

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

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

4 June 1985

10. Freight and Related Costs Inquiry

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What action has been taken by the government on part 1 of the report of the Inquiry into Freight and Related Costs which was tabled on 1 March 1984?
2. What further action is being considered?
3. What action has been taken or is being considered in respect of part 2 of the report of that inquiry which was tabled on 30 August 1984?

20 August 1985

19. Court Proceedings - Northern Territory Government

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. Since self-government, in what proceedings has the Northern Territory government been involved before either the High Court or the Federal Court?
2. In respect of each proceedings, what was the cost to the government?

18 March 1986

64. Aboriginal Community Funding

Mr EDE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What amounts were provided for Town Management Public Utilities funding of each Aboriginal community for 1984-85?
2. What amounts were specifically allocated for fuel costs for electricity generation on each Aboriginal community for 1984-85?
3. What amounts were provided for TMPU funding to each community for 1985-86?
4. How much have the amounts of the allocations in 3 above been reduced pursuant to the new policy of 'user pays' for essential services?

**65. Liquor - Revenue,
 Rehabilitation and Preventative Programs**

Mr EDE to DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

1. What annual income does the Northern Territory Liquor Commission generate?
2. How much does the Northern Territory government spend on:
 - (a) rehabilitation programs for alcoholics; and
 - (b) preventative programs in relation to alcohol use?

4 April 1986

67. Travelling Allowance - Chief Minister

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

1. What was the total amount of money claimed and paid to the member for Barkly in travelling allowances for the year 1982-83?
2. In respect of that money, was the member for Barkly directed to pay any amount back to consolidated revenue by the former Chief Minister (the Hon P.A.E. Everingham) or the former Treasurer (the Hon M.B. Perron); if so, what amount was paid into consolidated revenue?
3. Is there document evidence as to the amount of money which the member for Barkly was directed to pay back; if so will the Chief Minister provide a copy of that evidence to the Leader of the Opposition?
4. Has the member for Barkly been required to pay back any amount of travelling allowance claimed in similar circumstances at any stage in subsequent years, including the first 6 months of the year 1985-86?

**68. Overseas Travelling Allowance
 Chief Minister**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

Is the \$300 shown to have been paid out to the member for Barkly for travelling allowances for overseas trips in 1983-84 (provided to the Leader of the Opposition in a recent answer to Written Question Number 14) an accurate representation of the facts?

**69. Travelling Allowance Documentation
Chief Minister**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

Are the following documents for the period from 1 January 1980 to date available:

- a. copies of all travelling allowance forms tendered by the member for Barkly;
- b. copies of any debt notices raised against the member for Barkly;
- c. copies of receipts for any repayments of travelling allowance advanced to the Chief Minister as the member for Barkly;
- d. copies of any correspondence between the former Chief Minister (the Hon P.A.E. Everingham) and the member for Barkly in relation to travelling allowance;
- e. copies of any correspondence between the former Treasurer (the Hon M.B. Perron) or any other government minister or public servant and the member for Barkly in relation to travelling allowance;

if so, will the Chief Minister provide copies of the documents to the Leader of the Opposition?

70. Overseas Travel - Chief Minister

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

1. What was the nature of ministerial business conducted on the Chief Minister's trip to Singapore, via Perth, and Kota Kinabalu between 30 January 1985 and 5 February 1985?
2. Was the Chief Minister accompanied by his wife, Mr Syd Saville and his wife?
3. What was the total cost of this trip, including the cost for those accompanying the Chief Minister?

**71. Travelling Allowances 1983-84
Chief Minister**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

1. What was the financial breakdown which would fully account for the \$22 315 in travelling allowances paid to the member for Barkly in the year 1983-84?

2. Is there any supporting documentation; if so, will the Chief Minister provide a copy to the Leader of the Opposition?

72. American Express - Corporate Credit Cards

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

What was the total amount of money expended by the Northern Territory government to cover the cost of purchases by all holders of government issued American Express Corporate Credit Cards for the following years:

1980-81;
1981-82;
1982-83;
1983-84;
1984-85; and
for the first 6 months of the year 1985-86?

**73. Credit Cards
Legislative Assembly Office-holders
and Public Servants**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

What were the individual total amounts paid by the Northern Territory government for each American Express Corporate Credit Card held by office-holding members of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and senior public servants for the years from 1980-81 to 1984-85 and for the first 6 months of the year 1985-86?

74. Overseas Travel - General Expenditure

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

1. Did an office-holding member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly spend approximately \$6000 on one dinner for a small party of guests on an overseas trip?
2. Did this account include the purchase of bottles of champagne at a cost of approximately \$350 each?
3. Has the Chief Minister investigated the matter; if so,
 - a. has he confirmed the substance of the recent newspaper report, and
 - b. what action, if any has the Chief Minister taken?

76. American Express - Corporate Cards

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

Does American Express have the capacity to provide swift recall of any purchase on a Corporate Credit Card if requested?

**78. Tourist Commission - Financial Statements
1983-84**

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

Did the Treasurer approve an extension of time, under section 68(1) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, for the Northern Territory Tourist Commission to prepare a submission to the minister on its financial statements for the year 1983-84; if so:

- a. how many extensions did the Treasurer approve;
- b. what was the length of time of each extension; and
- c. what were the reasons for approving each extension?

79. Katherine East Subdivision - Stage III

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

1. Who was the successful tenderer for the Katherine East Stage III subdivision?
2. What was the tender price for the development of the subdivision?
3. Were there any other tenders which quoted a lower price?
4. How many blocks are there in the proposed subdivision?
5. How many of these blocks are to be offered back to the Housing Commission?
6. What price was nominated by the successful tenderer for the blocks to be offered to the Housing Commission?
7. Were there any other tenders which quoted a lower price?
8. Was the tender which offered the best financial return to the government accepted; if not, why not?

80. Beaufort Hotel - Government Rented Space

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How much space is the Government renting in the Beaufort Hotel complex?
2. At what rate, or rates, is this space being rented?
3. On what basis are the payments for the rented space arranged?
4. How much money has the Government paid so far in:
 - (i) rental; and
 - (ii) fitting out expenses,for this space?

18 March 1986

53. Education Programs - NTD Channel 8

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the cost to the Northern Territory government of the education programs shown by NTD Channel 8 in the last school semester, 1985?

ANSWER

The actual direct cost to the Northern Territory government was \$2412.

61. Tourist Commission - Payroll Preparation

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRY and SMALL BUSINESS

1. Which company has the contract for payroll preparation and processing for the Tourist Commission?
2. What is the period of the contract?
3. Were expressions of interest or tenders called before this contract was awarded?

ANSWER

1. A service agreement (as distinct from a contract) has been entered into with an Adelaide based company, Computer Technology.
2. The service agreement is for a period of 12 months.
3. No. The service costs approximately \$2400 per annum and under section 20 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act the requirements for the calling of public tender do not apply if -

'The estimated cost does not exceed \$10 000 (when at least three representative quotations shall, wherever possible, be obtained).'

The availability of this type of service is extremely limited and Computer Technology is the recognised leader in this particular field.

63. Warrawulla Association - Lump Sum Payment

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Was a lump sum payment made to a retiring employee of the Warrawulla Association, Borroloola, in December 1985 or January 1986 from the association's Community Employment Programme (CEP) account?
2. Was the payment authorised by an officer of the Department of Community Development; if so, was the Minister for Community Development aware of the authorisation?
3. To whom was the payment made and how was the lump sum calculated?
4. What steps have been taken to reimburse the association's CEP fund the amount that was paid out?
5. Should a payment of this nature have been made from a CEP account?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. No - the transaction was an internal office matter for the Warrawulla Association. No Department of Community Development officer's authorisation was required. When this matter was first raised with me on 5 February at Borroloola, I immediately requested auditors to respond to the association's request for assistance and advice. The audit has been completed and a report made to the association.
3. The termination payments were made to a number of employees, including Mr N. Brown and Mrs P. Brown. The payment calculations have been examined by the auditors. They did not make any comment thereon. However, the auditors did comment on an associated payment for repatriation airfares. The amount paid to the 2 employees totalled \$5200.00. This was intended to cover return airfares and also included 1 child at an adult airfare rate. The entitlement recalculated by the auditors amounted to \$2354.70. The apparent overpayment totals \$2845.30. The association is aware of this and has been advised to seek reimbursement from the ex-employees concerned.
4. The association drew the termination payments from CEP funds held by the association, due to a temporary liquidity problem in its current account. The matter was rectified, the funds reimbursed and the Department of Community Development has already approved an adjustment to the association's budget and grants for the current year to allow for this.

Sporting Bodies - Grants

Mr EDE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT, RECREATION and
ETHNIC AFFAIRS

What are the specific details of approved grants to sporting organisations and associations throughout the Northern Territory for 1984-85 and for 1985-86, with particular reference to:

- (a) the name of each organisation or association;
- (b) their base centre and the region they cover;
- (c) the amount granted; and
- (d) purpose of grant?

ANSWER

See following 6 pages.

INCORPORATED ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS	CENTRE	REGION	AMOUNT		PURPOSE
			1984-85	1985-86	
Air Rifle & Smallbore Assoc of NT	NT	NT	3749	4668	Travel
Aikikai NT (Aikido)	NT	NT	2000	217	Travel - Coach/Training
Alice Springs Amateur Cycling Assoc	A/S	A/S	69 670	75 000	Facilities
Alice Springs Basketball Association	A/S	A/S	30 000	-	Facilities
Alice Springs Bowling Club	A/S	A/S	30 000	-	Facilities
Alice Springs Gliding Club	A/S	A/S	-	10 000	Facilities
Alice Springs Golf Club	A/S	A/S	-	201 600	Facilities/Travel
Alice Springs Motorcycle Club	A/S	A/S	-	60 000	Facilities
Alice Springs Pistol Club	A/S	A/S	-	15 550	Equipment
Alice Springs Pony Club	A/S	A/S	277	-	Travel
Alice Springs Squash Racquets	A/S	A/S	-	10 000	Facilities
Alice Springs Table Tennis	A/S	A/S	1165	-	Equipment
Alice Springs Tennis Association	A/S	A/S	-	6500	Facilities
Ali Curung Council	Ali Curung	Ali Curung	37 000	37 000	Salaries/Sport & Rec Program
Alyangula Squash Centre	Alyangula	Groote	-	50 000	Facilities
Amateur Fishermans Assoc of NT	NT	NT	-	406	Travel
Amoonguna Community Council	Amoonguna	Amoonguna	6000	6000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Angurugu Community Council	Angurugu	Angurugu	-	10 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Arafura Bowls Club	DWN	DWN	-	10 740	Facilities
Arunga Park Speedway	A/S	A/S	-	15 250	Travel/Equipment
Aust Sports Medicine Fed NT	DWN	NT	337	11 400	Travel/Salary Assistance
Aust Underwater Fed NT	DWN	DWN	338	1148	Travel/Coaching/Training
Bamyili Council	Barunga	NT	10 940	9000	Special Projects/Salary - Sport & Recreation Program
Carpentaria Diving Club	Alyangula	Groote	-	2000	Equipment
Central Aust Amateur Swimming Club	A/S	A/S	-	800	Travel
Central Aust Rifle Club	A/S	A/S	-	5500	Equipment
Central Aust Sporting Car Assoc	A/S	A/S	-	600	Facilities
Comm Rec & Leisure Assoc of Yulara	Yulara	Yulara	-	25 000	Op. Multipurpose
Cruising Yacht Association of NT	DWN	DWN	-	7000	Special Project

INCORPORATED ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS	CENTRE	REGION	AMOUNT		PURPOSE
			1984-85	1985-86	
Darwin Amateur Cycling Association	DWN	DWN	-	49 200	Facilities
Darwin Bowls Club	DWN	DWN	18 508	7000	Administration/Facilities
Darwin Game Fishing Charter	DWN	DWN	3500	-	Special Project
Darwin Golf Club	DWN	DWN	319	55 334	Travel/Facilities
Darwin Netball Association	DWN	DWN	10 000	32 000	Facilities
Darwin Rifle Club	DWN	DWN	4249	7729	Travel/Coach/Training/Admin.
Darwin Rollerskating Club	DWN	DWN	-	353	Coach/Training
Darwin Sailing Club	DWN	NT	5000	5000	Special Projects
Darwin Soccer Association	DWN	DWN	5000	-	Special Projects
Darwin Sub Aqua Club	DWN	DWN	1492	-	Equipment
Darwin Surf Life Saving Club	DWN	DWN	3707	83 346	Travel/Facilities
Darwin Tennis Association	DWN	DWN	18 772	30 000	Facilities/Coaching
Disabled Sporting Association	DWN	NT	-	1873	Travel
Elliot Sports Club	Elliot	Elliot	-	4000	Facilities
Equestrian Federation of Aust NT	DWN	NT	7152	15 782	Travel/Coach/Training
Fannie Bay Equestrian Club	DWN	DWN	-	5000	Facilities/Research
Galiwinku Community Council	Galiwinku	Galiwinku	25 000	25 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Gliding Association of NT	DWN	NT	-	219	Coach/Training
Gove Country Golf Club	Gove	Gove	-	2000	Administration
Gove Amateur Basketball Association	Gove	Gove	-	3908	Facilities
Gove Peninsular Surf Life Saving	Gove	Gove	-	3632	Travel
Gove Tennis Club	Gove	Gove	3000	-	Facilities
Gove Yacht Club	Gove	Gove	-	3000	Special Project
Groote Eylandt Target Shooting	Alyangula	Groote	-	6375	Facilities
Harts Range Racing Club	A/S	NT	-	5000	Facilities
Jabiru Golf Club	Jabiru	Jabiru	-	7000	Facilities
Jabiru Sports Council	Jabiru	Jabiru	-	40 000	Facilities
Jabiru Pistol Club	Jabiru	Jabiru	10 000	-	Facilities
Jabiru Gun Club	Jabiru	Jabiru	-	13 000	Facilities
Jingili BMX Club	DWN	DWN	-	6000	Facilities
Judo Federation of NT	DWN	NT	17 921	24 725	Travel/Equipment/Coaching

INCORPORATED ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS	CENTRE	REGION	AMOUNT		PURPOSE
			1984-85	1985-86	
Kakadu Bowls Club	Jabiru	Jabiru	-	67 377	Facilities
Katherine Club	Katherine	Katherine	-	10 000	Facilities
Katherine Golf Club	Katherine	Katherine	-	11 000	Facilities
Katherine Rugby Union	Katherine	Katherine	-	2000	Equipment
Katherine Tennis Club	Katherine	Katherine	1358	41 000	Facilities/Coach/Training
Katherine Trophy Bow Hunters	Katherine	Katherine	-	2000	Equipment
Lajamanu Community Council	Lajamanu	Lajamanu	18 000	18 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Maningrida Community Council	Maningrida	Maningrida	25 000	25 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Milikapiti Community Council	Milikapiti	Milikapiti	-	15 500	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Minjilang Community Council	Minjilang	Minjilang	-	25 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Nguiu Community Council	Bathurst Is	Bathurst Is	-	22 000	Facilities/Equipment
Nhulunbuy Motorcycle Club	Gove	Gove	-	730	Equipment
Nightcliff Sports Club	DWN	DWN	3125	-	Equipment
North Aust Gliding	DWN	DWN	19 696	-	Equipment
North Aust Motor Sports Club	DWN	DWN	-	202 336	Special Project/Facilities
NT Aerobatic Chapter	NT	NT	1821	5766	Travel
NT Amateur Cycling	NT	NT	14 010	16 453	Travel/Coaching
NT Amateur Swimming	DWN	NT	10 324	30 335	Equipment/Travel/S/Salary
NT Amateur Waterpolo	DWN	NT	12 426	11 090	Travel/Coach/Training
NT Assoc of Blind & Visually Impaired	DWN	NT	-	3550	Travel
NT Aust Football Council	DWN	NT	39 786	72 968	Travel/Salary/Operational/ Coaching/Training
NT Badminton Association	DWN	NT	16 008	6096	Facilities/Travel
NT Baseball League	A/S	NT	42 857	47 310	Travel/Admin/Coaching
NT Basketball Association	DWN	NT	19 985	61 667	Travel/Admin/Coaching
NT BMX Association	DWN	NT	5560	-	Travel
NT Bowhunters Association	DWN	NT	3709	8709	Facilities/Travel
NT Clay Target Association	DWN	NT	12 505	14 927	Travel/Coaching
NT Cricket Association	DWN	NT	12 688	25 711	Equipment/Travel
NT Darts Association	DWN	NT	-	12 040	Travel/Admin
NT Bowls Association	DWN	NT	15 351	7083	Travel/Coaching

INCORPORATED ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS	CENTRE	REGION	AMOUNT		PURPOSE
			1984-85	1985-86	
NT Eightball Association	DWN	NT	17 968	5300	Travel
NT Football League	DWN	DWN	-	1260	Equipment
NT Football League Umpires Assoc	DWN	DWN	2000	-	Administration
NT Game Fishing Association	DWN	DWN	3014	706	Travel
NT Girls Marching Association	DWN	NT	9321	-	Travel
NT Gymnastic Association	NT	NT	16 286	14 899	Travel/Admin/Equipment
NT Hockey Association	DWN	NT	65 878	103 084	Travel/Facilities/Coach
NT Indoor Cricket Association	DWN	NT	23 625	20 802	Travel
NT Junior Motorcycle Club	DWN	NT	3448	7138	Travel/Administration
NT Junior Rugby Union	DWN	NT	13 351	-	Travel
NT Junior Soccer Federation	DWN	NT	24 563	17 593	Travel/Equipment/Admin
NT Ladies Bowls Association	DWN	NT	6920	9757	Travel
NT Little Athletics	DWN	NT	20 021	37 437	Travel/Equipment/Salary
NT Minimum Aircraft Association	DWN	NT	-	10 500	Facilities/Equipment
NT Netball Association	DWN	NT	42 125	35 788	Travel/Assistance/Salary
NT Parachute Council	DWN	NT	7138	6000	Travel/Facilities
NT Pistol Shooting Association	DWN	NT	15 920	12 230	Travel
NT Power Lifting Association	DWN	NT	1655	-	Travel
NT Rugby Football League	DWN	NT	48 433	86 724	Travel/Equip/Assist/Coach/ Salary
NT Rugby Union	DWN	NT	8713	26 126	Travel/Equip/Administration
NT Rugby Union Referees Association	DWN	NT	352	1629	Travel
NT Soccer Federation	DWN	NT	310	-	Travel
NT Softball Association	DWN	NT	21 678	12 978	Travel
NT Squash Racquets Association	DWN	NT	8200	1801	Travel
NT Super Rules Association	DWN	NT	2500	18 698	Travel/Administration
NT Table Tennis Association	DWN	NT	1408	-	Travel
NT Taekwondo Association	DWN	NT	5661	50 000	Travel/Operational
NT Tennis Council	A/S	NT	3527	15 161	Travel/Equip/Coaching
NT Tenpin Bowling	DWN	NT	8388	23 238	Travel
NT Touch Association	DWN	NT	131 613	149 427	Travel/Facilities

INCORPORATED ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS	CENTRE	REGION	AMOUNT		PURPOSE
			1984-85	1985-86	
NT Volleyball Association	DWN	NT	36 672	60 498	Travel/Salary
NT Water Ski Association	DWN	DWN	4113	778	Travel
NT Women's Soccer Association	A/S	NT	16 337	24 965	Travel
NT Yachting Association	DWN	DWN	6322	-	Travel
Papunya Community Council	Papunya	Papunya	43 250	37 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Polocrosse Association of NT	DWN	NT	6916	7164	Travel/Coaching
Pularumpi Community Council	Pularumpi	Pularumpi	-	15 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Ramangining Community Council	Ramangining	Ramangining	-	20 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Red Centre BMX Club	A/S	A/S	-	10 000	Facilities
Royal Life Saving Society	DWN	DWN	19 462	31 548	Equip/Special Project/Salary
South Darwin Sporting League	DWN	DWN	14 000	15 000	Facilities
Sporting Shooters Association of NT	DWN	NT	5608	11 205	Travel
Tangentyere Council	A/S	A/S	10 000	10 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Tennant Creek Bowling Club	T/C	T/C	30 000	61 500	Facilities
Tennant Creek Pistol Club	T/C	T/C	8470	-	Facilities
Tennant Creek Speedway	T/C	T/C	30 000	45 696	Facilities/Travel
Top End Orienteers	DWN	DWN	-	1000	Equipment
Wanguri BMX Club	DWN	DWN	-	2200	Facilities
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Assoc	Yirrkala	Yirrkala	12 000	12 000	Salary/Sport & Rec Program
Yuendumu Community Council	Yuendumu	Yuendumu	13 500	29 500	Salary/Sport & Rec Program

THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SPORTING ORGANISATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

FACILITIES:

In partnership with sporting organisations this program helps to establish and improve sports facilities for Territory and national competition.

It involves each organisation contributing financially or physically to its project, showing the capacity to manage and maintain the facility, and demonstrating usage levels.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT:

- ° Sports Travel subsidies enable teams to attend NT and national championships.
- ° Assistance is also provided for NT Team members to attend team training and delegates to attend approved meetings and conferences.
- ° Subsidies are also available to conduct Level 1, 2 & 3 courses under the National Coaching Accreditation Scheme and aid is given for umpire/referee courses.
- ° Salary subsidies on a \$ for \$ basis up to \$12 500 pa are provided to NT Associations for coaching directors and assistance may be provided to high performance athletes to develop their skills further through training and competition.

EQUIPMENT:

Assistance to purchase specialised non-consumable sporting equipment is provided.

ADMINISTRATION:

Assistance may be provided to help offset the cost of staging:

- ° NT Championships - up to \$1000
- ° National Championships - up to \$2500
- ° International Championships - considered on an individual basis.

In each instance evidence must be presented to demonstrate that there will be a legitimate shortfall.

OPERATIONAL

Salary subsidies on a \$ for \$ basis up to \$12 500 pa are provided to NT Associations for administrative staff.

7 April 1986

75. House Relocation - Tender Arrangements

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HOUSING

1. Was a tender recently awarded to remove 5 or 6 houses from Myilly Point and relocate them at Palmerston?
2. Were tenders called for this work?
3. If no tenders were called, were selected quotations sought for the work?
4. If no tenders were called and no selective quotations were sought, what were the reasons for this procedure?
5. What was the value of the tender awarded?
6. Who was the successful tenderer and if the answer to questions 2 and 3 is no, how was the tenderer selected?

ANSWER

1. No. A contract was however, recently awarded to remove six (6) houses from Myilly Point and relocate them at Karama and Berrimah.
2. No.
3. Yes.
4. N/A.
5. \$255,570.00.
6. GWR Contracting Pty. Ltd.

17 April 1986

**77. Tourist Commission - Financial Statement
1983-84**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TOURISM

1. When were the 1983-84 financial statements of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission presented to the Auditor-General pursuant to section 68(2) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act?

2. Did the Auditor-General, under section 68(2), seek an extension of time from the Administrator to consider these financial statements; if so, what was the reason given?
3. On what date did the Auditor-General report to the minister, as required by section 68(2) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, on the financial statements of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission for the year 1983-84?
4. On what date did the minister receive a copy of the report of the operations of the Northern Territory Tourist Commission and a copy of its financial statements for the year 1983-84, as required by section 68(3) of the Financial Administration and Audit Act?

ANSWER

1. 19 April 1985.
2. No. Not necessary as the annual report was submitted to the Auditor-General on 19 April 1985 who reported to the minister on 27 June 1985.
3. 20 June 1985.

Comment: Receipt of the Auditor-General's report was delayed due to his inquiry through the Crown Law Department of the legality of the commission's investment of "Operators Trust Funds" through Treasury.

4. (1) 3 June 1985.
(2) February 1986.

Comment: The commission's 1983-84 draft annual report was initially submitted to the minister's office on 3 June 1985 for approval pending the receipt of the Auditor-General's report prior to the report's tabling at the August 1985 sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

The Auditor-General's report was subsequently received by the commission on 1 July 1985. However, due to an administrative oversight the report was not attached to the commission's annual report. This error was not identified until February 1986 when action was immediately taken to correct the situation.

The complete document was subsequently returned to the minister's office in February 1986.

It will now be tabled at the June 1986 sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr FIRMIN to TREASURER

Can he provide details of the impact the fringe benefits tax will have on the private and public sectors in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I can indeed provide details of the impact of the fringe benefits tax on the Northern Territory. This is of the utmost importance, and I thank the member for Ludmilla for his question. There will be an impact of some \$45m on the economy of the Northern Territory, and I believe that that figure is conservative. Of late, my figures have been questioned by various groups, including the federal Treasury, but I believe that that figure could reach \$60m.

The cost to the Northern Territory government alone is estimated at \$16m. That figure takes into account the following: the 6% and 3% concessional housing loans under the former NTPS Homes Loans Scheme will now attract an estimated extra tax liability of \$1.9m for 1986-87; housing in remote areas for 500 Northern Territory Public Service employees will attract an extra tax estimated at \$1m; recruitment and relocation costs for 1000 recruits will attract an extra tax liability in the vicinity of \$3.9m; home garaging of vehicles, including government cars garaged for security reasons and cars provided in remote communities, will attract an extra tax of \$1.5m; rental subsidies for 1000 employees - for example, police and teachers - outside the majority population centres will attract an extra tax of \$1.96m; air fare entitlements and recreational leave air fares - which cost the government \$8m in 1985-86 will attract an extra tax liability of \$3.92m; hospitality and protocol - mainly relating to government functions - will cost around \$1m; and other minor allowances amounting to about \$5m. The total cost will be approximately \$16m.

It is interesting to note that some companies have calculated their taxes on fringe benefits. Nabalco estimates that it will have to pay about \$4m more and Energy Resources of Australia expects to pay about \$8m extra. My figure of \$45m is conservative. It could be in the vicinity of \$60m. Certainly, the cost to the Northern Territory government will be in the vicinity of \$16m.

Freeze on Government Charges

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

In light of his recent announcement that no taxes, charges or fees will increase in the next budget, can he give an undertaking to this Assembly on the length of time that this freeze will apply and whether it will apply to electricity charges?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question because it gives me an opportunity to clarify the statement that was published in the Sunday Territorian last weekend.

Mr B. Collins: You mean you are going to back off?

Mr HATTON: No, I am not going to back off. I would like to make a couple of points on this matter. My statement was that the federal government has been so rapacious in its grab for taxes that it has not left any practical scope for state and territory governments to tax the community any further to meet costs. We anticipate, as I am sure everybody in the community anticipates, that there are likely to be some cuts in funding to the Northern Territory government. That is probably necessary, given the state of the economy that the world's greatest Treasurer has led us into. We will need to prune government expenditure because we cannot afford to increase taxes.

The statement that I made was that, if it were at all possible, we would not increase any taxes in the Northern Territory. We will endeavour to overcome any deficiencies in our finances by reductions in government expenditure. We anticipate that we will be able to achieve our aim without any increases in taxes. Obviously, if federal government cuts exceed our wildest imagination, that may be physically impossible. If it comes down to providing absolutely fundamental services, like education or police services, it will be physically impossible for us to avoid increasing taxes. We do not anticipate that the cuts will be at that level. We will not be looking to increase taxes. It was a genuine statement.

In respect of charges for services, it would be unreasonable to assume that these would not be levelled against the cost of providing those services. I have never made any statements in respect of charges for services. That statement applies equally to electricity charges. If the member for Millner thinks that would be a reasonable position to adopt, thank God he is in opposition.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Is he aware of criticism expressed by the member for Millner on 27 May 1986 about the Northern Territory government's failure to prepare Territorians for the Commonwealth's fringe benefits tax proposals, and can he advise why the conference proposed last year by the former Treasurer between the Northern Territory government and the business sector on the fringe benefits tax did not take place as scheduled?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, the member for Millner is fond of a joke, as we all know, otherwise he would not refer to himself as the Labor spokesman on economic affairs. He criticised the former Treasurer because he did not hold the proposed conference. I advise members that it was not possible to hold such a conference because the federal government did not know what it was talking about until 2 May this year. Indeed, Senator Ted Robertson recently announced that he did not know what he was talking about even after the bill had been passed, and he is the government Whip in the Senate! It was highly unlikely that we could have organised the proposed conference 9 months ago, because the federal government simply did not know what it was talking about. As late as last week, officers from the Northern Territory Treasury were in Canberra trying to find out what the Northern Territory's costs would be, and even then the federal government could not enlighten us.

The concept of a fringe benefits tax has been a sham from start to finish. This morning, a well-known economist who gives advice on the radio quoted a talk-back show in Canberra yesterday in which a senior taxation official was

unable to answer questions. He did not know what he was talking about and, in fact, admitted that on radio. It was not possible to hold meetings until yesterday when we met with Northern Territory business people. I suspect that such meetings will be ongoing as the real impact of the fringe benefits tax unfolds. It is obvious that Mr Keating has determined the figure that he wants and is busily trying to work out how to achieve that figure.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr FINCH to TREASURER

How does the estimated cost to the Territory government of the federal government's fringe benefits tax compare with the cost to state governments?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question. It just does not compare in any way, shape or form. The Western Australian government's extra tax bill has been estimated at \$10m. I stated in my answer to the member for Koolpinyah that the cost to the Northern Territory government would be \$16m. The New South Wales government has estimated that its tax bill will increase by in the vicinity of \$8m even though it has 40 times the population of the Northern Territory. It is expected to recoup a little under half what the Northern Territory is supposed to recoup. The costs to the Northern Territory will be horrendous. The federal government has not taken this into account. It has based its calculations on the Sydney-Melbourne-Canberra triangle where the main concern relates to such things as home garaging and the use of company cars. Nobody worked out what it would mean in northern Queensland or the Northern Territory. I wonder if the federal government really cares about the impact on the Northern Territory. One does not need an economics degree to work out that 1% of Australia's population will be required to contribute \$16m whilst Western Australia will contribute \$10m and New South Wales only \$8m.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr PERRON to TREASURER

What employment conditions in the Northern Territory will be subject to the fringe benefits tax?

ANSWER

I do not know how long it will take to get the message across to the opposition that this is no laughing matter. It will cripple the Northern Territory, bankrupt business and put people right behind the 8-ball. This is no laughing matter; it is of grave concern. I would appreciate respect from the opposition in relation to this question ...

Mr B. Collins: Well, lower your voice!

Mr COULTER: I would like to see opposition members at Darwin Oval on Friday to indicate their support. If they want to demonstrate their mirth as the honourable member ...

Mr B. Collins: They can hear you at Darwin Oval right now.

Mr COULTER: If he wants to demonstrate his mirth at that meeting, I am sure that he will be most welcome there.

I was asked to provide details of employment conditions subject to FBT. It is interesting that a new acronym has crept into our lives. Companies supplying vehicles to their employees will be most severely affected. However, I note that vehicles over 1 t capacity will be exempt. A grader driver will be able to drive his vehicle home. If he drives the grader home, I am not sure whether that is exempt or not. They are probably still coming to grips with that one.

Other items to be taxed include free or low interest loans to employees, debt waivers, residential accommodation provided by employers, rent subsidies, living away from home allowances, discounted air travel, holiday air fares, goods and services sold at or below cost or provided free, expenses paid on behalf of an employee, relocation and recruitment costs, dislocation allowances and entertainment and hospitality allowances. We are still trying to come to grips with the fact that study leave and study entitlements may also be taxed.

Ministers' Legal Fees

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

On Territory Extra a couple of weeks ago, the former Chief Minister, now member for Barkly, surprised us all by revealing that legal fees had been paid by the Northern Territory government for legal actions involving a former Chief Minister, Mr Everingham, and a former minister, Mr Perron. Would the Chief Minister provide this Assembly with details of the cases involved, the amounts paid out on their behalf, and the size of any financial benefits that accrued to the 2 individuals involved?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, the member cannot assume that any minister would have those sort of facts and figures in his head. To ask for specific details of how much money was paid out in relation to particular legal costs over a number of years is quite frankly beyond the pale.

Mr B. Collins: Just say that you will provide them.

Mr HATTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am quite prepared to have the question answered. I ask the member to put it on notice.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Did Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd accept the government offer in March 1985 for the sale of Humbert River Station at a cost to the government of \$500 000?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, my recollection from the briefing notes that I received on this matter was that, in 1983, an offer was made to purchase part of the Humbert River pastoral property. A valuation of \$150 000 was received from the Valuer-General. The government wanted to purchase that land to

incorporate it in a national park. A request was made to the owners that they hold on to the land when it became evident that they intended to sell it on the private market. Several years went by and negotiations were settled late last year. The Northern Territory government agreed to pay more than the Valuer-General's valuation of approximately \$150 000 to compensate the owners for maintaining the property and for holding stock on it. The Northern Territory government paid more than the Valuer-General's valuation but the figure paid was not \$500 000.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr PALMER to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he provide details of the impact of the fringe benefits tax on Northern Territory Public Service employment conditions and whether such conditions can continue after 1 July?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, many of the employment conditions in the Northern Territory Public Service fall within the ambit of this tax, and the Treasurer has outlined a number of those. It will affect home garaging of cars, air fare entitlements, rental subsidies and a number of other conditions. I ask honourable members to remember that many of these are imbedded in Northern Territory Public Service conditions through the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act, an act of the Commonwealth government, which requires that pre-existing conditions of service of compulsory transferees to the Northern Territory Public Service be retained. Under the Commonwealth government's own legislation, we are obliged to pay for a number of conditions on which it now seeks to levy a tax.

A number of conditions affected by this tax are embedded in awards and determinations of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. As such, they are legal liabilities for the Northern Territory government. As a result of the federal mini-budget of June 1985, the Northern Territory government decided to restrict public service air fare entitlements to a Darwin-Adelaide return air fare and to freeze Northern Territory allowances to spread the load evenly between the public and private sectors. The air fare was to be prospective to avoid loss of existing entitlements. The matter is still being fought before the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and the favourable decision of the commission regarding the Northern Territory allowances has been appealed to the full bench. That is an example of how difficult it will be to delete any of those conditions. I note that the Northern Territory government is facing very difficult economic times.

In answer to a question from the member for Millner this morning, I made the point that we would do everything within our power not to increase taxes and charges. In response to some outbursts from opposition members at the time, I might say that what I have said today is exactly as what I advised the reporter who put the notice in the NT News. I cannot accept responsibility for statements or interpretations made in newspapers. If I did otherwise, I would be criticised as infringing on the freedom of the press. I was talking about expected restrictions resulting from the general subventions. Even without this new tax, we will be down to the bones and may have to cut out a number of government services as a consequence of the general budget allocation this year. On top of this, we are likely to incur an additional cost of \$16m in relation to this fringe benefits tax. We cannot afford that. This tax will affect government services to the Northern Territory community.

It is an unreasonable tax on costs that we are legally obliged to pay. It will hurt the Northern Territory Public Service because, if we have to cut services, there will be some reduction in the number of jobs available in the Northern Territory Public Service.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

The Minister for Lands clearly is not on top of his job. My question had nothing to do with valuations by the Valuer-General. I ask the question again. Did Consolidated Press Holdings Ltd accept a government offer in March 1985 for the sale of Humbert River Station at a cost to the government of \$500 000?

ANSWER

Clearly, the Leader of the Opposition did not hear my reply because I indicated that the answer was no. We offered more than the Valuer-General's valuation. Let's get this story straight. Earlier, the owners had negotiated to sell the property to the Northern Territory government for \$500 000. Later, we indicated that we did not need the whole property and that we wanted to excise a certain portion of it. That particular portion was valued by the Valuer-General at \$150 000. We offered the owners \$150 000 and they rejected our offer because they said that they had been asked to maintain the property as part of a national park and they wanted compensation for that maintenance. A decision was taken by the government and we finally settled on a price of \$310 000 for the portion we wanted.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Can he explain how the owners of Humbert River Station became aware of what should have been a completely confidential piece of information - namely the value of \$600 000 placed on Humbert River Station by the Valuer-General? When the government became aware that this extremely useful piece of information had been leaked to the proprietors of Humbert River Station, was an investigation carried out by the then minister into how the information had been leaked? If so, what was the result of the investigation?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am unaware of any information leaked to the owners of the property. There has been some press speculation about government involvement in an abnormal deal in relation to the purchase of Humbert River Station. I was under the impression that this question had been answered fully by the former Minister for Lands.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr POOLE to CHIEF MINISTER

What options are being considered by the Northern Territory government to minimise the effects of the fringe benefits tax in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, as I said in my answer to the previous question, we will have to do whatever we can to minimise the costs of this fringe benefits tax. This government does not want to see threats to people's livelihood in the Northern Territory because of this iniquitous tax. It is essential to the continued development of the Territory to minimise the effects of the fringe benefits tax. Unfortunately, as has been outlined, the tax has disproportionate effects on the rural and remote localities of Australia, particularly the Northern Territory.

I have asked the Department of Law to brief the Cabinet on the proposed action of the Queensland government in the High Court to determine whether we can assist in preventing this tax from taking effect. As a territory of the Commonwealth, we do not have the protection of the Australian Constitution, and we do not have the capacity in our own right to take such action against the Commonwealth. It is most unlikely that, if the Queensland government is successful in having the implementation of this tax delayed while the case is heard in the courts, the Commonwealth government will pass the law so that it will apply only to the Northern Territory and the ACT. I find that notion quite unbelievable. Therefore, any assistance given to the Queensland government to prevent this tax proceeding will be of benefit to the Northern Territory, and will reduce its disastrous impact on jobs in both our public and private sectors.

A number of additional options are being developed concerning this specific tax. For example, we need to consider whether we are able to continue the practice of home garaging of cars, although I must say that the alternative of providing central car-parking facilities would incur some additional costs to the government. However, initial indications are that such costs would be dramatically less than the cost of the fringe benefits tax at the rate of 49% on expenses associated with commuting in government vehicles. To avoid paying this iniquitous tax, we would have to forgo the cost-savings resulting from home garaging. Other issues that we must address include housing loans, conditions of service, air fares and relocation expenses. These need to be considered in the budget context at the Premiers Conference.

I note that the Premier of Western Australia, Mr Burke, proposes to raise the inequitable application of the fringe benefits tax at the Premiers Conference. You may be assured that I will be lending my voice to support him. This tax will impact heavily on rural Australia, and have a minimal effect on urban Australia.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr TUXWORTH to TREASURER

What impact will the fringe benefits tax have on the major export, revenue-earning and job-providing industries in the Territory, namely mining and tourism?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is hard to work out just who will be first to close down the mining industry in the Northern Territory: the federal government or the Northern Territory ALP. There was talk about shutting down the uranium industry at the last Territory ALP conference, and the federal government is doing its share with the fringe benefits tax, because it is the mining industry which will feel the burden most heavily. Experts who are pioneering

resource development in the Granites area or the Tanami, people in the remote locations of Australia, are the ones who will be most severely affected. Mining companies pay considerable sums for experts to travel from other parts of Australia to help establish projects, and now travel and relocation expenses will be taxable. The member for Nhulunbuy will be interested to know that Nabalco will have to pay an extra \$4m a year. Energy Resources of Australia - and I know that the honourable member for Arnhem will be very interested in what happens in Jabiru - will have to pay about \$8m a year.

Mr B. Collins: Why should he be? It is not in his electorate; it is in mine.

Mr COULTER: I meant Arafura.

The tourism industry will be hardest hit in respect of employees sleeping in motel-type accommodation. No longer will that be considered as a service entitlement. A tax will now apply to such benefits. It has been estimated that, Australia-wide, the cost of the fringe benefits tax to the tourism industry will be in excess of \$40m. The impact on that particular industry is obvious. Tourism is one of the Northern Territory's growth industries. Therefore it will be hardest hit because of the isolated nature of communities in the Northern Territory. There is an increase in the number of people travelling in the Northern Territory in motor vehicles and seeking overnight accommodation. We are trying to accommodate those types of tourist. They will now have to pay increased room rates.

Mr Deputy Speaker, there is a race between who will close down the mining industry: the federal Labor government or the Northern Territory Branch of the Australian Labor Party. Of course, the gold tax is yet another example of how the federal government wishes to close down the industry. The simple fact is that it is out to depopulate the Northern Territory. Senator Walsh was not joking when he said that he would do it with a machine-gun. We are now paying the penalty for being too successful. We did not buckle and go under the social welfare umbrella that was put up by Canberra for Victoria and New South Wales. We tried to exploit our resources and we are now paying the penalty for that.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Does he have any details on the likely administrative impact of the fringe benefits tax on small business operations within the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I shall try and change my voice level a little bit for those people on the opposition benches who consider that what I have to say is a little boring.

Small businesses have employed a number of nationally-known tax consultant firms throughout Australia to advise them on the impact of the tax. Small business is the major employer of people throughout Australia

Mr B. Collins: You can talk quietly when you try.

Mr COULTER: I notice that the honourable Leader of the Opposition is listening.

Mr B. Collins: We do when you talk quietly.

Mr COULTER: To give you an example, Mr Deputy Speaker, a small business employing 7 people has increased its sales by up to \$75 000 a year to maintain a humble profit margin of 5%. There was an excellent example in the paper recently relating to an electrical contractor who employs about 3 people. It will not be possible for him to maintain his profit margin because he has no scope for increasing his sales. The tax will send small business, the major employer group in Australia, to the wall.

Sometimes I wonder how we can stop countries like Korea booming ahead with their industrial development. But the answer is becoming clearer to me everyday. All we have to do is convince them to take Paul Keating for a couple of weeks and they will grind to a halt, because that is what he is doing with small businesses in this country.

Mr B. Collins: Send him to South Africa as an economic sanction.

Mr COULTER: That would be ideal. It would really bring that country to heel. The world's greatest Treasurer could do it overnight.

The advice from accountants is simply that people in small business will need to employ more accountants and more lawyers to protect them from the fringe benefits tax wherever possible. It is estimated that the fringe benefits tax will cut business profits by 4% next financial year and by 6% in the following year. Small business operators face nearly impossible tasks in maintaining complex records of fringe benefits tax liabilities.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the kingmaker sitting in the public gallery doing the marking, and considering that he has scored only 5 out of 10 so far, I will give him a chance to pick up a few points. Did a personal meeting take place between him and the former Chief Minister, and a representative of the owners of Humbert River Station on or about 26 June last year, and was it agreed at that meeting to pay \$310 000 for portion 976 of the station mentioned earlier in question time this morning?

ANSWER

I cannot confirm the date, but it sounds about right. There was in fact a meeting between myself, as the Minister for Lands, the Chief Minister and a representative of the owners of Humbert River Station at which we were negotiating the final price for the Humbert River Station. As the Minister for Lands has said on a number of occasions, there had been some dispute over the price of the land and that meeting was called to try to resolve the issue. I say that for the following reasons. The original advice to the owners of Humbert River Station was that the Northern Territory government intended to purchase the entire property. I understand that that was given in mid-1983 to a Mr Warriner from the station when he advised that they had an offer to sell the station at that time. He was requested not to proceed with the sale because of the intention of the Northern Territory government to purchase that property for the purpose of incorporating it within Gregory National Park. For a multitude of reasons, that purchase by the Northern Territory government was delayed from mid-1983 until 1985 when offers were made. My predecessor had been advised of the Valuer-General's valuation of that property at some

\$600 000. From time to time, we have had a run at a cheaper price than the Valuer-General's valuation. The honourable Minister for Lands at the time authorised an offer of \$500 000 for that property. That offer was rejected.

From the numerous conversations I had over this issue during the course of negotiations, I might say that the owners of Humbert River Station believed that it was worth well in excess of even \$600 000. They felt that, if they were prepared to wait, they could anticipate receiving up to \$1m for the property and its stock. They felt that they could quite comfortably obtain a price in the order of \$700 000 to \$750 000. At that time, I was also Minister for Conservation. In reviewing the boundaries of Humbert River Station - the proposed Gregory National Park - and to rationalise them, it was my view that areas that were not necessarily of intrinsic value to the park should not be included in the park if they could be used effectively for other purposes. In this particular case, there was a significant section on the eastern boundary of that property which was not necessary for the park, would have added to the administrative costs of operating the park and could be operated as a separate pastoral property. Therefore, to minimise the total cost to government of the development of Gregory National Park, I decided to negotiate for a reduced area of the station.

The honourable Minister for Lands has outlined some of the prices. There was the Valuer-General's valuation of \$150 000. That was bluntly rejected by the owners of the station as being an unreasonably low price. They also noted that they had destocked that property and kept it non-operational for some 18 months at our request. They had every right to put cattle on that property and, by doing so, they would have earned income. At that time, they were faced also with a drought-affected property at Newcastle Waters Station where they had to turn off significant numbers of cattle. Had they operated the Humbert River property, they would have been able to turn many of those beasts on to it and so alleviate some of the losses they incurred in 1985 as a consequence of accelerated destocking from the drought. In order to assist the Northern Territory government, they did not do that.

It was not unreasonable that, in determining the price, we should ensure that some level of compensation was included for the losses that had been incurred by the owners of Humbert River Station in that intervening period. In mid-1983, they had an offer of some \$500 000 which, at our request, they did not take. They did not operate the property and restock it. Had they done so, it would have cost the government more money for the stock. They did not develop the property but held it for the government to develop as a park.

Mr Deputy Speaker, a compensation provision of \$160 000 has been included in a negotiated price of \$310 000. I believe that is reasonable when all the facts and circumstances of the case are considered.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he supply details of the effect of the fringe benefits tax on the provision of education services in the Territory generally and, in the absence of any interest from the members of the opposition who represent remote areas, on education facilities in those areas as well?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, to detail the effects of the fringe benefits tax on education services in the Territory generally would take up more time than we have available. However, I would like to point out the problems in relation to recruitment, relocation and housing in remote areas.

The Commonwealth has made it clear that recruitment expenses will be subject to the fringe benefits tax and I would like all honourable members to consider the following facts. The Department of Education spends close to \$1m a year on recruiting teachers to the Territory. Until the stage is reached where we are able to train all our teachers in the Territory, we will need to recruit teachers. This means that the Department of Education will face a loss of nearly \$0.5m through the fringe benefits tax next year.

I think I should make it quite clear that we do not spend \$1m needlessly. We do not blithely recruit a teacher or 2 simply because we are in a good mood. We recruit teachers solely to fill vacancies. I am sure everyone is aware that that means that, in a Territory school somewhere, there is a class that needs a teacher or a subject that cannot be offered, and such needs must be met because we have a duty to ensure that Territory children receive the best education possible. This tax is the result of a vicious piece of legislation. It is blackmail of the worst kind because it holds the future of our children to ransom. We must have teachers in our schools and therefore we must bear this senseless and inequitable impost.

Mr Bell: That's quite a concession.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, the remarks from members of the opposition are typical of the sort of comments we have had today. They think it is a bit of a joke, a relaxed sort of subject. I hope that they will get something into their heads this morning: this tax will cost the Northern Territory millions of dollars. It will affect all Territorians. I am talking about the effect it will have on the education of Territory children. Money does not grow on trees; it has to come from somewhere. When members opposite get that into their heads, they will be able to operate a bit more effectively. I am talking about people in remote areas now.

Mr B. Collins: Have you finished?

Mr MANZIE: I have not finished and, if the Leader of the Opposition will sit down, I will continue because I am speaking on an important subject. At present, the relocation of teachers in the Territory costs the government nearly \$300 000. If the tax stands, the Territory will be hit for that cost as well which represents another \$150 000 in taxes that we may have to find. I say we 'may' have to find it because this is a matter on which even the federal Treasurer cannot make up his mind or, if he has, he will not tell anyone what he has decided. I sympathise with the honourable Treasurer and his Treasury officials because, obviously, it is very difficult to deal with a tax when you do not know what it covers or on what it is to be levied. Obviously, no government with even the tiniest bit of sense would impose such a tax. However, as we all know, the legislation has been passed and I will leave it to honourable members to make up their own minds about the intellect of the people who passed it.

I would like to ask members of the Assembly to consider this: the federal government regards the recruitment and relocation of teachers as a perk or a lurk. In the Territory, we consider that it is essential to the provision of education.

Mr B. Collins: Hear, hear!

Mr MANZIE: I am pleased to hear that comment, Mr Deputy Speaker, because we have to provide education for Territory children and we are now faced with a requirement to pay more than \$0.5m in additional tax. I would like members of the opposition to think about what that means, what action we will have to take and what programs we will have to cut.

Mr B. Collins: We might have to re-establish the casino taxes. That would be terrible, wouldn't it.

Mr MANZIE: We shall have to cut some services. We hear the inane comments from over there which demonstrate total ignorance about the economy of the Territory and what creates employment.

Mr B. Collins: \$4m a year and they tuck it in the pockets of Henry and Walker Pty Ltd.

Mr MANZIE: Those are inane comments, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are facing something that is extremely serious. We face an impost on Territorians far greater than that to be imposed on many other Australians. That is not of concern to the federal Labor government. It is not of concern to the members of the Labor opposition here. They do not care if it is inequitable. The Territory has suffered from lack of interest by members on the other side of the Assembly and their federal colleagues. It is important because it will cost us jobs and affect our quality of life. As I said before, until they get it into their heads that money does not grow on trees, we shall have problems.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Department of Education alone has 206 houses and flats in remote communities, as well as 109 transportable units and 50 mobile homes. These service 421 teachers at 77 remote schools. In relation to this accommodation, we would like to know just what the tax will cost us. We know that it will cost us something and the mind boggles. How can housing in remote areas of the Territory be considered a lurk or a perk? It shows total ignorance in the minds of the people who have drafted this fringe benefits tax about its application throughout the country.

It is vitally important that all Territorians be aware of what this tax means. It means that the Territory government will have to pay money back into the coffers of Canberra at a direct cost to all Territorians. In respect of the education portfolio, it is causing me great concern, because we do not receive sufficient money and assistance from the Commonwealth in those areas anyway.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Since he has confirmed that a meeting took place, which I can confirm was held on 26 June last year, where a decision was made between Mr Tuxworth, himself and the representatives of Mr Packer, the owner of Humbert River, to pay \$310 000 for the station, could he advise why, 5 days later, he approved a departmental recommendation that \$150 000 be paid for that portion of land?

ANSWER

He has me there, Mr Deputy Speaker. I had approved a recommendation of \$150 000 ...

Mr B. Collins: 5 days afterwards.

Mr HATTON: I can be corrected on dates, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is my understanding that the amount of \$310 000 was determined at that particular meeting and I understood that I had approved a recommendation of \$150 000 prior to that date. It was my understanding that subsequent discussions with the owners of that organisation led to the change in those figures. Until I can get the details of those figures and have an opportunity to check them, I cannot answer adequately. I am telling the Leader of the Opposition that, as I understood the passage of events, it was as I outlined it.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Deputy Speaker, can he advise why he and other ministers have referred continually this morning to offers and acceptances being made of a bid for \$500 000 in 1983? Can he confirm that he received departmental advice that an offer of \$500 000 for the entire property was valid in March 1985 last year?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I referred to a figure of \$500 000 in 1983 which resulted from verbal advice we had received from the owners of Humbert River Station that they were about to enter into an agreement with a private person for the sale at that price. The approval for an offer of \$500 000 was made shortly before I became a minister. In early 1985, I sent the formal letter.

Fringe Benefits Tax in New Zealand

Mr TUXWORTH to TREASURER

Can he provide information to the Assembly on the operation, implementation and impact of the fringe benefits tax that was introduced in New Zealand as recently as April 1985?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, we are lucky to have the example of New Zealand because it demonstrates quite clearly what will happen when the fringe benefits tax is imposed on Australia. A tax was introduced in New Zealand on 1 April 1985 with fewer benefits taxable than under the Australian model. The New Zealand Labour government expected to collect \$154m in its first year. In fact, it collected just over half that amount, mainly as a result of legal complexities and administrative entanglements. Coopers & Lybrand had this to say of the first year of operation: 'It was ill-conceived and badly instituted. It became unenforceable and invited thousands of small businessmen to hold back and break the law. Small businessmen simply could not cope with the added paperwork needed to detail the returns'.

One would think the federal government would make the effort to examine the New Zealand experience with this tax. This federal government is devoid of ideas and is running out of time so fast that it is grasping at every possible opportunity to grab more taxes from the Australian people. New Zealand offered an opportunity for it to learn that the tax cannot work because its effect on industry is intolerable. One would think that it could learn from the past mistakes of others. It has not learnt. It has not learnt from its mistake in 1975 when the then Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, bankrupted

the country. It will be up to the Australian taxpayers to tell the federal government that this tax cannot work because it is a burden that Australia cannot have enforced upon it at this particular stage in its development. We should be releasing government from the throats of private industry, small business, the tourist industry, the mining industry etc and let Australia get on with the job as it did before we had a Labor government.

Mr HANRAHAN (Leader of Government Business): Mr Speaker, I ask that further questions be placed on the question paper.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr B. COLLINS (Opposition Leader): Mr Deputy Speaker, I move that so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent me from asking further questions in respect of Humbert River Station.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 6

Mr Bell
Mr B. Collins
Mr Ede
Mr Lanhupuy
Mr Leo
Mr Smith

Noes 18

Mr D.W. Collins
Mr Coulter
Mr Dale
Mr Dondas
Mr Finch
Mr Firmin
Mr Hanrahan
Mr Harris
Mr Hatton
Mr McCarthy
Mr Manzie
Mrs Padgham-Purich
Mr Palmer
Mr Perron
Mr Poole
Mr Setter
Mr Tuxworth
Mr Vale

Motion negatived.

Aboriginal, funding of communities *461
American Express credit cards -
 expenditure by NT government holders *464
 expenditure by Legislative Assembly office-holders
 and public servants *464
 recall of purchases *465
Beaufort Hotel, space rented by government *466
Education programs on NTD 8, cost 467
Freight Inquiry *461
Fringe benefits tax 479, 480, 481, 483, 484, 485, 486, 488, 491
Government charges, freeze 479
Humbert River Station 482, 484, 487, 490, 491
Katherine East subdivision, stage 3 *465
Legal fees of ministers 482
Liquor Commission, income and programs *462
Myilly Point, relocation of houses 476
Northern Territory government, court proceedings *461
Overseas travel -
 general expenditure *464
 member for Barkly *462, *463
Sporting bodies, government grants 469
Tourist Commission -
 financial statements 1983-84 *465, 476
 payroll processing contract 467
Travelling allowances, member for Barkly *462, *463
Warrawulla Association, lump sum payment from CEP account 468

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

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

Statement by Premier of Tasmania

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister made much last Friday of the discussions that he had had with his political colleagues, the Premier of Queensland and the Premier of Tasmania, prior to the Premiers Conference. I refer to the vicious attack that was launched on the Northern Territory's funding by the Premier of Tasmania on Monday prior to his successful negotiation of an increase in the special grant to Tasmania from \$6m to \$19m on Friday, which was enunciated in a press release from the federal Treasurer. The Premier of Tasmania described the federal funding allocation to the Northern Territory as a 'handout' from the federal government. Given the particularly difficult circumstances we face at the moment, could the Chief Minister give an undertaking that, when he prepares submissions to persuade the federal government of the validity of the Territory's case, he will prevail upon his own political colleagues, in particular the Premier of Tasmania, to refrain from making public attacks on the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to give such an undertaking. I was equally distressed to hear the comments from Premier Gray which I was advised of yesterday. Premier Gray came out of the Premiers Conference particularly badly done by and he is no doubt hurting as a consequence of the federal government's cuts. A Grants Commission inquiry recommended a reduction in funding for Tasmania. In the Northern Territory, we understand the difficulties that are incurred as a consequence of such actions because we have suffered severely in this current financial year as a consequence of findings by the Grants Commission. Like Tasmania, we have very serious doubts about the methods of assessment being used by the Grants Commission. On many occasions, we have raised that problem with the Grants Commission and will again this year in respect of the current review in the Northern Territory. It does not help Tasmania's case one iota to launch an unjustified attack on the Northern Territory. The Tasmanian public service provides some 28% of employment in Tasmania. That is a larger proportion of the total work force than is employed in the Northern Territory Public Service and public authorities. In fact, Premier Gray's own press secretary commented in Canberra on Friday that there was fat in the Tasmanian public service and it should be trimmed.

I do not want to deal with Tasmania's business. That is its concern. It is totally inappropriate for Premier Gray to pass gratuitous comments on the Northern Territory's funding, particularly when he is wrong. We suffered a 23% reduction in general purpose capital payment grants and loans. In terms of funding available for capital projects, this hurt the Northern Territory relatively more than it hurt the states. For a number of years, we have been in the fortunate position that the major part of our funding for capital projects has been through that division and not through the global limits on semi-government borrowings. Premier Gray can take that figure in isolation and make the Territory look bad because we receive more funding through that particular category than Tasmania and a couple of other states. When the semi-government borrowings component is included, Tasmania does quite well in comparison to the Northern Territory.

Mr Speaker, we retained our entitlements in respect of the general revenue grants and Tasmania suffered badly in that area. Premier Gray has problems in that area and the Premiers Conference tried to address some of the

consequences of that. I understand the extreme difficulties that Premier Gray has to surmount, but I would ask him to keep his nose out of Territory affairs and worry about Tasmania.

Gas Pipeline into Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What action has the government taken and what further action does it intend to take over allegations that the gas pipeline into Alice Springs is unsafe?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Sadadeen gave me notice of this question some time ago as did the member for Stuart. The primary difference there was that the member for Stuart notified me through the media as he embarked on a campaign of scare tactics, rumour and innuendo, whilst the member for Sadadeen sought factual information from my department. I thank the honourable member both for the manner in which he went about that and for his question this morning.

Early in May, the member for Stuart raised allegations concerning the safety of the pipeline which carries gas from Palm Valley to Alice Springs. Those allegations were based on generally unsupported statements made by 1 person. The honourable member made statements to the press which caused a great deal of unwarranted concern amongst the people of Alice Springs.

As a result of these allegations and ensuing publicity, my department immediately took the following actions to allay public concern: firstly, a temporary reduction in the maximum allowable operation pressure of the pipeline was initiated and, secondly, a thorough investigation of the situation by an independent expert was instigated. These actions were undertaken at some cost to the Territory. The man appointed to investigate these allegations is Mr Don Alder, who is the Chief Technical Manager of the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria. Mr Alder has had a long career in the pipeline industry, and is currently a member of the executive committee of the Standards Association of Australia responsible for the Australian Pipeline Code, and chairman of the Standards Association subcommittee responsible for the preparation of the code for fuel pressure testing of pipelines. He is a very eminent person in this field. I am sure that all members will agree that this senior public servant from Victoria can be considered as being totally objective in his review.

The review's terms of reference were set in such a way as not to limit the investigation. The review was to determine whether the Palm Valley to Alice Springs pipeline had been designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the accepted pipeline industry standards. More particularly, reports were sought on a number of individual issues raised by the member for Stuart. Mr Alder has now completed the first stage of his investigations and, although he is still awaiting results from a number of tests, he has submitted an interim report to the Department of Mines and Energy. I am pleased to be able to inform the Assembly that the principal conclusion of this interim report is that the Palm Valley to Alice Springs gas pipeline was designed, constructed and operated in accordance with accepted pipeline industry standards. The pipeline was tested to the required level of 1.4 times the maximum operating pressure. Although some corrosion and pitting of the pipe occurred whilst it was stacked in Alice Springs, action was taken by the engineer manager to cut

out any pitting greater than the 10% of wall thickness allowed by the code. Cathodic protection reports indicate that the pipeline has been satisfactorily protected against external corrosion since its commissioning.

The review of the pipeline and its future operation is continuing, and the pipeline owner-operators, TNT Bulk Ships Limited, in accordance with the conditions of the licence issued to it some 3 years ago, is planning to run an internal corrosion check on the pipeline during September of this year. This specialised equipment, usually referred to as an intelligent pig, has to be imported from the USA. Prior to running the survey, quite a deal of cleaning and conditioning of the pipe is required. Following the results of this survey, I expect that Mr Alder will provide the government with a final report and recommendations as to any future variations to operating procedures. In the meantime, the line will continue to be operated at a reduced pressure, which will allow an even greater margin of safety than the original design did.

I take matters of community concern and public safety such as this very seriously. I am concerned that the member for Stuart sought to raise the matter in the press in such a way as to cause concern amongst Alice Springs communities. Let me repeat that we have acted promptly. It could have cost over \$1m just to do a Chicken Licken and run around explaining that the sky was falling down for no reason at all. It is interesting to note that, under the terms of their agreement, the owner-operators were due to carry out intelligent pig testing in September.

Mr Ede: Well, we got exactly what we were after.

Mr COULTER: Yes. It could have cost \$1m, but you fellows do not worry about that. Financial management does not matter to you. I repeat that we have acted promptly, and determined that there is no real substance in the allegations. I say again that the Palm Valley to Alice Springs gas pipeline has been designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the accepted pipeline standards, and the people of Alice Springs should be reassured that it presents no danger to the public.

Possible Effects of Ranger Mine at Jabiru

Mr POOLE to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the fact that the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources stated in Darwin recently that her preference was for all uranium mines to close, what social and economic effects would follow the closure of the Ranger Mine at Jabiru?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the economic effects of the continued operation of the Ranger Uranium Mine would be experienced in the following areas: in direct and indirect employment, wages, public revenues, balance of payments, and Aboriginal and external economies. Recent research into the impact of the Ranger mine on the Northern Territory economy has revealed that benefits generated in the 1984-85 year were as follows.

In the area of employment and wage effects, Ranger directly employs approximately 400 people earning, on average, higher incomes than the NT and Australian average levels which enhance flow-on effects of wages expenditure and increase government tax receipts. Indirect employment totals 485. In

addition, some 160 people are employed in government departments and service agencies related to the operations of Ranger.

By way of public revenues, the Commonwealth government collects some \$57.5m through income tax, employee tax, dividend withholding tax and customs duty. The Northern Territory collects some \$4m through payroll tax and royalty payments, and local government collects \$0.6m. That represents a total of \$62.1m flowing into the public account. In the balance of payments area, although export earnings have averaged around \$250m per annum, there are debt-servicing costs and payments made abroad which reduce net inflow to an average of around \$135m per annum. The net inflow will increase significantly from 1990 onwards as debt is retired.

In the Aboriginal area, current employment is about 20 persons and training schemes are in progress. There are average annual payments of \$11.5m to the Aboriginal Benefits Trust Account of which 30% is distributed to the Gadadju Association and 70% to the land councils for Aboriginals living in the Northern Territory.

In respect of external economies, improvement in school levels of the work force, provision of infrastructure and scientific research provide for non-quantifiable benefits to the community. The social effects of the closure of Ranger could be described as a catastrophe to the economy and people living in Jabiru and highly significant to Darwin. Traditional owners in the Northern Land Council and Aborigines generally would also suffer from reduced benefits. If Ranger closed, Jabiru would have to close.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

Can the estimated tax liability from the fringe benefits tax be recouped through a special grant application to the independent Commonwealth Grants Commission and, if so, has a decision been made to apply for such a grant?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as this tax saga starts to unfold, we learn almost daily of different approaches that may be taken to offset the impact of the fringe benefits tax. Mr Keating was given an example recently of a priest who was being taxed for his house. The taxation people calculated that one-third of the house's use was for church purposes and two-thirds for domestic purposes. Therefore, the tax applied to the domestic use. Mr Keating changed the rules and indicated that churches would not be required to pay the fringe benefits tax on their houses. As all these anomalies come to the attention of the Treasurer and the department, the full impact of the fringe benefits tax is starting to be realised by the federal government. I do not know why it did not check out the New Zealand situation because that government has not been successful in collecting the tax either.

Mr B. Collins: Answer the question.

Mr COULTER: Another deal is being done in relation to spending 3 days away from isolated areas.

I will answer the question, which raises just one of the issues that has come to light in this whole saga. The federal government realises that it is wrong and is now trying to address the anomalies. The whole thing is an

anomaly. One avenue that may be available to us is an approach to the Grants Commission. Whether such a submission would be approved by the Grants Commission is another issue. We can approach the Grants Commission about matters of concern to the Northern Territory. As the federal government realises what it has done through the fringe benefits tax, there will be many opportunities to have it removed. The big solution will be to remove the present federal government and that will happen as a result of this fringe benefits tax.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I draw to your attention the presence in the gallery of Mr John Sharland, British Consul-General, Western Australia, with responsibility for commercial and economic relations in the Northern Territory, together with Mrs Sharland. On behalf of all honourable members, I extend a warm welcome to Mr and Mrs Sharland and hope that their stay in the Territory has been and will continue to be a pleasant one.

I also draw honourable members' attention to the presence in the gallery of Senator Glen Sheil, Senator Bernie Kilgariff and Mr Alan Cadman and Mrs Kathy Sullivan, members of the House of Representatives. On behalf of honourable members, I extend to them all a warm welcome.

Members: Hear, hear!

Export Income from Ranger

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the vital need for export dollars to assist with Australia's dire balance of payment situation, what is the potential export income from the Ranger mine from now until the mine is exhausted?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the economic effects of the continued operation of the uranium mine would be in direct and indirect employment, wages, public revenues, balance of payments and Aboriginal external economies. Recent research into the impact of Ranger mine on the Northern Territory economy has revealed that benefits generated in the 1984-85 year were as follows.

Mr B. Collins interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! If the honourable Leader of the Opposition wishes to direct a constant stream of interjections and commentary across the floor, I would suggest that possibly he could consider a career in radio. I am quite prepared to tolerate the odd interjection from either side but not a constant stream.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, in the Assembly last week I said that it would be a race as to who would be the first to close down the uranium industry in the Northern Territory: the Northern Territory Labor Party or the federal Labor Party. Another conspiracy came to mind as I pondered this question. We can think back to the Leader of the Opposition's role in relation to the Hogg Report. We all remember him as a cosignatory to the Hogg Report. He does not remember the Hogg Report.

Mr B. Collins: I have never heard of it. What is the Hogg Report?

Mr COULTER: What is the Hogg Report? I will provide a copy to the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr B. Collins: It does not exist.

Mr COULTER: He does not know what it is but it does not exist.

Mr B. Collins: I know what you are trying to talk about.

Mr COULTER: We have our representative who is trying to close down the uranium mining industry in the Northern Territory. We now have Mr Hogg working for the Prime Minister. He was one of the minders of the Prime Minister. They will close it down because the person advising the Prime Minister is Mr Hogg. The public revenues raised from Ranger, including Commonwealth income tax, employee tax, dividend withholding tax and custom duties have amounted to \$57.5m. We always hear from the opposition that mining does not create jobs because it is capital intensive. It would argue that mining does not create wealth but only fills the pockets of a few people living on the North Shore of Sydney. Northern Territory payroll tax amounted to \$4m and local government revenue was \$0.6m. That is a total of \$62.1m.

Although export earnings have averaged around \$250m per annum, debt servicing costs and payments made abroad reduced net inflow to around \$135m per annum. The net inflow will increase significantly from 1990 onwards as debt is retired. Currently, about 20 persons are employed and training schemes are in progress. There are annual payments of \$11.5m to the Aboriginal Benefits Trust Account of which 30% is distributed to the Gagadju Association and 70% is distributed to the Northern Territory land councils for Aborigines living in the Northern Territory.

Employment Potential of Uranium Mines

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for MINES AND ENERGY

In the interests of Territorians, particularly the residents of the Arafura electorate, what loss in potential employment will result from the failure of Jabiluka and Koongarra mines to proceed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity to speak to a mining organisation which is trying desperately to explore a certain area of land in the Northern Territory. I would like to advise honourable members of a statement which the mining director made to me. He said that he believed that the area under exploration had the potential to be the second most profitable area of land in the world next to the recent finds in Saskatchewan in Canada. The Jabiluka mine has some \$150m worth of gold and some \$15 000m worth of uranium. That mine could have gone ahead at the stroke of a pen. \$40m was invested by Getty Oil and Pancontinental to prove up the Jabiluka mine. It will not proceed.

Mr B. Collins: Why did the Fraser government reject the only sales contract?

Mr COULTER: I am not defending anybody in particular. I am simply saying that it requires only the stroke of a pen. Mr Hawke could right the wrongs of the Fraser government by simply signing his name to a piece of paper. He could alleviate the national debt overnight if he wished but, as I said, the conspiracy exists, Mr Speaker.

Mr B. Collins: Roxby Downs is all right.

Mr COULTER: Not only is Roxby Downs all right but Mr Hawke grabbed the Premier of South Australia and whizzed him over to Japan to enter into negotiations with the Japanese for uranium export deals for Roxby Downs, which is a copper mine. Is it any wonder that Australia is in trouble? We have one of the world's richest mines at Jabiluka in the Northern Territory and, as a result of federal policy, it is not allowed to proceed. We have a Labor government ...

Mr B. Collins: You are not John Bannon.

Mr COULTER: That is Labor policy speaking: I am not John Bannon. That demonstrates the way that they go about doing business, because those are their mates down in South Australia and they must stick together.

Regardless of the fact that it is a low-grade copper mine, the Premier of South Australia was escorted to Japan in an endeavour to secure contracts. At the same time, we are buying Nabarlek yellowcake for \$36m. The opposition talks repeatedly about appropriation of money, but money has not been appropriated through any legislative process to buy Queensland yellowcake to be stockpiled so that it cannot be sold to France. That has not affected French activity at Mururoa Atoll.

Is it any wonder that we are in financial strife in Australia? It is a miracle that a fire sale has not been held and everything sold to Vanuatu! I think \$10m was donated for an airport at Vanuatu in a deal to stop it buying Australia. They must be laughing. Australia is in a mess because of the policies of the federal Labor government which do not allow the development of areas like Jabiluka. There is too much government. The same situation applies to Koongarra. Some \$80m has been spent on Koongarra. Development capital is estimated at about \$100m, and development and construction would provide over 500 jobs.

Recently, I was at an EPAC meeting and I had the opportunity to sit beside Mr Coates and Mr Kellman from CSR and AMP and we started to discuss what is wrong with Australia. They both said that, with the exception of the Northern Territory with its \$398m gas pipeline, there were no \$500m projects in Australia any more. That is what is wrong with Australia. The Territory has projects of that magnitude waiting to proceed, but the federal Labor government is supported by the Northern Territory Labor Party which has argued here, by way of interjection, the merits of not going ahead with that kind of development and has advocated that it should not proceed. Is it any wonder that Australia is in the trouble that it is in?

General Purpose Capital Funds

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

In this financial year, the NT government made a payment of \$20m to assist the Yulara project. Since such a payment will not be required in 1986-87, will funds to the extent of \$20m be available to the NT government in 1986-87 to assist with the shortfall of \$40m in general purpose capital funds?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will take the opportunity to answer this question in several ways.

Mr B. Collins: None of them will address the question.

Mr SPEAKER: For the last time, I request the Leader of the Opposition to cease his interjections. I am prepared to be tolerant with all members, but a running commentary is not acceptable.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition said in the Assembly that he had Treasury figures which showed that the government had lost \$60m. I will quote him to make sure that that is right: 'It is interesting because the same government advocates guarantees, horrendous deals, and the Chief Minister knows they are, into which we are locked and which will cost us a cool \$60m in just 2 budgets. They are Treasury figures, not ones that we have made up in our heads'. I would like the Leader of the Opposition to table those because I went away perplexed about the \$60m figure.

Mr B. Collins: I always try to do that.

Mr COULTER: All right, and that would include the purchase of assets at Yulara which, I would suggest, represents the \$20m mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the \$19.4m, or the Yulara contributions that were made. If all those things are added together with some other bits and pieces of figures which were given to the Leader of the Opposition in a briefing, a figure of \$60m might emerge.

As the newly-appointed Treasurer, I believe I should have the right to try to answer these charges from the opposition about financial mismanagement, the suggestion that amounts of \$60m and \$20m have been lost. I ask for the Assembly to bear with me whilst I answer these charges. The members of the opposition continually knock the efforts of the Northern Territory government, but I hope they will have the patience to hear me out because I shall not only say it once, I shall say it to them again and again. The Leader of the Opposition has demonstrated his destructively negative attitude to the development of the Northern Territory, and now he is closely supported by his deputy leader.

From comments that both of them have made on matters of financial management it is quite clear to me that either both the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have pathetic financial acumen or they are engaging deliberately in a scare-tactic campaign in which truth or reason has no part to play. More than likely, their outbursts are a combination of all these things. The ineptitude of the opposition's reasoning was amply evidenced in this Assembly last Wednesday when the Leader of the Opposition had the incredible gall to suggest that, through various horrendous deals, this government had lost some \$60m in direct public money. What a load of utter and demonstrable rubbish! As a result of that, I went away and wrote this down.

Mr Speaker, I seek the indulgence of the Assembly whilst I read this, and I expect to receive it. I do not know how many times ...

Mr SMITH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! I asked a specific question concerning 1-off payments to Yulara, and the effects that those payments would have on this year's capital works program. The Treasurer's answer has no

relevance whatsoever. Moreover, it is a written answer to questions that have not been asked.

Mr SPEAKER: I would suggest that the honourable minister confine his answer strictly to the question.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, the question has come from the opposition. Now it concerns \$20m; last Wednesday, \$60m was mentioned. I do not know what it will be tomorrow. The opposition continually knocks the projects which this government has developed and put money into to ensure that jobs are provided, that development occurs, that we seed an industry through investment loans, and support etc, well in advance of the market in order to develop the market. It was evident that Yulara could not support the normal town infrastructure such as roads, police station and so on. The money was set aside to purchase assets at Yulara to ensure the development of that project.

Mr B. Collins: What assets?

Mr COULTER: What assets? This is one of the world's greatest tourist attractions and the member asks what assets? Those are the assets.

Mr B. Collins: You do not know.

Mr COULTER: Yes I do, and you have been briefed on it too, so you know.

Mr B. Collins: Tell us.

Mr COULTER: I would like to have the opportunity, but a point of order was called because the opposition would not face the truth on these matters. I shall have the opportunity because I am sure the press want to know the story. I have the answers here! I am sure that, if members of the opposition can read, they will see answers in tonight's paper about the \$60m that has been lost, and the \$20m that has gone into the Yulara development. In future, there will be other equally exciting and challenging projects that this government will put money into. The \$40m for capital works, which has been taken from us by the federal government, will not be affected by the \$20m that has gone into Yulara. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would like a briefing on the issue from Treasury officers, or on any other matters where money has been put aside for developments, then I am quite prepared to provide that to him.

Export Earnings from Uranium Mines

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of Australia's alarming balance of trade deficit, what estimated potential export earnings from the Jabiluka and Koongarra uranium mines are being blocked by ALP policy at this time?

ANSWER

I will answer that question in another way. Consultations about Coronation Hill provide a good example of where a company is trying to get on and develop the Northern Territory. Indeed, the gold manager from BHP will be seeing me when he gets off the plane this afternoon. The amount of wealth locked up at Jabiluka is estimated to be around \$15 000m. The wealth in the Kakadu National Park Stage 3 area is estimated at some \$38 000m, and we believe that in fact it is more than that. We are talking about the most

prospective area in the world today. Kakadu Stages 1, 2 and 3, and other areas throughout Arnhem Land, contain some of the world's richest mineral deposits. They are locked up, while markets are taken from us by Canada and other countries, because of federal government policies. It is very hard to estimate, but I suspect that the total value of minerals in that area is probably in the vicinity of \$60 000m. We are trying to pull Australia out of its present poor position in terms of its balance of payments deficit, but ALP policies have restricted us from developing. Our forefathers would roll over in their graves.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The minister has now had 1 week in which to acquaint himself fully with my question, which he could not answer last week. I ask it again. Is he now aware that the Valuer-General's acquisition value of \$600 000 for the Humbert River Station pastoral lease was leaked to the owners of that property during confidential negotiations with the Northern Territory government, which was then seeking to acquire the entire property? If so, was an investigation launched into the leaking of this extremely valuable, commercially confidential information, and what were the terms of reference for such an inquiry? In particular, did the inquiry investigate whether the leaking of that information forced the price to the government for a portion of that property to rise substantially?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I told the Leader of the Opposition last week that I was not aware of any leaked documents being given to the owners of the Humbert River Station during the sale. However, I understand that over a period of 2 years of negotiations, one would obtain a fair idea of the value of the property. In answering another question last week, the Chief Minister told the Leader of the Opposition that the property was worth some \$750 000. That was the amount the owners were asking for. I was under the impression that I had answered the question adequately as far as the Leader of the Opposition was concerned, and that the Chief Minister provided the information that he wanted, in answers to subsequent questions.

Uranium Mining

Mr PERRON to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

With regard to the concern expressed by the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources about environmental threats posed by uranium mining in the Northern Territory, what would have been the cost of environmental rehabilitation by ERA at the Ranger site had that mine closed down on 30 June last year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have a very short answer to that question. Had the Ranger Uranium Mine been forced to close on 30 June 1985 ...

Mr B. Collins: It was not.

Mr MCCARTHY: It very well might have been, and it might well be closed down in the future if we are not careful, with people like the chairperson of

the Senate committee making statements like that one. The cost to Ranger at that time would have been in the order of \$38m. Of course, the company would not have had the benefit of future production to cover that cost, and I have no doubt that the Australian taxpayer would have been forced to pay for part of it.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As a former Minister for Lands, can he confirm that, in assessing a valuation for acquisition purposes, the Valuer-General considers heads of compensation under the Acquisition Act, which are over and above the market value of a property and, if so, was this done in the valuation of the Humbert River Station?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I must make 2 points. I am not aware that the Valuer-General is required to take that into account but, in this particular case, it does not appear that the Valuer-General did that. It may assist members if I quote from what the Valuer-General said in the valuation provided in May 1986. The valuation is dated 31 May 1985.

This letter confirms the verbal advice given to Mr Ward on 31 May 1985. As requested, the Humbert River Station valuations are as follows:

Parcel: area in square kilometres and market value, bare:

1. Humbert River, 5630 km² - \$60 000.
2. New Humbert River homestead area, 630 km² - \$285 000.
3. New Humbert River and old Humbert River homestead areas, 1008 km² - \$440 000.
4. As per 3. That is, the new Humbert River and old Humbert River homestead areas plus additional area, making a total of 1096 km² - \$450 000.
5. Western portion of Humbert River, hills area, 4534 km² - \$150 000.

Please note that the valuations are estimates only, particularly as the western portion of Humbert River Station has not been inspected and land areas have not been surveyed. To date, the valuations are all as at 31 May 1985.

That was a direct quotation from the Valuer-General's letter to the Lands Department. In the terms of that letter, the valuation is based on an estimated value, without inspection of the saleable value of the property. I confirm what the Minister for Lands has said, namely that the owners of the property had regularly disputed the price of that land, and had quoted reports they had received from potential sale agents saying that, if they were prepared to wait, they could achieve \$750 000 for the property. That did not take into account certain losses. They made claims to us for losses of some \$125 000 early in 1985 and a further \$45 000 if delays extended to 1 July 1985. In fact, the sale was not finalised until September 1985. I do not believe that the valuation of \$150 000 took those matters into account.

Aboriginal Royalties from Uranium Mining

Mr TUXWORTH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the concern expressed by the Chairperson of the Senate Standing Committee on Natural Resources about the effect of uranium mining on Aboriginals in the Northern Territory, can he supply details of the amount of royalties paid to Aboriginal people as a result of the operations at Ranger and Nabarlek?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we all remember the honourable senator quite well. The independence of the chairperson was immediately brought into question when she stepped onto Northern Territory soil and said it was her personal opinion that the mine should be closed down.

The royalties paid to Aboriginal organisations and trust funds have been quite substantial. The Turner Report, which was tabled in the Assembly yesterday, referred to revenues to Aboriginal communities from mining and other industries. This government supports that type of approach to ensure that Aboriginal people benefit from the wealth generated by that industry. In particular, we are pleased to be engaged in negotiations with the Gagadju Association which is responsible for part of the royalties paid to Aboriginal people and, in particular, the motel development. I am not suggesting that Aboriginal communities should not receive these royalties.

Some \$47m has been paid in royalties by ERA to the Commonwealth and distributed to the Aboriginal Benefits Trust Account for the period to December 1985. 30% of this was passed to the Gagadju Association for disbursement to traditional owners. It is estimated that future royalty payments to the ABTA will be in the range of \$12m to \$15m per annum over the life of the mine.

Humbert River Station

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

The proprietors of Humbert River Station were confident of achieving a sale price of \$750 000 for the property which accounted apparently for the fact that the government's payment for a small portion exceeded the Valuer-General's valuation by over 100%. Did the government formally offer in March 1985, not in 1983 as the government keeps stating, \$500 000 for the entire property and was that offer accepted in writing later in the same month by the owners of Humbert River Station? Was that formal written advice sent both to the minister himself and the Department of Lands?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we answered this question last week. The answer is yes. To settle this matter once and for all for the Leader of the Opposition, I am prepared to give an outline of the history of this particular event and hopefully it will sink into his thick head.

As the Leader of the Opposition was informed the other day by the Minister for Lands and myself, the suggestion that Humbert River be incorporated into Gregory National Park has been around since at least 1983. At that stage, the proposition was that the government should buy the whole of Humbert River

Station. The owners, Rural Improvements Pty Ltd, a division of Consolidated Press Holdings which also owns Newcastle Waters Station, held on to the property for almost 3 years, pending resolution, without restocking it. It is useful to note that Rural Improvements Pty Ltd bought Humbert River in 1982 for \$1.2m. After a Cabinet decision in mid-1984 reconfirming the decision to incorporate Humbert River into the Gregory National Park, the Valuer-General provided the government with a valuation of \$600 000 stock free or \$670 000 on a walk-in walk-out basis. The Leader of the Opposition made noises last week about this being a completely confidential piece of information. As a dealer in stolen documents, he is hardly in a position to pass judgment.

There followed a lengthy period of negotiations which led to an official government offer of \$500 000 in March 1985. Last week, I outlined the basis on which the \$500 000 offer was made. That differed from the offer of \$600 000 in that it was a negotiating position adopted by the then Minister for Lands to give him room to move to the Valuer-General's valuation if need be. We were not involved in an acquisition process at that stage, but negotiating a purchase.

As the Leader of the Opposition informed us from the stolen papers that he has in his possession, the owners accepted this offer in March 1985. What he chose not to mention - or did not know of because the file thief was selective - was the accompanying correspondence of the same date. In addition to the \$500 000, this correspondence detailed a compensation claim of \$125 000 to offset losses incurred through holding the property for 2 years. That letter from the General Manager of Newcastle Waters Station, Mr Ken Warriner, also detailed the valuations put on the property that I referred to last week. Mr Warriner explained that he had received inquiries over the preceding 2 years and that agents informed him on 2 separate occasions that they could expect \$750 000 for Humbert River Station if there was no hurry to sell. Mr Warriner stated it would cost the owners another \$45 000 to continue to hold the property until 1 July 1985.

About this time, the government decided it was not necessary that the whole of Humbert River Station be bought for the creation of Gregory National Park and that the eastern section of the station, containing the best cattle country, would best be retained by the pastoral industry. Therefore, negotiations began with the owners to subdivide Humbert River Station, the eastern one-fifth to be retained and the remaining four-fifths purchased by the government for incorporation into Gregory Park. This is where the \$150 000 valuation came in. The Valuer-General was asked for an assessment.

On 31 May 1985, the Valuer-General stated that the eastern one-fifth was estimated to be worth \$450 000. This left the value of the area the government wanted to acquire at \$150 000. However, the Valuer-General asked that it be noted that the valuations were estimates only, particularly as the western portion of Humbert River Station had not been inspected or surveyed.

By this stage, the matter had been under way for about 2 years. In late June, there was a meeting between the former Chief Minister, Mr Warriner and myself. At this meeting, we discussed not only the valuation of the section of Humbert River that the government was to acquire, but also the extent of compensation the government should pay to the owners for losses incurred in holding the property for us, especially in view of the use they could have made of it. As I explained last week, Newcastle Waters was experiencing a drought and had to turn off significant numbers of cattle. Had the owners been operating both properties as part of their land, they would have been able to move many of the Newcastle Waters cattle onto Humbert River Station to

lessen the consequences of accelerated destocking necessitated by the drought.

Several weeks later, on 17 June, I signed a letter addressed to Mr Warriner, making the offer of \$150 000 for that portion of Humbert River Station required for the Gregory park. That letter did not address the issue of the unresolved compensation payment for costs incurred. Needless to say, Mr Warriner then contacted me, seeking to tie up both matters at once, and we concluded a settlement, covering purchase plus compensation, of \$310 000. I appended a notation to the departmental memo relating to the 17 June letter referring to a net payment of \$310 000. There is another copy of that memo on the same file which does not carry the notation, and it would not surprise me if that is the one amongst the stolen papers which the Leader of the Opposition has.

Mr B. Collins: This is a re-run of the Westpac story. You fixed it up over lunch, did you?

Mr HATTON: Let me summarise. For an outlay of \$310 000, the government has bought an area of more than 4000 km² of land which is to be kept intact for future generations as part of a national park. The money outlaid was about half the amount that the owners were asking for the whole property of just over 5000 km². Therefore, not only has there been a saving on the acquisition costs for the Gregory National Park, but the commercially productive part of the old Humbert River property is now being utilised again.

I have with me a Department of Lands development report concerning improvements made on the Humbert River pastoral lease since final settlement of the matter in January this year. This report is dated 11 June. That was last Wednesday. It states that 17.7 km of new internal fencing and 6 km of new boundary fencing have been erected while a further 18 km of cleared line has been bulldozed and pegged in preparation for fencing. The report says that the lessees are currently running 10 000 head of cattle behind wire. The pastoral officers who carried out the inspection of Humbert River Station commented that all improvements being erected and renovated were of a very high standard and design, and a credit to the lessees.

The government is happy that it has arrived at the best solution in relation to Humbert River. It is a solution that might not please the Leader of the Opposition or the individual who has set him up by letting him peek at selective stolen documents. It is a solution that resolved a situation that had been dragging on for some years. It reduced the government's total Gregory park acquisition costs, added a significant area to the Gregory National Park and put valuable pastoral land back into production.

A few minutes ago, the Leader of the Opposition made an interjection concerning the Westpac arrangements. I totally repudiate any suggestion of impropriety in these dealings. I said last week and I say now that a level of compensation was negotiated with the Humbert River proprietors. It was compensation of some \$160 000 and took into account the fact that the owners of that property destocked it and left it fallow at the request of the Northern Territory government. They did not have to do that. They had every right to restock the property and operate it, which would have forced us to buy it as a fully-stocked property. They accommodated us. They kept a man on that property and paid him wages to do basic maintenance work, and they incurred additional losses at Newcastle Waters as a consequence of not taking advantage of good pastures at Humbert River during last year's drought. I believe that the compensation received by the owners of Humbert River Station

was, in fact, less than the costs which they incurred. The approach we adopted in negotiating a package arrangement reduced the potential cost if the matter had been referred to a tribunal.

Mr HANRAHAN (Leader of Government Business): Mr Speaker, I ask that further questions be placed on the question paper.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Mr B. COLLINS (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, I move that so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent my asking the Chief Minister an additional question about Humbert River Station.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes	Noes
Mr Bell	Mr D.W. Collins
Mr B. Collins	Mr Coulter
Mr Ede	Mr Dale
Mr Leo	Mr Dondas
Mr Smith	Mr Finch
	Mr Firmin
	Mr Hanrahan
	Mr Harris
	Mr Hatton
	Mr McCarthy
	Mr Manzie
	Mrs Padgham-Purich
	Mr Palmer
	Mr Perron
	Mr Poole
	Mr Setter
	Mr Tuxworth
	Mr Vale

Motion negatived.

Tennant Creek Airport

Mr TUXWORTH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following comments made recently by the federal Minister for Aviation, has the federal minister indicated whether funds will be available to upgrade the airstrip in Tennant Creek and are those funds likely to be forthcoming in the future? Will the ALOP proposal for the operation of the Tennant Creek Airport go ahead and does the government have any news from the federal minister on whether he proposes to restrict the F28 operations in and out of Tennant Creek as a result of the federal government's failure to provide funds for its upgrading?

ANSWER

The Minister for Aviation, Hon Peter Morris, has not approved an upgrading of the Tennant Creek Airport to the F28 aircraft standard which was estimated to cost \$4.7m. At this time, the federal minister is prepared to reinstate certain parts of the surface in order to maintain an operation but he has not given us any indications as to what will happen to the local ownership plan for the Tennant Creek Airport. In fact, the federal minister has been very quiet in regard to any airport development in the Northern Territory, including Alice Springs and Darwin.

Officers of the Department of Transport and Works are actively pursuing the question of the upgrading of the Tennant Creek Airport and I will inform members when there are further developments.

Casinos

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

In its consideration of the altered economic options available to the Northern Territory in formulating the August budget, is the government considering a renegotiation of the Darwin and Alice Springs casino arrangements to ensure that gaming tax levels are restored to the level paid by the operators of Federal Pacific Hotels and which are currently costing at least \$4m a year in lost revenue? According to the last information given to the opposition in an official briefing, the Alice Springs casino was on the market, but no buyers were forthcoming. Is the Alice Springs casino still for sale?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has entered into negotiations with a range of people who are interested in renegotiating the sales of the casinos both in Alice Springs and Darwin. These negotiations are at a very delicate stage and I do not intend to release any details other than to say that they will continue and I will inform honourable members of their success or otherwise.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr FIRMIN to CHIEF MINISTER

An article in the NT News on 14 June 1986 quoted a statement by Senator Robertson in which he said: 'I discuss the Territory's problems with Mr Keating and Mr Walsh and I raise them consistently at caucus and committee

meetings. Unfortunately, my view was not supported and I will not make a big fellow of myself by standing apart from the party and crying about it. I am bound by convention to support the democratic vote of the party and, in doing so, I am fulfilling the duties of my office'. Did the Chief Minister have any discussions with the Prime Minister or Treasurer whilst attending the Premiers Conference with reference to the comments made by Senator Robertson in raising these important Northern Territory issues with his colleagues and putting a case for the remote persons in the Northern Territory who will have to pay the fringe benefits tax?

ANSWER

I found those comments by Senator Ted Robertson quite amazing given that he holds the position of party Whip and, one presumes, carries out that function from time to time when he can stay awake. If the senator is telling the community the truth, it demonstrates the absolutely ineffectual nature of his representation of the Northern Territory within the ALP. At the Premiers Conference last week, a number of Premiers and myself raised the issue of the fringe benefits tax with the Treasurer and the Prime Minister. That included Premier Bannon from South Australia, Premier Wran from New South Wales and Premier Burke from Western Australia. Mr Speaker, you will note they are all Labor Premiers.

Those Premiers were not happy to sit there and toe the party line. They stood up and argued their case about the fringe benefits tax, as I did on behalf of the Northern Territory. All of us argued strenuously that the fringe benefits tax would impose extreme disadvantages on people in rural Australia, quite apart from the fundamental inequity of a tax on employers at the very time when the federal government was trying to stimulate private investment to overcome our economic ills. The logic of its approach completely escapes me.

I put a few fundamental points to the Prime Minister and the Treasurer such as the fact that some of the benefits that we provide to a number of our public servants in the Northern Territory are benefits we are required to pay to compulsory transferees as a consequence of provisions in the Northern Territory (Self-government) Act. I asked the Prime Minister and Treasurer whether, if they believe these are no longer necessary, they are prepared to amend the act to enable us to do something about it. I did not receive a response.

I also raised the problems of providing nurses, policemen, teachers and health workers in remote areas of the Northern Territory. I pointed out the inequitable costs that will be imposed on our pastoral and mining industries through this tax because employers are required to pay these benefits under awards. In many cases, these stem from arbitrated conditions in awards. The employer might have argued against a benefit but the Arbitration Commission held that it should be paid. Despite the legal obligation on those employers, the Commonwealth government has now chosen to tax them.

When these matters were put clearly to the Prime Minister and Treasurer, they indicated that they had not anticipated the effect on people in the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia, northern South Australia and western New South Wales. They were thinking of the problems in the cities where employers have been reducing labour costs and avoiding tax through the provision of fringe benefits. We are trying to provide basic services for people in very remote parts of Australia. The Treasurer and the Prime Minister both agreed that they would review the matter and have asked us to provide a detailed submission to them to enable them to carry out that review.

I understand that submission has been now forwarded to the federal government for its consideration. We will follow that up as a matter of urgency. I must say, though, that this does not overcome the fundamental problem of the inequity of the tax. It does not address quite serious problems that exist in the major centres in the Northern Territory, but it may at least ameliorate some of the extremely discriminatory effects of this fringe benefits tax. We were able to get that undertaking after a very tough Premiers Conference, which led me to speculate whether Senator Robertson had even mentioned the matter in the party room. Certainly, I received the impression that the Prime Minister and Treasurer were not aware of these effects. If the senator had mentioned it, he must have been very ineffectual in putting the Northern Territory's case. I really think the Australian Labor Party should think carefully about the preselection of its Senate candidates here so that, if one is elected, it will be a person who will actually put the case for the Northern Territory. It should be somebody who is prepared to stand up publicly and speak on behalf of the people of the Territory, whether or not that is in contravention of party rules.

Alice Springs Airport

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Recent media reports have suggested that it would cost something like \$40m to upgrade the Alice Springs Airport for transfer to local ownership, and that the federal government gave that as an excuse for doing nothing. Is the estimate of \$40m correct?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can make this answer pretty brief. I know that the estimate of \$40m is wrong. Officers of the Department of Transport and Works have estimated the cost of work at about \$30m. However, until such time as we can sit down with the federal Minister for Transport and Aviation to work out the final development proposals for our airports, we will not get very far.

Casinos

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

I thank the Chief Minister for his gratuitous advice on preselection for the Senate. We will have a look around Brisbane to see if we can find a candidate to match the CLP's. My question is to the Treasurer who, if he continues to sit in front of the member for Fannie Bay, may well need that flak jacket before the day is out. The Treasurer's answer to my previous question appeared to confirm the information that we have had for some time, that Pratts are indeed about to withdraw from the operations of the Darwin Casino. Given that he has just told this Assembly that both the Darwin and Alice Springs casinos are subject to sales negotiations which have reached a delicate stage, can he advise whether the government is endeavouring to include in the purchase agreement the reimposition of a gaming tax?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I want to make it clear at the outset that a gaming tax operates at the casinos. I have said already that I do not intend to conduct the negotiations which are proceeding regarding arrangements with the casinos through the media. I am prepared to discuss these negotiations only in the boardrooms of the people who are interested in renegotiating the casino

arrangements, and in the Chan building. I shall conduct those negotiations in the manner in which they should be conducted. That is as much as I intend to say at this stage. I will make an announcement on the financial arrangements with regard to the 2 casinos in the near future.

Darwin Airport

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand the federal Minister for Aviation has proposed some interim works to be carried out on the obsolete hangar at Darwin Airport known gratuitously as the terminal building. What works are involved and does the proposal imply an indefinite delay in completion of the new terminal building?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand the federal Minister for Aviation, Peter Morris, has made arrangements to allow some work to take place to upgrade Darwin Airport. Over the next 6 months work will be undertaken on the general aviation area and will include: provision of 2 baggage belts to serve domestic airline baggage delivery; extension of the terminal roof over the new domestic baggage area; repairs to the leaking terminal roof; modifications to the international arrivals hall, including provision of an endless baggage belt; upgrading of the power supply; improvements to air-conditioning in the upstairs bar area; and modification to the terminal car park and exit road. The power supply to the general aviation area will be upgraded.

I understand those works will cost almost \$2m. Of course, we fear that this is just bandaids, cosmetic surgery and we do not want that. We have waited nearly a year for the federal minister to provide information to the people of the Northern Territory about relocation of the new airport facilities. Very little work is proposed in terms of public facilities but I suppose Peter Morris, sitting in Canberra, thinks that a couple of million dollars will keep the guys in the northern part of the Territory quiet. It disturbed me that, when the federal Minister for Aviation was in the Northern Territory, he refused to give any minister of the Northern Territory government even 5 minutes of his time to discuss not only upgrading of the airport, but other matters related to his portfolio.

On the funny side, when he was here, there was a general demonstration outside the Beaufort Hotel. The Leader of the Opposition was standing there with a few other members of the opposition, and Mr Morris walked through and said: 'Rent-a-crowd'.

Exploratory Drilling in Darwin Water Catchment Area

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Which mining company is carrying out exploratory drilling for lead and zinc in the Darwin water catchment area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure whether that question should have been directed to me. I will endeavour to obtain the information from the relevant department. However, I think the question should be directed to the Minister for Mines and Energy.

Mr BELL: Mr Speaker, I redirect the question to the Minister for Mines and Energy.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there are a number of mining operations under way but the 'Darwin catchment area' is a fairly broad term to use in this regard. Perhaps the honourable member could identify the exploration licence or describe the area he is concerned about. The Darwin water catchment area extends over a large area. It includes Manton River Dam, and the Woodcutters operation, which involves lead, is in that vicinity. If the member could be more specific about the area concerned, I would be prepared to give him full details on the particular company that is of concern to him. If he has further information that could assist, I would be only too pleased to help him out. However, I stress again that the Darwin River catchment area covers a huge area of land which contains quite a number of exploration licences.

Teacher Assessment

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware how disruptive to schools the teacher assessment process is and, if so, is he prepared to consider less disruptive methods in the interest of our children's education?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the method of teacher assessment being used this year is new, and the aim of the current teacher assessment program is to streamline what was, in the past, a cumbersome and rather time-consuming process. Any modification of an existing procedure will draw a number of critics, usually because the modification goes outside the bounds of familiarity. The member for Sadadeen, being a former teacher, would obviously be aware of the problems associated with the previous system.

As of 3 June, 256 teachers were undergoing peer assessment. I believe it is important that emphasis be placed on the words 'peer assessment', since the principle of teachers evaluating other teachers remains the foundation of the process. It is only in exceptional circumstances, such as in remote communities, that assessment meetings are held during school time. In the vast majority of cases, these meetings take place outside school hours and, therefore, have very little effect, if any, on the schoolchildren. In recognition of the fact that the 1986 procedures are new, a full report has been commissioned and a review team is being established. It will comprise representatives from the Teachers Federation, the Department of Education and the community.

Mr Smith: It is about time.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Speaker, I cannot understand the honourable member's thought process. We have a new system in train. It would be rather premature to introduce a scheme one week and review it the next week. Obviously, he has different ideas on the way things should be done. If a new system is introduced, it must operate for a certain period of time before any proper assessment can be made. Where necessary, the review will recommend modifications to the procedures operating this year. Hopefully, we will be able to implement any recommendations at the start of 1987.

Darwin Airport

Mr PERRON to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he received any communications recently from the federal Minister for Aviation regarding the construction of the new Darwin Airport terminal, following that federal minister's announcement 14 months ago that the work on that terminal would be suspended for 6 months only?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not had any correspondence recently from the federal Minister for Aviation in relation to the Darwin Airport. On the Friday afternoon of the Queen's birthday long weekend, we received a vocadex letter from Hon Peter Morris concerning Alice Springs Airport. He pre-emptively advised us that he had instructed his department to cease negotiations on the local ownership plan for Alice Springs Airport. That was not all. We received a copy of that with a press release he had already forwarded to the media advising of that situation. He made a number of inaccurate statements in that release, not the least of which was an allegation that it would cost the Commonwealth government up to \$40m to do it.

I have written to both the Prime Minister and the federal Minister for Transport and Aviation seeking to reopen discussions on this airport. I wish to correct this anomaly because, when these sorts of figures are floated around, they tend to be regarded as gospel truth. The anticipated total cost of upgrading under the local ownership plan for Alice Springs Airport was estimated at about \$30m, of which the Northern Territory government would be committed, through a cost-sharing arrangement, to provide about \$10m. The cost to the Commonwealth, all up, would be about \$20m. However, the cost anticipated during this coming financial year would have been in respect of design and construction and would have been about \$1m. It is hardly a major cost-saving exercise on the part of the Commonwealth considering 4 years negotiations had almost reached conclusion in respect of local ownership of the Alice Springs Airport.

There is a desperate need to upgrade the airport in Alice Springs, both for safety reasons and to alleviate congestion. As an Alice Springs resident, Mr Speaker, you are only too aware of the incredible congestion that occurs at Alice Springs Airport. This year alone, flights into Alice Springs have increased by 20%. On a number of occasions when I have been in Alice Springs, I have seen up to 5 jets sitting on the tarmac at the airport there. That is not an unusual occurrence at Alice Springs Airport and it creates incredible congestion at that airport. It is unreasonable to cut off pre-emptively negotiations that could provide an avenue whereby we could provide decent airport facilities in Alice Springs, which is a major tourist centre for Australia.

Mr Speaker, I can advise the honourable member that I have received a letter from Hon Lionel Bowen, the acting Prime Minister, on the matter of Darwin Airport. The story of the redevelopment of that airport is a sorry one indeed. On 4 April 1985, the federal government deferred further contracts on the redevelopment of Darwin Airport. Almost \$10m had been committed to expenditure on contract work on the northern side and a further \$10m in indirect costs had been incurred. After spending \$20m of taxpayers' money, the Commonwealth government decided that it needed to undertake a complete financial and economic reappraisal of the project even though it had gone through rigorous programs, Public Works Committee hearings, reviews and had

been the subject of public comment for some years. The final decision was taken by the Fraser government, reviewed by the Hawke government and then committed by the Hawke government. Six months after construction started, they stopped for yet another review.

This particular reappraisal was carried out and 3 development options were identified: the existing terminal building area; the north side site, which is the current partly-developed site; and, the RAAF bomber replenishment area on the south side. A report to the minister in November 1985 made recommendations for interim works on the existing terminal building for about \$1m pending completion of a new facility. The Northern Territory government was not given final cost estimates for each of the proposed sites and it is not known which will be selected. However, the RAAF, Department of Aviation and the Department of Housing and Construction seem to be in favour of the north side site - the site that is already partly developed.

My government has pressed at every opportunity for a decision on this matter and for an early resumption of work. The Territory's tourism strategy relies, to a great extent, on the building of an international standard terminal at the Darwin Airport. The government committed itself to support the development of the Sheraton, Beaufort and casino facilities in the belief that such a terminal would be provided. It is part of an overall strategy of the Northern Territory to break into the international tourist market.

A new terminal is absolutely necessary to support the rapidly expanding tourism initiatives of this government. I do not need to tell members of this Assembly how desperately deficient the current international facilities are at Darwin Airport. A single fully-loaded 747 plane can cause incredible delays. If there were 2 on the tarmac, passengers would be lined up across to the main strip waiting to pass through Customs. On 26 May 1986, the acting Prime Minister wrote to me concerning the redevelopment of the airport. Mr Bowen advised that the Commonwealth's appraisal of options for the development of new facilities at Darwin Airport had been completed and it was expected that consideration of the final report would be finalised shortly. We were promised an answer 8 months ago but the procrastination still continues.

This government is most anxious to see a sensible resolution at the earliest opportunity so that desperately needed work can be commenced. I advise honourable members that I have now responded to Mr Bowen's letter and have again pressed the Prime Minister for an early decision on the airport redevelopment. I have offered to meet with the Prime Minister at his convenience in an endeavour to have this matter finalised and work commenced on this essential project. I should point out that it is not only the Northern Territory that is suffering as a result of the present substandard facilities at Darwin Airport. The whole of Australia is being disadvantaged by the disgraceful first impression given to international travellers to Australia who choose to enter the country through what they are led to believe is an international gateway. Why the Commonwealth government allows this situation to continue is beyond my comprehension.

Federal Budget Deficit

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

On 12 June, the Treasurer was quoted in the Northern Territory News as saying that the federal budget deficit was expanding. As a result of the Premiers Conference, can the Treasurer inform this Assembly as to the expected federal deficit for 1985-1986 and whether it has grown or declined since 1984-85?

ANSWER

The Premier of Western Australia pointed out to the federal Treasurer that the federal government had a total budget of \$69 000m which represented a 19% increase. Whilst he expected all the states to take a dive, the federal budget had increased by 19%. The federal Treasurer explained that by saying that some \$350m was for TAA. The simple fact is that it has saved money and the deficit is declining. The main reason for that is that it has ripped \$400m off the states. He said also that its budget would be cut by \$1000m. However, there is a bit of confusion there because Senator Button said in the Senate that it would be \$1500m and Mr Hawke has confirmed that. They are now running around trying to find out where to make the additional savings. There is total confusion between the Senate and the House of Representatives on that. I guess they will get their act together soon and we will have some real figures.

Kava Consumption in Arnhem Land

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the many concerns expressed to me by a number of people regarding the effects of the now widespread consumption of kava in Arnhem Land, has the government undertaken any research aimed at identifying the problems associated with it which are alleged to include: detrimental effects on health, direct and indirect; breakdown in the social structure of communities; absenteeism from work and school; and an increase in criminal offences, particularly break and enters and the stealing of motor vehicles? If this is the case, what plans are in place to arrest these problems?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the situation in relation to kava use, especially by Arnhem Land Aboriginals, has changed significantly over the past few years. Some members of this Assembly are seeking briefings which will be provided by officers of the department. The quantity of kava being consumed, its cost and associated socio-economic problems are escalating. The Department of Health has been monitoring the situation for some time and reporting on the situation in an accurate and non-alarmist fashion. It is well known that sensationalist media reporting in relation to issues such as this can only exacerbate the problems. We are trying to look at the issue responsibly and address the very serious problems that have arisen.

The Drug and Alcohol Bureau has been carrying out research into the use of drugs throughout the Northern Territory. A survey has been carried out in the southern region and a further survey will be undertaken in the Arnhem Land region during July and August. I hope to have an interim report in September and a full report in December. The survey will concentrate on communities where kava consumption is a problem. The detailed information that we will be gathering will relate to the amount of kava that is being consumed, the cost and the method and origin of supply. We will be requesting the communities to play a very important role in this whole exercise. Not only the Aboriginal people, but also the teachers, health workers and nurses will be asked to comment. It is planned that, after each community is surveyed, any problems identified in that community will receive immediate and appropriate action as requested by the community. There is no doubt that the increased consumption of kava is having very serious effects. There is no doubt that attitudes to work are being affected. It is affecting the schools and the education of children.

There are a number of problems which cut across portfolios. The Department of Health is responsible for the coordination of the whole exercise in relation to kava. I was delighted to hear of a community which recently became so concerned with the lack of work being done, that it restricted the amount of kava being consumed. That shows that people are most concerned and are taking positive action. There have been no investigations to date into the long-term health effects of kava, but I am very pleased to report that I had breakfast this morning with Dr Blewett, the federal Minister for Health, and he made favourable comment on the possibility of the federal government providing funds to assist in research work on the effects of kava through the Menzies School of Health Research. I might say that, unfortunately, I did not have so much luck in relation to the fringe benefits tax when I raised that with Dr Blewett. I will be following up the matter of funding for kava research through the Menzies School of Health Research, and I hope that the Leader of the Opposition will also do so if he has an opportunity to meet with Dr Blewett. As more information becomes available, I will provide the Assembly with further briefings.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr PALMER to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What impact is the fringe benefits tax likely to have on the research and development functions of his department?

ANSWER

Very briefly, Mr Speaker, the likely impact will be a downgrading of research facilities. The tax will have a very real impact on people living in remote areas and their capacity for car travel. If money has to be set aside to pay tax on housing, for instance, in remote areas like Kidman Springs and Tortilla, this will mean that funds have to be redirected from programs such as research. In many areas where research is carried out, officers use departmental vehicles and garage them at home. That, too, is subject to the fringe benefits tax. Consequently, there is likely to be a very real effect on the research capability of the Department of Primary Production. For that reason, I hope that we will get the support of opposition members to ensure that the federal government backs off.

Aboriginal Drinking Facilities in Alice Springs

Mr EDE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns the first stage of development of the proposed Aboriginal drinking facilities in Alice Springs, and the proposal that ADC and DAA will provide a total of \$63 000 if the Northern Territory government assists to the tune of \$10 000 before the end of June. Is it true that, in spite of the broad community support this project has received in Alice Springs and in the Turner Report, the minister has reneged on promises made by the former Chief Minister, Paul Everingham, and refused to put up his department's share, thereby putting the whole project in jeopardy? Can he attempt to justify that decision?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am in possession of a proposition calling for the Northern Territory government to contribute some \$10 000 to an assessment of the feasibility of liquor outlets and clubs and a number of matters related to the

Tangentyere Council in Alice Springs. I have not rejected that application, nor have I acceded to it.

Fringe Benefits Tax

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

On at least 2 occasions, either he or the Chief Minister has told this Assembly that the federal government has agreed to review some aspects of the fringe benefits tax in the Northern Territory. Could the Treasurer provide this Assembly with more information on the nature of the intended review and the timetable that the federal government intends to follow?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the discussions which have taken place so far on the review of the fringe benefits tax and its impact on the Northern Territory occurred over a lunch table. The Chief Minister and myself were invited to sit down with the Prime Minister and the Treasurer and, as a result of that lunch time meeting, a number of issues were raised. In particular, I was asked by the Treasurer if I was sure that the \$16m figure that I was using was correct. As you would remember, the federal Treasurer's spokesman said it would be \$5m. I said that \$16m was correct, and that it had been confirmed by his Taxation Office. As a result, he said that he would be prepared to have another look at the figures, and their impact on the Northern Territory.

In the Cabinet room, the Chief Minister brought the matter to the attention of the Treasurer again. A motion had been put on the agenda by the Premiers of Western Australia and New South Wales and the Chief Minister mentioned to the Treasurer, in a more official capacity across the conference table, that a number of terms of employment were imposed on the Northern Territory under the Self-Government Act which were now to become subject to the fringe benefits tax. As a result of that, and ensuing discussions concerning remote areas in both Western Australia and the Northern Territory, a very strong case was put up by the Western Australian government and the Chief Minister to the effect that people like the policemen at Borroloola or Derby are not fat cats. They are people who are called to break up drunken brawls at 3 o'clock in the morning, receive \$20 000 a year, and drive home-garaged Landcruisers so they can travel out to accidents in the middle of the night. In many cases, such people live in demountables.

I can assure members that, if words are important, we received an undertaking from the Treasurer and the Prime Minister that they would consider these remote areas. There were no terms of reference. We were simply asked to put a submission together and to forward that to the Treasurer. That submission has been compiled and will be forwarded in the very near future. We must now await his response. If the member for Nhulunbuy or any other opposition member would like to view that submission, I am quite prepared to make it available to them on a confidential basis.

Traffic Lights at Stott Terrace Intersection

Mr POOLE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What progress has been made on the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Stott Terrace and Todd Street in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I took note during the member's maiden speech last night of the concerns of Alice Springs residents in regard to the installation of traffic lights at that location. For the benefit of Centralian members, I have obtained a full, up-to-date briefing from the department, which will help them to advise the people of Alice Springs about progress on that project.

A 6-week contract to install traffic signals has been let to Aldridge Traffic Systems of Melbourne for \$49 025. Local subcontractors are being utilised to expedite the work. The contractor has submitted proposals and obtained approval for its installation proposal. The initial on-site works will involve trenching and installation of cable ducting across the 4 arms of the intersection. The work has been scheduled during low traffic periods and will be undertaken between midnight and 6 am commencing on 22 June and finishing on 26 June. Procurement of control and lighting equipment is proceeding to meet the commissioning date of 18 July.

Interim measures have been taken to emphasise the need for caution on approaching the intersection. The 'Give Way' signs in Todd Street have been replaced with 'Stop' signs. This was done with the concurrence of the Alice Springs Town Council. In addition, the word 'Stop' has been painted on the pavement on the 4 traffic lanes of Todd Street approaching the intersection, and the advance warning 'Stop Signs Ahead' has been installed before the intersection. The no parking areas on the Todd Street approaches have been extended away from the intersection by appropriate signing and line and kerb marking. The signs and markings will be maintained in good order until the lights become operational.

This contract was to have been let by 18 June but, because of the bad accident mentioned by the member for Araluen last night, the Treasurer issued a certificate of expediency to allow the early installation of the lights. Under normal circumstances, the work would have been finished by late September or early October. However, because of the accident, we were able to speed those processes up and, hopefully, work will be finished by the end of July.

Dismissal of Mr David Laugher

Mr BELL to DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the circumstances of the dismissal of Mr David Laugher from the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

No, I am not.

Gold Tax

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What has been the general thrust of the Northern Territory government's submission to the gold tax inquiry?

ANSWER

I had the opportunity yesterday to read some of the submissions from around Australia on the gold tax report. I must say that the submissions from companies to the federal government to have the gold tax removed have been quite good. I thank the honourable member for Koolpinyah for the question which is very topical and covers a very important sector of the Territory's economy, the health of which is of bipartisan interest to this Assembly.

In its submission, the Northern Territory government opposed unequivocally the additional tax as being detrimental to the Northern Territory economy as well as being damaging to the wider Australian economy. The Commonwealth will gain marginal revenue from the new tax but this in itself does not demonstrate economic benefit to the Australian economy in real terms. In contrast, the Northern Territory submission demonstrates the damage this tax will cause to the Territory's economy and its mining-oriented economic strategy. The Territory's regional activity centres, particularly the gold mining towns of Tennant Creek and Pine Creek, will be severely hit by the proposed tax and this will cause consequential damage to the much-vaunted national objective of northern development. This aspect has been further reinforced by the Dibb Report on defence and the need to pay more than lip service to the aim of northern development. The proposed tax would impact harshly and retrospectively on mines which are currently committing capital resources to development or which have done so recently. The tax would thus impose a burden on entrepreneurial initiative in the one sector of the mining industry which is showing potential for growth.

The Northern Territory policy objective that mining meet its own infrastructure costs in remote areas would also be undermined. The Commonwealth has imposed huge revenue losses on the Territory through delays and frustrations to the development of gold and uranium projects and the new tax is seen as a further iniquitous measure which will yield little revenue to the Commonwealth but impose a large loss of development potential on the Territory. The extent of this impact was confirmed recently by academic research which indicated that just one mine like Ranger provided 390 jobs directly on the mine and accounted for some 800 jobs in total in the Territory through flow-on effects.

Given the high prospectivity of the Alligator Rivers region for further gold and uranium discoveries, the economic loss imposed on the Territory by the Commonwealth denying access for exploration and development is incalculable. At the exploration level, it contrasts with the record annual expenditure level of around \$30m or 60% of funds available in the Territory for exploration. The submission points to the fact that the sum expended on Aboriginal land has been quoted as a paltry \$2000. The submission is extensive and detailed and I recommend it to the attention of honourable members as the issue is entirely bipartisan.

Some of the other points highlighted in the submission indicate that expenditure on gold exploration in the Territory, after rising rapidly to record levels, is likely to fall by almost \$5m a year, a 20% fall, if the tax is imposed. Capital investment in gold mining will fall if the tax is introduced. Gold production levels at 3 t in 1984, which are expected to reach 6 t in 1986, ranking the Northern Territory second only to Western Australia in terms of new output, will be given a severe downward kick by the tax. The loss in the Territory's gold production over the next 5 years or so could lead to reduced potential exports of some \$320m to \$340m at a time of dire need for Australia to generate more exports.

Employment in gold mining in the Territory, estimated to exceed 1600 including some 700 in direct employment, will be reduced significantly below its potential and expected growth without this extra tax burden. In summary, the Northern Territory submission points to the vital position that gold has had and continues to have in the Territory's development. It is the government's view that it would be far better to abort the proposed tax rather than abort the exciting developments in the pipeline for the gold mining industry in the Northern Territory.

Aboriginal drinking facilities, Alice Springs 24
Airport -
 Alice Springs 18
 Darwin 19, 21
 Tennant Creek 16
Casinos 16, 18
Darwin water catchment area, exploratory drilling 19
Federal budget deficit 22
Fringe benefits tax 4, 16, 24, 25
Gas pipeline to Alice Springs 2
General purpose capital funds 7
Gold tax 26
Humbert River Station 10, 11, 12
Kava consumption in Arnhem Land 23
Laugher, David, dismissal 26
Ranger Uranium Mine -
 economic effects 3
 effects of closure 10
 export income 5
Tasmanian Premier, statement 1
Teacher assessment 20
Traffic lights, Stott Terrace intersection 25
Uranium mines -
 Aboriginal royalties 12
 employment potential 6
 export earnings 9