

Estimates Committee 2006 Questions Taken On Notice

(20/06/2006 to 31/08/2006)

Date: 21/06/2006 Output: Planning and Infrastructure
Sub Output: Non-output specific
Subject: Public Reviews and/or Inquiries

From: Mr Terrance Kennedy MILLS to Dr Christopher BURNS
Minister for Planning and Lands

Question: **7-1**
Minister, within this department, I request details of every review or inquiry that is to be publicly reported. The opposition requests details of the nature of the review in terms of its timing, how long it has been underway, when it will report, and what stage it is presently at.

Answer:
Answered On: 23/06/2006
Answer: During the 2005-06 financial year, there were a number of reviews underway which have been or may be publicly reported. There were no inquiries which will be reported. A brief outline of the title, purpose and status is outlined below:

Review of the NT Planning Scheme

The Review of the NT Planning Scheme commenced in February 2000. The review consolidates the provisions of the existing planning controls into a single Scheme capable of Territory wide application. The revised NT Planning Scheme was exhibited for a period of two months, closing on 21 April 2006. The current status is that following exhibition, hearings are now being conducted by the Development Consent Authority in each of the main centres in the Northern Territory and a report on the outcomes of those hearings will be provided to the Minister later this year. Once submissions are finalised the revised scheme will be released.

Road Safety Taskforce Report

The Chief Minister announced the establishment of the Taskforce on 12 January 2006. The taskforce was to produce a report to Government providing evidence based integrated package of measures to reduce the incidence of road crashes, fatalities and serious injuries in the Northern Territory. The current status is that the report is under consideration and will be reported in July/ August 2006.

Taxi Fare Reviews

The Department has conducted two fare reviews during the financial year. In early 2006, taxi fares were reviewed on the basis of a basket of costs

model. Following the review, fares increased in Darwin by 3.68 per cent and in all other taxi areas by 2.45 per cent on 26 April 2006. The fare increases incorporated the fuel price increases and hence the fuel surcharge was discontinued. The review was endorsed by the independent CPV Board.

Prior to this review, taxi fares were increased in August 2005. At this time, fares increased in Darwin by 3.83 per cent and in all other taxi areas by 3.23 per cent.

Both reviews have resulted in fare changes which have been reported in the media.

Bus Security Review

A review of Bus Security commenced in September 2005 and the report was finalised in December 2005. The purpose of the review was to investigate practical options for providing security presence for Darwin bus operations. The review has resulted in a decision to recruit four bus safety officers (recruitment is underway); completed installation of closed circuit TV cameras on buses; uniform police from crime reduction unit to travel on the network on a targeted basis; enhanced communications and ongoing liaison with Darwin bus and police; drivers to be trained in conflict resolution, and drivers to be included with emergency workers and good samaritans in legislation which aims to protect people from assault while trying to provide a service.