

## PART II

### THE QUESTION PAPER

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

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

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

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 15 March 1983

Kargaru Bush Camp - Lease

795 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Will he grant a special purposes lease to the Kargaru bush camp, Tennant Creek, to enable the provision of adequate ablution facilities?
2. Was an application for a special purposes lease for the Kargaru bush camp lodged with his department in January 1982 and rejected by him in October 1982?
3. On what date did he inform the applicants of his decision to reject the application?

Apprentices

800 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that only 5 panelbeating firms in Darwin employ apprentices?
2. Do the Territory Insurance Office and other government authorities give preference to firms employing apprentices?
3. Are corporations such as Telecom encouraged to employ and apprentice local youths in their Northern Territory operations?

Aboriginal Land Claims

810 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that under the Aboriginal Land (Northern Territory) Act (a) water is a mineral, and (b) river banks and river beds can be claimed?

Timber Creek - Land Claim

811 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the township of Timber Creek is under land claim?
2. If the claim is successful, will the houses and improvements become the property of Aboriginals?

Northern Land Council - Legal Advisers

813 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he able to say how many legal advisers are employed by the Northern Land Council?

Railway Electrification

817 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of his predecessor's statement late 1982 about reticulating power from a gas-fired power station in Darwin to Daly Waters, and in view of the proposed gas-operated power station in Alice Springs, will consideration be given to electrifying the Darwin to Alice Springs railway?

Electricity - Outback Communities

820 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Accepting that consumers of electricity in major NT centres, including Aboriginal communities, are heavily subsidised, will the NT government consider extending this scheme to outback communities on cattle stations, tourist ventures and mining operations so that town rates are charged for power consumed, with a subsidy to cover the actual cost of power generation and maintenance?

From 22 March 1983

2 km Drinking Law - Advertising

830 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was (a) the cost of preparation and distribution, including postage, of the 2 leaflets, (b) the cost of the recent TV advertisements, and (c) the cost of recent newspaper advertisements regarding the 2 km drinking law?

Crushing Mill - Darwin Power Station

832 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will a crushing mill for converting lump coal into powder for use in the proposed coal-fired power station be constructed in Darwin?
2. If so, (a) where will it be constructed, and (b) what is the anticipated cost?

From 24 May 1983

Grants-in-Aid Scheme

837 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How much money under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme was given to community service organisations in 1981-82?

National Companies and Securities Scheme - Participation

855 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has a decision been made by the government to participate in the National Companies and Securities Scheme?

Electricity Subsidy

861 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Why do Territorians who have their electricity supplied by NTEC receive a handsome subsidy when (a) Territorians who have their electricity provided by the NT government pay nothing, and (b) Territorians living in remote areas on cattle stations, mining settlements and tourist camps pay full tote for their electricity requirements, generators, fuel and maintenance?

Mt Wells Battery - Payment

862 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells battery and associated leases?
2. When will this be resolved?

From 23 August 1983

Employment Studies - Aboriginal Communities

867 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Department of Community Development carried out any studies of salaries, wages and employment on Aboriginal communities, or is it in the process of doing so?
2. If so, will he provide details of these studies?

Vocational Training Commission - Staffing Review

868 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What are the reasons for a staffing review being undertaken of the Vocational Training Commission?
2. Why is it necessary to have 2 reviews of the commission within a 12-month period?
3. Did the instruction for the staffing review come from the Chief Minister and, if so, why not from the Minister for Education?

From 31 August 1983

NTDC Loan - Corkwood Bore Abattoir

870 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has Corkwood Bore abattoir received an NTDC loan and, if so, what was the purpose of the loan?

NTDC Loan - Edward Souery

871 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the status of the NTDC loan of \$858 000 to Edward Souery for the construction of the Tennant Creek meatworks?
2. Was (a) a second loan of some \$110 000 made by NTDC to Edward Souery and, if so, (b) for what purpose was the loan made, (c) what is the security for the loan, and (d) what is the present status of the loan?

NTDC Loan - Point Stuart Estate

872 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has an application been made for an NTDC loan of \$500 000 by Point Stuart Estate for a buffalo domestication program and, if so, has such a loan been granted?

NTDC Loan - Moudal Consultants

873 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has an application for an NTDC loan been received from a Hong Kong based company called Moudal Consultants to establish a horse meat processing operation at Tennant Creek and, if so, has the loan been granted?
2. Has land been made available to Moudal Consultants for the establishment of a horse meat processing operation at Tennant Creek and, if so, on what terms?

Tennant Creek Meatworks - Purchase

874 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was the Northern Territory government approached by any parties interested in the purchase of the Tennant Creek meatworks for assistance with respect to information about the operation?
2. If so, (a) who were those parties, and (b) what assistance did the government provide to them?

Breaches of Hygiene Regulations

875 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

What breaches of hygiene regulations in meat processing establishments were reported in the Territory in 1983?

Slaughtering of Horses

876 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

1. How many horses were slaughtered in the Territory in 1983?
2. In which meatworks did the slaughters take place?

Tennant Creek Meatworks

877 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the value of (a) land, (b) electricity, and (c) water supplied to the Tennant Creek meatworks to 31 August 1983?

Tindal - Education

819 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is being done to anticipate the educational needs of the proposed RAAF base at Tindal?

ANSWER

On the basis of the limited initial advice received from the Commonwealth government, the Department of Education has projected enrolments on the assumption that an influx of RAAF personnel occurs at a linear rate up until 1987.

Based on present enrolments a new pre-school unit is proposed for the 1986-87 financial year. However, to accommodate projected enrolments due to RAAF personnel moving into Tindal, additional demountable accommodation would be required in the short term. In the longer term, the provision of a new primary school and a new secondary school could be warranted.

However, until a definite indication is received from the Commonwealth government, the Department of Education alone is unable to take any positive moves towards the implementation of any building program.

Lot 384, Katherine

822 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Is he aware of the neglected condition of lot 384, Katherine Terrace, Katherine?
2. If so, when will this lot be brought into keeping with the Territory's tidiest town?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The former lot 384 has been subdivided into 2 new lots, numbered 1881 and 1882. Lot 1881 is subject to a Crown lease and the lessee, the Territory Insurance Office, has undertaken to have the lot cleared by 30 April 1983. The lease for lot 1882 is administered by Australian National and is therefore outside NT government control.

I understand the Katherine Town Council has written to the lessee seeking to have the site cleaned up.

Specialist Medical Officers

824 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What is the (1) number, and (2) description of specialist medical officers (a) employed by his department in the year ended 31 December 1982 who have gone into private practice and have entered into sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (b) employed by his department at 1 January 1983 who are expected to enter private practice prior to 31 December 1983 and are negotiating sessional or similar arrangements with the department, (c) positions existed in the department at 1 January 1983, (d) positions vacant at 1 January 1983, and (e) does the department plan to be employing at 31 December 1983?

# QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

## ANSWER

(a) (1) Five.

- (2) Registrar (Medicine)  
Specialist (Paediatrics)  
Specialist (Anaesthetics)  
Specialist (Orthopaedics)  
Specialist (Surgery)

(b) None.

(c) (1) Thirty-six.

(2) Darwin Hospital

Alice Springs

Obstetrics and Gynaecology	2	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	1
Anaesthetics	3	Anaesthetics	1
Medicine	2	Medicine	1
Paediatrics	2	Pediatrics	1
Ophthalmology	2	Ophthalmology	1
Psychiatry	2	Psychiatry	1
Pathology	4*	Pathology	1
Radiology	2	Radiology	1
ENT	1	ENT	1
Dermatology	1	Surgery	2
Surgery	4		
	25		11

\* One pathology position is used as a rotating senior registrar position from the Sydney Eye Hospital.

(d) (1) Nine.

(2) Darwin Hospital

Alice Springs

Ophthalmology	1	Ophthalmology	1
Psychiatry	1		
Pathology	2**		
Orthopaedics	1		
Surgery	1		
Paediatrics	1		
Anaesthetics	1		

\*\* One position is used as rotating senior registrar as mentioned in (c) (2).

(e) The department anticipates recruiting 2 ophthalmologists, 1 orthopaedic surgeon, 1 psychiatrist and 1 forensic pathologist to the vacant positions mentioned in (d) (2). The total number of specialists employed will be dependent upon whether the 5 specialists mentioned in (a) (1) return to full-time employment with the department.

## Kirton and Whiting Report - Cost

825 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What were (a) consultant's fees, and (b) other costs incurred by his department in the production of the Kirton and Whiting Report on urban-based community health centres?

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

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### ANSWER

The costs associated with the production of the Kirton and Whiting Report were (a) consultant's fees \$9 000, and (b) other costs incurred \$3 799.

### Community Health Medical Officers

826 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

How many community health medical officer positions (a) existed, and (b) were vacant at 1 March 1983?

### ANSWER

(a) Number of community health medical officer position at 1 March 1983:

Darwin Region	10
East Arnhem Region	2
Katherine Region	2
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	<u>16</u>

(b) Number of community health medical officer positions vacant at 1 March 1983:

Darwin Region	2
East Arnhem Region	1
Katherine Region	-
Alice Springs and Barkly Region	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	<u>3</u>

### Protective Custody

828 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Since its inception in 1979, in regard to Division 4 of Part VII of the *Police Administration Act*, on a yearly basis -

1. how many persons have been apprehended;
2. how many of those apprehended were (a) Aboriginal, and (b) non-Aboriginal;
3. how many of the persons apprehended were subject to subsequent apprehension;
4. what is the average period of apprehension;
5. how many persons were released under the provisions of section 131(1); and
6. how many persons were dealt with under section 132?

### ANSWER

The question relates to protective custody of intoxicated persons under the *Police Administration Act*.

This legislation commenced on 1 August 1979, but statistics relating to



Aboriginals were not kept until 1 August 1980.

1. Number of persons apprehended:

1 August 1979 - 31 July 1980	15 149
1 August 1980 - 31 December 1980	4 910
1 January 1981 - 31 December 1981	13 980
1 January 1982 - 31 December 1982	16 611
TOTAL	50 650

2. Number of (a) Aboriginals, and (b) non-Aboriginals apprehended:

	<u>Aboriginal</u>	<u>Non-Aboriginal</u>
1 August 1979 - 31 July 1980	No statistics kept	
1 August 1980 - 31 December 1980	4 226	684
1 January 1981 - 31 December 1981	12 332	1 648
1 January 1982 - 31 December 1982	14 709	1 902

3. Persons apprehended who were subject to subsequent apprehension:

No statistics are kept. Those apprehended are not positively identified by fingerprints. However, on a names basis only, statistics were gathered from Darwin, Katherine, Nhulunbuy, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Elliott, covering the period March to December 1982 (both months inclusive).

The following table shows (a) the total apprehensions for each centre over that period, (b) the total number of persons apprehended more than once, and (c) the percentage of persons apprehended more than once as shown in (b):

	<u>Darwin</u>	<u>Katherine</u>	<u>Nhulunbuy</u>	<u>Alice Springs</u>	<u>Tennant Creek</u>	<u>Elliott</u>
March to December 1982						
(a)	2 410	1 494	272	4 697	976	609
(b)	378	520	36	791	274	225
(c)	15.7%	34.8%	13.2%	16.8%	28.0%	36.9%

4. Average period of apprehension:

No statistics have been kept but the figure is believed to be approximately 6 hours. This is due mainly to the provisions of section 129(3) which states -

"(3) A person who has been taken into custody under this section and who is in custody after midnight and before half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, may be held in custody until half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, notwithstanding that the person is no longer intoxicated."

5. Persons released under the provisions of section 131(1):

No statistics are kept but the number would be exceedingly few. Volunteers to take over the care of intoxicated persons from the police are rare.

6. Persons dealt with under section 132:

No statistics are kept but the number would be very low.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Education Budget 1982-83

829 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In regard to the 1982-83 Education budget -

1. what are the specific budget allocations for each primary and secondary school in the Northern Territory;
2. what is the overall allocation for remedial teachers in the Northern Territory education system;
3. what is the budget allocation for teacher recruitment;
4. what is the budget allocation set aside to establish and implement testing procedures and tests themselves;
5. in the sections of the Education budget where both Territory and Commonwealth money is spent, what is the actual allocation of each; and
6. what capital works items are budgeted for and what is the breakdown of their allocations?

ANSWER

1. At Appendix A is a schedule of budget allocation for all Northern Territory government schools for 1982-83.
2. There are 41 remedial teachers in the Northern Territory generating an estimated salary expenditure in 1982-83 of \$980 000.
3. The budget allocation for teacher recruitment in 1982-83 is \$375 000.
4. The specific provision in 1982-83 for the establishment of procedures to implement testing is \$46 000.
5. At Appendix B is a schedule of budget items jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments showing the exact allocation from each funding source.
6. At Appendix C is a schedule of specific items on the 1982-83 Capital Works Program and projects funded from the bulk allocations.

APPENDIX A

SCHEDULE OF ALLOCATIONS TO NORTHERN TERRITORY SCHOOLS 1982-83

NORTH

NOTE: The allocation for urban school based funding schools include provision for communications, furniture, general services and school supplies while the rural schools allocations relate to school supplies only. It should be noted however that schools do get other funding from time to time from Superintendent's Contingency Funds, Dollar for Dollar, Schools Commission and Transition Education.

<u>School</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Alawa	\$ 48 711	Casuarina High	\$ 175 491
Gochan Jiny Jirra	\$ 975	Milikapiti	\$ 5 261
Moil	\$ 75 384	Nightcliff High	\$ 216 079
NT Secondary Corres. School	\$ 100 000	Rapid Creek	\$ 50 237
Wagaman	\$ 64 064	Jingili	\$ 62 030
Manaruni	\$ 2 222	Leanyer	\$ 13 434
Anula	\$ 83 447	Warruwi	\$ 3 453
		Dripstone High	\$ 231 438

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Henbury Avenue	\$ 15 124	Millner	\$ 62 615
Nakara	\$ 107 727	Nightcliff Primary	\$ 51 383
Pularumpi	\$ 6 036	Tiwi	\$ 68 489
Wanguri	\$ 62 883	Karama	\$ 13 434
Malak	\$ 87 901	Maningrida	\$ 18 023
Wulagi	\$ 89 916	St Therese	\$ 18 597
Adelaide River	\$ 5 001	Batchelor School	\$ 10 534
Berrimah	\$ 61 782	Darwin High	\$ 241 691
Douglas Daly	\$ 704	Humpty Doo High	\$ 9 135
Jabiru	\$ 75 629	Larrakeyah	\$ 24 310
Middle Point	\$ 2 818	Oenpelli	\$ 13 232
Peppimenarti	\$ 3 854	Stuart Park	\$ 42 864
Wooliana	\$ 3 643	OLSH Wadeye	\$ 19 672
Angurugu	\$ 19 022	Milingimbi	\$ 28 698
Nhulunbuy Primary	\$ 42 740	Ramingining	\$ 10 334
Umbakumba	\$ 8 199	Amanbidgi	\$ 945
Beswick	\$ 4 841	Bulla	\$ 1 851
Xavier Boys	\$ 6 865	Batchelor College	\$ 190 000
Belyuen	\$ 3 816	Berry Springs	\$ 18 654
Darwin Primary	\$ 31 235	Howard	\$ 79 448
Humpty Doo Primary	\$ 23 367	Kormilda	\$ 461 384
Ludmilla	\$ 78 551	Narbalek	\$ 949
Parap	\$ 58 184	Point Stuart	\$ 817
Tipperary	\$ 522	St Francis Xavier	\$ 3 918
Alyangula	\$ 35 571	Gapuwiyak	\$ 6 259
Nhulunbuy High	\$ 38 602	Numbulwar	\$ 10 223
Shepherdson College	\$ 24 152	Yirrkala	\$ 26 187
Bamyili	\$ 15 922	Borrooloola	\$ 19 625
Bulman	\$ 1 788	Katherine School of the	\$ 56 793
Killarney	\$ 1 752	Air	
Mataranka	\$ 2 987	Clyde Fenton	\$ 93 605
Ganjarani	\$ 794	Kalkaringi	\$ 7 823
Mountain Valley	\$ 412	Nutwood Downs	\$ 1 014
Pine Creek	\$ 9 317	Urapunga	\$ 5 093
Wave Hill	\$ 1 066	Katherine South	\$ 45 883
Lajamanu	\$ 11 916	Minyerri	\$ 2 212
Djembere	\$ 1 568	Hodgson River	\$ 593
Katherine High	\$ 79 993	Ngukurr	\$ 8 374
Pigeon Hole	\$ 3 723	Roper Valley	\$ 4 136
V R D	\$ 1 378	Yarralin	\$ 7 290

SOUTH

Alice Springs High School	\$ 129 878	Braitling inc. Teppa	\$ 60 531
Karguru and Pre	\$ 50 722	Hill Pre	
Sadadeen High	\$ 108 133	Tennant Creek High	\$ 48 786
Yirara College	\$ 106 057	Ammaroo	\$ 3 000
Areyonga	\$ 1 643	Beetaloo	\$ 1 000
Docker River	\$ 3 483	Epenarra	\$ 2 041
Haast's Bluff	\$ 1 640	Jay Creek	\$ 1 801
Mallapunyah	\$ 1 000	Mt Allan	\$ 1 000
Napperby	\$ 2 250	Murray Downs	\$ 1 113
Neutral Junction	\$ 1 000	Bradshaw	\$ 69 522
Gillen	\$ 57 622	Ross Park inc. Rona Glynn	\$ 42 592
Alice Springs School of	\$ 22 485	and Sadadeen Pre	
the Air		Traeger Park inc. Ida	\$ 44 842
Alexandria	\$ 1 000	Standley	

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

Amoonguna	\$ 1 809	Banka Banka	\$ 1 000
Brunette Downs	\$ 1 425	Elliott	\$ 4 681
Finke	\$ 1 855	Hermannsburg	\$ 13 166
Lake Nash	\$ 2 232	Maryvale	\$ 1 908
Mt Ebenezer	\$ 2 385	Mbunghara	\$ 1 000
Papunya	\$ 12 502	Newcastle Waters	\$ 1 000
Plenty River	\$ 1 000	Ross River	\$ 1 000
Santa Teresa	\$ 9 580	Ti Tree	\$ 5 106
Warrego	\$ 3 963	Yulara	\$ 3 000
Special School	\$ 5 000	Tennant Creek Primary	\$ 3 472
Hospital School	\$ 650	Charles Creek Pre	\$ 500
Ti Tree Operational	\$ 5 000	Bilingual - Travel	\$ 300
Rockhampton Downs	\$ 1 844	- Yuendumu	\$ 1 500
Stirling	\$ 1 925	- Willowra	\$ 500
Utopia	\$ 6 943	- Papunya	\$ 2 000
Warrabri	\$ 13 808	Willowra	\$ 3 253
Yuendumu	\$ 13 115	Sadadeen Primary	\$ 20 000
Remedial School	\$ 500	Giles House	\$ 1 450
Yirara College	\$ 417 000		
Operational -			
- Docker River	\$ 500		
- Areyonga	\$ 1 500		
- Contingency Fund	\$ 1 000		

APPENDIX B

1982-83 BUDGET - JOINT COMMONWEALTH/NT GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

DIVISION 44-4 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

TRANSITION SCHOOL TO WORK PROGRAM

Total Allocation	\$ 746 000
NT Component	\$ 301 000
Commonwealth Component	\$ 353 000
	\$ 654 000
ADD	
Employment Program	
Unemployed Youth	\$ 92 000
	\$ 746 000

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS - GRANTS, SUBSIDIES AND ALLOWANCES

Total Allocation	\$ 5 721 000
NT Programs	\$ 1 904 000
Commonwealth Schools	
Commission Programs	\$ 3 817 000
	\$ 5 721 000

DIVISION 46 - COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Automotive Training Program - Priest Street

NT Government	\$ 21 000
Commonwealth Component	\$ 48 000
	\$ 69 000

APPENDIX C

1982-83 CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

		Program Provision
Darwin - Construct Karama Primary School No. 2		\$ 2 053 000
Darwin - Construct Stage II Leanyer Primary School		\$ 450 000
Alice Springs - Construct Stage II CCCA		\$ 5 130 000
Tennant Creek - Construct New High School		\$ 5 000 000
Alice Springs - Gillen House Upgrade Kitchens		\$ 360 000
Katherine Rural College Stage I		\$ 1 936 200
Darwin - Upgrading Ovals at Stuart Park, Tiwi, Ludmilla and Casuarina High School		\$ 100 000
Peppimenarti - Relocate 2 Classrooms and 1 Toilet Block from Humpty Doo Primary		\$ 49 000
Darwin - Karama Primary - Relocate Transportable Class- room from Jabiru		\$ 67 334
Humpty Doo Primary School - Air-condition Classrooms		\$ 200 000
Darwin High School - Transportable Accommodation for Intensive Language Program (Migrant Education)		\$ 150 000
Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella) - Provide 2 Transportable Teachers Residences		\$ 140 000
Raminginning - Provide 1 Transportable Teachers Residence		\$ 70 000
Epenarra - Relocate Mobile Classroom		\$ 57 000
Amaroo - Provision of Transportable School and Residences		\$ 230 000
All centres - Transportable Units - Purchase and Relocation -		\$ 163 666
Douglas-Daly	\$ 40 000	
Docker River	\$ 28 700	
Humpty Doo Janitors Residence	\$ 8 000	
Katherine High School	\$ 20 000	
Raminginning	\$ 1 630	
Mainoru	\$ 16 000	
Taminmin High Janitors Residence	\$ 19 000	
Henbury Ave School	\$ 9 200	
Balance	\$ 21 136	
	\$ 163 666	
All centres - Mobile Units - Relocation and provision of services		\$ 140 485
Cannon Hill	\$ 12 000	
Mt Ebenezer	\$ 6 497	
Yarralin	\$ 3 000	
Berry Springs	\$ 1 140	
V R D	\$ 24 500	
From Ranger Site to Store	\$ 1 797	
Batchelor	\$ 3 500	
Berry Springs	\$ 8 700	
Point Stuart	\$ 6 300	
Bulla Camp	\$ 15 100	
Elliott	\$ 5 500	
Balance	\$ 52 451	
	\$ 140 485	

Office Partitioning	\$ 50 000
Minor New Works	\$ 460 000
89 jobs distributed throughout the Territory costing less than \$40 000 each	
	<u>\$ 16 806 685</u>

'Boozers are Losers' Campaign

834 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

1. The approved budget for the public education campaign against alcohol abuse from December 1981 to December 1982 was \$130 000.
2. Invitations were issued to advertising agencies to put forward proposals for the campaign, and one was selected. Unfortunately, there was no advertising agency resident in the Northern Territory, at that time. In any event, the fact that one might be established in the Northern Territory might not necessarily mean it had the capability even though the government might want to support it and would hope that in due course the marketing industry will establish itself in the Northern Territory.

Clear directions have been given that, in the expenditure of funds in a campaign such as this, all possible resources available in the Territory must be used provided they are economical.

About \$60 000 of the budget went to Territorians in one form or another.

It is the policy of the government that, wherever possible, local business will be used and indeed there is the preference provision in relation to the awarding of contracts.

3. Prior to the campaign being launched, it was suggested by some that the liquor industry may mount a counter-advertising campaign to combat the anticipated impact of the 'Boozers are Losers' campaign on sales. To attend to this concern, the Chief Minister sent personal letters to the managing directors of various brewing companies whose products are sold and promoted in the Northern Territory; the Northern Territory Hoteliers' Association, the National Spirits Merchants Association, and controllers of various national retail liquor outlets operating in the Northern Territory. All these people were advised of the nature of the campaign and their support for its aims was sought. Generally responses were positive. Local licensees and retailers were also invited to a function to mark the launching of the campaign. Currently, at a national level, and the NT is represented here by the Drug and Alcohol Bureau, there is ongoing negotiation with the advertising and liquor industries on the issue of the advertising of alcoholic beverages.

Pastoral Properties - Breach of Covenants

836 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Why did the government decide in 1980 not to take action against pastoral lessees in breach of their covenants?

2. A recent report on the ABC program 'After 8' stated that 59% of pastoral properties in Victoria River District, 66% in Darwin and Gulf regions, 23% in Barkly region and 25% in Alice Springs region were in breach of their covenants. In each region, how many properties in breach of covenants were (a) locally owned (i.e., owned in the Northern Territory), (b) owned by Australian interests outside the Northern Territory, and (c) owned by overseas interests?
3. In each region, what were the main breaches of covenants recorded?

ANSWER

1. Action against breach of covenants on pastoral leases was suspended on 19 March 1980 whilst an inquiry into pastoral land tenure was undertaken. This inquiry has subsequently been referred to as the 'Martin Report'.
2. A detailed analysis of pastoral lessees in breach of covenants, on the basis specified in the question has not been carried out.
3. The main breach of covenants throughout the Territory has been for lack of maintenance of existing improvements with non-compliance with stocking and fencing requirements being the next most neglected areas.

Motor Vehicles

838 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

In his department -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

*NOTE: This answer also covers answer to questions Nos 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 947 and 848.*

- (a) Summary of Government Motor Vehicles Operated by Departments/Authorities  
(Survey Date: November 1982)

<u>Minister</u>	<u>Department/Authority</u>	<u>Total Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Garaged Centrally</u>	<u>Home</u>
CHIEF MINISTER and MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM	Chief Minister	72	18	54
	Public Service Commissioner	7	1	6
	Lands	69	54	15
	Palmerston Devlpmt Auth.	5	2	3
	NT Development Corporation	9	-	9
	NT Tourist Commission	14	-	14
	Police	208	177	31
	NT Emergency Services	25	21	4
	Auditor-General's	2	-	2
	Abor. Sacred Sites Prot'n Auth.	4	1	3
	Ombudsman	2	-	2
	Legislative Assembly	1	-	1

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

TREASURER and	Treasury	10	3	7
MINISTER for	Education	31	15	16
EDUCATION	Darwin Community College	21	14	7
	Vocational Training Comm.	10	-	10
	Racing & Gaming Commission	5	-	5
	NT Teaching Service	2	1	1
	University Planning Auth.	2	-	2
MINISTER for PRIMARY	Primary Production	213	107	106
PRODUCTION and	Community Development	148	81	67
CONSERVATION and	Agric. Devlpmt & Marketing			
MINISTER for COMMUNITY	Authority	12	2	10
DEVELOPMENT	Conservation Commission	203	149	54
	Museums & Art Galleries	13	11	2
ATTORNEY-GENERAL	Law	24	7	17
and MINISTER for	Mines and Energy	86	59	27
MINES and ENERGY	NT Electricity Commission	130	63	67
MINISTER for TRANSPORT	Transport and Works	493	355	138
and WORKS and MINISTER	NT Port Authority	25	11	14
ASSISTING the TREASURER				
MINISTER for HEALTH &	Health	247	216	31
HOUSING and MINISTER	NT Housing Commission	74	45	29
for YOUTH, SPORT,	Liquor Commission	5	1	4
RECREATION & ETHNIC				
AFFAIRS and MINISTER				
ASSISTING the TREASURER				
SUB-TOTAL		2 172 (100%)	1 414 (65%)	758 (35%)

(b) Criteria for Determining Use of Government Vehicles

The policy on usage and acquisition of all motor vehicles and plant items within the Northern Territory Public Service is laid down in Public Service Commissioner's Memorandum 1980/27, which was promulgated in accordance with Cabinet Decision Nos. 333 and 980.

Following lengthy investigation and discussion at meetings of the Co-ordination Committee, Cabinet endorsed the issue of principles to be adhered to by departments/authorities (PSC Memorandum 1981/54) in the use and home garaging of official vehicles. In essence, these principles gave full responsibility to Chief Executive Officers and prescribed authorities in the use and operation of vehicles under their control.

The principles, however, provide that departments and authorities should ensure:

1. Vehicles have appropriate identification;
2. Internal instructions are issued to provide for:
  - (a) Regular reviews and vehicle criterion and allocation,
  - (b) maintenance and security procedures;
3. Home garaging, unless in exceptional circumstances, shall be on the basis of work requirements.

The proper administrative and financial procedures for the recording of government vehicle usage is covered under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Division 10 Treasurer's Directions and accounting and property manuals. Specifically, the Treasurer's Directions on the Use of Official Transport, Section 15.4 and 15.5.



All drivers of government vehicles are required to hold a current Northern Territory driving licence appropriate to the classification of the vehicle.

In addition, some departments/authorities (e.g. Primary Production and Health) require employees to hold an internally issued permit or authority to drive.

Internal circulars, memoranda or procedural manuals relating to use of government vehicles are issued by the Port Authority (Circular Nos. 32 and 33); Electricity Commission, (Use of NTEC Vehicles); Development Corporation (Procedure Manual No. 155); and Department of Law (Circular No. 80/75).

Only in exceptional circumstances will approval be given by the responsible minister for government vehicles to bear private number plates.

(c) General Policy on Officers Garaging Vehicles Overnight or Weekends

Extensively covered by PSC Memorandum 81/54, Principles on the use of Government Vehicles and Home Garaging.

Generally, permanent arrangements for home garaging are reviewed at least every 12 months and in many cases, particularly in the larger departments, reviews are carried out every 6 months. Normally, written approval is required and can only be given by Chief Executive Officers and the prescribed authorities. For casual home garaging to meet operational requirements, individual approval is provided by the delegated officer, at divisional or branch head level.

(d) Restrictions Placed on the Use of Vehicles Garaged

Vehicles with government number plates are restricted to official business only and must be secured in accordance with PSC Memorandum 1980/27. Government vehicles must not be parked on the street or in a public place overnight. Employees home garaging government vehicles are required to utilise the most direct route to and from the workplace.

When an employee is absent from work or away from his/her home location, the home garaged government vehicle must be made available for official use.

Vehicles with non-government number plates have no restriction on usage overnight or weekends other than for 'reasonable' private use.

Motor Vehicles

839 Mr SMITH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

In his department -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

840 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

In his departments -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

841 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

In his departments -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

842 Mr SMITH to TREASURER

In his department -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

843 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

In his departments -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and

- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

844 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In his department -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

845 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In his department -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

846 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In his department -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

847 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In his department -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the department;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Motor Vehicles

848 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT, RECREATION and ETHNIC AFFAIRS

In his departments -

- (a) how many government motor vehicles are on issue to the departments;
- (b) what criteria are used to determine who uses government vehicles;
- (c) what is the general policy on officers garaging government vehicles overnight and at weekends; and
- (d) where vehicles are garaged at officers' homes what restrictions are placed on their use?

ANSWER

See answer to question No. 838.

Subsidy - Chan Park Nursing Home

849 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

What is the nature and extent of the subsidy paid to Chan Park Nursing Home by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government assists residents in the Chan Park Nursing Home by paying the difference between the established fee and the Commonwealth benefits and statutory pensioner contribution.

The estimated amount in 1982-83 is \$290 000, i.e., approximately \$29 per day per adult and \$40 per day per child.

Sewerage Treatment Plant - Darwin

850 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What were the modifications to the Darwin central zone sewerage treatment plant recommended in the consultants' report of 1980?
2. What modifications have been made to the plant?

ANSWER

1. In the April 1980 report by consultants Gutteridge, Haskins and Davey the following modifications were recommended:

- (i) An effective flow meter be installed to assist in the correct

control of lime dosage.

- (ii) The incinerator be taken out of service and arrangements made for land disposal or storage of the lime sludge.
- 2. (i) Three flow meters have been received and are in the process of being installed. Installation requires timing to cope with anticipated influent.
- (ii) The chlorine system has been modified. Two cylinders are connected at one time with an automatic change over facility.
- (iii) Two additional chlorine detectors have been installed.
- (iv) An alarm system connected to Wormald International Security Service was installed to monitor critical items of the plant.
- (v) The incinerator was taken out of service and the sludge disposed of as land fill, in the adjacent tidal mud flat as recommended.

Kurringal Court - Sale of Units

851 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

With reference to Kurringal Court -

- 1. On what date did the units become available for sale?
- 2. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, have been sold to public servants?
- 3. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, have been sold to people who were not otherwise eligible in terms of waiting-time for Housing Commission accommodation?
- 4. How many (a) 2-bedroom units, and (b) 1-bedroom units, are still vacant?

ANSWER

- 1. 10 August 1982.
- 2. (a) 11, (b) 4.
- 3. (a) 6, (b) 5.
- 4. (a) Nil, (b) 6.

Allocation - Housing Commission

852 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

- 1. How many persons are awaiting allocation of ground floor Housing Commission flats/units for medical reasons?
- 2. What is the waiting time for allocation of ground floor single bedroom flats/units?

ANSWER

- 1. Fifty-seven applicants are awaiting allocation of ground floor Housing Commission flats/units for medical reasons.
- 2. Approximate waiting time for allocation of ground floor single bedroom flats/units is 3 years. However, the 3 year wait time will be drastically reduced around April/May 1984 with the completion of 55 x 1-bedroom ground level pensioner units; in June/July 1984 the completion of a further 30 x 1-bedroom ground level pensioner units should reduce the wait time to zero.

Secondary Mortgage Market - Report

853 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

The fourth annual report of the Department of Law (p. 10) indicates that a report on the 'Secondary Mortgage Market' would be provided to you. Has the report been provided to you and, if so, what are its recommendations?

ANSWER

The report on the feasibility of a Territory secondary mortgage market has been presented to me.

Several conclusions and recommendations were reached but essentially the finding was that a secondary mortgage market was unlikely to develop unless various changes took place. The major drawbacks were seen to relate to the characteristics of home loan interest rates. As these are usually below those which generally operate in Australian financial markets, trading in home mortgages would not provide the returns that could be obtained from alternative forms of investment. Concessional rates of interest have been brought about by Commonwealth, State, and Territory government action to encourage home ownership. In addition to the problem of the interest rate level, there are also problems as a result of the majority of loans being long term at a variable rate and of a 'credit foncier' nature which are difficult to package into marketable securities. Investors are generally looking for short term investments that are readily marketable. In Australia, limited secondary mortgage transactions have generally been based on short term, interest only, loans with high rates of interest. In countries where secondary mortgage markets are more significant there is a greater proportion of home loans having these characteristics.

The report also concluded that it was unlikely that a market would develop in the Territory alone but that there could be benefits for the Territory if a market developed at the national level. The possibility of a national market is to be examined by the Commonwealth which has recently announced the formation of a working party to investigate this. It is our intention to liaise with the Commonwealth on this matter and to offer any assistance we can.

Transcription Services - Contract

854 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Will he provide details of the contract with Spark and Cannon Pty Limited entered into in April 1981 for transcription services and advise what steps are being taken to obviate the necessity for this work to be carried out outside the court service?

ANSWER

I will provide the honourable member with a copy of contract documents.

I do not propose to change the current arrangement. The contractor is providing at Alice Springs a good service at a lower per page cost than the government service in Darwin. The contractor employs Alice Springs residents and has been required under the terms of the contract to establish an office there. Very little work is performed by the contractor's staff outside the Territory and introduction of a government service would not significantly add to employment opportunities in Alice Springs.

Expenditure in respect of this contract by financial year is 1980-81, \$292; 1981-82, \$84,047; and 1982-83 (Projected), \$96,000.

ANNEXURE 'A' T.B.1239/80

SPECIFICATIONS - COURT REPORTING CONTRACT

1. PERIOD & EXTENT OF CONTRACT

For tape recording and/or transcription of court proceedings in the Supreme Court and Magistrates Courts sitting in Alice Springs or other such places, or other such courts, tribunals enquiries, hearings and proceedings in and about Alice Springs as and when directed for two years commencing 27 April 1981.

2. FORM & REQUISITE OF TENDER

The Tenderer shall submit his tender on the attached Schedule of Prices and in conformity with these special conditions.

3. SECURITY DEPOSIT

The Contractors will not be required to lodge a security deposit.

4. GENERAL INFORMATION

The tenderer shall supply his tender, all data and information requisite for the Deputy Secretary's full understanding of the tender.

5. SERVICE REQUIRED

When required by the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent the contractor shall provide as directed a service to record and transcribe or record or transcribe court proceedings and to provide such copies of transcript as are required. When directed to transcribe any proceedings the contractor shall be advised as to whether a running or delayed transcript is required.

(a) Running Transcript

- (i) A running transcript will be required for all Supreme Court criminal sittings in Alice Springs. It is anticipated that there will be six (6) two-week criminal sittings in Alice Springs per annum.
- (ii) In the event of further requirements for running transcript (other than for criminal sittings) the contractor will be given at least 24 hours notice.
- (iii) The contractor is to provide the master copy of the morning transcript by the resumption of the afternoon sittings, and of the afternoon sittings no later than 90 minutes after adjournment.
- (iv) The contractor will accept orders for transcript only from the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent(s) and provide such transcript and copies as are required.
- (v) The contractor will be guaranteed a minimum daily payment for providing a running transcript. This payment will cover the cost of providing services of a court monitor and the transcription of a minimum number of pages. The minimum pages will be calculated from the tenderer's specified rate per page and the minimum daily payment sought.
- (vi) In the event of fewer pages of running transcript being provided than the minimum calculated in (v) above the contractor will be required to transcribe sufficient recorded tapes to bring total pages transcribed to the minimum

specified. If pre-recorded tapes cannot be provided on that occasion the minimum daily payment will still be made for that day.

- (vii) The contractor shall deliver to the Deputy Secretary's nominated representative in Alice Springs master tape recordings within 24 hours of the conclusion of the hearing.

(b) Delayed Transcript

- (i) As directed by the Deputy Secretary or by his nominated agent, the contractor will be required to transcribe pre-recorded tapes of court or of other proceedings.
- (ii) Transcripts will be required both from recordings made by the contractor and from recordings made by Departmental staff.
- (iii) Tenderers shall specify the maximum and average delays in the provision of delayed transcript. After a specific request by the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent delayed transcript must be provided within ten days. Contractors may be asked to provide delayed transcript at shorter notice where urgency requires.

(c) Photocopying

- (i) The contractor will be required to make photocopies of transcript as required by the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent.
- (ii) The Northern Territory Government will provide the contractor with the use of a photocopier, supply all consumables and be responsible for all maintenance. The contractor shall liaise with the nominated agent of the Deputy Secretary on all matters regarding the operation of the photocopier.
- (iii) The contractor shall at all times during the term of the contract use the said photocopying equipment strictly in accordance with the hirer's instructions and pay the cost of any repairs arising out of the contractor's misuse.

6. TRANSCRIPT STANDARD & FORMAT

All transcripts of proceedings must conform to the transcript standard and format prescribed by the Department. Transcript is only to be provided within the Departments policy guidelines. A copy of the transcript standard and format manual and transcript policy guidelines are available from the officer in charge, Court Reporting Branch, Department of Law, Darwin.

7. MASTER TAPES OR CASSETTES

The contractor shall provide a master tape of all sittings monitored. The Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent shall be entitled to possession of the master tapes of all proceedings recorded by the contractor.

8. LABELLING OF TAPES OR CASSETTES

The contractor shall clearly label each master tape in order that the recorded proceeding on such tape shall be readily identifiable.

9. EQUIPMENT

Tenders will be accepted under either of the following arrangements:



- (i) (a) The contractor to provide all equipment necessary for the proficient execution of the specified work including microphones, recorders, transcribers and typewriters.

The contractor will be required to transcribe from tapes and cassettes recorded by Departmental staff. At present the Alice Springs Magistrates Courts use Lanier cassettes recorders and Tanberg 350x reel-to-reel recorders, however it is likely that cassettes, will be used exclusively in the near future and during the period of this contract.

- (b) The contractor shall at all times during the term of the contract maintain and keep in good and substantial repair condition and working order to the satisfaction of the Deputy Secretary or his nominated agent, all equipment owned and used by the contractor in the performance of its obligations under this contract.
- (c) The contractor shall have available a suitable additional or substitute recording machine with which to be able to continue recording if there shall be a mechanical or electrical failure in the main recording system normally used to record proceedings in any Court.
- (ii) The contractor to use appropriate tape recording and tape transcription equipment supplied by the Department of Law, that is, Lanier cassette equipment - the contractor to provide typewriters and consumables only.

10. ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

The following estimated minimum number of pages of transcript per annum are provided as a guide only.

Supreme Court Running Transcript (Alice Springs)	3,500 pages
Supreme Court Delayed Transcript (Alice Springs)	1,300 pages
Magistrates Courts Transcript (including Darwin and Alice Springs work)	10,000 pages
(The Magistrates Courts Transcript includes work to be accepted from the Darwin Magistrates Court).	

11. EMPLOY SUFFICIENT SKILLED PERSONS

The contractor shall at its own cost and expense employ sufficient skilled persons to comply in all respects with the terms of this contract?

12. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

The contractor shall guarantee that at least 70% of all delayed transcript from whatever source is transcribed/typed in Alice Springs by locally based staff.

13. OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

The Northern Territory Government shall provide the contractor rent free office accommodation in the Alice Springs Law Courts Building (corner of Parsons and Hartley Streets, Alice Springs) for staff engaged on the transcription of proceedings covered by these specifications.

The tenderer will be required to make himself familiar with the locality of the Law Court Building accommodation and to acquaint himself with all equipment furniture, fixtures and fittings currently installed.

Should the contractor wish to locate in the Court building staff engaged on other work for parties other than the Territory Government, the availability of accommodation will be subject to the approval of the Deputy Secretary and a charge may be levied.

Appointments to examine facilities may be arranged with the Clerk of Court Alice Springs.

14. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The contractor shall submit to the Deputy Secretary or his agent at the beginning of each calendar month a statement of account setting out: -

- (a) The number of pages of (i) delayed and (ii) running transcript transcribed on each day during the preceding month.
- (b) The number of hours of monitoring performed each day during the preceding month.
- (c) The dates on which the minimum daily rate for provision of running transcript is charged.

A page is described as any quantity of typed material exceeding half of the available space for typing. Any quantity of typing under half a page is to be calculated as a half page.

15. INDEMNITY & INSURANCE

The contractor shall: -

- (a) indemnify the Northern Territory Government against all actions and demands against all costs and expenses incurred or payable by the Territory in connection with or arising out of damage or loss to property and or and bodily injury sustained by any persons as a result of the service being provided by the contractor while performing its obligations under this contract. ie. Public Liability to the extent of \$250 000 and Workers Compensation.
- (b) not make any claim against the Territory in respect of any loss of or damage to any property of the contractor installed in the Alice Springs Law Court Buildings at the direction of the Deputy Secretary or his agent pursuant to this contract where such loss is due to fire, storm, tempest, earthquake, strikes, riots, malicious damage, internal or external explosion, aircraft and other aerial devices, flood and water.
- (c) for the term of the contract insure and keep insured with a reputable insurance company to full insurable value thereof all equipment owned and used by the contractor in the performance of its obligations under this contract.

16. COPYRIGHT

Copyright in all transcripts and master tapes made or recorded by the contractor pursuant to this contract shall be reserved to the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory and no part of any master tape or transcript shall be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means whatsoever by the contractor except in accordance with the provisions of this contract or the authority of the Attorney-General.

17. NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT ON TRANSCRIPT

The complete transcript of each case recorded and transcribed by

the contractor shall have the following words at the head thereof:

"COPYRIGHT RESERVED"

(N.B.) Copyright in this transcript is the property of the Crown. If this transcript is copied without the Authority of the Attorney-General of the Northern Territory, proceedings for infringement will be taken.

18. DEFAULT

If the contractor shall default in due performance or observance of any obligations herein contained the Deputy Secretary may give notice in writing to the contractor specifying the default or defaults and request that they be made good to his satisfaction within such time as he shall specify in the notice.

19. DETERMINATION

The Deputy Secretary shall be at liberty to determine this contract by notice in writing to the contractor without prejudice to the rights of either parties in respect of any breach antecedent to such determination upon any one or more of the following events namely: -

- (1) If any distress or execution shall be levied on or against any of the property or assets of the contractor or if a receiver or receiver and manager be appointed with respect to the whole or any part of the assets and undertaking of the contractor and the debt for which the levy shall be made or the receiver or receiver and manager is appointed shall not be paid within seven (7) days; or
- (2) If the contractor becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangements or compromise with his creditors; or
- (3) If an order is made or an effective resolution shall be passed to wind up the contractors company; or
- (4) If the contractor shall threaten to cease or cease to carry on its obligations under this contract in a proper and efficient manner; or
- (5) If a compromise or arrangement is proposed between the contractor and its creditors or any of them or if any application is made to the Court for an order summoning a meeting of the creditors of the contractors company; or
- (6) If any encumbrancee shall take possession of the undertaking or any of the property or assets of the contractor or if the contractor shall dispose of its undertaking or a substantial part thereof.

20. NOT TO MORTGAGE OR ASSIGN

The contractor shall not mortgage, charge or assign its rights and privileges in this contract without first obtaining the written consent of the Deputy Secretary. The Deputy Secretary may withhold consent in his absolute discretion.

21. LAW OF THE CONTRACT

This contract shall be governed by and constructed according to the law of the Northern Territory of Australia.

22. NOTICES

Any notice or demand to be given or served by the Deputy Secretary or his agent upon the contractor may be deemed served by leaving or posting the notice at the contractors registered office or principal place of business in the Northern Territory.

23. SCREENING OF EMPLOYEES

The contractor shall submit to the Deputy Secretary at least seven (7) day prior to commencement of contract, or within such time as the Deputy Secretary may allow after application in writing by the contractor, a list of names and addresses of all persons who will be employed by him in the recording and/or transcription of court proceedings. At least seven (7) days before any person whom the contractor proposes to employ in the recording and/or transcription of court proceedings, commences duty, the contractor shall submit to the Deputy Secretary, the names and addresses of each such person. The Deputy Secretary may then without being bound to give any reason, by notice in writing, direct that the contractor shall not employ that person and the contractor shall comply with the direction immediately. The Deputy Secretary may at any time and without being bound to give reasons, withdraw approval under this condition to the employment of any person by the contractor on the premises and in such cases the Northern Territory Government shall not be liable to the contractor or to any person claiming through the contractor for any claim for damage or otherwise arising out of the withdrawal of approval. No persons (including children) other than those engaged and employed within the terms of this contract shall be permitted access to any building.

24. CONTRACTOR TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS EMPLOYEES

The contractor shall be responsible for the good and proper conduct of the persons engaged by him and employed in the Court Recording Service.

ANNEXURE 'B' T.B. 1239/80

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. PRICE BASIS: The tenderer shall stipulate in his tender whether the tendered price is to be firm over the whole of the contract or is to be subject to alteration by an amount equal to: -
  - (a) The increase or decrease in the costs of the contract resulting from: -
    - (i) variations which may be approved subsequent to the date of tendering by the appropriate Commonwealth or state Authority in respect of rates of pay and/or conditions of employment; and/or
    - (ii) variations subsequent to the date of tendering in the ruling market prices of those materials required for the performance of the service and which can be identified unmistakably and conveniently as forming part of the service, provided that where the price of such material is controlled by competent Statutory Authority, only such variation as is authorised by the Authority will be recognised; and/or
    - (iii) variations in the cost of sub-contracted work determining in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (i) and (ii) of this clause.

The maximum increases in price which will be allowed under contracts arranged subject to price variations are those payable if services are performed within the time specified in the contract, unless authority to charge otherwise is sought, in writing, prior to the date for completion of deliveries and granted in writing on behalf of the Board.

All applications for price variations must be sought within one month after the occurrence of the event giving rise to the claim.

All documents and records necessary to substantiate any application for price variation must accompany the application.

Any proposal may include provision for variation in the rates of exchange, duty cost of materials, labour and/or freight components only. No provision shall be made for variation in percentage profit.

If a tenderer requires variation of tendered prices or rates during the currency of the contract, he shall indicate in the space provided, his proposed formula for effecting such variation. A tender shall not be accepted until the Tender Board and the tenderer have agreed on the actual price variation formula which will apply.

2. INSPECTION: Acceptance of any service shall be subject to its being in accordance with this specification and to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Officer or his representative. (Clause 13 of the General Conditions refers).

INFORMATION/DATA TO BE PROVIDED BY TENDERER

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SERVICE REQUIRED</u>	<u>TENDERED RATE</u>
1A	<u>For Tenderers Proposing to Provide their own Monitoring Equipment</u>	
	(i) Monitoring and Equipment: -	
	- less than 3 hours booked	\$ 39.60
	- more than 3 hours booked	\$ 69.30
	- beyond 5 p.m. per half hour	\$ 6.50
	- minimum attendance fee per day	\$ 39.60
	(ii) Running transcript rate per page	\$ 4.67
	(iii) Delayed transcript rate per page	\$ 3.90
	(iv) Minimum charge for transcription on any day on which a running transcript has been sought by the Deputy Secretary or his nominee	\$303.55
	<u>N.B.</u> : Tenderers completing the above should also complete 1B in the event it is decided that the N.T. Government owned equipment must be used by the successful tenderer.	
1B	<u>For Tenderers Proposing to Utilise N.T. Government Monitoring Equipment</u>	
	(i) Monitoring and Equipment: -	
	- less than 3 hours booked	\$ 39.60
	- more than 3 hours booked	\$ 69.30
	- beyond 5 p.m. per half hour	\$ 6.50
	- minimum attendance fee per day	\$ 39.60
	(ii) Running transcript rate per page	\$ 4.67
	(iii) Delayed transcript rate per page	\$ 3.90

- (iv) Minimum charge for transcription on any day on which a running transcript has been sought by the Deputy Secretary or his nominee \$303.55

SIGNATURE OR SEAL OF TENDERER: . . . . .

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: . . . . .

PRICE BASIS: The tendered prices are: - (See Special Condition 1).

a. ☐

Firm

b. ☒

Subject to variation in accordance with Special Condition No. 1 . . . . .(a) (i) . . . . . (Insert applicable Clause).

The tenderer is required to place a tick in the box against one of the alternatives above. Unless otherwise stated by the tenderer, the tendered price will be regarded as firm. Other things being equal, firm prices will be preferred.

If the tendered price will be subject to variation, the tenderer is required to state hereunder the basic costs and rates upon which the tendered price is based (e.g. labour, freight rate, price of materials): -

<u>Price Component</u>	<u>Percentage of Price</u>	<u>Rate/Price on which Tendered Price Based</u>
Labour	90 %	\$ 8.50

Please provide full details of the formula for the variation:

Tendered rates in 1A to vary by an amount equal to 90% of any increase in the basic or minimum wage awarded during any quarter by the Commonwealth Arbitration Commission, such variation to be effective from the date of written application by the contractor.

SIGNATURE OR SEAL OF TENDERER: . . . . .

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: . . . . .

### 3. PROVISION OF DELAYED TRANSCRIPTS

The tender is to specify the maximum and average expected delays in the provision of delayed transcripts (refer Annexure 'A' Paras. 5b (iii)).

Maximum Delay	5 working days	Hours
Average Delay	3 working days	Hours

### 4. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT

Total number of employees to be used in the performance of the service: 6.

No. of Personnel

Position Held, ie. Monitor, Typist, etc.

1 Manager/Snr Monitor

Adelaide labour content relating to administration, financial control, and absorption of some delayed transcript work estimated to equate approximately to one senior reporter for 35 weeks for the first year.

2 Audio-typists

1 Typist-monitor

1 Junior Clerk

(Accts/wages - subcontract)

Alice Springs

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE - ANSWERS RECEIVED

The number of personnel (included in the above total) who are locally (Alice Springs) based staff 5 refer (Annexure 'A' Para. 12).

<u>No. of Personnel</u>	<u>Position Held</u>
5	As above.

5. MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Tenderer shall state if it would be their intention to use Northern Territory Government monitoring equipment.

~~Northern Territory Government Monitoring Equipment~~ (Delete that which  
or is not applicable)  
Tenderers Monitoring Equipment.

Should you elect to provide your own equipment detail hereunder the equipment to be used in the event of being awarded the contract.  
(N.B.: Include Substitute Equipment. Ref.: Para. 9 (1) (c) of Specification).

Custom built mains power and battery charged 8-channel mixers with AKG microphones - mono system with simultaneous transcription cassette and master cassette recordings on AIWA and Sony recorders mains/battery. Transcription to be done on Sony Transcribers using IBM Selectric typewriters. Lanier units for pre-recorded cassette transcription.

Total value (for insurance purposes) of the above mentioned equipment: \$ 12,000 approx.

6. INSURANCE

In accordance with Specification Para. 15 provide the following information in respect of:

(i) Workers Compensation: (To be advised if tender successful)

INSURER (Company) . . . . .  
POLICY NO. (If available) . . . . .  
NATURE OF POLICY (Extent of cover). . . . .

(ii) Public Liability (\$250 000):

INSURER (Company) . . . . .  
POLICY NO. (If available) . . . . .  
NATURE OF POLICY (Extent of cover). . . . .

(iii) Contractors Equipment on N.T. Government Premises:

INSURER (Company) . . . . .  
POLICY NO. (If available) . . . . .  
NATURE OF POLICY (Extent of cover). . . . .

N.B.: (i) The successful tenderer agrees to effect and keep in force in respect of the services with an insurance office approved by the Territory (such approval not to be unreasonably withheld) an adequate public risk policy for an amount of not less than an amount approved by the Territory covering injury to person and property and Workers Compensation policy and shall produce to the Territory evidence of payment of the premiums of such insurances.

The successful tenderer agrees that should (they) the contractor at any time fail to effect and maintain insurances as referred to in Specifications Clause 15 or if any such insurances shall or may be liable to cancellation or be

voidable or if the contractor shall fail to produce to the Territory upon request any policy or the receipt for the current renewal thereof the Territory may do all things necessary to effect or maintain such insurances and all moneys paid or expenses incurred by the Territory for such purposes shall be repayable by the contractor on demand and may be recovered as payment in arrear.

7. CAPACITY OF TENDERER TO PERFORM THE REQUIRED SERVICE

The Tenderer shall state hereunder details of experience in providing the type of service required in this contract:

Both working directors of the company have in excess of 20 years court reporting experience - initially as shorthand writers but for the last 18 years totally with sound recording systems. The company has reported proceedings in all states of Australia and currently has contracts in Western Australia and South Australia (State) and involvement in all states (Federal) in a sub-contract capacity for the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. Company personnel currently number 46 (30 in Adelaide).

SIGNATURE OR SEAL OF TENDERER: . . . . .

SIGNATURE OF WITNESS: . . . . .

Upgrading - Katherine Terrace

856 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are there plans to upgrade the pavement in Katherine Terrace to a standard such as the Mall in Darwin in the 1983-84 financial year?

ANSWER

There are no plans to upgrade Katherine Terrace footpaths during 1983-84.

However, my department is aware of some deterioration in the kerb and footpaths in the Katherine Terrace commercial area. The department proposes to include appropriate reinstatement works in the maintenance program for 1983-84.

The Darwin Mall is purely a pedestrian way and footpath reinstatement treatment in Katherine Terrace needs to take account of different considerations. Reinstatement of the pavement to the previous standard is all that is planned at this stage. If at some time in the future subsequent upgrading is undertaken discussions with the Council will then take place to determine the appropriate treatment to be utilised.

Beef Export Licence

857 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

Has any decision been made on the need for a special export licence for beef killed to Australian domestic standards?

ANSWER

Yes. Following initiatives taken by the Northern Territory at meetings of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (SCA) and the Australian Agricultural Council (AAC) in Adelaide in February 1982, the need for export licences for beef killed to Australian domestic standards has been acknowledged by the Royal Commission into the Australian Meat Industry, the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry (CDPI), and by SCA at its 127th meeting in Sydney in February 1983.



A Draft Standard for Construction of Australian Meatworks has been distributed by CDPI and a meeting of Commonwealth, State and Territory officers will be convened in the near future to consider the draft and to recommend such amendments as may seem to be appropriate.

Standard export licences will be issued to meatworks conforming to the common Australian standard, and ... such abattoirs will be eligible to supply meat to interstate markets and to such international markets as are prepared to accept meat of the same standard.

Special export licences will be issued to establishments complying with such additional, special requirements as particular importing countries may require.

Non-export licences may be issued to slaughterhouses complying with requirements for the marketing of meat within prescribed local areas; but not licensed to supply interstate or international markets.

BTB Eradication

858 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

What steps will be taken to fund the BTB eradication campaign in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Following the adoption of the national BTEC plan by Agricultural Council in February 1983, officers of the Department of Primary Production have been negotiating an agreement with the Commonwealth for the introduction of the new measures of assistance to commence in the 1983 cattle working season. This agreement is now close to finalisation.

Mr Kerin, Minister for Primary Industry, Canberra, has advised that funds for the existing forms of assistance, namely, campaign operational costs and compensation, will continue to be made available by the Commonwealth. While the Commonwealth is unable immediately to provide funds for the additional measures of assistance, funding for these additional measures will be considered in the 1983-84 Budget context.

Housing Need - Katherine

859 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

1. Is he aware of the urgent need for houses and flats in Katherine?
2. When can action be expected for the alleviation of this problem?

ANSWER

1. Yes, for NTPS staff housing.

As at 1 April 1983 the following numbers are on waiting lists:

Staff:	1-bedroom flat	33	Wait time	22 months
	2-bedroom flat	Nil	Wait time	Unknown
	3-bedroom house	22	Wait time	17 months
	4-bedroom house	Nil	Wait time	Unknown
General public:	1-bedroom flat	61	Wait time	10 months
	2-bedroom flat	48	Wait time	12 months
	3-bedroom house	44	Wait time	12 months
	4-bedroom house	4	Wait time	15 months

The optimum wait time for all types of accommodation units is 12 months and wait times for NTPS staff and general public 4-bedroom houses

exceed this period. The staff housing list has been closed off. New staff applicants go on a combined general public staff listing. Residual applicants on the staff housing list will be offered staff housing but they have the option to transfer to the general public wait list.

2. Twenty-nine houses are yet to be completed on the 1982-83 Housing Program and a further 74 units of accommodation are proposed for 1983-84 Housing Program. Completion of both programs should alleviate the staff housing problem and maintain all wait times at 12 months.

Rotary Road Safety Centre - Katherine

860 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are Katherine school children taking full advantage of the Rotary Road Safety Centre near Clyde Fenton School?

ANSWER

Katherine school children are taking as full advantage of the Rotary Road Safety Centre as circumstances allow. It must be realised that schools have a crowded curriculum with many competing demands for school time. While schools are well aware of the importance of education in road safety and devote as much time to it as they can, there is only a proportion of this limited time which might properly be spent utilising the facilities of the Katherine Rotary Road Safety Centre.

Already this year, Year 5 and 6 classes from Clyde Fenton, and Year 5 from Katherine School of the Air, have used the centre. Other classes from Katherine primary and pre-schools will use it as the year progresses. On 7 April 1983, the Regional Superintendent circularised all Katherine town schools encouraging use of the centre.

Beef Export

863 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and CONSERVATION

1. What advantage would there be for NT cattlemen if Darwin became the outlet for its export beef?
2. What advantages would there be for NT cattlemen if all export meat-works practised a uniform Halal kill approved by Muslim law?

ANSWER

1. Australian beef exports to its major customers are handled by various conferences (commercial associations) of individual shipping lines. The Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation (AMLC) designates the individual shipping lines that are approved for the trade and sets a maximum freight rate for each of the major trade routes. The AMLC does not designate ports that the lines must serve. This is purely a matter for commercial judgment.

If services for the direct export of beef through Darwin were available, the export beef processors at Mudginberri, Point Stuart and, to a lesser extent, Tennant Creek would save a significant proportion of the costs they currently incur due to the necessity to transport export product to one of the larger southern ports.

In the case of the Katherine abattoir, this works is a party to a special centralization cost-sharing agreement. Under this scheme, Katherine production is uplifted from Wyndham at the shipping line's expense. Thus, the implications of direct export through Darwin are

different for Katherine abattoir compared to other Territory abattoirs.

Adequate quantities of cargo must be available for uplift if international shipping lines are to be induced to call at the port of Darwin. However, Darwin could be of interest as a 'topping-up' call for lines operating the Australia-Japan trade.

Discussions are currently being held with a major shipping line interested in utilizing the port of Darwin in this manner. Beef shipments would hopefully be part of the cargo available for uplift. Because most of the Northern Territory beef exports are destined for the United States of America this beef would have to be transhipped in Japan.

2. Quality control of Australian rural exports is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry. Australian meat exports to importers stipulating a requirement for Halal kill must be accompanied by Department of Primary Industry documentation certifying that the meat has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Islamic faith. Halal kill is primarily required by Malaysia and the Middle East nations.

Malaysia requires all meat imports to have been slaughtered according to the Halal ritual and will only permit the importation of meat slaughtered at establishments that are approved and listed by the Malaysian government.

The latest official Malaysian inspection tour took place during the seasonal closure of works in northern Australia and, consequently, none of the Territory's abattoirs are currently listed for export to Malaysia. The AMLC is attempting to have this situation rectified. Iran also requires special listing but since this trade is primarily in mutton it is of less concern to NT processors.

It is a condition for Department of Primary Industry certification of Halal killing that the slaughtering is performed by a member of one of several recognised Islamic groups or individuals. These groups and individuals charge a fee for performing the Halal ritual. This fee varies between organisation but averages about 20 cents per carton or \$1 per carcass where exports are in whole carcass form. The AMLC and the recognised Islamic groups are currently negotiating a single system of certification of slaughtermen and a single set fee.

Because of the additional charge involved, it would be disadvantageous to have the entire throughput at export abattoirs slaughtered according to Halal requirements when this is not required by all importers.

#### NTDC Loan

864 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Has a NTDC loan been granted to the Territory based company, Northern Research Pty Limited?
2. If so, what was the value of the loan and for what purpose was it granted?

#### ANSWER

1. No. The corporation has not at any stage provided financial assistance to a company of that name.
2. Not applicable.

Reclassification - NTPS 'E' Levels

865 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many public servants in the 'E' levels of the NTPS have been promoted or reclassified upwards since 1 January 1982?
2. Have any promotions or positions reclassified upwards since 1 January 1982 not been published in the *Government Gazette* and, if so, why?

ANSWER

1. For the period 1 January 1982 to 30 June 1983, 62 NTPS employees were promoted within the executive levels.
2. In the same period, one only promotion was not notified in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette*. A position in the Housing Commission was reclassified to the executive level E4 as a result of reorganisation.

The employee promoted, had performed the role at a lower level for a number of years; was considered competent; and, no good reason would have been served by either advertising the position or notifying the promotion in the *Northern Territory Government Gazette*.

Tenders - Low-cost Housing, Alice Springs

866 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and HOUSING

In response to advertisements inviting tenders for low-cost houses in Alice Springs, (a) how many tenders were received, (b) how many houses will be built and how many blocks has the Housing Commission set aside, and (c) when will the first building associated with this project be commenced?

ANSWER

- (a) Helm Constructions Pty Ltd, 3 tenders (3 house types); H. Muller, 1 tender (1 house type); Universal Constructions (N.T.) Pty Ltd, 1 tender (2 house types); Acinorev Pty Ltd, 4 tenders (4 house types); Robri Constructions, 2 tenders (2 house types).  
The entries were judged by a panel consisting of H. Weber (representing Alice Springs Council), M. Juett (Master Builders), R. Polwika (Director, Alice Springs NTHC) and Director Technical NTHC.
- (b) At present no houses will be built. All entries except the one from H. Muller failed on the grounds that they were not low cost, Mr Muller has been offered one house but he is not available for 2 to 3 months.  
The NTHC provisionally set aside 7 blocks but some of these have now been used.
- (c) Possibly 3 months hence.

Vocational Training Commission - TAFE

869 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Since the Vocational Training Commission has been given overall control of policy and planning in relation to TAFE, have the terms of reference of the TAFE Advisory Committee changed?
2. If so, what are the new terms of reference?

ANSWER

The TAFE Advisory Committee came into existence following a resolution of the Vocational Training Commission at its meeting of 17-18 February 1983.

The terms of reference set for the TAFE Advisory Committee at that meeting have not altered and are as follows:

To make recommendations to the commission on:

- the formulation of policy and planning advice on matters relating to the co-ordination of TAFE in the Northern Territory;
- the preparation of co-ordinated funding proposals on TAFE;
- advice on TAFE funding and building needs as they relate to both Commonwealth and Territory sources; and
- accreditation of TAFE courses.

Conditions at Berrimah Prison

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Given that prison officers have stated to the Supreme Court that conditions in Berrimah Prison for 2 chronically mentally-ill persons currently held there are inhumane, what will the government do to provide 24-hour hospital and medical care for these and similarly-placed persons?

ANSWER

I advise her that the matter is sub judice.

Retirement Centre for Rural Old Timers

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

What is the position regarding allocation of land to the Rural Old Timers' Association in the rural area for a retirement centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that, 2 or 3 weeks ago, Cabinet received a submission from the Department of Health regarding the provision of land and other assistance for the establishment of an old timers' home in the rural area. This submission came as a response to requests from the Rural Old Timers' Association with the support of the honourable member for Tiwi. The Cabinet decided to lend certain assistance to the Rural Old Timers' Association and, in addition, to allocate to them approximately 7 ha of land. Judging from submissions made to me by the honourable member for Tiwi since then, it appears that this particular piece of land is not entirely suitable in the view of the Rural Old Timers' Association. The land is apparently across the road from where they would like to have their land. Although the Department of Lands is of the opinion that this is superior land, the Rural Old Timers' Association apparently wants the land across the road because it believes it would allow for future expansion. I point out that it has been offered an area of approximately 15 acres which, I would imagine, would allow for considerable expansion.

The land across the road is considered to be inferior in that it is rougher terrain and is also partly covered by old hard standing areas established in the Second World War to service Sattler airstrip. Nevertheless, I have requested the Department of Lands to accede to the request of the Rural Old Timers' Association. Steps are now being taken to reverse the Cabinet decision in relation to the particular lot number and make available a similar area of land across the road. There is only one drawback from the government's point of view in that services will have to be extended to the other area which will cost additional money. In the interests of peace, harmony and cooperation with a very active group in the rural area, we have conceded that it may have the particular piece of land that its heart is set upon.

I hope that this will be satisfactory both to the honourable member for Tiwi and to the chairman and members of the Rural Old Timers' Association. We certainly wish it well in its endeavours to establish facilities in the rural area including a retirement village for older people. It will require considerable financial assistance too from the Commonwealth and from the Territory government. Let us hope this will be forthcoming.

Criminally Insane Persons

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What provisions does he intend to make for that category of persons requiring specialised medical attention who are known generally as the criminally insane?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition would be aware that I made a statement in the Assembly earlier this year. That statement has not been debated yet and I advise him that I will address myself to his question at the appropriate time.

Gas Reticulation for Darwin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is the suggestion to reticulate gas along the Esplanade and other city streets in Darwin under consideration by the Northern Territory government and, if so, what stage have those considerations reached?

ANSWER

The government, through the Department of Mines and Energy, has indeed been approached by a well-known national distributor of gas products, Boral. Its proposal is very similar to that mentioned by the honourable member for Port Darwin. Members would be aware that it is the normal practice of governments throughout the western world not to deal directly with companies but to call for tenders or expressions of interest. Although that system is designed to protect the taxpayers' money against collusion between governments and various companies, it results inevitably in the delay of very good project ideas. It is the government's intention to call for expressions of interest in gas reticulation throughout Darwin. If that is successful, I would like to see a similar call for expressions of interest in reticulating gas in Alice Springs and other centres if and when that ever becomes economically viable.

As Minister for Mines and Energy, I will be inserting advertisements in newspapers nationally within the next couple of weeks calling for that expression of interest. Naturally, we would expect detailed proposals to be put forward including routing, structuring, aesthetic considerations, storage and safety facilities to secure the tanks against accidents. The logical place for a gas storage facility in Darwin would be down from the cliffs, probably in an area adjacent to this building. Of course, the environmental and aesthetic impact of that would have to be considered carefully. Such things as traffic disruption, the method of laying the trenches and the amount of inconvenience to the public generally would have to be considered. With regard to the reticulation of gas in this manner, we are talking about a long-term benefit to the people of Darwin as opposed to short-term inconvenience while the system is installed.

We would also want to be assured of continuity of supply. We would want the expressions of interest to address themselves to such issues as the compatibility of the reticulation system and the possible advent of natural gas from offshore. There is an enormous deposit but, of course, it is enormously expensive to bring it onshore having regard to the remoteness of

the known gas fields in the Bonaparte Gulf and elsewhere.

Mr Speaker, all of those matters will be addressed in the advertisement calling for expressions of interest. I have little doubt we will receive very good responses from Boral and perhaps its competitors such as CIG and so on - the more the merrier; the greater the competition, the better. When we have those responses, they will be subjected to detailed analysis by government and, based upon the worth or otherwise of those projects, decisions will be made at that time. I hope to see a positive response from industry in order that the government's response may be positive. I can see a great deal of benefit in this as an alternative and perhaps long-term and secure heating supply. Any form of heat can be used also for air-conditioning purposes as was demonstrated by the use of kerosene for many decades. There is a wide range of application for such reticulation. In view of the diminishing fossil fuel reserves of the world, the enormous reserves of gas in its various forms which are available to us would render such a reticulation system very desirable indeed.

#### Solar Appliance Rebates

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What are the reasons for discontinuing the solar appliance rebates which have been available to eligible householders for the past 2 years?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, they have not been discontinued at all, as I made clear in a press statement recently. Those rebates will continue. It is only necessary for people to apply to NTEC as they always have. If any confusion has been caused, I accept responsibility for it. There is a Cabinet submission currently before government which addresses itself to the possible extension of rebates to photovoltaic cell use and so on. Within the resources available to us, we would prefer to extend the program rather than curtail it. I do not know where the honourable member for Sanderson obtained her information. The Cabinet submission must have fallen off the back of a truck because it asks for Cabinet's formal approval for the continuation of the scheme. Obviously, I did not make it clear to NTEC that I did not want the matter of its continuation brought into question at all. Of course, we will continue with that very worthwhile scheme. For my part, I would like to see it extended, not only in terms of percentage of rebate - that may be a little difficult in the budgetary sense - but certainly to encourage the wider use of solar technology in the urban environment and particularly the rural environment.

Mr Speaker, this technology is advancing very rapidly. Recently, we were treated to a display of photovoltaic developments in the USA by a group of USA designers and engineers. It was quite a fascinating study. They are now obtaining megawatts in electricity production. These trackers are large, photovoltaic panels about 32 inches by 32 inches. I apologise to Gus Henry of Professional Services Branch of the Department of Education. I use those figures because the USA is not yet metric. While producing electricity from solar energy at only 12% efficiency, these panels are nonetheless now providing grid electricity in the megawatt range.

While the McDonald Douglas project - and I am diverting a little here - was aesthetically displeasing to many, the newer technology coming on stream is not. While these systems are producing megawatts in city reticulation systems, they also have a very good application in the rural environment and



in remote communities all of which the government would like to address to see whether assistance can be made available.

Members who took the opportunity to visit the trade fair at Dripstone High School would have observed a photovoltaic cell-powered pumping system. If we translate the image of that system from an air-conditioned building into rural areas, and couple its incredible capacity for pumping water with a solar-powered desalination or purification plant, and the consequent saving in diesel, then, where we are looking at general subsidies as taxpayers, if we can subsidise the solar side rather than the diesel side, we will be doing a service to everyone. It is true that the subsidy scheme will be continued and hopefully extended.

Land Reserved for Public Access

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

My question relates to the rationalisation of the boundaries of Koolpinyah. I must preface my question by advising the Assembly that I have been advised that the government has acquired a beach frontage 1 km deep from the Tree Point to Gunn Point boundary. Is it now the government's policy to reserve such land for public access when the opportunity arises?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Nightcliff has asked me for a statement of policy on the reservation of beach frontage land. Of course, it has always been the Territory government's policy in a general sense to reserve the foreshores for public use. My predecessor in the office of Minister for Lands put on public display the Darwin Foreshores Protection Scheme. I think that was adopted by the Darwin Town Planning Authority and other relevant authorities after a considerable period of public display and without a great deal of public debate. Perhaps that was because the scheme appealed widely to the community.

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the full details of the acquisitions that the government has undertaken at Koolpinyah. I know that we have acquired several areas of land after investigating the needs of the government and, of course, the needs of the public for land in that area. After protracted negotiations with the lessee, certain acquisitions have taken place. From memory, we have acquired an area on Gunn Point that belonged formerly to the lessee of Koolpinyah. Again, from memory, this was a special purposes lease or freehold area. I am assured by my colleague, the former minister who has had somewhat more to do with the matter than I have, that it was freehold. That would have a seafront area. The whole purpose of this project is to integrate this area with the government's proposal for a recreation area at Gunn Point for the people of Darwin and the Top End in particular but, for that matter, any people in the Territory or Australia who choose to avail themselves of it. Through the Conservation Commission, we have been taking steps in that area to put in boat ramps, access roads, toilets, barbecues and other facilities so that, whilst in a sense people will be roughing it, nonetheless, they will have the basic amenities. Hopefully, this will cause them to congregate together and not camp all over the place and perhaps damage the environment.

Certainly, it is the government's intention that that area of foreshore at Gunn Point be reserved for the use of the public. Honourable members will

appreciate that areas of foreshore in the Northern Territory are particularly valuable because somewhat in excess of two-thirds of our coastline is not open to the public. Indeed, a good part of the coastal waters for 2 km offshore in those areas is not open to the public and, in fact, can be alienated as well. Therefore, the Territory government has a settled policy to try to make available as much seafront land as possible for the recreation and enjoyment of the public although there will have to be alternative uses from time to time for sailing clubs, marinas, lifesaving clubs etc that cannot be located a mile or two inland. Nonetheless, we certainly intend, as far as possible, to keep the maximum amount of seafront land available to the public.

Spot Checks on Vehicles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Are Transport and Works transport inspectors still operating spot checks on vehicles on the roads?

ANSWER

Transport inspectors carry out spot checks on taxis, hire cars, buses and vehicles in excess of 4.5 t in the course of their daily operations. Private vehicles up to 4.5 t which have safety defects are detected during normal patrols. All vehicles which have reported minor defects are liable for call in.

Hermannsburg Road

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer him to my petition in relation to the Hermannsburg Road. Is he aware of the dangers to my constituents, to visitors to Palm Valley and other tourist attractions in the Northern Territory and to people constructing the Palm Valley to Alice Springs pipeline? If the government is so aware, what action is proposed?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question. We do treat petitions seriously. Obviously, the petition will be considered by the department and a report will come to me on the status of the road and what action will need to be taken. We do not regard his petition as frivolous and every consideration will be given to it.

Spot Checks on Vehicles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Would he consider a system of spot checks on heavy vehicles and buses on the owners' premises?

ANSWER

There are practical problems in undertaking spot checks of vehicles on the owners' premises as distinct from a field situation. However, the registrar can call vehicles in or ask to inspect vehicles which he believes

may be unroadworthy. Advice is available on suitable standards of maintenance. The Australian Transport Advisory Council has endorsed a maintenance code for buses and copies have been circulated to all Northern Territory bus operators. Consideration is being given to whether all school bus contract vehicles should comply with the code and the records being available for inspection from time to time.

Employment of Mr Combe as Lobbyist

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he advise if the amount of money involved in the employment of Mr David Combe as a lobbyist for the Northern Territory government in Canberra is in the order of \$150 000?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this question is interesting. For the Opposition Leader even to have asked this reflects some doubt on my reputation for truthfulness. I have already told this Assembly and I have certainly told the media - and it has been given wide publicity - that the Northern Territory government is paying Mr David Combe a retainer of \$25 000 a year. We have heard from Mr Peter Morris, the federal Minister for Transport, who has a reputation for saying anything that comes into his head, that we are paying Mr Combe \$1000 a day. No one knows where Mr Morris got that figure from and he certainly has never enlightened us as to where it came from.

Mr B. Collins: Mr Combe.

Mr EVERINGHAM: The Leader of the Opposition says that he got the figure from Mr Combe. That shows us that Mr Combe's contacts with the federal ministry are as good as they ever were.

I believe, Mr Speaker, that a retainer of \$25 000 per annum is not unreasonable in the circumstances. As I have previously told this Assembly, we use 'lobbyists' as they are called or 'consultants' as they actually appear in the public service documentation that talks about them to attempt to gain for the Northern Territory information, usually at the bureaucratic level, about events, programs or policies that are likely to be taken up which will have an impact on the Northern Territory. The processes by which the federal government operates usually mean that developments occur in the departments even before ministers get to hear of them. If one has consultants who have widespread connections through the bureaucracy, through political staff and so on, one obtains intelligence that enables one to take necessary remedial action where the interests of the Northern Territory are being threatened. It is for that reason and for no other that the Northern Territory employs lobbyists.

It has been said that we should use our federal representatives. We do, Mr Speaker. We use our federal representatives and always have done so to the best of our ability but there are only 3 federal representatives from the Territory and they spend a great deal of their time on committees and in the House. When they are in Canberra, they are usually flat strap anyway and they have very little contact with the bureaucracy. For that matter, it takes them years to build up the sort of contacts that are of any use. That is why, to put it bluntly, you buy information from these people called 'lobbyists'. It is certainly one of the oldest professions in the world.

I think that lobbyists are recorded as having been in the precincts of the Roman Senate and, no doubt, they were received.

Mr B. Collins: Were their conversations monitored?

Mr EVERINGHAM: They were probably written on tablets of stone, Mr Speaker. I understand too, from my reading on the subject when I was younger, that lobbyists in the days of the Roman Empire received substantially larger fees than they do today.

While I am on my feet, and reflecting on the Leader of the Opposition's apparent disbelief of my statements, I think I have told the media at least 20 times that this government does not propose to have an early election. We believe that, unless some extraordinary event occurs, we should run our full term. The Leader of the Opposition appears to doubt my veracity on this subject as well by referring in an off-handed way to elections. However, I would like to try to put this subject to bed because I believe that the efforts of the media and the opposition to keep the subject of an early election at the forefront of people's minds are simply unsettling to the community at a time when we really need to be getting on with the job. Unemployment figures in the Territory are high and perhaps that can be attributed to the season. But, we want to keep this community in a state of confidence and, as far as possible, tranquility, so that people will put their hands in their pockets and pull their money out or go to see their bank manager or their financier and borrow money to get on with projects. We do not want totally unnecessary talk about early elections.

I do not know how many times I have given what virtually amounts to a categorical assurance. It is with great reluctance that I raise this subject in the Assembly because I should not have to. The Leader of the Opposition seems to be intent on creating uncertainty about the whole subject. I believe that sort of uncertainty can only do harm to the Territory's situation. If the Leader of the Opposition is interested in jobs and employment, he should cease talking about an early election. I have said more than most leaders of any government anywhere would say on the subject. I have said that, unless some extraordinary event occurs, the Northern Territory will have its election at the normal time.

Commonwealth Financial Assistance for NT Electricity Generation

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

What has the Territory government been doing to ensure continuous Commonwealth financial assistance for electricity generation in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, members will be aware of the importance of our funding arrangements for electricity with the Commonwealth. They are important to our very future. It is the one area of Northern Territory funding that, if it ceased, would probably send the Northern Territory broke. Honourable members will be aware that the Memorandum of Understanding which was settled at self-government provided that, for the first 4 years of the agreement, actual losses in the electricity system in the Northern Territory would be picked up by the Commonwealth. That arrangement was put in place in the absence of any other arrangements and in order to settle the matter and not have self-government delayed as a result of uncertainty about the electricity

system.

In June last year, at the end of that 4-year period, agreement was reached with the previous federal government in regard to a formula subsidy arrangement to apply until 1987. This formula arrangement included assistance with the construction of the Channel Island power-station stage 1. Unfortunately, the formal written details of that agreement were only finalised by officials of both governments early this year. The new Labor government refused to endorse the agreement when we raised the matter with it in March this year. Very shortly after its election, the Chief Minister and I saw Senator Walsh, the minister responsible, and asked him to confirm his government's support for that particular agreement. At that time, he refused.

I can assure honourable members that, because of the importance that we place on these arrangements with the federal government and the terrible consequences to the Northern Territory of those arrangements not being confirmed, the Chief Minister and I have made repeated representations to both Senator Walsh and the Prime Minister on virtually every one of the many trips made by the Chief Minister, and to a lesser extent myself, to Canberra since the Labor government came to office. We have sought to reinforce the importance which the Northern Territory government places on this particular agreement which, we are adamant, had been reached completely with the previous federal government but simply had not been signed at that state. Mr Speaker, during the period in which we raised this matter with those respective ministers and the Prime Minister, our case was not assisted at all by the rantings of the Leader of the Opposition in this Assembly and the NT member of the House of Representatives about how the Territory was over-funded in their view. Honourable members will be well aware of what has been said in that regard. That attitude certainly did not help those negotiations. However, there is a satisfactory ending. I am pleased to advise that the Prime Minister has written as recently as this morning to the Chief Minister informing the Northern Territory that the federal government has now confirmed the agreement reached last year with the former federal government which, up until this morning, the present federal government had refused to ratify. I am satisfied that, in the end, justice has been done. It has been an agreement all along. However, agreements are only as strong as the people who are to stand by them. We now have this assurance that the new federal government will stand by that agreement, as indeed it should because it is a specific part of the basis of the self-government settlement.

#### Ratification of Electricity Agreement

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Is it true that the electricity agreement to which the Treasurer has just referred had not been signed by the Fraser government for a period of 7 months after it had been drafted?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is not true. In fact, the documents were prepared finally for signature between the former federal minister, Senator Carrick, and myself. They were ready for signature at the time the federal government called the election and were not signed for that reason. The documents had not been ready for 7 months.

Shooting of Buffalo from Helicopters

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware that about 600 head of buffalo have been shot from helicopters this year and left on the ground at Kakadu? In his liaison capacity with the federal minister whose portfolio includes the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, would the minister undertake to stop this wasteful and useless slaughter of buffalo?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am concerned that the honourable member may have a view that the destruction of buffalo is a useless and wasteful slaughter. I do not think that view should prevail in our community. While every effort is made to remove buffalo from the park in the most acceptable way, regrettably, it is not always possible to satisfy everyone. As a result of receiving the honourable member's representations, I took the matter up with the Conservation Commission because I was worried that an image like that should exist. I would like to read the advice from the Conservation Commission because the area in Kakadu to which the honourable member refers is under the control of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Our relationship with that body is one of consultation and cooperation. Advice on this matter was received from Mr Chris Haynes of the ANPWS:

*The policy of the ANPWS is to remove feral animals from Kakadu National Park and they make every effort to cooperate with musterers and pet meaters. However, where buffalo are unmusterable or otherwise inaccessible, the rangers eradicate those remaining by shooting. For example, the buffalo at Malabanbandju were repeatedly mustered and shot by pet meaters and yet a small number of buffalo remained forcing the rangers to complete the elimination in another way.*

The answer to the honourable member's question is that there will always be times when we have to shoot buffalo from helicopters because of the inaccessibility of the terrain. However, it is never an intention of the ANPWS nor the government to be seen to be uselessly and carelessly slaughtering animals in an inhumane way to the disadvantage of the community.

Report on Staffing in NT Primary Schools

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Have the findings in the report on staffing in Northern Territory primary schools undertaken last year by a joint departmental working group and the Northern Territory Teachers Federation yet been accepted by the government, and, if so, when will the findings be implemented?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member refers to the report being accepted by government. It has been accepted inasmuch as it has been received. I do not have particular details before me but the report itself advised caution in looking at its recommendations because of the very poor statistical basis of the information in it. It indicated that caution should be taken with interpretations because of poor sampling, poor responses to samples and

so on. Whilst I have the report at this time - and I provided a copy to the NT Teachers Federation which was on the working party that prepared it - I cannot give the honourable member any further information about it at this time.

Old Darwin Hospital Site

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

I am continually asked about the future of the area of land that was previously occupied by the old Darwin Hospital. What is the current situation with regard to the future development of that piece of land?

ANSWER

Expressions of interest were invited in relation to the old Darwin Hospital site. I think everyone here agrees that, if it is to be redeveloped, and we believe it should be, it must be approached by us with considerable caution. We must get the best possible use out of the land in the interests of the whole community. Expressions of interest were invited earlier this year and, from memory, they closed at about the end of July. Several expressions of interest were received from local and overseas parties and I understand that, at present, these are being evaluated. Of course, evaluation includes discussions with the proponents and the seeking of further information. I have advised the Secretary of the Department of Lands that the government would rather do nothing with this land than give it away to someone who would use it for an inferior purpose.

I anticipate that the process of evaluation may take many months. In due course, when the various proposals have been developed to a level where they can be taken to Cabinet, that is where I will take them. In the meantime, Mr Speaker, I have confirmed to the YMCA and YWCA that the lease that they have over the old nurses' quarters will continue and that the government will see that it is honoured to the extent that they have tenure within the terms of the lease. I believe that they may have an option. We have indicated that the lease will be honoured.

As to the likely future use of the site, all I can say at this stage is I imagine it will be something in the order of hotel or commercial condominium-type development. It could even be something in the nature of a total resort complex because a beach fronts onto the site. I think all honourable members would want to see that the site receives very special treatment.

Labor Proposal for University

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it the intention of the government to support the opposition's proposal for the establishment of a university and can he advise if the recommendation of the TEC's 1981 submissions on the university render the Labor proposal unworkable?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we would be most unlikely to support the ALP's narrow-view university. I think it has been described as a lean-to university, a tin

shed university, a cluster of demountables down the back of the community college. That is hardly appropriate in our view, Mr Speaker. I think it would be rather inappropriate for me to hold up the Assembly by listing specific items which we feel are quite inappropriate as far as the Northern Territory is concerned if it wants a university of any credibility whatsoever, a university other than in name which it seems the honourable Leader of the Opposition is proposing. It seems the proposal was framed without any information from the University Planning Authority which expected him to fulfil an undertaking that he gave to it that, following some discussion on the various aspects of the government's case for the university put forward at recent meetings of the Universities Council held in the Territory, he would give more information on the ALP's case. More recently, it was released in the press. It seems that what has been released in the press subsequent to his confidential talk with the universities council has, if anything, attempted to torpedo the government's case, the case we have been putting for some time and refining from time to time after further talks with the universities council.

The honourable member has taken considerable exception to the fact that I have said that the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission had already indicated in its earlier report on the Territory's first submission that what the ALP is putting forward now is totally inappropriate. It stated that it would not be considered by it at all as far as the establishment of a university is concerned. I would refer him to page 23, paragraph 3.31, of the report of the Tertiary Education Commission on the proposal to establish a university in the Northern Territory. As a matter of fact, I think it would be quite appropriate in answering the honourable member's question, particularly since he asked for my reference point, to read this paragraph. I quote from the report on the first proposal put forward:

*Another of the commission's concerns stems from the fact that the proposal is based largely on the transfer of advanced education courses from one institution to another rather than the establishment of further opportunities for higher education for residents in the Territory. Leaving aside the problems that this would create in staffing the courses and the implications for the future development of the Darwin Community College, the commission believes that this would not provide an adequate base for the successful development of a university and that it would prejudice the future of advanced education. Moreover, the commission has reservations generally about universities offering subgraduate courses and would be prepared to support such arrangements only where a university is the only local institution with the resources necessary to offer courses at the level in the relevant disciplines. This is clearly not the case in Darwin where, under the present proposal, the Darwin Community College would continue to offer some UG3 courses in those areas forming the basis of this university's operations.*

Then comes the key part of the paragraph:

*The commission considers that a future university in the Territory should develop independently from the beginning. It should offer recognised university courses from which teaching and research activities can develop logically and progressively.*

Mr Speaker, I suggest that the ALP have a good hard look at that because the case it has put forward in its policy is particularly shallow.



It totally overlooks considerations such as that the Darwin Community College site, in a few years, will prove to be inadequate for its own activities. If honourable members opposite would care to have a look at the Darwin Community College's master plan for its whole site at Casuarina, they will see that there is simply no room at all for any additional activities on campus. One would have to abolish the car-park and landscaping etc.

The opposition seems to think that Palmerston is way down in the bush and no one could possibly want to travel a few kilometres down there. I think it undersells the importance of Palmerston - the population that is there now, the population that will be there in just a short few years and communications networks by way of roads etc which will exist between Darwin and Palmerston. For it to put forward the view that Palmerston is simply an outback area with an atmosphere like Timber Creek demonstrates that it simply has not taken the issue seriously. It seems to me that it wanted to develop a case which did anything but support the government's case. That is what it has done.

#### Buffalo and Cattle Eradication

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Will he undertake to have the Conservation Commission fully cooperate with pet meaters in buffalo and cattle eradication on land controlled by the Conservation Commission?

ANSWER

I confirm for the honourable member that the Conservation Commission's policy in destocking feral animals from land which it controls is one of cooperating fully with pet meat operators and other people involved in the industry. I would make the point, though, that one of the conflicts of interest that the Conservation Commission officers have is that, in trying to balance the needs and the requirements of pet meat operators, they have also to balance the impact that these operators have on the environment, particularly with the vehicles they use and the sort of operation that they conduct. However, I confirm that pet meaters will be used wherever possible. If there have been cases from time to time where people believe pet meaters should have been used, then I can only say that the commission must have felt that damage done by the operators may have been greater than the benefits derived from putting the animals through a pet meat works.

#### Accommodation at Old Darwin Hospital

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the fact that it has been reported in the media that there are now 7000 unemployed people in the Northern Territory, could some part of the old hospital at least be used as temporary accommodation for needy people?

ANSWER

I do not believe that the old hospital could be used as temporary accommodation for needy people. Firstly, all the old wards other than the sisters quarters, as far as I know, have been demolished and removed. There are some flats on the site, which, I understand, are being used by government employees at present. Mr Speaker, the former administration

buildings etc have not been designed to provide accommodation. They would require very extensive and expensive renovations. It would cost a mint of money to bring the services at the old Darwin Hospital back into operation. It is far more economical to continue to put all the government's money into the housing program rather than attempting to convert buildings to a use for which they were never intended.

East Coast Shipping Service

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

He has stated that shipping companies other than ANL could provide a satisfactory service to the east coast if they were given the opportunity. Which shipping companies have expressed an interest in the provision of such a service?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works and the Port Authority have made many attempts to secure adequate shipping services for Darwin outside the existing subsidy arrangements with the Commonwealth. Most of the responses we have received from various organisations, such as TNT Bulk Ships, Bourkes and State Ships have involved some subsidy requirement. Our proposal has been that the Commonwealth pass to the Northern Territory the subsidy required and enter into a 3-year arrangement with the Northern Territory government so that it may choose the right shipping service to meet Darwin's needs. This has always been our proposal. At no stage has the Commonwealth agreed to that proposal. The federal government has decided to fund the operations of ANL on a year-to-year basis. This has been unacceptable to the Northern Territory government because no one would know where the subsidy was applied and we would not be prepared to make a contribution to a subsidy on that basis. Recently, we have agreed that we would go all out in the marketing of ANL on the basis that the federal minister has offered to subsidise the ANL operation again during the current year. At this point, we have no advice from the federal minister as to the extent of that subsidy. He has announced a \$2m subsidy and we hope that there will be some advice, either in the budget or in a covering letter, in the next few days.

Purchase of Housing Commission Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HOUSING

This relates to a situation which has persisted for ages. When will Housing Commission tenants in Nhulunbuy be allowed to purchase the houses in which they live?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is right when he says this situation has lasted for ages. I imagine it will continue for a further period. As the honourable member would be aware, the housing question in Nhulunbuy is tied up with the joint venturers' lease held with the Aboriginal community in that area. Until such time as the Department of Law can resolve the question with the joint venturers, I am unable to answer the question.

Heavitree Gap

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TOURISM

What action does the government propose to improve the present state of the gateway to Alice Springs at Heavitree Gap?

ANSWER

When I was there a couple of weeks ago, there was a lot of earth lying around as a result of digging from the gap pipeline. Certain roadworks were under way. I understand a new causeway is programmed to go across to the farm area for which tenders are to be called shortly and a contract let in about October. There is a park area which, as I understand it, is the responsibility of the Alice Springs Town Council. Certainly, the area from Heavitree Gap into Alice Springs is quite clearly the responsibility of the Alice Springs Town Council in terms of beautification. I acknowledge that the area is not looking its pristine best at the moment but the situation is difficult when one considers that transport and other services all converge in that area. The railway line, the road, the river, the pipeline, electricity and telephone wires, sewerage lines and the water supply lines all go through the Gap. Naturally, work has to be done on these things from time to time.

I feel certain the relevant authorities will see that, after the work is carried out, restoration and beautification will be done. This year, we have had the added troubles of a flood through the Gap which at least left the roadway substantially unharmed this time because of the new methods of securing the foundations. However, there has been considerable work there and I am sure that beautification will be carried out over the course of the next few months. To have tried to plant grass and trees during an Alice Springs winter would have been undesirable. The grass and trees would have died back in the first frost that came along and certainly would not have been shooting until spring time. I expect that the Conservation Commission and the town council know this as well as anyone and will be planning to get on with the work when the weather is more congenial.

Air Services in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he received any recommendations on the future of air services in Nhulunbuy following a recent inquiry on the matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I acknowledge that there has been no improvement in the services to Nhulunbuy as a result of my actions and whatever actions the honourable member has taken himself in this matter. The government has initiated passenger surveys of all air and bus services throughout the Northern Territory. Particularly in relation to the Gove situation, a public meeting was held. I understand a meeting was held also at Groote Eylandt to determine the attitude of users of those services. As further information comes to hand, I will be happy to pass it on to the honourable member.

Job Opportunities for Territorians

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Given the increase of 17.1% in federal funding to the Northern Territory announced in last night's federal budget and the fact that most of this money is untied grants, will the government ensure that this funding will be used to generate the maximum number of job opportunities for Territorians?

ANSWER

It will certainly be up to the Northern Territory government, in its budget, to try to generate the maximum number of jobs for Territorians because the federal budget certainly has not done that as far as specific Commonwealth initiatives are concerned. I would like to point out that the increases in payments to the Northern Territory government almost exclusively are not the result of specific federal initiatives and decisions taken to assist the Northern Territory. They are a result of the federal government fulfilling obligations, some of which are 5 years old, in formulas laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding. Virtually all the Northern Territory's funding stems from those formulas. To have the view portrayed over the last few hours that local members of the opposition have been enormously influential in getting additional funds for the Northern Territory is simply nonsense.

In relation to the electricity subsidy, there is a formula for assistance to the Northern Territory from the federal government. In fact, this ties the federal government's hands to some degree in the amount of money allocated to the Northern Territory. On top of that, the Grants Commission has a specific special grant to the Northern Territory of \$16.9m which was provided to us after an assessment of the Territory's needs. In addition, the Bi-centennial Roads Development Program and housing funding are matters which have been settled for some considerable time and present no surprises in the budget because the federal government has fulfilled obligations rather than taken specific initiatives in the Northern Territory to create jobs. In the area where it could have done so - Commonwealth capital works - it has been decidedly short on activity of past years. Honourable members will be well aware that the good news of the commencement of upgrading and relocation of the Darwin Airport brings with it the news that a mere \$1m is to be spent this year. Very much of that \$1m will be taken up in design and documentation and probably very little work will be done on the ground. Where that will create jobs in the Territory is hard to see because most of it will be done in South Australia and some of it in Western Australia by consultants engaged by the Commonwealth government.

There is precious little Commonwealth capital works in the budget. There are some 9 or so houses to be built for Commonwealth public servants in the Northern Territory. The good news is that a control tower will be commenced at Nhulunbuy. Other than that, there is very little. When we consider the levels of Commonwealth capital spending in the Northern Territory in the past on things like the patrol boat base, we seem to be missing out on many of the opportunities the federal government has to create employment in the Northern Territory. How the suggestion by the federal government, that this budget will stimulate private investment, will come to pass escapes me completely because I can see where there would be specific disincentives to private investment coming out of this budget

rather than incentives.

Amongst the disincentives in particular which will affect Territorians very seriously, and which has been played down by commentators from the other side, is that petrol and diesel fuel prices will rise some 5% or 2¢ a litre, and that will be indexed. That is bad news as far as the Territory is concerned because we have persistently advocated to federal governments that to touch the cost of transportation in the Territory affects us more than elsewhere in Australia. In the first year, the cost of that impost is likely to be in the vicinity of \$8m a year. Of course, only one group of people will pay that \$8m: the consumers. It must be passed on. The cost of transporting goods and persons to the Territory by road, air or sea will rise. The only way you will escape it is to walk or ride a bike in the Northern Territory. Obviously, the cost of food, clothing, houses, cars, travel etc will rise.

That is only part of the bad news. The most dangerous aspect is that the government has taken steps to index the excise on fuel and other products such as cigarettes and fortified wines. The indexation of a tax is a particularly nasty move by a government because it enables it to forever gather from the populace ever more revenue without wearing the odium of having to say 'We have just put it up again'. Not only will the government receive the benefit of increased turnover and activity from increased consumption of goods like fuel as Australia's economy recovers, it will also receive an additional loading every 6 months. That will build in a spiral of rising prices which will reflect in the CPI. It can do nothing else but reinforce inflation in this country for as long as taxes are indexed. It is a most detrimental thing to have done to Australia. It has established a new line of evil in imposing taxes on people. This will affect the Territory more than most because of our reliance on transportation throughout.

Honourable members opposite who claim that this budget is a marvellous fillip to the Northern Territory ought to rethink. The advantages to us in this budget stem from the Memorandum of Understanding and the electricity agreement which are fixed obligations on the Commonwealth government. There are no favours there. Where it does have a discretionary power, we have been sold short.

#### Darwin Performing Arts Centre

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Recently, he made some very strong statements in regard to the Darwin Performing Arts Centre and the government's involvement in that project. Is he planning to have further meetings with the Lord Mayor of Darwin about the Darwin Performing Arts Centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, prior to my assuming the portfolio for community development and the responsibility for the arts centre and its funding through the Department of Community Development, the Lord Mayor raised with the Chief Minister the concept of the Northern Territory government setting up a formal Araluen-type trust to take over the operation of the arts centre in Darwin. My understanding from the Chief Minister is that he advised the Lord Mayor that the government would not favour such a course of action and that the council was to be responsible for the operation and the administration of the centre. How it did that was really a matter for itself

and we would not be involved. Subsequently, the Lord Mayor met with me and some of my officers and raised the matter again. I advised him that it was not the government's intention to become involved with the administration and operation of the arts centre and that, in fact, if the council wished to have an autonomous body to run it, it was really a matter for itself. Subsequently, I understand that the council was seeking a meeting of officers to find the best way of setting up a body. While the expertise of the department would certainly be available to the council to discuss what options might be available, it is certainly not the government's intention to become involved.

For the benefit of some people who have said that Araleun has a trust and therefore the Darwin arts centre ought to have a trust, I think there is a distinct difference. The body in Alice Springs that sponsored the Araleun centre was a community group. It was not sponsored by the Alice Springs council. In the case of the Darwin arts centre, the project has always been sponsored by and understood to be the responsibility of the Darwin City Council. We do not intend to become involved in the operation of the Darwin arts centre. We have an agreement with the city council that we will contribute to the funding of the centre and we will meet that obligation. Discussions will be held in the months to come about the level of funding required. It is early days so far as setting a level of funding is concerned. The centre is not due to be opened for about 12 to 15 months at the earliest. We expect to be involved in consultation with the city council to arrive at a level of funding that we believe the government is committed to. I hope that answers the honourable member's question and puts the matter into perspective.

#### Housing Grants

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HOUSING

In view of the previous answer - if you could call it that - from the Treasurer, could he confirm whether the 41.7% increase in the federal budget in housing grants for the Northern Territory is part of the Memorandum of Understanding?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, Mr Speaker, not all of it.

#### School Buses

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Do all school buses undergo full mechanical tests over the pits on re-registration?

ANSWER

They do in areas where testing facilities exist. Further, inspection is mandatory every 6 months. Periodic spot checks are carried out in the interests of road safety and to determine the extent of voluntary compliance by the operators. In areas where testing facilities are not available, all buses are inspected at 6-monthly intervals by the Vehicles Standards Section inspectors on site.

Apprentices at Territory Training Centre

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question concerns the automotive and diesel apprentices attached to the Territory Training Centre, at the old bus depot on the corner of Bagot Road and the Stuart Highway. Could he advise if they will be stationed there permanently or, if not, what future arrangements will be made for that depot and for the apprentices?

ANSWER

I agreed a little time ago with the Vocational Training Commission that it could take over the old bus depot on the corner of Bagot Road and the Stuart Highway as an interim move to accommodate additional apprentices. It wanted to take on further apprentices but there was insufficient room at the Territory Training Centre in Armidale Street. At present, there is an interim arrangement which ensures that those trainees are not unduly affected. We will consider the long-term use of that particular site. No doubt, we will consider the possibility of continuing to use it for those types of activities, depending on a whole range of questions to be raised about its suitability for that use, for long-term growth and so on. I can assure any trainees who are attending that site that we will ensure that they are adequately accommodated so that their training is not interrupted unduly.

Upgrading of Girraween Road

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of repeated requests to repair Girraween Road in the rural area, and considering its importance as a through-road from Howard Springs to Humpty Doo and to the extractive industries, can the road be considered immediately for upgrading?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the development of an extractive industry in the Girraween Road area has resulted in an increase in traffic for which the present road was not designed. I can assure her that the Northern Territory government appreciates the nuisance this must cause. Members will be aware of the government's policy of progressive upgrading and reconstruction of the rural road system between Batchelor and Darwin. However, because of the massive funds involved in this program, demands will only be satisfied over a number of years. Girraween Road has been programmed for re-gravelling next month and this will reduce the dust problem. Minor upgrading of a causeway on the road will also be carried out at that time. I have asked my department to conduct a study, including traffic counts, to determine whether higher priority for sealing the road is warranted.

Federal Funding for NT Rehabilitation Centres

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In light of the Treasurer's statement this morning, is the increase in the federal budget announced last night in the desperately needed area of

rehabilitation centres for the Northern Territory from \$800 000 to \$5.3m - an increase of 560% - part of the Memorandum of Understanding?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the only funds that we will receive from the federal health budget is an additional \$7m which is anticipated to be the loss of revenue from the introduction of Medicare on 1 February 1984. In the health budget, some \$20m has been allocated for the provision of community health services. That is additional. Of that additional funding to the Australian community, the Northern Territory will receive about \$14 000.

Control Scheme for Quota Meats to USA

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

It is understood that the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation has implemented a control scheme limiting Australian shipments of quota meats to the USA for the balance of 1983. Is he aware of this scheme and will it disadvantage the Territory meat export trade?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I became aware yesterday of the proposal outlined by the honourable member. I would like to read a sentence from a telex I received. It was addressed to my colleague, the Chief Minister, and came from the Northern Territory Meat Exporters Association. The information in the telex is that the AMLC has implemented a control scheme from 16 August 1983 limiting Australian shipments of quota meats to America for the balance of this year and it has released 40 000 t to be divided amongst eligible exporters. This scheme is disastrous for the Northern Territory meat exporters and cattle growers as other Australian exporters have shipped without restriction since January. Honourable members would be aware that our killing season starts later in the year, in April-May.

There are several matters of concern about this. The first is that we have received no information at all from the AMLC or the federal department, which I would have thought was appropriate under the circumstances. I would like to brief honourable members on a paper that has been given me by the department on the significance of this restriction. Negotiations between Australia and the USA over the limitations on beef shipments during 1983 have concluded with Australia agreeing to a restraint level of 272 000 t. Australia's traditional export level to the USA is approximately 290 000 t. and trade agreements should have provided access for about 305 000t. Higher than expected levels of shipment from Canada and New Zealand in the first half of 1983 meant some restraint on imports would be required in the second half of the year. Australian trade officials refused an American offer of access for 255 000 t, which was made early in July, and a second offer of 262 000 t made later the same month. The USA offered 272 000 t and we accepted this on 12 August.

This agreed restraint level means that the balance of shipments for this year will total between 40 000 t and 45 000 t. Quota entitlements for individual abattoirs are based on their total export tonnages last year as a proportion of total Australian exports. This allocation mechanism is extremely unfair to the Northern Territory beef processors because of the seasonal nature of the killing season in the Northern Territory and because



Territory beef exports are almost entirely directed to the American market. The southern abattoirs have 3 or 4 months unrestricted access to the American market over and above that of their Territory counterparts. In addition, through-puts at the Territory abattoirs are predominantly manufacturing-class meats suited to the United States trade. This means they have little opportunity to diversify their market outlets and are further penalised by the quota system.

The combined effect of these 2 factors seriously disadvantages the Northern Territory processors. In fact, it is estimated that beef quotas at Northern Territory abattoirs could be filled by early September while entitlements at southern abattoirs may not be filled until mid-October. When entitlements have been filled, beef exports to the United States will have to be placed in bonded storage. This will have adverse consequences on the cash flow position of Northern Territory exporters.

I am very concerned at the developments that have taken place in this area and I propose to take the matter up with the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation and also with my federal counterpart, the Minister for Primary Industry because, as is outlined in the paper, the proposition that the Northern Territory be curtailed in its production, primarily because we have a killing season that runs for about 6 months instead of the whole year, is inequitable and unreasonable. It needs to be re-negotiated with the people concerned. I can say to the honourable member that we are concerned about it and we will try to do something about it because it cannot go on if we are to maintain a stable meat industry in the Northern Territory.

#### Rehabilitation Centre

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the minister intend to transfer the rehabilitation centre from the old Darwin Hospital to Dundas House at Parap, despite the fact that there is insufficient space at Dundas House to maintain the range of services currently offered at the existing centre, in view of the increase in allocation for rehabilitation centres in the federal budget to the Northern Territory from \$800 000 to \$5.3m - an increase of 560%?

ANSWER

The original intention of the Department of Health to transfer the rehabilitation patients from the old Darwin Hospital to Dundas House was to be done on a short-term basis until evaluations were carried out by a person who had been employed by the Northern Territory Department of Health, Dr Makita. Until such time as the evaluation has been completed, Dundas House will be used on a short-term basis. However, the subject of constructing a facility at a cost of almost \$1m is under consideration.

#### Primary School for Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Department of Education investigated the need for another primary school at Nhulunbuy and, if so, what recommendations have been made to the minister?

ANSWER

I expect to receive a report later this week from education officers following a visit to Nhulunbuy. A proposal has been put forward that some demountables be moved from the primary school to the high school. There is concern by some members of the community over that move to place Year 7 students on the high school campus. I will receive that report later this week and perhaps report to the honourable member later in the sittings.

Net Gain for NT from Federal Budget

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Can the Treasurer confirm, using official figures contained in the budget papers, if the real gain in net terms for the Territory - discounting the non-farm sector inflation rate which is the way in which the budget papers present this figure - this year from the federal budget is 8.8% as compared with 4.5% for last year's budget?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have all the Commonwealth budget papers before me so I cannot answer the honourable member's question specifically. Quite clearly, he is trying to continue the smokescreen which was raised very effectively by the federal government in the pre-budget process to have everyone shuddering in his boots about a horror budget. I would like the Leader of the Opposition to tell me that the federal government did not create an environment of a horror budget.

Mr Collins: If you do not know the answer, sit down.

Mr PERRON: When the budget did indeed come down, a great deal of the expected bad news was not realised and the people felt somewhat relieved. It will take a few days for the real message of this budget to sink in and the charade that it is in so far as creating a climate in Australia that will create 500 000 jobs over 3 years. In its budget, the Northern Territory government will move to fill many of the gaps that the federal budget has left in the Northern Territory and allocate funds to areas which are specifically short in funding. The honourable member mentioned that we should be feeling really good about an increase in housing funds. Housing funds rose from something like \$20m to \$28m. We spend \$50m a year on housing. The Commonwealth is merely topping up the base which we double every year. I think he had better get the whole scheme into perspective.

Mosquitoes

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Mosquitoes may not be in plague proportions in the northern suburbs and I am very pleased to hear that. I can assure the minister that there are a few mosquitoes flying around the inner city area. Is the government monitoring all of the suburbs in the Darwin district and how often will the larvaciding operation be carried out?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member's question reminds me of the 'Don't be a little mozzie breeder' campaign that was launched by the Department of Health.

We have had significant success in the northern suburbs with a chemical called Temphos. Recently, the Northern Territory government accepted the recommendations of a joint working party - comprised of people from the city council, the Department of Health, the Conservation Commission and the Department of Transport and Works - to upgrade the drains around the Darwin area through a 5-year program. It is hoped that that will reduce the breeding areas. We have an education campaign. I think it is important that that particular campaign be maintained. We have the areas under surveillance and surveys are carried out by the Department of Health. Hopefully, this problem will be eradicated in those areas still affected. There is no short-term solution to the problem. The Department of Health and other departments are doing all they can to alleviate the problem.

Regulations Governing Pet Meat Operations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Would he undertake to re-examine the regulations under the pet meat legislation to make sure they are not causing hardship to pet meat operators?

ANSWER

I would be more than happy to consider that proposition. I ask all members of the Assembly if they have any knowledge of unreasonable regulations that are causing unnecessary hardship to people in the pet meat industry. We would be only too happy to look into the matter. Pet meat regulations are designed to prevent pet meat being put into export packages and misrepresented as an export product. While it is the intent of the pet meat regulations to ensure that contaminated meat is not sold, if those regulations are unreasonably harsh and need redressing, I am happy to consider any specific points that the honourable member may raise.

Electricity Charges

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will the federal government allocation of \$64.7m for fuel for NTEC be sufficient to hold electricity charges at their current level next financial year, outside, of course, of the agreement to keep them in parity with north Queensland?

ANSWER

The amount of money allocated in the federal budget is the amount NTEC sought in pursuance of the agreement between this government and the Commonwealth government. I understand that, in so far as that goes, there is no problem. At the moment, we are investigating a rather horrendous possibility that, as a result of removing other fuel sources, such as avtur, from the list of products previously exempt from excise and then indexing that by 4.3%, it may well catch up heavy fuel oil.

Mr B. Collins: Is that speculation?

Mr ROBERTSON: I am having it confirmed. The wording used in the budget speech is not very clear. To answer the question, I understand that the amount of money is sufficient for the purposes of maintaining the agreement between ourselves and the Commonwealth.

Darwin Arts Centre Statutory Authority

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question follows on from one by the member for Port Darwin about the Darwin arts centre. Why has the minister rejected the conclusion reached by the Darwin City Council after long deliberations that a statutory authority with a majority of members appointed by the council is appropriate for the Darwin centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, quite simply, the government had an agreement with the Darwin City Council concerning the level of funding, operational costs and the method of management. That was agreed on some years ago. We believe that agreement is fair and reasonable. It enables the council to conduct any form of management it wishes.

Mrs O'Neil: It wants a statutory authority.

Mr TUXWORTH: If it wants a trust, I guess it is well placed to see its family solicitor and establish one. The government has never indicated, intended or agreed in any way at all to have an Araleun-type trust for the operation of the centre. It is quite inappropriate given that the arts centre is being sponsored by the Darwin City Council, which is a government organisation in itself.

Freight Inquiry Support Staff

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What support staff does the freight inquiry have?

ANSWER

I understand that, at this stage, an officer has been allocated to support the freight inquiry. No limit has been put on the number of people who are available to service or conduct research for the members of the inquiry. So far as I know, the staff involved are quite capable of doing what needs to be done. If the chairman of the freight inquiry should suggest to me that additional assistance is required, I would be quite happy to consider that request.

TMPU Funding

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by referring him to my comments in the adjournment debate yesterday about TMPU funding for town camps in Alice Springs. Does he regard the special purposes leases held by Aboriginal associations in the vicinity of Alice Springs as Aboriginal communities? If so, will the government continue TMPU funding for them as is done for other Aboriginal communities in the Territory?

ANSWER

I heard with interest the points raised by the honourable member in the

adjournment debate yesterday. This morning, I asked the secretary of the department to obtain the files on the origins and funding arrangements for all the special purposes leases we have in all towns in the Territory. My understanding is that these are not considered to be remote communities. They are not considered or funded as remote communities and are members of a normal town community. On that basis, their responsibilities within the community should be the same as those of anyone else. However, I will look through the relevant files to see what the origins of these sites are and where we go from here.

Unemployment in Remote Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to his previous answer in which he said that such leases are not regarded as remote communities. Is he aware of the amount of unemployment in those communities that would necessitate the same special consideration as would be necessary in the remote communities to which he referred?

ANSWER

I am most conscious and concerned at the level of unemployment in Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory, be they in town, on special purpose leases, in fringe camps or in remote areas. Whenever possible, the government has made every endeavour to try to employ as many Aborigines as possible within the resources that it has available to it. From the information that is available to me, I do not see that the level of Aboriginal employment in the Northern Territory is a criterion for deciding whether a town lease is a remote community.

Policy on Aboriginal Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he indicate when the government's policy on Aboriginal education will be released?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate a specific date. I have looked at 2 drafts of the particular document concerned and I am not entirely satisfied with it. For one thing, it was far too long. I have asked for a more concise version. Unfortunately, it was not available prior to these sittings. I was hoping that it would have been. As soon as it is available, I will have it circulated to all members of the Assembly.

Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road Intersection

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps are to be undertaken to reduce the hazardous conditions at the corner of Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road in the Sanderson electorate?

ANSWER

There has been considerable representation to the government about the intersection that the honourable member refers to. There will be specific

references made to this in the budget papers when they are handed down next week. As soon as the budget is handed down, I will be happy to provide additional information.

Building Code

Ms LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Following a request from me at the last sittings, he circulated copies of the new Building Code. Could he indicate when those regulations are to be gazetted and confirmed?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate at this stage when the regulations will be gazetted. However, I will seek that information and advise the Assembly at a later time.

Local Government at Jabiru

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

At a public meeting in Jabiru last year, he indicated that full local government could be expected in the town in about 3 years. What progress has been made towards this end?

ANSWER

Due to the fact that no further uranium development is expected as a result of federal government policies, the town of Jabiru would appear to have stabilised for the time being. The original concept of Jabiru was that it would service not only the personnel attached to the Ranger Mine but also the personnel from the Jabiluka Mine when that mine was given the go ahead. The personnel of the Jabiru Town Development Authority were looking forward to renewing their efforts and probably doubling the size of Jabiru. As it stands at the moment, I think it has a population of approximately 1200 people.

Unfortunately, with the change of government, the future of uranium mining is at the best uncertain. The considered view of this government is that there is unlikely to be any development of uranium mines over the next couple of years, at least in the Northern Territory. For some reason or other, the federal government policy provides that existing mines may continue - although there is some reference to even those being wound down - and that Roxby Downs, which is only in the exploration stage, apparently has the go ahead in some sort of exception to the general policy. It seems extraordinary that a mine in South Australia can be given the go ahead but mines in the Northern Territory cannot. That seems to make a nonsense of the policy and to be extremely discriminatory against the Northern Territory, especially in terms of the companies that hold the leases at present getting on to the market and securing contracts. No doubt, if Roxby Downs is able to market its product, it will probably make it harder for Jabiluka and Koongarra to market their product in due course because one of the first acts taken by the present federal government was to withdraw the approval that Jabiluka and Pancontinental had to be in the marketplace attempting to secure contracts.

All this has bedevilled the future of Jabiru. It is true that I said to the people of Jabiru last year that, as far as I was concerned, they could

have local government immediately, provided they were prepared to accept a couple of basic premises. One was that they would have to pay rates if they were to have local government. The other was that there were certain complex negotiations going on between the government and the Ranger company at that time that would have had to continue with Jabiluka. At that time, Jabiluka had its go ahead. It was out in the marketplace and everything looked as though the wind was fair to France.

Mr Speaker, the position has quite changed. We are now winding down the Jabiru Town Development Authority. This is causing a great deal of heartburn to me personally and even more to the people in the Jabiru Town Development Authority because we have either to find other spots for them in the government or declare them to be redundant. I have instructed the Co-ordinator-General, who is responsible to me for the Jabiru Town Development Authority, to do his utmost to try to find alternative employment for the personnel of the Jabiru Town Development Authority.

Subject to a Cabinet submission, we are proposing to devolve responsibility for local government functions, with the consent of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council, on that council, with the request that it has them undertaken on an agency basis by the authorities that are presently carrying them out: Transport and Works etc. As I understand it, we have not yet put this plan in detail to the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. It has not been to Cabinet. It has had its genesis in the Chief Minister's Department and the Jabiru Town Development Authority. We hope it will be acceptable to all the parties. I hope that no one is upset by the information I have disclosed in trying to answer this question as frankly as possible.

We believe that is certainly the next step on the road to local government for the people of Jabiru, if they want it. We can only find that out when we talk to their representatives about it. Of course, the final step to local government will be a difficult one for Jabiru because no one out there owns his house. The land-holding situation is, to say the least, a most complex one. There is a lease from the Aboriginal people through the Northern Land Council to the Director of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. As I understand it, he subleases the area of the town of Jabiru to the Jabiru Town Development Authority. Leases which could be issued by the Jabiru Town Development Authority, with the approval of the 2 previous parties who have better title, would obviously only be for a term. I forget what is the term of the headlease from the NLC to the Commonwealth. The worth of these titles will be very hard to determine. As well as that, in any event, Ranger will want to hang on to its houses for its changing personnel. It is doubtful whether it will want to sell.

Therefore, introducing a rating system in Jabiru will be, when it is finally accomplished, one of the wonders of the western world. But, I do not believe that one can really have true local government unless there is some responsibility on the local people. They will have their representation but it has always been part of having representation that there is some taxation to make it responsible representation. It is a very complex question which is being addressed. We see an intermediate step happening in the relatively near future. The final evolution to local government will need to be accompanied by a great deal of consultation.

Cost of Self-government Celebrations

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he make public the total cost of the self-government celebrations as he promised to do on the local talk-back radio program?

ANSWER

I have a statement of expenditure here in relation to the self-government celebrations. The self-government celebrations were throughout the Northern Territory and extended to places like Bathurst Island and other remote areas. The sub-total is here. I will table this document: Government Printing Office - \$49 917; entertainment - \$71 179; media information campaign - \$45 778; community gifts - \$45 369; fireworks - \$20 142; celebrations in Territory centres - \$18 871; contract co-ordination fees - \$17 839; freight charges - \$7753; photography and video hire - \$7785; casual employment - \$2731; miscellaneous - \$8468. The total is \$295 832.

Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road Intersection

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

This question relates to my previous one concerning the intersection of Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road. Isn't it a fact that last week the minister made a statement to the press announcing that a traffic island would be constructed at this intersection and, that being the case, why in answer to my previous question did he refer me to the budget of next week?

ANSWER

The honourable member is perfectly correct. I did make a mistake; I think my hearing must need a bit of attention. I thank her very much.

Coastal Management Policy

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

Does the government still intend to release a coastal management policy as promised by the then Minister for Lands some 15 months ago?

ANSWER

Certainly, the government will develop a coastal management policy. I understand that we have already approved a Darwin foreshores management policy. The development of a coastal management policy will take considerably longer and is being developed between the Conservation Commission and the Department of Lands.



Public Service Staff

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he confirm the government policy with respect to employment in the Northern Territory Public Service as enunciated by him in his radio talk of 29 November 1981 - that there will be no redundancies and that natural wastage will be the only method used in reducing staff numbers where necessary? I refer the Chief Minister specifically to employment in NTEC.

ANSWER

The first thing to be aware of when the Leader of the Opposition raises the subject of employment at NTEC is that, to the best of my knowledge, NTEC is outside the Northern Territory Public Service. There are certain arrangements in relation to NTEC which exist between the Territory and the Commonwealth whereby, immediately after self-government, a consultant was appointed to study the staffing arrangements of NTEC. I must say that I found this to be a rather hypocritical exercise but the Territory had little option but to come to the party on it because NTEC and electricity consumers in the Northern Territory are totally dependent on the Commonwealth subsidy which amounts to approximately 50% or more of NTEC's operating funds. The Commonwealth required that a consultant be appointed to study the staffing arrangements at NTEC. Of course, NTEC was an amalgamation of the old sections of the Department of Northern Territory that dealt with the clerical and billing side of the electricity supply undertaking and those elements of the previous Department of Construction that dealt with the actual generation of electricity, maintenance and repairs etc. These 2 areas were welded together into NTEC. The Commonwealth, which had employed all these people, then required that a consultant be appointed from the Victorian State Electricity Commission to study whether the staffing was too high.

After 9 months, the consultant submitted a report which we proceeded to argue with the Commonwealth about for approximately 3 years. Finally, in the course of the negotiations for the ongoing subsidy, we were forced to concede. I do not have the figures off the top of my head. If the Leader of the Opposition wanted a precise and detailed reply, he should have given me a bit of notice. There were about 900 to 1000 employees of NTEC and the consultant said there should only be 750. We were eventually forced to concede that we would have to reduce the staffing of NTEC to about 850 plus 50 or 60 apprentices.

I guess one could say that the Commonwealth finally met us halfway between what the consultant recommended and the number of people that it had hired in the first place. It is true to say that, in the meantime since its inception, NTEC had hired a very large number of apprentices. Since that time, because of the very overt supervision by the Commonwealth of NTEC's finances, it has been necessary for us to waste staffing at NTEC to bring them down to the required number. We cannot have any more staff at NTEC than the Commonwealth is prepared to fund. I can assure you that the present Minister for Resources and Energy seems to adhere very strongly to the arrangements that were made previously. In my discussions with him in April and May this year, he considered the arrangements made for NTEC were extravagant, lavish and a luxury. Although he has now caused the federal government to adhere to the previous agreement, we have to get the staffing numbers down otherwise the Northern Territory electricity consumer has to foot the bill.

As far as I know, NTEC is attempting to waste the staff. I am not aware that NTEC has embarked on any policy of creating redundancies. I hope that that is the case. If NTEC is not to receive further criticism for increases in tariffs then, obviously, to meet the Commonwealth subsidy obligations, it has to waste its staff down to the requisite number prescribed in the agreement between the Commonwealth and the Territory.

Undoolya Road Connector

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

When will work start on the connector road from the Undoolya Road to the Todd River bridge?

ANSWER

The contract for this work was awarded only last week. McMahons was the successful contractor and the total value of the work is \$800 000. The work is due for completion in February next year.

Training of Motorcyclists

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he under consideration a proposal to legislate for compulsory training for motorcycle riders prior to the issue of a licence?

ANSWER

I am unable to state that this proposal is under consideration. Much of our legislation in respect of land transport is under review and it may be that, in the review process, that matter is being considered.

Heavitree Gap Causeway

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the present position with regard to the reconstruction of the Heavitree Gap causeway south of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Other members have made representations to the government in respect of this causeway. The causeway was damaged during the March floods which caused extensive damage in and around Alice Springs. I am pleased to be able to advise that design for permanent reinstatement of the existing causeway at Heavitree Gap has been completed and tenders for the first stage of the work will be called today. All work is expected to be finished by the end of October. As a result of approaches made by the Alice Springs members, the government accepts that there is a need for the provision of a much better crossing of the Todd River south of Heavitree Gap and this proposal is the subject of feasibility study.

Tindal Air Base

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he confirm that \$1.7m has been allowed for in the federal budget for preliminary planning for Tindal air base in Katherine and that it is a budget list C item - that is, a budget allocation for preliminary planning and EIS work without necessarily a policy decision on construction?

ANSWER

We heard with interest the remarks made in the media by the Leader of the Opposition. We rang Mr Scholes' office this morning and he has checked with Mr Hurford. He has received confirmation that the \$1.7m is for detailed preliminary design work. That is the information we received from the minister. The amount does not show up readily in the budget and he doubts if we could find it even if we looked for it. Those are the words from the personal staff of the minister, Mr Scholes.

Mr B. Collins: You could have me.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr STEELE: You might have that available to you but we do not.

Mr B. Collins: I do.

Mr STEELE: The project is now at design list C status, meaning it is not yet in the budgetary process. He was not prepared to comment on whether it would go into the budgetary process, saying only that the Commonwealth would not spend \$1.7m lightly.

Assessment of Student Performance Program

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In the July 1983 edition of the Northern Territory Education Bulletin, there appeared an article on the program for the assessment of student performance in the Northern Territory schools. Can he explain why the element of secrecy in regard to the results of this assessment is necessary, especially in relation to parents who, according to this article, are to be informed of the results only after the regional council of principals, COGSO, the Teachers Federation and school councils?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is no element of secrecy at all in regard to the release of the results of student assessments. It is more a matter of interpretation of how the system works. The purpose of assessment in schools is so that people may be aware of relative performances and action can be taken to keep everybody up to the barrier. The aim of the system is to ensure wide dissemination and understanding of the results and that is particularly important. It is very easy for lay people to draw unreasonable conclusions from results if they cannot interpret them properly.

There are 2 distinct kinds of reporting in relation to the results of student assessment. The first is the report to individual parents who

will be interested mainly in the results of their own children. This kind of reporting already exists in schools in the form of school progress reports and parent-teacher interviews. In the Northern Territory assessment program for Years 5 and 7, which is the particular point the honourable member refers to, the children will be continually assessed for competency in the core skills in English and Mathematics. Apart from school progress reports and parent teacher interviews, parents can find out how their children have performed at any time from the school.

The second kind of reporting is embodied in the departmental report which is intended to give information on the performance of Territory children from the schools as a whole. The report will focus on areas in which it has not been satisfactory and recommendations for remedial provisions. The departmental report goes first to the working party on student assessment and to the regional councils of principals, COGSO, the Teachers Federation and school councils, so that implications of the report can be fully studied and schools can compare their strengths and weaknesses against the overall Northern Territory results. It is essential that principals and school councils go through this process so that they are able to explain the implications of the report to individual parents. The summary will be made available to the public, and parents, if they wish, may examine the detailed departmental report made available to their school council.

Mr Speaker, I hope that satisfies the honourable member that indeed we are not running an assessment program and keeping the figures totally in house. However, it will be run carefully so that, hopefully, the wrong construction will not be placed on the results.

Katherine High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise the Assembly - and I do understand the situation is an extremely sensitive one - of the problem at the Katherine High School? I understand that this problem has caused the resignation of 3 teachers over the last few weeks.

ANSWER

Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition was out of the Assembly last night when I touched briefly on this matter. There will be a major meeting in Katherine tonight of the parents and friends organisation of Katherine High School, and a meeting of the school council after that meeting. A departmental officer will be present to assist or be a fly on the wall, whichever is appropriate. I can assure the honourable member that, at my request, the Teaching Service Commissioner spent Friday in Katherine looking into the matter. The secretary of the department spend Monday and, I think, Tuesday in Katherine. He may still be there. I have also been looking into the various aspects of this subject. In fact, I have received phone calls from parents in the area. I would like to leave the matter, if I may, pending the outcome of tonight's meeting. I am taking a personal interest in the situation and hope it can be resolved without people being named, which will not serve any particular purpose.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

I have always been concerned about the spread of the palm leaf beetle in the Darwin area. With the wet season coming, with its high humidity, can he tell me whether the introduction of the parasite to control the palm leaf beetle has been successful? If not, what is the government doing to make sure that the spread of that particular beetle does not continue?

ANSWER

I can tell the honourable member that our office uses the expressions 'Tom's beetle' and 'Tom's weed': the palm leaf beetle and coffee bush. The honourable member, over the years, has waged a crusade against both these pests. They are very important and serious environmental issues for us to resolve.

The information from the Conservation Commission is as follows. More than 3300 adults of the palm leaf beetle parasite have now been released in the Darwin metropolitan area. The release sites extend from the city to Kahlín, Parap, Fannie Bay, the Narrows, Winnellie, Ludmilla, Nightcliff and Wanguri. Two recent searches for the parasite pupae in sites of early release have not been successful. While this is discouraging, it does not prove that the wasp has failed to survive. In some overseas countries, it has taken up to a year or more after the release of the parasites for their numbers to build up. It is quite possible that our present parasite stock, which has been in captivity for some generations, is weak in some qualities important to its success in the field. A new stock of the same species freshly collected from the field could be sought from entomologists in New Caledonia which has areas of seasonal rainfall similar to Darwin.

I would also make the point that the program has suffered a temporary setback in that our technician who has been working on the parasite program has temporarily left us. We are in the process of filling that position. I would like to assure members that we regard the elimination of the palm leaf beetle as a very high priority. The department and the Conservation Commission will not rest until we have succeeded in eliminating it.

Child Abuse

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What additional staff has been made available to the Department of Community Development to cope with recently introduced legislative requirements for the reporting and investigation of incidents of child abuse?

ANSWER

I cannot answer her question in specific terms. I am aware that the child abuse area within the department is receiving a very high priority. I will obtain for her specific details of people who are working in this area. I will also try to ascertain if there is any need for additional staff and, if so, whether that need has been addressed. The government places a very high priority on the matter of child abuse. The frequency of child abuse in our community is of great concern. If there is any way at all that we can improve matters, the department will be quick to respond.

Regulation of Insurance Brokers

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Does the government propose to introduce legislation to control the activities of insurance brokers and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I have answered questions on this matter in the Assembly previously. The Northern Territory government was taking a close interest in activities in the states on this matter and we were examining the line that we should take with legislation on the subject of insurance brokers because of considerable concern about the effects of their departure from the commercial scene. We have been advised unofficially that legislation for the registration of insurance brokers and agents has been prepared by the Commonwealth. Whilst there has not been any public announcement, it is possible that legislation could be introduced during the current session of federal parliament. The Northern Territory government believes that the subject is more appropriately handled by national legislation because some of the brokers have Australia-wide organisations. We would be happy to step back from this field if the Commonwealth is going to do something. For the time being, the Territory government has dropped proposals to introduce legislation on the subject.

Construction Safety Act

Mr LEO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will the Department of Mines and Energy make those provisions of the Construction Safety Act which relate to rigging and scaffolding safety apply to all those sites where these skills are used?

ANSWER

I understand that traditionally there have been separate arrangements made in respect to the operations of Nabalco on the Gove Peninsula. Nonetheless, I am willing to have the matter thoroughly examined. I will advise the honourable member later in the sittings.

Mutitjula Community Adviser at Ayers Rock

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

I preface my question by referring him to the funding in the federal budget of a community adviser position at Ayers Rock for the Mutitjula community there. Does he accept the necessity for this particular position in the context of the increasingly complex social situation caused by the development of Yulara village and, if he does accept the necessity for that position, why does he not fund it through the Department of Community Development and its Community Government Division for which he is responsible?

ANSWER

The member poses a question that crosses a few areas. It is the prerogative of the Commonwealth to fund positions in the Northern Territory

It does so as often as it wishes in matters that are important to it. I am not aware of what the role of the community adviser would be. Until I have some knowledge of the intended role of that officer, I cannot comment on it or even give an indication as to whether it would be appropriate for our government to offer funding for it. The role of community advisers throughout the Northern Territory is well known to all members of the Assembly. It is quite likely that the nomenclature has been picked up by the Commonwealth and given to an officer in an enclave of the Commonwealth in the Northern Territory who will carry out work that might not have any relationship to the sort of activities that our community advisers perform. If the honourable member would like to leave it with me, I would be quite happy to obtain a report from either the Conservation Commission or the Department of Community Development on what the role of the community adviser is likely to be and whether there has been, in our judgment, a need for the position. If there has been a need, I will ask why the funding was picked up by the Commonwealth rather than ourselves.

Rubbish Dump

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current position with regard to using part of the Darwin rural area for the establishment of a rubbish dump?

ANSWER

Consideration for the establishment of a rubbish dump in the rural area has been taking place at departmental level for some time. I understand that some areas have been selected in terms of their suitability. One of the areas that has been considered is also under the control of the defence forces. At the moment, our departments are discussing with the defence forces the possible release of this area so that it can be used as a rubbish dump. We are very conscious of the need for a suitable rubbish dump facility in the rural area. We are working quite intensively to try to overcome the problem.

Accommodation for Handicapped Children

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the government continue to support the provision of non-institutional residential care for handicapped children, such as at Bunyip House, or will more handicapped children be accommodated in the future in the nursing home?

ANSWER

Through Somerville Homes, the people at Bunyip House have been advised that the pilot project will continue for another 12 months. At the moment, Dr Makita, who is the Director of Aged and Special Services, is evaluating the need for the types of facilities that will be required in the Northern Territory and not just in the Darwin area. At one stage, there was a proposal that the Chan Park Nursing Home should incorporate a children's facility isolated from the rest of the home. At this time, there is a question mark over the subject of licences through the Commonwealth. That came out in a press release last week which said that it was being held up by the bureaucracy in Adelaide which ignored the Commonwealth interests in the area. It is the government's intention to provide facilities for the

handicapped. If we eventually accept facilities similar to those at Bunyip House, I have no doubt that we will continue. The government's intention is to improve existing facilities to cater for special circumstances.

Giles House

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress, if any, has been made towards implementing the proposed day program for difficult schoolchildren at the Giles House education centre?

ANSWER

Quite by chance, I had the opportunity to visit Giles House last week and to look at the progress that is being made there. I would like to say that Giles House is a real success story in child remand. It really is going very well. There are some children in the Alice Springs community who, while they are not offenders, could certainly benefit from the sort of educational system that Mrs Daff and her willing workers run at Giles House. To enable Giles House to take these children in, work has been done on an adjoining block of flats to establish an accommodation unit and a schoolroom. The first admissions to this new program were taken early in August. As far as I can see, it can only expand and do well in the community because it is a very excellent program. It is the result of the department's own initiative. The Department of Education, the Department of Community Welfare and people involved in the care of difficult children in Alice Springs should be very proud of it.

Land in Bynoe Harbour Area

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

When will land in the Bynoe Harbour area be released for auction?

ANSWER

I said at the last sittings or the sittings before that it would happen soon. I then realised that I had spoken too soon. I went back to my office and was assailed with briefs from the department to advise me that there is a land claim over this land at Bynoe Harbour: the Kenbi (Cox Peninsula) Land Claim. Of course, that claim is a long way from conclusion. It is wending its way through the different legal tribunals because, as members know, part of the land is in the extended Darwin Planning Area.

Mr Bell: Which is greater than London.

Mr EVERINGHAM: I heard a remark from the honourable member for the wild and woolly wastes opposite. I seem to remember that some Australian states are entirely covered by planning legislation. In fact, I think that New South Wales has planning legislation that covers every part of that state. Obviously, as the Northern Territory grows, whether the honourable member for MacDonnell likes it or not, planning legislation will have to cover areas outside the major cities. It is indicative of what is happening that the honourable member for Nightcliff, who represents people in the Darwin area, obviously asked on behalf of her constituents who are concerned because they want to get a holiday block of land at Bynoe Harbour where they have had shacks for years. That is uncontrolled development on Crown land. Is



there any better illustration of why the government extended the planning area of Darwin than the reasons behind the question asked by the honourable member for Nightcliff.

To revert to the question, obviously nothing can be done until the land claim is resolved. As I recall it - and this was some months ago - I requested the Department of Lands to proceed with survey work so that the land could be subdivided or offered for sale as soon as possible after the land claim is resolved, assuming that the land claim over the area is unsuccessful. That is not an assumption that I would make a book on.

#### Imported Fuel Levy

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Did he become aware yesterday of a levy of 9¢ a litre on imported fuel oil imposed in Tuesday's budget? What will the government do about it and what effect could this have on the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I became aware yesterday morning of a provision in the Commonwealth budget which would impose a 9.02¢ per litre levy on fuel oil used at Stokes Hill power-station. At that stage, I disbelieved it; I could not accept that such an impost would be levied by the Commonwealth government and that is why I was very cautious in my answer yesterday to a question from the Leader of the Opposition. Subsequently, we have had the matter very accurately checked out. At this stage, that levy would apply. Once I had confirmation of that, I alerted the Chief Minister who has been in personal contact with the Minister for Energy and Resources. He has also been in contact with the Prime Minister's office. As a result, I understand a number of interdepartmental committee meetings were held in Canberra yesterday but, as of this morning, there is no resolution of the problem. The Chief Minister's proposal, of course, was to obtain exemptions from that totally crippling tax. That is the position this morning - the tax still applies. Nonetheless, the Chief Minister and I are doing everything possible, through our various departments and personally, to persuade the federal government that this tax simply cannot be borne by the Northern Territory under any circumstances. The result of the imposition of this tax, in a full financial year, would be a loss to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission by way of payment back to the Commonwealth of \$14.9m. The result of that application would be probably an immediate increase of 28.24% in electricity tariffs throughout the Northern Territory. I note the honourable member for Nhulunbuy nodding his head over there. The resultant effect on his area, of course, would be far more catastrophic. It would be something like \$30m a year. We are still trying to persuade the Commonwealth that an error has been made and that these sorts of imposts simply cannot be borne by the Northern Territory. There would not be a person on either side of this Assembly or a member of the public who would accept for a moment such an impost. We are still hopeful of a satisfactory resolution.

Mr Speaker, I might just touch briefly also on the effect of the distillate tax increase of 1.5%, and its effect on NTEC. It would result in an expenditure back to the Commonwealth in the initial phase of \$553 000 in a full year. As I said yesterday, we are very happy that the Commonwealth has seen fit to honour previous agreements and we are not ungrateful for that.

Under that rebate system, in respect of distillate, we would have returned to us by the Commonwealth \$359 000 so the net loss to NTEC would be in the order of \$194 000 in a full year in respect of distillate for its various power plants around the Northern Territory. In respect of petroleum distillate used for the purposes of transport and lubricating oil, NTEC expenditure would be about \$250 000 but most of that would come back to us. This one does not cause us a great deal of difficulty as the net cost to the Northern Territory would only be about \$50 000.

The \$14.9m figure that I have given, or the resulting 28.24% increase in the tariffs, is over a full year. That would apply if we had to pay that impost as of yesterday. The position is that, whereas the budget takes effect as from today, there will be some savings because the excise does not apply for the full financial year. The figures I quoted are for a full financial year. In addition, NTEC does have certain stocks on hand. Obviously, we are not buying fuel oil across the wharf at the moment. We do have considerable stocks in hand so there would be some lead time before the actual impact would occur. I understand that the Leader of the Opposition is also horrified at what his colleagues have apparently done to us. As a result of all of our efforts, we are hoping that sanity will prevail.

Report on Wharf Construction

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the report by McDonnell, Wagner and Priddell into wharf construction been received and, if so, what does it say?

ANSWER

A report from the consultants has been received. The report is in response to questions framed by the department in consultation with the Port Engineer, taking into account the matters raised by the ALP in this Assembly. That report is under consideration. I propose to send a copy to the Leader of the Opposition in the next few days.

Tennant Creek High School

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise what progress is being made on the design and construction of the new Tennant Creek High School?

ANSWER

The government is certainly very much committed to the construction of a high school in Tennant Creek to serve the worthy citizens of that fine town. I do not have specific details of matters such as construction dates etc. If he can possibly wait until about Tuesday of next week and the Northern Territory budget, we hope to be able to give specific times of construction, commencement and completion.

Responsibility for City Parks

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Given the apparent reluctance of Darwin City Council to maintain many of

the urban parks, including several in my electorate, have any discussions been initiated with the Conservation Commission with a view to that commission being responsible for both the establishment and maintenance of city parks?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand the frustration that underlies the honourable member's question, which results from endeavours to get the Darwin City Council to meet its obligations in relation to parks and many other things in the community. We are in somewhat of a dilemma because, for the government to take up responsibility for Darwin parks, footpaths, pop-up sprinkler areas and whatever else is not fair and reasonable for the whole of the Northern Territory. Most people would acknowledge that, in many areas in Darwin, the Conservation Commission has helped with the establishment of parks and the installation of equipment and pop-up sprinklers, planting programs, lawns, footpaths etc. However, it takes only a little while before people say: 'Why has it all gone to rack and ruin?' Generally, the answer is that it is because the city council had not placed the priority on it that we would have given. It is fair to say that the Conservation Commission is happy to help people, whether it be the Darwin City Council, departments, the Spastic Centre or whatever, in the establishment and occasional upgrading and improving of beautiful areas such as parks and gardens. But, it is not a reasonable proposition for the government to take over in toto the maintenance of all the parks and gardens in Darwin or any other centre in the Northern Territory. That is what city councils are for and the responsibility should not be taken off their shoulders. We should encourage them to accept their responsibility and do their job properly.

#### Alice Springs Recreation Lake

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the current position regarding the Alice Springs recreation lake, particularly in relation to the federal government inquiry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Holding, wrote to me after an interregnum of 2 or 3 months, during which time he was considering the draft terms of reference prepared by the Northern Territory government for the inquiry into the Alice Springs recreation lake. Apparently, he spent that time consulting with various groups and individuals in relation to the terms of reference. They were finally returned to me a couple of weeks ago. It is unfortunate that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs seems to have 2 standards in relation to consultation. He consults with anyone at all over terms of reference submitted to him by the Northern Territory government and proposes whatever changes those people suggest. But, in relation to a matter that affects the Northern Territory in a most intimate and controversial way - namely, the Aboriginal Land Rights Act - the minister established an inquiry under Mr Justice Toohey and gave that judge terms of reference without so much as one scintilla of consultation with the Northern Territory government over those terms of reference. The NT government is the government most interested because it will be affected much more by it than the Commonwealth government. Yet there was not one word of consultation. To secure any

consultation on the terms of reference to Justice Toohey, we have had to make strong representation to Mr Holding. He has refused to alter the terms of reference to Mr Justice Toohey by one iota, but has given us an oral assurance, for what it is worth, that Mr Justice Toohey will entertain the whole of the Northern Territory government's submission to him.

Mr Speaker, that is an illustration of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs' double standards in relation to consultation. That is something that really irks me about this government that preaches consultation and consensus. Continually, we hear of things arising about the Northern Territory - the business of Kakadu over the last few weeks for example. We sent a telex to the Prime Minister back in June over these proposed liquor regulations for Kakadu. What consultation was there with the Northern Territory? We pointed out our concerns over the introduction of this kind of proposed special law for Commonwealth enclaves and for select groups in the Northern Territory over and above the normal liquor laws, especially in the light of the lengthy consultations that the Northern Territory Liquor Commission has had over licensing in the Kakadu area. I might point out that the Northern Land Council withheld itself from that process of consultation and went running to the Commonwealth in an attempt to have the 'big stick' technique used once again. Of course, the Commonwealth complied willingly and without consultation with the Northern Territory government. I read these regulations in a copy of the Commonwealth Gazette, Mr Speaker. That is consultation and consensus a la the Hawke government. It talks consultation; it talks consensus. It does not practise either. Sooner or later the public of Australia and the media will wake up.

I could produce to this Assembly numerous other telexes that I have sent after learning of things from newspapers. We received these terms of reference a couple of weeks ago. I took them to Cabinet informally to get them through as quickly as possible without submission. I have since responded to the minister in the last few days. One of the suggestions made by the Northern Territory government is that all parties to the inquiry should exchange all relevant information. I hope that that point is accepted by the Commonwealth because we want this to be a frank and open inquiry and not held in any way behind closed doors like the Combe Royal Commission. Let us hope that this inquiry gets under way fairly soon.

#### Overseas Visitors to NT

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TOURISM

Will he give details of the present and proposed cooperation with the Australian Tourist Commission for the purpose of attracting overseas visitors to the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Obviously, this is a question that should be put on notice. I could reply to it in about 10 or 20 pages of detail. I suggest that, if the honourable member for MacDonnell doubts the good relations the Northern Territory has with the Australian Tourist Commission, he should be aware of the expressions of support that I have received for some of the Northern Territory's proposals vis a vis tourism. I notice that none of these have been accepted by the federal government in the budget. There are no

concessions to people who want to build tourist industry infrastructure. None of these proposals that would have helped get the economy moving and help create jobs has been reflected in the federal budget.

What we have seen in the federal budget in relation to tourism is a boosting of the funding to the Australian Tourist Commission from about \$15m to about \$22.5m. I might say that the Australian Tourist Commission's budget, in national terms, is not significantly greater than the Northern Territory Tourist Commission's budget. Only last week, I approved a visit by a Northern Territory Tourist Commission officer with an Australian tourist mission to South-east Asia and up as far as Hong Kong and even Taiwan or Korea. The Northern Territory is paying \$3000 towards the cost of that mission in addition to our officer's fares and other travelling expenses. That is a concrete example of how the Northern Territory works in with the Australian Tourist Commission. I suggest that the member for MacDonnell telephone the Australian Tourist Commission and satisfy himself from them.

#### First-aid in Schools

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

By way of explanation, a child of one of my constituents had a nasty accident at school in the playground when there was no teacher available. Has any consideration been given to the teaching of basic first-aid lessons in schools?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have to seek some advice on that matter. I will answer him later during the sittings.

#### Design Work for Tindal

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the Minister advise whether the announced design work for Tindal air base will go to local or interstate firms?

ANSWER

It is not known exactly what the Commonwealth contemplates. We are writing to the ministers concerned with the construction projects that are coming on stream in the Northern Territory: the airport and the preliminary design work being undertaken at Tindal. We will be informing the ministers responsible in the federal sphere that facilities and expertise does exist in the Northern Territory and that much of the work in relation to these contracts could be undertaken in the Northern Territory. I understand that there is a major Housing and Construction Department personnel contingent in Adelaide which will be doing some of this work. We would hope that some of the work can be done by Northern Territory people.

#### Job-creation Scheme

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will moneys allocated under the job-creation scheme for road construction

be available to the Nhulunbuy corporation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly cannot give an answer on that. I would imagine that moneys that have been allocated to the job-creation program will be generally available to Northern Territory community organisations and perhaps to councils. As to whether the road funds will be available to the Nhulunbuy corporation, I could not say. This job-creation scheme has been established and it has quite a complex system of approvals. All proposals have to go to quite a large committee which considers them and the local federal member has to have some input. The Territory government has some sort of say in it but I am not sure where. Then, I believe, it all goes down to Canberra. I am not sure when these jobs will even start. It certainly will not be able to be operated as swiftly and efficiently as the last scheme.

I might point out that, in its scattergun approach of a month ago, the Commonwealth issued a press release condemning all the states and the Territory for not spending their funds under the previous job-creation scheme. We had spent about 90% of our funds at that time but we were included with the others because their administrative machinery is a lot slower than we get things done. Now, we really have had our style cramped because, the way this will operate, it will take ages to get anything through this vested interest group - which is what it amounts to - of a committee. I only hope that my predictions are untrue but the way this new scheme has been set up is certainly not, to my mind, good administration. It is likely to lead to delays.

#### Flood Mitigation Model

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

Will he undertake to set up the lake flood mitigation model at a suitable spot in Alice Springs and arrange demonstrations for interested people at advertised times?

ANSWER

The model will be displayed in the foyer of the government centre. It will be on show from 12 to 23 September from 12 noon to 2 pm each working day. Advertisements will be placed in the local papers prior to these dates.

#### Control of Therapy Equipment

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that something called magneto pulse therapy is being advertised to the public in the Northern Territory? As there are no direct controls over this type of equipment or treatment, when will the minister introduce legislation in this area for the protection of Territorians?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have the matter investigated and correspond with the honourable member privately.

Funding to Aboriginal Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by drawing his attention to the scant town management and public utility funding provided to 2 communities in my electorate: Mt Ebenezer and Kintore. What provision will be made for equitable TMPU funding on these communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have to seek advice on Mt Ebenezer. As far as Kintore is concerned, there are discussions going on between ourselves and the federal government at the moment. One of the difficulties that we have with TMPU funding, community government funding and outstation funding is that there needs to be determined between ourselves and the Commonwealth a way of deciding when a community is an outstation and when a community is a community. The funding for both of those is done separately.

The Commonwealth sets up an establishment fund for outstations and we maintain it. At a later stage, it becomes a community with greater services provided: not just basic water and power services but schools, health clinics and a range of other municipal-type services. Kintore is a fine example of a group of people who moved from Papunya and set up at Kintore. I believe that they were funded by the Commonwealth. Even at this stage, our government is providing a level of service but whether it is what the people want and expect is another issue. I also understand that the Commonwealth has undertaken to fund an independent health service for Kintore but that is a matter for the people of Kintore. The matter of the provision of services such as water, power, drainage, airstrip, roads etc will have to be addressed as the days go on. I am looking forward to working closely with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on this issue because it is closely involved. The Chief Minister has had discussions with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on how we should approach these issues. As soon as officers have some papers for us to consider, we will be in a better position to finalise the matter. It is not a simple matter of writing out a cheque. Some very serious issues are involved that need to be considered because the ongoing expenses will be very great.

Alice Springs to Darwin Railway

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

At a recent meeting in Alice Springs, the federal member, John Reeves, suggested that the Alice Springs to Darwin railway could be funded 30% by the NT government and then have the money claimed back through the Grants Commission. Is such a course of action tenable?

ANSWER

If that suggestion was made, it shows a decided ignorance on the part of the honourable member of another place on the operations of the Grants Commission. Unfortunately, the Grants Commission is empowered only to make recommendations to the federal government. The power of the Grants Commission is that its recommendations have so far never been ignored by any federal government. Let us hope that that situation continues, at least from the point of view of the people of the Northern Territory. It can make

recommendations only in relation to recurrent expenditure and not in relation to capital expenditure. In any event, the Alice Springs to Darwin railway is beyond the scope of the Northern Territory and its constitutional powers. Railways are not amongst those powers that are vested in the Northern Territory government under the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act of 1978. The suggestion, if it was made by the member for the Northern Territory, is one that might sound good to members of the media but does not bear examination.

Housing for Police and Fire Officers

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HOUSING

What is being done to ensure that public servants such as police officers and fire officers who are required to serve in any part of the Northern Territory are not disadvantaged when they transfer between centres and, as a consequence, have to rent out the houses they are purchasing under the Public Service Home Sales Scheme, thereby moving their interest rates up to the highest rate applicable on the table?

ANSWER

The public servants who are transferred to other Territory centres are given the opportunity, on a short-term basis, of renting their houses out in Darwin.

Mr Everingham: The police get a free house.

Mr DONDAS: That is correct. If a public servant is able to use the system to charge an extravagant rent, then a high interest rate must apply. If a public servant comes to some arrangement with the Housing Commission that he will charge a reasonable rent, that particular application will be assessed on its merits.



Pastoral Leases 785 and 786

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

Are the holders of pastoral leases 785 and 786 - that is, Point Stuart and Carmor Plain - in breach of their covenants? If so, what action has been taken to ensure that the breaches are rectified?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it really does the Leader of the Opposition no great credit to ask questions such as this. In fact, it is rather demeaning to this Assembly that I should be asked a question about 2 specific pastoral leases when there are over 400 pastoral leases extant in the Northern Territory. If I am supposed to carry details of the defaults of these pastoral leases around in my head with me, then I would have to be a remarkable man. If the Leader of the Opposition places the question on notice, I will see that an answer is obtained as soon as possible. If he wants to ask questions of such a specific nature, perhaps he could give me a few hours notice of them.

Stuart Highway through Alice Springs

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will a contract be let in Alice Springs for the reconstruction of the Stuart Highway through that township?

ANSWER

Tenders for the contract closed on 12 August. It is the government's intention to award the contract early this week and it is expected that the work will proceed early in September.

Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS

Is he considering a request from the Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association for a grant of land to enable it to continue its voluntary driver tuition courses?

ANSWER

On Friday of last week, I received an application from the Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association for a grant of land. Even the honourable member for Nightcliff would appreciate that the weekend has intervened and insufficient time has elapsed for even a department that operates with the efficiency of the Department of Lands to process such an application.

Mereenie Joint Venturers

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the outcome of the investigation undertaken by the Department of Mines and Energy into a proposal by the Mereenie joint venturers to bring into production wells in the Pacoota sandstone formation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will seek some detailed information. I could give a broad answer to that question but I think it would be better if I gave that answer at a later hour.

Cane Toads

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

An item in yesterday's NT News indicated that cane toads were moving into the Territory. What is the Northern Territory government doing to contain the spread of the cane toads into the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have asked the Conservation Commission to provide some information for me. My officers tell me that there is some very comprehensive work being done. I would be happy to provide details to all members later hour.

Dam on Adelaide River

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the government considering the development of the Warri Dam on the Adelaide River as a future source of water for the city of Darwin?

ANSWER

The government is considering several sites as part of an ongoing investigation into water requirements for the years ahead. I understand that that dam site is being considered with the rest. Of course, the government's main concern is for people to conserve water so that there is less need for capital works of this nature to be brought on urgently.

Doctor for Jabiru

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why has the position of a doctor for Jabiru not yet been advertised in accordance with the undertaking given by him to a meeting of residents of the town several weeks ago?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Secretary of the Department of Health has made arrangements with the Public Service Commissioner's Office to advertise locally, nationally and internationally. Until the Public Service Commissioner's Office processes the paperwork for advertisements to be placed, they will not appear. In the meantime, the department has made arrangements to provide a doctor at Jabiru, on a temporary basis, who has been recruited locally. Until that particular doctor takes his place on a more permanent basis in Jabiru, the Darwin hospital will maintain a service there.

Regional Office of Department of Housing and Construction

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise whether the federal Minister for Housing and Construction has responded to his request to establish a regional office of the Department of Housing and Construction in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, some months ago, at the request of the Institute of Engineers, the Institute of Architects and the Master Builders Association, I made representations to the Minister for Housing and Construction, Mr Hurford, for the re-establishment in Darwin of a regional office of his department. At the time, these various organisations were extremely concerned that the regional office of the Department of Housing and Construction in Adelaide, which has the oversight of Northern Territory projects, was placing consultancy work for architectural and engineering projects for Northern Territory projects, such as the Darwin Airport and the Tindal air base, with consultants in South Australia, Western Australia and, indeed, Victoria. They believe that the Northern Territory's interests will not be best served whilst the housing and construction operations are oversighted from Adelaide. Presumably, the occupants of the regional office in Adelaide would know best how the consultancy works.

I took this matter up with the Minister for Housing and Construction directly when I met with him in Parliament House, Canberra, some months ago. He said that, if I made a written submission, he would look into the matter. Accordingly, with the assistance of the groups that I have mentioned, we have prepared a written submission which has been sent to the minister. After a couple of months, he responded that he is unable at this stage to re-establish a departmental regional office in Darwin. Nonetheless, we are not taking this lying down. I have again contacted the various groups and asked them to assist me in preparing a response to the minister because I believe that consultants in the Northern Territory, and the Northern Territory construction industry generally, will not be properly and adequately serviced until the regional office of the Department of Housing and Construction is once again re-established in Darwin, and not located in Adelaide basically to suit bureaucrats' convenience.

Racing and Gaming Bill

Ms LAWRIE to TREASURER

My question concerns his circulated amendment to the Racing and Gaming Bill. Has he taken steps to ensure that this proposed amendment has been circulated to licensed bookmakers operating within the Territory?

ANSWER

The particular amendment was proposed to me by the Racing and Gaming Commission and I took steps to have it circulated to honourable members last week. I have not sent it to licensed bookmakers in the Territory. If I had had a bit more time, I would have had it circulated. I can advise the honourable member that, as a result of the circulation of quite a number of copies of the Racing and Gaming Act Bill, there has been only one response from a bookmaker. No clubs or other bookmakers responded. The only other response was from the Federated Clerks Union which certainly supports

off-course bookmakers and licensing of clerks.

Motel at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the winding down or at least the going-nowhere-fast policy forced on Jabiru town development by the non-opening of the uranium mines at Jabiluka and Koongara, is the Northern Territory government still pressing ahead for the building of a motel at Jabiru?

ANSWER

The question of a motel at Jabiru certainly raises the much more important question of tourist accommodation at Kakadu National Park. Over the years, the Northern Territory government has been negotiating with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and the federal government, especially the Department of Conservation and Environment, for the establishment of adequate and proper tourist facilities in or adjacent to the Kakadu National Park. Obviously, from the point of view of economics, and in the light of our experience with Yulara, the Northern Territory government favours the establishment of a tourist accommodation complex in or near Jabiru. The reason is that the provision of services to these tourist complexes is one of their most expensive features. The Yulara complex will cost about \$150m. A great deal of that money is being taken up in providing electricity, water and other services. Indeed, Telecom has refused to make provision for telephonic communications with Yulara so the Northern Territory government has had to find \$5m, I think, to enable Yulara to have telephonic communication with the rest of the world.

Regarding Kakadu, we really are getting into a desperate impasse. Provision has to be made urgently for tourist accommodation in and around Kakadu. We have supported the South Alligator Motor Inn. I forget how much money the NTDC loaned the proprietors of that establishment - probably most of the money that they required to get it off the ground. Indeed, we would welcome the opportunity to lend them more money if they can put a viable proposition to us. But the inn will not solve the problem entirely because it is at one extremity of the park and it is a long drive from there to the features that the tourists want to see. We do not have uranium development, and it is not likely to happen for a couple of years at least. The federal government is going through all sorts of intricate manoeuvres in that area. Frankly, it seems to me that it cannot do anything about uranium mining until it alters its policy at a national conference but I hope, Mr Speaker, that I am wrong. However, I would say that any new uranium development in the Northern Territory is a couple of years away at best. I suppose also that we will have to get around the vested interests that Roxby Downs seems to have established in the ALP hierarchy where, for some reason or other, it has been given the go ahead but approval for Jabiluka to proceed has been withdrawn.

Tourism is becoming vital to the Northern Territory and the establishment of tourist facilities at Kakadu has to happen. It cannot be put off any longer. No longer can we be subject to the whims of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service which, for so long, has seemed to want to run the park solely for its own benefit without regard to the benefit of anyone in this Territory or, indeed, Australia. I have asked the Prime Minister, and he has agreed, that Northern Territory officials meet urgently with federal

officials to try to resolve the problems over Kakadu generally and to get some sort of progress going in that area. We are building hotels here in Darwin. We need them to accommodate tourists. If Jumbo-loads of tourists are to come here, there must be beds to put them in. Then, they have to be taken to places they want to see. What is there for them at Kakadu? At the moment, we have permission from the ANPWS to build a 25-unit motel at Kakadu for people having genuine and bona fide reasons to go there. There is not camping ground at Jabiru. This situation simply cannot continue. We are doing our very best. The previous federal government was no better about Kakadu in this respect but, at least, we had the hope that the Territory's short to medium-term future would be propped up by uranium mining. Now we know that we must have tourism and we must have it quickly. Decisions must be made about Kakadu and tourist accommodation.

#### Motel at Cooida

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TOURISM

My question relates to the answer that he has just given. Is he completely unaware that the Gunwinggu Association is already well advanced in the construction of a modern, high-quality tourist accommodation complex at Cooida in the middle of Kakadu National Park, a project costing several million dollars? In fact, I visited it last weekend. Is he also aware that this is being constructed with absolutely no assistance whatever from the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

I am well aware of the establishment of a relatively medium-sized motel at Cooida. There has been tourist accommodation at Cooida now for many years. It is pleasing to see the establishment of this motel. I hope that it will be operated to a high standard which is satisfactory to the national and international visitors whom we are hoping to attract to Kakadu. To my mind, and I have given some thought to this, I believe that the association should attempt to enlist the services of some well-accredited national operator to assist it to run this enterprise, at least in the first 2 or 3 years, to help the complex get off the ground. I wish the association every success. However, I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that the South Alligator Motor Inn and the motel at Cooida will not cater for anywhere near the number of tourists that we must have coming through Darwin and going to Kakadu to really make the whole thing worth while. I welcome this motel. I would welcome the association building one that was double or treble the size. However, it will not really begin to solve the problem.

#### Katherine High School Meeting

Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Will he be making a statement on the meeting held between parents, teachers and the school council of the Katherine High School with officers of the Department of Education?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have a report from the Department of Education on some

problems at Katherine High School. It includes reference to a meeting held last week between parents and teachers at the school. However, it is a very frank report and it would not be appropriate or serve a great deal of benefit for me to read it out or table it in the Assembly. At the meeting, a resolution was passed that the newly-formed school council should immediately investigate such things as student discipline, teacher morale and school-community relationships. The third item is probably the most important of all to be investigated. We will be assisting the school council in that regard and doing whatever else we can. I have asked the Department of Education to mobilise its resources to assist. Within the resources of the Department of Education are many experts on many aspects of education. In addition, the chairman of the school council is in Darwin at present having talks with the Department of Education officials on the next stage of action to resolve the problems at Katherine High School. I will be meeting the chairman at lunchtime today to hear his views and give him mine on the subject. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that I will keep the honourable member for Elsey informed of progress on this matter. It is one we take very seriously and will address quickly. However, I do not believe it would serve any purpose to go into details or mention names because I just do not think that is the way to solve the problem.

Kings Canyon

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS

I refer to a proposal for an excision from the Tempe Downs head lease for a conservation reserve in the vicinity of Kings Canyon. What stage has been reached in the negotiations with the Tempe Downs Pastoral Company in relation to that excision?

ANSWER

I cannot say that I am as fully au fait with this matter as the Minister of Conservation is but, as far as I am aware, the negotiations are finalised and some sort of provision is being made for the issue of a lease to the Conservation Land Corporation.

Bus Service to Bloodwood Caravan Park

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why was the bus service up Wallaby Holtze Road to Bloodwood Caravan Park discontinued without any prior notification to possible users?

ANSWER

The bus service was discontinued because only 1 person used it and then only on an irregular basis. The 8 km deviation from the usual route cannot therefore be justified. The honourable member does raise the point about advice going to residents about the discontinuation of the service and in future it is proposed that advice will go out to the local members in the area so that they may inform their constituents.

Working Party on Racing Industry

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

On Monday 22 August, he announced a further study into the structure and funding of the racing industry. Who is to conduct the study and when does he propose to announce the terms of reference?

ANSWER

The working party that is being established to look into the structure and funding of racing in the Northern Territory will be under the chairmanship of a very senior officer from Treasury. Having regard to the fact that most of the funding which goes to racing is taxpayers' money, we see that Treasury should play the principal role in looking at these questions and options. In addition, the Racing and Gaming Commission will be represented by the commissioner, Mr Davis. The Northern Territory Commissioner of Police will have a representative on the working party and there will be 2 members from the racing clubs - one from Darwin and one from Alice Springs - a representative of off-course bookmakers and a consumer representative. The terms of reference which we have been working on in the last few days will be announced hopefully within a few days. We have yet to receive specific nominations from race clubs for persons to be on the working party. The first meeting will determine how it will go about its task. I suspect that, some time during the course of its examinations, at least some if not all members of the working party will have to travel interstate. The government will be making announcements from time to time as the working party progresses with its work.

Working Party on Racing Industry

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Will the report from this working party be confidential or a public document?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we would envisage that, after the government has assessed the report, there is every likelihood that the document will be released publicly. I am sure the views of many of the members on the working party will be well known even if the report is not released.

Kings Canyon

Mr VALE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

What stage has been reached on the establishment of a proposed national park in the Kings Canyon area?

ANSWER

I am happy to advise that discussions between the principals of Tempe Downs and the Conservation Commission and the Department of Lands are nearing completion. It is anticipated that we will have a signing ceremony for the relinquishment of the proposed park area at Kings Canyon from Tempe Downs to

the Conservation Commission and the creation of a national park over Kings Canyon later in September.

For the benefit of honourable members, I would like to outline the details relating to the area concerned. The Kings Canyon area was first traversed in the early part of this century by teams from South Australia who were crossing the Northern Territory. Recently, reports of that have been delivered to me as extracts from the South Australian archives and it is very interesting reading. The creation of Tempe Downs in the early days was done on the basis of drawing lines on the map and Kings Canyon was included in it. At all times, the management of Tempe Downs have regarded the area as a superb conservation area which should be set aside for the benefit of the public and future generations. Negotiations for acquisition of the area had some troubled times. Earlier this year, we were able to find common ground with the people at Tempe Downs and agree to the acquisition of the area and the sublease of an area on the south side of Kings Canyon which the company can continue to use for grazing cattle. The area will be leased back to it by the Conservation Land Corporation.

Mr Speaker, I would just like to take the opportunity to outline to members what the government sees as the future in the area. Because of its proximity to Ayers Rock and the Yulara development, the development and use of Kings Canyon will increase tremendously in the years to come. Already, we have a problem where there is an incredible amount of use by the public of the area and I would have to be the first to admit that we have very few facilities for the people going there. No rangers are stationed there and, apart from some basic barbeques and rubbish facilities, the area is devoid of any infrastructure that would assist tourists. I do not believe that, with the creation of a park over Kings Canyon, this can be allowed to continue. I have been having discussions with Dr Letts on what we might do.

If we accept the premise that Kings Canyon could have 80 000 or 90 000 people a year going through it - and that is not an unreasonable proposition in 2 or 3 years' time - we very badly need to put some infrastructure in place. The first question that comes to mind is where to put it and the impact it will have on the people already there. Honourable members would be aware that recently a lease was granted by the government to Conway and Lander who wanted to run some cattle, break-in horses and camels and provide general camping facilities for people going to Kings Canyon. Also in the immediate vicinity, the Cotterill family operates Wallara Ranch. They have been there for at least 20 years to my knowledge. I understand that the future development of the Wallara site has a cloud over it because there is some difficulty between the head lessees of the pastoral lease on which the Wallara Ranch is situated and the Cotterills and a solution has been difficult to arrive at. I have had discussions with Conway and Lander and the Cotterills on what could be put in place in the Kings Canyon area to provide motel, camping and other facilities for people who would like to go there. I believe that Kings Canyon, as a tourist destination, is quite unique. It is one that ought to be developed, even in a small way, along the lines that we used to approach the Ayers Rock destination. I believe that, if we are to maintain credibility with our international tourists, we must have good facilities at Kings Canyon. It is likely that we could keep them in the Kings Canyon area for at least a day or two.

Mr Speaker, with the discussions going on at the moment between the government and Conway and Lander and the Cotterills, and the proposal being



worked up by the Conservation Commission in conjunction with the Department of Lands, the Northern Territory Development Corporation and the Tourist Commission, the Kings Canyon tourist destination will become equally as famous as Ayers Rock. I would be interested to hear from the members for MacDonnell and Stuart, who have a close relationship with the area and an understanding of it, any views they may have about the future development of the facilities there. However, there is no doubt that something has to happen and, Mr Speaker, it will.

Tempe Downs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

This question refers to his previous answer in which he referred to an area of land being offered by way of compensation to Tempe Downs Pty Ltd because of the loss of land due to the excision of the Kings Canyon area. Where is that area of land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the honourable member, I would just like to make the point that the block of land on which agreement has been reached on a lease between the Conservation Land Corporation and the lessees of Tempe Downs is not offered by way of compensation but by way of agreement. The area referred to is on the south-west corner and runs along the southern boundary flank of the canyon where the road goes. It goes out to the south west and it comes back and joins the road. It is almost triangular in shape. It is not large; it would possibly accommodate 200 head of cattle in a grazing operation. The control and supervision of the area will be agreed upon between the management of the station and the management group from the Northern Territory Conservation Commission. From discussions between the Tempe Downs people and us, it was agreed that it is an odd piece of land on the corner of the property and that it did not really fit in with the Kings Canyon park per se. Neither is it big enough to justify the separate granting of a lease for pastoral activity. We agreed that the best way of handling it was for the Conservation Commission to assume that area for use as a buffer zone adjoining the park and to lease it back to the company for grazing cattle. There is also the understanding that the agreement can continue so long as the land is not over-grazed or affected in any way that would have an impact on the park.

Rum Jungle Mine Site

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the increase of 300% in funding allocated in the federal budget for the much-needed rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site, which I understand is being done through the Department of Transport and Works, could he advise the progress that is likely to be made on that in the next 12 months? Could he also advise whether, once that site is made safe, attention will be given by the Northern Territory government to its potential for tourism?

ANSWER

It is true that a program has been developed with the Commonwealth for the rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site. I will be happy to provide extensive details for the honourable member. I am not aware of any proposal for tourism development in the region. Obviously, the place does lend itself to some tour operations, possibly in conjunction with the day tours out of Darwin. I will advise the honourable member further on the details of the rehabilitation program.

Safety of Women Drivers

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

He has asked the TIO to investigate reports that women drivers are safer drivers than their male counterparts. Has he had a response from the TIO regarding this and, if so, what is its conclusion?

ANSWER

I have not had any response from the TIO to my request as yet, which was actually directed from me to my colleague, the Treasurer, who has responsibility for the TIO. However, I read a month or two ago in a journal to which I attach some credence that a survey had been carried out. I forget whether it was in the USA or in Australia. It showed that, over a certain period in a certain community, women had a much safer driving record than their male counterparts and that, accordingly, they were being offered preferential treatment by insurance companies. Of course, that is fair. Insurance is like betting: you make a book and you offer odds. The odds in this case indicate obviously that women drivers are a safer bet than men; that is, on the basis that they are involved in fewer accidents. I have asked the TIO to follow this up to see if it can offer a beneficial or preferential package of comprehensive insurance. I assume it would apply to women-owner drivers. Obviously, the package could not apply to vehicles that may be driven by men.

Status of Drilling in Bonaparte Gulf

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Would he give a brief outline of what has transpired to date in regard to drilling in the Bonaparte Gulf?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the recoverable reserves which were estimated in the Puffin area, and I take it that that is the area to which the honourable member alludes, are expected to be in the order of 115 million to 230 million barrels of oil. A number of questions relate to that. One includes the current excise arrangements in relation to oil and it is indisputable that the Commonwealth has the right to impose its resources rent tax. If that is the case, it may have the effect of making that particular oil find more attractive for exploitation than the proposal of the previous government. There is also a concern in relation to further exploration and proving up of the area due to a dispute between Australia and Indonesia as to the seabed economic boundary. That is a further question which needs resolution. Vulcan 1B was completed in August 1982. In that well, no hydrocarbons were

discovered. Jabiru 1A is being drilled at present and, I understand, closer in to where oil has been found. A successful result is hoped for there. Up to August last year, 500 km of seismic data was acquired and more is planned this year. Substantial acreage will be available for application and gazettal is now being prepared for further exploration in that area. The estimated reserves of recoverable gas are estimated at 141 billion cubic metres so a very substantial find has been located in that area.

As I indicated last week, NTP28 partners, in the development of the Petrel area, are examining the possibility of an onshore gas facility for Darwin. We are all aware of the enormous cost of that. Naturally, very extensive export markets would need to be found if that were to become viable. We know that huge reserves are being brought into production on the North-west Shelf and this will make the marketing of any Northern Territory gas much more difficult. There are also huge reserves of natural gas available elsewhere throughout the world. It is one of the energy sources in more plentiful supply in the world.

Mr Speaker, I could go on for some time in relation to seismic information and so on. I do not think the honourable member seeks that sort of detail. If he does, I will be more than happy to give him the information. Some 6000 km of seismic data was acquired in 1982 and 1500 km of additional data may be acquired in 1983. That relates to gas and not oil.

Palm Valley Gas for Alice Springs

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

When will Palm Valley gas come into use in the Alice Springs power-station?

ANSWER

Last Friday, I signed the authorisation to commence gas production flow through the pipeline. I am not sure on exactly which day the test runs will be conducted. The official opening of the pipeline will occur at 11.30 am on Friday. Gas will flow officially to the powerhouse from that day, if not a day earlier.

Director of Aged and Special Services

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that the person appointed to the position of Director of Aged and Special Services in the Department of Health earlier this year will leave before the end of this year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is yes.

Stamp Duty on First-home Purchases in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When will first-home buyers in the rural area not have to pay stamp duty, a privilege only extended at present to people in urban areas?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the stamp duty exemption for first-home buyers in the Northern Territory applies at present to a residential lot. That is the term used in the legislation. The Commissioner of Taxes has determined that, generally speaking, lots over 2 ha are not residential lots for the purposes of that particular exemption from stamp duty. This has caused considerable concern amongst constituents and potential constituents of the honourable member for Tiwi. However, the Commissioner of Taxes is bound by the legislation and has faced the difficulty that quite a number of semi-commercial activities are conducted where people own areas of 2 ha or more. Many of those lots are used as stables, kennels, workshops and transport depots. Others are used for agricultural produce, be it mango trees or the growing of other crops. Even though, in many cases, we would all accept that there is a very low level of activity from the householder's point of view, nonetheless, if it is of a commercial nature, even for a part of the year, it is outside the present intention of the act to allow exemption from stamp duty for those first-home buyers in the Northern Territory.

I will have to leave further advice on this matter for the honourable member to pick up in the budget to be handed down in the Assembly today. I can say to her, however, that any perceived discrimination between city and rural dwellers will be removed.

Report on Rice-growing Industry in NT

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the study undertaken by Dr Baird from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Authority into the commercial potential of the rice-growing industry in the Northern Territory been completed and, if so, was the report favourable and when will it be available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have received an interim report on the investigations of the good doctor. I have some small problems with it but I intend to wait for the full report.

Liquor Act Review

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the operation of the Liquor Act currently under review and, if so, when does he expect to be in receipt of the findings of any such review?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Chairman of the Liquor Commission is conducting a review on the section of the Liquor Act which relates to take-away sales. I hope to provide a Cabinet submission on that review in the very near future.

Status of Salt-water Crocodile

Mr LEO to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Does the government intend to persist with attempts to have the salt-water crocodile's status under the world wildlife listing of endangered species changed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we will be seeking to have that crocodile species shifted from schedule 1 to schedule 2. That would be much more acceptable from our point of view. With the current classification, it would be extremely difficult for any products from the commercial crocodile farm operation ever to move onto the market. We do not think that that is terribly helpful. We believe the program that is under way at the moment is geared towards conservation in the most positive sense. The farm is breeding the species as well as hoping to harvest it. Surely, that must be the best balance that nature could ever hope to achieve. I will seek from the Chairman of the Conservation Commission, Dr Letts, a paper on the exact status of our application before the United Nations conference on the matter and provide the honourable member with details at a later date.

Subsidised Taxi Services for Disabled

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What consideration has the government given to the provision of subsidised taxi services for disabled people?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that particular proposal is under consideration. The Department of Health is investigating how those services operate elsewhere in Australia. Until such time as that information is provided to me, I am unable to make a decision regarding any implementation of that kind of service in the Darwin area.

Portability of Housing Commission Mortgages

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

What progress has been made in relation to a system to allow for the portability of Housing Commission mortgages?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter is still under consideration.

Sand-mining Site for Alice Springs

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

Has a decision been made on an alternative sand-mining site to the Todd River?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no. Much more time is needed to explore the nature of sand deposits in central Australia thoroughly. I understand the anxiety that is inherent in the honourable member's question. It is not possible to continue with building and construction work without a ready supply of the correct type of sand. The only source of that in central Australia is in the creek beds. These are environmentally sensitive locations. They affect tourism as well. We cannot dig them up willy-nilly. That affects trees and has all sorts of undesirable side effects. At the moment, as far as the area of Alice Springs is concerned, the Todd River system up and down stream of the city would seem to be the only reasonable source close to the town. Naturally there are a number of other river systems within a hundred kilometres of Alice Springs which are of exactly the same type, and which have similar types of sand. Regrettably, the further one goes from the town, the greater the cost of transporting the sand to the concrete-making sites and brick manufacturing works. Of course, the consequence is obvious: the price to the consumer and home builder rises. It is not an easy one. We are still exploring the areas around Alice Springs to try to overcome this difficulty. It is not a pressing problem. Obviously, as development continues, we will have to go further afield for sand. Bearing in mind both the cost and environmental issues involved in this exercise, the government certainly is not taking the matter lightly.

Aerial Medical Services

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the government act on the results of the inquiry into aerial medical services in the Northern Territory which demonstrated that the Royal Flying Doctor Service could provide services south of Katherine at considerably cheaper cost than the existing charter operators do?

ANSWER

The question of the Royal Flying Doctor Service operating out of the Katherine region is subject to discussions that I am having with the Department of Health. In fact, I met with the council of the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs recently and advised it that, whilst the results of the survey had indicated that there was a need for the Royal Flying Doctor Service in that area, the report also stated that people in the area were being adequately serviced by the charter operator, Tillair. The Royal Flying Doctor Service was asking if there was a possibility of its service being used right throughout the Northern Territory. I advised it that, if it did get into the Katherine region, it would not be able to operate in the Arnhem region for the next 4 or 5 years because of the agreement that we have with the Airlines of Northern Australia through ATI. I am still having a look at the report and the results of that particular survey.

At this moment, I am not disposed to change the current operation in that area because Tillair is providing an adequate service. The aircraft being used are considered to be reasonable. Of course, the honourable member has always advocated that aircraft such as the Nomad should be used. We are using the Nomad in the east Arnhem and northern regions, provided that the medical backup is there. Most of the people in remote areas adjacent

to Katherine are in radio contact with the regional health centre in Katherine, as is the case with remote areas adjacent to other Territory centres such as Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. If it really is needed to fly an aircraft to a remote locality, a doctor will be the one who makes the decision whether an aircraft goes. I would remind the honourable member for Fannie Bay that, in the old days, aircraft went out for people who had cut a finger, and that was at taxpayers' expense.

Intersection of Lee Point Road and McMillans Road

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of peak hour traffic conditions at the intersection of Lee Point Road and McMillans Road? For the safety of residents in the northern suburbs, will he initiate an investigation into the feasibility of installing traffic lights at that intersection?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to take the matter on board.

Racing Industry Inquiry

Mr LEO to TREASURER

When will the working party that is presently investigating the racing industry in the Northern Territory be required to submit its report to the minister?

ANSWER

I hope to be in a position to announce the composition of the working party on Friday or Monday. It will not have a specific time limit to submit its report to us because the terms of reference which are being finalised - and I will send a copy to the honourable member - are quite extensive. The working party will indeed have quite a formidable task. It would be unfair of us to impose a time limit at this stage. Certainly, it will be some months.

Tax on Fuel Products

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of a succession of conflicting statements by the federal Treasurer, the Minister for Aviation, the federal member in the House of Representatives, John Reeves, and the Leader of the Opposition, can he inform this Assembly of the impact on the Territory of federal taxes on fuel products as announced in the 1983-84 federal budget?

ANSWER

I thank the member for Port Darwin for his question. We would indeed be forgiven for believing that the fuel imposts on the Northern Territory have been reduced by the federal government. We have often heard pious statements from the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the issuing to the public of totally misleading statements by this side of the Assembly. Mr Speaker, I am about to demonstrate that the man is a hypocrite.

As the NT News pointed out in its editorial of 30 August, there was a press release by Mr John Reeves: 'Federal government slashes fuel oil, heating oil, power and lighting kerosene excise by 80%'. That was from the federal member for the Northern Territory. Let us look closer to home, at the Leader of the Opposition himself. On 8DN news on 30 August, the same day, what did the Leader of the Opposition say about this vital issue for the Northern Territory? He said: 'Whichever way we look at it, the federal budget for the Territory has done exceedingly well...I am pleased that the federal government has responded so quickly and decisively to the new representations that were made to it'.

Mr Speaker, let us look at the realities of this decisive action. For the Northern Territory, the truth of this so-called decisive action will be utterly disastrous. This federal budget has been a budget of pure taxation by stealth. It has taken until last night for officers of my department, working with information from the Commonwealth's own figures for the projected fuel use for this financial year and ensuing financial years, to really decipher just what this means for every member here and every citizen of the Northern Territory whom we represent. The 1983-84 Commonwealth budget



adversely affects petroleum product prices in the Territory by: increasing duty on motor spirit, distillate, avgas and avtur; the introduction of duty on kerosene, fuel oil and heating oil; indexing the above duties and movements to the consumer price index, with a first indexation increase effective on budget night, 23 August 1983; and changing the Petroleum Products Rate Subsidy Scheme so that the subsidy is payable only to the nearest retail outlet or port of loading - that is, in the case of fishing vessels. With the 26 August revision of fuel oil duty to 1.872¢ per litre, it is estimated that the direct effect of these budget measures will be to increase Territory fuel bills by about \$18m in 1983-84 and in excess of \$23m in 1984-85. The indirect effects of the increased fuel costs will flow on to all sectors of the Territory economy, raising the cost of living and industry cost structure.

Mr Speaker, in respect to aviation, the additional costs due to changes in duty arrangements will cost the Northern Territory's aviation industry \$0.5m. In the pastoral area, in the straight additional cost due to changes in duty arrangements, it will cost the pastoral industry \$0.2m. To that can be added an additional cost of \$0.2m due to the changes in the Petroleum Products Freight Subsidy Scheme, making an impost of \$0.4m on the pastoral industry in a financial year. The fishing industry, as a result of the increase in costs, charges and duty arrangements, will face additional costs of up to \$1m. In addition, the same arrangements which are now being put in place for the Petroleum Products Freight Subsidy Scheme will cost that industry an additional \$1.1m, bringing the impost grabbed by the Commonwealth government from Territory fishing operations to \$2.1m.

In respect to the effects of duty arrangements on electricity generation in the Northern Territory, we have addressed ourselves only to the question of fuel oil for the Darwin power-station. Let us look at the impost to the Northern Territory. The total revenue collected by the Commonwealth as a result of these duty arrangements will be \$4.1m, of which \$3.6m will be in respect of the Stokes Hill power-station. Mr Speaker, I announced previously that, as a result of the revised figures, we expect the increase in levies in respect of the Stokes Hill power-station to be in the order of 6% to 7%. At that stage, we did not realise the impact of these arrangements across the whole spectrum of fuel supplies in electricity generation. Clearly, it will be more than that.

In respect of government operations involving energy use in motor vehicles, the additional cost to the NT government, in the first category - that is, duty-arrangements will be \$0.4m. The mining industry is a vital industry to the Northern Territory as is tourism which seems to have been overlooked completely in respect of the exemption for diesel. Certain areas were included in that but certainly not tourism. The impost on mining will be \$7.7m in a financial year. That will go by direct payment to the Commonwealth. That will simply wipe out the jobs. With respect to road transport throughout the Northern Territory, the impost will be \$0.4m. The ordinary motorist in the Northern Territory has been sent a bill by the Commonwealth government, through this marvellous decisive action of slashing costs, of a mere \$2.3m.

Mr Speaker, the total additional costs as a result of duty arrangements for the Northern Territory is \$16.6m. The additional cost due to changes in the Petroleum Products Freight Subsidy Scheme is \$1.3m, bringing the total this year to \$17.9m. As I have already indicated, in a full financial year, it will be \$23m.

Housing Loans

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

I preface my question by referring him to the fact that expenditure on new loans to borrowers in 1982-83 by the Northern Territory Housing Commission was \$38.996m and that this sum provided 966 loans. Is it a fact that, for the 1983-84 financial year, the appropriation is only \$34.15m which will allow for only 850 new loans?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will obtain that information and provide it to the member during this sittings.

Legislation on Large-animal Pounds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will legislation governing large-animal pounds be implemented?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Tiwi has been pressing for some time to have the stray animal problem in her electorate resolved to her satisfaction and the satisfaction of her constituents. I am happy to advise her that the new legislation will come into effect on 1 December. The department will be calling for tenders for people to be involved in the collection and holding of stray animals.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

My question concerns the deferred finance arrangements mentioned in yesterday's budget. Has he any evidence of the interest of prime contractors in participating in this type of financing arrangement in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. Advertisements will appear from today onwards in the press in the Northern Territory seeking interested people to come forward and obtain more details from the government so that negotiations can commence. I understand that 2 major parties in this field have expressed interest in obtaining details immediately. That is encouraging. The scheme was originally proposed at the National Economic Summit Conference by the Australian Federation of Construction Contractors, a very substantial organisation in Australia. Therefore, the program was not just plucked out of the air by the Northern Territory government. The concept was considered in great detail by the Australian Federation of Construction Contractors which went to a great deal of trouble to put its case together for the summit.

The Northern Territory government feels that the adoption of this innovation - probably before any other government in Australia - will prove very beneficial to the Northern Territory. It will give the government the

ability to bring forward works which are not programmed to commence for 2 or 3 years. It has particular application for times when there is a lack of work available, and a surplus capacity in the construction industry or when prices are more attractive than they will be at a later time. Additional benefits flow from having capital works projects constructed ahead of time. New jobs are created and economic activity is stimulated by increased payroll taxes, salary payments and spin-off commercial activity. It also gives the community the opportunity to benefit from projects before the original programmed completion dates. For example, the upgrading of the Pine Creek to Jabiru road will be able to be brought forward some years ahead of normal programming. That road will be of enormous benefit to the Territory. It will cost about \$24m over a 4-year period and will be part of a bitumen triangle in the north of the Territory. During the wet season, people will not have to backtrack down the Stuart Highway when they go directly to Kakadu. They will be able to drive to Pine Creek, then to Kakadu, then to Darwin and back down the Stuart Highway or vice versa. The more I think about that particular road and the access that it will give to some of the very attractive areas in the southern Kakadu area, the more excited I become about the benefits to the Territory of sealing it. That is an example of the very many benefits that will come from this scheme - which will be carefully managed by the government - to bring forward capital works projects by using private finance. Obviously, the government will have to monitor the extent to which this new scheme is adopted so that it does not get out of hand. We will certainly be doing that, I believe that it will be to the benefit of us all in the long term.

#### Coffee Bush

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Lately, there has been a tremendous amount of work done around the city in removing, to use the minister's own words, Tom's weed - coffee bush. What follow-up work is proposed for the areas that have been cleared and are the areas where the cuttings and seeds of the coffee bush being dumped being treated to ensure establishment of the bush does not occur in these areas?

ANSWER

I must say that I was expecting the question on Tom's weed last week because he pursues the matter with great vigour. His distaste for the proliferation of this bush in Darwin is known to us all. The work of the Conservation Commission around Darwin in trying to eliminate the coffee bush is well known. There is a fair amount of activity going on at the moment in McMinn Street, the cliff area of the Esplanade, the Frances Bay area and around the cliffs near the casino. The preliminary program is to clear away the bush, put down weed killer or whatever it is that they put on coffee bush, leave it for one season and then come back and repeat the process. Hopefully, at the end of the second wet season, there will be no sign of shoots. If there are, the Conservation Commission will treat it again with the weed killer. A great deal of effort is being made to get rid of it. It is an unsightly bush which does not enhance the beauty of this city. As far as the destruction and disposal of the bushes are concerned, I cannot answer that for the honourable member but I will let him know when I find out. I would imagine it would be done in such a way that the bush could not start in a new area.

Civil Lists of Supreme Court

Ms LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is he aware that the extended waiting time for hearing the civil lists of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory is causing a great amount of distress? If so, has he taken steps to see if we can obtain a visiting judge to help alleviate the delay?

ANSWER

While it is never a satisfying thing to say that we are better off than most, nonetheless, it is the truth. The honourable member would expect all members before all courts to be dealt with expeditiously. We all have that as an objective. The government has seen fit to appoint, for a period of a further 2 years, a fifth judge to the Supreme Court. In addition, we have 7 magistrates. That imposes a very significant impost on the Territory taxpayer. We may have to review the magisterial strength in the near future. The idea of a special or visiting judge is one that, no doubt, is well in the mind of the department and the Solicitor-General in particular. I have not received an approach to that effect from the Chief Justice. He has not communicated to me the view that that is necessary. If the Chief Justice were to do so, obviously we would consider the matter in consultation with him.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

With reference to the deferred finance arrangements introduced in yesterday's budget, has the government established a suitable administrative apparatus to decide the total deferred liabilities that it is prepared to incur this financial year?

ANSWER

The setting up of such arrangements would prove no trouble whatsoever to the Department of Treasury which has very extensive resources and very extensive expertise. Over the several years of my responsibility for that area of government, I have been very pleased with the level of advice and service received from the department. I could not have asked for more. My portfolios have changed over a period of time but that is one area which has not changed and it has never given me a great deal of heartburn. There are not very many ministers who could say that over a period of several years. I can assure the honourable member that, as far as setting up administrative arrangements to ensure that the government can monitor closely such things as contingent liability in the government accounting system is concerned, it is merely a matter of the right people recording the necessary transactions, liabilities and agreements. This is done all the time. Contingent liability raises its head every time the government enters into a guarantee which it does many times in encouraging investment in the Territory, particularly through the NTDC. I do not see that there could possibly be a problem.

Power Reticulation in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of increasing demands in the rural area for reticulated power to old subdivisions, has NTEC any plans to expedite this reticulation?

ANSWER

The honourable member would be aware of the difficulties which are being experienced in the rural reticulation scheme, not least of which is the low number of people in any given area who wish to participate. The subsidy arrangement is \$2000 per potential subscriber to the electricity grid. It is necessary for people in rural areas to get together to make up their minds if they want to participate in the scheme. Clearly, there are difficulties in the administration of the present scheme. I am currently looking at proposals to take to Cabinet to undertake a re-examination of the entire scheme. I do not believe that the ordinary consumer and the taxpayer can be expected to contribute a greater subsidy to rural areas than it is currently doing. While some assistance to such areas is certainly justified, there is a limit to the extent the rest of the community should support such a scheme. Bearing that in mind, it is not an easy problem to tackle. The reticulation of electricity to these areas is extremely expensive and the utilisation is generally reasonably low. Most of these places use electricity purely for domestic purposes rather than commercial purposes. The utilisation rate on the average block is about the same as that in a northern suburbs home. Nonetheless, we are conscious of the fact that all of the people in the rural area are taxpayers and citizens of the Northern Territory and are entitled to services as soon as they can be made available to them. The matter is under review. It will not be easy.

Operational Subsidy for Bus Service

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the budget yesterday, the operational subsidy for the bus service was reduced by \$50 000. Where does he expect savings in the operation of the service to be made?

ANSWER

It is only a small reduction. I would have to go back through the papers provided by the department to give full consideration to his question.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the plight of members of isolated Aboriginal communities in central Australia who are transported to Alice Springs for court proceedings but are not returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it is probably the Attorney-General's responsibility

to return these people to their communities. Certainly, it is not the responsibility of the police. It may be the misconceived opinion of the honourable member for MacDonnell that, because police serve subpoenas on various witnesses on behalf of the court, the police should bear the responsibility for transportation to and from the courts. Anywhere else in this country, the witnesses have to look after their own transportation. I hasten to disclaim, on behalf of the Police Force, any responsibility on its part. I think it could be a responsibility of the Attorney-General or possibly the Minister for Community Development. Elsewhere, these people would be given subpoenas and expected to find their own way there and back.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the plight of members of isolated Aboriginal communities in central Australia who are transported to Alice Springs for court proceedings but are not returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask that the matter be referred to the Attorney-General.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is he aware of the plight of members of isolated Aboriginal communities in central Australia who are transported to Alice Springs for court proceedings but are not returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is a shame that we on this side of the Assembly, unlike the other side, do not read from notes everything we say in this Assembly. If we did, I would simply ask the Chief Minister for what he said and read it out again. The taxpayer spends a tremendous amount of money on the transportation of both witnesses and people who are to be prosecuted and, indeed, prosecuted successfully, back to their home communities. I know that there are times when the sheer logistics make it virtually impossible. It is all very fine for the honourable member opposite to point out what he perceives as being the plight of these people but, as I understand it, in many cases, these people leave the precincts of the court without informing any of the court staff where they are going. They inevitably end up in the pub or in a park or visiting relatives and friends. Two days later, they come back and wonder why we have not done anything about getting them back to a very remote and distant community. The court staff cannot assist people with travel arrangements, nor can the police, and nor can officers of the Department of Community Development if people do not come to them and seek help. That is usually the scenario which gives rise to the difficulties alleged by the honourable member opposite.

Sales Tax on Tubular Steel Products

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Will he make representation to the federal government protesting about

the new 20% sales tax on tubular steel products?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as has been mentioned earlier, some of the effects of decisions made in the federal government budget are really only now coming to light as people wade through more and more detail. One which has a particular bearing on the Northern Territory is the list of products which have now become subject to sales tax. One of these is tubular steel products which are not used for drainage, water supply or sewerage services. At first glance, it may seem that there are not many other uses and such a tax would not have a widespread effect. What it has picked up is a product which is very commonly used in the construction industry in the Territory: a product called RHS or rectangular hollow section steel. Particularly in Darwin where we have to build to cyclone codes, there is a great deal more steel used in buildings than there is in most other parts of Australia. One of the very common uses of steel in house construction is RHS and SHS which is square hollow section. These items are tubular steel that are not used for drainage, water supply or sewerage and therefore they come under the 20% sales tax bracket. This will certainly have a significant effect on building in the Territory. I understand that 100 t of RHS was used in the construction of the casino. For projects like that, it will be necessary for engineers to specify alternative products.

The simple answer to the honourable member's question is yes. I will be writing to the federal Treasurer pointing out what I see as an anomaly and will demonstrate the effect of the imposition of this new sales tax on the building and other industries in the Northern Territory. It is the sort of thing which probably was not foreseen when the original documents and regulations were drawn up by the federal government. However, it is becoming clear now exactly what the federal government budget will mean to us.

#### Racing Industry Inquiry

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Will he consider allowing representation by owners and trainers on the working party inquiring into the NT racing industry, given their fairly obvious interest?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government believes that any further extension of the working party beyond its current composition would be undesirable. There is a whole range of people with direct financial interests in the racing industry. That is one of the arguments that the racing clubs have always put forward in presenting their case of how valuable they are to the economy of the Northern Territory. Certainly, they have a value; it is a matter of determining how extensive it is. The interests of trainers, owners, veterinarians etc will be represented by the racing clubs themselves. That is the peak of the pyramid of the racing industry in the Northern Territory. All these people can put their case to the racing clubs and, no doubt, have done so. The effect of racing is always raised at meetings between myself and the racing clubs. It is a very extensive effect. It flows right through the community. I do not see any particular point in making the committee even bigger to represent every sectional interest group because it will become so large that it will not really do any work.

It will spend all its time arguing.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is it known whether the government will be required to give any guarantees or indemnities to contractors and, if so, what is the likely nature of these guarantees or indemnities?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is quite clear that the government will have to guarantee that it will pay for what it gets. That is not uncommon and is not limited to these particular arrangements. Final details have yet to be worked out. We are calling for expressions of interest with a view to talking to contractors and finance organisations on arrangements suitable to them and the government. That will cover everything from the term of such arrangements, interest payments involved and securities necessary to be provided by government to ensure that the persons entering into such arrangements are suitably protected. We would hardly proceed unless that were the case. Honourable members should bear in mind that these arrangements, by and large, will be for the construction of government assets on government land. It is not the normal situation whereby the financier has the ability simply to sell the lot and recoup debts if the government does not pay. Obviously, special arrangements will have to be organised to protect the security of the parties involved for it to succeed at all. I cannot provide further details on that but I am sure that these matters will not present any problems to willing partners.

Upgrading of Alice Springs Airport

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the statement made yesterday by the federal member, Mr Reeves, that the Northern Territory's refusal to participate in the local ownership plan for the Alice Springs airport was delaying its upgrading?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was not aware of that statement by the federal member but the member for Stuart kindly brought it to my notice by sending me a bit of paper a couple of minutes ago. It is the first notification that I have had that the Northern Territory is expected to participate in the local ownership plan for the Alice Springs airport. To the best of my knowledge, any proposals being made by the Commonwealth government in respect of local ownership of the Alice Springs airport were made to the Alice Springs Town Council. The Northern Territory government has made its attitude very clear for the past 18 months or so. During the time that the previous government attempted to foist this local ownership plan on the town of Alice Springs, and since the advent of the current government, our attitude has been that Alice Springs airport is, without doubt, an airport of national significance and consequence. There is no way that the people of Alice Springs or the taxpayers of the Northern Territory should have to bear any responsibility for it. When the present federal member was an alderman on the Alice Springs



council, he was vociferous in putting similar views. One of the 20 or so promises that he gave to Territorians as the basis on which they should elect him - and about 19 of which are now broken - was that the Alice Springs airport would be upgraded by the Commonwealth. Of course, since then, his views have been modified. He has been to Canberra and put through the indoctrination process. It is a great shame that, so often when upstanding people are elected to represent the Northern Territory and go off to Canberra, they are brain-washed by the people down there.

Ms D'Rozario: Grant Tambling was brain-washed.

Mr EVERINGHAM: At least he had more spine than Reeves.

In a very short period of time they seem to come back spouting the views of Canberra instead of representing the interests of their constituents.

The Northern Territory government - and I say it in this Assembly since I have been asked this question - adheres to its view that there should be no local ownership plans for the Alice Springs airport. It is clearly a Commonwealth responsibility. It calls on the Commonwealth to honour that responsibility. We see a hypocritical, sleight-of-hand act being perpetrated by this government, and the previous government in talking about local ownership plans for airports whereby, if you accept local ownership, all of a sudden the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow descends at the edge of your airstrip and you get money to do all sorts of things. You are also told that that money will not be available for 13 years if you do not accept local ownership.

The hypocrisy of all this is that the money is there in the federal budget. It is just kept in 2 different columns. The column that it is kept in is the local ownership column to try to dragoon local authorities into accepting responsibilities that are properly federal. In Cairns, where the airport has been accepted by the local authority, an additional \$1 or \$2 must be imposed on the top of the price of every air ticket that is sold there. That affects the people in Cairns wanting to fly out rather than the visitors flying into Cairns. In effect, the locals have to pay half the cost of the new Cairns International Airport. We want the federal member to honour his commitment. We want the federal government to honour its commitment. In any case, we have not heard a proposal that the Northern Territory should be involved in local ownership of the Alice Springs airport.

#### Housing Commission Tenancies

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HOUSING

In view of the fact that, when a Housing Commission home becomes available, the Housing Commission demands immediate occupancy by the prospective tenant, and considering the fact that because most landlords demand 2 weeks' rent in advance, the prospective tenant either loses his 2 weeks' advance rent or loses his Housing Commission home, would the minister examine this matter to see if some solution to this injustice can be arrived at?

ANSWER

Yes.

Palmerston Bus Service

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that the bus operating a service within Palmerston is owned by the government?

ANSWER

An arrangement was made with the Palmerston Development Authority to transfer a bus which it could use to run a bus service in Palmerston. I understand that to be the case.

Police Complement at Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Considering the halt in the development of the Jabiru township, will the police complement there still be maintained at the current high level?

ANSWER

I would hope that the township of Jabiru would become permanently and totally law abiding so that we could remove any police presence there altogether. I know of no plans to change the numbers at the Jabiru Police Station. The police have a certain basis on which they staff their stations: the population and the area involved. Certainly, the commissioner has not forewarned me of any imminent change.

Aboriginal Witnesses from Remote Communities

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

My question refers to his previous answer. Does the Attorney-General accept responsibility for the transportation of members of isolated Aboriginal communities to and from court appearances and, if so, can those people be reassured that, if they make appropriate representations, they will be returned to their home communities?

ANSWER

I do not accept that responsibility. It is amazing what we in the Northern Territory will do for people which other jurisdictions anywhere in the world would not do. Certainly, I will not accept that responsibility. I am not sure whether it squarely rests with me or not. I was telling the honourable member the facts of the matter when he asked the previous question. I am certainly not prepared to say that I am responsible for it.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

How much money has been allocated in 1983-84 budget for both running costs and capital works in the East Point Reserve area?

ANSWER .

The operation of the East Point Reserve at the moment is in the hands of the Conservation Commission. I will extract the exact figures from documents that were tabled recently for the benefit of the honourable member. I would point out that, recently, through the Chief Minister to the mayor, the government made a financial offer to the city council along with the proposition that the council take over East Point Reserve. The details of that are not to hand but I can obtain them. Mr Speaker, I do not know whether the city council has accepted the offer.

Deferred Finance Arrangments

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Do the cost estimates of those projects which have been selected to be constructed under this arrangement include interest payments and, if not, does the budget make provision for the payment of such interest?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am a little confused by the honourable member's question. Projects will be offered to private contractors and finance companies to construct government facilities and have payments deferred. In general, it seems that the payments will commence at the end of the construction period. In other words, the financier and contractor will carry the principal sum during the period of construction when, formerly, government would have been making progress payments. At the time of completion of the project, the government would have 2 options. This could be arranged in advance with the particular group. One option would be to pay out the entire cost of the project on the spot. The carrying of progress payments during the period of construction would incur a penalty cost. Government could either pay the entire sum at that time or pay it over a period which would be negotiated. Obviously, this also would incur an interest cost. I must indicate to the honourable member that it is thought by a number of people that the interest cost will be recouped quite satisfactorily. In some cases, it will be more than recouped through economic stimulus. Jobs will have been generated, in some cases years in advance, payroll tax paid, personal income tax paid, which would not normally be paid, and the general economic benefits of the project itself would contribute benefits to the government as well as the community. Quite clearly, interest payments will be involved. It would be quite impossible for anyone to expect finance companies to come into the act without accruing some profit for themselves.

Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Does the budget make provision for the payment of these interest payments?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, arrangements have not yet been entered into. Projects have not been decided upon to be undertaken under this particular arrangement.

We have listed projects which are being advanced from the capital works program, not necessarily the projects which will be financed under this arrangement. A project currently on the works program, such as the construction of a \$14m court building in Darwin, could be financed under these arrangements. The cash in the current financial year thereby released could be used to bring many other, usually smaller, government projects into the scheme. Such projects would be brought forward from the government's forward works program which extend some years ahead. These are in the design and feasibility stage. Honourable members need to be mindful when reading the budget papers that the list of items which are seen to be capable of commencement under this scheme are not necessarily those which would be financed under this scheme. I think the \$150 000 nurses quarters at Nhulunbuy, for example, was listed among those projects being advanced. There was never any intention that we would necessarily finance that. It is not necessarily a project that we would seek to have financed privately. However, funds have been made available from private finance for that particular project. There is a difference between a program and cash, Mr Speaker. I think the honourable member needs a little lesson. If she wishes, I can introduce her to Treasury officers who will explain the difference between program and budget cash provisions.

#### Deferred Finance Arrangements

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Given that the deferred payments plan proposes that \$33m worth of work be brought forward, what is the likely impact on the economy of the failure of contractors to obtain finance under this scheme?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think the question is so hypothetical that it really cannot be answered. If it is suggested that we might have commissioned extensive feasibility studies on the impact on the Northern Territory of a contractor or financier somehow failing to perform during the course of one of these contracts, I do not think that the question has any real substance to it.

#### Funding of Landscaping Projects for Schools

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

From time to time in the past, government money has been made available to schools for landscaping projects. Under what conditions is money made available to existing schools for such projects?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand there are a number of ways that funds can be used by schools to upgrade their ovals and general landscaping. Ordinary capital funds are used by government when schools are built. Landscaping is quite often included in the contract. In addition, funds are provided by the department to maintain and expand such landscaping and oval developments from time to time. In addition, school councils and P and C associations are free to raise funds. Some of them raise tens of thousands of dollars to spend on their schools at their own discretion. Those school

funds can be used for landscaping and so on. Those organisations also have the ability to apply to the government for dollar-for-dollar funds. I could not say absolutely that dollar-for-dollar funds are available for landscaping because I do not have before me all the criteria for these subsidies. If school councils or principals are in some confusion as to how to go about obtaining funds from government sources for the upgrading of schoolgrounds, they should certainly take the matter up with the relevant departmental officers. This sort of query is handled daily.

Sales Tax

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is he aware that the 20% sales tax will have an adverse effect on the cattle industry, particularly in regard to fencing and stockyards? Will he undertake to take that matter up with the federal government along with the use of steel in the construction industry?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was besieged in Alice Springs recently about the effect of the sales tax on tubular steel products. Apparently, tubular steel is used extensively in the pastoral industry for the construction of stockyards. It is not a matter of simply picking up secondhand tubular steel. Quite often, new tubular steel or tubular steel which has been rejected for water supply purposes is purchased for stockyards. This tax will result in an added impost on pastoralists who wish to continue to use tubular steel for the construction of stockyards. I will include that matter in my representations to the federal Treasurer.

Housing Allocation in Budget

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

Can he confirm that, of the \$58m allocated for housing in yesterday's budget, \$28m was Commonwealth funds and \$20m was a revote of funds from the previous financial year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is a very technical question. My information is that the Commonwealth-States Housing Agreement allocation announced in the 1983-84 budget increased from \$20.242m to \$28.679m, an increase of \$8.437m or 41.6%. The Northern Territory received an increase in the allocation for Aboriginal housing. Out of a \$17.8m total increase, the Territory received \$5.18m or 29% of the increase. That represents an increase of 117% on last year's allocation to the Northern Territory for Aboriginal housing. In relation to the untied grants for public housing, the total increase was \$150.2m, an increase of 125% on last year's allocation. The Northern Territory's share of this increase was \$3.257m or 2% of the total increase. The \$3.275m represents a 40% increase on last year's allocation to the Territory. Overall, the Northern Territory's combined \$8.437m increase for a total housing allocation of \$28.678m represents a 41% increase in funding. This is compared with the Australia-wide increase of \$168m or 50.6% increase in the allocation.

Rum Jungle Rehabilitation

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr STEELE (Transport and Works)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition asked a question yesterday and referred to a 300% increase in funding allocated in the federal budget for rehabilitation of the Rum Jungle mine site. This project is set on a time scale of 4 years and is subject to formal agreement between the federal and Northern Territory governments. It commenced last financial year with an expenditure of \$800 000. For 1983-84, the federal government has allocated \$5.3m, hence the honourable member's suggestion of a massive increase in funds. It is, of course, stage 2 of the federal government's commitment to a project worth \$16.2m, plus provision for escalation of costs.

There are 4 major components in the work to be completed this year. The reshaping, drainage and vegetation of White's overburden heap will be carried out in the period from August to November-December 1983 at an estimated cost of \$1.4m. There is also purchase and installation of a complex water treatment plant by the end of June 1984 at an estimated cost of \$1.8m. The plant is due for commissioning in July 1984. The transfer of the tailings and copper heap leach pile to Dyson's open cut will commence around April 1984 and be completed in November 1984. The cost in this financial year is estimated at \$1m. Engineering and management costs, including consultants for design work, equipment, use of other government resources - for example, the physicist from the Department of Health for radiation monitoring - continuous water monitoring and general minor works make up the remainder of \$1.1m.

First-aid Education for Primary Schoolchildren

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON (Education)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Victoria River asked if consideration had been given to introducing first-aid as part of the education of primary schoolchildren. I am advised by the department that first-aid is included as part of the health and physical education of the core curriculum. Teachers following the core curriculum are required to cover first-aid in the area of health and education safety. Specific first-aid techniques are not introduced to children until Year 3. However, in Years 1 and 2, aspects of safety are presented to the children and they do discuss procedures to follow in accident situations. The initial first-aid technique given to these young children is to seek assistance from a responsible adult or organisation.

At the beginning of Year 5, first-aid procedures are further enhanced by looking at basic first-aid for both minor and serious injury and, at that level, resuscitation methods are introduced. In the secondary school, the core curriculum takes on a far more sophisticated approach, where the children are required to demonstrate first-aid procedures for a variety of common accidents. Teachers use St John Ambulance and Royal Life Saving Society officers as resources in this section of the health education program. Obviously, that is in those places in the Northern Territory where those organisations and their services are represented.

Transient Camp at Kulaluk

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the often stated desire of the Northern Territory government for the owners of the Kulaluk area to make more effective use of that area for the purpose of transient camps, could he advise what the government's current position is on the proposed transient camp at Kulaluk?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can advise him that the government is happy to see any reasonable development on Kulaluk. One of the difficulties that the government has had over a period is that proposals that come up from the people at Kulaluk for consideration are overturned within a short period by dissident groups within the community. I do not have any particular fancy one way or the other for any development of Kulaluk. I am happy to see things progress to the satisfaction of the people but it is extremely difficult for the government to help when the people cannot agree amongst themselves. Over the last few months that I have had the responsibility for community development, I am aware that funds have been available to assist the people of Kulaluk in any development they may wish to pursue. I have had great difficulty getting a consensus on what is needed, where it is needed and how it ought to be done. I would like to say to the honourable member and those people of Kulaluk who are involved in the development of their land that, as soon as we can obtain some reasonable and stable proposition that we can pursue in a budgetary sense, the government will be happy to accommodate the community.

Flooding at Emily Gap

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he as yet give a report on the engineers' study of the flooding problems being experienced by the residents of the Emily Gap area in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the member for MacDonnell is also very interested in this particular matter. There has been correspondence to us over quite a long period of time. I looked at the files this morning and it appears that the honourable member for Stuart at least commenced correspondence with us back in March 1982. Of course, a report has been prepared. It is under consideration by the government. We are waiting for the final aspects of that report to come back to the government.

Electoral Provisions under Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I understand that the Northern Territory government requested the previous Commonwealth government to amend the electoral provisions under the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978. I understand that a further approach has been made to the current federal government. Can he tell the Assembly if he intends to pursue these proposed amendments with the current federal government and can he advise the Assembly of the detail of

those proposed amendments?

ANSWER

I cannot remember the detail of the proposed amendments because, to the best of my recollection, they are of a technical nature. They are part of a whole package of technical amendments to the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act. They include an amendment to deal with such exciting subjects as easements in gross. I do remember at least that part of the letter. We have had at least a couple of years of argument at officer level between federal officials and Territory officials who simply want a few minor amendments to the Self-Government Act for ease of administration.

It seems that the Leader of the Opposition is opening my mail to federal ministers. But I suppose that, when one is dealing with people without honour, then that is all that one can expect.

Mr B. Collins: Are you talking about me in that respect?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Well, anyone who would read someone else's mail could advise the Assembly what he considers his state of honour to be.

Mr B. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! Clearly, under Standing Orders, that is improper. I have had access to no one's mail. As a matter of fact, from the tone of the question and the terms of the question, the Chief Minister would recognise the fact that these negotiations have been going on for some 2 years, to the best of my knowledge, with the previous government. That was contained in the terms of the question.

Mr SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr B. COLLINS: The personal reflection, Mr Speaker, that I am person of no honour. The Chief Minister knows full well that that is based on an assumption on his part that I have been reading his mail. I have not and I would ask the Chief Minister to withdraw the imputation.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, if the cap fits, then obviously the honourable Leader of the Opposition will have to wear it.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, in my defence, I believe I am entitled to say something...

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: The question that I would like to address then is the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition indicated that, under the previous government, he did not have access to my mail.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! My question is simple. Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?



Mr EVERINGHAM: If there is any imputation, Mr Speaker, I withdraw it. But, as I say, the honourable Leader of the Opposition can wear whatever cap fits.

Mr SPEAKER: Will the honourable Chief Minister withdraw the imputation?

Mr EVERINGHAM: If there is any imputation, Mr Speaker, I withdraw it.

Mr SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot accept that.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I withdraw any imputation.

As I said, these amendments are of a purely technical nature. Whilst I cannot remember them in detail, as far as I am concerned, if the honourable Leader of the Opposition has copies of my mail, he is welcome to publish those copies because I am quite happy to make the correspondence available to this Assembly. There is nothing that the Territory government has to hide in relation to the proposed amendments to the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act which are of a technical nature to the best of my recollection.

#### East Coast Shipping Service

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise what steps, if any, are being taken to assist the east coast shipping service to become viable?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this question is very timely because it follows a few remarks that the member for Macdonnell made last night. Honourable members will be aware that this government successfully maintained pressure on the federal government to honour its pre-election promise of taking a social audit approach to transport problems in remote regions. We are surprised that it maintained the subsidy after all the terrorising activities about what would or would not be in the budget. We fought successfully against suggestions from the Commonwealth that the Northern Territory contribute towards the subsidy along the lines of the proposal suggested and rejected for the funding of the railway. Our approach led to a \$2m subsidy for the service and, whilst this was short of the 3-year subsidy - we wanted to allow the service to be tendered out to the most suitable operator, which might have been ANL - it at least allows immediate continuation of a service.

Notwithstanding this success, I note from Mr Keating's budget statement that he says: 'The future of service now rests on the commercial judgment of ANL and on any financial assistance from the Northern Territory government'. Obviously, the subsidy is doomed. When that subsidy expires after the \$2m is eaten up, probably it will disappear. Additional Commonwealth funds would only be considered in the context of the outcome of the Commonwealth's inquiry into the transport needs of the Northern Territory. I have said before that it would be economic lunacy for the Northern Territory government to contribute to a service in which it had no control or say in how the service was run. Notwithstanding that, we are taking steps to make the best of the Commonwealth's continued piecemeal approach to this particular matter.

Follow-up letters have been sent to all participants in the government's Shippers Conference asking them to use the service. The federal Minister for Transport has been asked to assist, if necessary, with the setting up of a joint Northern-Territory ANL monitoring program to keep cargo levels, revenue costs and monthly drawdowns on the subsidy under review. A letter has been sent to the chairman of ANL - he has since written to me saying that he will be up here very shortly to discuss this matter - asking for details of its marketing program for the Territory and offering all marketing assistance possible from the Port Authority. An offer has been made to ANL to assist it in setting up marketing seminars on a joint basis to promote the Territory service. The Territory government has also had confidential discussions with identified potential future users.

We do not accept the opposition's proposal that the Northern Territory should run ANL's operation. We are offering every assistance and working in closely with users and potential users. I would conclude by saying that our attempts to help ANL in the past have been frustrated by ANL's obvious lack of interest in the Territory, something which existing users of the service still bitterly complain about. It now seems that ANL are adopting a more definite approach regarding the service having sent an executive to Darwin recently for only the second time since self-government.

#### Grain Marketing by ADMA

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

My question refers to the recent sale of grain by ADMA on behalf of growers in the Katherine area. Is it a fact that this grain was sold by ADMA at substantially less profit than could have been obtained had it sold it in Western Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have no knowledge of ADMA selling grain anywhere at a lesser price than it could have got in another part of the Australian market. For the benefit of the honourable member, I would say that that matter will be addressed in some detail within the hour.

#### ANL Service for Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question pertains to an answer he has just given. Has any approach been made to ANL to include Nhulunbuy as a port of call?

ANSWER

Off the top of my head, I cannot say whether an approach has been made to ANL to call at Nhulunbuy. I guess the matter has been considered as part of the logical movement of an east coast shipping service. I am not aware of a specific representation made by the department or even by myself in years gone by.

#### Concern about Asbestos

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of recent public concern about asbestos, what is the Department of Health doing about occupational health?

ANSWER

I think the member for Fannie Bay expressed concern about this on a recent radio program. I have obtained a full briefing from the department because I believe that members of the public are concerned about the asbestos situation in the Northern Territory. The information I have for honourable members is as follows. The Department of Health has established an occupational health branch with particular expertise in health physics, dust disease and noise and air quality monitoring. Three medical staff have special experience in occupational health. The joint concerns of health and safety require maximum cooperation between departments with responsibilities in these areas. The Department of Health maintains close liaison with these bodies. An occupational health and safety working group meets regularly. Membership consists of representatives from the Departments of Health, Primary Production and Mines and Energy. The functions of the group include the pooling of available information and co-ordination of activities. I am also advised that a tripartite occupational health and safety committee has been established by the Industrial Relations Consultancy Council. The department is represented on the occupational health committee of the National Health and Medical Research Council. I might add for honourable members that arrangements have been made for NTEC workers to have medical examinations as well.

Report on Emily Hills Subdivision

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question refers to his previous answer to the question of flood control in Emily Hills subdivision and the report that he said would be made on flooding in that area. Will he make that report available for public comment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can give no guarantee that the report will be made available for public comment. I will examine the report when it comes before me and I will advise the honourable member of its contents.

Government Support for Youth Music Groups

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What support does the government extend to youth music groups in view of the generous government support given to youth sporting groups?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the problem of funding musical groups throughout the Northern Territory is not difficult but it is one of those areas that falls within the purview of several portfolios and, for that reason, does not get the attention that it really deserves. I have received representations on this issue from many members of the Assembly. People involved in the arts in the community see a need for community music groups to be given support. Groups within the community, particularly the small communities, often need support to be able to travel to and from eisteddfods etc. I will ask the Department of Community Development to address the issue so that the people concerned are not left in an unfavourable position. I think it is fair to say that the arts, sport and culture generally receive very substantial support from the government. While

this sector of the community is small, it is a very important one. It is one that we will attempt to give some justice to in the years to come. As soon as the policy on the matter has been determined, I will advise the honourable member.

Subsidy for Child-Care Centres

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the subsidy for child-care centres announced in the budget also apply to family day-care schemes in the Northern Territory for the benefit of the many hundreds of children and parents who use these schemes and, if so, how will it be done?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the mechanics of who will receive it and how it will be distributed is not in my hands at the moment. I will endeavour to provide that information later today.

Crisis Accommodation Program

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

What steps are being taken to implement and supplement the crisis accommodation program being instituted by the federal government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will provide the honourable member with information at a later date.

Sale of Ammunition

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

When will regulations governing the sale of live ammunition be amended to prevent children from buying ammunition?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter has been brought to my attention very recently by the honourable member for Tiwi. I do not know whether the government ought to be making regulations because of a verbal report by 1 person that 1 child bought 1 round of ammunition for a collection. Nevertheless, I will examine the matter.

Dugong

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware of concern at the local, national and international level at the decrease in dugong around the north coast, partly because of barramundi fishermen and partly because of Aboriginal people still taking dugong for protein? Are any of his officers actively investigating the life-cycle and numbers of dugong at the moment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have the details of who is doing what in the area. However, I am conscious of the fact that there is a threat to the dugong species.

I receive mail from all over the country and I have had a couple of letters from overseas expressing concern about the declining numbers of dugong. The Conservation Commission is keeping a watchful eye on this matter. I would be happy to obtain for the honourable member a detailed briefing on the activities in this area and make it available to her after the sittings.

Perpetual Pastoral Leases

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

How many applications for perpetual pastoral leases have been made and how many have been granted?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as I said to the Leader of the Opposition the other day when he asked me to give him some details about whether certain pastoral lessees were in default of their covenants or not, there are more than 400 pastoral leases in the Territory and I cannot keep all these sorts of details in my head. There have been a number of applications for perpetual leases. To the best of my recollection, there have been half a dozen but there may have been as many as a couple of dozen. One just gains impressions. This is the sort of question that the honourable member should have given me notice of yesterday or earlier this morning. I would be happy to give him a factual answer in the Assembly if I could have those few hours to get the precise details. Alternatively, he can put the question on notice or write to me.

Ciguatera in Van Dieman Gulf Area

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What efforts are being made to monitor ciguatera levels in reef fish and pelagic fish in the Van Dieman gulf area since the development of mining in the Alligator Rivers region?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in all fairness, that is a question that I could have been given an hour's notice of this morning so that I could give a responsible answer to it. There would be a fair amount of technical detail in supplying an answer to a question of that nature. It should be referred to the departments concerned so that they can provide us with a satisfactory briefing. If the honourable member is happy to do that of a morning, I will endeavour to have the information available to him at question time.

Monitoring of Turtles

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

He would be aware that, with the opening up of areas for passive recreation, such as Gunn Point, more turtle eggs are being dug up. Are any officers of his department actively monitoring turtles and, in particular, their breeding habits and their declining numbers?

ANSWER

I am conscious that the Conservation Commission takes an active interest in preserving wild eggs. I must be honest with the honourable member and say to

her that I do not know what the turtle egg watchers are doing from day to day. But I will give her a briefing on the activities of the department right around the coast so that she can be informed of the Conservation Commission's role in this area.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members should take note that, if they want information which ministers obviously cannot carry around with them, they should place their question on notice or give the minister notice beforehand so that he can satisfy their thirst for knowledge.

Commissioner of Police Disciplining Firemen

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Commissioner of Police, instead of the Chief Fire Officer, continue to bring departmental disciplinary charges against firemen given the adverse industrial reactions that are likely from this procedure?

ANSWER

I am not aware who brings departmental disciplinary proceedings against firemen. Frankly, I try to remain at a distance from matters of administration of that nature. I am surprised that one would care who brought disciplinary action against one. If I was charged with an offence, I would care more about getting off. If the firemen are so sensitive about the author of the disciplinary charges against them, I will inquire into the matter and see who should legally bring the disciplinary charges against firemen. Frankly, I do not see how it could possibly matter who is the author so long as he is empowered legally to bring the charges and the charges are not frivolous or vexatious.

Payroll Tax Receipts

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is he able to explain why, despite his estimates of growth in the Northern Territory economy, the estimate of payroll tax receipts for 1983-84 in the budget papers represents only a 5.7% increase in dollar terms over receipts last year?

ANSWER

I do not have the particular explanation before me. No doubt, such detailed explanation can be obtained and used in the forthcoming debate on the budget. However, I can indicate to the honourable member that there may be some effect from our most generous payroll tax concession system.

Road Accidents at Yulara

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware that there have been 22 motor vehicle roll-overs in 10 months on the road connecting the Yulara tourist village and Ayers Rock itself and, if he is so aware, what action does the government propose?

ANSWER

I must confess to the honourable member that I have not been keeping count of the roll-overs on that road. I will endeavour to obtain information from the Conservation Commission relating to that particular set of statistics and ask it

whether there is any particular reason, other than driver error, that is causing the high number of roll-overs to which the honourable member refers. If it can be stopped by the commission, then we will investigate it immediately.

Kitchen Equipment from Big Al's

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I understand that the kitchen fittings from the old Block 8 cafeteria, known as Big Al's, are being distributed among various sporting clubs throughout the Territory. Is my information correct and, if so, what clubs will be receiving that kitchen equipment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Port Darwin's information is partly correct. There was an advertisement placed in the NT News to distribute some of the cooking equipment located on the lower floor of the Chan Building. Former members might remember Big Al's restaurant which I tried to have reopened after the cyclone without success. From memory, equipment has been given to about 6 or 7 organisations such as Tracy Village, the Northern Territory Rugby Union, Girl Guides, the Northern Territory Amateur Swimming Association, the Waratah Sports Club, Cyprus Ladies Community and some philanthropic organisations. The member for Stuart found out about it yesterday and he was a bit agitated that some of it was not given to Alice Springs sporting organisations. Much of this equipment was large and it would have been very expensive to transport it down there. It would have been very difficult to bring people here to inspect it. Tracy Village received a very large component of cooking equipment because it has extended its facilities and is really starting from scratch. It did not have any cooking equipment apart from a very small griller. Consequently, we have allocated refrigerators and deep frying equipment to it. If members are interested in what has been allocated to whom, I will provide that information to them.

Specialist Secondary Teachers

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What administrative steps have been taken to implement the announcement in this week's budget that a pool of specialist secondary teachers would be established?

ANSWER

Approvals are being obtained through a special Cabinet committee on establishment for additional positions to be created over and above the positions currently available in schools in the Northern Territory. The Teaching Service Commissioner is preparing the necessary details of recruitment as we find specialist teachers to recruit to these additional positions. The difficulty we have had in the past is that the Teaching Service Commissioner, in his continuous recruitment drives to obtain teachers to fill the gaps in the Northern Territory teaching ranks, has occasionally come upon a specialist teacher whom he could not recruit because we did not have a position available. This pool will allow us to recruit the top people when we can find them even if we do not have an ordinary position in schools for them. They can be held pending a position becoming available. There will be a pool so that a position will be allocated to a school that loses a specialist teacher in an untimely manner. Unfortunately, not all teachers who leave the service give us the convenience of leaving over a Christmas period between school years. If a key teacher leaves us at a

critical time, it means that one has to consider even abandoning a particular matriculation course. The proposed teaching pool of 10 positions will alleviate that problem considerably.

Northern Territory Budget

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is he able to explain why, despite his estimate of growth of the Northern Territory economy, the estimate of total Territory revenue and receipts for 1983-84 in the budget papers represents only a 5% increase in dollar terms from receipts last year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not quite understand what the honourable member is driving at. We are indicating that the Northern Territory is growing at a very rapid rate. We have a very attractive budget. We are able to allocate more funds to a whole range of functions this year than we have been able to before. The budget clearly shows the sources of all those funds. There is an inference in her question that Territory funds and taxation receipts are not growing at the rate of overall government spending. I can assure her that there are funds available for all the allocations in the \$1160m budget. If she is concerned that there are insufficient funds for the budget and is proposing that the Territory government increase taxes or follow the lead given by Labor states in dredging up all the additional taxes they can possibly conceive, then I hope the public is listening to what the alternative government in the Northern Territory is supposedly offering.

Rapid Creek Crossing

Ms LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Having read the capital works program, has he under consideration any scheme to extend the bicycle track across the mouth of Rapid Creek? He will be aware that this is a rumour that surfaces about once a week in Darwin.

ANSWER

I do recall the honourable member for Nightcliff asking this same question last year. I am not aware of any specific proposal to improve the crossing of Rapid Creek by bikes or any other conveyance. If there are any such proposals in the department, none have come to my office.

Antarctic Base

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of concern in the community about the federal government's reduced funding for Australia's Antarctic bases which is forcing the closure of one of those bases? Would he undertake to register a protest to the federal government on the grounds that a reduced presence in Antarctica would weaken our territorial claim to that area, a matter which is before the World Court.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was not aware of any such problem although Senator Ted Robertson may have raised it a couple of weeks ago in the local media. I thought, 'Hello, he has come alive again'. I think Senator Robertson is the chairman of



the Senate Committee on the Australian Antarctic territories. I remember that he had come out of hibernation to make a statement on the matter of Australia's Antarctic territories and their great mineral potential. I suppose that we will need mineral potential in Antarctica because Senator Robertson's government is certainly opposed to the development of any mineral potential on the Australian mainland and, indeed, its offshore islands such as Tasmania. I have noted the honourable member for Alice Spring's question. I would suggest that he write to the Prime Minister. If he wanted to take someone who could interpret for the penguins, perhaps he could take the honourable member for Sanderson. I think I will leave the honourable member for Alice Springs to write his own correspondence on the subject of Antarctica.

#### Cane Toads

#### ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TUXWORTH (Conservation)(by leave): Mr Speaker, on Tuesday, the honourable member for Port Darwin asked a question on cane toads. I asked the Conservation Commission to provide a paper on it. It is a couple of pages long but it is very interesting. It has background details that I think all members should be aware of. I would like to incorporate it in my reply this morning.

Mr Speaker, cane toads are large, unpleasing members of the toad family. They are native to tropical America and feed on almost any animal matter that they can catch, subdue and ingest. They have been introduced to a number of parts of the world on the premise that they might control insect pests. They were introduced to Queensland in 1920 and 1924 to control the grey-backed cane beetle. There is little evidence that the introduction served any useful purpose. On the other hand, they appear to be capable of significant harm. They are an unpleasant nuisance around human habitation and predate on small, native wildlife. They have poisonous glands in the skin which can cause the death of larger animals which, in their own terms, prey on toads. They compete for habitat and food resources with native frog species. The toads require water to breed but are hardy and prolific. In fact, the females may produce up to 54 000 eggs and they breed more than once a year. The toads are spread over much of the wetter areas of Queensland and northern New South Wales. Much of the top end of the NT is a suitable habitat for them and they have spread steadily westward at an average rate of 33km a year.

Cane toads entered the NT during the 1982-83 wet season. The Conservation Commission has given high priority to cane toad investigations. Its officers are currently implementing a 6-point program which is as follows. Firstly, the commission will monitor the rate of spread. Annual field surveys of the western limits of cane toad distribution have been carried out from 1980. These surveys have provided the information on the rate of spread together with other basic biological data. Secondly, the commission will gauge the impact of toads on fauna. The commission has established 11 study sites which have been surveyed for wildlife. As the sites are occupied by toads, surveys will be carried out to study the precise impact on native Northern Territory wildlife. Thirdly, it will encourage public awareness. Through a variety of means, but particularly through contact with properties, police and schools in the gulf area, the commission is seeking early warning of new occupation sites. The commission follows up many reports, mostly misidentifications, of cane toad presence and has provided a number of top end schools with information, advice and a preserved specimen. Fourthly, it will tackle introduction by human agency. Cane toads have been scheduled a prohibited entrant under the Territory wildlife regulations under the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act. It is an offence to bring in, liberate or possess a live toad except under permit. A penalty of \$2000 or imprisonment for 6 months or both together with a further

penalty of \$100 in respect to each animal involved may be applied. Fifthly, the commission has decided that conventional control measures would be ineffective. It is important to realise that toads occur in such numbers and live in places which make it impractical to consider conventional means of control. The use of poisons, bounties, hand collection, male sterilisation, fences or barriers are likely to be ineffective, uneconomical or counterproductive. However, the commission is investigating all reports of artificial introductions to areas in advance of those occupied by toads as a result of natural spread. Where possible, the few animals that may be involved are collected and destroyed. Sixthly, the use of biological controls are being examined. It is the commission's assessment that broad-scale effective control can and will only be achieved by the introduction of biological control using natural parasite and disease agents. This will require a long-term investigation carried out in collaboration with, and the support of, the states and the Commonwealth. To this end, Conservation Commission officers have completed a comprehensive search and review of the scientific literature on cane toads as the basis for a strong representation to the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers for national support for a biological control investigation. The subject will be listed for discussion at the next meeting of the CONCOM standing committee and ministerial councils.

Mr Speaker, I am happy to be able to advise honourable members on this matter. It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to seek the support of Queensland and New South Wales at the next conservation ministers' meeting to have a joint study carried out by the states and the Commonwealth to see if the cane toad can be eliminated by biological means. I believe that it is probably long overdue. If we do not do something in the foreseeable future, canetoads will become very well established on the mainland and will be impossible to eliminate.

Cut-rate Air Fares for NT Public Servants

Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

He will be aware that there are many big firms employing large numbers of people who obtain discount fares from both interstate airlines. Has the possibility of negotiating a similar cut-rate system for NT public servants been investigated? It could mean a significant saving to the NT government.

ANSWER

I acknowledge the merit of the honourable member for Victoria River's question. Frankly, I think that we investigated this question in 1978 or 1979. The idea was that we would have one booking agent for all government travel - the Tourist Bureau from memory. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of my answer. The thrust of it all was that, if we did that, we would probably send some other firms broke. Furthermore, public servants should have freedom of choice etc. The concept was abandoned even though it would have meant some sort of saving to the government. It would have had negative effects in that other people would have been unemployed, travel agencies would have closed down, competition would have been reduced etc. It would not have been practical, as I recall it, in that each airline has one plane up the east coast when the other airline has one plane down the Centre. Most people, or course, are travelling to Sydney, Melbourne or Canberra. Either airline would be in it in a flash because it would obtain all of the Northern Territory Public Service's business. But then one would not be able to use the other airline without paying the full fare. Of course, to get to Canberra without overnighing in Melbourne, one must fly down the east coast. There are those practical difficulties to what, at the beginning of self-government, we thought a pretty good scheme. I am quite happy

to look at it again. I am sure that we can get the discounts from the airlines but we would have the travel industry in an uproar and probably cause a few people to lose their jobs.

Rapid Creek Water Gardens

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the last sittings, the minister undertook to place demountable toilets in the Rapid Creek Water Gardens. When will they be put in place?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thought the work would have been carried out by now. I am advised by the honourable member for Jingili that the work has indeed commenced.

Oil Drilling at Pacoota

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr ROBERTSON (Mines and Energy)(by leave): Mr Speaker, the member for Sanderson asked a question on oil drilling at the Pacoota sandstone formation. The Mereenie joint venturers presented a technical development proposal to the Department of Mines and Energy on 5 August 1983. I was aware of that as I indicated yesterday. The proposal includes an assessment for the appraisal of the drilling programs carried out since the Mereenie petroleum leases were granted in November 1981. An essential part of the proposal is the commencement of sustained commercial production from the field. My department is studying a proposal with a view to ensuring that it is consistent with good oilfield practice and maximum economic recovery from the field. Some aspects of the proposal have been referred to a petroleum engineering consultant and the report is expected to be lodged in 1 month from now. I would expect to be able to respond to the Mereenie joint venturers soon after receiving that report.

We feel quite confident within the department that we have the technical expertise to undertake an analysis of the proposal. Nonetheless, it is not unreasonable to inform the Assembly why this is being given to a consultant. Proposals relating to open hole completions, according to our engineers, are not consistent with the views held by the previous energy consultant whom the government employed at great expense. It is thought wise to seek the opinion of a third expert in the field.

Point Stuart and Carmor Plains Pastoral Leases

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave): Point Stuart and Carmor Plains are considered to be in default of their lease covenants. However, I recently waived breaches of lease covenants by Point Stuart and directed compliance by 30 June 1984. A similar situation applied to Carmor Plains except that the lease covenant defaults there are considered to be more serious. The lessees were advised that they had certain options such as seeking a variation of onerous covenants. If action does not ensue within the 12 months or so that they have been allowed, their leases are in some danger of forfeiture action being taken against them.

Cane Toads

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What measures are being taken to ensure that cane toads are not brought into the Katherine area with mango plants for the mango plantation? I understand the plants are propagated in Queensland and transported to Katherine.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this particular matter has been raised with me by yourself and by other members. I have referred it to both the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production for immediate investigation. As soon as I have information, I will advise members.

INDEX TO QUESTIONS  
23 August - 1 September 1983

---

Aborigines -  
    education policy 218  
    funding of communities 236  
    land claims \*159  
    witnesses from remote communities 259, 263  
ADMA, grain marketing 271  
Aerial medical services 251  
Aged and Special Services, director 248  
Air fares, cut rate for public servants 279  
Alice Springs -  
    airport 261  
    Darwin railway \*159, 236  
    recreation lake 232  
Ammunition, sale of 273  
Antarctic base 277  
Apprentices \*159  
Asbestos, public concern 271  
Beef export -  
    Halal kill and Darwin outlet 191  
    licence 189  
Block 8 cafeteria, kitchen equipment 276  
Bonaparte Gulf, drilling 247  
'Boozers are Losers' campaign 171  
BTB program 190  
Buffalo -  
    and cattle eradication 206  
    shooting from helicopters 203  
Building Code 219  
Bus service -  
    for Palmerston 263  
    operational subsidy 258  
    to Bloodwood Caravan Park 243  
Bynoe Harbour, land auction 229  
Cane toads 239, 278, 281  
Chan Park Nursing Home 177  
Child abuse 226  
Child-care centres 273  
Coastal management policy 221  
Coffee bush 256  
Combe Mr, employment as lobbyist 200  
Ciguatera, Van Dieman Gulf 274  
Community health, medical officers 165  
Construction Safety Act 227  
Cooinda, motel at 242  
Criminally insane persons 196  
Crisis accommodation program 273  
Crocodiles, status of salt-water species 250  
Dam on Adelaide River 239  
Darwin Hospital, old site 204, 206  
Darwin Performing Arts Centre 210, 217  
Darwin Prison, conditions 195  
Deferred finance arrangements 255, 257, 261, 264, 265  
Department of Housing and Construction, regional office 240  
Drinking law, 2 km \*160  
Dugong 273  
East coast shipping service 207, 270  
East Point Reserve 263  
Education budget 1982-83 167

INDEX TO QUESTIONS  
23 August - 1 September 1983

---

Electricity -  
    agreement, ratification 202  
    charges 216  
    Commonwealth assistance for NT generation 201  
    outback communities \*160  
    subsidy \*160  
Emily Gap, flooding 268  
Emily Hills subdivision 272  
Federal budget, net gain for NT 215  
Fire officers, disciplining 275  
First-aid education in schools 234, 267  
Flood mitigation model 235  
Freight inquiry, support staff 217  
Fuel products, tax 253  
Gas reticulation for Darwin 196  
Giles House 229  
Girraween Road, upgrading 212  
Grants-in-aid scheme \*160  
Handicapped children, accommodation 228  
Heavitree Gap -  
    causeway 223  
    improvement 208  
Hermannsburg Road 199  
Horses, slaughtering \*162  
Housing -  
    allocation in budget 266  
    for police and fire officers 237  
    grants 211  
    loans 255  
Housing Commission -  
    allocations 178  
    portability of mortgages 250  
    tenancies 262  
Hygiene regulations, breaches \*162  
Insurance brokers, regulation 227  
Jabiru -  
    doctor 239  
    local government 219  
    motel at 241  
    police complement 263  
Job opportunities for Territorians 209  
Kargaru bush camp \*159  
Katherine -  
    High School 225, 242  
    housing needs 190  
    lot 384 163  
    Rotary Road Safety Centre 191  
    Terrace, upgrading 189  
Kings Canyon 243, 244  
Kirton and Whiting Report 164  
Kulaluk, transient camp 268  
Kurringal Court, sale of units 178  
Land reserved for public access 198  
Landscaping projects for schools 265  
Lee Point Road and McMillans Road intersection 252  
Levy on imported fuel 230  
Liquor Act review 249  
Low-cost housing, tenders in Alice Springs 193

INDEX TO QUESTIONS  
23 August - 1 September 1983

---

Magneto pulse therapy 235  
Meat export quota to USA 213  
Mosquitoes 215  
Motorcyclists, training 223  
Motor vehicles, use by government departments -  
    Attorney-General 174  
    Chief Minister 172  
    Community Development 176  
    Education 176  
    Health and Housing 175  
    Lands, Industrial Development and Tourism 175  
    Mines and Energy 176  
    Primary Production and Conservation 175  
    Transport and Works 177  
    Treasury 175  
    Youth, Sport, Recreation and Ethnic Affairs 177  
Mt Wells battery \*160  
Music groups 272  
Mutitjula community, adviser 227  
National Companies and Securities Scheme \*160  
Nhulunbuy -  
    air services 208  
    ANL service 271  
    job-creation scheme 234  
    primary school 214  
    purchase of Housing Commission houses 207  
Northern Land Council, legal advisers \*159  
Northern Territory budget 277  
Northern Territory Development Corporation, loan 192  
Northern Territory Motor-cycle Association 238  
Northern Territory Public Service -  
    reclassification of executive officers 193  
    staff wastage 222  
Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act, electoral provisions 268  
Overseas visitors to NT 233  
Pacoota, oil drilling 280  
Palm leaf beetle 226  
Palm Valley gas 248  
Parks in city, responsibility for 231  
Pastoral leases -  
    breaches of covenants 171  
    Nos 785 and 786 238  
    perpetual 274  
Payroll tax receipts 275  
Pet meat operations, regulations 216  
Point Stuart and Carmor Plains, pastoral leases 280  
Pounds for large animals 255  
Power-station, crushing mill \*160  
Protective custody 165  
Racing and Gaming Bill 240  
Racing industry, working party 244, 253, 260  
Rapid Creek -  
    crossing 277  
    water gardens 280  
Rehabilitation centres 213, 214  
Rice-growing industry in NT 249  
Rubbish dump 228  
Rum Jungle, mine site 246, 267

INDEX TO QUESTIONS  
23 August - 1 September 1983

---

Rural area, electricity 258  
Rural Old Timers' Association 195  
Sales tax -  
    fencing materials 266  
    tubular steel products 259  
Sand-mining site in Alice Springs 250  
School buses 211  
Secondary mortgage market, report 179  
Self-government celebrations, cost 221  
Sewage treatment plant 177  
Solar appliance rebates 197  
Specialist medical services 163  
Specialist secondary teachers 276  
Stamp duty on first-home purchases 248  
Stuart Highway through Alice Springs 238  
Student performance, assessment 224  
Supreme Court, civil lists 257  
Taxi services, subsidy for disabled 250  
Tempe Downs 246  
Tennant Creek -  
    High School 231  
    meatworks \*162  
Territory Training Centre, apprentices 212  
Timber Creek, land claim \*159  
Tindal air base 163, 224, 234  
TMPU funding 217  
Transcription services, contract 179  
Turtles, monitoring 274  
Undoolya Road, connector 223  
Unemployment, remote communities 218  
University, Labor proposal 204  
Vanderlin Drive and McMillans Road intersection 218, 221  
Vehicles, spot checks 199  
Vocational Training Commission, role 193  
Wharf construction, report 231  
Women drivers, insurance 247  
Youth, support for music groups 272  
Yulara, road accidents 275