

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

FROM 10 AUGUST 1976

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?

1199 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW

1. Is the Stock Squad of the NT Police presently functional?
2. How many members are there in the squad?
3. What vehicles are attached to the squad?
4. How many horses are attached to the squad?
5. How many cases has the squad investigated in the period 1 January 1976 to 30 June 1976?
6. How many kilometres has the squad travelled in the same period?
7. How many nights have members of the squad spent away from home on duty in the same period?
8. 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 5 OCTOBER 1976

1375 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

1. What is the cost of supplying and installing a water meter on a residential block in Darwin and how much has been spent for this purpose in the last eighteen months?
2. What is spent annually on the maintenance of water meters in Darwin?
3. How many water meter readers are employed in Darwin and what are their total annual wages and allowances?

- (i) what was the cost to the government for arresting, escorting and detaining the vessel?

1549 Mr BALLANTYNE to Miss ANDREW

How do the recent increased allowances for isolated children compare with increased school allowances to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders under the ABSEG scheme?

1550 Mr BALLANTYNE to Dr LETTS

Has there been a feasibility study made in the Northern Territory for the use of the Northern Territory rivers to load and transport live cattle for export?

1551 Mr VALE to Mr TAMBLING

Is he aware that, at the public auction of land in Alice Springs at the end of September, the shopping complex designed to service the now Racecourse West subdivision was passed in through lack of bids? How was the reserve price determined and will this price be reviewed in order that the block can be re-offered with some hope of a sale eventuating and the development of the block taking place at an early date?

1552 Mr VALE to Dr LETTS

When will the Ordinance passed by the Assembly on 27/5/76 to amend the Encouragement of Primary Production Ordinance receive assent?

1553 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

How many persons have been convicted for drug offences in the Territory in the last two years and in each case -

- (a) what was the name of the person convicted;
- (b) what was the date of conviction;
- (c) what was the drug involved; and
- (d) who was the Magistrate who presided at the hearing?

1554 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr POLLOCK

How many Aboriginal people on settlements and reserves are in receipt of employment benefits through the Department of Social Security?

1377 Mr VALE to Dr LETTS

1. How many T.B. tests were performed in the Northern Territory by private veterinarians and how many by Government veterinarians during the last three financial years?
2. How many brucellosis tests were performed by the A.I. & A. Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory during the same period?
3. What are the per kilometre running costs for vehicles of the A.I. & A. Branch?
4. What was the salary allocation of the Branch for eradication programs for each of the last three financial years?

ANSWER

1. The number of T.B. tests performed in the Northern Territory during the past three financial years:-

	Private Veterinarians	Government Veterinarians
1973-74	182520	131058
1974-75	229177	183178
1975-76	211353	64929

2. 1973-74 - 123432
- 1974-75 - 131553
- 1975-76 - 141881

3. The running cost for vehicles on hire to the Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch is approximately 16c per kilometre per vehicle including hire rates and repairs and maintenance.

4. For these programs the proportion of total salaries is estimated at -

1973-74	-	\$147,500
1974-75	-	\$263,000
1975-76	-	\$267,000

1481 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK

1. What is the role of the Community Adviser in Aboriginal Communities?
2. What qualifications and experience are looked for in those seeking appointments to these positions?
3. What guidelines have been laid down by the Department for Community Advisers in the discharge of their duties?
4. Are regular assessments made of the effectiveness of the work of Community Advisers?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5. What criteria are used in making these assessments and by whom are they made?
6. Could an overall assessment be provided of the work of Community Advisers since 1973?

ANSWER

1. Appended is a staff memorandum dated 10 December 1975 and an accompanying document entitled "Duties of the Community Adviser". These give detailed information regarding the Community Adviser's role in Aboriginal communities and are self-explanatory.
2. There has been no intake of Community Advisers since the introduction of the title "Community Adviser" in early 1973 which replaced the previous designations of Patrol Officer and Patrol Officer-in-Training. Because the Northern Territory region has been unable to recruit trainees for several years, this department is experiencing an increasingly acute shortage of trained career field staff and measures are under way at present to gain Public Service Board approval to recruit sufficient trainees annually to maintain an effective field staff force.

The types of people the department wishes to recruit to Community Advisers positions are persons with at least basic Third Division entry qualifications (satisfactory medical standard and matriculation) and additional qualifications such as the following -

- (a) interest in working with people; especially Aboriginal people
- (b) experience in similar fields such as personnel, employment or industrial work, community development work in indigenous or other communities, work with youth clubs etc.
- (c) aptitude and motivation towards working with people of different cultures etc. in remote areas
- (d) ability to work effectively and diligently with minimal supervision
- (e) ability to express oneself well, both orally and in writing
- (f) a sympathetic attitude towards disadvantaged peoples and an appreciation of the factors involved, and
- (g) possible previous academic training in the fields of sociology, anthropology, psychology, languages, political science, and other related disciplines considered appropriate.

Persons possessing such qualifications and aged between 18 and 45 have been in the past, and probably will be in the future, invited at regular intervals to apply for appointment as Community Adviser-in-Training. The response, in the past, has usually been good, and the department has been able, after interview, to select the best of the applicants for probational appointment.

Upon successful completion of 2 years academic and field training, trainees are promoted to Community Adviser (Class 5). Whilst carrying out the necessary training, such officers are reported on by academic staff at college and by experienced field staff whilst in the field.

3. See attachments mentioned in answer to Question 1 which are self-explanatory.
4. Yes. In addition to the requirement that Community Advisers submit comprehensive and regular reports on their field duties and programs, Area Officers visit each community at least four times per year and on these visits are able, amongst other review duties, to assess the value to the particular community of the Community Adviser's field work.

Area Officers make recommendations and take the necessary action regarding the Community Adviser's field work as required. For instance, they point out to Community Advisers how they can improve the quality of their field work, they recommend necessary transfers, and may implement local council suggestions regarding local field staff.

5. The main criteria used is the effect of the Community Adviser's work in the community he is located. Assessments are made by Area Officers, Regional Officers, Project Officers and occasionally Assistant Directors or the Director. Normally, however, Area Officers are directly responsible for Community Advisers. Occasional conferences for field staff and Area Officers are also held, which provide opportunity for discussion and exchange of ideas concerning Community Adviser's field work.
6. Due to the fact that Government policy has changed significantly since 1972, particularly with respect to field staff functions in Aboriginal communities, the role played by Community Advisers has had to be modified and adapted according to experience and knowledge gained since the current concept of Community Advisers was first introduced. The guidelines and information contained in the attachments reflect this state of affairs. Early uncertainty over the role of a Community Adviser and the objectives of his work has now been largely overcome. Whilst the very nature of a Community Adviser's duties do not lend themselves to quantitative analysis, and "success" or "failure" is usually only measurable in the long term, advisory work in Aboriginal communities is considered generally to be of an improving standard. It is hoped that this will continue as the Community Advisers themselves become more proficient and the functions and duties of their role become more widely known and accepted not only by the Community Advisers themselves but by the Aboriginal communities in which they work.

THE COMMUNITY ADVISER - WHAT DOES HE DO?

Prior to 1973, government settlements were run by the Welfare Branch of the Northern Territory Administration. The person in charge of each settlement was the Superintendent. Policy making, planning and programming were done at the higher levels within the Administration and it was the Superintendent's task to see that these policies and programs were implemented. The Superintendent had wide powers in respect of what was done or not done on the settlement and his role was one of an administrator. The position of Superintendent no longer exists.

In late 1972, the Labor Government established the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and introduced the current policy which has become known as 'self determination'. There has been some confusion as to how 'self determination' should be interpreted and what it means.

'Self determination' is a process in which Aboriginal groups are given the opportunity to decide the pace and nature of their future development, but in doing so they are subject to the legal, social and economic restraints of Australian society. In other words the Aboriginal people have to be given the opportunity to make decisions for themselves about priorities, programs and planning. In making these decisions however, the Aboriginal people do not have licence to do anything they fancy: they have to remember that they are a part of the larger Australian society and as such, there are restrictions on what they can or cannot do.

This policy is based upon the belief that if the Aboriginal people are given the opportunity to decide upon their own programs and to determine their own priorities, they will, over a period of time, become less dependent upon outside support and more able to handle their own affairs.

The role of the Community Adviser, therefore, is to find the ways and means by which the Aboriginal groups can participate and be involved in planning and deciding those issues which affect their own lives. The restraints which were mentioned, i.e. economic, social and legal, need to be drawn to the attention of the community and explained by the Community Adviser so that they can take them into consideration when making their decisions.

While not disturbing the autonomy or the decision making processes of the Aboriginal community, the role of the Community Adviser is seen as being an active and positive one. The Adviser does not sit around under trees waiting for some one to come and ask his advice. The Community Adviser has a responsibility to communicate and liaise with all sections of the community, both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal, male and female, supervisors and supervised, employed and unemployed, educated and uneducated, Christian and non Christian, drinkers and non drinkers, and any other factions which may be present within the community. By doing so he should achieve a position of knowing and understanding why the community ticks the way it does.

The Community Adviser should be active in providing advice and guidance to the community, particularly on the funding sources open to it from government to implement its own programs and in explaining to the community the various options open to it. He has a responsibility to assess at the local level the effect of government policies aimed at the advancement of the Aboriginal community and to keep the department fully informed where change or revision is necessary. Because of his position of some advantage in the Aboriginal community he should be able to channel correctly to the department any new initiatives or ideas originating from the community. The Community Adviser has to be able to explain to the community the provisions of new legislation planned and also to carry out some measure of local project control. He should be available particularly at this stage, to assist councils and council staff in maintaining effective liaison with other government departments and agencies.

The above is just a brief resume of what sort of tasks the Community Adviser is involved in. The essential point is that non Aboriginal personnel working in or with Aboriginal communities do not operate in isolation of the Community Adviser, but should work in close communication with him.

The importance of the Community Adviser's role is reflected in the fact that he is the senior departmental officer at the local level. This does not mean, however, that he is there to make decisions about the administrative details associated with the running of the settlement. This is the responsibility of the Administrative Officer. But where issues affecting policy are in question, the Community Adviser has the responsibility and authority to decide those issues.

*(Signed) T.C. Lovegrove, Director
Department of Aboriginal Affairs
10 December 1975*

DUTIES OF THE COMMUNITY ADVISER

1. CONSULTATION

The Community Adviser should make himself familiar with the expectations and concerns of the various factions within his community through a process of consultation. He/she has a responsibility to consult with Aboriginal and non Aboriginal groups representing all factions and interests within the community.

2. RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

The Community Adviser has a responsibility to make himself aware of the various resources which would be available to the community. These include financial, administrative and material resources. In particular, he should be familiar with the funding sources open to the community from Government to implement programs arising from community initiatives.

3. COMMUNICATION

The Community Adviser must be in a position to communicate information both to the community groups and from the community groups. Because of his position of some advantage in the Aboriginal community, he should be able to channel correctly to the department any new ideas or initiatives originating from the community.

4. ADVICE

The fulfilment of Aboriginal expectations will be subject to the economic, legal and social constraints applicable to the wider Australian society. The Community Adviser has a responsibility to ensure that the community or group are aware of these constraints in the planning and development of their programs. He should be able to explain to the Aboriginal community and others current government policies in respect of certain issues concerning the community or the provisions of new legislation planned.

5. EVALUATION

The Community Adviser has a responsibility to assess at the local level the effect of government policies aimed at the development of the Aboriginal community and to keep the department fully informed where change or revision is necessary. The evaluation process is a continuing process which must be given a high priority in respect of the duties of a Community Adviser.

6. PARTICIPATION

The Community Adviser has the responsibility to investigate and examine the ways by which the community or groups can participate in deciding those issues which bear upon their own lives. This may involve the establishment and support of councils of one kind or another or it may involve the development or maintenance of more traditional institutions within the community. Effective participation of the community in deciding priorities and issues which are of concern to the community, is crucial to the department's policy in respect of Aboriginal development.

7. PROJECT CONTROL

The Community Adviser must be prepared to carry out some measure of local project control. For example many projects are funded with certain conditions attached. The Community Adviser should be in a position to know if these conditions are being violated, or whether funds are being used for the purposes intended. He should also be able to assess the implications of certain methods of funding in respect of whether projects are encouraged or inhibited by using such methods. Information he has with regard to project control should be channelled to the department on a regular basis.

8. LIAISON

The Community Adviser should also be available to assist Council and Council staff in maintaining effective liaison with other Government departments and agencies. The liaison role is not restricted to Councils and their staff however. The Community Adviser should be involved in the promotion of effective communication between the various interest groups within the community and between the community and 'outside' agencies.

The Community Adviser must meet a number of specific requirements:-

- (i) He requires a thorough knowledge of the tools, processes and procedures involved in the community development approach.
- (ii) He has to have an ability to analyse, conceptualise and articulate accurately and concisely the problems involved, including the cause of the problems.
- (iii) He must seek out applicable resources.
- (iv) He must accept the principle that when he does not have the answer to a question he refers to someone who does. He must also be willing to team up with somebody who can answer the question or do something he cannot do.
- (v) He must be disinterested in, the alternatives of the community - not uninterested.
- (vi) He must refuse to make the decision for the community.
- (vii) He must refrain from being a co-ordinator. He does not co-ordinate the activities of everybody else. To promote and assist in the development of effective comm-

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

LEGEND: No figure shown = No record
 U/S = Unserviceable
 * = A.D.T. for part of month only
 † = 1976 A.D.T.'s are approximations only

TANAMI ROAD (Station S87) 16 km west of Stuart Highway

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1971	32	40	39	36	45	42	26	48	37	37	31	U/S
1972	43	26	28	36	38	34	38	33	35	35	38	30
1973	23	-	24	40	38	34	43	67	42	25	33	48
1974	25	25	45	49	56	57	53	69	62	63	60	U/S
1975	45	23	-	55	61	66	U/S	-	-	-	-	-
1976†	23	47	49	66	54	49	U/S	-	-	-	-	-

PETERMAN ROAD (Station S89) 16 km west of Stuart Highway

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1971	14	11	11	24	37	36	37	50	36	21	13	19
1972	15	12	-	25	67	50	44	62	61	25	19	18
1973	24	-	19	33	U/S	34	47	49	52	23	18	19
1974	6	-	19	U/S	U/S	44	50	83	37	30	U/S	27
1975	17	U/S	-	22	76	48	54	82	83	-	-	-
1976†	25	18	24	49	85	99	74	-	-	-	-	-

LEGEND: No figure shown = No record
 U/S = Unserviceable
 † = 1976 A.D.T.'s are approximations only

1483 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

- (1) What was the cost of sealing each of the stages of the Stuart Highway from Alice Springs to the South Australian border (excluding bridgeworks), and the mileage of each stage?
- (2) What is the name and location of each of the bridges, and what was the cost of each?
- (3) Has there been a contract let - or estimate completed - for the sealing of the Stuart Highway south of the South Australian border to Pimba, and does it include the bridgeworks in that section?
- (4) Has there been any traffic count between Port August and Alice Springs; if so, with what result?

ANSWER

1. & 2. The detail requested in parts 1 and 2 of the question are listed in the accompanying tables.
3. The most suitable route for a sealed national highway from Port August to the Northern Territory has been the subject of a Corri-

dor Study conducted jointly by the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments.

The Joint Steering Committee which supervised the Corridor Study has presented its report to the Australian and the South Australian Ministers for Transport.

The report was tabled in the legislatures concerned on Tuesday 12/10/76. The recommendations are being studied.

4. Counts have been carried out. The Annual Average Daily Totals of vehicles at Kulgera were -

1970	44
1971	54
1972	63
1973	58
1974	66
1975	71.

SOUTH STUART HIGHWAY

00 km = Airport Road i.e. 12 km south of Alice Springs Post Office

TABLE 1 - ROADWORKS

<u>Distance (km)</u>	<u>Contract Sum (\$)</u>
00 to 5.0	60,202
5.0 to 6.4	Refer 24 to 27.5
6.4 to 24.0	388,739
24.0 to 27.5	155,000
	(incl. 5.0 to 6.4 section)
27.5 to 85.4	647,032
85.4 to 97.1	174,000
97.1 to 124.0	744,888
124.0 to 128.4	185,000
128.4 to 149.2	(incl. 97.1 to 124 section)
149.2 to 150.4	(incl. 124 to 128.2)
150.4 to 202.0	997,884
202.0 to 218.0	404,787
218.0 to 296.0	2,468,982

TABLE 2 - AGGREGATE SUPPLY CONTRACTS

24 - 202	Heavitree Quarries	\$113,769	16/6/72
202 - 296	Centralian Industries	\$204,948	17/9/75

TABLE 3 - BRIDGES

<u>Location</u>	<u>Contract Sum (\$)</u>
5.0 Roe Creek	66,906
85.5 Hugh River	54,463
120.0 Maloney's Creek	67,937
126.0 Finke River	47,840
150.0 Palmer River	50,212
170.0 105 Mile Creek	49,308
Bridge Guardrails (all 6 bridges)	56,140

1484 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

What was the total quantity, and the value, of liquor sold -

- (a) in the Alice Springs district; and
 - (b) in the Tennant Creek district,
- during the last three financial years?

ANSWER

Explanatory Notes.

1. For the purpose of calculating licensing figures, the year ends 28 February.
2. The whole of the Northern Territory is divided into two districts:
 - (a) North Australia District - down to the including Renner Springs.
 - (b) Central Australia District - up to and including Tennant Creek.
3. For the purpose of this answer, Tennant Creek has been confined to the town boundaries. The Alice Springs district includes the whole of the remaining part of the Central Australia District.
4. All licence figures are based on purchases of the previous year with the exception of "Liquor Merchants" which are based on sales to licensed premises and unlicensed persons.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA DISTRICT

1974

General:	Litres	3,254,390.3	
	Value	\$1,956,315.28	
Liquor Merchant:	Litres	204,781.53	
	Value	\$ 157,058.25	Licensed Premises
		\$ 18,331.29	Unlicensed Premises

1975

General:	Litres	6,151,554.75	
	Value	\$2,359,816.78	
Liquor Merchant:	Litres	237,925.66	
	Value	\$ 317,965.80	Licensed Premises
		\$ 17,005.13	Unlicensed Premises

1976

General:	Litres	4,810,681.3	
	Value	\$3,387,763.70	
Liquor Merchant:	Litres	478,554.14	
	Value	\$ 452,971.49	Licensed Premises
		\$ 52,653.36	Unlicensed Premises

TENNANT CREEK1974

General:	Litres	1,261,001	
	Value	\$ 660,606.30	

Liquor Merchant:		Nil	
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1975

General:	Litres	910,743.4	
	Value	\$ 749,664.94	

Liquor Merchant:	Litres	94,008.6	
	Value	\$ 59,211.80	No break-up available

1976

General:	Litres	1,144,320.8	
	Value	\$ 898,265.62	

Liquor Merchant:	Litres	588,741.38	
	Value	387,119.08	No break-up available

1555 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN

Is it correct that, whilst severe financial restraints are being imposed on the ABC, the commission is paying several hundred dollars a week for a new office in the TAA building which it will probably not occupy for another 5 or 6 months?

ANSWER

I will attempt to find out later today and advise the Assembly.

1556 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Is he yet in a position to advise the terms and conditions for the re-commencement of the sale of government homes in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

No. However, I have again sought the information from the Minister.

1557 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

How many grass fires have been experienced in and around Alice Springs during the last six months, and how were they started?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer that question and I do not know if I will be able to get the information before the end of the sittings, I therefore ask that the question be placed on notice.

1558 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

At the previous sittings, I asked a question about the upgrading of government homes which have so far received only cosmetic treatment. Given the rapidly approaching wet season with its high winds, what efforts are being made to strengthen government homes which have only received cosmetic treatment and which in their present state are a danger to adjoining properties?

ANSWER

The Darwin Reconstruction Commission has a policy with regard to its program of work which relates to the construction of new homes to the full requirements of the code and the upgrading of a number of homes which fall into 2 categories - those which have major damage and require upgrading to meet the requirements of the new code and those where work of a cosmetic nature was undertaken at an early stage to enable comfortable habitation by the tenants. I will seek further information for the honourable member with regard to the number of houses that fall into each category and the subsequent proposals for their full strengthening.

1559 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

When will the reports of the Darwin Cyclone Relief Trust Fund be tabled in this Assembly?

ANSWER

The honourable Member for Jingili has tabled the reports of the trust fund up to and including June 1976. I am informed that the monthly

reports for the months of July, August, September and October are apparently being prepared and should be available within the next fortnight. They will be tabled at the first available date and I would anticipate that that would be during the December sitting. The final report, which will contain the audited statement, will depend on the receipt of the final audit statements by the Auditor-General. It is anticipated that that report will be available early in the new year.

1560 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN

Is it correct that the ABC in Darwin will have only one talks officer on duty for much of next year compared with 4 up until the cyclone? What affect will this have on the ABC services?

ANSWER

I do not have this information. I will seek the information.

1561 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he advise if the staff ceilings in the public service will affect the hiring of full staff complement for the new Alice Springs Hospital?

ANSWER

The situation of staff ceilings generally in the health services in the Northern Territory is one of concern. I have taken the matter up with the Minister for Health and with the Prime Minister's Department which is responsible for the setting of staff ceilings. The Prime Minister's Department has not been fully cooperative and there may be some problems in being able to find sufficient staff, within the ceilings of the Department of Health, to meet all the immediate requirements and the new developments in health services in the Territory, particularly the Alice Springs Hospital and further wards at the Darwin Hospital.

1562 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

How much would it cost to reinstate the street lighting along Trower Road between Vanderlin Drive and Ellengowan Drive?

ANSWER

I do not have that information. I will endeavour to get it for the honourable member.

1563 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware of the report of a royal commission into petroleum tabled in the Federal House yesterday and does this report refer to the proposal in central Australia? Will he seek to have copies of the royal commission report made available to Assembly members?

ANSWER

The answer to the first 2 parts of the question is yes. I will endeavour to have the report tabled in the Assembly at the earliest possible time.

1564 Mr BALLANTYNE to Miss ANDREW

Has a date been set to form the Recreation and Sporting Advisory Council in the Northern Territory? If so, where will the meeting be held?

ANSWER

A definite date has not been set for the meeting of such a body largely because of complications arising through the proposed transfer of powers. I would imagine that the meeting will be held in Darwin some time in the next month.

1565 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

What is happening regarding the establishment of a health commission for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

A proposal for the establishment of a health commission for the Northern Territory was placed before the Federal Cabinet by the Minister for Health, I understand, either early last week or the week before. The Minister advised me last Friday that Cabinet has deferred further consideration of the establishment of a Northern Territory Health Commission until March 1977. In the meantime, there will be further preparatory discussions on the proposal.

1566 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

Has the Executive Member made representation to Senator Carrick to have the Dripstone High School included in the proposed mini-budget to be handed down next March?

ANSWER

Yes

1567 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he advise when a commissioner or commissioners will be appointed to conduct an inquiry into the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance?

ANSWER

No.

1568 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING

When will the Darwin Reconstruction Commission commence work on the repair of the sewerage outlet at Doctors Gully?

ANSWER

The answer required is one of a technical nature and with regard to the work program. I will seek the information for the honourable member and make it available to him.

1569 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

Have discussions taken place with possible persons to handle the inquiry into lottery and gaming and is he aware whether a recommend-

ation has gone forward which may result in the appointment of a commissioner in the near future?

ANSWER

The appointment of a commissioner to conduct the inquiry into the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance is a matter for the Administrator and the Administrator's council. Unfortunately, I am not a member of that council. I understand the Majority Leader has had discussions in southern places in recent weeks, that some decisions have been made and that some recommendations have been made to the Minister and to the Administrator.

1570 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he supply any information pertaining to an advertisement which appeared recently in the Financial Review concerning a proposed casino for Alice Springs,

ANSWER

Now the casino is in Alice Springs! I have not seen this advertisement which was supposed to have government backing. I do not know anything about the matter and have had no approaches from anybody regarding the establishment of a casino in the Northern Territory. If people want to establish a casino, that is one of the matters they can bring to the lottery and gaming inquiry, but they might also care to discuss it with me.

1571 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

What plans and provisions have been made to provide cyclone shelters with food, medical supplies, generators and trained staff?

ANSWER

As far as food and water is concerned, all public shelters are presently being stocked with supplies. Soup, tea, coffee, biscuits and baby food and water tankers are installed during "condition white" of the cyclone alert. Receptacles for additional water supplies are already installed and will be filled by a shelter coordinator in "condition white". All shelters are equipped with first-aid and medical supplies and the Department of Health have arranged for staff to be located at the shelters. Some emergency generators are permanently installed and at shelters where this is not possible for technical reasons, gas lighting and power is being arranged. All shelters are in the main staffed by volunteers and, while some training has been carried out, it has not been possible to train all staff concerned. However, a trained social worker, welfare officer, interpreters, medical, first-aid, and communication operators will be located at each shelter.

1572 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TAMBLING

Is it a fact that, in the making of an application for a building permit for a house or industrial building involving any structural steel, Alice Springs people have to present an engineer's certificate in the same manner as if Alice Springs was in the area defined by the Darwin Reconstruction Act? If it is a fact, upon what and by whose authority is such a certificate required?

ANSWER

I will seek from the Building Board the procedures required and make the information available to the honourable member.

1573 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that the government representative on the Northern Territory Tourist Board was recently sacked by the board and that the reason for his sacking was his non attendance at 3 consecutive meetings of the board and how was this allowed to happen?

ANSWER

It is not a fact that the government member was sacked from the board. The government member's term of office lapsed. Under the ordinance, when a person misses three consecutive meetings of the board without the consent of the chairman, that office becomes vacant. As to the third part of the question, the chairman of the board works under the ordinance and he has followed that ordinance.

1574 Mr VALE to Dr LETTS

Is he aware of press reports by an Adelaide journalist which refer to a possibility of the Northern Territory achieving statehood and the Territory should then be called "Wonderland" and the capital "Alice".

No answer given.

1575 Mr STEELE to Dr LETTS

I refer to recent publicity given to alleged restrictions placed by this Assembly on traditional hunting by Aborigines. Is he aware of these criticisms and does he propose to take any action in the matter?

ANSWER

Yes, I am aware of reports in the press, on radio and television to that effect. I think there may be some ground for some of the criticism. The principles which we sought to achieve in planning the legislation were that Aborigines would still have the right to hunt traditionally for food, decoration or Aboriginal purposes in their own areas but, at the same time, prevent them engaging in trafficking, trading, bartering, selling and non-traditional uses of wildlife, which is protected for the whole of the rest of the population of Australia. In the framing of the legislation, particularly section 122, we may have gone a little further than was the intention. However, I would say that the people who have been most vocal on this matter, including Dr Peterson, have made no representations to me in the matter at all. They have preferred to go to the press and radio and to try and claim the headlines and the limelight, whereas I believe the proper course of action for them was to make their views and representations known to us; they would have received full consideration. As it is, I have asked the Director of Legislation to confer with the draftsman and see whether some amendments which may remove any undesirable side-effects of our present legislation can be achieved.

I am also aware of a program last night on "New Society" in which, I understand, a fairly lengthy interview was conducted with Dr Peterson

critical of me, the Assembly and a number of other people. I can only say from what I have heard of it that this program completely lacked any balance and that the program organisers in the ABC made no attempt to get in touch with me to check the facts or what we might be doing in the matter. This kind of unbalanced presentation by the ABC does nothing to enhance their case.

1576 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

What facilities are there available in Darwin to train staff or members of the community in civil defence procedures?

ANSWER

Whilst only limited facilities exist for training in Darwin, courses are carried out in survey, rescue and first-aid in relation to disasters and emergency situations. Other courses are being planned and, in addition, selected people have been sent to the National Disaster Organization training courses at Mount Macedon in Victoria for training in rescue, welfare, research, disaster control and disaster planning.

1577 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

During the recent power failure in the Darwin area the water pressure in the northern suburbs was noticed to drop quite a lot. Could he tell us why?

ANSWER

During a recent widespread power failure in the Darwin area, the water supply in the northern suburbs, in the area serviced by a particular water reserve tank, did fail virtually completely. The reason for this failure was twofold. The water reservoir itself had been receiving maintenance over the previous 3 weeks and was empty. At the time of the power failure, the tank had just been commenced to be refilled. On top of this, standby power supplies available for the pumps at the McMinns pumping station were not brought into operation as quickly as they could have been. These two events caused that area to lose water supply completely. I am informed that steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of these events and we hope that it will not happen in the future.

1578 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TUXWORTH

Why did the government representative on the Tourist Board fail to attend 3 consecutive meetings of the board?

ANSWER

Perhaps the honourable member could redirect that question to the government member who did not attend the 3 meetings.

1579 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TUXWORTH

I ask the Executive Member for Resource Development to answer the question or ask that it be put on notice as I understand that he has responsibility to the Assembly for the portfolio of tourism.

ANSWER

I am unable to say why the member did not attend the 3 meetings. I

will endeavour to find out and answer the member's question at a later hour.

1580 Mr STEELE to Mr RYAN

In recent times, I have driven down the Stuart Highway and along the Barkly Highway and I noted with horror that some of the road that is in poor shape has not been resealed although there is one sealing gang in the area. Will he take steps to ensure that this sealing is speedily done and that the road situation is watched very carefully? If there are heavy rains, weight restrictions may need to be imposed.

ANSWER

The area that concerns the honourable member for Ludmilla is the Barkly Highway which was subject to weight restrictions last year and those restrictions were responsible for keeping the road open for most of the wet season. I will check with the Department of Construction as to what progress has been made in repairing the road. I know that a lot of money was put aside for the repair of this section of the road. Unfortunately, even after the repair, should the coming wet season be similar to the one we experienced last year, we could find ourselves in the same situation with regard to weight restrictions. I will ask the Department of Construction to look more closely at the timing of the weight restrictions so that restrictions are brought in before trucks are able to damage the road.

1581 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

Is it proposed that selected prisoners in Northern Territory jails be released daily for work, particularly in the light of a recent newspaper report that a prisoner was stated as saying that he just could not "hack it" in Fannie Bay because he was dead bored?

ANSWER

Present legislation in the Northern Territory does not allow for the introduction of work release programs. I am hopeful that in new legislation that will be introduced next year provision will be made for work release programs. The plans for the new Darwin jail include a work release facility from which selected prisoners will be able to move into the community for employment. States which have work release programs regard them as a progressive step in penal reform and it was one of the several areas of conditional release which were discussed extensively at a recent meeting of state ministers in charge of prisons and parole which I attended a fortnight ago. The proposed Northern Territory legislation I hope will incorporate all those aspects of legislation in the states which have enabled more positive results to be obtained.

1582 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN

On Sunday 17 October at 8,45 am, I had reason to visit the Casuarina Fire Station: the dashboard 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?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Casuarina did mention this to me shortly after the event. I spoke to the Chief Fire Officer and there does

appear to be some problem with fire extinguishers. The normal method used by the fire brigade in extinguishing fires of an electrical nature - and I am assuming that was the situation with the honourable member's car - is to use a water mist through a hose. The fire extinguisher problem, as the chief explained to me, is caused by the fact that these fire extinguishers, which are quite small, come in handy to certain people around the community when vehicles are at various locations and they find it hard to keep up with the supply. They would normally have a fire extinguisher of this nature on the fire appliance. Unfortunately, on the day the honourable member ran into his problem, they were not able to make available a fire extinguisher. I believe that the fire brigade did extinguish the fire, which I think was the prime object of the exercise.

1583 Mr EVERINGHAM to Miss ANDREW

What is the standard of accommodation at the Groote Eylandt courthouse and ancillary quarters? Secondly, have magistrates indicated that they will not be holding a court at Groote Eylandt again until such time as the courthouse and ancillary quarters are upgraded to an acceptable standard?

ANSWER

While I have not inspected the accommodation provided for magistrates at Groote Eylandt personally, I have been convinced by both pictures and reports that it can best be described as worse than primitive. It is true that magistrates will not be going out there again until the accommodation is upgraded. I believe that representation has been made by the Attorney-General's Department to the responsible authorities to that end.

1584 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

What provisions are being made to provide shelter for prisoners at Fannie Bay jail during a cyclone?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

1585 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

I have a telegram that has been sent to a constituent of mine from the Secretary of the Northern Territory Town Planning Board. This particular telegram would cost the taxpayer at least \$20 or \$25; it is 4 paragraphs. Could he please tell me why a telegram was sent and not a letter?

ANSWER

Several representations have been made to me with regard to the Town Planning Board notifying objectors by way of telegram. I did pursue this matter and was informed that there is a statutory requirement for the board to notify an objector within a fortnight of the board hearing a particular objection. Because of the peculiar administrative problems of the Department of Northern Territory at the moment, where the Town Planning Office is located in Brisbane and the board meets in Darwin, a situation arose recently where the fortnight almost expired and the objector would not have been notified within the statutory period. It was therefore necessary to inform the objectors of the considerations by way of a telegram.

1586 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

I have a question on notice regarding excess water charges and rates. The Executive Member stated at the last sittings that I would have a reply by the 22 October. To date I have not had a reply. When will I get a reply?

ANSWER

I have endeavoured over the last few days to get the answer. I am advised that the answers to the question have been sent to my office. However, they appear to have taken the long route because they are not there as yet. I hope that the honourable member will have the answers by tomorrow.

1587 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK

I noticed a smirk on the face of the honourable member. Is he able to tell me when Block 8 cafeteria will open?

ANSWER

The smirk on my face was about a question which was asked on the 10th of August and which has not been answered. The member was worried about a question asked in October.

1588 Mr STEELE to Mr PERRON

My question refers to the sealing of the section of the East Point Road in front of the Penthouse Restaurant. Why was that road ripped up and it thought necessary to put new sealing there? What sort of priority did that sealing have?

ANSWER

This particular problem does not fall within my area of responsibility. I suggest the honourable member redirect the question; perhaps it is part of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission's funding program.

1589 Mr STEELE to Miss ANDREW

Is the Executive Member aware that the living accommodation for the policeman at Avon Downs is in a shocking state and dangerous? Will she take my remarks to the Commissioner of Police and try and get something done about it?

ANSWER

Yes, I am aware of the state of the Avon Downs accommodation and I have already made representations to the proper authorities on behalf of the policeman living there.

1590 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

Is it true that a further 45,000 library books are coming from Canberra, and is it also true that these books are yet to be catalogued?

ANSWER

I am advised that it is not true that 45,000 books are coming from Canberra. 38,000 books are coming from Canberra. About one-third of these are catalogued; the rest will have to be done.

1591 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

Members will recall that at the last sittings I presented a petition from residents of Rothdale Road, Jingili, relating to the proposed re-erection of overhead high voltage power transmission lines along Rothdale Road, asking that this action be stayed by the Department of the Northern Territory and that the lines be undergrounded. Is it intended to proceed with the erection of the overhead lines or is there a possibility that they may be undergrounded?

ANSWER

I believe the intention of the department is to erect overhead reticulation of electricity in that area.

1592 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

I refer to the area in the Noise Exposure Forecast zone along Bagot Road. Is he aware of any town planning proposals for that area and, if so, what are they?

ANSWER

It would seem that the honourable member for Ludmilla is going back to 1975. The NEF zone was raised as a town planning issue by the Cities Commission in their first report and their classification of Darwin. There is currently under preparation by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, in cooperation with the Northern Territory Town Planning Board, a new town plan for Darwin. Whilst this will look at zoning for the particular requirements of the Darwin community, I am not aware that it takes into account in any specific manner on the maps either the surge zones or the NEF zones.

1593 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

If his remarks are correct as far as he is aware, is it true that there is some compulsory acquisition being carried out in that area?

ANSWER

I believe that a number of acquisitions were instigated even prior to the cyclone. Whether these were related to the issues of the NEF zone, I am not sure. I will seek further information for him. I would expect any town planner to take into account such matters as zoning an NEF zone in the zone classifications that may be given to a particular area. However, I will seek further information for the honourable member.

1594 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK

I refer to a speech made by Mr Viner in Melbourne at the opening of the Aboriginal exhibit. He said that it is easily forgotten that until recent times Aboriginal people were forbidden to speak their own language and observe their traditional customs in what was considered by administrators to be an enlightened policy of assimilation. In nearly 40 years of experience in North Australia, I have never heard of this. Would the member for Social Affairs tell me if he has knowledge of this in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

My attention has been drawn to the speech made in Melbourne by the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. As I understand it, what he stated has never occurred in the Northern Territory. I cannot go back 40 years but, in my time in the Territory, I have never heard of such an accusation. I believe that Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory are encouraged to use their native language, crafts, skills and traditions. They are also encouraged to learn the English language and perhaps a lot more white Australians could perhaps learn some of the traditional skills and the language of the Aboriginal people. The remarks made by the Minister are completely contrary to the situation that exists in the Northern Territory or ever has existed.

1595 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr RYAN

When will the new Edith River bridge be trafficable?

ANSWER

I have not spoken to the department about this recently but some time ago they expected the bridge to be open by the end of 1976.

1596 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Is it a fact that the Federal Minister for Transport will be visiting the Territory in the near future and, if so, will the Executive Member undertake to seek some answers on the proposal to close the Alice Springs to Port Augusta rail line?

ANSWER

The Federal Minister for Transport will be in Darwin Monday and Tuesday next week and I will be having discussions with him. I will be asking him about the proposals that were given some coverage in the press a couple of weeks ago to see if he has anything more to say on the matter.

1597 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

What accommodation is currently provided by the Housing Commission in Darwin? How does this compare with pre-cyclone tenancies and can he indicate the number of people on the waiting list for Housing Commission accommodation in Darwin?

ANSWER

Accommodation provided by the Housing Commission as at 31 October was: 437 caravans, 234 demountables and 1,046 houses in various states of repair, new houses and restored houses. The Housing Commission also had tenanted 320 flats. That is a total of 2,037 tenancies as at 31

October. Compared with pre-cyclone, the pre-cyclone tenancies that the Housing Commission had were only 1,644. It is an increase of some 400 on the pre-cyclone figure. The third part of the question related to the applicant waiting list. I advise that the total number of outstanding applicants, as at 31 October, was 1,149 persons.

1598 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

Is the honourable member able to provide information relating to new and rebuilt houses and flats for the Northern Territory Housing Commission since the cyclone? What is the value of their contracts let in Darwin? Thirdly, what is the extent of expenditure by the Northern Territory Housing Commission on contracts in Darwin since the cyclone?

ANSWER

The figures of performance relating to the Northern Territory Housing Commission in its reconstruction program are rather remarkable. The Housing Commission has let contracts for new houses and flats to be built totalling 786. Of these, 643 have been commenced and 332 are now complete. With regard to the house restoration program, contracts for 277 homes have been let, 220 have been commenced and 117 are complete. That gives a total of 1,063 contracts let, 863 commenced and 449 completed. The total value of contracts let in Darwin since the cyclone for new and rebuilt houses and flats is \$24m. For house restorations, the total is \$4.14m and for temporary repairs to houses and flats, \$1.6m. That is a total value of contracts let since the cyclone of \$29.8m. The extent of expenditure on those contracts since the cyclone is \$17.2m, made up of \$1.6m in the 6 months following the cyclone to 30 June 1976, \$11m in the financial year 1975/76 and \$4.6m in this financial year to September 1976. There has been an expenditure of \$17.2m by the Housing Commission to date.

1599 Mr MANUELL to Mr PERRON

Is the honourable member aware that in Alice Springs the introduction of chlorine into the domestic water system is creating damage to domestic, and commercial and public buildings? Is he aware that the chlorine damages the seats of valves in the water reticulation and hot water systems creating an unwarranted equipment and appliance replacement effect? Will he undertake to investigate this matter and report what remedy action may be available?

ANSWER

I was not aware of the problems that have been outlined by the honourable member for Alice Springs. However, I will endeavour to have talks with the department on the subject and report back to him.

1600 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

Can he give any assurance or make any statement to the House concerning the Darwin electricity supply through the coming wet season? There have already been some breakdowns experienced and there is some community concern in this regard. Is the Department of Construction satisfied that the reticulation system is adequate?

ANSWER

All I can say is that the Electricity Supply Undertaking people are not at all satisfied with the condition of the patched-up electricity

reticulation system that exists in Darwin. We are liable to experience considerable trouble during the coming wet season as a result of the work which has had to be done since the cyclone to get consumers back on to electricity in some cases in a very haphazard way. I am afraid that I do not have any reassuring words. The task to completely bring Darwin's electricity reticulation system back to pre-cyclone standard will cost many millions of dollars and will take several years.

1601 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

I want to question without notice the honourable majority leader as a member of the Administrator's Council, following questions which were asked of the Executive Member for Social Affairs yesterday. Can he advise when and if a commissioner or commissioners will be appointed to conduct the inquiry into the Lottery and Gaming Ordinance?

ANSWER

We are almost at the final stages of this operation after a long time. At the request of the Administrator and Administrator's Council, I interviewed a short list of people when I was in Tasmania and Victoria recently. I believe that a suitable selection is now available from that list. The final step which needs to be taken is a clearance from Prime Minister to Premier on a particular person. That should be done in the very near future, I hope, and the Administrator will be then in a position to make an announcement.

1602 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr POLLOCK

Could he tell me when the Gunn Point Prison Farm will be reopened?

ANSWER

The Department of Correctional Services hopes that the Gunn Point Prison Farm will be reopened and in full operation before Christmas. There has been a continuing delay in reopening the prison farm. It closed in February because of a staff shortage. That situation has been gradually improved and another group of officers will be taken into the service on the 29th of this month in Alice Springs, bringing the establishment there up to full strength. There has been considerable amount of upgrading work carried out in recent weeks at Gunn Point. There have been 6 or 8 core units moved out there and they are being adapted for staff accommodation to upgrade the standard. Water, sewerage and electricity reticulation are being upgraded. All this work is hoped to be finished in the next month or so, and so allow the permanent removal of prisoners from Fannie Bay and perhaps Alice Springs to Gunn Point so that the prison farm will be fully operative. At the moment there are work parties of up to 16 men a day going out to Gunn Point, maintaining and generally keeping the place in operation. There has been an increase in the establishment of the staff there and there is now, instead of a chief prison officer in charge, a superintendent in charge. It is hoped, with that upgrading and the concurrence of the Prison Officers Association in other matters, that the farm will be operating before Christmas.

1603 Mr KENTISH to Miss ANDREW

What is the policy of the Education Department regarding the employment as a teacher or part-time instructor of a person convicted of a sexual offence against a pupil or convicted of other criminal offences?

ANSWER

Teachers and part-time instructors are employed in two separate ways. A teacher in the Northern Territory is employed under the Commonwealth Teaching Service Act and as such is a member of the Commonwealth Teaching Service and responsible to the commissioner. I understand that there is a section in the Commonwealth Teaching Service Act, section 35 I believe, which allows for disciplinary action by the commissioner in cases of such a conviction. There is also provision for appeals on behalf of the person convicted. In the case of part-time instructors, this is largely a matter for each individual school. A school is given a certain number of hours for which they are allowed to employ part-time instructors and each school has a quota on a separate system depending on the number of students they have and other aspects. It would be largely up to the individual principal because of the autonomy a school has in a particular situation. However, the Director of Education would have the overriding authority to make a policy which I understand has not definitely been made at this stage if such an incident arises.

1604 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr PERRON

Is he aware of any claim or payment ever having been made under the Northern Territory Compensation Ordinance in respect of a uranium mining worker when such a claim has resulted from the handling of uranium ore or by-products?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such claim ever having been made.

1605 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Is he aware of any plans by the 2 major Australian domestic airlines to introduce additional flights to and from the Territory over the festive season? Is he aware of a continuing rationalisation attitude leaving the Northern Territory residents unable to move to and from the Territory during the festive season?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the points made by the honourable member for Alice Springs. I would ask him to place the question on notice.

1606 Mr STEELE to Dr LETTS

What is the current position in the Northern Territory with regard to the export of live cattle? Have markets been established and have 4 contracts been negotiated? Will this market assist to alleviate the depressed industry?

ANSWER

Markets for export of live cattle from the Northern Territory have been established. Some of those cattle have been exported from the Port of Wyndham rather than from the Port of Darwin due to problems which have existed in the past in reaching an understanding concerning quotas with unions. I do not have any official figures for cattle that have been exported in recent months. I understand it could be something in the order of 2,000 from the west and from here, I know that the market is being fostered by several different groups and they are having results in places such as Hong Kong, the Philipp-

ines, Brunei and Sabah. There is an expectation also that live buffalo will be shipped to New Guinea when the New Guinea Government and the exporters arrange a suitable contract; this is being advertised.

The live cattle market could have a considerable impact on what is a very depressed industry, an industry which has increasing problems of overstocking and which could be compounded by bad seasons. We need not only the slaughter and processing market but also the live cattle market working together in order to ensure the viability of the industry in the Northern Territory. The industry can only benefit from the lifting of the former quota of 8,000 head of live cattle which was imposed by the AMIEU on the basis that they were trying to protect the jobs of meatworkers. In a spirit of cooperation, the union has realised that, unless realistic numbers of cattle are sold alive overseas, the stations themselves will be forced to close and the whole industry could close down so that there would be a catastrophic result as far as the employment of meatworkers in northern Australia are concerned. They are taking a more realistic and better approach which will help develop the live cattle market.

1607 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN

Has a lease been granted by the Crown on the foreshores of Darwin Harbour for the purposes of a marina? Secondly, when was that lease granted? Thirdly, what fee or premium was paid for the lease? Fourthly, what are the development covenants?

ANSWER

I do not have that information available. I will speak to the honourable member for Jingili during the day and advise him to put the question on notice. If he wants an answer in the Assembly I will get it before the next sittings.

1608 Mr MANUELL to Dr LETTS

Is he able to tell me what would be involved in raising the Alice Springs abattoir to an export licence standard?

ANSWER

In a very general way, to raise the Alice Springs abattoir to export standard would mean that it would have to meet the requirements of the American United States Department of Agriculture and, in fact, would have to become registered by that department as well as the Department of Primary Industry in Australia. As far as the detailed specifications of what would have to be done and perhaps the order of cost of those, I cannot provide that information at the moment, but if the honourable member would place the question on notice I will get the information for him.

1609 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

In the light of the announcement that action is being taken in Victoria to give prisoners in that state the right to vote, can the honourable Executive Member advise me of the position with prisoners' rights of voting in elections in the Northern Territory and is he taking any action to consider the position?

ANSWER

The situation in the Northern Territory at the moment is that a prisoner whether sentenced or on remand for a period of 12 months or less has the right to vote in Commonwealth, Territory and municipal elections. I believe at the recent municipal elections one prisoner at Fannie Bay exercised that right - by postal vote.

This matter was discussed generally at a meeting of state ministers for prisons and parole a fortnight ago in Queensland and the matter of general rights to vote has been canvassed amongst the states. At the moment, there are several theories on the matter. The Victorian announcement, which the honourable member for Jingili refers to, is correct; all prisoners in that state, regardless of how long they are sentenced, will be given the right to vote in a state election. Whether that right will be extended to the Commonwealth remains to be seen. The problem is that there are Commonwealth and state regulations in relation to voting rights. The other problem which is to be considered and finalised is whether they will be enrolled at their place of residence, which would be the gaol, or at their former home address.

1610 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr POLLOCK

I am not sure whether he will see fit to answer this question in the House. It is raised on behalf of some community organisations who have contacted me in Darwin. Is it a fact that there are some thousands of dollars held in trust in Alice Springs which was collected for the relief of Cyclone Tracy victims? If this is a fact, how was the money to be disbursed?

ANSWER

It is a fact that Alice Springs did respond very generously to the cyclone relief appeal and I think that in the town of some 13,500 people at the time over \$120,000 was contributed to a fund which was commenced there. The majority of that money, I think in excess of \$100,000, was expended on relief in the immediate time after the cyclone. The fund I know did have a problem of how to dispose of the rest of the money and I am not sure how they did dispose of it but there were schemes to put it into projects in Darwin to assist. I know that at one stage the consideration was being given to giving the money to the Salvation Army for the re-supply of an aircraft which they lost during the cyclone. I do not know whether that happened or not and I do not know whether the fund has been actually wound up in Alice Springs. I will endeavour to find out and advise the honourable member.

1611 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TAMBLING

Can he advise me of house production figures for the Darwin Reconstruction Commission up to date?

ANSWER

This is a similar question to one I have just answered for the Northern Territory Housing Commission. As at 31 October, the Darwin Reconstruction Commission has authorised work on 2,053 homes of which 2,021 had been commenced and 1,003 were completed. With regard to the program for flats, authorisation had been issued for 179 flats, of which the whole 179 had been commenced and 111 completed.

1612 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he advise me whether an assessment of value or valuation was carried out on that Taiwanese fishing boat before it was sold for \$6,000?

ANSWER

I will take the opportunity to answer the question posed at the last sittings by the member for Jingili in full. I apologise for the delay and explain that it was not caused by any part of the Department of the Northern Territory. The holdup came from the federal department of Primary Industry. The first part of the question asked which government department handled the sale. The answer was the Department of Primary Industry. "Was any valuation or assessment of value of the boat and catch obtained by the department?" The Department of Primary Industry obtained a valuation from its own estimating division. The next part of the question was: "Did the department advertise or otherwise offer the boat and catch for sale either by auction, tender or private treaty?" The answer is, no. The secretary of the department has power to dispose of the confiscated goods and the ship building policy of the government precludes the sale of confiscated ships within Australia. "How many offers to purchase or approaches with a view to purchase did the department receive?" The answer is one. The amount offered in the tender was \$6,000 for the vessel and \$1,000 for the catch and the authority to sell that vessel at that price was ordered by the secretary of the Department of Primary Industry. The honourable member further asked: "Was the sale for cash or on terms?" The answer is that the vessel was sold for cash. The last part of the question concerned the cost incurred on government departments. The Department of Primary Industry has been unable to ascertain the total cost because there were some 7 or 9 departments involved in the apprehension and disposal of the vessel. I regret that I cannot answer that part of the question.

1613 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN

Could he advise when legislation will be introduced to cover people who have outstanding third party insurance claims against companies which have become insolvent?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Jingili said as an aside that it has been passed. He is referring to the bill that he put through early last year. I am currently in the process of looking at a proposal from the Department of the Northern Territory to introduce this legislation relating to third party. However, that legislation will not have any retrospectivity.

Mrs Lawrie: Explain the meaning of the word.

Mr RYAN: I was not going to explain the meaning of the word. The proposal does not have any retrospectivity. I do not know what we can do about this situation. There are only 2 sources from which any funds can be made available to cover the people affected by the failure of companies: the Government and the insurance company. So far as I know, neither of the parties wish to make any such contribution. I intend to bring the matter up before the Majority Party and formulate a policy so that we can approach the Government. I feel that the Government does have some responsibility in the matter since they approved the setting up of the companies in the first place. I am certainly worried and concerned about people who have been left with a claim

which could possibly ruin their future because of the amount which they are expected to pay. I am hopeful that we will be able to formulate a policy and approach the Government and ask them to do something to alleviate this problem.

1614 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TAMBLING

I asked a question yesterday in relation to the provision of engineering certificates being required by the Alice Springs home builders and commercial premise builders. Is he yet in a position to give me an answer to that question?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided by officers of the Building Board. Every application for a permit involving steel or reinforced concrete structures or a large timber truss, other than approved drawings and design calculations by a qualified engineer or architect. However, a certificate of adequacy accompanying plans and specifications, signed by an architect or a qualified engineer may be acceptable. It is understood that engineers in private practice in Alice Springs charge \$24 per hour or, on a sliding scale, from ten per cent to five per cent of the cost of the building, commencing at \$20,000. That is, maybe ten per cent of the cost of the building up to \$20,000. The certificate is required by the Building Board and stems from a resolution made by the board under building regulation No. 23(i)(c) on 24 August 1962. The resolution applies to all building areas in the Northern Territory.

1615 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN

Was the Northumberland Insurance Company Ltd duly authorised to effect third party insurance pursuant to the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Ordinance immediately prior to its going into liquidation in 1974? Secondly, is it the intention of the Government now to permit those persons having judgment against persons who had third party insurance cover with the Northumberland Insurance Company Ltd to suffer due process of law, including execution against their property and goods and, possibly, bankruptcy?

ANSWER

I believe Northumberland was in fact an authorised insurer. In answer to the second part of the question, as far as I can see at the moment, I think that is the situation. Proceedings will take place. That is what is concerning everybody.

1616 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN

I noticed a report in last night's Northern Territory News that there is to be a decision taken shortly by the Federal Government to upgrade the facilities of Radio Australia in the Northern Territory. Can the honourable Executive Member let this House have further particulars of that upgrading?

ANSWER

The report in yesterday's paper referred to an inquiry which has been undertaken by the Federal Government. The report has not been tabled as yet. I have spoken about this matter before in the Assembly, I think earlier this year. I was concerned with the situation at Cox Peninsula where we have the Radio Australia installation which has

not been used or repaired since the cyclone. I have written to the previous Government's minister and the present Government's minister asking what is to be done and each time I have been told that they are awaiting this report. I do not know why the report has not been tabled. The situation is serious as far as I am concerned. I think the recommendation is that Radio Australia in Darwin should have 5 transmitters to cover the area that it is responsible for. The Minister for Posts and Telecommunications will be in Darwin next Tuesday so I hope to be able to talk to him on the matter and possibly get some information about this inquiry.

1617 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TAMBLING

I understand from the honourable member for Elsey that there is apparently a shortage of housing allotments in Katherine. Would he undertake to make representation to the department to have further allocation of housing residential blocks made available in the township of Katherine?

ANSWER

I am aware that in most urban communities in the Northern Territory - and I think Tennant Creek and Katherine could fall in that category - there is a shortage of land available to the private sector and I will certainly be making representations to the Government for early auctions of residential land in these centres.

1618 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

What steps are being taken to effect reciprocity between the States and the Territory in relation to facilitating probation and parole of prisoners?

ANSWER

The transfer of prisoners and probation and parole activities is a matter which the Standing Committee of the Attorneys-General has been discussing for some time. Ministers are generally in agreement that arrangements should be made for the transfer of prisoners and for the transfer of parole and probation orders from state to state and from state to territory and vice versa. Legislation will need to be uniform between all states and territories for this to be effective and a working party has been established to work on this and effect that measure.

1619 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked a question which related to the sale of government homes. I have again raised this matter with the Minister and the following information was provided to me by the Minister's office. The Government has under consideration the reintroduction of the homes sale scheme, both in relation to public servants and the private sector. These schemes ceased to operate in Darwin after the cyclone. However, they have continued in other areas in the Territory. In considering the reintroduction of these schemes, the Government is taking into account the progress of the reconstruction program and build-up to a bank of rental housing and it is hopeful that an announcement about these schemes can be made in the near future. There are financial considerations which need to be considered by the Government.

1620 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member also asked a question which related to the structural improvement to homes which had received cosmetic treatment after the cyclone. The following information has been supplied to me by officers of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. Twenty one houses have been completely upgraded and 24 partially upgraded. The remainder are to be completed before December 1977. This figure includes residences on which no upgrading work has been done. This excludes total rebuilds which are to the Darwin area rebuilding standard.

1621 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Port Darwin asked a question which related to when work would commence on the repairs to the Doctor's Gully sewerage outfall. The answer provided by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is "The Commission expects to call tenders in February/March 1977 with work commencing in May 1977".

1622 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: I partially answered a question yesterday from the honourable member for Ludmilla concerning the Barkly Highway. I did take the matter up with the Department of Construction and I would like to give a short report on the condition of the Barkly Highway which is reasonably up to date. The highway is in a reasonable condition for this time of the year. The section from 30 kilometres west of Frewena to the Tablelands Highway turnoff has been deforming over the last few years and some sections are becoming quite rough. Some 12 kilometres of pavement in this section failed during the last wet season and were sheeted with gravel. I think the honourable member referred to these yesterday. Funds for carrying out permanent repairs are now available and this work will commence in January. If above normal rains fall again this year, and this has happened in the last 3 years, then it is expected that further areas of pavement could fail, causing disruptions to traffic during the wet season or, at the least, causing the imposing of weight restrictions. Some deformations are evident between Wonarah and Barry Caves and the crossings at the Ranken and James Rivers which were damaged during the last wet season but have been patched. So it does appear that if we have a bad wet season we could be in trouble with that area of highway.

1623 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: The honourable member for Casuarina asked a question concerning the ABC. I have been unable to get hold of this information. I will wait until the Minister is here next week and take up the whole question of the effect on the ABC of these cuts.

1624 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Casuarina asked how much it would cost to reinstate the street lighting along the Trower Road section between Vanderlin Drive and Ellengowan Drive. The cost to restore this section of street lighting would be approximately \$70,000. This would involve removing the remaining poles which are damaged and replacing them with 60 new poles with high pressure sodium lights and underground cables. This system would provide a higher standard of street lighting than existed in that area before the cyclone.

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