

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

FROM 21 DECEMBER 1976

1628 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Could he please advise the following in respect of -

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

FROM 3 MAY 1977

1895 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

Would the Honourable Member arrange for the tabling in this Assembly of an audited set of accounts for the Aborigines Benefit Trust Fund, established under the Northern Territory (Administration) Act, for the years from the year ended June 1973 to June 1977, or such of these accounts as are available at the time of tabling?

FROM 7 JUNE 1977

2005 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

What is the current market value in the Valuer-General's estimation of the land and improvements at Lot 2904 Trower Road Alawa?

2006 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that aerial spraying to combat mosquitoes and sand flies is carried out at Nhulunbuy, and if so -

- (a) What spray is used and under whose supervision is the work carried out?
- (b) What areas are actually sprayed and for how long has spraying on Gove Peninsula been practised?

1722 Mr STEELE to Miss ANDREW

How many persons were breathalyser tested in the Territory in 1976 and what was the blood alcohol concentration reading in each case?

ANSWER

1,627 persons were so tested.

Blood alcohol concentration readings were as follows:

.08 and under	220	.24	51
.09	22	.25	59
.1	60	.26	27
.11	74	.27	29
.12	68	.28	21
.13	73	.29	13
.14	74	.30	19
.15	89	.31	12
.16	114	.32	5
.17	107	.33	5
.18	103	.34	2
.19	86	.35	2
.20	84	.36	1
.21	67	.37	-
.22	86	.38	1
.23	53		

1896 Mr MANUELL to Mr TAMBLING

1. Has the tender for the construction of a bridge over the Todd River been advertised?
2. When will the tender close?
3. When is construction planned to commence?
4. What is the proposed completion date?

ANSWER

1. Yes, on 8 March 1977.
2. Tenders closed on 23 March 1977.
3. On present indications late May 1977 depending on availability of increased funds.
4. Period of contract is 52 weeks from date of acceptance.

1897 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

1. Has the Department of Northern Territory decided that the present Stokes Hill Power Station and subsequent extensions will adequately supply Darwin's power requirements for the next seven years?
2. Has the Department of Northern Territory suspended work on the Environmental Impact Study for Darwin's second power station?

3. Has the Department of Northern Territory shelved plans for a submission to Cabinet so that funds be made available to allow preliminary design work on Darwin's second power station to proceed?

ANSWER

1. No.
2. Yes, pending receipt of the Final Report of the Inquiry into Public Electricity Supply, Northern Territory.
3. Any such decision will be taken following the receipt and evaluation of the Final Report of the Inquiry into Public Electricity Supply, Northern Territory.

1898 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

As from the start of 1977 school year, how many students have been -

- (a) suspended;
- (b) recommended for expulsion;
- (c) recommended for permission to leave school before the required age, at: -
 - (i) Darwin High;
 - (ii) Nightcliff High;
 - (iii) Casuarina High?

ANSWER

- (a) As from the start of 1977 school year, seven (7) students have been suspended from school:
 - (i) Darwin High School - 3 students
 - (ii) Nightcliff High School - 2 students
 - (iii) Casuarina High School - 2 students.
- (b) Since the beginning of the 1977 school year no student has been recommended for expulsion from any of the three Darwin High Schools.
- (c) Three students have been recommended for exemption from school before the required leaving age since the beginning of term 1:
 - (i) Darwin High School - 1 student
 - (ii) Nightcliff High School - 2 students
 - (iii) Casuarina High School - nil students.

1899 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

1. How many students at Darwin High School -
 - (a) sat for matriculation;
 - (b) passed that examination in the following years: 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976?

2. How many students at Nightcliff High School

- (a) sat for matriculation;
- (b) passed that examination in the following years: 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976?

3. How many students at Casuarina High School -

- (a) sat for matriculation;
- (b) passed that examination in the following years: 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976?

ANSWER

Prior to 1974 individual school records were not kept by this Department. Students results were sent direct to schools. Since the cyclone, accurate records cannot be readily obtained. However in 1970 there were 27 students who matriculated. The percentage of matriculants in 1971 was 52%; in 1972, 48%; and in 1973, 52%. Nightcliff High School commenced matriculation in 1972 but did not have a class in 1975 due to the reorganisation following the cyclone. Casuarina commenced matriculation in 1976.

The table below gives the relevant information for 1976, 1975 and 1974.

MATRICULATION

Year	<u>DARWIN H.S.</u>		<u>NIGHTCLIFF H.S.</u>		<u>CASUARINA H.S.</u>	
	<u>No. of Students Who:</u> <u>SAT</u>	<u>MATRICULATED</u>	<u>No. of Students Who:</u> <u>SAT</u>	<u>MATRICULATED</u>	<u>No. of Students Who:</u> <u>SAT</u>	<u>MATRICULATED</u>
1976	89	31	26	8	36	6
1975	123	54	-	-	-	-
1974	52	27	69	30	-	-

2007 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

I understand that the Federal Government has stated that the Department of Health is studying the subject of ciguatera and that it is following the developments of overseas research centres. Accordingly I ask -

- (a) What current research is being carried out by the Department?
- (b) Is the Department to conduct marine biological research at Gove, or if not, by whom will this work be undertaken?
- (c) Will the Department make available already accumulated information on the problems of a ciguatera at Gove?

ANSWER

No research is being done on ciguatera poisoning by the Department of Health in the Northern Territory or elsewhere in Australia. However, the Department is most interested in the problem particularly in the Gove

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

area. Extensive research has been carried out, particularly by Professor Banner in Hawaii and by Professor Hashimoto in Japan. The South Pacific Commission is playing a major role in the co-ordination of the research.

However, the research required is of the most detailed nature and the extent of the problem at Gove would not justify the scale of research which would be entailed.

The Department will make available to Mrs Lawrie a paper written on the subject of ciguatera poisoning at Gove.

2008 Mr KENTISH to Mr TUXWORTH

I understand from a news item yesterday that VD is ripe in the electorate of Arnhem. I have heard that children as young as 10 years old are affected. Can the honourable member advise me of the most affected areas and whether the Health Department have efficient resources to deal adequately with the disease? Are there any special problems associated with the outbreak?

ANSWER

I will provide the information later in this sittings.

2009 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMELING

Bearing in mind the motion passed by this Assembly at the last sittings, can he advise whether adequate finance is available to finance the \$15,000 Home Finance Trustee loan and, if not, when is it expected that this finance will become available?

ANSWER

The Department of the Northern Territory issued a press statement several weeks ago which pointed out that a large claim had been made on the operation of the \$15,000 loan scheme operated by the Home Finance Trustee. In fact, at the end of April, the loans approved during this financial year were just over double those approved in the previous financial year and several financial years before that. The figures also indicated that approximately 111 applications were also on hand. The statement by the Department of Northern Territory alluded to the fact that the Home Finance Trustee was seeking to raise further finance from his traditional commercial lending sources. I have not been advised whether additional funds are required in order to meet the expectations of those applicants but I will seek the information for the honourable member. I would point out that, before the cyclone in Darwin, the average waiting time for applicants under that scheme was about 8 months. I will seek the information and will make it available this week.

2010 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

Have the present operators of the Alice Springs abattoirs delayed their announced opening date and, if so, for what reason? What is the revised opening date?

ANSWER

I have not been able to speak to the principals of the abattoir directly but I have spoken to officers of the Department of Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch who have been in regular contact with the abattoir operators. It was hoped that the abattoir would commence killing for the domestic market in Alice Springs on 30 May, however, there have been some delays and that date was not able to be achieved. The company has now decided that it will not commence killing for the domestic market before killing for the export market because it may possibly prejudice the grading of the export licence requirements. It is anticipated that killing will begin in about mid July,

2011 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Can he advise when the freeze on processing applications for

subdivisions of industrial land will be lifted by the Department of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I cannot advise when this freeze will be lifted. I have asked the Minister for the Northern Territory several times over the past 4 months to lift this unnecessary restriction on the private subdivision of industrial land but I have only received notification from the Minister that he is looking into the matter.

2012 Mr EVERINGHAM to Dr LETTS

No doubt he has seen press reports recently that would indicate that because of the closure of markets in West Germany, the Northern Territory buffalo meat exporters and breeders are likely to be wiped out. At the same time, I have noticed that West Germany appears to be one of countries that are seeking Australian uranium. I would ask the Majority Leader whether it would be possible for him to see, if uranium mining went ahead, that countries such as West Germany were encouraged, at the same time as they sought to purchase our uranium, to lessen their import restrictions on beef and buffalo.

ANSWER

I will use my best efforts to secure that happier situation. I have little doubt that Ministers who are connected with Australian exports will be doing the same thing. I imagine that the Prime Minister on his European trip would be taking that sort of line. I know that the Acting Prime Minister is extremely concerned about what happened with the threatened levy on buffalo meat. I would point out that normal market forces would tend to operate in the other way in that, if we sold uranium to a country and thereby changed the balance of trade situation to that country, it would normally be looking for the right to sell something back to us. In spite of that, we will use our best efforts to secure the future welfare of the buffalo meat industry and the meat industry in general.

2013 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW

Can she advise whether the uniformed policemen in the Territory will be identified either by name or number? If she is not in a position to so advise, can she advise when the decision is likely to be made.

ANSWER

The answer is no to both questions.

2014 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING

Is he aware that R.J. Bennell Constructions Pty Ltd which has remunerative Housing Commission contracts is in serious financial difficulties and cannot pay its debts? Since this company is a foreign company not registered in the Northern Territory, will he provide an explanation as to how the company received the contract in breach of the Ordinance? Is it a fact that the company has a nominal capital only? Is he aware that the persons holding shares in and having the management of R.J. Bennell Constructions Pty Ltd have recently taken over a Northern Territory company registered as Artifax Pty Ltd which is said to be about to receive a further lucrative contract from the Housing Commission? Is it a fact that this company has a nominal capital only and will

he have the matter of the allocation of a contract by the Housing Commission suspended pending investigation of these companies and their personnel?

ANSWER

The issue associated with the R.J. Bennell Pty Ltd have been brought to my attention and I have sought a report from the Housing Commission on the operation. Several of the aspects raised by the honourable member's questions have been previously raised with me and I have also sought the information. As soon as this information is to hand, I will make it available to the honourable member. I will certainly be looking at any further contracts that are proposed.

2015 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr POLLOCK

Is he aware of the statement made by a senior geologist, Mr Ryan, recently that the Northern Territory mining legislation is the most archaic in the world? Has any review been done on the Mining Ordinance recently?

ANSWER

I did hear reports in the media that Mr Ryan told a recent seminar in Darwin that the legislation was the most archaic in the world. However, officers of the Mines Branch assure me that that is not a true assessment of the legislation because there is other legislation that is more archaic than ours. The Mines Branch has for some time been dissatisfied with the legislation and has had an officer preparing instructions for the draftsmen. This is quite a complex and detailed job and it will take some time even though the officer has devoted a fair amount of time to it over the last 9 months. Recently, there was a meeting between the Secretary of the Department of Northern Territory, officers of the Mines Branch and myself. It was agreed that this work would proceed more quickly and it is hoped that, in the next few months, they will be in a better position to again approach me on the matter. We hope that, in the not too distant future, a total review of mining legislation in the Northern Territory will be completed. In the meantime, there will be a need to effect amendments to the existing legislation.

2016 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

In the past few weeks, I have been approached by members of the liquor and allied trades complaining bitterly about legislation supposedly before the House. They have seen it and I have. Could he advise when a redrafted liquor licensing bill will be presented to this House. Secondly, if there is a draft in circulation to the community would he pay the honourable member for Port Darwin and myself the courtesy of showing it to us? We have been asked to comment but we do not know a thing.

ANSWER

I would just like to emphasise that there is no drafting legislation in circulation. However, there has been a great deal of work done by the Legislation and Drafting Section on the preparation of a new licensing ordinance to bring our laws into the era of the 1980s. This ordinance is being drafted along the lines of the Adams Report. As soon as there is a draft, I can assure both honourable members that they will be among the first to receive a copy.

2017 Mr TUNGATULUM to Miss ANDREW

A human body has been found at Cape Fourcroy. Can she give further information on this matter.

ANSWER

It is my understanding that in actual fact possibly six bodies have been found at Cape Fourcroy. This morning a brigade of CIB men and a pathologist have gone over and I would prefer to give further comments when they return.

2018 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

What is the present position in relation to the bringing into operation of the Land and Business Agents Ordinance which was passed by the Legislative Council in 1974,

ANSWER

The Land and Business Agents Ordinance is quite an unsatisfactory piece of legislation to be brought into operation. There has been a great deal of work done on this piece of legislation with a view to ascertaining what amendments are required so that it can be implemented. This work is proceeding but I could not undertake to give a date as to when the amendments will be introduced.

2019 Mr WITHNALL to Mr PERRON

Has the Majority Party adopted the policy expressed in the report of the Select Committee on the Landlord and Tenant (Control of Rents) Ordinance? If so, when will a bill be introduced into the Assembly?

ANSWER

At this stage, the Majority Party is considering the select committee report with a view to its adoption or modification. The honourable member will have further information on this in the near future.

2020 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

Is it a fact that the NT Housing Commission has decided to allow eligible tenants to purchase damaged houses and, if so, under what terms and conditions?

ANSWER

A number of honourable members have made representations about the availability of Housing Commission homes to eligible tenants. As a result of the legislation that was recently passed by this Assembly, I asked the Housing Commission Board to reconsider its plans on the sale of substandard homes. The Housing Commission did last week reconsider and has agreed to make substandard homes available to the tenants of those homes provided they meet the other eligibility criteria. This now gives 4 options to an eligible tenant: first, may elect to buy that home for cash but the Housing Commission is not in a position to make mortgage funds available for its purchase; secondly, he may elect to move to a new Housing Commission Home; thirdly, he may elect to transfer and purchase an upgraded Housing Commission Home in a similar suburban location; and, fourthly, he may wait for the home itself to be upgraded and then purchase it with Housing Commission financial assistance.

2021 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Is he able to advise me when the long-awaited report from the Australian National Railways on the resiting of the passenger and marshalling yards at Alice Springs will be made available?

ANSWER

I am not aware when or if a report will be made available. I will seek the information and advise the member for Alice Springs later in these sittings.

2022 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TUXWORTH

My question concerns the Select Committee Report on Regional Councils for Social Development. What action is being taken as a result of that report and what financial arrangements are being made for regional councils, particularly those in Katherine and Alice Springs, to continue their work in the new financial year?

ANSWER

The full consideration of the report has not yet taken place. However, the principle has been established by the Majority Party that the funding for the continued operation of all councils throughout the Territory will continue. I have met with 3 of the 4 councils to inform them of the finance that will be available to them in the coming period. They will be catered for in the supply bills which will be introduced today. In addition, I also indicated to them that they will no longer be on an open-ended operation. They will be provided for financially on the basis of work and project commitment and they have accepted this ruling.

2023 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TAMBLING

I preface my question by referring to the recent elections in the third Alice Springs town council. It is now an extended council because there are a number of new members. What plans, if any, has he in mind to provide assistance and advice to that new council.

ANSWER

I would like to indicate that my department and I will be pleased to extend all the usual courtesies and advice to any corporation in the Northern Territory, particularly the new Alice Springs corporation. In addition, I have made arrangements with the new Alice Springs corporation to sponsor a special seminar in Alice Springs on local government on 3 July. The participants at this seminar will include a specialist in local government administration, Dr Michael Jones of the Canberra College of Advanced Education, 2 senior officers of my department, the Director, Mr Godwin, and the Chief Executive Officer of Community Development. I also hope that a representative of the political science section of the Darwin Community College will participate. It is proposed that the seminar will provide basic information on local government for the newly elected aldermen. At the same time I propose to issue invitations to council employees and to members of Aboriginal councils in communities near Alice Springs. I propose to conduct similar seminars at a later date in Darwin and other Northern Territory centres.

2024 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING

What is the present position with regard to assent to the Succession Duties Repeal Ordinance which was passed by the Legislative Council some

4 years ago.

ANSWER

The Majority Party supports the principles of the legislation. I understand the Majority Leader issued a statement this morning with regard to this legislation. We will negotiate with the Federal Government with regard to the implementation of suitable legislation.

2025 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN

Has he made a decision about the Nightcliff Fire Station? Is it to be rebuilt and, if so, to what standard or, if not, what fire appliances are to be housed in the Nightcliff area for use in emergencies?

ANSWER

It is not my intentions to rebuild the fire station at Nightcliff. The Casuarina fire station was originally planned to cover the whole of the northern suburbs, including Nightcliff. Casuarina is presently being repaired and very soon should be back to its complete strength.

2026 Mr TUNGATULUM to Miss ANDREW

Prisoners at Fannie Bay are making artifacts which they would like to send to their wives or relatives but they are not allowed to. Can the honourable member tell me why?

ANSWER

Under the present legislation, all artifacts made by the prisoners during their period of sentence are the property of the Department of Correctional Services. The Department of Correctional Services is unable to sell these but, with the approval of the prisoner, it has sometimes given paintings and pieces of craft work to charity. Since the transfer of powers on 1 January, we have been looking at the feasibility of setting up a trust fund which we can operate so that the prisoners have the opportunity to sell or give away artifacts, providing that they make some contribution to the materials being used. I hope that, in the very near future, I will be able to announce the implementation of this policy to give or hand over work that he had made.

2027 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

I refer to my question number 1895 relating to the tabling of audited accounts of the Aboriginal Benefit Trust Fund. What progress has been made in this matter.

ANSWER

The question asked by the honourable member has been referred to the appropriate authorities. I will check on its progress and inform him later.

2028 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Is he able to advise when he will table a copy of the report of the committee enquiring in the Northern Territory electricity supply?

ANSWER

I have been endeavouring to contact the Minister for Construction and Planning over the last few days to find out when I can expect to receive copies of the report. I have not been able to contact the Minister as parliament is in recess. I have spoken to one of his aides who informed me that, as a result of an accident in Queensland, the delivery of the report to the Minister has been delayed by some 2 weeks. As soon as copies are available, they will be supplied to me.

2029 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr PERRON

Will he investigate the possibility of converting one wing of the Commonwealth Hostel in Katherine to accomodate outback children requiring primary and secondary education?

ANSWER

I will have the matter referred to the appropriate authorities for their assessment.

2030 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Will he advise me when the report of the Inquiry into the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance will be tabled in this House?

ANSWER

The investigation was completed a month ago. It anticipated that the report will be tabled at the next sittings.

2031 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

I address my question to the member with responsibilities for education and planning. Could he advise as to the present state of Carpentaria College, its likely future and the date when one can expect something to be done to rehabilitate the present wreck which is a daily invitation to marauding and irresponsible members of the public?

ANSWER

I will correct the honourable member that I have liaison responsibility for education and planning and not responsibility for education and planning and there is a very real difference. I will seek the information for which the honourable member has asked. Perhaps it would be advisable for her to place the question on notice.

2032 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Is he aware that a group of federal and state politicians were travelling by bus to Alice Springs last weekend and that, during the course of that journey, the bus experienced mechanical failure? Is it a fact that the mechanical failure occurred near Coober Pedy and was the mechanical failure a result of the condition of the road? Since the tour of inspection was largely for the benefit of Northern Territorians, does he consider that a note of apology to members of that tour would be in order in case they experienced inconvenience and discomfort and also will he send a letter to the South Australian Government expressing his dissatisfaction at the state of the South Australian section of that road?

ANSWER

I wish I could answer that by saying yes but I do not know what sort of trouble that would get me into. I was aware that state and federal politicians were travelling to Alice Springs via that particular stretch of road, I did have an invitation to go myself but I declined. I did not think I had anything really to learn because I am well aware of the state of the roads,

It may have been better for the people in the bus if I had have gone as a mechanic because I may have been able to fix the mechanical failure. I do not think we should apologise because the road is in South Australia. I think the honourable gentleman who visited the weekend before last should be making some apologies for the state of the road.

2033 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr POLLOCK

Would he advise the result of the much publicised pilgrimage to the "holy city" Canberra for the purpose of urging a decision on the proposed Alice Springs refinery?

ANSWER

Along with the honourable members for Stuart and Alice Springs, I did go to Canberra and had meetings with the Minister assisting the Treasurer, the Minister for the Northern Territory and officers of his department concerning the proposed Alice Springs refinery, I was quite happy with the talks and I am much more confident that decisions will finally be made and that the companies concerned will be able to move forward with a little bit more certainty, I was a little sceptical at first about going but I am quite happy that the trip was very worthwhile. I am quite confident that, as the results of the talks last week and the remarks of the Minister for National Resources in Alice Springs the previous weekend, the refinery project is much more a goer now than it was 10 days ago.

2034 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

In order that I can avoid that particular store, could he tell me where he bought his coat.

ANSWER

I bought it from a reputable Swanson Street trader,

2035 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Is it true that a contract has been let to underground the electricity supply in Tiwi and, if so, who is the contractor and when is the contract likely to be completed?

ANSWER

I will undertake to obtain the information.

2036 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Can he advise where and when the next Rural Road Conference will be held?

ANSWER

Yes, if I had brought the piece of paper across with me. I will give the information later.

2037 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Did the Minister for Transport appoint a committee last year to inquire into costs and standards associated with the construction of the Tarcoola to Alice Springs standard gauge rail link? If he did, has the inquiry concluded anything about the costs and standard of construction or made any report?

ANSWER

I am not aware of whether or not the Minister for Transport did undertake to inquire into the costs. I will obtain information for the honourable member.

2038 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW

How many breaking and entry offences have taken place within the town of Alice Springs in the last 6 months and what steps are proposed to reduce these offences?

ANSWER

I have had some warning of this question so I do have some facts before me. There were 79 break and enter offences reported in the commercial area of Alice Springs during the last 12 months. Of these, 9 were committed by juveniles, 5 by adults and the remaining 65 offences are yet to be cleared up. The area is patrolled as frequently as possible to prevent this type of offence. Indeed, foot patrols in conjunction with mobile patrols are carried out in this area as frequently as staffing permits.

2039 Mr MANUELL to Mr PERRON

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Will the Daly Waters Hotel be supplied with electricity after 30 June this year?

ANSWER

There are only 2 consumers at Daly Waters at present and this has been the case for some period. The Department of the Northern Territory has decided that it is uneconomical to continue supplying electricity to the area on a public electricity supply basis. They have advised the two consumers concerned, the police station and the hotel at Daly Waters, that supplies would be terminated on 30 June. This notification was given verbally by phone on the 29 March this year and followed up by a letter on 1 April. The consumers will have to make their own arrangements about alternative supplies. However, the instructions that have been given are such that the power supplies will not be cut off by throwing a switch at midnight on the 30 June if it is felt that the consumers have not had reasonable time to arrange alternative supplies.

Thus, I believe that power probably will not be terminated on the night of 30 June unless the consumers have alternative power supplies.

2040 Mr TUNGATULUM to Miss ANDREW

With the increase of population in the Howard Springs and Humpty Doo area, what plans are being made to establish a police station in the area?

ANSWER

As with all areas where population is growing, the matter is being looked at but there is no immediate proposal to put a police station in the Howard Springs area. However, the matter is being reviewed.

2041 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

What subdivisions and how many blocks of land are expected to become available to the public at auction during the years 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980 in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

I have had some forewarning of this question and I have some details. Lots are expected to become available for auction to the public in the Darwin area as follows: In 1977, approximately 60 blocks from Wulagi subdivision; in 1978, approximately 140 blocks from Malak stage 1 subdivision; in 1979, approximately 20 blocks from the Milner subdivision and approximately 50 blocks from the Malak subdivision; in 1980, approximately 80 from Malak stage 2 subdivision and approximately 100 from Kerama subdivision. The above does not take into account blocks in the existing service lot areas. Some of these should be available to support the 60 lots from Wulagi to be auctioned during 1977. Also, as the 222 lots currently being used for demountables become available in 1979, this will assist the short fall for auction in that year.

2042 Mr TUNGATULUM to Miss ANDREW

Can she advise the number of times patrol cars visit the Howard Springs and Humpty Doo areas?

ANSWER

I understand that patrol cars go into that area once a day. Traffic patrols are conducted at random, particularly over the weekend when the traffic through the area is increased.

2043 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Is he able to advise me what decision the Education Department has made on the use of Nakara School?

ANSWER

I attempted to have answers to this question and one or two others on education here this morning, but they have not been able to be prepared in time. I will undertake to have the answers submitted later during this sittings.

2044 Mr VALE to Mr FERRON

Can he advise whether or not the contract has been let for the construction of a bridge over the Todd River and, if not, can he advise when it will be let?

ANSWER

So far as I know the letting of the contract should be announced within the next week or so.

2045 Mr ROBERTSON to Miss ANDREW

I apologise for the length of this question but it arises out of comments made by Mr Justice Muirhead in his reasons for judgment in the matter of an appeal against sentence filed on behalf of a minor previously sentenced in the Alice Springs Children's Court. His Honour's remarks refer to the failure of that child to successfully enter into a bond with surety at Papunya on 13 January this year. The matter has been given wide national publicity and it is a matter that should be raised before this Assembly. I ask the honourable Cabinet Member is it not a fact: that the boy was represented at Papunya by a solicitor from Aboriginal Legal Aid; that there were a total of 139 individual charges dealt with by the magistrate at Papunya on the day in question and that, as a result, bond documents could not be prepared until the rising of the court; that a willing surety had in fact been found; that the surety and the convicted boy were abandoned by the representative of Aboriginal Legal Aid before that solicitor was satisfied that her clients interests had been properly looked after; that because of that neglect the surety disappeared from the precincts of the Papunya court and, despite all efforts by police, could not be found; and that the solicitors from Aboriginal Legal Aid made absolutely no subsequent inquiries whatever to any of the officers of the Alice Springs Police Station, the Clerk of Courts, the Alice Springs Gaol or anyone else, to ensure that they had discharged their duty to their young client.

ANSWER

It seems to be saga of failures. The boy was represented at Papunya by a solicitor of Aboriginal Legal Aid. I understand that there were a total of 109 individual charges dealt with on that day and, as a result, the bond documents could not be prepared until the rising of the Court. A surety had been found who, I understand, was a brother of the defendant and he was asked to wait. However, with the preparation of the documents associated with the sitting of the Court that day, the waiting time no doubt was considerable and on 13 January no doubt the temperature was rather high in Papunya. The solicitor of Aboriginal Legal Aid, according to my information, talked to the defendant just prior to leaving Papunya by plane and assured him that a surety had been found and it would be simply a matter of time waiting for the document to be prepared. By the time the documents were prepared, the surety was not to be found even though the police spent hours during the night looking everywhere around the Papunya area. There were no inquiries made by Aboriginal Legal Aid on 14 January or subsequently to ensure that recognizance had been duly entered into and that the fellow had been released. Because the papers were completed in Papunya and did not need to be done in Alice Springs, the matter was therefore not brought to the attention of the Clerk of Courts in Alice Springs so she had no idea of the situation.

2046 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Can he supply me with any information regarding government policy concerning the extension of time for residential lease covenants in relation to lots sold at auctions for single dwelling constructions?

ANSWER

I have had a reply from the Minister to a request I put to him that he consider altering the time which is required for compliance with covenants on land which will have single dwelling units constructed on it. He told me that the existing situation whereby the purchaser of a block is required to commence construction within 12 months and finish within 2 years is believed by himself and his department to be a good policy and preferable to the proposal I put to him that the time constraint be 2 years to commence and a further 2 years to complete. I find the Minister's answer somewhat unsatisfactory from my party's point of view. I will endeavour to take the matter up with him and with officers of his department to see if we can not have them take into consideration the fact that the situation has changed somewhat from when these covenants were first established. It is difficult to obtain sufficient initial capital these days to purchase the block of land - and they cost anything from \$8,000 to \$12,000 and even more for a residential block - and within a 12 month period also obtain sufficient finance to pay a deposit on \$40,000 or \$50,000 house. This is a pretty unrealistic proposition for the average young couple in the community. I hope to prevail on the minister to change his mind.

2047 Mr TUNGATULUM to Dr LETTS

Is he aware of the moves by people at Bathurst and Melville Islands to have their own land council? Can he assure my people that the Majority Party support us to establish this council?

ANSWER

The Majority Party has always supported in the promulgation of legislation for Aboriginal land rights the primary place of the traditional owner in the scheme of ownership and administration. In the federal act, the provision is made for land councils to assist the traditional owners and clearly they are the administrative agents and servants of those traditional owners. Provision is also made for the establishment of more than the 2 initial land councils on application to the Minister. Within the system which is laid down in the act, the closer that land councils can get to the traditional owner groups, the more effective should be the co-operation and misunderstanding should be minimised. The Tiwi people have had this concept under consideration for a couple of years. They have discussed it and the matter has been put to a vote among the Tiwis on a number of occasions. On a recent occasion, I was present at Garden Point when this issue was canvassed. There is no doubt in my mind that there is a very strong feeling among the Tiwi people that they wish to have their own land council even though they may choose to use the services of a central body in Darwin such as the existing land council. While that is their view, the Majority Party will give them strong support in that move.

2048 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr RYAN

Could he tell me why we have had so many breakdowns on the Tropo Scatter communications system to Nhulunbuy? Is this the aftermath of cyclone Tracy or are we going to continue to have these breakdowns? We have all

the modern technology in the world and I am just wondering whether this matter is being overlooked.

ANSWER

I have not had the time to confirm this but I believe the problem exists because the transmitter is operated by an emergency generator set which has to undergo service. This is the reason that they do have interruptions. The question of the facilities over at Cox Peninsular are still up in the air although there does seem to be some indication that the Federal Government intends to reactivate the facilities over there and I am now speaking about general facilities relating to Radio Australia. I know unofficially that they are in the process of purchasing further generating equipment for the area and I would assume this could possibly alleviate the problem and could be tied up with the eventual rehabilitation of the whole complex on Cox Peninsula. I certainly hope so.

2049 Mr TUNGATULUM to Dr LETTS

Can he advise me of the conditions under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act under which the Catholic Church may continue to hold leases on Bathurst and Melville Islands.

ANSWER

The Aboriginal Lands Right Act provides for the declaration of certain land to be Aboriginal land in the first schedule and that includes Bathurst and Melville Islands. It provides for the title to be issued when a trust has been setup. It provides, I think in section 18, that where a mission existed by licence or permission before such time, that mission can continue in occupation and use of the land. However, it also provides in section 18 that a land council can direct the land trust to terminate the lease of the mission at a date no earlier than 12 months after the date of service of the notice. Thus, whilst they have immediate rights to continue occupation and use, a land trust at the direction of a land council could terminate that use at 12 months notice. There is provision in such cases for payment of compensation for facilities that are established there. There is a further provision for the granting by a land trust of leases to mission authorities in the place of their existing tenure but the term of such leases is not to exceed 5 years.

2050 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

How many new houses has the Housing Commission allocated to tenants since 1 January this year? What is the current waiting period for Housing Commission homes both in Darwin and in Alice Springs.

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

2051 Mr VALE to Dr LETTS

Will copies of the second Fox Report be made available to members of this Assembly?

ANSWER

It is not possible at this time to give all members a copy of the second Fox Report. They have available to them the copy which was tabled and there are some 4 or 5 copies available for those who wish to study the subject before the debate comes on. The arrangements that were made for the distribution of the second Fox Report did not include the Assembly Executive or any Assembly members. As I understand it, the bulk lot of copies which came to the Northern Territory came through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, presumably because that department had a representative on the expert panel advising Mr Justice Fox. I do not know that any other Department received any bulk copies at all. We have obtained from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs apparently all the copies which we were able to get from that source. There were some available in shops for sale at \$10 or more a copy, I understand that those copies have now been exhausted for the time being. My office has further copies on order and I am not quite sure when they will arrive. As soon as they do arrive, I will endeavour to make copies available to each member. In the meantime, we will have to do the best we can by sharing the copies that are available.

2052 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN

On 17 November 1976, I asked question 1582: "On Sunday 17 October at 8.45am, I had reason to visit the Casuarina Fire Station as the dash board of my vehicle was on fire. I had a small electrical fire and I pulled into the Fire Station thinking that they would be of some assistance. Unfortunately, there were no fire extinguishers at the station. Can the Executive member tell me why not?" The member replied at the time that there was not one handy. Are there fire extinguishers at the Casuarina Fire Station now?

ANSWER

I do not make it a practice to call at the Fire Station regularly to check to see if they have fire extinguishers available. I have a chief officer who looks after those matters, I will ask him if there is a fire extinguisher available at Casuarina and if not, whether he could make one available to ensure that, should the honourable member for Casuarina's car or any one else's car catch fire, they could be put out. There are other methods of putting out fires, some of which the honourable member may not like.

2053 Mr TUNGATULUM to Mr TUXWORTH

Is the Consumer Protection Council making any efforts to reach the 25% of the Northern Territory population who are Aborigines and require special attention because of literacy problems?

ANSWER

The Consumer Protection Council in the coming 12 months will embark on an increased program of education amongst all Territorians. One of the weaknesses that the council feels in its present provision of services is that it does not cater adequately for the needs of Aborigines. They have undertaken to look into this and see what form of education they can provide and how extensively they can offer it within the limits of funds available to them.

2054 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Even if there is likely to be assufeit government housing available in the next 6 months, is it likely that some of these homes will be offered to the Commission or is it likely that a single housing authority can be brought into being earlier than otherwise expected?

ANSWER

The issues raised by the honourable member are under active consideration. The Northern Territory Cabinet has formulated a policy with regard to a single housing authority and has put forward certain proposals to the Minister for the Northern Territory. It would like to see the Housing Commission becoming that authority by way of transferring certain housing stock from the government pool and arranging suitable financial terms and conditions. The various officers of the Northern Territory Public Service are currently holding negotiations and discussions with officers of the Department of the Northern Territory to tender advice to Mr Adermann to enable an early resolution of this matter. I would hope that, if there are any surplus stocks arising from the government building programs, houses of this type can be made available as quickly as possible.

2055 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

My question relates to an answer I received yesterday concerning the introduction of a new liquor and licensing bill. Could he advise the probable date of introduction of that legislation? Having regard to the expected life of this Assembly, can he assure us that there is time for the introduction and passage of that legislation before this Assembly expires?

ANSWER

At the risk of being difficult, I cannot give the honourable member the assurance she is looking for.

2056 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TUXWORTH

What plans does the Government have for converting the unused buildings of the North Australia Railways in Katherine into a detoxification centre?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of any plans to turn those buildings into a detoxification centre. I am aware that the Regional Council in Katherine that operates a detoxification operation is looking for alternative premises but I have no other information on that.

2057 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN

What aid, if any, has his department given to the Darwin Regional Tourist Promotion Association plan for a "Back to Darwin Week" in May 1978?

ANSWER

I attended a recent meeting of this particular group which is doing a pretty good job in organising the "Back to Darwin Week" for next year. One of the problems they have concerns the promotional side of the

event. I have asked that the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau take up the matter and assist, wherever possible, in promoting the forthcoming event with posters etc. It will be a fairly important event for Darwin and it will affect other parts of the Territory because anybody coming to Darwin has to go through the rest of the Territory. We believe many people will be travelling by car and we are giving all the support that we possibly can to that particular event.

2058 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

What is the latest information regarding the future of a new gallery and has land been made available to the Museums and Art Galleries NT?

ANSWER

I am aware that the Museums and Art Galleries Board have had discussions with officers of the Department of the Northern Territory and have come to an amicable conclusion over the provision of a block. I am unable to tell the honourable member where the block is and when it will be developed.

2059 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN

My question relates to the pedestrian crossing on Trower Road near the intersection of Francis Street. The honourable Cabinet Member would be familiar with that intersection because, under the redistribution, it will be in his new electorate. In the light of the considerable use of that pedestrian crossing by school children from the Millner Primary School and St. Pauls School and the number of accidents which have occurred to people using the cross-over, is consideration being given by his department to either the installation of lights or a pedestrian walk-over similar to the Ludmilla one?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Jingili has a fairly valid argument for provision of some sort of system but whether or not money could be made available for an over-pass, I do not know. Certainly, the situation that exists there at present is unsatisfactory and, with the advent of the Rapid Creek shopping centre, many more people are using the crossing and crossing the road at a number of places. The council propose to upgrade that section of the road shortly and this will also cause problems during the construction period. However, I will take the matter up with the planning people to see if something can be done and no doubt I will continue to take an interest in the area after my re-election.

2060 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN

Does the fire department have a program during this dry season to burn off uninhabited blocks?

ANSWER

It is generally the fire brigade's intention to burn off any uninhabited blocks or any blocks that are overgrown with grass. It could also be their intention in some cases to charge owners of blocks. If a complaint is lodged, the opportunity is given to the owner to clean up the block himself. If he takes no action, in the interests of safety the fire brigade then burn the scrub off the block and send the bill to the owner.

2061 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he advise the status and future of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the question the honourable member asked yesterday. We had an extremely busy day yesterday and I have not been able to get the answers from the Department as yet.

2062 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Dr LETTS: The honourable member for Port Darwin yesterday asked a question without notice relating to a question on notice 1895 which dealt with the call for tabling in this Assembly of an audited set of accounts for the Aboriginal Benefits Trust Fund. Since I rose to answer that question yesterday, I have received some information which I would normally add to the answer to the question on notice. The information indicates that audited accounts for the Aboriginal Benefits Trust Fund are not available as the Auditor-General is not required to carry out a full audit of the fund as is the normal practice for commercial enterprises. This information from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs then goes on to give a number of references to the Auditor-General's report which apparently it was thought may throw some light on the subject. However, I find that, of the 15 references given, 12 of them are inaccurate and evidently give the wrong page numbers. I will have to refer the information received from the Minister back to him to ask him for some clarification before I can present the honourable member with a final answer.

Mr Withnall: Don't worry. They are not audited.

2063 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: I would like to provide information relating to a question asked of me yesterday by the honourable member for Port Darwin. The question related to a certain company R.J. Bennell Constructions Pty. Ltd, and its arrangements with the Northern Territory Housing Commission. There were a number of issues raised in the honourable member's question. The Housing Commission has advised that R.J. Bennell Constructions Pty Ltd is in financial difficulties and that Shepherd and Partners accountants of Darwin are acting as unofficial managers. With relation to the question about the registration of a foreign company, the company R.J. Bennell Constructions Pty Ltd by signing a contract with the Commission was in breach of the Companies Ordinance by not registering as a foreign company in the Northern Territory. In relation to capital, as at 30 June 1975 - which I gather must be about the date in which the terms for the original contract were arranged - the authorised capital of R.J. Bennell Constructions Pty Ltd was \$10,000 with issued capital fully paid amounting to \$2. A further question related to whether a company by the name of Artifax Pty Ltd was about to receive a further contract. The Commission has no dealings with a company called Artifax Pty Ltd. However, a company known as Artifacts Pty Ltd has tendered for commission contracts but is not about to receive a contract from the Housing Commission. It is not known what the authorised issued or paid-up capital of Artifacts Pty Ltd is due to the fact that this information is only required when a contract offer or acceptance is to be made. The final question was whether I would have any proposed contracts suspended pending an investigation. The Housing Commission will not enter into contractual arrangements with either

Artifacts Pty Ltd or Artifax Pty Ltd pending an investigation into these companies and their personnel.

2064 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Casuarina asked if a contract had been let for the undergrounding of electricity in Tiwi and, if so, who had received the contract and when it would be completed. The contract has not been let for undergrounding of electricity in Tiwi. A decision to award a contract for either underground or overhead reticulation of the electricity supply is expected to be taken about the end of this month.

2067 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Is it a fact that Berkeleys relinquished the Darwin school ground maintenance contract for 1977 because it underestimated the job and were re-awarded the contract when tenders were called a second time even though they were not the lowest tenderer?

ANSWER

The answer to the question is yes. Berkeley Cleaning Company withdrew from their original contract for school ground maintenance for 1977-78. Tenders were recalled and Berkeley Cleaning Company, with the approval of the permanent head of the Department of Education, were re-awarded the contract.

2068 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

Is it the intention of the Department of Primary Industry to have an inspection of the upgraded Alice Springs Abattoirs upon the completion of the current works? If it is satisfied with the inspections, is it the intention of the department to grant that abattoirs an export licence and, if so, to what standard. If it is granted an export licence to US standards, is it intended that the Alice Springs Abattoirs will be permitted to participate in the current US beef quota?

ANSWER

If the Alice Springs Abattoirs proprietors apply for an export licence, officers of the Department of Primary Industry would certainly inspect the premises and officers of the United States Government would also inspect the premises. I understand that there is only one standard of export licence at the moment and that is the standard which satisfies United States Government requirements. As to whether they can participate in a quota, I understand that the company has applied to the Meat Board for a special quota in respect of the Alice Springs Abattoirs. This matter has not been finalised to any degree. There is considerable conjecture whether the company does have ways and means within its own structure to be able to allocate some of its meat towards the United States market. However, I do believe there is a substantive case for the granting of some special quota to the Alice Springs Abattoirs for the United States market. I have conveyed those sentiments to the Chairman of the Meat Board as recently as today.

2069 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK

Is he aware of the value of the used railway line to the pastoral industry for yard and fence building? Is he also aware the Railways have sold all the used rail in the Top End for export? What representations has he made or can he make to ensure that this valuable commodity is available to the pastoral industry?

ANSWER

I have received some representations expressing concern that much of the used railway line, which is of considerable value to the pastoral industry for fence building and yards and grids, has been sold for export and that there is very little left for use in the Top End. I understand there is a considerable quantity of unused railway line in a stockpile here in the Darwin area and no doubt in other places along the railway. I have made representations to the Commissioner of Railways that, if this rail is of no use to them, some consideration should be

given to allowing pastoral interests to have first chop of the cake before they dispose of it by export.

2070 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN

Could he advise if it is a fact that, if the Nightcliff Fire Station is closed, the areas of Nightcliff and Ludmilla North will be more than 3 miles by road from the nearest fire station and this distance is outside the guidelines laid down for urban fire control.

ANSWER

I believe that the areas referred to will be within 3 miles, I will check the matter and advise if that is a fact. However, if they are slightly outside of the 3 miles limit, I doubt whether this will change my intention not to have the Nightcliff Fire Station rebuilt. I might add that the fire station has not worked since the cyclone and everything seems to be operating satisfactorily. I have had no representations from the residents of either Nightcliff or Ludmilla nor have I ever had any representations from the honourable member for Nightcliff so I would assume she has not had any complaints about the lack of a fire station.

2071 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

Does the Department of Education promote sex education in schools? if so, is the subject compulsory and are the teachers involved qualified in this field?

ANSWER

The Department of Education does promote sex education in schools. However, such subjects are not compulsory for students. The department holds in-service training in conjunction with the Family Planning Association for teachers involved in sex education.

2072 Mr MANUELL to Mr PERRON

Is he aware that there have been some recommendations made by the Minister for Education or his department that existing plans for the upgrading of the Ross Park Primary School be shelved? Is he aware that there is a recommendation in the plans to establish a Sadadeen Primary School? Is he aware that the basic criterion for the decision appears to be cost and is he aware that, if adopted, this will still leave students at the Ross Park Primary School without adequate library and other facilities considered essential by parents and teacher bodies? Finally, has the proposition been discussed with the parent teacher body at that school and, if so, what was their reaction?

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow this question but I do request that lengthy questions be placed on notice.

Mr PERRON: I do not have details of the matters the honourable member has raised. However, I will undertake to investigate the matter and report to the honourable member during this sittings.

2073 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

I refer to the City Corporation's policy of sidewalk beautification in some suburbs. What does the council propose to do to the footpaths that

are not planted with lawn because the residents refuse to co-operate? Are there any special arrangements for those people who do not co-operate?

ANSWER

This is a policy matter for the Darwin City Corporation. I will seek the information and make it available to him.

2074 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING

What plans has the Darwin Reconstruction Commission for the 5 wrecked houses in Packard Street which have been an eyesore since the cyclone and with respect to which no reconstruction work has been performed?

ANSWER

The Darwin Reconstruction Commission has details of all of the substandard housing owned by the Government in the Darwin area and has categorised that housing into various groups. Much of the work is to be undertaken in the 1977-78 financial year. I will seek the specific information with regard to the 5 houses in Packard Street and make it available to the honourable member.

2075 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

How much finance does the Regional Council for Social Development require to operate their Darwin organisation satisfactorily for the period 1 July 1977 to 1 October 1977?

ANSWER

I have already had discussions with officers of the regional council in Darwin and they have intimated that they will be seeking \$14,000 for July, August, September in this coming financial year. I have every reason to assume that they will get the money and, if there is any further information required by the member relating to this finance, I will be only too pleased to supply it.

2076 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he advise as to the status and future of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

The honourable member asked this question last week. The Department of Education informed me that the matter rests with the church concerned and the Department of Northern Territory. I have yet to pursue the matter with those bodies.

2077 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING

Has the Reconstruction Commission approved of the erection of 3 silo-type structures on land overlooking Kahlin Bay?

ANSWER

As one of the residents in the properties immediately below the silos, I am very well aware that they have appeared in the area adjacent to the Darwin Hospital. In fact, one of my neighbours at first thought the Darwin Hospital had extended its boundaries for its boiler room

operation. However, I will find out what Building Board permits have been issued. I am sure that the owner of the property, a local Darwin architect, will be well aware of the requirements to obtain building permits.

2078 Mr STEELE to Mr RYAN

Is he aware that visitors to Australia disembarking through the international terminal at Darwin Airport are not afforded the use of a luggage carrier or any other conveyance to move their luggage from the customs area to the car park? If this is correct, would he advise the Department of Transport that a suitable conveyance for the carriage of luggage is not just desirable but essential?

ANSWER

I will speak to the Department of Transport officials at the airport to see if anything can be done.

2079 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREWS

I refer to an article in the NT News of Wednesday 8 June relating to the acquittal of constable James Anthony Ryan. Mr Ryan has been under suspension from January and, following his acquittal, he is entitled to arrears of pay for those 5 months. Will she advise his present status within the Northern Territory Police Force and whether he is entitled to superannuation rights if he is not to continue in that force.

ANSWER

I understand that this particular officer's suspension is being lifted and that the salary to which he was entitled during the period when he was under suspension is to be paid as soon as possible. The officer has applied to be retired on medical grounds and his rights for superannuation will be the same as anybody else who would be entitled to superannuation under such circumstances.

2080 Mr KENTISH to Dr LETTS

In a news report today I heard a remark attributed to Mr Justice Kirby that it had been accepted that Australia would be a multi-cultural, multi-lingual society. Considering the context of his remarks, I presume that it would also be officially multi-lingual and have more than one law structure. Can he inform me whether this is the present policy of the coalition party in Canberra and how long have they had this policy?

ANSWER

I see no conflict between a statement that a country will be multi-lingual and multi-cultural yet in fact still remain one nation. I think that the United States and a number of other countries and federations in the world give evidence of that.

I do not see the reference under the act for the Law Reform Commission to investigate the place of Aboriginal law in the Australian legal code as being in any sense a direction to that eminent body to establish such a place. It is their job to investigate the matter. I sincerely hope that, while there may be some special situations which may require special treatment of Aboriginal people, we will still have one legal

code for all Australians and I believe that is the policy of the coalition party.

2081 Mr STEELE to Mr POLLOCK

I refer to recent media reports that indicate that there is a move to again provide a market place for local growers. Will the market be funded by the new Northern Territory government? Will the City Corporation fund the proposed market? Will the market be funded by non-ratepayers? Will he make a statement about these proposals so that tax and ratepayers will know what their liability is likely to be?

ANSWER

There is a move to establish in Darwin a farmer's market. The member for Ludmilla should know from statements I have made here and statements by the Mayor that it is not envisaged that funding for the market will come from the Northern Territory government. Funds for the establishment of the market will come from the municipality which derives its funds from the taxpayers. My understanding is that those who use the market will be required to contribute towards its operating costs and one would hope that the market would be successful enough to at least break even in its operation. If it does not, the ratepayers may have to assist in financing it.

2082 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it true that the manufacture of the "Darwin Stubby" by local brewery is to be discontinued?

ANSWER

It is not true. There is no doubt that the continued production of the item known as the "Darwin Stubby" was certainly under threat earlier this year. The Australian Standards Association, a body made up of industry and government officials, met to set standards relating to the volume of packages that were being produced in this country and the volume of the "Darwin Stubby" was not included in this schedule of sizes. At a conference in Melbourne last week, an officer of my department presented a case on behalf of the Northern Territory and Northern Territory Brewers pointing out that the "Darwin Stubby" was a very important tourist gimmick to the north and one which we feel should be maintained. By all accounts, we have won the case. The Standards Association has accepted in principle the fact that the production of the stubby by glass manufacturers should continue till 1987 at least or until the dies wear out whichever comes first.

2083 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Can he advise if and when demountable housing units become available through the Department of Northern Territory they will be offered to the Housing Commission as interim accommodation for needy families or can he advise whether any such policy decision is under consideration or has been made?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Housing Commission already has a considerable stock of demountable units which are owned by the Australian Government and they have been using these units for the provision of accommodation to needy people ever since they have been available. The Department of the Northern Territory is also conducting a major review of the disposal

or relocation of demountable units and other caravan units as a result of the reconstruction program in Darwin. I am aware that further units are being considered for relocation and transfer to the Housing Commission for use in a special village which may possibly be sited on the site of the existing Tracy Workers' Village at Wanguri and that quite a considerable amount of money has already been expended in investigation of those future developments. I have certainly supported the case of the Housing Commission to continue in this type of role.

2084 Mr KENTISH to Mr PERRON

When will the instant school which sprang up at Berry Springs last week be in operation?

ANSWER

I cannot advise when the Berry Springs School will be in operation. I noted a hint of glee in his voice that the Department has now got around to producing instant schools.

2085 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Is he able to provide any information regarding the fate of the Nakara Primary School?

ANSWER

The honourable member has asked me a number of questions in the past relating to the future of the Nakara Primary School. The Department is currently using the Nakara Primary School for a pre-school, for sections of the Curriculum Development Section and also for media and migrant education activities. In 1978, the school will continue to be used for the same purposes but there will be an extension of activities to take the pre-school activities up to year 3 for 1978.

2086 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

I refer to a small article in the Northern Territory News of Wednesday 8 June 1977 where it was advised on page 3 that tenders for Dripstone High School have been called and will close on January 26. However, the Department of Construction today would not confirm when the contract would be let for the school or whether one would be let at all. Having regard to certain statements made in this House in response to questions by the honourable members for Jingili, Casuarina and Sanderson concerning the likelihood of Dripstone High going ahead, could the member give us some assurance that it is still departmental policy for Dripstone High School contract to be let as soon as possible and practicable.

ANSWER

I know little more than other members about the contract for the Dripstone High School. I have only been able to pick up what has appeared in the press. The minister and the department have made no attempts to keep me fully informed on the matter. However, I will make inquiries and advise the honourable member later.

2087 Mr BALLANTYNE to Dr LETIS

Have there been any recent changes to the permit system for Nhulunbuy residents travelling from Gove to Katherine? I have just heard that there will be a holdup of some 2 to 3 months. If there is a hold up, was this caused by the recent legislation presented to this Legislative Assembly in March?

ANSWER

There is no reason at all why any legislation introduced into this Assembly and not yet passed, and still I believe a considerable way from being passed, should have any influence whatever on the existing system under the existing law. I would ask the honourable member to place the rest of the question on notice.

2088 Mr VALE to Mr PERRON

Can he advise has a contract been let for repair and maintenance work to Yirara College, what does the work entail and how much is it expected to cost?

ANSWER

There were 2 items programed for 1976 77 for repairs and maintenance to Yirara College. Retiling of the kitchen floor was completed in January 1977 at a cost of \$12,500. There were insufficient funds to enable repairs to dormitory doorways, doors, window frames, ceiling panels and light switches to be carried out in the 1976 77 financial year. This contract will be let at a cost of some \$23,300 next financial year.

2089 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Can he give me any indication as to whether or not the new Berrimah jail will go ahead in the foreseeable future?

ANSWER

This is a bit like 40 years later. I understand that tomorrow the tenders will be called for the new jail at Berrimah.

2090 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

What accommodation is offered to single teachers by the CTS when they are being recruited for service in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I do not have specific details of the offer that is made to teachers joining the Commonwealth Teaching Service. However, I will obtain the information in some detail and supply it to her at the next sittings.

2091 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Could he also advise the basic rates of salary for single teachers in the various bands and length of service?

ANSWER

I will undertake to have that information supplied by tomorrow.

2092 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

It has come to my notice that a student marijuana selling ring may be operating at the Alawa Primary School. Would the Cabinet Member undertake to have this matter investigated?

ANSWER

I will.

2093 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr POLLÓCK

Has any advice been received of a grant made for research into the barramundi fishery?

ANSWER

The Fishing Industry Research Trust Account has made a grant of \$90,300 to be spent during the 1977-78 financial year by the CSIRO in co-operation with the Department of Northern Territory and the fishery section of the Queensland Government for research into the barramundi fishery.

2094 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW

This question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for MacDonnell. Can she advise when the Hermannsburg Police Station, which was opened 6 months ago, will be provided with a standard fingerprint plaque slab and when will work be completed to allow the permanent officers appointed to the station to take up residence?

ANSWER

The fingerprint pad has already been sent from the Darwin police stores and I am advised by the Department of Construction that the facilities at Hermannsburg Police Station will be completed by the end of August. Delays have been experienced in obtaining interested tenderers.

2095 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr RYAN

I refer to the recent TDT on uranium. During the program, the reporter was standing at the end of the Arnhem Highway. He said that the Arnhem Highway was intended to go to Gove but was not finished because of pressure from the Aboriginal people. Could he elaborate on that?

ANSWER

I did in fact watch the particular program mentioned by the Honourable Member for Nhulunbuy and was astounded when the announcer stood at the end of the highway and said that this road was intended to go through to Gove but, because of Aboriginal pressure the road was stopped at Jabiru. I was so annoyed about this sort of information being broadcast Australia-wide that I got onto the telephone and, after a quarter of an hour, managed to get hold of the bloke who was directing the show. I can assure you that, after about 10 minutes, he definitely had the right information about that road. The road was never intended to go to Gove; it was intended to go to Jabiru.

2096 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

How many employees are engaged in the operation of powerhouses in the Northern Territory? Are all employees union members and, if so, of what unions are they members?

ANSWER

There are 4 manned powerhouses in the Northern Territory which are operated by the Electrical Supply Division. There is one in Darwin with 81 employees, Katherine has 24, Tennant Creek has 11 and Alice Springs has 30. All the employees in the powerhouses are union members. The Electrical Trades Union covers the electrical fitters and switch operators, the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union covers boilermakers, welders, fitters and turners, sheet metal workers and trade assistants, the Transport Workers Union covers truck drivers and crane drivers and the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union covers riggers, painters, brick layers and labourers.

2097 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Dr LETTS

Where does the Northern Land Council get its funds to have the Land Rights News printed?

ANSWER

I refer to the May issue of the Land Rights News which I happen to have with me which states that Land Rights News is published with the assistance of a grant from the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australia Council and this assistance is gratefully acknowledged. I do not know whether that is where the full funding of the publication comes from but certainly some money comes from that source.

2098 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

How many new government houses are waiting for connection of electricity?

ANSWER

The information that I have on the electrical connections does not distinguish between government houses and government installations generally. The government list includes electrical connections for things like bus stops, telephone booths etc. As at Tuesday 7 June, there were 122 government installations awaiting connection, 32 Housing Commission houses and 67 private applications for connection. The waiting time at the moment for private connections is approximately 2 weeks and the backlog which was caused by the ban on connections has now been caught up and new connections are being made at the rate of over 100 per week. The Electrical Supply Division feel they are operating in a more normal capacity now than they have been for a long time.

2099 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

At what stage is the planning for the proposed recreation lake in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the honourable member's question. I ask that it be placed on notice.

2100 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

What stage has the transfer of the core unit at Tracy Village to the Corporation of the City of Darwin reached?

ANSWER

The area of Tracy Village has been under a defence reserve title for some time and, whilst the village was initially put there in 1975, the issues surrounding the future use still have to be resolved. The Darwin Reconstruction Commission has put forward a number of proposals to divide the area generally into 3 sections, the centre of which would come under the care and custody of the City Corporation and an area of the southern boundary of the lease would be transferred to the Housing Commission for the establishment of a mobile home camp. I am not aware what stage these negotiations have reached. However I will seek the information.

2101 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Has he been advised by the Federal Minister for Posts and Telegraphs whether there has been a revised date on the planned opening for the new Alice Springs Post Office and, if so, what is the date?

ANSWER

I have not been advised of any proposed change in the date nor when the opening will take place. If the honourable member wishes, I will seek that information.

2102 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

When will an adequate system of street lighting be restored to the Rapid Creek area?

ANSWER

The repair and upgrading of street lighting in Darwin generally, including Rapid Creek, will be done in conjunction with the rehabilitation of the total electrical distribution system. The Rapid Creek area is currently planned for upgrading by October 1978 at the same time as the Millner and Nightcliff areas. The upgrading of major arterial roads and intersections is currently planned for completion by December 1977.

2103 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: I wish to answer a question asked by the honourable member for Stuart last week concerning the Rural Roads Conference. The conference is scheduled for Tennant Creek in the last week in September or the first week in October. The actual date will depend on when the budget is brought down in the House of Representatives because it is felt that any discussions relating to road construction in the Northern Territory should take place after the budget has been brought down when we will know exactly how much money will be available.

2104 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Port Darwin asked about the rebuilding of 5 government homes in Packard Street. I am advised by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission that the houses in question are being appraised for inclusion in the 1977-78 rebuilding program. A decision on the economic viability of the existing structures will determine whether the houses are rebuilt or demolished to ground level so that new homes may be built of the sites involved.

2105 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Port Darwin asked a question about the construction of a home in Kahlin utilising 3 silos from Rum Jungle. He asked whether this had Building Board approval. The answer is no. The building section has not granted approval for the structure and is awaiting the production of appropriate drawings concerning the erection of this home. A stop work notice relating to this building has been issued.

2106 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Ludmilla asked a question relating to the Darwin City Corporation's policies on the establishment of lawns on nature strips. I am advised that the City Corporation is hoping for full resident co-operation. However, they are giving consideration to by-laws or legislative amendment that may be necessary to help them enforce responsibility for maintenance. I would certainly encourage them to look carefully at the Western Australian situation where lawns are registered and a rebate of rates is subsequently made where this type of activity is carried out.

2107 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Casuarina asked a number of questions relating to the Northern Territory Housing Commission's reconstruction program in the Northern Territory generally and preferred specifically to new houses. It is difficult to give specific details of new houses because, in Darwin at the moment, it is hard to define what is a new house and what is a rebuilt house. For example, if you classified new homes as being those built off existing slabs and houses and flats restored and upgraded since the cyclone, then the figure would be of the order of 174 housing units in Darwin. However, if you included the built or restored housing up to the end of May, the figure is significantly different. For example, rebuilt or new homes in Darwin are 390, restored houses 230, restored flats 190, a total of 810. It is also estimated that an additional 450 houses and flats in Darwin will be restored or built between now and the end of December 1977. In Alice Springs, I believe the figure is of the order of 20 new houses.

2108 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Casuarina also asked questions relating to the length of waiting time to obtain tenancy of properties. This is a difficult to assess and the only indication I can give is the period of time on the waiting list for people presently being allocated housing. You must take into account that, if more houses come off the production line, this wait could alter drastically. At the moment in Darwin, houses of 3 or 4 bedrooms are being allocated to applicants who have been waiting 19 months, people who are seeking 1 bedroom flats wait for a period of 17 months and people seeking 2 bedroom flats also wait 17 months. In Alice Springs for a 3 or 4 bedroom house, the waiting time is 11 months and for flats with 1 bedroom, 2 months and for flats with 3 bedrooms 3 months.

2109 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The member for Nightcliff asked me what accommodation is offered to single teachers when they are recruited to the Northern Territory and what are the basic rates of pay for single teachers in the Northern Territory. I am advised that, in towns where accommodation is controlled by the Department of Northern Territory, single accommodation is generally in hostels or single quarters. In places other than those, single accommodation provided by the Department of Education for single teachers can vary from a 13 metre caravan to a 3 bedroom brick house, depending upon location.

The basic rates of pay for single teachers in the Northern Territory are: for band 1, there are 16 rates ranging from \$10,159.00 to \$15,334.00 per annum, and rates vary according to the years of training and the years of experience in the service; for band 2 teachers in primary schools, the rate is \$15,729.00 and, in secondary schools, \$18,778 per annum; and for band 4 teachers in primary schools, \$20,820 per annum. In addition to these basic rates of pay, we have various district allowances ranging from \$310 per year to \$2,040 per year and special teaching allowances which vary from \$532 to \$857 per annum.

2110 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Can he advise when \$1.7m contract for the Head Street subdivision in Alice Springs will be let?

ANSWER

I hope the Minister for Construction will make an announcement concerning this subdivision within the next 2 weeks.

2111 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

This is a follow-up question to one I asked some time ago relating to instructions to wildlife rangers not to shoot feral buffalo, particularly in the Cannon Hill area. This was causing some distress and disturbances. Can he advise if this instruction has been waived and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I did obtain some information at the time that the honourable member asked me that question and I regret that I did not pass it on to her. The Director General informed me that no such instructions was in fact in operation. Certainly, such a blanket instruction not to reduce feral animals would be against my wishes as the Executive member responsible for this area, I will make a further check in the light of the honourable member's question and make sure that my policies are being pursued by those who issue directives to field officers.

2112 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is any effort being made to ship live cattle from the Gulf area of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

As far as I am personally aware, there are no specific efforts being made to transport live cattle from the Gulf of Carpentaria. I know that it is a matter that has been looked at by a number of people from time to time but I do not know of any firm proposition to undertake such a venture. If anyone wants to export live cattle from the Gulf and it is feasible, I will do all I can to assist them.

2113 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Can he advise when the badly potholed and washed out section of the Stuart Highway approximately 30-35 miles south of Barrow Creek will be repaired?

ANSWER

A contract should be let within the next week for resealing that section.

2114 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he give an indication when will the report of the inquiry into the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance be presented to this House?

ANSWER

I hope that the report will be tabled at the next sittings.

2115 Mr VALE to Mr PERRON

Can he advise when will a fence be constructed around the Tea Tree School in Central Australia?

ANSWER

I have been seeking information over the last couple of days but as yet I am unable to give an answer to that question.

2116 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he yet advise me what accommodation is offered to single teachers when they are being recruited by the Commonwealth Teaching Service in Canberra?

ANSWER

I am advised that, when teachers are recruited for the Northern Territory, they are interviewed in various places, most often in a Commonwealth office in each state where various Commonwealth employees are interviewed for Commonwealth jobs. At these interviews, they are normally given some very thorough details of the accommodation which exists in various areas in the Northern Territory and the cost and availability of that accommodation. I spoke this morning to one of the officers of the Department of Education who goes south occasionally to interview teachers for the Northern Territory and he went into great detail how he explains to teachers coming to the Northern Territory what the situation is regarding accommodation in both outback schools and urban areas. As part of his job, he keeps up to date with the current accommodation situation in each place. He also advised me that perhaps 50% of the teachers who come to the Northern Territory have spent some short time in the Northern Territory during their teaching training. They come to the Territory for a period of weeks quite often and spend some time in an out-station or in some other school and they stay in the normal accommodation which is available. For single teachers, this is most often hostel accommodation. However, in some cases, there is shared house accommodation and, in outback areas, caravans and demountables. I will supply to the honourable member a booklet which is provided to all teachers who are coming to the Northern Territory when they are recruited which explains to them accommodation availability and conditions in the Northern Territory. Every teacher gets one of these and should be informed as to the position before he comes to the Northern Territory.

2117 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

In the event that an Aboriginal who desires to make a claim for traditional land is dissatisfied with the service available through the Central Land Council will the Commonwealth Government meet the reasonable expenses of any other person whom they may choose to represent him before the Land Commissioner?

ANSWER

As I understand the act, the land councils are given a specific responsibility in relation to the presentation of claims and the registration of traditional owners who may be making a claim. This is specifically their job and they have the task of preparing claims and making representations on behalf of traditional owners and of getting legal advice for this purpose. I understand it is also the policy of the Minister for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to use the land councils virtually in every case.

I understand the point of the question and I have considerable sympathy with his point of view that should an Aboriginal or group of traditional owners wish to proceed outside the Land Councils, to be consistent with the policy of self determination which the Government now applies to Aboriginal people, they should have the right to do so. I do not know whether this would be permitted and whether the funding would be provided to support such action but I will endeavour to find out the answer to the question.

2118 Mr TUNGATULUM to Dr LETTS

How many Aboriginal groups have requested the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to approve an application to set up a local land council?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, there is one group which has put in a formal written application and it has reinforced its application on several occasions. I refer to the group of Tiwi councils representing Bathurst Island, Garden Point and Snake Bay. There are at least 2 other areas which have expressed their wish to the Department and the Minister to move in this direction and certain steps are being taken in one case to examine the proposition of a separate land council. One group is the north east Arnhem Landers centred around Yirrkala and probably including as far west as Elcho on the one side and down as far as Numbulwar and Roper River to the south and possibly Groote Eylandt. This group has definitely expressed a wish to have a separate council; they expressed it personally to me on a recent visit. The other group is the Pitjantjatara in Central Australia who occupies the south western corner in the Docker River and Aryonga area. They have joined forces with elements of their own tribe in Western Australia and South Australia. Meetings of Government officers from those 2 states, the Territory and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs have taken place with the Aboriginals to examining the feasibility of forming a land council. Those are the 3 cases I know of.

2119 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr POLLOCK

In the light of statements in recent days by the Western Australian and Queensland Premiers concerning the territorial and economic fishing zones, what is the current situation concerning the proclamation of a 200 mile fishing zone around the Australian coastal waters?

ANSWER

This matter has been raised on a number of occasions in recent months in this House and I have advised the members of the situation. I have sought further information from the Department of Primary Industries in relation to the Australian Government attitude, I am advised that, at

the current sixth session of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, the Australian Government is actively supporting the extension of the national fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles. The Australian Government, in seeking the successful conclusion of a comprehensive and internationally agreed convention which will cover a wide range of interests other than fisheries, has not followed the example of a number of other countries in the unilaterally declaring a 200 mile fishing zone in advance of the current session of the conference. Australia, along with other South Pacific countries, in agreeing to wait the outcome of the current Law of the Seas Conference recognises that, if acceptable progress towards an agreed convention does not eventuate, governments will need to consider unilateral extension of national fisheries jurisdiction. There is little doubt that Australia will declare a 200 mile fishery zone. However, the timing of such a declaration is of critical importance to Australia's relations with her near neighbours and to her standing generally in the international legal community. In preparation for an extension of fisheries jurisdiction, a working group has been established by the Australian Fisheries Council to examine management strategies and policies in relation to a zone of extended fisheries jurisdiction. This working group, which comprises Commonwealth and state government representatives and a fishing industry representatives in several states to discuss matters of direct interest to the Australian fishing industry such as increased Australian participation in the fishery zone. The working group is to report to the Australian Fishery Council later this year and a meeting will be held in Bundaberg. I hope to attend that.

2120 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

I refer to the recent clean-up by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. Is it a fact that the lessees of the properties that were cleaned up did in fact agree to pay the charges but now have not paid those charges?

ANSWER

At a recent meeting of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission a paper was presented to the Commissioners concerning a number of bad debts of people who have not met certain financial liabilities that have been incurred with regard to the demolition and clean up of properties. At the moment, there are 25 bad debtors still outstanding with regard to this program and their individual liabilities vary from approximately \$100 to approximately \$1,230. The total debt figure is at the order of \$6,630. It is quite remarkable to see some of the names on the list but that is a personal comment. I believe that Darwin Reconstruction Commission did a remarkable job in the clean-up, particularly prior to the last wet, in making safe a number of buildings. I would hope that further legal action can be taken against these outstanding debtors.

2121 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

With the proposed establishment of the Meat and Livestock Corporation, does he anticipate that there will be any special advantages that currently do not exist under the existing Meat Board arrangements for producers within the Northern Territory,

ANSWER

I do believe that the establishment of the Meat and Livestock Corporation will provide the Northern Territory with some advantages

which it does not have at the moment. The membership of the board will include 4 representatives of the Australian livestock producers who will be nominated by a producers consultative group. This will comprise 17 members, who will be elected by producers in the various states and territories. The Northern Territory will have a representative on this producer group. Thus, we will have representation on the proposed corporation which we do not have at the moment in relation to the Meat Board. Also, the new corporation will have control over live export markets and the power to oversee these activities which does not happen at the moment. In the light of the growing export activities from the Top End and the encouragement that this sector of the market needs and the potential that it has if the new corporation can give support to the activities of those actively engaged in the export of live cattle from the Territory in a more organised manner, that will also be of considerable advantage to Northern Territory producers.

2122 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TUXWORTH

Has an analysis of domestic water supply at Areyonga been carried out and, if so, what were the results of the last 3 tests so far as those tests

ANSWER

An analysis is normally carried out by the section that controls water reticulation in the Northern Territory. At the moment, this is being done by the Health Department on an agency basis. I will endeavour to get the information.

2123 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of the recent dog baiting in Alice Springs, what proposals are under consideration to combat this problem?

ANSWER

The irresponsible baiting of dogs in Alice Springs has been a community problem there for some 20 years. It is one that has been very difficult for the authorities to prevent. The honourable member for Stuart approached me on an earlier occasion asking that a moratorium be declared in Alice Springs for people who possess poisons and ask them to bring any illegal poisons forward so that an opportunity may exist for police to remove any unnecessary poisons out of the public area and perhaps give them an opportunity to restrict the indiscriminate baiting that is going on. I have not had an opportunity to follow this through but I am most certainly in favour of the proposal. I will bring it before the Executive at an opportune time.

2124 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

Is he aware of a recent circular of the Administrative and Clerical Officers Association, dated 10 June 1977 which indicates mortgage repayment scales for a house valued at \$55,000? Just by way of information, the top of class 4 repayment is \$143,000 a fortnight and the top of class 8 is \$210. Would he make some representation to the Minister for the Northern Territory to try to work out a solution because at that scale no one will buy any of them?

ANSWER

I am aware that, whenever it is necessary to have a 2 tiered interest structure with regard to repayment of mortgage, there has to be a cut-off point and from that point there will be differentials with regard to the actual amount of repayment. In both of the home sales schemes of the Northern Territory Housing Commission and the sale of Government homes, that cut-off point has been negotiated at a very high level of income. In fact, it is assessed in the Northern Territory at 125% of the average weekly earnings. That at the moment is somewhere in the order of \$14,000 per annum income. In the states, the arrangement for housing finance generally means that the low interest finance is restricted to people whose incomes are below 85% of the average weekly earnings and people above that level have to arrange their mortgage finance on the private market and of course this imposes a particular hardship because it would be even higher than the 9% charged in the higher income group here. I believe the schemes that we were able to influence and negotiate earlier this year have recognised the very unusual situation of the Northern Territory in that Government does in fact finance people with higher incomes. I can assure honourable members that the other ministers at the State Housing Ministers Conference were very envious when they heard of the terms and conditions that we had been able to arrange with the Commonwealth Government. However, I will continue to argue the case with the Commonwealth Government for a tiered interest system rather than 2 interests; at the moment, it goes directly from the five and three quarter per cent or the 6% to the 9%. I personally would like to see a system where, as income progresses, the interest structure also goes up progressively but not as harshly as the present agreement. However, it is certainly an advantage that, in the Northern Territory, people above an income of \$14,000 do receive government assistance with regard to their mortgages.

2125 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr TAMBLING

Will he investigate the serious litter problem in the Howard Springs and Humpty Doo areas and ensure that prosecutions are made against offenders?

ANSWER

The problems associated with litter in these rural areas have been brought to my attention. I am particularly mindful of the problem that exists on the Arnhem Highway. It would probably be very difficult to catch a guy actually throwing a can out the window. However, I will bring the honourable member's concern to the appropriate authorities in my department and the Department of Law.

2126 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

What is the level of investment made by the new owners of the Alice Springs Abattoirs since its date of purchase? Is it anticipated that the abattoirs, with its present level of investment cost will be a viable proposition without participation in the U.S. export beef quota?

ANSWER

To provide a detailed answer to that question, I would require the question to be placed on notice. I do understand that millions of dollars have been invested there. The investors have gone into the project with open eyes and with no guarantee that an export quota would

be allocated to them. If a quota is allocated to them. It will entrance the viability of that operation and its viability is important to the industry in Alice Springs for the domestic kill, for export and for the removal of stock from the area which is seriously overstocked at this stage.

2127 Mr VALE to Mr PERRON

When will lawns and gardens be planted around Tea Tree School? Will the road between the school and the teacher's residence be gravelled and drainage provided?

ANSWER

I will seek the information.

2128 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMELING

Is he able to supply information on the future use of Essington House?

ANSWER

The future use of Essington House has been a controversial matter and has been under consideration by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission for some time. At the last meeting of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, plans were submitted on the future use of this facility and how it could be modified for community use. I do have a copy of those preliminary plans and I would be happy to make them available to honourable members and make their comments known to the commission. A preliminary estimate in the order of \$200,000 has been put against this project.

2129 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

Does he have available the report on the Kormilda, Dhupuma and Yirara Colleges? If so, will he make it available to members of this Assembly?

ANSWER

I have not received a copy of that report which I understood was in the final stages of preparation a couple of months ago. However, I will endeavour to obtain a copy from the Department of Education and advise the honourable member for Nhulunbuy.

2130 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he yet advise whether a ministerial decision has been made to build Dripstone High School?

ANSWER

The honourable for Nightcliff has phrased her question in a particularly difficult way. As she mentioned earlier in these sittings when she asked me this question in different words, tenders for the Dripstone High School were closing on 26 June. However, I cannot find out any date as to when the actual construction is to commence. I can only presume that there has been a decision that the project will proceed otherwise there would not be much point in calling tenders. I believe that the Dripstone School will be built and I believe that the minister has made that decision. However, I cannot advise her on the construction date.

2131 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

A statement in the NT News Spot On column indicated that Block 8 cafeteria known as "Big Al's" is to reopen in September. Is this true?

ANSWER

I admire the persistence of the honourable member in this matter. Unfortunately, I cannot give an answer to that question.

2132 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Can he advise when a contract for the reconstruction of the Stuart Highway between Kekwick Avenue and Head Street in Alice Springs will be let?

ANSWER

The section of the highway is actually between Kekwick Street and Mount Nancy. It is expected that the contract will be let within a week.

2133 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

I refer to a question I asked last week about the beautification of the footpaths in some of the suburbs. Is he aware that the council, as part of this program, is providing leaseholders with a new concrete driveway? Included as a beneficiary in this commendable move is the Department of the Northern Territory; will the council receive reimbursement for the concrete driveways?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

2134 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

In recent times, we have not heard much about the HFT. Can he confirm that the ship is now on a good course?

ANSWER

A similar question was asked last week by the honourable member for Nightcliff relating specifically to the \$15,000 loan scheme. I have been advised that the Home Finance Trustee has recently been successful in obtaining additional borrowings so that applications under the traditional \$15,000 housing loan scheme can continue to be approved. From July 1976, the trustee has approved 213 loans under this scheme with a total commitment value of \$3,189m. Actual expenditure during this time by way of progress payments has totalled \$2,703m. That is a rather remarkable number of loans given that, in each of the 3 previous financial years, the trustee under that scheme approved less than 100 loans in each year. The trustee has entered into negotiations for long-term borrowings to service the 1977-78 programme but actual details of these borrowings are not yet available. The 1977 loan applications on hand at this time are all awaiting further documentation to be provided by the individual applicants. Each applicant has been advised of the remaining requirements and that the applications cannot proceed to the approval stage until this information is received.

For the information of honourable members, the current position with regard to the 6% concessional home loan scheme is that, from July 1976

to date, the Home Finance Trustee has approved 481 loans with a total commitment value of \$14,985m. The value of progress payments paid since the inception of the scheme is \$25,636m. There are at present 549 loan applications on hand that all require additional information from the applicants before they can be approved. Currently, all progress payments against approved loans are being met on demand. Any delays in payments are minimal and consistent with the checking and inspection processes.

2135 Mr STEELE and Mr TAMBLING

I refer to a document that was placed on my desk this morning which says that funds have been commissioned by Grant Tambling, the Mayor, Marshall Perron and Ian Tuxworth for a survey on leisure patterns. Can he provide us with any information about these leisure patterns?

ANSWER

This matter was canvased by the honourable member for Nightcliff in the adjournment debate last night. Some people seem to throw names around willy-nilly. As I mentioned in the adjournment debate last evening, an officer of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission has been given the opportunity to assist the Northern Territory Cabinet Members in certain areas and is looking at certain studies on our behalf, one of these relates to leisure.

2136 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

It is my understanding from newspaper advertisements that tenders were called for reconstruction of the Stuart Highway in two sections, between Kekwick Avenue and Head Street and Head Street and Mount Nancy. Has the department in fact changed its mind and these 2 sections are now to be let as one contract?

ANSWER

I do not know if the department has changed its mind but the answer to the question was that the contract for the sealing between Kekwick Avenue and Mount Nancy would be let. Perhaps, they are going to let 2 contracts together, I do not know. However, that was the information that was given to me.

2137 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

Are penalty rates of interest imposed on late payments of monthly instalments to the Home Finance Trustee? and if ledger postings are late, does this also attract a penalty?

ANSWER

The Home Finance Trustee may impose penalty interest where payments are made after the due date. A representation was made to me yesterday with regard to situation in which it was believed that someone had been charged penalty interest but had actually paid on or before the due date. I have been informed by officers for the Department of Northern Territory that, if any such situation should arise, there would certainly be a rebate of any interest penalty resulting from an administrative error.

2138 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he advise when nursing sisters will commence duty at Tea Tree and take up residence there?

ANSWER

I will find out and advise the member later in the day.

2139 Mr MANUELL to Mr TUXWORTH

Was a statement made in the media yesterday by Doctor Cutter from Alice Springs, who is also presently an endorsed candidate for the ALP for the forthcoming Northern Territory elections? Did he make reference to the number of cases of venereal disease being experienced in Alice Springs in other parts of the Northern Territory and suggested that the number of cases varied with the colour of the Federal Government in power at the time?

ANSWER

I am aware that Doctor Cutter did put out a report relating to the health of 2 communities, Papunya and Utopia. In his report, he suggested that every child under the age of 2 years spent its first 2 months in hospital and that every child on the properties or settlements concerned was suffering from some parasitic disease and that one third of the elderly, whoever they are, were suffering from blindness and that there was a very strong case for the Central Aboriginal Congress to take over the administration and provision of health services and care for

- Aborigines throughout the Northern Territory.

In view of Doctor Cutter's political aspirations the statement was most timely because it does smack of opportunism which is an unfortunate thing. The continuing problem of Aboriginal health throughout the Northern Territory is one that is above politics. I do not believe that because a particular government is in power that infant mortality or malnutrition goes up or down; it is a problem that has been with us for 20 years and it is a problem we will spend the next 30 years combatting. We will have to do it as a total Northern Territory community and not as an individual group with political aspirations. In his reference to setting up an Aboriginal health service unit, he did not say whether this was to replace existing health units on Aboriginal services, or whether he was suggesting that he should be made the head of the new administration surrounded by people of his choice. He also suggested that the provision of health services by Aborigines would be a better service than that provided by Europeans. From my experience in this field, I find it hard to believe that we would have sufficient numbers of qualified Aborigines who could continue to extend to the Aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory the services they are now getting.

2140 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

I refer to his recent visit to Canberra to make representations to the Treasurer and the Minister for Minerals and Energy. Has he received any word from those departments about the establishment of the oil refinery in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

No. It is a matter which I intend to pursue so far as time allows.

2141 Mr VALE to Mr PERRON

Has the Department of Education come back off holiday since Monday? When will a permanent power supply be connected to various government buildings in Tea Tree?

ANSWER

I will ignore the first part of the honourable member's question. Concerning the connection of services to Tea Tree School, I will have to press the Department a little further for this information.

2142 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Has any action been taken to ensure that owners of damaged properties in central Smith Street comply with building covenants?

ANSWER

This is a matter of some concern to quite a number of people. In the section of Smith Street between Knuckey Street and Bennett Street, there are number of blocks which are in a rather disgraceful state and, considering the length of time it has been since the cyclone, there seems to be very little excuse. I have sought information from the Department as to whether it is doing its job in policing the lease conditions for the blocks in the area. I referred in particular to 4 blocks. Lot 2310 in Smith Street is the site of the former Victoria Hotel and the Department advises me that, after some action was taken to prompt the owners into rebuilding, an application was made for extension of time and, as a result, the company has been allowed until 1 February 1978 to commence development and 12 months after that to complete development. In regard to Lot 2350 in Smith Street, again after some prompting, the owners applied for an extension of time to comply with covenants and they have been given until 31 January 1978 to commence and 12 months after that to complete. The 2 lots side by side in Smith 2356 and 2357 were not so much demolished after the cyclone as never having been developed after being sold at auction several years ago. There was an application by the owners for further time to commence construction to meet covenants and they have been given until 1 July 1977 to commence. They have until 1 January 1979 to complete the premises on those blocks.

2143 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

At what stage of development is the Casuarina Hospital? What is the total cost of the hospital?

ANSWER

Casuarina Hospital contract A relates to the main ward block. The top floor slab was poured on May 19 and the lift service tower has not yet been poured. Bricklaying, plastering and the installation of mechanical duct-work and electrical units is now in progress. Work is proceeding satisfactorily and it is expected that there will be a handover of this area in September 1979. Contract C, which relates to the laundry and

services block, is scheduled for completion on 15 December 1977 and this now has been set back to March 1978. Structural work on the services building is completed, the building work is 90% completed and machines are currently installed. In the laundry, structural work is completed, building work is 88% completed and the laundry and equipment is placed in place but services are not yet connected. In relation to the Nurses Training School and accommodation, the completion of building 4 is expected in August, for building 6 a certificate of practical completion has been issued in May and building 9 on the north side will be handed over for inspection within the next week. Building 9 on the south side has a certificate of completion issued in May.

2144 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: The honourable member for Alice Springs asked concerning the Central Australian Railway and the location of the terminal in Alice Springs, I have a copy of a telex which was sent by the Department of Transport. On the first question, it says: "The review into the construction standards and costs of the Tarcoola Alice Springs Railway project was completed last year. The review indicated a number of areas where cost could be reduced while still providing a reliable, all-weather railway to Alice Springs. The Minister for Transport has directed that the recommendations of the review committee be implemented by the Australian National Railway Commission."

On the other question, the review committee recommended an I.D.C. comprising representatives of the ANR and Departments of Transport, Finance and Northern Territory report to the government on the least cost option for the rail terminal taking into account the overall town planning requirements of Alice Springs. The terms of reference for this IDC are currently being prepared.

2145 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TUXWORTH: Question 2006 from the honourable member for Nightcliff asked whether it is a fact that aerial spraying to combat mosquitoes and sandflies was carried out at Nhulumbuy. The answer is no.

2146 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Alice Springs asked a question relating to plans for the Ross Park School in Alice Springs. He asked if I was aware that the Minister had made recommendations that plans for a major upgrading be shelved. He also brought to my attention the fact that there seemed to be a number of facilities missing from the school and this would be detrimental to the education of the students there. I am advised that the Minister has approved an expenditure on Ross Park School of some \$400,000 for upgrading but, in actual fact, did shelve a proposal to virtually rebuild the school for something like \$2,000,000. The \$400,000 expenditure is for various improvements including a craft room and a library. The decision not to totally rebuild Ross Park was taken as it was felt that it would be better to carry on with the construction of a primary school at Sadadeen as this would be a more desirable option in the long term. No doubt, cost also had some bearing on the decision. The honourable member mentioned insufficient library facilities. As I have mentioned, the \$400,000 upgrading will include provision of a library amongst other things. As to whether the Parents and Teachers Organisation was advised, I believe they were. There was a discussion as recently as last week with education planners and the Parent Teacher Organisation. The latter body has submitted a counter-

plan to that produced by the Department of Education and that has largely been adopted by the department in the expenditure of the \$400,000.

2147 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: I would like to provide further information in answer to a question asked by the honourable member for Port Darwin concerning the controversial home in Kahlín to be constructed of silos. I did provide information yesterday that was given to me by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission which was in part incorrect. I believe that the owner submitted plans to the building section whereas I implied that they were still awaiting further plans. I am now further advised that a letter is being sent to the owner informing him of the building in question will exceed the maximum height permitted in an R2 zone and an engineer's certificate should be supplied in relation to the footing and the structure itself and that certain room sizes and details of egress require amendment.

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

7 June 1977 - 16 June 1977

-
- Aboriginal Benefits Trust Fund, audit (Withnall) 2027
 - Aboriginal Colleges, report (Ballantyne) 2129
 - Aborigines, land claims expenses (Withnall) 2117
 - local land councils (Tungutalum) 2188
 - Accommodation, single teachers (Lawrie) 2090
 - Alice Springs -
 - abattoirs (Manuell) 2010, 2068, 2126
 - dog baiting (Vale) 2123
 - burglary offences (Vale) 2038
 - Head Street subdivision (Vale) 2110
 - lake (Vale) 2099
 - municipal council assistance (Robertson) 2023
 - new post office (Manuell) 2101
 - railway yards (Manuell) 2021
 - refinery decision (Manuell) 2033, 2140
 - Areyonga water supply (Robertson) 2122
 - Arnhem Highway, Gove extension (Ballantyne) 2095
 - Art gallery, site (Ballantyne) 2058
 - Barramundi research (Ballantyne) 2093
 - Church leases (Tungutalum) 2049
 - Bathurst and Melville Islands, land councils (Tungutalum) 2047
 - Bennell Constructions (Withnall) 2014
 - Berry Springs School (Kentish) 2084
 - Berrimah jail (Dondas) 2089
 - Block & cafeteria (Dondas) 2131
 - Breathalyser (Steele) 1722
 - Building & covenants (Dondas) 2124
 - Buffalo meat, exports (Everingham) 2012
 - Buffalo shooting, Cannon Hill (Lawrie) 2111
 - Cape Fourcraay, discovery of body (Tungutalum) 2017
 - Carpentaria College, rehabilitation (Lawrie) 2031, 2061, 2076
 - Casuarina Fire Station, extinguishers (Dondas) 2052
 - Casuarina Hospital (Dondas) 2143
 - Ciguatera, research (Lawrie) 2007
 - Clean-up, charges (Steele) 2120
 - Consumer protection, Aboriginal needs (Tungutalum) 2053
 - Covenants, time extensions (Dondas) 2053
 - Cuttler Dr (Manuell) 2139
 - Daly Waters Hotel, electricity (Manuell) 2039
 - Darwin, electricity supply (Dondas) 1897
 - Darwin High School, cleaning contract (Dondas) 2067
 - "Darwin Stubby", manufacture (Dondas) 2082
 - Dripstone High School (Lawrie) 2086, 2130
 - Essington House (Dondas) 2128
 - Fannie Bay prisoners, artifacts (Tungutalum) 2026
 - Fingerprint slab, Hermannsburg (Vale) 2094
 - Fishing limits (Ballantyne) 2119
 - Fox Report, copies (Vale) 2051
 - electricity connection (Dondas) 2098
 - Government housing -
 - likely surfeit (Lawrie) 2054
 - purchase payments (Steele) 2124
 - High School students, suspension (Lawrie) 1898
 - Highway repairs, Barrow Creek (Vale) 2113
 - Home Finance Trustee -
 - \$15,000 loan (Lawrie) 2009; (Steele) 2134
 - penalty interest (Dondas) 2137
 - Housing Commission -
 - damages, housing sales (Dondas) 2020
 - house allocation (Dondas) 2050
 - needy families (Lawrie) 2183
 - Howard Springs -
 - litter problem (Tungutalum) 2125
 - police patrols (Tungutalum) 2042
 - police station (Tungutalum) 2040
 - Industrial land, freeze (Dondas) 2011
 - Kahlin Bay, silo structures (Withnall) 2077
 - Katherine -
 - accommodation for outback students (Robertson) 2029
 - detoxification site (Robertson) 2056
 - Kirby, Mr Justice (Kentish) 2080
 - Land and Business Agents Ordinance, commencement (Everingham) 2018
 - Land Rights News, funds (Tungutalum) 2097
 - Leisure survey (Steele) 2135
 - Live Cattle, export (Manuell) 2112
 - Liquor licensing bill (Lawrie) 2016, 2055
 - Lottery and gaming, report (Dondas) 2030; (Lawrie) 2114
 - Luggage carrier, Darwin Airport (Steele) 2078
 - Market, local produce (Steele) 2081
 - Marijuana, Alawa Primary School (Dondas) 2092
 - Matriculation exams, student numbers (Lawrie) 1899

Meat and Livestock Corporation
(Manuell) 2121
Nakara Primary School (Dondas) 2943,
2085
Nhulunbuy -
communications (Ballantyne) 2048
permit system (Ballantyne) 2087
Nightcliff Fire Station (Lawrie)
2025, 2070
N.T. electricity supply, report
(Dondas) 2028
N.T. mining legislation (Ballantyne)
2015
Papunya court, representation for
Aboriginal boy (Robertson) 2045
Packard Street, house reconstruction
(Withnall) 2074
Police, identification numbers
(Lawrie) 2013
Powerhouse, union membership (Dondas)
2096
Public land auctions (Everingham)
2041
Rapid Creek, lighting (Everingham)
2102
Railway, used line (Kentish) 2069
Regional councils, financial arrange-
ments (Everingham) 2022; (Dondas)
2075
Rent control report, policy (Withnall)
2019
Ross Park Primary School upgrading
(Manuell) 2072
Rural Road Conference, venue (Vale)
2036
Ryan Constable, suspension (Lawrie)
2079

Sex education (Ballantyne) 2071
South Road, condition (Manuell) 2032
Succession Duties ordinance, assent
(Withnall) 2024
Suburban sidewalk beautification
(Steele) 2073, 2133
Single teachers -
accommodation (Lawrie) 2090, 2116
pay rates (Lawrie) 2091
Stuart Highway, repairs (Vale) 2132,
2136
Tarcoola -
Alice Springs rail link (Manuell)
2037
electricity (Vale) 2141
Tea Tree -
fence (Vale) 2115
gardens (Vale) 2127
nurses (Vale) 2138
Tiwi underground electricity,
contractor (Dondas) 2035
Todd River, bridge (Manuell) 1896;
(Vale) 2044
Tourist promotion, Darwin 1978
(Dondas) 2057
Tracy Village (Dondas) 2100
Trower Road, pedestrian crossing
(Everingham) 2059
Vacant blocks, burn off (Dondas) 2060
V.D. Arnhem electorate (Kentish) 2008
Yirara College, repairs (Vale) 2088