. Last week, I had a meeting with a representative of the people affected in this way. I indicated to that representative that it was my determination to organise as quickly as possible the upgrading of facilities in that area, particularly the roads, which is the obvious solution to the problem. If, for cash flow reasons, that is quite impossible for the next several years - and for logistic reasons which I will mention in a minute - I am charged by my Cabinet colleagues to prepare amending legislation to over-

come what is quite clearly seen by many, and agreed to by this government, as being a position of disadvantage.

Mr Speaker, one reason why I say that it might not be possible to upgrade some of those roads is that, in the very near future, they will become major arterial roads and it would be a singular waste of the taxpayers' money to spend up to \$1m in sealing those roads if in fact they have to be ripped up in 4 years' time for the dual highway to go through.

I have instructed my department to request meetings with the Department of Transport and Works to resolve the practicality of immediately upgrading the roads in the correct places. Certain people in the rural area believe that the program of upgrading roads, which we are commencing from the north and moving south, is going in the wrong direction. My department has instructions again to follow this matter up with the Department of Transport and Works. We will try and aim our capital works priorities in the right direction. If that cannot be done because of other planning matters, then I will come back here with amendments.

Buffalo from Beatrice Hill

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could he advise how many staff are employed on the Beatrice Hill project and approximately how many buffalo have been prepared for export to Papua-New Guinea? Why was this project not carried out by private industry expertise in line with stated government policy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not too sure how many staff are at Beatrice Hill, but the proposal before the government and the department is to dispatch to Papua-New Guinea 200 disease-free buffalo. Beatrice Hill has been involved with testing those buffalo and getting them ready for shipment. I propose to approve the movement of those buffalo to Papua-New Guinea as soon as veterinarian documentation is available to us. I do not understand the honourable member's alarm about the project. It was a necessary project. We had to replace buffalo found to be diseased on arrival in Papua-New Guinea some years ago. We have been working to meet this requirement.

Low-cost Housing Designs at Karama

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Northern Territory Housing Commission yet made a decision to adopt any of the designs currently on display at the low-cost housing village at Karama?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the low-cost housing village organised by industry and government and recently opened for public display is really an experiment to try to determine public attitudes towards the designs which could be brought forward by private enterprise in the low-cost housing area. Also, it is an experiment for the designers and builders themselves so that they can put forward their own ideas and seek information from other persons as to how the need could be met. I see this low-cost housing village as the first in a series of events to examine how governments get the cost of house-and-land packages down to within the vicinity of \$50,000 or preferably below that.

I do not believe that the Housing Commission has specifically adopted any of the designs for construction. The village is open and manned by various personnel with a view to the builders concerned selling the houses which were constructed and taking orders from persons interested in building such houses on their own land. When the village has been displayed for some time, we will

assess public reaction to each home. I believe quite a number of contracts have been made to build houses from those designs on privately owned land, and I am very pleased by that. It will help us to assess the success of the project when we examine public reaction and to determine where we should go from there.

To answer the honourable member's question in simple terms, I believe the Housing Commission has not specifically adopted any one of those designs with a view to constructing them on any scale.

Staff at Alice Springs High School

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that the shortcomings in the recruitment of teaching staff in the Northern Territory has resulted in the re-employment at Alice Springs High School in 1982 of a teacher who resigned in mid-1981, disrupting a matriculation class at that school, and is he aware of the effect that it is having on the morale of parents, teachers and children at that school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the particular case to which the honourable member refers although I would not be surprised if such a thing was found to be necessary. Certainly, I agree with him that, while it may have been deemed to have been necessary, it may not be wholly desirable for that sort of thing to take place. Mr Speaker, I have great fears in the secondary education area for the Territory in future years. I do not want to sound an alarmist, but I honestly believe that the Tertiary Education Commission will over-react in terms of the present apparent glut of teachers, particularly secondary teachers, and wind down on training through colleges of advanced education. The Northern Territory could then have difficulty recruiting teachers in future years.

I am reminded of the era of the 1960s when there was a shortage of practitioners in the legal and medical professions. An enormous number of people were put through university in Australia and we had a glut. There was an immediate reaction that too many had been trained and the program was discontinued. The legal profession now states that the chances of attracting to the Northern Territory a qualified solicitor with any sort of experience at all is extremely difficult. If a shortage of secondary teachers arises in Australia, the Northern Territory will be most adversely affected because it does not, at this stage, have its own training resources. At the present time, I have approved travel for teams to go interstate on a recruitment program. The Teaching Service Commission has conduct of that program. We are determined that we will do our recruiting as early as we possibly can this year in order to prevent these sorts of difficulties occurring next year. Nonetheless, as I have indicated 2 days ago, without home-grown Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science courses at the Darwin Community College so that people with those basic degrees can undertake a Diploma of Education and thereby provide at least to some extent a secondary teacher resource of our own, I think trouble is inevitable. I just wish the Tertiary Education Commission realised it.

Cropping Programs at Sunday Creek Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he give me the results of cropping programs at Sunday Creek Station?

ANSWER

Sunday Creek, which is a station down near Daly Waters in the Elsey electorate, last year sowed quite an extensive acreage of grains and peanuts. I am pleased to say that, with the good season that was recorded across that area, magnificent results have been recorded. I know it is against the rules to have lunch in the Assembly, Mr Speaker, but I thought for your edification,

Sir, that you would be pleased to know that the peanuts are of a very high quality, the yield is quite good and I am sure that all members would like to have some with their lunch a little bit later.

Future Management of East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will he announce a decision on the future management of East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government will make an announcement as soon as it has made the decision on which body is to take over the management of East Point Reserve. I have various matters being drawn up for presentation to Cabinet in the near future relating to the foreshore management plan which has been on display by the government over the past few weeks. Considerable comments have been received from various parties. Included in that exercise, although not necessarily being decided at the same time, is the future body to take over control of East Point. The government also has to consider in some depth the proposed plans for the future of East Point which have been prepared by the East Point Trustees which will of course phase out when the government makes a decision as to which body is to actually run East Point. By the same token, you have to take in the government's wish to adopt a plan of management for East Point at the same time as deciding who is going to operate East Point in the future.

Housing Commission Sales in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Following the passage of amendments to the Tenancy Act, can he advise me when the Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy will be available for sale to interested tenants?

ANSWER

I do have some information on this but not immediately to hand. I will examine the matter more closely and provide an answer during the course of these sittings.

Health Clinic at Napperby Station

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when the health clinic which is presently in kit form on Napperby Station - it has been there for several years - may be assembled and constructed?

ANSWER

I share his concern about the state of the Napperby health clinic. The only advice I can give him is that there have been some discussions about the site over quite a period of time between the Aboriginal group concerned and the management. There was a further complication relating to the provision of water. I am happy to say that I believe the site matter has been resolved between the Aboriginals and the station management. The department through its grants-in-aid has been able to provide \$6000 to the community to pay for the erection of the centre. I believe that arrangements are under way through my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, to provide water to the area for its future development. Given that our part of the agreement has been to provide the equipment and the money to get on with the job, I believe that it is now a matter for the locals to complete their arrangements.

Hard Labour in NT Prisons

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

One reads in various acts that there are penalties of so many years jail with hard labour. What is the nature of hard labour in the Northern Territory prisons and what is different about the labour carried out by prisoners not so sentenced?

ANSWER

This is more a question for the Solicitor-General. Off the top of my head, I think that, other than sentencing for debt, which is extremely rare, all sentencing in the Northern Territory carries the term 'hard labour'. Some would say regrettably the days of the rock pile have gone. I have mixed feelings on that myself. I do not mean that literally but I tend to wonder whether a commonly held image of our prisons is not a correct one. Nonetheless, there are significant amounts of works conducted in prisons. The honourable member would be aware of most of them. The general activities are consistent in all prisons around Australia where you have a range of prison farms and more secure establishment. They include such things as maintenance, gardening, trade training and whatever labour activities are involved. There is a mandatory requirement to work provided the person is fit. It used to be referred to, or still is at law, as hard labour. One could be justified for being somewhat cynical about accepting that usage of the English language at times.

Report on Dry Areas in Aboriginal Communities

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the minister table at this sittings a report on the effectiveness of dry areas in Aboriginal communities prepared by the Liquor Commission and made available to the minister some time ago? I ask for the tabling of the document as one of its own recommendations is that its contents be made public.

ANSWER

The document to which he refers is to go before Cabinet very shortly. It really is a decision for Cabinet as to whether it is made public. If it is possible for it to be tabled in the next week, then that is good fortune and, if not, it will be in the following sittings.

Access to Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

There has been talk about another traffic corridor into Darwin using the old railway line area. Is the minister able to inform me if the proposal to use the old railway line area is being seriously considered?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure whether the Minister for Transport and Works could shed some more light on this matter. To my knowledge, there has over the past several years been examinations of various traffic flows around Darwin. One of the many options which have been considered from time to time by planners and engineers is the use of what was formerly a railway corridor from Salonika into Darwin. I have not seen any specific proposals in this regard. I would want to study them very carefully if they were put forward seriously because the area is in the centre of my electorate and indeed the electorate of the member for Port Darwin. Any such rerouting of highways into Darwin would have some fairly severe effects and no doubt some benefits as well. Mr Speaker, I am not aware that any such proposal has been floated for adoption at this stage.

Banks' Merger

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the House if the relevant banks have responded to the Chief Minister's statements on the attitude of the government relating to legislation controlling the proposed merger of the banks?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. In fact, earlier this morning, I sent the Leader of the Opposition - and I do not know whether he has actually received them as yet - copies of telexes from the National Bank of Australasia Ltd and the Bank of New South Wales and also a telex from the Commercial Bank of Australia concerning, on its behalf, the response of the Bank of New South Wales.

In the last couple of days, the media seems to have seized on the Bank of New South Wales, for some reason, as the villain of the piece and all criticism seems to have been directed at that bank alone. This concerns me for more reasons than one. I have a big overdraft at that bank for a start. There are, of course, 4 banks involved in these mergers: the National Bank of Australasia is attempting to merge with the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, and the Bank of New South Wales is attempting to merge with the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited. I wrote to all 4 banks seeking assurances from them. I have now telexes from the National Bank of Australasia and the Bank of New South Wales. The telex from the Bank of New South Wales is quite a substantial reply. I will not burden you, Mr Speaker, and honourable members of this Assembly by reading the whole of the telex. I will table it for the information of all honourable members should they wish to read it. I will read parts of it which I think I should do in fairness to the Bank of New South Wales since it has been copping it a bit over the last couple of days.

The bank states: 'Even if we were to accept the proposition that the Territory should be looked at in isolation, and that is from the point of view of deposits and loans, what do we see? In the year to March 1982, the Wales Trading Bank had loaned 79% of its weekly average deposits and the CBA 176%'. There must be some pretty heavy borrowers down at the CBA. The combined figure for the 2 banks was 94%. The telex says: 'Given that the Reserve Bank requires us to maintain 7% of deposits on a statutory reserve deposit and 18% in LGS assets' - they are government securities I think - 'it could be argued that we are over-lent in the Territory'.

It is not nearly as bright a picture in respect of the savings banks. One must realise that not too many people try to maintain very substantial trading bank accounts and many people are constantly in an overdraft situation. In the savings bank area, the Wales had housing lending equivalent to 20% of its deposits - not quite as we would like. The CBA's Territory housing loans were equivalent to 46% of its local savings bank deposits. The combined banks' Territory lending for housing was 24% of deposits. The telex says:

It is conceded that this is low by Australian standards and that the ratio has risen from 14% over the period since 1977-78. Added to this, there are loans to Territory local authorities equivalent to 18% of savings bank deposits. We are not advancing this brief view of the situation as a complete explanation nor do we plan to adjust our policies to correct the over-lent position in the trading bank. So far as the savings bank position is concerned, the bank will be pleased to conduct a full investigation into the level of demand for housing finance in the Territory and, should it be found that there is an unsatisfied demand from suitable borrowers, to investigate what remedial action can be taken within the guidelines set for us by the authorities.

Mr Speaker I seek leave to table this copy of the telex.

Leave granted.

Mr EVERINGHAM: They do ask us to cooperate and pass the merger legislation at this sittings because they would otherwise have to do it a different way by various legal agreements and documentation. The non-passage of the legislation will do nothing to frustrate their merger other than give a lot more work to the legal profession and cause a considerable degree of inconvenience. The National Bank stated inter alia:

This bank values the strong effective working relationship it has with your government. It has worked assiduously on its corporate citizenship status in the Northern Territory. As demonstrated by the figures below, this bank has committed resources towards the creation and development of the Territory's infrastructure, commercial and housing, based well beyond its normal parameters. Moreover, as alluded to above, this bank ratio differs markedly from those of the banking industry in the Territory.

Trading Bank Ratios:

Advances bills to deposits - 122%.

Advances bills to deposits allowing for SRD ratios and LGS convention - 162%.

i.e. this bank's lending base in the Northern Territory is heavily subsidised by the deposits raised in other states. In excess of 75% of Trading Bank lending is directed to flats and houses erection.

Saving Bank Ratios:

Loans: Territory issued assets to deposits - 63%.

Housing loans to deposits - 31%.

Territory and statutory authority loans to deposits - 25%.

Other loans - 7%.

N.B. This bank has been a calendar writer for Territory loan issues and has subscribed to loans. Because of the lower owner-occupied home ownership situation in the Northern Territory, savings bank housing loans are lower than is usual. Please see trading bank figures above.

Mr Speaker, I overlooked, when referring to the telex from the Wales, to mention that they did state that they have participated in the construction of the housing for the whole workforce at Nhulunbuy, and perhaps Jabiru also, by lending substantial sums of money to the mining companies in those towns for that purpose. I would also seek leave, Mr Speaker, to table this copy of the telex from the National Bank of Australasia.

Leave granted.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I suggest that we accept the Bank of New South Wales' offer to conduct a review of its savings bank operations in the Northern Territory. I think that this would be a very significant step because there is no doubt that, after its merger with the Commercial Bank of Australia - which we will not stop - the Bank of New South Wales will be by far the largest banking concern in the Territory. I think it will be represented in every centre but Katherine. I was assured by the regional manager of the Bank of New South Wales that the bank is actively looking at having itself represented in Katherine and not just by an agent. It has an agency there at the present time, Cox's, and it is looking at an actual banking presence in the not too far distant future in the town of Katherine. I propose, with the assent, I hope, of members of the Assembly and with the support of my ministerial colleagues, to write to the Bank of New South Wales and accept its offer to conduct the review. I look forward to receiving the result of the review and perhaps will bring it to the notice of this Assembly. All in all, Mr Speaker, it would probably

look as though the Northern Territory was being a bit of a dog in the manger if it did not cooperate with these banks in passing the legislation at this sittings. I was assured yesterday that all other states will have the legislation passed within the requisite period of time.

Mosquito Eradication in Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question concerns the mosquito eradication program in Central Australia. Following the advice that the minister has already received from the various departments involved in this project, would he also consider spraying the troubled Ilpapa Swamp area with an inflammable material, burning it off and then having the department instruct various companies involved in construction in Central Australia to backfill that swamp area with building rubble and other material?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for Stuart for his concern. It is true that the co-ordinated program has been attempted by the Health Department, the Conservation Commission and the Department of Transport and Works. At a recent meeting, they decided to burn off the grass on the bank as an eradication measure. I will take up the other point and seek some kind of rubble or backfill to be placed in the swamp at reasonable intervals to see if we can backfill it over a period of time.

Adulteration of Food at Darwin Prison

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He will be aware that yesterday at Darwin Prison food, believed to have been deliberately adulterated with maggots, was served to prison officers and some prisoners. Would he make available to the Assembly later this sittings the results of the investigation now under way?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as is usual in these matters, I would like to look at the report before giving any such undertaking. I think the honourable member would be well aware that there are valid reasons for that, not the least of which, in a prison environment, is the need for security. If it is a document which I consider to be suitable to make available publicly, it most certainly will be. If it is not, I undertake to at least let the honourable member for Nightcliff have access to its contents.

Listings of Telephone Numbers of Opposition Members

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that some of the telephone numbers listed for the electorate offices of some of the Assembly members of the opposition are also listed as Australian Labor Party branch offices in the Telephone Directory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is with some surprise that this matter was drawn to my attention, especially in view of the attitude to probity of members of the Legislative Assembly that has always been adopted by the members opposite. In fact, when it was drawn to my attention, I had a look at the Northern Territory Telephone Directory. It appears that numbers listed under the heading 'Legislative Assembly' - which one assumes are members' electorate offices since that is the heading of the column under the Legislative Assembly general heading in the Northern Territory government section of the current directory - and under 'Australian Labor Party' in that directory are the same. The Casuarina Branch of the ALP has telephone number 279405 which corresponds with that of

the honourable member for Sanderson. The Nightcliff Branch of the ALP's telephone number 854666 corresponds with the telephone number of the former member for Millner. The Nhulunbuy Branch of the ALP's telephone number, 871802, corresponds with that of the honourable member for Nhulunbuy. The honourable member for Fannie Bay has a telephone number 814760, which is shown as being the Fannie Bay Branch telephone number, and the honourable member for MacDonnell has a telephone number 522612 which corresponds with the number of the ALP's Alice Springs office.

It does seem to me that, to say the least, this is playing a bit fast and loose with telephone services that are probably reluctantly provided - if any taxpayer was asked - for the use of members of this Assembly. It has been the policy of the Australian Labor Party in this parliament and elsewhere in Australia to lecture and hector government members on matters of its probity. Recently, we have seen a very strong campaign by members of the federal Australian Labor Party opposition on the question of tax evasion and tax avoidance. Of course, the argument is that people are not paying their taxes. Here, taxpayers' money is being put to a use which taxpayers certainly have not been asked about and about which they have had no chance of making any decision at all.

Mr Speaker, I appreciate that the matter is one which is probably at the discretion of yourself. At the request of the honourable member for Port Darwin, I simply bring this material to your attention. I seek leave to table pages 33 and 38 of the current Northern Territory Telephone Directory.

Leave granted.

Giles House Alice Springs

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware that child offenders in Giles House in Alice Springs automatically transfer to adult institutions upon attaining the age of 17 years? Will he have this policy reviewed so that children who have only a short period of their sentence to complete and otherwise are exhibiting no behavioural problems might complete their sentence in the more appropriate atmosphere of Giles House.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have the matter examined.

Channel Island Causeway

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why cannot the consultant currently engaged to design the bridge to Channel Island be instructed to consider a proposal for a causeway and, from this, an ornamental lake to Palmerston?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the possibility of using a causeway was one of the options considered in the preliminary assessment for the power-station access. However, it was found to be impractical.

BA Degree Course at Darwin Community College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise the Assembly of any communications that have taken place between himself and the federal Minister for Education on the commencement of the BA degree course at the Darwin Community College? Can he advise the Assembly of the federal government's attitude to the commencement of the degree?

ANSWER

On a number of occasions in this Assembly, last week being the most recent, I outlined what I perceived to be the federal government's attitude. I thought I outlined it quite clearly. On the other hand, I suppose that I am in no position to give an opinion on the opinion of another government. As I indicated again last week, I will be having discussions with the federal minister in the course of the federal Cabinet visit to the Northern Territory and shall probably follow the matter up further during the course of the Australian Education Council meeting in Alice Springs in July. Mr Speaker, if any further progress is made in this matter as a result of discussions with Senator Baume during the course of his visit to the Northern Territory next week, I would certainly make any progress reports available to the public as soon as possible.

Telegraph Terrace in Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Telegraph Terrace in Alice Springs was resealed by the Department of Transport and Works several weeks back. Within a few days, it was dug up again by a government contractor. Will he ensure that the department in central Australia liaises more closely before committing government taxpayers' dollars to roadworks?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in most cases departments try to co-ordinate the different services that are to go underground before roads are sealed. However, in this case the contractor arrived on the scene early and thought that the other contractor had completed his work, which he had not. The road was sealed and the first contractor returned about a week later and started to dig the road up. This particular exercise has not been a cost to the taxpayer. However, I will ensure that in future contractors report to the department before they start digging up roads.

Bridge at Mouth of Rapid Creek

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Last Tuesday, I asked him about the possibility of a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek. He replied that there was no plan at this stage to bridge the Rapid Creek causeway, which gave me great pleasure. I preface my question by referring to an article in Saturday's NT News which stated that political pressure was being applied and it was likely that such a bridge would be built. Is he preparing a submission to Cabinet to put a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this question arose early this year when the Brinkin subdivision problems were raised by the community. Even I made the suggestion that one way of possibly alleviating traffic problems in that area would be to put a bridge across the mouth of Rapid Creek linking Brinkin and part of the northern suburbs with Rapid Creek Road, through to Chapman Road, and on through Dick Ward Drive into town. I floated this proposal to my colleagues. At this stage, they have asked me not to consider it or put it on any forward plans. I have adopted this policy. When the honourable member put this question last week, I was quite right in saying that there were no plans. There are no plans but I still feel that it may be achieved at some later date.

Solar Rebate Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the solar rebate scheme be carried on as part of the energy conservation scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government certainly has no plans to cease or even restrict the scheme whereby the Northern Territory Electricity Commission provides rebates for those persons installing solar appliances in the domestic environment. Indeed, we would encourage people in the Territory to take every opportunity that they can to conserve electricity. It is a very expensive commodity and will become more so. At present, we certainly have no plans of winding any schemes back.

Experimental Electric Car

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In light of the interest of all members in alternative fuel sources, can he inform the Assembly what is to be the fate of the experimental electric car purchased some time ago by the department at a cost of \$16,000? In the light of recent statements that research has indicated the car was uneconomical, will he give details of the research that was carried out to reach this conclusion?

ANSWER

I will need to seek details to answer the second part of the question. The whole premise of buying and experimenting with the electric car in the first place was to ascertain for the population at large whether this proposal had any viability in the Northern Territory given our high fuel costs and the high cost of generating electricity. The Department of Mines and Energy has determined that the proposal to operate electric cars in the Northern Territory is not viable for a variety of reasons, particularly because the battery performance of the electric car is most unsatisfactory. It has not been developed to a stage in technological terms where it is likely to be a viable proposition in the Northern Territory to drive a car with a battery.

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is entitled to the details and I will get them for him after the sittings.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Northern Territory government no longer intending to establish 4 or 5-star accommodation at the Yulara Tourist Village as a result of discussions held between the Conservation Commission, the Tourist Commission and the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Conservation Commission, through White Industries, will be establishing high-class hotel accommodation at the Yulara Tourist Village. A meeting was held yesterday between the Director of Conservation, the Chairman of the Tourist Commission and the Yulara Project Officer, Mr Graham Ryde. On this occasion, they requested the complete executive of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association to be present at the meeting as well as the celebrated Mr Bucholtz. I have received a report on that meeting but I was given it on the basis that the parties at the meeting had agreed that any announcement was to be embargoed until 6 pm this evening. As much as I appreciate my duties to the Assembly, I am reluctant to pass on information which would not have been supplied to me if it was known that I would make a public announcement prior to the agreed time. If it simply involved government officials, that would not worry me but there is a question of faith and confidence with the complete executive of the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association. The question of faith is one that I have been fairly strong on in the last week or so in relation to this particular matter. I believe that

these people should be able to negotiate, conduct their meetings and get on with their business without major press sagas going on for years.

Mr Speaker, all I can say at this stage is that it is my belief that there are various levels of accommodation to be provided at Yulara Tourist Village as disclosed by those documents. At some stage in the last week or 2, I said that everything from luxury penthouse suites to family-room accommodation will be in the hotels at Yulara Tourist Village. I do believe that the 3-star hotel will be somewhat of the standard of the Oasis Motel at Alice Springs. I am unsure what a 4 to 5-star hotel is because I am not sure if it is a motor-bike or something like that. The Michelin guide only goes up to 4 stars and I doubt whether we in the Territory would hope to exceed the standard of the establishments that received that accolade from the Michelin guide. I would say that, at best, we are building a 4-star establishment which I understand will be of a similar standard to the Alice Springs Country Club Casino.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he then informing the Assembly that the government's position has not changed in relation to the quality or the standard of accommodation at Yulara Tourist Village as a result of a survey carried out by the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not think I said anything of the sort. The position is that the Alice Springs Regional Tourist Association has put its views at this meeting and those views are being taken into account. I understand that it is putting views forward as to the nature of the finish and the style of the various rooms and buildings to be constructed. These buildings are still in the planning stages and there is room for input from that body. I have a press release that everyone at the meeting agreed to. It seems to me that full and complete accord was achieved at that meeting. I therefore suggest to the honourable member for MacDonnell that he is trying to fish in waters that are perhaps a bit out of his depth and that he should await the release by the meeting of its official agreement.

Foreshore Policy

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When does he intend to announce the government's final foreshore policy?

ANSWER

I had hoped to have the foreshore policy finalised and submitted to the Northern Territory Cabinet and then announced during the course of these sittings. As a result of other activities and the work of Cabinet, I have not been able to do that. However, I am anxious to have the matter resolved shortly. It will obviously be after the sittings. I can only undertake to honourable members that, as soon as a decision is made on the future of the foreshore plan as exhibited, I will announce it.

Turn-off of Land at Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he assure me that the turn-off of land at Palmerston will in no way be detrimental to the private turn-off of land in the rural area, excluding the normal business competition?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not think that the potential subdividers in rural Darwin should consider that the advent of Palmerston and the sale of land in that satellite city would be detrimental to them. I see both areas as catering to different types of customers. As a general rule in the rural area of Darwin, subdivisions are certainly much larger than the $\frac{1}{4}$ -acre or smaller block that Palmerston may be producing. I do not think people would find in Palmerston the sort of lifestyle for which they would move to rural Darwin. I am sure that people can put aside any fears that we are trying to pre-empt their private subdivisions.

Cape Don Lighthouse

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

The Conservation Commission has made an approach to the federal Department of Administrative Services for certain priorities regarding the use of buildings if the Cape Don lighthouse is decommissioned or demanned. Could he advise whether the Conservation Commission has received any assurance from the federal department as yet?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any assurances to the Conservation Commission from the federal minister concerned. However, it is something that I can easily find out. I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

Farming Area near Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What progress, if any, has been made towards selecting and making available a suitable farming area near Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have always taken the view that there are suitable soils and good water in Central Australia for the establishment of market gardens and horticultural produce, particularly in view of the fact that most Northern Territory produce comes from South Australia. I think that some further work should be undertaken in due course by this government as to what areas could be made available for this purpose. I understand that quite large amounts of water are available in the Deep Well area and that soil surveys have been undertaken in that region. I think that our policy will gradually turn towards the establishment of farms in Central Australia in due course.

Medical Practitioner in Tennant Creek

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the decision of the private medical practitioner who established business in Tennant Creek recently to leave that town, will he ensure that a Health Department doctor is once again permanently located at Tennant Creek Hospital?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can assure the honourable member that I will have the situation under control.

Lands Department Leasing of Land in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Lands Department yet succeeded in negotiating a sublease of serviced land or land suitable for servicing from the leaseholder of the Nhulunbuy township for further Housing Commission home development?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have specific details of the latest position. I will endeavour to obtain some additional information for the honourable member during the course of this sittings.

Territory Apicultural Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will he look to tightening the enforcement provisions under the Stock Diseases Act, which are currently not being implemented, to ensure that there is better control over the movement of bees into the Territory to prevent the introduction of unwanted diseases into the Territory's infant honey industry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had representation on this matter and I did tell the person who made the representation that we would look at the laws to see what legislation needed tightening up. As the Assembly will recall, bees are classified as stock for the purpose of movement into the Northern Territory. We will do all we can to ensure that diseases do not come into the Northern Territory.

Rural Subdivision

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he assure me that the moratorium placed on subdivision to 5 acres in the rural area outside Darwin imposed last August was in no way connected to the government's wish to sell land at Palmerston?

ANSWER

I can see that some people in rural Darwin are concerned that their interests may be adversely affected by the advent of Palmerston. I can assure the honourable member that I do not see the 2 areas as being in competition in any way whatsoever. The need for Palmerston was such that the government made a decision that Darwin should not continue in one massive urban sprawl ad infinitum, and that it was time to cut Darwin off at roughly the size that it is now and start again a little way down the track. This decision was taken after considerable studies had been made on the future of the city over the next several decades. That is why Palmerston was selected. We hope to have our first residents living in Palmerston in the latter part of this year.

As a completely separate exercise, the government became concerned at the housekeeping and maintenance of bores in the rural areas of Darwin where the water supply is not reticulated. To ensure that the situation does not get out of control, a study has been instigated into groundwater supplies in rural Darwin. For the course of that study, which will be completed in the latter part of this year, a moratorium has been placed on the subdivision of land below 20 acres in the rural area. This will continue until such time as the matter is completely resolved and government policy has been established to ensure that the existing and future residents of rural Darwin have access to a good water supply.

Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will community representatives from the Alice Springs, Barkly and Darwin regions be appointed to the NT Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put the question on notice or write to me about it.

Public Expenditure

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Following the deficit in the public accounts made public last year, has there been any reorganisation of the policy and planning priorities to allow for a less erratic development of public expenditure?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I find the honourable member's question somewhat amazing. I did take the trouble to point out in a press release at the time of printing the quarterly statements that it was quite false for any person to draw conclusions from those statements and extrapolate them over a 12-month period. The fact is that government spending and government revenue varies throughout the year. The government has policies, as all governments do, to try to ensure a smooth outflow of government revenue during the course of the year so that the business community which, in fact, ends up with most of the government funds, receives as continuous a flow as possible. Statements for the third quarter, which were released by myself some weeks back, indicated that, at that time, the balancing of the government's books showed that we had a substantial deficit. I indicated then that, whilst a deficit was anticipated by the end of the financial year, it should be considerably less than those third-quarterly statements indicated. I understand, Mr Speaker, that that will be so. However, honourable members will have to wait until the figures for the last quarter of the year are put together.

I point out to the honourable member for Nhulunbuy that the quarterly statements are really a photographic picture of the government's accounts as at that day. It is quite true that governments at times run on overdraft and at other times on surplus, as businesses do. This depends entirely on the nature of government spending and the flow of revenue both from the Commonwealth government - in our case, we receive some 90% - and from local revenues as well.

Horticultural Industry in the Northern Territory

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In view of his recent statements that the Territory's horticultural industry will increase its input into the local market from 10% to 80% over the next 3 seasons, can he advise the Assembly whether the ADMA has undertaken an integrated management program for servicing this horticultural industry in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the figure I gave recently is somewhat disputable. There are other opinions and it may be that that figure would not stand. Certainly, the ADMA organisation is very involved with its land development policy at the present time. In addition, it has recruited a new marketing person in the horticultural section, and further management of marketing produce is being developed.

Traeger Park Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer the minister to the grant from his department of \$200,000 for the provision of lighting and fencing for the exclusive use of baseball players and spectators at Traeger Park in Alice Springs. Bearing in the mind that this is an amount disproportionate to the interest and involvement in this sport in Central Australia, what steps is the minister taking to redress this balance?

ANSWER

The grant that was made to the Alice Springs Town Council for the benefit of the Northern Territory Baseball League was done in conjunction with the Darwin Baseball League which has executives on the Northern Territory Baseball League which has its headquarters in Alice Springs. That was a first process for the upgrading and developing of Traeger Park. Because the baseball organisation had made inroads into the national league competition and because the Claxton Shield competition will be held in Alice Springs in 1984, it was felt that the development procedures should start from that end of Traeger Park. In the last 6 to 12 months, discussions have taken place between myself, officers of the Department of Community Development and the Alice Springs Town Council's Recreation Committee on further upgrading of Traeger Park. In fact, another amount of \$200,000 has been given to the Alice Springs Town Council for water reticulation from the bores to help ease the problem in the Todd basin. That water was drawn off for the purpose of providing water to recreational areas such as Traeger Park and others. If my memory serves me right, a further grant of some \$15,000 to \$20,000 has been given to the Alice Springs Tennis Club which is also associated with Traeger Park. This was on a dollar-for-dollar grant. They had raised about \$15,000 or \$20,000. The Northern Territory government, through its grants-in-aid program, provided the other \$15,000 for them to finally complete that facility. I have a meeting scheduled with the Alice Springs Town Council next Monday for further discussions on the level of funding that can be expected for other upgrading in that area. I do not think that the honourable member is fully aware of the whole proposal regarding Traeger Park, Anzac Oval and the swimming pool. It is an overall concept. Before making that decision to establish the baseball park centre in Alice Springs, discussions were held with other members of the league. I am on public record as advising the Darwin Baseball League that it would not be receiving any significant funding from the Northern Territory government in the next couple of years. Baseball, as a sport, has received good financial support. The intention is to try to get sports groups into a position where they can develop further with very little government assistance. Some \$380,000 has been given to the Darwin City Council for the development of Gardens Oval. That is primarily for the Northern Territory Football League. We are looking at it as an overview and trying to provide some good financial support to sporting organisations so that in the long term they will be able to look after themselves.

Farmland at Douglas-Daly and Mataranka

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he give details regarding the present turn-off of farmland in the Douglas-Daly area and at Mataranka?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the 3 new project farms are in progress at Ooloo Station and, as soon as those farms are running, the proposal in the short term is that no more farms will be established. Further examination and studies are being undertaken in the Fish River area as to land suitability on that station. At Mataranka, we hope to turn off 3 blocks by the end of this year.

Height Policy for Buildings in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the Department of Lands have a model of Alice Springs constructed, as requested, to help the Planning Authority formulate a height policy for the buildings in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am informed that the implications of allowing construction of buildings in Alice Springs greater than about 4 storeys will be very serious. The Planning Authority has power under its act to ask for a model to be made of Alice Springs to test various systems of high-rise in various areas around the town. It will gauge from that model the effect of various types of high-rise development on things like views, shade and so on. Alice Springs is a very important town which exists very largely because of its environment. I understand it is hoped that the model will be ready in about 2 months. Until such time as the model is received by the Planning Authority and it has had the opportunity to study it, applications for high-rise development in Alice Springs will be deferred by the authority for that period.

Geothermal Energy

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In this Assembly last November he advised that he expected to introduce the legislation to allow for the investigation of possible sources of geothermal energy in the Northern Territory. He expected to do that in March. Does he still intend to introduce that legislation and, if so, when?

ANSWER

It is still our intention to introduce legislation that will enable geothermal exploration to take place. There are some legal difficulties that are causing us to take longer with the concept than we had hoped. I plan to bring it forward this year.

Aboriginal Organisations in Alice Springs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to a comment last week in which he put a figure of 30 on the number of Aboriginal organisations that are in Alice Springs. My question is: is that figure rubbery?

ANSWER

No answer given.

Contract to Brisbane Company

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Last week, I asked the Treasurer a question concerning a contract for \$0.25m granted to a Brisbane company called Retrographics which received the 5% local firm allocation. The Treasurer responded by saying that he would give me an answer on that question on the next sitting day which was yesterday. Is he yet in a position to report to the Assembly on the matter?

ANSWER

I have done some fairly intensive background activity on this matter since the honourable member asked the question. Unfortunately, I am not yet in a position to give him a firm answer. I am having further meetings on the subject today. It is one of some complexity and I will give the honourable member an answer, hopefully, later today and, if not, tomorrow.

Electricity Charges

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

I note press reports that suggest power charges in Queensland will rise by up to 16% on 1 July and that the New South Wales Premier foresees increases in that state of up to 40%. Is the Treasurer able to give indications about future increases in electricity charges in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the best forecast I could give Territorians about electricity prices in the future is that there will be regular increases probably for years to come and some of those increases could be fairly substantial. The situation that is developing across the country and across the world is that energy prices are escalating dramatically. It is not just the cost of fuel supplies alone. Fortunately, on the world scene, oil prices have levelled out somewhat and there is an expectation that oil prices could stay at their present level for some years or with very small increases. Whilst the Northern Territory may be 100% oil-based at present for electricity, that is not so in the states. They also have very severe problems in their electricity supplies. It means that electricity will cost substantially more every year right across Australia.

Internal rates also bear on this question. Electricity systems require considerable capital outlay all the time and interest rates which, for governments, run at about 17% certainly put a great burden on electricity authorities, particularly when compared to a few years ago when most of the infrastructure that is being used today was built. In those days, interest rates were only one quarter of their present level. A lot of those loans are now coming up for roll-over renewal at a much higher interest rate. Of course, we are talking very substantial sums of money when you look at the infrastructure of electricity systems around Australia.

The Premier of New South Wales has forecast 40% increases in the cost of electricity for that state, at least for industry and commerce. That is an astronomical increase and no doubt will have a very severe effect on industry in New South Wales. Despite its forecast of very steep increases in electricity, New South Wales has been saved somewhat by earlier predictions of continuing expansion of the system as a result of growth in the demand for electricity. That trend now appears to be moving downwards steeply. It is possibly a result of some stagnation in the economy of that state which is saving it from even more peril in the electricity scene. It is not facing anything like the rate of growth that it anticipated.

In other states, the story is not very different. Victoria has also forecast fairly steep increases in the cost of electricity in the near future because, whilst it is able to generate electricity on an enormous scale compared to the Northern Territory, it is still faced with the very expensive capital required today for expansion and new works. My answer to the honourable member for Port Darwin is that Territorians should certainly expect regular and, unfortunately in some cases, fairly substantial increases in electricity costs for the next few years at least.

Hospital Charges

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the Department of Health's deficit of approximately \$4.8m, is it true that the government is considering increasing hospital charges in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at this stage, the matter has not been presented to my colleagues for consideration. However, I would like to pick up the theme of the Treasurer in saying that we, too, have unrealistically low health charges in our community compared to the charges to be implemented in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and possibly Western Australia in the months to come. As honourable members would be aware, last year right across Australia bed charges in government hospitals were set at \$80 and \$110 for a private bed. Very shortly after that, New South Wales costs went up 15% and, as a result of the tremendous cost pressures being placed on state health systems everywhere, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have agreed to lift their charges for bed days and outpatients fees considerably. Undoubtedly the matter will have to be addressed by the Northern Territory shortly because the same cost pressures are on us. As soon as there is a statement to make about the matter, I will make it public.

Legislation for TAB

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Is it his intention to introduce legislation for TAB in the Territory during the life of this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at this stage, it is not my intention to present legislation to introduce the TAB in the Northern Territory. This Assembly still has another 2 years to run and decisions will be made from time to time during the course of those 2 years. Whilst government policy may change during that period, at this stage, there are no plans to introduce such legislation.

Toilet Facilities for Females at Nhulunbuy Police Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Recently, I was contacted by a concerned resident of Nhulunbuy regarding the lack of toilets in the Nhulunbuy Police Station for use by female members of police staff, female witnesses, female suspects and female members of the public. In his capacity as minister responsible for the police, what will he do to rectify this lack of ordinary amenities for women?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that there are toilets available for females adjacent to the police station in the courthouse at Nhulunbuy. Aside from that, there is a proposal in this year's police estimates for funds to enable the construction of a toilet for females at Nhulunbuy Police Station.

Breaches of Mines Safety Control Act at Ranger

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that workers employed by the BTR company operating at the Ranger uranium mine have been using the chemical CS2 and various other types of solvents without appropriate safety equipment? They have also been employed on work inside tanks that had contained yellowcake without the provision of film badges, in direct contravention of the provisions of the Mines Safety Control Act. What action is the minister taking concerning these breaches of the act?

ANSWER

No, I am not aware of that. However, on the advice that the honourable member has just given to me, I am more than happy to have the matter investigated and pursued with great vigour if, in fact, the claims he has made are true.

Farmers Co-operative at Adelaide River

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

How many people has the farmers co-operative at Adelaide River employed on average over the last 5 years? Have continuing accumulated debts from earlier years contributed to the fact that the co-operative is not now solvent, and does the government have any plans for land development north of Adelaide River or is it content to see blocks sold for real estate value as is occurring at the present time?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice.

Establishment of Disabled Persons Bureau Facility

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

He approved the establishment of a shop-front facility by the Disabled Persons Bureau in March of this year. Is he able to advise me when this facility will be established?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I assume it will be established as soon as negotiations between the department responsible for handling of this matter and the owners of the shop space are completed. The intention at this stage is that the Disabled Persons' Bureau ground-level access will be made available in the Darwin City Council's car-parking area.

Berry Springs Zoo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Which area of land is currently available for the Berry Springs Zoo and what area of land is still the subject of negotiations? What is the contiguity of the proposed zoo area in relation to sections 1579 and 1782 which comprise the present and proposed Berry Springs Nature Park?

ANSWER

The area of the Berry Springs open range, as I understand it is called, is shown in the plan of management of the Berry Springs Nature Park. In general terms, it will comprise sections 1571, 1572, 1573 and 1786 in the Hundred of Ayers. The zoo land abuts section 1570 and 1782 which comprise the existing nature park. Negotiations are still going on in respect of section 1572 which is an area of freehold land. Apparently, one of the owners is deceased and his legal representative is overseas. The deceased's estate needs to be resolved before the negotiations can be finalised. The surviving joint owner is willing to sell. Once the legal problems have been resolved, it is understood that a purchase will probably be able to be effected.

Air Fares

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In its submission to the independent air fares committee, the government stated it was prepared to allow the IAC power to set air fares provided that comprehensive advice of proposed air fares determinations on Territory routes, including the cost data on which proposed increases was based, was provided to the government. In a recent exercise which resulted in the 7% increase, what information did the IAC provide to the Territory government?

ANSWER

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

Management of Former Commonwealth Hostels in NT

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What decisions have been taken by the government about the future management of the former Commonwealth Hostels in the Northern Territory in light of the expiration of the present contract on 24th of this month?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has this matter before it at present. The honourable member will be aware that tenders have been called and an announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Fees for Hospital Reports

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that people who attend Darwin Hospital as a result of an industrial accident and who require a copy of their report for insurance purposes are being asked to pay a fee of \$100 to obtain a copy of that report? Has this been authorised by the minister?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the practice. I am aware that it is common and proper for the department to charge companies for reports. If individuals are being charged, I will take the matter up with the administration and obtain an answer for the honourable member.

Responsibility for Todd River

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I note in the Alice Springs council minutes that the council has given Henley-on-Todd Incorporated permission to hold the event in the river bed on 28 August. Does that mean that the council has accepted responsibility for the Todd River within the town boundaries?

ANSWER

One could be forgiven for thinking it was some sort of tacit recognition of the facts as they always existed. The area of the Todd within the municipal boundaries of Alice Springs is not otherwise reserved by an action of the executive nor is it otherwise alienated from the municipality. One would therefore assume that the responsibility for the maintenance and custody of the Todd River bed within the municipality has always been within the province of that municipality.

Vegetables for NT conditions

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise what progress has been made in the development of new vegetable varieties suitable for Northern Territory growing conditions?

ANSWER

Considerable progress has been made in this regard. The Rural Credits Development Fund principal research program has identified several promising varieties for production in the Top End. Since most of the seed is only available from Taiwan and Japan, the Department of Primary Production is currently supplying such seed to growers free of charge for commercial appraisal until the local retail outlet can be negotiated. New varieties include 5 cabbages, 4 watermelons, 2 cucumbers, 2 salmon-fleshed rock-melons, 1 green-flesh melon, 1 cauliflower, 1 broccoli and several Chinese leafy vegetables.

Variety assessment trials have now been expanded to cover onions, capsicums, carrots, sweet corn, sweet potatoes and snake beans. Vegetable grower cooperation trials have been established at Middle Point, Adelaide River, Batchelor, Acacia Hills, Katherine and Alice Springs. Research work at Berrimah Experimental Farm has also been expanded to investigate the use of wind breaks, precision seeding and transplanting and plastic mulch laying and foliar fertilisers. A soil-testing device is now being provided to all fruit and vegetable growers within the Northern Territory. A collection of cashew seeds is being prepared for a seedling selection program and to develop vegetative propagation methods. Assistance is being provided to several pawpaw growers and small shipments of fruit to interstate markets have indicated good potential for quality Northern Territory pawpaws. A horticultural block is being established at the Katherine Rural Education Centre and a collection of mangoes, citrus, avocado and some exotic fruit tree varieties will be supplied for trial purposes.

Plans to develop a new 9-hectare block at the Coastal Plains Research Station are well under way. Wind break trees have been planted, a bore has been drilled and an irrigation system is being designed. This site will become increasingly important for tropical fruit introductions and a valuable source of planting material for fruit growers in northern Australia.

In cooperation with the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority, considerable efforts are being made to co-ordinate fruit and vegetable production in the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs areas to ensure better continuity of supplies for the local market. ADMA is also making determined efforts to find interstate and overseas outlets for future fruit and vegetable production in the Northern Territory.

Medical Superintendent of Nhulunbuy Hospital

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that the Medical Superintendent of Nhulunbuy Hospital is shortly to leave Nhulunbuy? If so, is it the department's intention to downgrade that appointment as has happened this year at Tennant Creek Hospital?

ANSWER

The answer to the first part of the question is that the Secretary of the Department of Health has a policy of rotating staff in remote areas through the larger hospitals on a regular basis. I guess all doctors in remote areas will be moving in and out of communities as the secretary requires. I might point out that Dr Fleming holds the very strong view that medical practitioners who operate in remote communities, if they are not exposed to the normal pressure of a large hospital, can lose their skills. It is important that these skills be maintained by the doctors being put back into the system from time

to time to keep abreast of all the latest developments. I have no knowledge of any proposal to downgrade any position anywhere. In my view, that is a figment of the honourable member's imagination.

New Darwin Powerhouse

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Is he still assured of adequate Australian government assistance to allow the projected new Darwin powerhouse to go ahead as scheduled?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I answered a similar question earlier in the sittings. Negotiations with the federal government on the questions of the ongoing electricity subsidy for the Northern Territory and the assistance towards the construction of a new powerhouse for Darwin are taking place at this very time. Hopefully, they are in their final stages. We have been negotiating with the federal government both at officer and ministerial level for many months now over this question. It is one certainly of considerable complexity. We hope in the near future to be in a position to announce the agreement between ourselves and the federal government. Until such time as it is resolved and the Territory has obtained the best possible arrangement it believes it can get, we will obviously have to keep the details of such negotiations in house. Hopefully, there will be some news shortly.

Berry Springs Zoo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

My question follows on from the previous answer he gave me regarding the Berry Springs zoo. What can the Chief Minister tell me about the present work being done by the Conservation Commission in relation to the setting up of the Berry Springs zoo having regard to the fact that he has already given me details about land negotiations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Berry Springs zoo is to be an open range zoo. I am not really sure whether there will be toilets or whether people will return to nature or not. The Conservation Commission, in devising its plans and proposals for this particular zoo, looked elsewhere for experience. You would appreciate that the Conservation Commission has not previously been in the business of running zoos other than at Yarrowonga and even there they do not seem to be able to move a crocodile from one pond to the other without a great number of problems. However, they engaged a consultant from the Western Plains Zoo at Dubbo in New South Wales in November 1981 to prepare a concept for the zoo complex. This is now to hand and some work has commenced in accordance with the plan. For example, the boundary line has been determined and most of the boundary has been cleared. A fence has been erected along the Darwin River Dam road boundary and the section of the reserve to serve as the zoo has been determined and cleared. Bores have been sunk and 2 are productive; one of them produces some 4000 gallons a day. The line of the main public road within the zoo has been located and cleared to one dozer-blade width. The Conservation Commission is providing a detailed proposal to Cabinet so that it can consider the matter in some detail. I understand the proposals involve a great deal of money and may well have to be staged over a number of years.

Uranium Mining

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Chief Minister aware of statements made by the federal opposition spokesman on the environment, Stewart West, warning companies mining uranium that they do so at their own risk?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of statements in the press and on radio attributed to the opposition spokesman, Stewart West, warning companies mining uranium in the Territory that they did so at their own risk. Mr West is also credited with saying that Labor is committed to halving uranium mining operations in the Territory and that he had legal advice that indicated no compulsory compensation will be required.

Quite frankly, Mr Speaker, statements of this nature can do nothing but the utmost harm to the Northern Territory economy. How can any company that acts responsibly to its shareholders come into the Northern Territory when it knows that the potential, alternative federal government says that, if the company sets up its venture in the Territory, it is at its own risk and what it is doing might be cut in half arbitrarily at some stage in the future - cut in half, at the very least, or closed down. Who knows what Mr West means by 'halved'. Are all the existing mines to halve their production or are some to be closed and some to continue? What sort of climate of confidence is being created by loose and irresponsible statements of this nature? At this very moment, negotiations are proceeding on proposals for the establishment of the Pancontinental mine at Jabiluka, a proposal that involves expenditure of, at the very least, \$600m in this Territory. It involves the employment of a considerable workforce and the engagement of a large number of people on a permanent basis to work for the mine and will have incalculable flow-on benefits to the Northern Territory. This is occurring at a time when the rest of Australia and the mining industry in particular is in a malaise and when the rest of the world is suffering an economic downturn. The Northern Territory is having its economic impetus sabotaged, attacked and undermined by irresponsible and almost irreconcilable statements by this person who, I would suggest, is not fit to hold the office of spokesman that he does.

Reduction of Nursing Staff at Galiwinku and Gapuwiyak

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Recently I have had correspondence with him concerning the very overworked nursing establishments at Galiwinku and Gapuwiyak. He advised me 2 weeks ago that the nursing establishment between those 2 communities was 5. Is he aware that those health centres were advised in March this year that that establishment will be reduced to 4 at the end of this month, thereby placing even greater strain on the already overworked nursing staff? If he is aware of this, could he explain to the Assembly the reason why this reduction in staff has occurred in these communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to pursue the matter further for the honourable member. One aspect the honourable member has not raised which would be worthy of further investigation is the spread of the workload between the nurses and the health workers in the community. In the department's approach to staffing in remote areas, there is a manpower formula for providing community services. Quite often, where there are a few health workers, there are more sisters and, where there are many health workers, there are fewer sisters. I will obtain from the secretary of the department the specific cases that the honourable member has raised and take them up with him. I would emphasise for the honourable member's information that I am not aware of and I would not support any proposal to cut staff numbers in any area just for the sake of cutting them. On the other hand, we have a responsibility to try to provide the best service that we can by the best method. As I recall, the area that the honourable member refers to has a pretty substantial manpower of Aboriginal health workers, but I will obtain the details and come back to him.

Prison Farm at Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What are the current plans for the establishment of a prison farm in Central Australia, bearing in mind there has been an increase in the number of prisoners in the Alice Springs gaol from 90 to well over 100? Is he aware that industrial action is being contemplated by the Prison Officers Association as a result of the government's reluctance to establish that prison farm?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, let me say at the outset that there is absolutely no reluctance whatsoever on the part of this government to establish a prison farm in the Alice Springs region. I cannot think of anything within the correctional system at the moment which is of more pressing need. I have not heard of any suggestion of industrial action in relation to it. Every member of the Prison Officers Association would be well aware of the endeavours being made at the highest level of the correctional services system to bring about the establishment of a prison farm in the southern region. The difficulty has been in locating a piece of land upon which to place the prison farm. Negotiations have been going on with pastoralists with a view to a possible surrender by a pastoral property for this purpose.

This is not pre-empting the budget because the government has already listed in the appropriation still with the Department of Community Development a sum of money for the establishment of a prison farm in the southern region. Had we been able to secure land upon which to put it, that money would have been committed already and the prison farm established. Indeed, the honourable Minister for Transport and Works, who is responsible for the disposal of government assets in the building forum, has already transferred to the Department of Community Development a number of buildings for the purpose of establishing a prison farm. Mr Speaker, as you would understand, there is reluctance on the part of pastoralists to have a prison farm in the middle of their properties. I understand that a pastoralist has now agreed with the Division of Correctional Services to enter into serious negotiations for the purpose.

The possibility did occur to us of establishing a prison farm at a place called Gillen Bore which is a stock reserve of sufficient size for the purpose, has good water and is conveniently located to the township of Alice Springs. By 'conveniently located', I mean close enough not to cost a fortune in transferring prison officers to and from the site back to the township as such transfers are extremely expensive in terms of overtime, travelling allowance and penalty rates. The trouble with Gillen Bore is that it is right alongside the highway. In order to have a prison farm on that location, one would have to have such excessive security as to defeat the purpose of a low-security institution such as a prison farm. Obviously, the government could not tolerate a situation where people could walk off the prison farm and thumb down a lift on the Stuart Highway which is 3 or 4 km away. That is the position at the moment. As I have already indicated, substantial progress has been made with a pastoralist who is prepared to surrender land to the government. Immediately that is done and the processing of the surrender and reissue of title documents occurs, a prison farm will be established forthwith.

Head Lice and the Education Act

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The minister would be aware of the provisions of section 25(1) of the Education Act which allows for children to be sent away from the school for reasons of, and I quote from the act, 'the child is suffering from an infectious or contagious disease'. Does the Department of Education consider that head lice is an infectious or contagious disease under the provisions of this section?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the honourable member with an answer to the question but I do thank him for it. He raises a good point. He indicates, by way of interjection, that he will explain the problem as he sees it later. It is more a matter for definition by the Department of Health than the Department of Education. We are in the business of teaching, not medical care. Even if head lice are not regarded as contagious for the purposes of the act, they are certainly a pest. It is a matter which I would certainly like to see further investigated.

Concessional Air Fares for Pensioners

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the government approached major airline companies on the question of old age pensioners' concessional air fares with a view to the airline companies also offering some concessions?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Tiwi raised this matter in an electoral capacity with me about a week ago. The idea had not been raised prior to the honourable member bringing it to our attention. One would have thought, of course, that these sorts of concessions are normally used by airlines for promotion and publicity purposes. If the taxpayer is prepared, through the elected government of the day, to make concessions available to pensioners in order to encourage them to stay here, one would think that the airlines, which make significant profit out of their general operations in the Territory, may wish to participate with the government in assisting pensioners to travel. This may be qualified by one of the airlines, Northern Airlines. Its parent company has high load factors around the Territory and is no doubt making a significant profit. It is a good idea and one which the department will now take up with the airlines as a result of the honourable member's representations.

French Markets for NT Uranium

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the minister sought markets for the Territory's uranium in France even though that country continues to conduct nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have always promoted the Northern Territory to be a supplier of uranium throughout the world and I do not regard France as any exception. If the French are prepared to buy our uranium, that would be a good thing. It would be a good thing for them and a good thing for us because we regard ourselves as large and stable suppliers of the product and they are very large users of it. By 1990, the French hope to have 58 reactors operating in France which will make them one of the biggest nuclear-generating countries in the world. They also are capable of supplying a greater portion of Europe with power for industrial expansion. I am aware that there are some people in the community who regard the exercise as one of providing raw material for bombs. That is really an extraordinary expression to put on the whole exercise given that France has had a nuclear program since 1957. The program has developed whether or not the Northern Territory sold a pound of uranium in that period of time. If anybody is telling me that the sale of Northern Territory uranium to France will have the slightest impact on its nuclear program, then I think that that is just phonus-bolonus. As far as I am concerned, the French are very good people to deal with. Any country that deals with the French would feel that it has a good trading partner. I think it would be an asset to both countries for us to supply France with uranium. I believe the federal government has established a bilateral agreement with France.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order! The honourable members will listen to the answer to the question and debate it later if they wish. The honourable Minister for Mines and Energy is answering the question fully and I think he should be heard in silence. If honourable members wish to debate it, then they better get another Speaker.

Mr TUXWORTH: We do have a formal agreement with France over the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, Mr Speaker. If any members have any problem with that, then really they should raise it in the appropriate place. I do not believe that this is the appropriate place to debate that issue. Could I just make one other pertinent point which I think is very interesting in the Northern Territory's terms. The government that has just come to power in France campaigned pretty heavily for the winding down of the nuclear program, both the weapons program and the generation of electricity program. In the short space of a year, we have seen no winding down of either program except that the number of nuclear generators was reduced from 60 to 58. That was because the expectation of load growth has not been realised.

Sale of NT Uranium

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What guidelines does the government have for the sale of NT uranium?

ANSWER

I would just make the point to the member that the guidelines for the sale of the Northern Territory's product is controlled by the Commonwealth. If the honourable member would like me to obtain full details for him, I can do that. I would make the point that it varies from country to country.

Tenders for Removal of Buffalo in Tiwi Electorate

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the composition of the Tender Board for the purpose of considering the tenders for purchase and removal of buffalo from areas in the Tiwi electorate?

ANSWER

There is a special board set up to evaluate the tenders received for the clearance of buffalo from the honourable member's electorate. I understand that that special tender board is comprised of 2 representatives of the general Tender Board, 1 representative in each case from the Conservation Commission, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Lands. For the Kapalga south area only, there is also a representative from CSIRO. I am sure that, with that sort of input into evaluating tenders, it is no wonder that it takes a little while. Clearly, there is much input from various sources, including the Commonwealth where appropriate.

Marina in Darwin

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the government's attitude towards the development of a marina in Darwin?

ANSWER

I would have thought that that would have been obvious to the honourable member because it was a government sponsored proposal floated to the public and exhibited by the Town Planning Authority recently. It received public comment and was knocked on the head. The government, quite clearly, favours the

provision of facilities for boating people in Darwin. The exercise that was undertaken in regard to the marina involved the commissioning of a consultant to evaluate sites. Six or so sites were studied in that selection ranging from Rapid Creek right around the coast into Frances Bay. The top site in that selection was Vestey's Beach. That is why the government proceeded with further environmental and engineering studies at a cost of some hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money with a view to demonstrating that it could be done in that area if the necessary planning approvals could be obtained and a developer attracted by the proposal. For the Vestey's Beach proposal, the government was to foot the bill itself. The cost would have been very substantial and it could have been represented that serving such a particular section of the community at such a level of funds from general revenue might not have been popular.

However, that matter has been concluded for the government. We are now looking at other areas around the coast which might be suitable for a marina or some modification of a marina. Most people consider a marina as being an area of water that is locked in and can be used for most of the tides. There are quite a number of systems which could be used to provide very attractive facilities for yachtsmen and others that do not involve the provision of locks and so on, depending on the geography of the area concerned. The government will keep this matter under study for some time until it can come up with proposals that are acceptable.

Approval Time for Rezoning Applications

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Why do rezoning applications currently take from 10 to 12 months from approval by the Planning Authority to gazettal?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it would be an exception that a rezoning application from approval by the Planning Authority to gazettal would take 12 months. If such a case occurred, I think it must have had a particular problem associated with it which was held up by the system or by the minister. The planning process involves an application by either the government or another person to have land rezoned. That then goes to the Planning Authority to evaluate whether the proposal is not frivolous and should go on display. It is on display for a minimum of 28 days. That period can be extended to 3 months. When it comes off display, the matter then goes before the next meeting of the Planning Authority which may be some weeks away depending on the schedules of meetings. After the Planning Authority has considered it, it may call for additional information or set aside time in which to hear objections which can result in another meeting. Following a recommendation by the Planning Authority, which is the stage the honourable member for Alice Springs mentioned in his question, recommendations are made to the minister who considers the matter, receives further advice if he so wishes on the question, and has the matter forwarded to Executive Council. Following its processing through Executive Council, it is gazetted. Most applications for rezoning can be handled in about 6 months. That allows for the exhibition period, the delay following the various procedures to get the matter before the next Planning Authority meeting and before Executive Council and so on. I point out to honourable members that I am advised by our planning section that it takes about 2 years to effect a rezoning in most states. Members should be mindful that the rezoning of an area of land within a town plan should not be taken lightly. A rezoning application, as distinct from a development application, is a changing of the document which has been accepted as the basis of planning for that town. It should not be too easy to get and should be evaluated properly by the public. Normally every 5 years or so, new town plans are developed and go on display for each population centre over which there is a plan. At that time, the direction that town is taking should be laid down clearly and thereafter rezoning should not be easy to effect.

Additionally, under the planning system we have in the Northern Territory at the moment, we have somewhere around a dozen zones with a range of permitted and consent uses within them. That system is a lot better, we believe, than the system that existed before Cyclone Tracy whereby the Darwin town plan had about 70 zones in it. It was very difficult to make even a minor change to a development without a complete rezoning exercise. The 70 zones restricted severely what could be done with a piece of land. The new system of permitted and consent use zones should make it more difficult for people to change the town plan through rezoning willy-nilly.

Cape Don Lighthouse

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the maritime division of his department made any submission to the federal Department of Administrative Services regarding the proposed demanning of Cape Don Lighthouse and, if it has, would he make that information available to the Assembly, preferably in the adjournment debate this evening?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of such a submission. I will endeavour to obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member at some later stage. It might not be this evening.

Answers to Questions

Mr PERRON (Lands and Housing)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Nhulunbuy asked whether the government was proceeding to obtain land from Nabalco for the construction of housing. I am advised that the Housing Commission is persisting in its efforts to obtain further land in Nhulunbuy. Verbal advice has been received recently that 5 serviced blocks will be made available to the commission in the near future. We are awaiting written confirmation of this. The commission proposes to use the 5 blocks in the 1982-83 program. It is proposed that 4 blocks be used for detached housing, and 1 for medium-density housing.

The honourable member also asked about the situation in Nhulunbuy relating to the sale of houses to tenants. I am advised that Nabalco has provided draft subleases to the Department of Law. Honourable members would be aware that the matter is somewhat complex because we are subleasing land and Nabalco's lease has only about 38 years to run. The Northern Territory Department of Law has examined the subleases provided and believes that they do not fulfil the requirements of the Housing Commission in this regard. It is presently liaising with the Housing Commission with a view to putting back to Nabalco papers and alternatives which would suit the Housing Commission's needs.

Transfer of Prisoners to Interstate Jails

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the government contemplating the introduction of legislation to provide for the transfer of Territory prisoners to interstate jails?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as far as I am aware, provisions already exist for the transfer of prisoners to interstate jails. As I recall it, this has happened on 1 or 2 occasions. I will certainly look further into the matter because I cannot make a categorical statement here this morning.

Answer to Question

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave): The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me a question which really wanted my prognostications on the future of

Cape Don Lighthouse. The position is likely to be that the Commonwealth will retain the lighthouse and its immediate precincts. This area of land would remain vested in the Crown in right of the Commonwealth. We have had an informal approach from the Commonwealth as to the Northern Territory Conservation Commission taking over the balance of the land, which I am told is in excess of 250 sq km which seems to me to be an extraordinarily large amount of land for a lighthouse. Of course, the airstrip is some distance from the lighthouse. It may be that the whole area including the road up to the airstrip and the airstrip itself is included in the particular reserve.

Jingellic Minerals

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has Jingellic Minerals paid to the government the full cost for the Mount Wells Battery and associated leases? If this has not happened, could he explain why it has not happened?

ANSWER

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

Assistance to Old Timers' Group

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he tell me what help is available from the government to an old timers' group which wishes to put up buildings on a block of land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have any idea what the honourable member is referring to. If she could reframe the question, I might have some hope of answering it.

Guidelines for Local Preference

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is he aware that inconsistencies exist in the drafting of the guidelines laid down for local preference? If he is aware of those inconsistencies, will he ensure that the guidelines are redrafted so they are consistent?

ANSWER

I cannot recall the actual details of the local preference policy although the government has looked at the matter once since implementing a system of local preference in tendering. I will ask Treasury to provide me with information on any problem it has had recently in regard to interpretation of the local preference policy. It is obviously an area where some subjective judgment has to be made from time to time. I believe it would be quite impossible to fairly and unequivocally describe what is in fact a local company having regard to the spirit of the policy. We are interested in people who have committed themselves to the Northern Territory and who employ people in the Northern Territory. They should have some preference over persons who do not do those things. There has been debate, at least outside this Assembly, over whether or not it is important that that company be registered locally in order to obtain local preference. My view is that it would not be necessary for a company to register locally. In fact, branches of some national companies which have operated in the Territory for many years employ many people in the Territory and probably will for a long time. Clearly, they should be eligible for local preference over persons who do not employ people locally. In response to the honourable member's question, I will have the matter examined again, but I cannot, at this stage, acknowledge that there are inconsistencies in the policy.

Photograph in 'Northern Territory of Australia 1982'

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I would draw his attention to the new booklet 'Northern Territory of Australia 1982' for distribution to schools and elsewhere. The first photograph on the inside cover is captioned 'Sunrise over Darwin', with the sun clearly in the west and the lights on. Would he take steps to assure people that, like the rest of the world, our sun actually rises in the east and sets in the west?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is a very interesting observation by the honourable member for Nightcliff. It just so happens that the honourable member for Stuart, the government Whip, has been of some use at long last and has a copy of this publication to hand. Clearly, this photograph is incorrectly captioned, 'Sunrise over Darwin'. It appears rather like a sunset to me. I am sure that the people who read this in parts outside Darwin will be suitably impressed because, whether it be a sunrise or a sunset, it is an extremely attractive photograph and certainly hides some of the more obvious blemishes of Darwin that could be apparent if the photograph had been taken in full daylight. On the other hand, there is a very nice photograph of myself on the flyleaf as well.

Additional Land for Tracy Lodge

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Northern Territory Pensioners Association urgently requires extra land to extend Tracy Lodge. Has approval been given for the land next to Tracy Lodge to be made available for this purpose?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the pensioners association applied some time ago for land next to Tracy Lodge in Darwin for future expansion. The matter was certainly approved in principle by myself some considerable time ago. I will check for the honourable member that the matter is being processed with due diligence through the Department of Lands but I see no problem at all in obtaining additional land for those people and their very worthy cause.

Management of Hostels

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Northern Territory government is creating anxiety and uncertainty amongst the staff of the former Commonwealth Hostels by its failure to make public any decision about the future management of those hostels?

ANSWER

I can appreciate that there may be some concern amongst the existing staff members of Tract Holdings, the company running the hostels in the Northern Territory at present. The matter is under consideration by government and a decision will be made as soon as practicable. Certainly it is a very important decision which should not be taken lightly. We are talking not only about quite a large number of people who are employed there but also a very substantial portion of accommodation throughout the Northern Territory in 3 centres.

Rural Old Timers' Group

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I will rephrase the question that I asked him a little while ago. As the Darwin Rural Old Timers' Group is seeking land upon which to build facilities, could he advise me what aid would be available if its application was successful?

ANSWER

I must apologise to the honourable member for not being able to pick up the tenor of her question previously. The honourable member is pursuing with some vigour the matter of the old timers' group wishing to establish itself in an accommodation unit in the rural area similar to that run by the old timers in Alice Springs of their own initiative rather than backed by a church.

The Commonwealth Department of Social Security basically administers all programs for the aged. There is a provision whereby the Commonwealth makes available two-thirds of the amount of money expended on capital works for aged accommodation. In addition, under the State Grants Home Care Act, a system administered by the state governments, in this case the Northern Territory government, the Commonwealth will provide \$2 for every \$1 of Northern Territory money for the purpose of capital works for aged accommodation. That is the nature of the 2 schemes. Quite obviously, the Department of Lands, in assessing an application from the rural old timers' group, would want to be satisfied from the various sources that the ability is there for the old timers to establish the facilities they need and that guarantees of funding, again from the various sources including their own resources, would be available in respect of current expenditure.

Electricity Accounts

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

NTEC has warned the public that it will cut off electric power within 48 hours for people who have not paid their bills after the initial 14 days of receiving the bill. What advice would he give to members of the general public who want to go on extended leave?

ANSWER

I do not think it is unreasonable that our electricity authority requires urgent payment of its accounts once rendered. Consumers receive up to 100 days of credit for the electricity they have consumed. They are not being asked to pay for it in advance in any way. It is not the sort of thing you can take back if it is not paid for. Therefore, I support the commission's policy. It is in all our interests to keep the bad debts that NTEC will invariably incur from time to time to an absolute minimum.

As far as persons going on extended leave are concerned, an account may well be rendered and, if it is not paid, power will be cut off. I suggest that those people contact their nearest Electricity Commission office with a view to making arrangements for the period that they will be away. The account could either be held in the NTEC office until such time as those people return or other arrangements could be made. Perhaps a deposit could be left against the account. Certainly, arrangements can be made for people who are going away and I advise all consumers to make such arrangements.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

A news report this morning stated that the federal government had accepted proposed changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act, those changes having been sought by the Northern Territory government. Would he give the Assembly details of the proposed changes?

ANSWER

I thought that I had reported to the Assembly in some detail on the negotiations which have been going on over a period of 14 months. Indeed, I thought that I may have even circulated at one sittings last year a copy of the 10 or 12 points that were under discussion. I can certainly elaborate this morning. In fact, I have a number of copies of a statement by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs giving certain details. I have not had time to prepare a detailed statement to make in this Assembly but, having been involved in these negotiations for 14 months, I am fairly familiar with the whole thing and I will attempt to flesh out the bones of the press statement by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

All honourable members will be aware of the tension that has been excited in Central Australia as a result of claims over stock routes that traverse pastoral properties and over bores and quarantine areas. It was the desire of the Northern Territory government to attempt to de-escalate tension, to use a Haigism. The Northern Territory government has had an employee working full time for quite some time. The Aboriginal Liaison Unit has as one of its major tasks the attempted resolution of various needs claims on pastoral properties. I think there are 32 of these claims by Aboriginal groups living on pastoral properties, mainly in Central Australia. In many cases, the negotiations have been going on for many years and, with the best will in the world, the Northern Territory government has not been able to conclude satisfactorily many of these negotiations because they require agreement by a number of parties and this is a difficult thing to achieve. The Northern Territory government suggested as one of the major concessions it would offer that, after it had consulted with pastoral organisations, there be a procedure established

by way of legislation in this Assembly to enable Aboriginal groups living on pastoral properties and wanting tenure over the land on which they live to enter negotiations. If the negotiations were unsatisfactory, they would be able to refer the matter to a tribunal comprised of a Supreme Court judge, a representative of the pastoral industry and a representative of the relevant land council for a recommendation to be made - to the best of my recollection - to the Minister for Lands for an area to be excised and compensation provided to the pastoralist. The Northern Territory also conceded that it would be prepared to legislate along the lines of, though not precisely the same as, the Cobourg Peninsula National Park legislation in respect of Uluru National Park and other, smaller, national parks. The concession the land councils were asked for was that there be no further claims to pastoral properties. This, of course, would require an amendment to the federal act.

Those are the basic provisions of the arrangements. I believe the package is a good one that will be of benefit to everyone in the Northern Territory. There are a considerable number of Aboriginal people living on pastoral properties, several thousand I understand, and they would all stand to be able to obtain tenure to land which presently, in many instances, they have no hope of obtaining. The Northern Land Council, the Central Land Council and the Tiwi Land Council have been involved in these negotiations with the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments over a period of 14 months. The Northern Land Council, in August, September or October last year, considered, at a meeting of its full council, the package of proposals and agreed in principle that they were acceptable. That was reported publicly about that time. In an earlier statement to this Assembly, I paid tribute to the land council for the words it chose to use at the time. It said that, in a spirit of conciliation with the whole community, it was prepared to go along with the proposals because it believed they were in the best interests of the Northern Territory. I believe that myself. We are all here together and we have to be able to live together. Unfortunately, with radical legislation, sometimes there are some rough edges that cause a degree of dissatisfaction, unhappiness and, in this case perhaps, some racial tension.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs intends to continue his negotiations with the Northern Territory government and the land councils. Detailed drafting instructions had been provided by the Northern Territory government to the land councils some months ago setting out the nature of the drafting instructions that we would be giving to our draftsmen to implement the Northern Territory side of the arrangements. As yet, we have received no detailed comment on the drafting instructions although one meeting has been held with the land councils with a view to attempting to settle them. The Commonwealth will also be preparing its drafting instructions and the details of these, one hopes, will be able to be settled with the land councils within a reasonable time.

I think it is pertinent to mention that the Central Land Council itself set a deadline for the completion of the negotiations: the end of October 1981. This deadline was not able to be met. That was not through a lack of goodwill on the part of the Northern Territory or the Commonwealth governments whose officials have stood ready to meet whenever the land councils here wanted to do so. I believe that the Northern Land Council and the Tiwi Land Council signified their acquiescence in principle with the proposals prior to the end of October 1981.

I would not for one moment suggest that there will be no problems in settling the details of the various bills; for example, the bill in relation to Uluru National Park. These are things that we must attempt to do and I do not believe that we should let the smaller points stand in the way of acceptance of a totality of elements that will be of considerable benefit to the whole of the Territory community. Mr Speaker, you would appreciate that, if this package of legislation is accepted and if the legislation is passed through the

federal parliament, the Aboriginal people would no longer be able to make land claims over pastoral leases but, nevertheless, they would be in the same position as everyone else in the Northern Territory. They can purchase pastoral properties and operate them. For that matter, they can purchase any land in the Northern Territory and do whatever they want to with it. I think that, if we can secure the passage of the various parcels of legislation, it will cater for the genuine needs of all citizens of the Northern Territory, whether they be Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal.

Roll-over of Pastoral Leases

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has there been a significant demand for the roll-over of pastoral leases since March 1981?

ANSWER

I have not been the minister for the full period since March 1981. I recall approving 3 or 4 roll-overs in the last couple of months. I could not really answer the honourable member's question. However, details could be provided.

Escort Agencies

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of his interest in developing industry in the Northern Territory, has he noted that there are now 10 escort agencies advertising in the Darwin area? Will he be considering legislation in relation to this up and coming service industry?

ANSWER

I cannot say that I am aware of the exact number of escort agencies operating in Darwin or the Northern Territory at present. When one flips through the classified ads, one certainly sees a full page of advertisements of these various establishments, with their various blandishments to lure the customer. I do not think the government has considered legislation for escort agencies. No doubt the escort agencies are kept under some surveillance by the police. I imagine the police would be on the alert for people who might be committing offences of the nature of living on immoral earnings and so on. The police would be seeing that there were no breaches of the law being perpetrated by the escort agency ladies and their customers.

One would appreciate of course that these arrangements are of a very private nature. It would be very difficult for the police to obtain any evidence on which they might launch any particular type of prosecution against either a person from an escort agency or indeed one of its customers. I must say that it is certainly a phenomenon that has been on the increase not just in the Northern Territory but right throughout Australia over recent years. One notices now in the provincial towns along the coast of Queensland that there are advertisements of the same nature appearing in the papers there as appear in the Darwin paper here.

I personally believe in a policy of non-intervention in this area because it is something of a private arrangement. It seems to me that the industry, if it could be called that, has not been shown to have any particular links with any criminal organisations. I would like you and honourable members to know that I have personally requested the Police Commissioner to ensure that any attempt by organised crime in any shape or form to establish itself in the Northern Territory should be resisted with every possible recourse that we may have. Whilst one may, from a purely moralistic view, deplore the increasing incidence of these agencies in the community, I nevertheless feel that it is

a judgment for the individual to make as to whether he avails himself of the services of the particular agencies.

Action Inter-country Adoption Applications

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How many staff have been appointed to Action Inter-country Adoption applications and approximately how long does it take to process applications?

ANSWER

As is consistent with all state jurisdictions now as a result of the last welfare ministers' conference, it is not proposed that the states and the Territory set up special units to handle inter-country adoptions. The policy which has been accepted nationally is that the departments throughout the states and the Commonwealth will do the normal assessment as to eligibility and propriety of individual married couples who wish to adopt children. It is then up to an individual family to communicate with the respective government and arrange the actual adoption of the child otherwise, in a small place like the Northern Territory, the costs would become rather prohibitive. On our assessment, something like 10 additional staff would be required to carry out such a program. Currently, the estimated time between the placing of an application and all material being finalised and approval granted would be about 12 months. That is somewhat longer than one would anticipate in respect of a normal Australian adoption.

I am fully aware that this matter has caused considerable concern and anxiety among prospective adoptive parents of overseas children. I propose to hold a meeting with the President of the Adoptive Parents Association in my office next Tuesday. Following that meeting with her, I have asked for a meeting with the Director of Welfare Services Branch of the Department of Community Development and the secretary to see if we can come up with a system to expedite this process without necessarily building up the current expenditure side of staffing for which, of course, the taxpayer at large has to pay. Suffice to say that every effort will be made to reduce that time as much as we possibly can.

Amendments to Summary Offences

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the legal application of recent amendments to the Summary Offences Act in relation to drinking within 2km of a licensed outlet on Aboriginal land or a lease on Aboriginal land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as I understand it, the honourable member for Nhulunbuy has asked me to offer a legal opinion to the Assembly. This would be contrary to Standing Orders. Whilst I would be happy to give an advising to the honourable member if he sought one of me in writing, I would prefer not to breach Standing Orders. I think the answer is fairly simple though, Mr Speaker.

Supply of Electrical Power by Private Enterprise

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Has he considered, as an option, the supply of Darwin's electrical power by a private company or companies?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certainly in wrangling with the problems of electricity generation and its cost in the Northern Territory, the government has thought of private enterprise but I do not think that we thought about it for a great

deal of time. Electricity will cost a great deal of taxpayers' money as well as money from electricity consumers. Even if the government were able to attract private enterprise to generate electricity on a large scale in the Northern Territory, such an operation would undoubtedly involve enormous subsidies both in the form of capital for the construction of such facilities and also subsidies towards operational costs. In the light of that, we certainly will be using private enterprise as far as the construction of additional capital facilities for electricity is concerned. We will be doing our utmost to spread that work amongst the private sector. The generation of electricity on a full private enterprise basis is done in some countries overseas, particularly the United States. I do not believe this is a serious option for the Northern Territory at this stage. Certainly, it is not one that one could accept without very substantial subsidies being poured into the operation.

Security Officers

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the statement he made in the adjournment last night that special conditions on training were applied to security officers using handguns. Is it the government's intention to redress this situation by introducing such regulations and special training under the auspices of a specialist organisation such as the Northern Territory Police Force?

ANSWER

I have some hesitation in answering his question. I thought twice before I answered the first question from the Leader of the Opposition but I said that I would get him that information and I did. There is presently a charge laid in a particular matter in the criminal court. It is a very serious charge which relates to a security guard. I do not know that we should be touching on these matters in view of that fact. Quite frankly, I am prepared to indicate my views privately to the Leader of the Opposition. I would say that the Registrar of Firearms is the Police Commissioner and I doubt that there is any more experienced person in the Northern Territory in the handling of firearms and the training of people in the use of firearms than the Northern Territory Commissioner of Police. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to discuss this with me whenever it suits him, or write to me, I would be happy to give him a forthright answer to this question.

Registration of Physiotherapists

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does he intend to proceed with legislation to register physiotherapists in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, for the past 4 to 6 months, the department has been preparing for legislation for the allied health professional services group into which category physiotherapists would fit. This proportion has not yet been put to my colleagues and, as soon as I can, I will advise the honourable member.

Capacity of Rising Mains for Palmerston

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What population in Palmerston can be served by the current 750mm rising mains - one old one and one recently installed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the information I have is that a 450mm main is adequate for the initial population of Palmerston which is expected to reach about 11,000 people in the next couple of years. A larger rising main will be brought into

service to augment the capacity of the 450mm main which will ultimately become a distribution main for developing and clearing of that area once the population increases beyond that point.

Ablution Block at Lake Nash

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer him to an answer in a previous sittings of this Assembly in which he advised of a contract to be let at Lake Nash for some \$15,000 for an ablu-tion block. Why was that contract, valued at \$14,950, for a permanent ablu-tion block cancelled in favour of a much more expensive skid-type ablu-tion block valued at \$36,000?

ANSWER

The design of the toilet block was changed to allow the department to move it as necessary because the community is always on the move in that area.

Registration Plates on Trailed Vehicles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following a press release he put out some months ago regarding the inter-change of registration plates on trailed and trailable vehicles, what is the current position on this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, currently the department is investigating the proposal. Until such time as the Territory Insurance Office can give us further advice on it, we are unable to do anything further with it.

Lake Nash Aboriginal Community

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Was it at ministerial direction that his department wrote to the Aborigi-nal community at Lake Nash requesting it to move to Bathurst Downs by a set date? Is he aware that in reply the community has stated that it has no inten-tion of moving?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of the allegations made by the honourable member. I will check it out.

Traffic Act

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What proposals does the government have to implement section 26A of the Traffic Act which limits the time for which drivers of certain vehicles may remain continuously on duty?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Rice Production in NT

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What intentions has the government in commencing commercial rice production in the Northern Territory along the lines of those farms operating under the ADMA scheme in the Douglas-Daly basin in the coming season?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government's view of rice production is that quite a lot more work needs to be done on testing and soil work. The government does not place rice as a high priority in so far as establishing a scheme similar to the Douglas-Daly is concerned. Certainly, if the work that is being undertaken at Tortilla Farm has good results, it may lead us to a reconsideration of that policy. We wait for those results.

Chiropractors

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it his intention to include chiropractors in the legislation for the allied health professionals that he referred to earlier and, if not, is it his intention to reintroduce separate legislation governing chiropractors?

ANSWER

No, they will not be included. There will be separate legislation.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his answer in relation to the statement last night by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and to his claim that the federal government was envisaging excisions to be negotiated. Does he envisage that this would be federal or Territory legislation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thought I had made this quite clear through information brought before the Assembly earlier. I should make it clear that there are 10 or 12 specific proposals to be taken together. If there is non-acceptance of 1 proposal, then the whole lot collapse. I thought I had made it clear to the Assembly last year that, if there was to be legislation in relation to excisions, it would be by way of amendment to the Crown Lands Act which is, of course, the relevant legislation for pastoral leases. This would give to people living presently on pastoral properties the right, after a period of negotiation, to go to the tribunal, which would be constituted under the Territory legislation, to apply for an excision. This would be in exchange for the agreement of the land councils that the Land Rights Act be amended to preclude further claims to stock routes.

Extension of Crop Purchase Guarantee Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it the intention of the Territory government to extend the Crop Purchase Guarantee Scheme under the ADMA system from the present 1 year to at least 3 years so that farmers are better able to plan production?

ANSWER

Schemes of this nature really have to be run parallel to budget considerations of the government. Although there is a philosophical trend towards extending the life of this scheme for the 2 years suggested by the Cropping Development Committee, in view of government policy as far as this budget is concerned, these sorts of schemes are really a year-to-year proposition.

Equal Opportunity Plan

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

What degree of priority is currently enjoyed by the equal opportunity program within the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand a number of proposals will come forward to me shortly in respect of the equal opportunity program. There is an officer in charge of equal opportunities in the Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Public Service Act contains legislative provisions in relation to equal opportunity as, I think, does the Housing Act. The question of equal opportunity in the Northern Territory is not as burning as it is elsewhere in Australia. Generally speaking, women are not severely disadvantaged in the Territory situation, at least in the urban community. Certainly they enjoy a measure of acceptance within government. We have a woman magistrate in the Northern Territory. As far as I can recall, she is the only woman who has ever applied for the position of magistrate. They cannot be appointed unless they apply. We have female senior executives in government, amongst them the director of the Department of Law Commercial Section. I am still waiting for a woman to apply for a position as a departmental head or head of a statutory authority. They are well represented on statutory authorities. All in all, I think the government's record in this area is one of which we can be reasonably proud. I hope this will not be misinterpreted because it is perhaps rather an ambiguous statement but I do not have anything against women.

Incorporation of Bill of Rights in Constitution

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of his public statements regarding the desirability for the incorporation of a bill of rights into a Northern Territory constitution, would he be prepared to consider committing his government to introduce a bill of rights which can presently be done under this Assembly's power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory and not delay its introduction until statehood?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that the Leader of the Opposition considers that a bill of rights could be prepared in a matter of a couple of weeks, and I suppose one could be. But I think its evolution will take a number of years and it will be a question for the government of that time to consider whether it should introduce it in advance of incorporation in a Northern Territory constitution. I have officers of the Department of Law working on the formulation of a bill of rights, but I think that an Australian bill of rights would look quite different to the Bill of Rights that one sees through the American federal and state constitutions. It is something I had not considered before. I personally have never felt adversely affected. I see a bill of rights as something that we should put in our state constitution because our constitution will be our fundamental document. That is the appropriate place for any bill of rights that we might have in due course. It would also have various political overtones and might in fact weaken the Territory's position in certain areas were it to legislate in this field before actually considering a constitution for the Northern Territory.

It is not something that I can make any decision about myself, in any event. It is one that I would have to consider very carefully with my Cabinet colleagues. It is one that I would have to take to the parliamentary party and also canvass very widely in the community. But I see absolutely no need for haste in the exercise. I think that will be recognised by you and other honourable members as not characteristic of myself. It would be the first bill of rights ever likely to be enacted in an Australian parliament. I say that without any criticism of the Australian states or the federal government because the latter's constitution was enacted in 1901 and the states' constitutions were enacted many years before that. But we are in the 1980s. When it comes time to consider a constitution for the Northern Territory, then consideration

of a bill of rights must take place at the same time. It is not a decision for me to make; it will be a decision for whoever is involved in framing the Northern Territory constitution. That of course will be the whole membership of this Assembly, whatever it may comprise at that time.

I would highlight the fact that the evolution of the criminal code in the Northern Territory has been a very lengthy process. I do not begrudge that at all. I believe that we should take as long as this process needs. I just hope that we do not get other people coming out of the woodwork in due course, like the Opposition Leader, who decide 12 months later that they are at long last going to take an interest in the matter. That will continually delay and frustrate the matter. I certainly do not begrudge the time and, whether the Leader of the Opposition has come late to the party or not, we have certainly got to bear in mind what he says. We must have a criminal code that is acceptable to the vast majority of Territorians and that is what this government is working for. I do not know that the Leader of the Opposition's views are any more representative of the vast majority of Territorians than mine.

In any event, I think a bill of rights, when we get there, will have to be treated in much the same way. It will have to be publicly ventilated, and opportunities given for interested groups to come forward with their suggestions. I had thought that the liquor legislation exercise was a supreme example of community consultation on the part of this government because we spoke to almost every group and every community in the Northern Territory about the legislation but, the criminal code exercise, I believe, has been even more thorough than that. I think we are distilling a document that will be acceptable to most people.

Aboriginal Land Rights

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to his and the Treasurer's reported attendance at the federal council of the Liberal Party and to a report that appeared in the press consequent on that council in which it was said that a motion to voice support for the concept of Aboriginal land rights and the continuity of Aboriginal control over their land was in fact lost. Is he prepared to reveal to the Assembly the position he and his Territorian delegates adopted on that particular motion?

ANSWER

One should not believe everything that one reads in newspapers. I do not recall any such motion being put and lost. The Liberal Party does not conduct its business behind closed doors; the Liberal Party does not have faceless men. The Liberal Party conference was open to the public. There was a large public gallery provided and even the honourable member for MacDonnell would have been allowed in to listen if he had wanted to be there.

The matter of the federal Liberal policy platform came under review at the most recent federal convention of the Liberal Party. There were a number of motions from various state branches in relation to various aspects of the policy platform. In relation to the area of Aboriginal affairs, there were motions from the Young Liberals, from the Western Australians and from New South Wales. These motions were debated and discussed. As I recall it, the platform came through pretty much as it went into the mill. Certainly, the Liberal Party policy platform espouses the principle of Aboriginal land rights. The Northern Territory Country Liberal Party has observer status only at the Liberal Party and National Country Party conferences for the simple reason that we do not wish to be bound to either of the federal groupings because we believe that we are a party independent of federal control, unlike the members of the unitary party opposite me who must jump at the dictates of their centralist masters. Our party was formed by Territorians and operates for Territorians. I put forward the Territory point of view, as I am entitled to do as an

observer, and the Territory government quite clearly indicated its support for continuing the principle of Aboriginal land rights.

I might say that all the actions of the Territory government since self-government and before it have clearly supported Aboriginal land rights but we have not been prepared to throw away the interests of every other person in the community because we believe that everyone has rights and everyone has responsibilities. We do not see things through the one-eyed perspective of the honourable member for MacDonnell.

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 846, 852

Aborigines -

- Alice Springs, organisations 830
- community work program *741
- disadvantaged-card holders 758
- funding for education *746
- Groote Eylandt, trust account 768
- health workers 764, 790, 791, 793
- interpreter service 749
- Lake Nash 851
- land rights 854
- nursing home care 757
- report on dry areas 818
- sacred sites 804
- teaching assistants 759

Action Inter-country Adoption applications 849

Adelaide River -

- Experimental Station 762
- Farmers Co-operative 809, 833

ADMA 774

Aerial medical base for Arnhem region 797

Air fares 834

Airlines of Northern Australia 795, 813

Alice Springs -

- Aboriginal organisations 830
- building heights 829
- eye specialist 810
- farming area 826
- High School, staff 816
- prison farm 838
- recreation lake *743
- rehabilitation facility 797

Anti-depressant medication 753

Apicultural industry 827

Arthurell and Buckley case 779

Ayers Rock -

- community adviser *745
- motels 808
- schooling *745

Banks' merger 819

Barramundi, management plan 808

Beef -

- tenderising techniques 770
- trade with South-east Asia *745, 798

Bees Creek Road *748, 799

Bellinger, Geoffrey Peter, compensation for injuries *739

Berrimah, rationalisation of rates 814

Berry Springs Zoo 833, 836

Bilingual education programs 762

Bill of rights, incorporation in constitution 853

Blood tests for drugs 801

Brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign 765, 792

Buffalo -

- Beatrice Hill project 815
- shooting, tenders 790, 792, 840

Bynoe Harbour, access road 775, 787

Cane toads 787

Cape Don lighthouse 826, 842, 843

Central Australia, mosquito eradication 821

Channel Island, causeway 822

Child Protection Consultative Committee 761
Chiropractors, legislation 852
Collia tin mine *737
Commonwealth -
 Hostels, future management 834, 845
 houses, transfer to NT 786
Community Development Department, counselling 750
Community health centres 753
Convention on elimination of discrimination against women *740
Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Act, payments under 768
Crop Purchase Guarantee Scheme 852
Daly Waters, electricity supply 776
Dangerous Goods Act *742
Darwin Central Community Health Centre 752
Darwin City, access 818
Darwin City Council -
 boundaries 802
 houses *742
Darwin Community College -
 BA degree course 781, 796, 822
 basketball courts 801
Darwin Hospital -
 fees for reports 834
 northern region office *747
 pathology laboratory *736
 previous site 794
 security for patients' belongings *736
 separate facilities 757
 staffing 756
Darwin Prison, adulteration of food 821
Darwin water supply, failure to fluoridate 780
Detoxification centres 751
Disabled persons 756, 833
Disadvantaged cards 758
Doctors in NT -
 duty rosters *738
 ratio to patients *738
 salaries *738
Domestic violence 760
Douglas-Daly -
 Experimental Station 762
 farmland 829
Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee 827
Drug education program 754
East Point Reserve, management 817
Education Department -
 computers *742
 staffing at Banka Banka *744
 Yipirinya School *738
Electoral boundaries, redistribution 792
Electricity -
 charges 831
 generation, federal subsidy 803, 836
 payment of accounts 846
 private enterprise involvement 849
Elsey electorate, fire fighting equipment 766
Emergency accommodation for females *736
Emily Gap farm area 783, 788
Equal opportunity program, NT public service 852
Escort agencies 848

Eva Valley Station 749
Experimental electric car 824
'Fellow Territorians' circular *739
Feral animals, eradication by tourists 791
Firearms regulations for security guards *747, 779, 850
Fire station at 14-mile 786, 798
Flagpoles, NT buildings *744
Fog Bay prawn fishery, protection 786
Foreshore policy 825
Fortified wines, excise duty 777
Fred's Pass Police Office 798
Free trade zone in NT 787, 813
Frozen fish, advertising 804
Geothermal energy 830
Giles House 822
Golden perch *747
Government -
 contract to Brisbane company 805, 831
 land, cleaning up 813
 land purchases, Northlakes and Brinkin *743
Grants-in-aid *742, 755, 756, 774
Groote Eylandt, Aboriginal trust account 768
Grumman Trackers, use for surveillance 788
Guidelines for local preference 844
Gunn Point, plan of management 795
Head lice 838
Health Department -
 Aboriginal health workers 764, 790, 791, 793
 Chest X-rays 752
 debt collectors 768
 grants-in-aid 756
 internal reviews *737
 Nhulunbuy Hospital 835
 reduction of nursing staff at Galiwinku and Gapuwiyak 837
 research into in vitro fertilisation *742
 transfer of services 811, 812
Health grants, Commonwealth 755, 758
Horticultural industry 828
Hospital -
 charges 832
 payments by instalments scheme 769
Housing Commission -
 Nhulunbuy 817, 826, 842
 rental increases 765
 sale of units *744
 single-parent families, rental accommodation *744
Humpty Doo, water supply 797
International Labour Organisation conventions -
 Civil and political rights *740
 NT application *739
 standards *740
Jabiru -
 administration staff *746
 development costs *746
 operational funding *746
 rating system *746
 shop leases *746
 supermarket lease *746
 Town Advisory Council 781
Jingellic Minerals 843

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
25 May - 3 June 1982

Juvenile crime in NT *741
Katherine -
 Aboriginal camping area *736
 electricity supply *735, 766
 horticulturists *747
 Hospital 771
 Meatworks *745
 town boundaries *739
Koolpinyah Station -
 boundaries *742, *748, 802
 pastoral lease *742
Lake Nash -
 ablution block 851
 Aboriginal community 851
Legislative Assembly, repairs 810
Liaison between government departments *739
Life sentences *747
Liquor -
 Act 812
 campaign *737, 789
 Commission 800, 818
Litter campaign *738
Local government funding from Commonwealth tax-sharing arrangements 784
Low-alcohol beer 751
Low-cost housing designs 815
MacDonnell Ranges *743
McMinns Lagoon, pumping station 811
Magellan Petroleum *744
Male public servants *741
Marina, Darwin 840
Mataranka -
 farmland 829
 petrol bowser 778
Meat industry, Royal Commission 808
Medical evacuations *744
Millner School *743, 776
Mines Safety Control Act, breaches at Ranger 833
Mining Act, commencement 810
Minister for Health, visit to Hermannsburg 811
Molyhill mine 762
Motor vehicle accidents 771
Mt Wells battery *748, 843
Mudginberri -
 export abattoir 788
 pastoral lease 788
Munmarlary pastoral lease 788
Napperby Station, health clinic 777, 817
Nhulunbuy -
 Community Health Centre, use by private doctor 789
 grants-in-aid to sporting bodies *742
 hospital 791, 835
 Housing Commission 817, 826, 842
 Police Station, female toilet facilities 832
Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd, loan *735
'Northern Territory of Australia 1982' booklet 844
NTDC, loans 751
NTEC -
 Assistant General Manager 773
 award negotiations 773
 employees' remuneration and benefits 772

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
25 May - 3 June 1982

new powerhouse 836
vehicles assigned to employees *741, 772
NT hospitals -
 bed costs 756
 Outpatients 752, 753
 procedures in cases of domestic violence 760
 staffing 759, 769
Nursing and administration of medicine, report *738
Nursing home care 757
Old-age pensioners, air fare concessions 809, 839
Old timers' groups, land grants 803, 844, 845
Opposition members, telephone numbers 821
Outpatients at NT hospitals 752, 753
Palmerston -
 land turn-off 825
 police station 801
 water supply 850
Pastoral leases -
 foreign ownership 777
 roll-over 848
Pet meat regulations 785, 786
Petrol sniffing workshop *745
Physiotherapists, NT registration 850
Pine Creek hall 771
Pintubi, relocation *745
Police -
 planning group 776
 uniforms for southern region officers 802
Prawning licences 750
Prisons, hard labour 818
Psychiatric services *738, 758, 769
Public -
 expenditure 828
 housing *737
 servants 741, 770, 852
 service housing sales scheme 793
Rape in southern region *735
Rapid Creek -
 bridge across mouth 783, 823
 Primary School *743, 776
 water gardens project *739
Red Cross, Darwin Hospital facility 800
Register of members' interests bill 790
Retrographics, government contract 805, 831
Rezoning applications 841
Rice production in NT 851
Royal Flying Doctor Service, tender for Alice Springs hangar *743
Rural subdivision 827
Sadadeen -
 East industrial subdivision 784
 hills, blasting *745
Salt and lime supplies for NT *747
Santa Teresa police station 799
School councils 785
School leavers entering apprenticeships *741
Sexual assault cases *736
Solar rebate scheme 823
Sports insurance 779
Student assistance 749
St Vidgeon Station 749

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
25 May - 3 June 1982

Summary Offences Act 812, 849
Sunday Creek Station, cropping programs 816
Superannuation deductions for NT public servants 764
Sydney Royal Easter Show, NT display 801
TAB, NT legislation 832
Tait, Donald 800
Telegraph Terrace, resealing 823
Tennant Creek, medical practitioner 826
Todd River 834
Tracy Lodge, land requirements 845
Tradesmen visiting remote areas *735
Traeger Park 828
Traffic Act 851
Trailed vehicles, registration plates 851
Transfer of prisoners to interstate jails 842
Tuberculosis *736
Uranium -
 French markets 839
 guidelines for sale 840
 mining 836
Vegetables for NT conditions 835
Wells Building 803
Winnellie, fire prevention services 802
Yipirinya School *738
Yulara Tourist Village 805, 824, 825