

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 19 AUGUST 1976

FROM 31 MARCH 1976

822 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TAMBLING -

When will the rehabilitation of Administration Block 3, Mitchell St., Darwin, be completed and when and by whom will it be occupied?

FROM 10 AUGUST 1976

1194 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr POLLOCK -

1. When will the children's creche be ready for occupancy at Gove hospital?
2. Will this centre be staffed and, if so, will the staff be employed full time?

1197 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW -

1. As at 30 June 1975 and 1976, how many members were physically attached to the CIB Inquiry Section at -
 - (a) Darwin
 - (b) Alice Springs
 - (c) Katherine
 - (d) Tennant Creek, and
 - (e) Nhulunbuy?
2. What support sections are available to the CIB, such as breaking, consorting and drug squads and how many members does each of these squads have?
3. Are any of these squads in the CIB to be expanded in the coming six months and, if so, by how many additional members and what new positions are proposed?

1198 Mr VALE to Mr TAMBLING -

How many square miles of the Territory are taken up by:

- (a) wildlife sanctuaries;
- (b) unalienated Crown Land;
- (c) commonages;
- (d) national parks; and
- (e) fauna reserves?

1199 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW -

Is the Stock Squad of the NT Police presently functional?

How many members are there in the squad?

What vehicles are attached to the squad?

How many horses are attached to the squad?

How many cases has the squad investigated in the period 1 January 1976 to 30 June 1976?

How many kilometres has the squad travelled in the same period?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 19 AUGUST 1976

How many nights have members of the squad spent away from home on duty in the same period?

How many pastoral properties in the:

- (a) Darwin Gulf District;
- (b) Victoria River District;
- (c) Barkly District; and
- (d) Alice Springs District

has the squad visited in the past 12 months?

FROM 17 AUGUST 1976

1281 Mr WITHNALL to Mr PERRON -

1. Can he confirm that the sewer line in Doctors Gully is, and has been for some time, broken just beyond the low tide mark and at low tide raw sewage is discharged a matter of feet from the edge of the water?
2. What steps have been and will be taken to avert the threat to health posed by the sewage?

1284 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

How many people, not residents of Darwin at the 24th December 1974, have received the Home Finance Trustee 6% loan?

1295 Mr MANUELL to Mr TUXWORTH -

What progress has been made to date on the development of the Ayers Rock tourist village project?

ANSWER

The committee that is investigating the development of the Ayers Rock village had a meeting 2 weeks ago and, at that meeting, it was advised that it is unlikely that any funds will be available for consultants to continue with the proposal and that other measures will have to be considered if the village is ever to be developed,

1296 Mr STEELE to Mr PERRON -

Is it a fact that the Ludmilla dump is burning underground? Recognising the implications should someone fall through the crust and be injured, will he consult with the corporation on an urgent basis to rectify the problem?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge that the dump at Ludmilla is burning underground. However, I will take the matter up with the local corporation and see whether some action can be taken to rectify the problem.

1297 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING -

What is the situation regarding the declared area under the Nudity Ordinance?

ANSWER

I am informed that the regulations have been signed, that notification of the making of these regulations will appear in a special Gazette tomorrow and the area will be effective if the honourable member should choose to use it from 12.01 this evening.

1298 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING -

How much money has been allocated to the reconstruction of Fenton Flats on the Stuart Highway? Have contracts been let? When will the work commence? When will the work be completed? What are the penalty clauses if the contractor fails to complete on time?

ANSWER

I am informed that \$549,914 has been allocated for the reconstruction of Fenton Flats. The contracts have been let, work will commence on approximately 30 August and they are due to be completed on 21 July 1977. With regard to a penalty clause, there is a clause that allows for penalty at the rate of \$25 per flat per week.

1299 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK -

What juvenile detention centres are currently available in Darwin? What staff is on hand at these facilities and what measures are being taken to improve staffing at the facilities?

ANSWER

There are 2 juvenile detention facilities currently available in Darwin. Palmerston House for boys and Dundas House for girls, Dundas House being opened only at the beginning of last week. As to the staffing situation at both these establishments, I am unable to advise the member exactly what staff is available; however, I do know that it is insufficient in the opinion of the branch. The Social Development Department is rather hampered in staff by the ceilings which have been imposed on the department and in fact is one of the departments suffering most from these ceilings. The whole social welfare area is quite short of staff. The department is unable to replace people who leave or people who were away at the time these ceilings were imposed, and the department is making representation to have these staff levels raised.

1300 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK -

My question relates to the matter of Essington House, or what was Essington House, which is presently being used by the Marrara Community creche. I support the remarks made in this House last week by the honourable member for Nightcliff when she said that the bureaucrats were going to have their way and reconstruct this place and use it as a detention centre rather than permitting it to remain as a community creche. If the bureaucrats are going to rebuild Essington House and use it as a juvenile detention centre, what alternative provision is being made to house the northern suburbs Marrara Community creche?

ANSWER

Firstly, I hope that Essington House is not rebuilt that we have something in its stead. However, the arrangements are that with the people who are using the remaining section of Essington House at the moment, such as the Marrara creche, in their arrangement of occupancy, it is a condition that 6 months' notice must be given by the department for them to quit if the building is required for departmental purposes. I am advised that this notice is at present being given to the organisations who are using the creche but it is not necessarily certain that at the end of 6 months that occupancy will be required. The period may extend considerably beyond the 6 months but the department is taking a safeguard action by giving 6 months notice now, regrettably.

1301 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN -

This question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. Has the Road Safety Council inspected Cemetery Corner in Katherine and, if so, what recommendations did it make?

ANSWER

The Road Safety Council has inspected the particular corner. I assume this is the corner at which a fatality occurred within the last few days. It is my intention to bring the matter up at the next meeting of the Road Safety Council.

1302 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK -

Can he advise me if there is any progress in the quest for a resident doctor at Groote Eylandt?

ANSWER

I am advised that the Department of Health has recruited a doctor for appointment at Groote Eylandt. He will be going to Gove on Wednesday and, after about a fortnight of relief duty at Gove, he will be going to Groote Eylandt. In a little over a fortnight, there will be a resident doctor at Groote Eylandt.

1303 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

Following statements last week that it is likely that one of the juvenile centres is to be deleted from the capital works program, has this decision been discussed and approved by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission?

ANSWER

My understanding of the decisions taken in the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is that 2 centres are placed on the forward estimates which should appear in the budget papers this evening. I would like to refresh my memory on the actual motions of the Reconstruction Commission and advise the honourable member for Nightcliff further with regard to decisions that have been taken on these 2 facilities.

1304 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Dr LETTS -

Will the Councils and Associations Bill of the Federal Parliament have any effect on the Local Government Ordinance?

ANSWER

It is my belief that the Councils and Associations Bill would have a considerable effect on the future of local government in the Northern Territory, particularly in the smaller centres. It would cut across what should be the proper role of the Local Government Ordinance of other legislation which we have under consideration at the moment to deal specifically with the growth of forms of local government in more remote and smaller communities. It is quite clear that, under the provisions of the federal bill, a jural system of local government could develop in the Northern Territory. The position could arise where, on the edge of some of the towns in the Territory, a separate incorporated body for Aboriginal people could be developed with its own system of garbage collection and services quite separate from the other nearby community. The kind of misgivings which we have are shared by other state governments and I understand that the state governments of Queensland and Western Australia in particular have made their misgivings and objections known to the Federal Government. I regret to say that the reactions we have had so far from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs indicate a very inflexible attitude to this particular matter as with various other matters we have brought to his attention from time to time.

1305 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN -

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Is he aware of the difficulties Barcar Holdings is having getting the Giles Street subdivision in Katherine sealed? Is he also aware that this is because the subdivision is 5 months ahead of schedule, and will he investigate allegations of incompetence against Barcar Holdings made by the Katherine branch of the Australian Labor Party in the "Katherine Informer" of 13 August of this year?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the problem. I will however take the matter up with Spraypave and also the Department of Construction in an endeavour to find out why, if they have in fact finished the preliminaries, they cannot get the sealing of the road carried out.

1306 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN -

Has there been any further progress in relation to the planning or construction of a small boat facility in Darwin Harbour?

ANSWER

\$101,000 was made available for the upgrading of the particular facility. Members may be aware of a rock groin which now exists in Frances Bay. This of course is not satisfactory as it is almost underwater at high tide. The \$101,000 will be spent in upgrading the groin and in fact this work, if it has not already started, is vitually ready to go ahead.

1307 Mr MANUELL to Mr TUXWORTH -

Is he aware that water pressure in some areas of Alice Springs has diminished to a trickle and that in some areas some sprinklers will not work at all during the day? What is the cause of this shortage and has any contingency plan been considered to prevent a restriction of water supply this year in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The Department of Works has advised me through the Water Resources Branch that some difficulties have been experienced in the Gillen area while maintenance was being carried out on the \$7m tank. Parts of the east side in particular and the race course area have suffered from reduced pressure at certain times of the day due to heavy demand and it is planned by the Department of Works to upgrade and augment the existing supply in these areas in conjunction with the development of the Sadadeen Subdivision. Measures for improving the overall water supply in general will in fact be carried out as a result of expenditure in this year's Budget and the criteria whether restrictions will continue depends on the availability of finance to complete the equipping of 5 bores in the Mereenie area, the severity of the summer and the rate at which Works can carry out what needs to be done.

1308 Mr BALLANTYNE to Miss ANDREW -

Is she aware that the Northern Territory Teachers Federation has banned the use of stage II of the Katherine Hostel accommodation for teachers in 1977?

ANSWER

Yes, I am aware of this. Only this morning, I received a letter from the Northern Territory Teachers Federation advising me that this action was taken because the executive believes that, in 1977, there will be superior alternative accommodation available in stage I and III of the hostel and unused single officer flats at the Katherine Hospital.

1309 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN -

Is he aware of a report prepared by the Department of Construction concerning certain construction problems with the Yirara College and Bradshaw School in Alice Springs and will this report be made available to the public?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such report. However, I will make inquiries and give to the House any information which I may be able to get.

1310 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN -

Is he able to tell me anything with regard to the reflectorized licence plates?

ANSWER

The Department of the Northern Territory Transport Planning Division have several vehicles fitted with reflectorized licence plates of various colours. The purpose of this is to establish which colours stand up to the climate and are least affected by being covered with dust, rubbish and mud. Once having established this, there will be a move towards picking suitable colours for the new Northern Territory reflectorized plates and passing the necessary legislation to have them fitted to the vehicles. I would assume that this will take place some time in the first half of the next year.

1311 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

Is he yet able to advise the terms and conditions upon which the sale of government homes will be re-introduced in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

I am not able to provide that information. I have sought urgent information of the Minister yesterday and I hopefully will be able to provide it within the next few days.

1312 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON -

Is the Trade Practices Act being enforced in the Northern Territory and has the Trade Practices Commission got an office in Darwin?

ANSWER

Following a visit to the Northern Territory earlier this year of an official of the Trade Practices Commission in Canberra, arrangements have been made for the Prices and Consumer Affairs branch of the Department of the Northern Territory to take over some of the aspects of policing the Trade Practices Act. Matters to be handled by the Consumer Affairs Branch here are the consumer protection provisions under part 5 of the act and also the restrictive trade practices provisions of the act. Although an officer of the commission will not be stationed in Darwin permanently at this stage, an officer from the commission's Brisbane office will make occasional trips to Darwin throughout the year and specific trips if there are any matters that warrant his attention. As far as the Alice Springs area is concerned, it will be serviced by the Trades Practices Commission Adelaide office.

1313 Mr VALE TO Mr POLLOCK -

When will pensioners' homes in Katherine occupied by Aborigines be connected to sewerage?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to find the information and advise the House,

1314 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Dr LETTS -

I refer to the statement in the Northern Territory News of 16 August headed "Nomination called for land trust posts". Could the Majority Leader inform me why this nomination has been called before the bill is finally passed in the Commonwealth Parliament? Why does the bill provide for freehold title to be held by a land trust representing large areas and not by the traditional owners according to Aboriginal laws? My third question is about land councils, This is the whiteman's idea of giving us land rights. We might be able to make it work if we are given a land council in the bill for Bathurst and Melville Islands. Would he tell me why only one land council has been made for the north of the Northern Territory and why a land council will not be made for Bathurst and Melville Islands in the bill?

ANSWER

The first question related to the inviting of applications for membership of land trusts. Like the honourable member for Tiwi, I can only guess at the reason. I have not any information as from the Minister or the Federal Government as to why it has been done. I would have some concern about the calling of the applications at this stage because we have passed on to the Government and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs the concern which some citizens of Arnhem Land in particular have expressed to us about the setting up of land trusts in the form that the bill before the Federal Parliament proposes. It has been pointed out to us, and we have pointed this out to the Minister, that to set up what separate trusts for the Arnhem Land mainland the Arnhem Land islands is contrary to the reality of the situation in so far as most of the people who have land on the islands also have an interest or traditional claim to land on the mainland, and they are being split in half.

More than that, there are problems, which goes on to his second question, about the size of these trusts in so far as they include the whole of the Arnhem Land islands except Bathurst and Melville Islands and within that trust there will be a number of separate language and descent groups, and the same of course with the large mainland area of 47,000 square miles. Aboriginal people have expressed misgivings about this which was passed onto the Minister. Therefore I am surprised and disappointed I suppose in a way, that he is calling applications for trusts for the scheduled areas, apparently not being prepared to give consideration to any variation in the original design. I suppose in favour of the Government one might argue that they can consider it prudent to have names available in case the bill passes in its present form, but against that I would argue that in doing this they are raising expectations from Aboriginal people who might submit their names towards these trusts and then they may not be realised in the final judgment which is made on the legislation. The Federal Government continues to act unilaterally in matters such as this and pay little regard to their frequent stated policy of close collab-

oration and consultation with the Northern Territory people.

On the third question, that with regard to land councils, the proposed legislation of course does make provision for more than the 2 original land councils to be set up, and I would advise the honourable member for Tiwi that the information that we have received in going around and in material which is being forwarded to us from Aboriginal groups is that certainly in the northern half of the Territory there is a very strong possibility that a number of individual land councils would be created or would be applied for probably the Bathurst-Melville Island area, the Groote Eylandt area and north and north-eastern Arnhem Land. Under the present design of legislation, it seems likely that, within a short period of time, instead of having one land council in the north we could very well be faced with a number of separate administrations - anything up to 5 or 6 - within the first year or 2.

1315 Mr WITHNALL to Mr PERRON -

Has he noticed that the Darwin water supply has been frequently fouled lately with a substance which is probably algae resulting in a revolting scum forming on the water and an associated taste and odour? What is the cause of this condition and what is being done about it?

ANSWER

I am aware of the problems that the honourable member for Port Darwin has alluded to. I do not know the actual cause although I have heard it rumoured that it is the result of some process that kills algae in pipelines and the result is the dead algae in the glass. I will endeavour to find out the reason and table it in this House later on in these sittings.

1316 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW -

When will there be a special school re-established in Darwin as there was pre-Tracy? I am aware that some schools are taking a limited number of children but it is not sufficient to cater for all the children needing special education in Darwin.

ANSWER

There have been some problems about the re-establishment of a special school because one of the Ludmilla preschools is in actual fact occupying the building. Several schools such as Rapid Creek, Ludmilla, Wanguri, Alawa and Millner, all have children in their care who would normally be at special schools. This is probably not such a bad thing because there are certain advantages for disadvantaged children in being with normal children. However, a decision has been taken to rebuild a special school and it will be done as soon as possible. No date has been mentioned.

1317 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK -

Is it the responsibility of the Social Development Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory to provide funds for the burial of destitute persons in cemeteries within the Northern Territory? I refer particularly to Katherine.

ANSWER

It is the responsibility of the Social Development Branch to pay the burial costs of destitute persons. At Katherine, the department has a contract with the local undertaker. However, problems did arise there following the imposition of grave opening fees by the local cemetery trust. The cemetery trust wanted the undertakers to pay this fee and the undertaker would not pay because it was not covered by his contract. In other centres, the cemetery trust send the account to the department but in Katherine they did not want to do it this way. The matter has since been resolved and there should be no further problems.

1318 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TAMBLING -

When will occupied houses at Tindal be weatherproofed? What other improvements are planned?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as you are well aware, the problems at Tindal are very complex because of the ownership status of the buildings there and the confusion that arises between the Department of the Northern Territory assuming occupancy of a number of these buildings following the cyclone and the Department of Defence holding vested interests. I do not have the specific information sought in the question. I believe it should be available in the Budget papers this evening and will seek further information in answer to the question.

1319 Mr MANUELL to Mr TUXWORTH -

Is he aware that the ring seal for the high capacity storage tank in Alice Springs has failed for the third time in succession and is still in a state of desrepair, rendering the pressure useless? What steps are being taken to rectify the problem, and is it a fact that the design of the ring seal was made by the Department of Works and was in fact experimental at the time of design?

ANSWER

The answer to the first part of the question is very simple. Advice received from the Department of Works is that the ring seal has in fact been repaired and has been repaired for some period. In answer to the second part of the question, the department advises that the design was carried out by consulting engineers retained by the Department of Housing and Construction and in fact the present design being used is commonly put to use in South Australia and is not an experiment by any means.

1320 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN -

Are there any more taxi licences issued in Darwin now than there were as at 24 December 1974? Secondly, are there any plans to issue any more taxi or hire-car licences; and, further, does the Registrar of Motor Vehicles conduct random roadworthiness checks on taxis; if he does not, is he planning to do so?

ANSWER

At present there are 55 taxi licences and 28 hire-car licences held in Darwin. This is the same number as existed prior to the cyclone. The

Registrar has had no representations asking for any extra licences to be issued so at present there is no intention to do so. The second question was relating to random inspections of taxicabs and hire cars. Currently they are subject to a 6-monthly inspection at the Motor Vehicle Registry, and in addition to this one of the chief inspectors does from time to time make random checks of vehicles on ranks and at home.

1321 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN -

How many weekly flights has Qantas had operating in and out of Darwin? Is Qantas coping with the present rate of passenger traffic and what is the situation likely to be during the school holidays?

ANSWER

There are currently 2 flights through Darwin scheduled by Qantas. Generally speaking, these 2 flights do handle the normal traffic that comes through Darwin. However, some people seem to think that we could do with extra flights, particularly to Hong Kong because we do not have a direct flight to Hong Kong. At present, the bookings for December are full which means that anybody who wants to leave Darwin directly for overseas during December and they do not have a ticket at the moment, they will be unable to go. Last year, a similar situation existed but we were able to prevail on Qantas to give us a few extra flights through Darwin mainly because we said that people would be keen to get out of Darwin the first year after the cyclone. This same situation exists this year to a certain degree although I do not know whether we will get the same amount of sympathy from Qantas. However, I intend to send a telegram to Sir Lennox Hewitt and the Minister for Transport to ask if extra flights can be put through Darwin at Christmas. I believe other airlines are keen to come through Darwin but are unable to do so because Qantas vetoes that particular move. I will ask, if Qantas cannot handle the traffic, why other airlines could not be given the opportunity to pick up passengers in Darwin and also create a little bit of opposition for Qantas.

1322 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Miss ANDREW -

Bathurst Island has a population of 1,200 to 1,400. When will the police station be built on Bathurst Island? Is it in the 1976/77 program, if not, when will it be programmed?

ANSWER

The police department have put a proposal to the Department of the Northern Territory for the Bathurst Island police station to go on the 1976/77 design A list. If this proposal is accepted, the building would not be commenced before the beginning of the next financial year.

1323 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN -

Is he aware of damage to property and inconvenience to persons being caused by the parking of vehicles by patrons of the Marrara Hotel in Seabright Crescent, Jingili, and has he any plans to remedy the situation?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the problem that the honourable member for Jingili

points out.

Mr Everingham: I told you about it. I wrote you a letter too.

Mr RYAN: He just made a comment that he has told me, in which case, Mr Speaker, I must admit that I had forgotten and I certainly cannot remember receiving a letter, as he interjected. However, I will make a point of having a word with him and see if we can do something to solve the problem if it exists.

1324 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Dr LETTS (by leave): The honourable member for Arnhem asked me last week: "Has the Australian Government co-operated with the Indonesians in eradicating foot and mouth disease in Bali?" I did hazard an opinion on the situation at the time, but I can now tell him that the Department of the Northern Territory advises that the Australian Government has co-operated with the Indonesian Government in an eradication program. The Chief Veterinary Officer of the Northern Territory spent several months in Bali, assisting in the vaccination of the disease and the disease is now regarded as being under control.

1325 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING (by leave): The honourable member for Ludmilla asked a question in relation to temporary caravan parks being developed by private people on private land. I am supplied with the following information:

These applications were not supported after considering site location and the lack of existing service facilities. The cost difference in establishing a temporary caravan park on private land as opposed to public land is minimal. The cost is, of course, reduced where there are showers and toilets already in existence.

1326 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Miss ANDREW (by leave): The honourable member for Stuart asked me a question concerning the Rabbit Flat Roadhouse incident. I will make all this information available, Mr Speaker, to the honourable member, because I do not want to bore you all with reading a blow-by-blow description. However, a group of Aborigines arrived at Rabbit Flat about 8pm on Tuesday 10 August. They intended to stay overnight and then continue to Balgo Mission next day. During the evening, Mr Farrens was forced to stop the sale of liquor due to disorderly behaviour. At 2 am an Aborigine was discovered inside the security area at the rear of the premises, a scuffle followed the discovery and Nelson was injured. Following this, the Aborigines threw stones at the roadhouse and Farrens barricaded himself inside. The Aborigines were eventually quietened by the Aboriginal elders who had taken control of the situation prior to the arrival of the police. Police were called as a result of a call at about 4 am which Farrens made to the Bureau of Meteorology and he advised them that his premises were under siege and he was on his own. He was also most concerned about the Aborigine, later known as Mr Nelson, who was injured. He then contacted the bureau at 5.55 am and advised them that he was expecting some further action at daylight. However, this did not take place. There was some damage done to the building amounting to several hundred dollars. However, Nelson will not be charged; I am advised that some other minor charges have been made.

1327 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr POLLOCK (by leave): The honourable member for Nightcliff asked about adoption services and the availability of an officer for adoption in the Northern Territory. In the Northern Territory, there are 2 officers handling adoptions, one is based in Darwin and the other in Alice Springs. It is quite impractical to operate the adoption ordinance with officers resident interstate.

1328 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr POLLOCK (by leave): I was asked by the honourable member for Alice Springs about services provided by the accoustics laboratory at the Darwin Hospital. In reply to that question, I will read an extract from a submission from the Commonwealth Department of Health to the Senate Standing Committee on Social Welfare earlier this year:

(i) hearing services - hearing aids and audiological services are provided to children under the age of 21 years, pensioners and their dependants, repatriation beneficiaries, Commonwealth employees, compensation claimants, Commonwealth Department of Social Security rehabilitation clients, Aborigines under the care of the Northern Territory Administration.

(ii) hearing conservation and noise annoyance - advice and assistance to Commonwealth Government departments and defence services in hearing conservation measures and noise problems affecting the community from defence services and Commonwealth activities, and

(iii) loan of audio meters to school medical services.

1329 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK -

What progress, if any, has been made towards the introduction of reformed liquor legislation within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The reform of liquor legislation for the Northern Territory has been a matter which I have been looking into since assuming this position. The very limited staff which is available to me hinders proper development of the proposed reforms. Draft working papers of the principles of the liquor ordinance and also papers in relation to alcohol and drug dependency have been prepared and approved by the executive. However, at this stage, there is no staff available to the executive to develop these policy documents to the stage where drafting instructions can be satisfactorily given to draftsmen to prepare the legislation. Approaches have been made to the Minister to have staff made available to the executive to carry out this work and negotiations in that regard are going on. I am hopeful that he will concede to our request and that, in the foreseeable future, we will be in a position to have these drafting instructions ready and the legislation prepared.

1330 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW -

Can she advise me of the membership of the technical committee of the Emergency Services Organisation and if a decision has been taken to designate Nightcliff High School as a primary shelter? If this decision was taken, what consultation was there with the Department of Education and more importantly with the staff of the high school and their board membership?

ANSWER

I am advised that membership of the technical committee comprises a representative of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, representation from the Department of Construction, representation from the Education Department, representation from the Department of the Northern Territory including a member of the emergency services organisation, and some other as yet undetermined people who have qualifications in engineering and designing.

I am advised by the Department of Education that a technical committee has investigated the most suitable areas for cyclone shelters in the Darwin region. Mr Alan Ritchie, the senior education adviser on school buildings, is the Education Department representative on this committee. On the basis of evidence received, Nightcliff High School was selected as a primary impact shelter by the emergency committee. As yet no structural alterations have been made although some are planned. These include replacement of ground floor windows on the southern side with armoured glass, strengthening the window frames as necessary. Solid screens may be placed on the pillars outside the ground floor windows on the northern side to protect both windows and walls. Mr Ritchie and other members of the technical committee have discussed the matter with the principal of the Nightcliff High School who is the executive officer on the board of management.

1331 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING -

Is it a fact that there is a gerry building on Lot 2911 in Fannie Bay? I do not think that the executive member will be able to answer it at

this stage but could he inform me a bit later?

ANSWER

I think this question should be placed on the notice paper.

1332 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN -

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey, Do newly licensed motor vehicle drivers receive booklets on the rules of the road and do they have to pass a written examination before receiving their licence?

ANSWER

I know that booklets are available. These are normally given to any person who is going to sit for the written exam. In answer to the second part of the question, there is a written exam. One of the reasons behind this question related to the possibility of people not being able to write the language. I am not too sure on this particular aspect although I believe there is a certain amount of leeway given. The main point is that whoever is going for the licence must understand and be able to recognise the various signs and know exactly what the rules of the road are. I do not know if the testing people enforce the written test as strictly as we might imagine. I think they use their discretion in certain cases.

1333 Mr KENTISH to Dr LETTS -

Can he advise me when a rural bank will be established in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member for Arnhem any prediction of an exact date for the establishment of a rural bank or even any certainty that one will be established. All that I can tell him at this stage is that a senior officer of the Department of the Northern Territory has been in Darwin for the last 2 or 3 weeks with the specific task of investigating the present functions of the Primary Producers Board, future needs and the reconstruction of the legislation on primary production. Arising out of this review, the chances are that something towards a rural bank situation will emerge. The officer concerned is working in close contact with me and the PP Board and with producers' organisations. I hope that we will have his recommendations available within the next month or so and, from that, we will be able to take some more positive steps towards the objective which the honourable member for Arnhem has suggested is desirable.

1334 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

Can he yet advise me as to the terms and conditions on which the sale of government homes will be recommenced in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

I have had neither an acknowledgement nor a reply on the information sought from the Minister in this regard.

1335 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TAMBLING -

This is a follow up to a question I asked some months ago. Could he tell me what stage the landscaping to blocks 6, 7 and 8 opposite has reached? Is there a finishing date to this work? If so, what is that date?

ANSWER

I am sure the honourable member for Nhulunbuy has noticed the progress that has taken place in the area surrounding these particular blocks with regard to landscaping. I have not got a termination date at my fingertips. However, I will seek it for him.

1336 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK -

I have noticed with some concern the incidence of hepatitis in the Northern Territory and in Darwin in particular. I wonder if he can state, as a reasonable medical probability, whether the establishment of the temporary caravan park proposed to be set up in the northern suburbs is likely to lead to a greater incidence of hepatitis?

ANSWER

It is true that the incidence of hepatitis in the Darwin area has in recent months been increasing at an alarming rate and causing the Department of Health concern. In the 12 months to July last year to June this year, there were 155 cases in the northern region; and in the first 6 months of this year, there were 104 cases. This is a considerable number of cases for the region.

I do not know that temporary caravan parks in the northern suburbs would necessarily increase the incidence of the illness if these caravan parks are constructed to a standard which effectively caters for the health needs of the community. It is camps which are in existence, such as at East Point, with totally inadequate facilities for the number of people that are there, that give rise to a threat of increase and outbreak of hepatitis. There are such problems there that there is cause for concern that this disease might become even more active.

1337 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN -

Has the radio telephone exchange in Katherine been adversely affected by Telecom Australia's austerity drive?

ANSWER

I would be surprised if it had not; everything else has. I will check up, however, and find out if this is the case.

1338 Mr KENTISH to Dr LETTS -

Can he indicate whether funds for rural reconstruction are included either directly or indirectly in the 1976-1977 Budget?

ANSWER

The question anticipates some comments which I will be making later in the day on this subject. The short answer I think is, that yes, funds for rural reconstruction are included in the 1976-1977 Budget for the

whole of Australia and for the Northern Territory. In the case of the Northern Territory, the funds, I believe, are quite inadequate.

1339 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS -

Can he say why all export abattoirs have now to be built to the standard specified for the US market? Will he make representations with the view to the acceptance by the Department of Primary Industries of a lesser standard so that Northern Territory beef producers may take advantage of eastern markets?

ANSWER

Once an abattoir is licensed for export, then it is licensed for export to any country whether it be Russia, Japan or North America, to name 3 of our principal markets. However, the United States market far outweighs in quantity all the other markets put together. The import certificates for the United States require that the works be licensed not only under the Australian licences but under United States licences. It follows that the policy has been adopted to have export meatworks come up to this standard. However, some works do not seek an export licence. I think Meneling is a case in point and there are a number of other provincial works around Australia which do not have to comply to the full extent with the United States standards even though in most respects those standards are quite reasonable and pretty close to what the community at large would now expect to be the standards of sanitation and meat hygiene under which meat would be processed.

1340 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK -

Are the health authorities taking any steps to reduce the two year waiting period for dental appointments in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

At Alice Springs, there is an approved establishment of a dental superintendent and two dental officers. The existing staff is a dental superintendent, who is presently on leave, and 3 dental officers along with 4 positions for dental therapists with 4 persons occupying those positions. The establishment at the moment is fully met. There is a considerable waiting list for dental services at Alice Springs. That is a matter of concern but I am unable to answer the member further.

1341 Mr MANUELL to Mr TUXWORTH -

I would like to ask this question following a reply yesterday in relation to the ring seal in the Alice Springs high pressure reserve tank. Is the ring seal design that was used in this tank the same as that used by the South Australian Engineering and Water Supply Department? If it was the same, has the Engineering and Water Supply Department in South Australia experienced the same rate of failure as that which has been experienced by the tank in Alice Springs and, if so, why was the same design used?

ANSWER

I would have to get the information from the department and from the water supply authority in South Australia. I will endeavour to do so this sitting.

1342 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING -

How many people are actually working on processing the 6% concessional home loan through the Home Finance Trustee's Office?

ANSWER

There are 16 people engaged in the task.

1343 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH -

Can he supply me with any details, if any, of incentives to mining and oil companies announced last night in the budget and what effect will this have on the Northern Territory exploration?

ANSWER

I will answer that later in the sittings.

1344 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

Is it a fact that people who were owner occupiers pre-cyclone and who have no children are being told they can only apply for the \$15,000 loan?

ANSWER

This is the first occasion that this matter has been brought to my attention. I am not aware of any people who are owner occupiers who would under my understanding not meet the eligibility criteria for the full 6% loan concession scheme. I will certainly take the matter up with the Home Finance Trustee and advise the member further.

1345 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK -

Does he have any information regarding the review of the Mental Defectives Ordinance?

ANSWER

Drafting instructions for a Mental Defectives Bill have been issued some 6 weeks ago. I am now awaiting the bill from the draftsman, I was hopeful that it would be here at this session but, as it is rather a complex matter, it will not be ready until the October session.

1346 Mr VALE to Mr TAMBLING -

Can he advise what the Majority Party's proposed action is concerning the Northern Territory Housing Commission homes sales scheme?

ANSWER

Members will recall that at the last sitting of this Assembly, on the last day, I indicated that the Majority Party had prepared draft legislation to enable the reintroduction of a homes sales scheme for the Northern Territory Housing Commission. That draft legislation had been prepared by myself in consultation and conjunction with the Northern Territory Housing Commission. It was necessary for me to refer it to the Government for consideration of a number of the principles.

I indicated at that time that the states and the Commonwealth were currently reviewing the arrangements that applied to the financial aspects of the 4% funding for housing commissions throughout Australia; those principles of course are applied to the Northern Territory Housing Commission just as much as they are in the states.

In the month between our meetings, I have referred this legislation to both the Minister for the Northern Territory and to the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development. I have received advice from both the Minister for the Northern Territory and the department, that there are several - bugs, if you like - in the legislation that I have had drafted that still need further review.

The Minister for the Northern Territory said in his reply:

However, there are some fundamental financial aspects in the bill which have not yet been fully assessed, and undoubtedly Treasury will need to be consulted. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Housing Commission and I would see it as desirable that areas of concern be resolved initially between the commission, my department and the Treasury. I am aware of the urgency and my department will be continuing these discussions to resolve any anomalies which could affect the operation of the scheme. I see it as desirable that all obstacles be cleared prior to the enactment of legislation which could give effect to a home sales scheme, but I will leave to your judgment the question of when a bill should be introduced.

In the reply I received from the Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development they also raised several specific matters of my proposed bill, and as this has only come to hand in the last week, I have not had the opportunity to discuss it fully with the draftsman or with my legislative advisers. It is therefore not my intention to introduce a bill at this sitting. However, I am hopeful and confident, and it is certainly the intention of the Majority Party, to introduce a new scheme at the next sittings.

1347 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS -

Is he aware that jenny crabs are being sold in large numbers in Darwin? If he is aware, is it his intentions to limit their taking and sale as is done in Queensland?

ANSWER

I was not aware of this situation until just now. I will inquire into the matter and take advice from the Fisheries Branch to see whether some form of control is needed. I am not personally aware of the life cycle of the crab as far as reproduction is concerned. We know that other female crustacea, for example prawns, have a huge rate of egg laying of something like 200,000 eggs for each female per year. Therefore, there has never been any requirement to try to draw the line between male and female in the case of that particular group of crustacea but it may be a different situation in the crab world. I will certainly look into it and, if necessary, see that action is taken.

1348 Mr MANUELL to Mr TUXWORTH -

All members are aware of the appropriation statement yesterday presented in the budget papers. Does he feel that the staff salaries and Tourist Bureau expenses as stated which approximate \$490,000 to earn an estimated commission income of \$85,000 is a reasonable economic proposition? If he does feel that that is the case, what action can be taken to improve the revenue earning capacity of the Tourist Board in the future?

ANSWER

I indicated yesterday that the amount of money consumed by the Tourist Board to collect \$85,000 in commissions was not satisfactory and the board itself is concerned about this. It is not my position to direct the board in what they should be doing but I believe that they would welcome an inquiry into the internal activities of the board to determine whether the board should be involved in retailing of travel at all or whether the board should be involved in wholesaling of travel and servicing the industry.

1349 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW -

Can she advise if any attempt is being made to introduce apprenticeships for boners and butchers in the meatworks and abattoirs of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Not to my knowledge. I ask the honourable member for Stuart to place this question on notice.

1350 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

Can he yet advise as to the terms and conditions of the proposed reintroduction of the government home sales scheme?

ANSWER

I presume the honourable member would be aware that there has been no variation to the scheme in Northern Territory centres other than Darwin and that at the moment the terms and conditions do apply outside of Darwin. The only current situation being held in abeyance is the actual Darwin situation. I am advised that no final recommendation has yet been made to the Minister in regard to the terms and conditions for the reintroduction of a government home sales scheme in Darwin. I am aware that the Department of the Northern Territory is

working on this advice and investigations are continuing. They have indicated to the Minister that the details of the report should be available to him by some time in August, and I was informed this morning it should be by the end of August. However, I would then presume that, in the normal course of events, the determination of any new policy would probably take some time, and I cannot therefore give a date on which the new policies may be determined.

In the telex which I referred to in answer to a previous question about the Housing Commission, the Minister has stated to me: "The introduction of sale schemes, including those for public servants, is a very complex issue. In principle, I agree that it is desirable for some avenues to be opened to enable tenants to buy houses and have no objection in principle to differential interest structures which may have to be adopted".

I believe there are also other complex issues in centres outside Darwin; for example, in Katherine, the current cost of building a government home is now exceeding \$40,000 per house but this has not reflected in the market value which in that town is something in the middle 20,000s for the unit. I believe this is posing a problem to the people who are carrying out the investigations in the report that they will present to the Minister.

1351 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK -

I address this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Is it a fact that neither the Arts Council for the Northern Territory nor Browns Mart are eligible for financial assistance under the Community Grants Scheme? Has the Arts Council of the Northern Territory financial liquidity of \$100,000?

ANSWER

My advice is that, under community activities and the allocation of money by the Regional Grants Committee, the Arts Council and Browns Mart are not eligible. However, they are eligible under other schemes which may be provided by the department. I do not know what financial liquidity the Arts Council has but the department advises me that at the time of receiving application for a grant the Arts Council did provide a balance sheet with quite a healthy financial liquidity. However, I have not examined the balance sheet and I would not like to comment further.

1352 Mr DONDAS to Mr SPEAKER -

Have you received a reply from the Minister for the Northern Territory regarding his approval for our delegate to attend a Commonwealth Parliamentary conference to be held in Mauritius later on this year?

ANSWER

I sent a telegram to the Minister on Thursday last; I have not received a reply.

1353 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

Has the Darwin Reconstruction Commission board approved the apparent change in program which will allow the reconstruction of Essington House as a multi-use facility including security?

ANSWER

I did indicate in question time the other day that I wished to restudy the minutes of the Reconstruction Commission meetings with regard to this particular aspect. In my reappraisal of those minutes and looking at the budget papers, I noted that there is provision for 2 facilities, one in Darwin and one in Malak. I presume the one in Darwin was for the original proposal presented to the commission for a new facility at Berrimah. There has been discussion with regard to the utilisation of Essington House and whether an assessment should be made of what additional facilities might be needed. In fact, the paper considering this at the Reconstruction Commission was deferred for further consideration. I am not aware that any further consideration has taken place by the commission.

1354 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH -

This question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Can he advise the reason for the delay in granting mining leases to Mt Isa Mines at McArthur River?

ANSWER

I believe that the 12-year saga of issuing these leases is about to come to an end this month. In fact, the letter of agreement between the Government and the company is being signed and the Minister will issue the leases this month.

1355 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING -

Is he aware that the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Northern Territory issued a press release saying that the decision had been taken and that Essington House was to be reconstructed? If he is aware of this statement, can he give me an assurance that that statement is not a fait accompli until approval is given by the DRC?

ANSWER

Again, as I indicated several days ago, there is no way that I would speak for Mr Dwyer and I am not aware of the totality of his actions. I am not aware of the particular press statement that the honourable member refers to. However, I do agree that any decision with regard to a capital work or civil work project in Darwin is the total prerogative of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission.

1356 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN -

My question concerns the sealing of Stuart Highway. Is he aware that, in the budget announcement the night before last, the section of Stuart Highway in the township of Alice Springs from Smith Street to Stuart Highway foothills will be sealed while that section from Shell Corner to Smith Street has been apparently forgotten? Will he seek to have this decision reviewed?

ANSWER

I will seek to have that decision reviewed.

1357 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN -

Will he obtain and table in this House a structural report on the Night-cliff High School, bearing in mind that it apparently has been desig-

nated as a primary shelter and there is a school of thought abroad in the community which understands that this school has not been given a very good rating as far as structural integrity is concerned come another good high wind?

ANSWER

I will attempt to get that information.

1358 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK -

Is he able to give me any information as to when Gunn Point Prison Farm will be reopened?

ANSWER

The Gunn Point Prison Farm, hopefully, will be opening in about one month's time or towards the end of September. The problem at the moment is that the Department of Construction has some upgrading work to do there, including the installation of some of the core units for staff accommodation. If the department is able to have this work completed by mid-September then the department should be in a position to have the Gunn Point Prison Farm open then. Some 15 new staff have been recruited and will commence duties on 30 August; this will bring the staff level of the prison service up to a level which will allow operation of both the Fannie Bay Gaol and the Gunn Point Prison Farm. An additional recruiting drive is anticipated before the end of this current calendar year which will further increase staff levels and, hopefully, allow further expansion of prison service activities.

1359 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr TUXWORTH -

Could he advise me the view of the Minister for Tourism on the promotion of tourism in Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

I would like to say that broadly it is the policy of this Party and I believe of the Government generally to promote tourism anywhere and everywhere, and in particular within Aboriginal communities, but the prime problem that we have had in establishing tourism in the Northern Territory has been with the people themselves, that the people are more reluctant to establish tourism than the Government.

1360 Mr MANUELL to Mr TAMBLING -

Have any plans been made by the Town Planning Board to accommodate the interests of off-road trail bike riding activities conducted in Alice Springs by the Junior Motor Cycle Club?

ANSWER

I am informed that plans for such a facility are not the responsibility of the Town Planning Board but rather of the Department of the Northern Territory. I will take the matter further with the Department of the Northern Territory to find out what submissions they have had from the junior motor cyclists with regard to the issue of any special purpose lease and if necessary I will relay this information to the member for Alice Springs. It may be in the best interests of that

community that he organise a round-table conference with interested persons in Alice Springs if there is need for this to be pursued further.

1361 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON -

Is it his intention, before the next general municipal council election in Darwin to amend the legislation to permit the reintroduction of the ward system for that election and subsequent elections?

ANSWER

The answer to that question is yes. The Majority Party does believe in the ward system for local government in Darwin and we will certainly be taking steps to ensure that that system does apply to the next general election in the municipality of Darwin.

1362 Mr KENTISH to Miss ANDREW -

Can she inform me of the progress of the Stock Squad in respect to the Finniss River Wagait Reserve matter or in respect to other inquiries?

ANSWER

I cannot give any information in reference to those two particular issues that the honourable member has asked me. However, I would ask that the question be placed on notice.

1363 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW -

Could she, before the end of this sitting, obtain and table in this House the membership of the Churchill Fellowship Trust Committee, by whom they were appointed and their length of tenure?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to do so.

1364 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK -

What facilities are the Department of the NT going to provide for the training of prison officers?

ANSWER

The matter of training for prison officers is under active consideration by the Correctional Services Branch and, with the recruitment of an administrative officer in recent months, this program is being developed. The honourable member might be aware that about 2 months ago in an intake of only 4 officers for the first time an induction course was held. It is intended that all future officers on joining the service will partake of an induction course. Admittedly, at the moment, it is of only a week but it is intended to develop this course. It is also intended to develop and promote an in-training service and training for officers but this depends on facilities which might be made available to the service in relation to staff and other activities.

1365 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TUXWORTH -

Is he aware of a recent press statement by the Governor of South Australia, Sir Mark Oliphant, that Australia should mine and market

its uranium resource before it becomes a non-resource and, if so, was the Executive Member able to bring this statement to the attention of Mr Justice Fox?

ANSWER

I am aware of the statement to which the honourable member for Jingili alludes and I do believe that the statement was quite correct in saying that the resource we now have will be very quickly become a non-resource as the world is finding enormous amounts of uranium in a very short time at the moment simply because the world has been forced to look much harder for it.

As to the part of the question that relates to me bringing this to Mr Justice Fox's attention, I would not have thought that it was my position to do that as it would not have bearing on the environmental part of the inquiry which is what Mr Justice Fox is inquiring into.

1366 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Dr LETTS (by leave): The honourable member for Port Darwin asked me a question relating to public servants being transferred to Darwin from Brisbane and their place on the housing list in relation to those who remained here since the cyclone. The information I have obtained is as follows. The points system as it stands was formulated by the subcommittee of the interdepartmental committee - how about that! - on housing allocations, which body endorsed the recommendation. The subcommittee included, as well as representatives of various departments and the Public Service Inspector, the secretary of the Council of Australian Government Employee Organisations. The subject of the officers transferred to Brisbane was discussed at some length and the committee considered that, as many of these officers were reluctant to go to Brisbane, irrespective of their living conditions and did not go of their own choice, they should not be disadvantaged on their return. Officers transferred to Brisbane and those remaining in Darwin receive one point for each month they were in or eligible for departmental housing prior to the cyclone and 2 points per month post-cyclone. Officers subsequently recruited to Brisbane-based positions receive only 1 point per month.

1367 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Dr LETTS (by leave): The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me a question concerning the details of the financial arrangements and conditions applying to Katherine meatworks between the Government, Northmeat and the Northwest Development Corporation. I have not got very much information which would satisfy her on this but I will give her what I have. The details of financial arrangements and conditions applying to Katherine meatworks between the Government, Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd and Northwest Development Corporation Ltd are confidential between the parties concerned. However, it has been announced that the Government has given favourable consideration to a request by Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd to vary the repayment schedule of the Government's loan of \$1.4m. This decision enabled the company to operate the Katherine meatworks under a joint venture arrangement with the Northwest Development Corporation Ltd the managing company for the Wyndham abattoir. Since 1 June 1976 the Katherine meatworks has been managed by Northwest Development Corporation. The current industrial dispute at Katherine meatworks is causing considerable concern, disruptions in the killing operations

can only aggravate the already serious financial situation of the Top End cattle producers.

1368 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING (by leave): The honourable member for Nhulunbuy asked a question with regard to the waterproofing of houses at Tindal. I am informed that the department will be double roofing, weather proofing 20 additional houses at Tindal before the wet season. This number will cater for the maximum number of public servants that will be housed at Tindal during the coming wet.

1369 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING (by leave): The honourable member for Nhulunbuy also asked me a question with regard to when landscaping would be completed in the area adjacent to Blocks 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. I am informed that it is expected that work will be completed in November 1976.

1370 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON (by leave): The honourable member for Port Darwin asked me what the cause of the scum matter floating in Darwin water these days is, and what was being done about it. The answer is that the algae in our water originates from the Darwin River dam; it is killed by chlorine treatment at the 19-mile process and after that treatment it turns white. I am advised the algae is not at all harmful and has no bacterial risk. When it is expected to stop is rather an awkward question. There is work being done to try to establish why the Darwin River dam is breeding this particular type of algae but it appears the case may be that it will only stop when something like \$5m is allocated for a treatment plant and \$0.5m per year is allocated to operate it.

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