

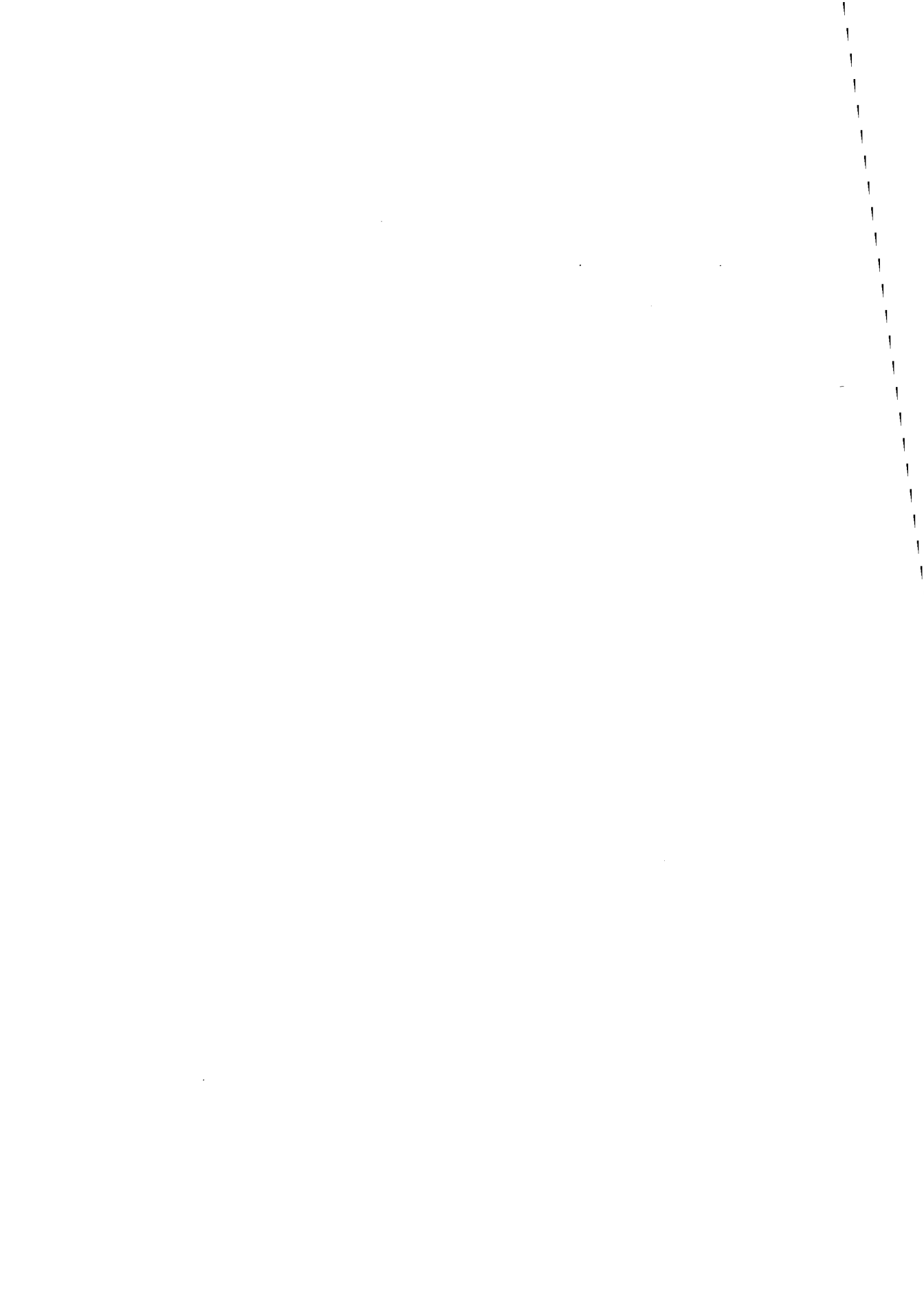
PART II

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.



23 February 1988

24. Helicopter Charters - Minister for Tourism

Mr SMITH to MINISTER FOR TOURISM

1. What is the total cost of helicopter charters undertaken by the Minister for Tourism in 1987.
2. What was the take-off point and the destination for each journey.
3. Who were the passengers, if any, on each of these trips.

14 February 1989

70. Myilly Point Development

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has Henry and Walker, or companies or a consortium associated with Henry and Walker, been given development rights to Myilly Point. If so -

- (a) what are the terms and conditions of those development rights;
- (b) how long does Henry and Walker have exclusive rights over the land;
- (c) what is the value of the covenants placed on the land; and
- (d) what value has been placed on the land.

16 May 1989

87. BTEC Payments to Mr Dunbar

Mr EDE to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

In the 'Letters to the Editor' section of the Sunday Territorian dated 23 April 1989 you stated that Mr B. Dunbar 'has received more than \$500 000 of BTEC funds to assist him in fulfilling the scope of his agreed program, as well as \$130 000 in low-interest BTEC loans'.

What were the -

- (a) various purposes under which these amounts were provided;
- (b) exact amounts involved;
- (c) works required from Mr Dunbar in respect of each of (a) and (b) above;

- (d) full details of the extent of the works carried out in respect of each of the above by Mr Dunbar as at 23 April 1989; and
- (e) details of outstanding works or moneys on behalf of Mr Dunbar or the Northern Territory government.

22 August 1989

90. Loans Converted to Grants

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

Which organisations have, in the past 12 months, had loans from the Northern Territory government changed to grants.

In each case, what was the amount.

91. Consultancy - Ms M. Gaither

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

Did the former Minister for Community Welfare (Mr B. Coulter) recruit a Canadian consultant Ms Marilyn Gaither to the Northern Territory. If so -

1. On whose advice was Ms Gaither employed by the Northern Territory Government.
2. What were the terms of reference given to Ms Gaither, upon the commencement of her consultancy.
3. What were the conditions of her contract.
4. How much was she paid during the period of the consultancy.
5. What written reports did she provide to the minister/government.
6. What action did the government take upon receipt of the reports.
7. What programs have been established as a result of the consultant's recommendations.

92. Liquor Licences

Mr EDE to MINISTER for TOURISM

1. What were, by type, the number of liquor licences extant as at 31 December 1988 for each year since the Liquor Commission was established in 1979 in -
 - (a) Darwin;

- (b) Alice Springs;
 - (c) Katherine;
 - (d) Tennant Creek;
 - (e) balance of the Southern region; and
 - (f) balance of the Northern region.
2. Are holders of Special Licences required to provide a return detailing sales under the Special Licence.
3. How many applications for new liquor licences have been -
- (a) approved; and
 - (b) rejected,
- by the commission in each year since its establishment.
4. How many applications for renewal of liquor licences have been rejected by the commission in each year since its establishment.
5. In each year since the Liquor Commission was established, how many applications to have liquor licence conditions changed to provide for takeaway sales have been -
- (a) approved; and
 - (b) rejected.
6. How many applications for -
- (a) new licences;
 - (b) licence renewal; and
 - (c) changes to licence conditions,
- were opposed by commercial or community interest. Of the opposed proposals how many were ultimately granted, in each year since the commission was established.
7. What was the volume of beer, wine and spirits respectively sold in -
- (a) Darwin;
 - (b) Alice Springs; .
 - (c) Katherine;
 - (d) Tennant Creek;
 - (e) the balance of the Northern region; and

- (f) the balance of the Southern region,
for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.
8. What has been the annual amount collected by the Northern Territory government in liquor licence and related licence fees since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.
9. What was the wholesale value of beer, wine and spirits respectively purchased by licensees in -
- (a) Darwin;
 - (b) Alice Springs;
 - (c) Katherine;
 - (d) Tennant Creek;
 - (e) balance of the Southern region; and
 - (f) balance of the Northern region,
- for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.
10. How many liquor licences have been suspended or cancelled for breaches of licence conditions in -
- (a) Darwin;
 - (b) Alice Springs;
 - (c) Katherine;
 - (d) Tennant Creek;
 - (e) balance of the Southern region; and
 - (f) balance of the Northern region,
- for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979 and what were their reasons for the suspension or cancellations.
11. How many prosecutions of licensees were -
- (a) commenced; and
 - (b) successful,
- for the offences of serving alcohol to minors or to intoxicated persons in each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.

12. What was the per capita consumption by Territory residents of beer, wine and spirits respectively in -
- (a) Darwin;
 - (b) Alice Springs;
 - (c) Katherine;
 - (d) Tennant Creek;
 - (e) balance of the Southern region; and
 - (f) balance of the Northern region,
- for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.

93. Brucellosis and Tuberculosis - Administration

Mr EDE to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

1. (a) How much was spent in the Northern Territory on each of the following heads of BTEC expenditure for the 5 years 1983-84 to 1987-88 -
- (i) Type A - Operational;
 - (ii) Type B - Compensation, De-stocking, Reactors;
 - (iii) Type C - Mustering subsidy;
 - (iv) Type D - Property Improvement Loans;
 - (v) Type E - Re-stocking freight rebate; and
- (b) the percentage of each expenditure head, spent on the following where applicable -
- (i) Salaries, wages and allowances;
 - (ii) Unmusterables;
 - (iii) Private veterinary services;
 - (iv) Equipment and materials;
 - (v) Travel and subsistence;
 - (vi) Vehicle running costs;
 - (vii) Abattoir Brucellosis sampling and ear tags;
 - (viii) Surveys; and
 - (ix) Helicopter charter.

2. With regard to cattle compulsorily de-stocked from Balbarini Station since 1 January 1989 -
 - (a) what was the average value per beast set by the valuation process;
 - (b) what was the average price per beast obtained at sale;
 - (c) who paid for removal costs etc; and
 - (d) what proportion of these cattle were purchased by Balbarini Station following de-stocks on Seven Emu and Manaangoora Stations.
3. Has the Northern Territory government in each or any year since 1985 issued publicly a marketing plan which identified -
 - (a) each property;
 - (b) cattle numbers to be de-stocked; and
 - (c) timing of de-stocking operations before the commencement of each meatworks season to ensure that turnoff is scheduled as far as possible with likely market demand.
4. Are those marketing plans reviewed at the end of each season to assess the degree of compliance with the plan, and if so, would the Minister supply copies of both the marketing report and the compliance review.
5. What has been the turnover rate of staff in the following professions or groups since 1982-83 financial year -
 - (a) Veterinary Officers;
 - (b) Stock Inspectors; and
 - (c) Animal Industry division overall.
6. What have been the changes in method and rates of compensation paid under BTEC for various classes of de-stock since the end of the 1982-83 financial year.
7. Are pastoral producers entitled to receive further assistance under BTEC where they have knowingly re-stocked with diseased cattle. If so -
 - (a) what is the extent of that assistance and its limitations; and
 - (b) if not, when did the practice cease.
8. Does the Northern Territory compile, prior to each operating season, a summary document based upon the Approved Property Program for each participating property and premises, detailing all of the planned operating activities for that year and the number of cattle to be tested for both

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis, the number to be destroyed on the property either as untruckable or unmusterable, as well as detailed cost estimates. If so -

- (a) is a quarterly report prepared detailing actual activity undertaken on a property by property basis;
- (b) is a summary of achieved activity by property detailing physical data and cost prepared at the end of each season comparing actual with planned achievement; and
- (c) what were the results for each of the past 6 seasons.

95. Treasury Employee, Costs of Disciplinary Action Incurred by Government

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

An employee of the NT Treasury has been subject to the following Public Service action since September 1988 -

- ° On or about 6 September 1988 - Disciplinary action commenced in accordance with section 53 of Public Service Act. This action was not proceeded with
- ° On or about 5 October 1988 - NCOM Controller recommended the employee be terminated
- ° On or about 13 October 1988 - Under Treasurer recommended to PSC that action be taken under section 49 of the act to retire employee on inefficiency grounds
 - Employee suspended from duty on full pay
- ° On or about 14 October 1988 - PSC writes to employee advising section 49 action proposed. Asks for comment
- ° On or about 19-30 October 1988 - Submissions made by union on employee's behalf
- ° On or about 31 October 1988 - Employee's services terminated
- ° On or about 31 October 1988 - Appeal lodged under Public Service Regulation 18

- On or about 1 December 1988
 - On or about 19 December 1988
- Appeal tribunal formed
- 1st tribunal hearing
- Tribunal advised PSC that -
 - Treasury has inappropriately used discipline process and recommended they review their procedures
 - employee referred to CMO
- On or about 23 December 1988
- 2nd tribunal hearing
- On or about 29 December 1988
- 3rd tribunal hearing
- On or about 10 January 1989
- PSC sought clarification from tribunal on a number of matters
- On or about 12 January 1989
- CMO examination gave employee clean bill of health
- On or about 20 January 1989
- Tribunal responds
- On or about late January 1989
- Tribunal reports to PSC -
 - allegations against employee presented in a biased misleading way
 - there were serious defects in procedures followed
 - the employee was denied natural justice
 - DOLAS negligent in advice given to Treasury on case
 - recommended officer be redeployed to another department for 3 months

- ° On or about 27 January 1989 - PSC ignores recommendation and advice and terminates employee
- ° On or about 30 January 1989 - Union, on behalf of officer, lodges claim on PSC seeking reinstatement and payment of \$250 000 compensation for unfair dismissal
- ° On or about early February 1989 - Dispute notification lodged
- ° On or about 16 February 1989 - Dispute before Commissioner Cross in Sydney. PSC engaged QC
- ° On or about 6 March 1989 - Further Commission hearing with QC
- ° On or about 26 June 1989 - Commissioner hands down decision awarding ACOA jurisdiction on reinstatement
- ° On or about 17 July 1989 - At date of this question, the Public Service Commission has appealed to Full Bench of Industrial Relation Commission

How much money has been spent by the Department of Labour and Administrative Services and the Northern Territory Treasury in the following areas since September 1988 in presenting the matter -

- (a) salary and allowances of the employee during suspension;
- (b) salary and administration costs of all NTPS employees involved;
- (c) Appeal Tribunal costs;
- (d) legal costs including Queens Counsel (QC) fees; and
- (e) air fares, travel and accommodation costs for senior staff in his department.

96. Tourism Marketing Duty

Mr EDE to TREASURER

1. How much has been collected in Tourism Marketing Duty to date.
2. What percentage of the possible collectable amount does this represent.
3. How much has it cost the government, directly and indirectly, to collect the tax.

97. Emergency Evacuations from Titjikala (Maryvale) and Atitjere (Harts Range)

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. How many evacuations from each of these communities were made during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88.
2. What means was employed for these evacuations.
3. In how many of these evacuations were private vehicles from the community used.
4. At what rate were the owners of these vehicles reimbursed.

98. Aboriginal Housing Program Administrative Procedures

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What are the terms of reference of the Review of Administrative Procedures - Aboriginal Housing Program which was alluded to at page 11 of the Northern Territory Government Gazette, No. 19 of 17 May 1989.

99. Computer Software Contracts

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What are the details of computer software referred to as reference QSA 2894 on page 12 of the Northern Territory Government Gazette, No. G19 dated 17 May 1989.

14 February 1989

73. Excisions on Special Purposes Leases

Mr EDE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many excision titles have been negotiated under the current guidelines.
2. How many excision titles have been registered; when were each of these registered; and when were each of these agreements reached with each pastoral lessee.
3. When were excision agreements reached on the following pastoral leases: Amburla, Anningie, Atartinga, Derry Downs, Hodgson Downs, Humbert River, Jervois, Koolpinyah, Lake Nash, Loves Creek, Manbulloo, Middleton Ponds (Tempe Downs), Mistake Creek, Mount Riddock, Napperby, Newhaven, Tobermorey and St Vidgeon.
4. Was the area on Maude Creek Pastoral lease negotiated under the current excision guidelines. If so when; or if not, under what process was the area negotiated.
5. How many Special Purposes Leases have been converted to fee simple and what is the name of these excisions.
6. How many and which excisions are currently being prevented from being registered because of caveats placed over the leases.
7. How many excision titles are being held up because the applicant group is awaiting incorporation and what is the name of these excision groups.
8. Has your department formulated long term funding programs in relation to new excisions.

ANSWER

1. As at 24 April 1989 the situation with applications for excisions of community living areas from pastoral leases was as follows -
 - (a) Expressions of interest with no details, 132 (refer to Attachment C). No negotiations have commenced as the applicants, or agencies acting on their behalf, have not lodged requisite supporting details.
 - (b) Applications 66 (refer to Attachment C). Limited details have been provided for 32 applications and negotiations commenced with pastoralists in respect of 34.
 - (c) Applications, Negotiations complete - 12 (refer to Attachment C).
 - (d) Applications, offers made - 2 (refer to Attachment C).

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

- (e) Applications, offers accepted - 11 (refer to Attachment C).
- (f) Titles Registered - 21 (refer to Attachment C).
- (g) Applications rejected - 3 (refer to Attachment C).
2. Refer to Attachment A for list indicating when registration occurred and agreements reached. Negotiations are complete and title should issue in the near future for the following 7 living areas -
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Keep River National Park | (2) |
| Alroy Downs | |
| Elsy | (3) |
| Aileron | |
- The process of incorporation, seeking mortgage approvals, lifting of caveats on title all lengthen the process. Although several living areas were negotiated prior to the excisions program many have been finalised by the Department of Lands and Housing as part of that program.
3. See Attachment B. Middleton Ponds/Tempe Downs (Ukaka).
4. The living area at Maude Creek was negotiated as settlement in part of the Jawoyn (Katherine Gorge) Land Claim in order that the adjacent land owner could retain his interest in the grazing licence area subject to claim. The then Land Excisions Branch of the Department of Lands carried out and followed up on the necessary land administration procedures in order to have the title to the living area registered.
5. Six (6) -
- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| Neutral Junction | Tara |
| Stirling | Willora |
| Murray Downs | Imangara |
| Alcoota | Engawala |
| Maryvale | Titjikala |
| Urapunga | Rittaranga |
6. Two (2) -
- Hodgson Downs
Koolpinyah (Humpty Doo)
7. Two (2) -
- Humbert River
Hodgson River
8. As coordinator of excisions, my department does not fund work directly. The departments involved with water drilling, access and general improvements have each formulated long term funding programs.

The N.T. Cattlemen's Association has advised the government that it is now refusing to negotiate over excisions until the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs carries out the undertaking given by his predecessor to prevent land claims to stock routes and stock reserves.

This undertaking was part of the agreement between the Commonwealth and Territory governments and the Cattlemen's Association at the commencement of the excisions program. The Department of Lands and Housing is actively pursuing the excisions program where individual pastoralists are willing to enter negotiations.

ATTACHMENT A

2. <u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Agreement Reached</u>
Anningie	NT Por 1951	10/03/87	7 November 1983
Auvergne	NT Por 2982	11/03/87	9 May 1983
Atartinga	NT Por 2096	24/07/86	16 May 1986
Bing Bong	NT Por 2432	27/08/86	9 March 1981
	NT Por 2433	27/08/86	9 March 1981
Finniss Range	S1879 Hd Hart	22/05/86	22 May 1986
Jervois	NT Por 2957	20/05/86	6 June 1985
Kings Canyon	NT Por 2426	31/10/85	20 March 1985
	NT Por 2425	31/10/85	
	NT Por 2424	31/10/85	
Lake Nash	NT Por 1949	09/06/88	3 July 1983
Legune	NT Por 3046	29/06/88	25 July 1985
Loves Creek	NT Por 2417	07/07/86	21 August 1985
Maude Creek	NT Por 2641	13/09/85	16 February 1983
Mt Skinner	NT Por 2138	07/07/86	6 September 1981
Rockhampton Downs	NT Por 2439	29/09/86	20 June 1985
Tobermorey	NT Por 2868	26/08/86	29 January 1985
Roper Valley	NT Por 3278	20/07/87	PRE 1985
Mistake Creek	NT Por 3543	12/12/88	17 March 1988
Koolpinyah (Tree Point)	Sect 3104 H/Bagot	09/12/88	17 July 1985

ATTACHMENT B

3.

Agreement Reached

Amburla	13 May 1983
Anningie	7 November 1983
Atartinga	16 May 1986
Derry Downs	6 June 1985
Hodgson Downs	12 March 1984
Humbert River	12 November 1985
Jervois	6 June 1985
Koolpinyah	NT acquired land from P/L
Lake Nash	3 July 1983
Loves Creek	21 August 1985
Manbulloo	11 September 1985
Middleton Ponds (Tempe Downs)	30 August 1985
Mistake Creek	28 May 1985
Mount Riddock	8 July 1985
Napperby	1985 (Registered sub-lease)
Newhaven	4 November 1985
Tobermorey	29 January 1985
St Vidgeon	14 December 1987

EXCISIONS PROGRAM - PROGRESS at 18/04/891.(a) Expressions of Interest - No details (132)

Ambalindum (4)	Kurundi (2)
Ammaroo	Lorella
Amungee Mungee	Mallapunyah Springs
Angus Downs (3)	Manners Creek
Annaburroo	Marrakai
Annitowa	Marqua
Arapunya	Maryfield
Argadargada	Mary River
Austral Downs	Maryvale
Avon Downs	McDonald Downs
Balbirini	Middleton Ponds
Ban Ban Springs	Milton Park
Banka Banka	Mistake Creek
Benmara	Moroak
Billengarrah	Mt Bundy
Birrimba	Mt Denison (4)
Boggy Hole (National Park)	Mt Doreen (2)
Bond Springs	Mt Drummond
Bonrook	Mt Ebenezer
Broadmere	Mungabroom
Brunchilly	Murray Downs
Bullita (Prop. Gregory Nat Park)	Nathan River
Bullo River	Owen Springs
Bunda (Subd. of Inverway)	Palmer Valley
Bundy R (cons. with Mt Swan)	Phillip Creek
Burrumurra	Point Stuart
Bushy Park	Prices Springs
Camfield	Pungalina
Camp Creek	Ringwood
Cattle Creek	Riveren
Claravale	Rocklands
Creswell Downs	Seven Emu
Delney	Shenandoah
Derry Downs	Singleton
Derwent	Spirit Hills
Dneiper	Spring Creek
Dorisvale	Stirling (2)
Douglas	Sunday Creek
Dry River	Suplejack
Dungowan	Tandyidgee
East Mathison	Tanumbirini
Elizabeth Downs	Tempe Downs (2)
Elkedra (3)	Tennant Creek
Erldunda	Telegraph Station T/C
Eva Downs	The Garden (4)
Fish River	Tipperary
Florina	Todd River
Forster	Undoolya
Georgina Downs	Walhallow

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Goondoloo
Gorrie
Greenbank
Hayfield
Helen Springs
Hidden Valley
Horseshoe Bend
Idracowra
Innesvale
Jindara
Kalala
Kiana
Killarney
Kingson

Waterhouse
Wave Hill
Wildman River

(b) Applications - Some Negotiations (32)

Alexandria (4)
Allambi
Anthony Lagoon
Auvergen
Beetaloo
Bushy Park
Curtain Springs
Deep Well
Henbury
Indiana
Jinka
Kurundi
Lilla Creek
Loves Creek
Lucy Creek
Mainoru

Manangoora
Maryvale
Mountain Valley
Murrarji
New Crown
Ooratippra
Orange Creek
Singleton
Tanami Downs
Tawallah
VRD (Pigeon Hole)
Wollogorang
Yambah

(b) Applications - Negotiations proceeding (34)

Ammaroo
Andado
Batchelor
Bauhinia
Brunette Downs
Calvert Hills
Central Mount Wedge
Coniston
Derry Downs
Elliott
Glen Helen
Hamilton Downs
Koolpinyah (Humpty Doo)
McArthur River (2)

Mount Cavanagh
Mulga Park
Napperby
Newhaevn
Newry
Nutwood Downs
Pine Hill
Powell Creek
Roper Valley (2)
South West Island
Victory Downs
Waterloo
West Mathison
Willeroo

ATTACHMENT C

(c) Applications - Negotiations Complete (12)

Alcoota
Hodgson River
Humbert River
Inverway
Kirkimbie
Limbunya
Mount Swan
St Vidgeon (2)
Umbeara
Gregory (2)

(d) Applications - Offers Made (2)

Alroy Downs
Fitzroy

(e) Applications - Offers Accepted (11)

Aileron
Amburla
Atartinga
Elsey
Epenarra
Hodgson Downs
Keep River (National Park) (2)
Manbulloo
Tempe Downs
Waterloo

(f) Titles Registered (21)

Anningie	Legune
Auvergne (Bulla)	Loves Creek
Atartinga	Maude Creek
Bing Bong (2)	Mistake Creek
Finniss Range (Hd Hart)	Mt Riddock (Harts Range)
Jervois	Mt Skinner
Kings Canyon (3)	Rockhampton Downs
Koolpinyah (Tree Point)	Roper Valley
Lake Nash	Tobermorey

(g) Applications Rejected (3)

Banka Banka
VRD (Jimaruk)
Dalmore Downs

16 May 1989

76. **Grants and \$1-for-\$1 Subsidies to Schools**

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What was the amount of money provided by the NT government to each school for the financial years 1983-84 through to and including 1988-89 for -
 - (a) grants as a total amount and on a per student basis; and
 - (b) \$1-for-\$1 subsidy.
2. What are the criteria applicable to the granting of \$1-for-\$1 subsidies to NT government schools.

ANSWER

See following page.

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 76.

1. (a) Set out below are details of per capita rates paid for the financial years 1983-84 through to and including 1988-89 based on category of school -

<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Pre \$/Pupil</u>	<u>Primary \$/Pupil</u>	<u>Secondary \$/Pupil</u>
1983-84	8.64	48.15	93.80
1984-85	9.07	50.56	98.49
1985-86	10.00	56.00	109.00
1986-87	10.82	60.60	117.94

		<u>Enrolled</u>	<u>Junior Enrolled</u>	<u>Senior Enrolled</u>
1987-88	11.00	70 (0- 20)	120 (0-130)	130 (0-200)
		60 (21-100)	110 (131-200)	110 (201+)
		55 (101-300)	95 (201+)	
		45 (301+)		

Secondary Aged Pupils Enrolled at Predominately Aboriginal Schools/Community Education Centres

\$95/Pupil

		<u>Enrolled</u>	<u>Junior Enrolled</u>	<u>Senior Enrolled</u>
1988-89	12.00	75 (0- 20)	129 (0-130)	139 (0-200)
		65 (21-100)	118 (131-200)	118 (201+)
		59 (101-300)	102 (201+)	
		49 (301+)		

Secondary Aged Pupils Enrolled at Predominately Aboriginal Schools/Community Education Centres

\$129/Pupil

- (b) As per Schedule on following 9 pages.

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

NORTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Adelaide River	0	1700	0	0	0	1500
Alawa Preschool	0	0	500	3000	1000	
Alawa Primary	3000	0	5000	5000	6000	
Alyangula Area	0	1015	6800	5000	6000	
Alyangula Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	6000
Amanbidgi Community	500	0	700	300	0	2000
Angurugu Community	5378	0	0	5000	5700	6000
Angurugu Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	6000
Anula Preschool	750	1000	1200	1000	6000	6000
Anula Primary	3000	3000	3000	5000	10000	6000
Bagot Preschool	0	0	500	300	500	
Barunga Community	0	2700	3480	1750	7500	4000
Batchelor Preschool	0	0	1500	500	800	2000
Batchelor Area	0	1000	1500	5000	6000	6000
Belyuen Community	0	0	0	0	0	
Berrimah Preschool	1000	500	0	2000	2000	2000
Berrimah Primary	3000	1000	4000	0	0	
Berry Springs Preschool	0	0	5000	0	5000	
Berry Springs Primary	0	3000	7000	5000	5000	6000
Beswick Community	0	610	0	2000	1000	1000
Bulla Camp	0	0	0	500	500	500
Bulman Community	0	0	2450	1000	5000	6000
Casuarina Secondary College	4000	4000	5000	5000	10000	
Clyde Fenton Preschool	1238	750	1000	1500	4500	5900
Clyde Fenton Primary	0	4200	4400	5000	6000	6000
Computer Education Centre	0	0	0	3774	0	0
Darwin High	6750	6540	5250	5000	15102	6000
Darwin Preschool (Peel St)	0	0	0	0	0	0

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

NORTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Darwin Primary	3000	0	0	0	0	0
Deafness Association of the NT	1090	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas-Daly	2100	0	1500	1000	1500	1500
Dripstone High	5000	4306	7050	5000	8600	6000
Driver High	0	0	2500	5000	6000	6000
Driver Preschool	0	0	2000	3000	3000	3000
Driver Primary	0	0	3000	5000	9265	6000
Ganjarani	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gapuwiyak Community	0	2850	3500	5000	5000	
Gochan-Jiny-Jirra	0	5000	0	0	9000	700
Gray Preschool	650	0	1000	0	0	6000
Gray Primary	2787	2925	4500	3125	9200	6000
Harry Giese Centre	4000	0	0	0	0	0
Henbury Avenue Special	10000	5000	8000	5000	10000	6000
Hodgson River	0	1000	1000	1000	2000	2500
Howard Springs Preschool	1680	0	4000	1500	6000	5500
Howard Springs Primary	3000	3000	3000	5000	6000	6000
Humpty Doo Preschool	3000	3000	3000	3000	6000	2500
Humpty Doo Primary	3000	10000	4000	5000	6000	6000
Jabiru Preschool	0	2500	0	4000	10000	6000
Jabiru Area	3000	5485	4000	4000	10000	6000
Jilkmingga	0	0	0	0	440	1000
Jingili Preschool	340	1300	1000	500	4000	2000
Jingili Primary	3000	4000	4000	4500	6000	6000
Kalkaringi Community	791	1959	1500	5000	3541	4500
Karama Preschool	3000	3000	4000	3000	6000	
Karama Primary	4500	4500	4000	3000	6000	
Katherine High	5198	2000	2000	5000	6000	

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

NORTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Katherine House	250	0	454	3000	0	
Katherine School of the Air	5000	7000	3000	5000	7096	6000
Katherine South Preschool	300	1000	694	700	3000	2000
Katherine South Primary	4000	4000	3800	5000	6000	6000
Katherine Trans Preschool	700	500	300	500	0	
Killarney	0	0	250	400	0	
Kintore St Special	0	0	0	0	0	1000
Kormilda College	2000	2350	2500	2500	0	
Lajamanu Community	349	4000	1300	4000	2500	
Larrakeyah Preschool	0	1000	1500	1100	1100	1500
Larrakeyah Primary	3000	2000	3500	2500	10000	6000
Leanyer Preschool	5000	6150	4000	5000	10000	6000
Leanyer Primary	5000	7550	4000	5000	10000	6000
Ludmilla/Maranga Preschool	223	330	437	634	1200	4500
Ludmilla Primary	7390	6000	8000	5000	10000	6000
Ludmilla Special	3000	12000	4000	5000	6000	
MacFarlane Preschool	0	0	0	0	2650	2216
MacFarlane Primary	0	0	0	5000	6000	6000
Malak House	0	0	0	0	0	1000
Malak Preschool	1500	1000	1500	2500	4000	4500
Malak Primary	9000	9000	6000	5000	6000	6000
Mamaruni	0	2006	2785	0	1700	4000
Maningrida Preschool	0	3000	3000	0	0	
Maningrida Primary	0	3000	4000	5000	13000	6000
Mataranka Primary	0	0	0	675	2500	1500
Middle Point	1500	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
Milikapiti Preschool	250	0	0	0	0	0
Milikapiti	0	1508	0	5000	0	

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

NORTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Milingimbi Community	6250	4065	2500	5000	6000	9000
Millner Preschool	900	940	710	1000	1000	2000
Millner Primary	2000	4040	3058	5000	6000	6000
Minyerri	0	0	249	2100	3330	750
Moil Preschool	1000	2350	2250	1200	6000	1000
Moil Primary	2500	3650	3750	5000	6000	6000
Moulden Park Preschool	0	0	0	0	2000	6000
Moulden Park Primary	0	0	0	4000	6000	6000
Mountain Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mudginberri	0	0	0	0	0	0
NT School Sports Association	0	0	0	0	80000	
NT Secondary Correspondence	0	0	0	0	0	
Nakara Preschool	1110	4000	4000	5000	8000	6000
Nakara Primary	3478	3835	4500	5000	8000	6000
Nabarlek	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ngukurr Community	0	300	0	0	0	
Nhulunbuy High	5000	4000	8000	5000	5000	6000
Nhulunbuy Preschool	0	2500	3000	3000	4000	4000
Nhulunbuy Primary	4400	6000	5000	3000	8000	6000
Nightcliff Preschool	0	750	1000	2000	4000	3000
Nightcliff Primary	8927	2625	4000	4000	10000	6000
Nightcliff High	7500	5010	7475	5000	6000	6000
Numbulwar Community	298	1002	1000	0	0	2500
Nutwood Downs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oenpelli Community	1500	5000	0	0	12000	8000
Oenpelli Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	1000
Palumpa	0	0	0	0	0	
Parap Preschool	1500	2000	2500	4000	4000	4000

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

NORTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Parap Primary	4000	7000	7000	5000	12500	6000
Peppimenarti Community	0	0	0	1760	0	900
Pigeon Hole	0	0	500	3000	1500	3500
Pine Creek Preschool	0	0	2000	2500	0	
Pine Creek Primary	2950	3100	3850	5000	5000	6000
Point Stuart	1000	0	0	1000	1500	
Pularumpi Preschool	1500	4000	0	0	0	
Pularumpi Community	3500	4000	5000	5000	6000	6000
RAAF Preschool	1500	600	500	300	1500	1500
Ramingining Preschool	0	0	0	3000	0	5000
Ramingining Community	0	1946	900	0	5000	5000
Rapid Creek Preschool	100	650	0	200	614	750
Rapid Creek Primary	2100	3264	4396	5700	8064	6450
Roper Valley	0	1000	0	0	0	
Sanderson High	0	4000	4000	5000	6000	6000
Sanderson Preschool	0	3000	2000	2000	6000	6000
Sanderson Primary	0	3000	3000	5000	11000	6000
Shepherdson College	3393	5000	4000	5000	15000	6000
Shepherdson Outstations	0	0	0	0	0	6000
Shepherdson Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	6000
Stuart Park Preschool	0	937	0	0	4000	
Stuart Park Primary	3000	4586	4000	5000	6000	6000
Taminmin High	4000	5000	10544	5000	15294	12000
Thunder Rock (Cobourg)	0	0	0	0	1000	
Timber Creek Primary	0	0	400	0	425	500
Tindal Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	6000
Tipperary	2400	1000	74	0	3600	4000
Tiwi Preschool	4000	1500	2000	2000	0	1500

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

NORTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Tiwi Primary	5500	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000
Umbakumba Community	1577	3200	3500	5000	6000	6000
Umbakumba Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	2000
Urapunga	800	0	0	0	200	
Victoria River Downs	0	0	4000	5000	2500	0
Wagaman Preschool	0	601	500	600	3000	3000
Wagaman Primary	0	3000	5000	5000	6000	6000
Wanguri Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	
Wanguri Primary	7500	5533	2700	5000	6000	6000
Warruwi	3500	0	1500	1500	1000	1500
Woolianna	2000	0	0	0	0	0
Wulagi Preschool	0	4000	4000	5000	6000	6000
Wulagi Primary	3000	7250	5500	5000	6000	6000
Yarralin	0	550	730	4000	4000	4000
Yirrkala Community	8000	3500	1296	5000	7500	6000
Yirrkala Outstations	0	0	0	0	0	3000
Yirrkala Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	1500
TOTAL - NORTHERN REGION - GOVT SCHOOLS	247897	305518	323732	375618	695421	503666

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ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

SOUTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Acacia Hill Special	0	0	0	0	0	6000
Alexandria Downs	100	0	162	3100	215	1000
Ali Curung	0	0	0	0	0	
Alice Springs High	16697	8615	7382	4000	9000	6000
Alice Springs School of the Air	12000	5479	7382	4000	12000	6000
Alice Springs Special	1500	0	1250	8172	5996	
Ammaroo	0	0	2500	0	0	4815
Amoonguna	474	0	225	500	0	500
Anzac Hill High	0	0	0	4300	8293	12000
Areyonga	916	744	1300	2058	615	
Banka Banka	0	250	0	0	0	
Borrooloola	1600	1600	2580	0	3000	
Bradshaw Preschool	0	0	0	0	0	
Bradshaw Primary	5303	12000	7582	4000	7839	6000
Braitling Primary	5260	4250	4115	4380	6000	6000
Brunette Downs	9110	2000	1400	3500	500	3000
Charles Creek	0	0	0	0	0	
Docker River	6750	210	3000	0	0	
East Barkly Schools Association	0	700	900	2000	1400	6000
Elliott	0	1000	0	0	4000	6000
Epenarra	0	0	0	1000	5500	500
Finke	2400	2975	2800	3100	8000	6000
Ganjarani	0	2500	1500	0	1500	500
Giles House	0	0	0	0	1594	
Gillen Primary	5400	4000	8282	5415	6000	6000
Gillen Preschool	0	1800	0	0	3000	
Haasts Bluff	450	1500	4900	0	0	1000
Harts Range	0	0	0	0	0	

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

SOUTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Hermannsburg	0	0	0	0	6000	
Ida Stanley Preschool	0	1000	1000	1500	2500	1769
Iwupataka	0	0	0	0	0	
Jay Creek	300	2600	0	0	0	
Kargaru Preschool	0	1902	0	0	0	6000
Kargaru Primary	0	1150	2150	4000	16200	1250
Kempe Street	0	0	0	0	0	
Kintore (Walungurru)	0	0	4000	4000	6000	
Kunuyunka	0	0	0	0	650	
Lake Nash	425	1000	3960	8000	3000	
M'Bunghara	0	0	0	0	0	
Mallapunyah	0	0	0	0	0	3500
Maryvale	0	0	0	0	300	
Mt Allen	0	0	0	0	2250	
Mt Barkly	0	0	0	0	0	
Mt Ebenezer	735	430	500	0	0	
Mt Liebig	0	0	0	0	6000	
Murray Downs	300	0	0	0	0	535
Napperby	2500	0	0	0	0	5000
Nathalie Gorey Preschool	326	1000	378	750	0	
Neutral Junction	712	1718	0	0	0	
Newcastle Waters	0	0	500	1150	2000	5000
Ngurydiji	0	0	0	0	0	
Ntarria	0	0	1350	1800	0	2985
Nyirripi	0	0	240	600	950	5000
Papunya	0	5027	1750	4000	6302	
Pulardi	0	0	0	0	0	3586
Robinson River	0	0	0	1500	600	1450

\$1-for-\$1 GRANTS

\$1-for-\$1 FINANCIAL SUBSIDY SCHEME

SOUTHERN REGION - GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Rockhampton Downs	2000	0	0	0	0	600
Rona Glynn Preschool	0	0	456	0	850	1200
Ross Park Primary	3633	4900	8282	6000	8000	6000
Sadadeen Secondary College	7851	3258	5686	8000	11500	14500
Sadadeen Primary	3825	4000	4000	3356	8000	6000
Soapy Bore	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stirling	1034	600	2500	1500	0	1500
Tennant Creek High	1675	2690	2600	4000	6000	6000
Tennant Creek Preschool	0	0	0	2450	1600	1000
Tennant Creek Primary	0	2150	4000	6000	6000	600
Teppa Hill Preschool	0	0	0	665	0	0
Ti Tree	250	1000	1100	4000	0	0
Traeger Park Primary	0	1100	870	4000	6000	6000
Umpangara	1409	4000	4000	0	0	0
Utopia	0	2000	1000	4000	0	0
Wallace Rock Hole	0	0	0	529	0	0
Warrabri	5000	0	0	0	0	0
Warrego School	1586	500	0	2250	5500	3000
Warrego Preschool	500	0	0	0	0	0
Willowra	700	2000	900	2300	0	0
Yirara College	7642	3057	0	425	2561	8400
Yuendumu	3000	2284	3332	4000	4150	6000
Yulara	3300	0	5414	6000	2000	0
TOTAL - SOUTHERN REGION - GOVT SCHOOLS	116663	98989	117228	136300	199365	174190

2. The criteria applicable to the granting of \$1-for-\$1 subsidies is as follows -

(a) Purpose

Subsidies will apply to fundraising activities for approved educational activities.

(b) Eligibility

Eligible bodies are school councils, parent-teacher organisations, preschool committees of both government/non-government schools and boarding establishments.

(c) Allocation of Funds

Although schools may make application for a grant up to the limit of their fundraising ability, the initial subsidy will be for a maximum of \$6000.

(d) Eligible Fundraising

All normal school-community fundraising activities are acceptable with the exception of school fees and departmental allocations.

(e) Applications

Applications may be made in anticipation of funds being raised. An acquittance to show how both subsidy and matching funds have been spent must be submitted as close as possible to the end of June in the relevant financial year.

77. Cost of Student Education

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What is the total cost on a per student basis of providing primary and secondary education in -

- (a) urban; and
- (b) rural schools in each region of the Territory.

ANSWER

During 1987-88, per student direct school costs were -

Primary	Urban	\$2600
	Non-urban	\$4300
Secondary	Urban	\$4400 (all secondary schools are urban)

Costs are not available by region.

78. 1988 School Examination Results

Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What were the PES and SSABSA results for 1988 of Territory students involved in these courses on a school-by-school basis both public and private, and subject-by-subject in each discipline. From these results -

- (a) how many students started the course;
- (b) how many students pulled out of the course before the final examination or testing;
- (c) how many students finished the course;
- (d) how many students passed the course;
- (e) what was the pass mark as a percentage of the highest possible mark; and
- (f) what was the percentage of passes in the subject.

NOTE: If the word 'pass' is meaningless please choose the most suitable term, with explanation, in parts (d), (e) and (f).

ANSWER

1. It is not NT Department of Education or Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australian practice to make public information about the Year 12 results which enables comparisons to be drawn between students, schools or the government/non-government systems.

This approach is common to all states and territories, the major reason being that a school with a small enrolment is not a valid statistical sample. Such comparisons could be severely misinterpreted.

- (a) In 1988, 1191 students applied for assessment in one or more Year 12 subjects.

Subjects with significant enrolments were -

Publicly Examined Subjects (PES)

English	493
Biology	332
Maths 1S	283
Chemistry	228
Physics	209
Geography	168
Economics	197
Legal Studies	117

School Assessed Subjects (SAS)

English	369
Applied Maths	256

- (b) 70 students withdrew officially or did not register a score in one or more subjects.

Withdrawals

English (SAS)	28
English (PES)	9
Maths I (PES)	5
Maths II (PES)	5
Economics (PES)	5
18 Subjects	Less than 5 each

- (c) 1166 students completed a course of study in one or more subjects.

- (d) SSABSA does not set a pass mark.

The indicator for overall performance for NT students is the average of the percentage of students in each subject where a 'C' Grade or better was achieved.

A 'C' Grade is defined as 'Competent Achievement'. In 1988, this figure for NT students was 72%.

- (e) SSABSA does not set a pass mark.

Assessment procedures are determined by SSABSA and are outlined in the SSABSA Annual Report. This report gives details of how grades are determined from marks awarded. The 1988 report will be available in May 1989.

- (f) A grade distribution by subject is completed each year for the SSABSA Annual Report.

As mentioned before, publication of the 1988 Annual Report will not occur until May 1989.

80. Mathematics Teachers

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

- How many maths classes in the Northern Territory Secondary Education Sector are being taught by teachers who are qualified in the area of mathematics and trained to teach the subject.
- What proportion of mathematics classes does this represent at each year level of secondary schooling.

ANSWER

See tables on following 2 pages.

MATHEMATICS SURVEY

TABLE 1

Number of Total Maths Classes at Junior and Senior Level in NT Government Secondary Schools, Area Schools and Colleges

School Years	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers Involved	No. Qualified to Teach Maths	No. Trained To Teach Maths	Proportion of Classes Taught by Qualified Maths Teachers	Proportion of Classes Taught by Trained Maths Teachers	Other Remarks
a) Junior Secondary							
8-10	190	139	115	100	82.73%	71.94%	1. It should be noted that many teachers not specifically 'qualified' or 'trained' to teach Maths, have many years of experience - see accompanying table.
b) Senior Secondary							
11-12	150	129	108	105	83.72%	81.39%	2. Many 'non-Maths' teachers are nevertheless Science teachers, with a number being very experienced Science teachers.

MATHEMATICS SURVEY

TABLE 2

Proportion of Qualified and Trained Maths Teachers at each year level of Secondary Schooling

School Years	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers Involved	No. Qualified to Teach Maths	No. Trained To Teach Maths	Proportion of Classes Taught by Qualified Maths Teachers	Proportion of Classes Taught by Trained Maths Teachers
Year 8	51	42	36	29	85.71%	69.04%
Year 9	47	40	34	31	85%	77.5%
Year 10	48	42	37	32	88.09%	76.19%
Years 8-10 Anzac Hill & Sanderson (Vertically structured)	44	15	8	8	53.55%	53.33%
Year 11	96	84	69	61	82.14%	72.61%
Year 12	54	45	39	44	86.66%	97.77%
Pre-Voc TAFE (Sadadeen)	3	3	1	1		

82.

Liquor Act Offences

Mr EDE to MINISTER for TOURISM

1. How many complaints have been received by the Liquor Commission concerning breaches of the Liquor Act in relation to serving alcohol to people who are -
 - (a) intoxicated; or
 - (b) under age,each year for the last 5 years.
2. How many of these complaints resulted in -
 - (a) legal action being taken against the licensee;
 - (b) convictions; and
 - (c) forfeiture of liquor licences.

ANSWER

1. (a) Nil.
(b) 3.
2. (a) Licensee placed on notice until renewal time.
(b) Nil.
(c) Nil.

83.

Primary School Students' Costs

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What was the average expenditure per student for primary schools in -
 - (a) the 5 largest urban centres; and
 - (b) the balance of the Territory,for each of the last 3 school years.
2. What was the expenditure per student of providing schooling in outstation schools during each of the last 3 school years.
3. What is the retention rate through to Year 12 for students who received their primary education in schools outside the 5 major urban centres of the Territory.
4. How many compulsory school-age children in the Northern Territory attend school less than 50% of the time.

5. What is the percentage of Aboriginal students entering the Northern Territory education system at or before Year 8 who complete Year 12.
6. What is the percentage of non-Aboriginal students entering the Northern Territory education system at or before Year 8 who complete Year 12.

ANSWER

1. The average expenditure per student for primary schools is -

	1987-88	1988-89
	\$	\$
Urban	2600	2700
Non-urban	4300	5100

Figures for 1986-87 are in a different budget format and ledger structure and would not be comparable.

2. Approximate expenditure on outstation students, dependent on location and size, ranges from -

	1987-88	1988-89
	\$	\$
	5300 - 6800	6100 - 7600

Costs for outstation students are included in the home school's budget and are not maintained separately.

3. Unable to provide as individual students move between regions and between urban/rural schools.
4. Unable to provide. This would require an examination of every separate school student's attendance records.
5. 8.2%.
6. 66.7%.

86. Reserved Judgments of Supreme Court

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What are the titles of any actions in which judgment has been reserved by a judge of the Supreme Court and where that judgment has not been delivered within 12 months of it being reserved.

ANSWER

I am advised that there is only 1 existing action in which an NT Supreme Court judgment has not been delivered within 12 months of that judgment being reserved, namely -

A.T.I. Management v Fong (reserved on 30 October 1987)

22 August 1989

88. Buy-back of Land from Developers in Katherine

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Department of Lands and Housing Annual Report for the year 1987-88 refers to a buy-back of land from developers in Katherine at page 33.

1. Which lots of land were bought back from developers.
2. When were these lots bought back.
3. For how much was each lot bought.
4. On what basis was the buy-back price negotiated for the lots.

ANSWER

1. Detached dwelling (R1) lots from Katherine East Stage 3 -
 - (a) 60 lots - Nos 2640-2649, 2651-2673, 2675-2676, 2739, 2741-2743, 2747-2749, 2751, 2754, 2766-2770, 2893-2895, 2897-2904 Town of Katherine;
 - (b) 1 lot - No. 2597 Town of Katherine; and
 - (c) 10 lots - Nos 2677-2678, 2731-2738 Town of Katherine.
2.
 - (a) August 1987;
 - (b) September 1987; and
 - (c) December 1987.
3. All lots were purchased for \$17 000 each.
4. Henry and Walker Contracting Pty Ltd was the successful applicant for the Crown Lease for the subdivisional development of Katherine East Stage 3.

A condition of the development lease is that the buy-back price is fixed by the government at \$17 000.

**89. Buffalo Industry Assistance Scheme
Loans**

Mr EDE to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

1. What are the names of the successful applicants for loans/grants under the Buffalo Industry Assistance Scheme.
2. How many of these applicants have drawn down the maximum loan/grant applicable to this scheme.

ANSWER

See table on following 2 pages.

BUFFALO INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE SCHEME, LOANS

APPROVED LOAN APPLICANTS	PROPERTY NAME	AMOUNT APPROVED	AMOUNT DRAWN	COMMENTS
S. & B. Baldwin Nominees P/L	Arnhem Station	\$ 75 000	\$ 75 000	Reverts to a grant in 1992 if technical criteria achieved.
Mt Ringwood Partnership	Ban Ban Springs	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
B. & F. Doyle	Camp Creek Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
Garibaldi Pastoral Co. P/L	Garibaldi Station	\$ 70 000	\$ 70 000	" " "
Kerlin Pty Ltd	Kerlin Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
T.R. & K.V. Halse	Marrakai Springs	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
Mary River Cattle Co.	Mary River Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
G. & V. Michell	Maude Creek Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
Textern Pty Ltd	Middle Creek Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
Carabao Exporters	Opium Creek Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
Carmor Plains Station P/L	Carmor Plains Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
Marrakai Pastoral Co. P/L	Marrakai Station	\$100 000	\$100 000	" " "
Mt Goyder Pastoral Co.	Annaburroo Station	\$ 70 000		Owner has now declined loan due to inability to offer suitable security.

BUFFALO INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE SCHEME, LOANS

APPROVED LOAN APPLICANTS	PROPERTY NAME	AMOUNT APPROVED	AMOUNT DRAWN	COMMENTS
Mr J. Harrower	Mainoru Station	\$100 000		Finalisation delayed pending resolution of security arrangements.
A.N. & S.N. Fisher	Swim Creek Station	\$100 000		Awaiting return of documentation from applicant.
K.J. Carrick Pty Ltd	Urapunga	\$100 000		Awaiting return of documentation from applicant.

94.

Bed Tax

Mr EDE to TREASURER

1. How much has been collected in Bed Tax to date.
2. What percentage of the possible collectable amount does this represent.
3. How much has it cost the government directly and indirectly to collect the tax.

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government does not impose a Bed Tax.
2. Not applicable.
3. Not applicable.

Wanguri By-election

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Chief Minister state, in a newspaper column on 30 August: 'Wanguri electors have a simple question to ask in next Saturday's by-election and I ask them only to answer it honestly'. Did he then go on to say: 'The question is this. Do they endorse or dislike what the CLP government has achieved for the Territory since 1978?' My question is this: were the electors of Wanguri honest in their answer this Saturday?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think the Leader of the Opposition means last Saturday. Can I simply state that, obviously, democracy was at work. We have a very fair electoral system in the Northern Territory and this government stands by that system and supports it thoroughly. The electors of Wanguri made their choice following a campaign which, by and large, I saw as fairly waged from all quarters. The message given to the Northern Territory government will be heeded. We lost a significant amount of the support which we had previously in that electorate and, no doubt, all political parties will be carrying out much analysis of the election results during future months. I am sure that we, in the CLP and the government, will learn much from the result and adjust our policies and performance accordingly.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the ALP on apparently picking up the seat. Of course, the poll has not been declared as yet, but everyone expects that ALP numbers in this Assembly will increase from 6 to 7. I congratulate the party on its campaign and its success.

Wanguri By-election

Mr PALMER to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister advise the House whether the Northern Territory Electoral Office has received any complaints in relation to the proliferation of political signs and political touts, including myself, at the polling booths in Wanguri last Saturday? The scene at the booths resembled some sort of political Armageddon. If any complaints have been received, what was their nature and what action does the Chief Minister propose to take in relation to them?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there was considerable comment about the state of the entrances to both polling booths on election day in Wanguri and I understand that there has also been some media comment on the subject. Naturally enough, I spent some time at both polling booths and I described the scene as 'political pollution'. No party or candidate was free of blame for what was essentially an overenthusiastic assault on the sensibilities of constituents. I am sure that many constituents felt that they were running a physical gauntlet of politicians, posters and representatives.

I am advised by the Electoral Office that no formal complaints have been received although a number of electors commented to polling officials about the situation. I spoke with a prominent member of the ALP outside a polling booth and we both agreed that it would be nice to do something to prevent such situations recurring, without being specific about what action might effect that.

I propose to have the Electoral Office examine options to limit the proliferation of election material and candidates' representatives who are seemingly harrassing voters outside polling places on polling day. It is not possible to determine exactly what might be done because, clearly, any action taken in this regard will involve an amendment to the Electoral Act. I do, however, seek the views of members opposite and any members of the community, on whether there is a problem and, if so, what solutions might be most appropriate.

Alice Springs Casino

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TOURISM

My question relates to the wisdom and propriety of ministerial decisions on matters arising at the Alice Springs casino. This question specifically concerns a situation which occurred in 1987 when the responsible minister was the former Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Hanrahan. Can the minister confirm that, in 1987, 40 new poker machines were installed in the Alice Springs casino without the required police investigation into the company supplying the machines? Can he also confirm that the poker machines were in place several months before the required police investigation was completed, and that that gross irregularity was permitted only because of commercial considerations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is not correct in saying that poker machines were installed in the Alice Springs casino without ministerial consent.

Mr Smith: I said that they were installed without a police investigation.

Mr POOLE: Let me tell you the facts.

I know that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to obtain a bit of political mileage from this but I can assure him that the facts do not tally with what has been presented on the 7.30 Report.

The Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission was advised, in a letter dated 21 January 1987, that the Alice Springs casino operator sought approval to purchase 40 slot machines from IGT Australia Pty Ltd. In accordance with approved procedures, the commission obtained test machines and submitted them to its expert programming and electronics consultant. In parallel with the technical assessment of the machine, an application from IGT was referred routinely to the Northern Territory Police Force for a determination of the status of the company itself. The police discovered that IGT had an identical application under investigation by New South Wales licensing police and requested their New South Wales colleagues to advise them of the result. The Northern Territory police were unwilling to compromise the New South Wales decision by resolving the Territory application before a decision of the Licensing Court of New South Wales was handed down. In a letter dated 27 March 1987, the Police Commissioner advised the minister responsible for racing, gaming and liquor that a delay of unknown length would be incurred. At this time, no existing slot machine manufacturers were approved to supply to Northern Territory casinos.

On 18 June 1987, the commission advised the minister that the delay in processing the application was having a negative effect on both casino operations. The commissioner recommended that the minister give consent for

the purchase of 40 machines from IGT by the Alice Springs operator, notwithstanding the delay in police clearance, on the condition that an unfavourable police report would result in the machines being withdrawn. Consent subject to this condition was communicated by the minister of the day to the Alice Springs casino on 27 June 1987. The Alice Springs Casino Control Branch was notified and the notification was recorded in the day book. Follow-up documentation giving formal written consent was dated 14 July 1987.

The 40 machines arrived in Alice Springs on 14 July 1987. Routine Casino Control Branch machine verification and testing procedures were completed and the machines were given final approval for operation from this date. Police clearance of IGT was finally submitted to the minister following the favourable decision ...

Mr Smith: What date?

Mr POOLE: ... of the Licensing Court of New South Wales and no further action was necessary.

Mr Smith: What was the date?

Mr POOLE: I do not have the date but I am happy to supply it.

Mr Smith: You have every other date but you do not have the most important one.

Mr POOLE: I will supply you with the date.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will have a chance to ask additional questions. The minister will be heard in silence.

Mr POOLE: In this matter, no breach of ministerial directions and no impropriety has occurred. Although unusual, the action of the minister in consenting to the purchase of gaming machines prior to police clearance of the company was adequately justified by the circumstances prevailing at the time and, in fact, it was a decision for the minister alone. At no stage did the operator act without the knowledge of the minister, the commission or the Northern Territory Police Force.

Offshore Oil Exploration Facilities

Mr HATTON to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

According to media reports, plans for the establishment of locally-based service facilities to support offshore exploration activities in the Timor Sea have been shelved and such development will not occur. Can he advise whether these reports are accurate or whether he stands by his previous statements that such facilities will be established?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Nightcliff for his question. He will recall that, during the May sittings, I expressed no doubt about the development of offshore supply facilities in Darwin. Despite subsequent media reports that the project had been scrapped, I remain without doubt today that a permanent supply base servicing offshore oil activities will be established.

In recent months, considerable interest has been expressed in such facilities by a number of major companies. Marubeni Australia, a subsidiary of the Marubeni Corporation in Japan, has a definite proposal for the development of a storage depot for supply of drill piping. Gearhart United, a prominent American company involved in complete oilfields servicing, is most interested in setting up a machine shop for pipe preparation in an investment close to \$1m. Baroid Australia, another well-known international oil industry servicing company, has decided to establish storage facilities for the supply of drilling mud and other associated requirements. These companies have expressed a definite interest in setting up facilities in Darwin immediately. A number of other potential participants have made preliminary inquiries before making firm investment decisions. This welcome activity certainly justifies the establishment of a permanent offshore supply base in Darwin and our planning proposals on such a project are proceeding.

In the meantime, to accommodate the needs of companies wanting immediate facilities, the government has made arrangements for temporary space to be made available within the Darwin port area. This will allow temporary service facilities to get under way with the intention of relocation to the permanent supply base when it is operational.

Hundreds of millions of dollars will be spent on Timor Sea exploration in the next 3 years. That effort will grow even further when the Timor Gap region opens up for exploration and will further enhance the opportunities for Darwin to gain substantial income and business opportunities as the major supply base for the region. I had discussions in Jakarta with my Indonesian counterpart about the role Darwin should play in this exciting oil exploration activity and I can report that he is supportive. Indonesia sees merit, at least in the first instance, in using Darwin infrastructure to supply oil exploration on the Indonesian side of the Timor Gap rather than Indonesia building its own base elsewhere. Officers from the Indonesian Department of Mines and Energy will visit Darwin later this year to assess our facilities in that context.

You can see, Mr Speaker, that the offshore supply base project has not been axed. In fact, it is alive and well and I remain firmly committed to the establishment of the base which will secure many millions of dollars worth of business for Darwin. I will be only too pleased to identify any detractors from that line of thought at the official opening of such a base in the very near future.

Child-care Centre Employees - Registration Scheme

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

My questions relate to the honourable minister's knowledge that 2 and perhaps 3 people convicted of child abuse have worked in the Territory's child-care system. Does the minister accept his responsibility for the proper protection of children, parents and workers in the system? Does he accept that the findings of his own government's report recommended that a child-care worker registration scheme be established? Is he able to confirm that that recommendation has been ignored for 3 years? Finally, how much longer does the honourable minister intend to refuse this basic protection to the people of the Territory and what scale of offence will it take to push him and his dilatory government to act in this important matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that little speech contained a whole range of questions and, during the delivery of them, I began to lose track of those which had been asked at the beginning. The questions seemed to focus upon whether or not I accepted responsibility for the welfare of children in child-care centres in the Northern Territory. Indeed, as a government, we do accept responsibility for establishing systems in which people can work so that children in our child-care centres are protected from bad practices in any regard.

There has been a great deal of debate, prior to the recent by-election, about whether the Northern Territory government should institute a system in which the histories of people applying for employment in child-care centres would be checked against national police records in order to show convictions recorded for any criminal activity. The government's stance has been that child-care centres are in the hands of government-approved directors who have a range of responsibilities, under their licences, to look after the children in their care and responsibility. Of course, their responsibilities extend far beyond the selection and monitoring of staff. Their responsibilities extend to the very nature of the establishments they run, including physical conditions, food and so on. We must ensure that such matters are properly administered in the interests of children in our society.

Honourable members opposite argued strongly that the way to ensure that no person likely to cause harm to children was employed in a child-care centre was simply to check whether prospective employees had previous convictions. The government has argued that that is not the case and that protections need to go far beyond simply employing people who have no convictions at all. A very good example was cited in this context, and it demonstrates that reliance on checks of previous criminal records has its limitations. It concerns a recent case in a southern state in which 4 persons, who were supposedly well-known in the area of entertaining children, were charged with a series of sexual offences against those children. The charges were thrown out of court as a result of a technicality. It is quite possible that, even if there was a system which automatically checked for criminal records, such people could come to the Northern Territory and gain employment in child-care centres. No convictions would appear on their records.

The fact is that the responsibility for checking staff rests entirely with the directors of child-care centres. It is not an onerous task and I believe that most of them accept that responsibility. If they wish to check the police records of applicants for positions, they are free to do so. There is a small charge. Indeed, I have even offered to waive the charge if any of them want to put it to me that it is somehow an unreasonable burden.

Last Thursday, 17 August, all licensed child-care operators were invited to a meeting to discuss their responsibilities for staff selection and ways in which the government might be able to help. Some 40 people attended and I am told that the task force report referred to by the member for MacDonnell barely rated a mention. The meeting certainly did not pass any motions calling for the government to do anything which was highlighted in that report. Indeed, there is a strong view amongst child-care operators that the government's involvement in child-care centres should go absolutely no further than it goes at present.

Mr Smith: There was a strong feeling at that meeting for some form of registration.

Mr PERRON: Members opposite seem to be proposing that, before any person is employed in a child-care centre in the Northern Territory, that person's name should be submitted to the government, not only for police checks but for comprehensive checks on past employment and on referees before he or she can be employed. I can assure honourable members opposite that that will create very severe inconvenience to child-care centres in the Northern Territory. I am advised that they want a system whereby they can pick up casual workers on the odd occasion when someone does not turn up for work or they are suddenly rushed with additional children and the requirements of their licence demand that they have a certain ratio of qualified staff to the numbers of children in their establishments. They want the flexibility, I understand, to be able to make judgments themselves on whether staff are appropriate to be employed.

It is quite clear in my mind that a manager of a child-care centre could make a different assessment in different situations. For example, if an 18- or 20-year-old girl from the local area applied for part-time work at a child-care centre, the manager of the centre could clearly check out to his or her satisfaction whether the prospective employee was an appropriate person to have the responsibility of caring for children. If, on the other hand, the person applying for work was a male from interstate who had been resident in the Territory for only a short period of time, I suspect that the child-care manager, in the course of exercising his or her responsibilities, would go to very considerable trouble to check not only that the person did not have any past criminal record in regard to offences against children, but that the person's previous employment record was satisfactory. Those checks would probably involve not only the previous employer but the previous several employers, and would perhaps involve the checking of references provided by the applicant.

If honourable members opposite advocate the establishment of a government bureaucracy to carry out all that sort of work on behalf of child-care centre operators, I believe they are not acting in accordance with the interests and wishes of child-care centre operators themselves and that they are proposing something which would be no more than a great deal more bureaucracy. If they want to extend the theory, why don't we apply such checks in the case of every person who is in charge of a youth group, or groups of cubs, scouts guides or marching girls, or in the case of people who take children on school bush camps? Why don't we have their police records checked? What about schoolteachers, who are also in charge of many young children? Perhaps we should check that none of these people has a criminal record. The member for MacDonnell really is pushing a cause for which he does not have strong support, even in the industry which he purports to represent.

Arts Specialisation in Schools

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

At a seminar on school improvement plans conducted by the Council of Government Schools Organisations at Katherine earlier this month, mention was made of a proposal to encourage schools to specialise in particular areas of the arts. Parents at the meeting were asked to provide feedback to the government on the proposal. Can the minister give details of the proposed scheme and indicate when it will be introduced?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for his question. I believe that members should be informed on this matter. COGSO and other groups

publicise various meetings at which certain aspects of education are to be discussed. The honourable member mentioned one which related to the discussion of school improvement plans.

In July 1989, I opened the first congress of the International Society for Education Through the Arts. I am happy to provide honourable members with a copy of the speech that I delivered on that occasion. I spoke about the need to provide students with the prospect of artistic opportunities on the local scene, and the need for students to be able to recognise opportunities for a career in the arts and to be able to pursue those opportunities in the Northern Territory. The government is looking at placing a greater importance on the arts, particularly the performing arts, and I will be making a statement on that subject during the course of these sittings.

Gunn Point Subdivision

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the strong and well-reasoned objections to the government's plan to subdivide 34 blocks on the cliff top and down to the beach in the subdivision at Gunn Point, has the minister seen the light in a conservation sense and will he disallow the cliff top part of the Gunn Point subdivision? I am aware that a recommendation to that effect has gone to the minister from the Planning Authority.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as far as the proposed development is concerned, the normal provisions relating to environmental impact studies and investigations will occur. In relation to the proposal to the Planning Authority, I advise the honourable member that any request for subdivision along the cliff top has been withdrawn from the application while appropriate environmental investigation work is carried out. That is fit and proper and in accordance with the normal process. The suggestion that the government intends to override that process should be struck from people's minds. It has never occurred and it will not occur. The process will occur through the normal channels. The recommendations from the Planning Authority will be received and any decisions I make will certainly take the appropriate processes into account.

The present applications regarding planning approvals do not include the area along the cliff top, which has been the subject of great contention and some very misinformed statements and claims in some quarters.

Mrs Padgham-Purich: You know it is not misinformed.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Speaker, the member for Koolpinyah cannot resist commenting but she is the person who stated that 10 000 people would be living in the area and that it would be part of the larger precincts of Darwin. Those claims are all incorrect. She has also claimed that the government is going to ignore totally any environmental impact, which is again incorrect. All she has managed to do is to alarm people.

However, I can assure the member for Koolpinyah and all other members of the community who may have taken heed of some of the more extreme statements she has made, that that area along the cliff top is presently being investigated in terms of the environmental impact of the entire proposed subdivision. Until such time as that process is completed, the matter will not be put before the Planning Authority.

Local Government - Non-release of Federal Funds

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The local government councils are expressing concern that they have not yet received their Grants Commission allocations. In previous years, the funds were available no later than mid-August. Why have local government organisations not received their rightful entitlements yet?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as usual the Northern Territory Grants Commission has made recommendations to me for the distribution of Commonwealth grants under the Commonwealth Financial Assistance Act. Those recommendations have been made according to criteria agreed to by the Commonwealth minister and myself. I forwarded those recommendations to the Commonwealth minister in late July, which was certainly within an appropriate time frame. As yet, however, even though I understand that one of the states was late in submitting its recommendations, the minister has not agreed to the distribution of Commonwealth funds in the Northern Territory. As a consequence, local government in the Northern Territory is being held to ransom for funds.

I contacted the Commonwealth minister on 2 occasions last week. In speaking to the minister, it was very obvious that she was not satisfied that the criteria which we previously agreed upon have provided the answers which she sought. The Morton Report, which was undertaken for the Commonwealth, was supposed to provide answers. It would appear that the social engineering agenda of the Commonwealth has not been able to be met. The recommendations of the Grants Commission, made under the methodology approved by the Commonwealth minister and myself, did not provide the answers she expected. She said to me: 'This has not done what Morton told us it would do'. As a consequence, obviously, she would change the criteria for distribution of funds in the Northern Territory. That is not acceptable to me and it is not acceptable to the Northern Territory government. We have agreed on methodology and we have recommended the distribution of federal funds on the basis of that methodology.

Fortunately for many of the local government bodies in the Northern Territory, the Northern Territory government distributes other funds - and it is the only state or territory government in Australia that does so. We are able to keep at least non-municipal local government bodies afloat with our funds, which are distributed by the Northern Territory according to the same criteria as those agreed to by the Commonwealth and myself.

The Commonwealth is now interfering with matters which are the rightful responsibility of the Northern Territory and is questioning the integrity of the Northern Territory Grants Commission. That is not acceptable and it will not be tolerated. I will not let the matter lie. I will be taking further action. The Commonwealth minister promised me a reply by yesterday. It has not arrived. Morton was sent to the Territory to talk to our officers and he discussed the situation with them yesterday. He could not say that there was anything wrong with what we had done. In fact, the minister agreed with me that our methodology was correct. Indeed, everything was correct except, in the minister's estimation, the answers. She was not prepared to accept the answers, which she had attempted but failed to engineer.

Mr Speaker, I am not happy with the response of Morton yesterday. He simply mouthed a lot of platitudes and did not provide any light which would

enable the funds to be distributed to local governing bodies in the Northern Territory. The matter cannot be left to lie and, unless I get a response in the very near future, I will be approaching the Chief Minister to take the matter up with the Prime Minister.

Teacher Shortages

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When major teacher shortages were evident earlier this year, the minister's response was to promise a review of salary packages and special allowances. Yet, 6 months later, teacher shortages are stretching the system to breaking point. Will the minister accept that the failure to provide additional benefits has exacerbated the situation, and could he advise teachers of the Northern Territory and potential recruits when some relief can be expected?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Stuart would be well aware that salary structures are an industrial matter and, in fact, we are locked into the industrial relations process in relation to them. The teachers know that and honourable members know it. We have tried to ensure that we are able to provide incentives for our teachers. Members will shortly be hearing the budget brought down by the Treasurer and, during the course of that speech, they will hear some interesting comments in relation to this matter.

I will say that we are frequently frustrated in our efforts to obtain better salary packages for teachers because of the industrial process we have to go through. I am aware that, not only in the Northern Territory but throughout Australia, there are problems in relation to teachers' salaries. I acknowledge that the salaries are not at a suitable level. There is, however, a process in place and teachers have to go through that process in respect of salary adjustments.

I have made it very clear in the past that we are looking at introducing a system which utilises bonuses. We are also looking at the possibility of zoning certain areas in order to encourage first-year local teachers to become involved in the teaching profession. At present, first-year teachers are sent into the bush areas and many people are not cut out for that type of work in that environment. Of course, if experienced teachers are to be encouraged to remain in bush areas, they need to be offered appropriate rewards. The government is examining the whole issue of teacher salary structures. Teachers are very aware of the industrial processes, including award restructuring, and the issue is being addressed in the appropriate manner.

Federal Capital Works Program - Effect on the Northern Territory

Mr PALMER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister advise the House of the effects of the federal budget on the Northern Territory, especially in relation to the capital works program, and how this year's capital works program compares with those of previous years?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, when I was a young fellow and times were pretty tough, a common birthday party trick was to wrap up a brick, a rock, or a very small present in numerous layers of paper in order to make it look impressive and colourful. The joke was on the recipient. As far as the federal budget is concerned, after a great deal of unwrapping I have finally found the brick.

Desperate people adopt desperate means and the federal government is illustrating that through the proliferation of nicely presented announcements it has been making about financial packages. The Leader of the Opposition may well yawn. Yesterday the federal government announced an \$80m program to support sport in Australia.

Mr Smith: Good, isn't it?

Mr FINCH: It forgot to mention that the money would be spent over 5 years. Then there is the wonderful environmental package, which involves expenditure of \$1000m. Of course, that money is to be spent over 10 years. It does not add up to anything like the amount spent by the previous coalition government. It is simply trickery in the packaging of figures.

The federal member, Warren Snowdon, and his colleague Senator Collins, used the same sort of trickery in the Wanguri by-election. In press statements and in a circular distributed to electors in Wanguri, they said: 'What we promise, we deliver'. The question is when? I want to look at some of the specifics which lie behind the blatant tactics of those federal ALP members. They know the difference between programs and actual expenditure. They talk about the allocation of funds. Allocations mean dollars. It does not mean 5- or 10-year programs. The business community and the general public want to know how much will actually be spent. They do not want to hear about airy-fairy 10-year programs that may or may not eventuate. The federal ALP government will not be in office in 1 year's time, let alone during a further 10. Its audacity in making commitments for such long periods is outrageous to say the least.

Let me cover 3 specific items. The federal members have talked about some \$460m of programmed expenditure, \$370m-odd if the airport redevelopments are excluded. But how much cash is to be spent in the next year? We have not been able to find out exactly, Mr Speaker. However, the most generous estimate would put the amount at \$50m. That is \$50m out of \$460m. The government has not only included work for the next 5 years on various projects, including Tindal and the army base, but has deliberately carried out some extra trickery. It has included, for example, stage 1 of Tindal.

Mr Leo: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The minister knows full well that he cannot reflect on the integrity of members of other Houses. I have let him go a few times, Mr Speaker, but I believe that he should not be allowed to continue to accuse members of another House of trickery or dishonest behaviour.

Mr SPEAKER: I advise the minister to be very careful in his references to members either in this place or in other parliaments.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, I understand the sensitivity of the members opposite. Of course, what I am reflecting upon is the way in which the federal government's financial packages are put to us. I have deliberately avoided phrases like 'lie' and 'con' because I am well aware that such phraseology would get me into strife.

However, let me come to what is a gross misleading of the Australian public, a gross misleading of Territorians and a gross misleading of the electors in Wanguri. I will explain that gross misleading very carefully for honourable members opposite. When people talk about spending \$460m on capital works - and I use their words not mine - and the amount to be spent in the forthcoming year is really only \$50m at the very most, that has to be termed, at the very least, trickery.

Let me talk about last year's expenditure in terms of money spent. It took us a while to find out from the federal government what it proposed to spend. It was like extracting hen's teeth. What it proposed to spend last year was \$52.3m cash out of a \$100m program, which approximates to what one would normally consider to be the right sort of balance in capital works terms. In the end, however, what did it spend? \$39.2m! That means that \$13.1m disappeared, about 25% of the proposed expenditure. Mr Speaker, I put it to you that it was snaffled out of Territorians' pockets to use in welfare programs elsewhere. That is an outrage. It is an outrage because our federal ALP representatives have not accounted for it. Last year, not once but numerous times, they were asked where the cutbacks in defence were and where the cutbacks on Coonawarra were. They were asked to explain but they said not a word. This year's financial statements, however, contain the evidence. More than \$13m has gone.

My final point relates to roads. The Northern Territory's federal ALP members made big waves about the \$38.5m capital works program for roads in the Northern Territory. What they forgot to tell Territorians is that that \$38.5m represents a \$0.5m reduction in actual dollars and a 7% to 8% reduction in real terms. We might have been able to cop that if the federal minister had not yesterday put out a press release in which he announced that funding on an Australia-wide basis had gone up by nearly 10% or \$120m. The nature of the Territory's road system is such that normally we would expect to receive approximately \$2m out of such an increase, but what did we receive? A \$0.5m cut.

What are our federal ALP representatives doing as they walk the corridors in Canberra? They always say that they are the only ones people can trust to gain benefits for the Territory. I think it is time they stopped going to Canberra.

Mr Speaker, let me give you another fact in relation to that \$38.5m. The federal government has direct responsibility for the national highway system and, in the Territory, that system has to be funded from that amount. Three years ago, this Territory received \$30m in capital works for highways. This year it is \$20m, although the Victoria Highway is nowhere near finished. We had hoped to have the Stuart Highway and the Barkly Highway finished within 2 years. We have to keep maintaining roads at a reasonable level and we have to keep using funds for roads maintenance. Because of the constraints imposed through the federal budget, the Stuart Highway and the Barkly Highway will not be finished until 1998. That is totally unacceptable to this government and totally unacceptable to Territorians. The federal members did not mention that during the Wanguri by-election campaign. Their approach does not necessarily involve what I would call lies, but it certainly involves trickery.

Flood Mitigation in Alice Springs

Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In recent times I have not noticed any reports on the progress of flood mitigation measures for the Todd. Has the minister anything to report on progress in this matter, which is of interest to the town of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I appreciate the question from the member for Sadadeen. Indeed, the member for Braitling has raised this issue with me on numerous occasions. I believe that both honourable members will shortly be very pleased. I do not wish to pre-empt the Treasurer's budget speech, which he intends to deliver in 5 minutes time, but I advise the honourable member that the matter he is concerned about will be handled by the Treasurer in the context of the budget.

Nhulunbuy Wharf

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he yet able to assure me and my constituents that the publicly-owned general cargo wharf at Nhulunbuy is able to be used by all shipping companies wishing to use the facility under fair and equitable circumstances or is the Nhulunbuy wharf, in fact, still operated virtually as a publicly-owned private monopoly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Nhulunbuy knows very well that the facility at Gove is owned and operated by Perkins Shipping. He is well aware that some government funds were used towards construction of the wharf. I emphasise the words 'towards construction'. We did not construct it. The honourable member is also aware that shipping companies are able to obtain access. I am sure that the honourable member is well aware that there is considerable argument at present about the amount being charged for the use of the facility. Rights of access and rates for some government vessels and for fishing boats are written into the agreements with Perkins. In relation to cargo vessels, I have had assurances from Perkins Shipping that it is more than happy to negotiate reasonable and appropriate rates with all other parties who wish to use the facilities. I would trust that that will happen.

Telecom Services to Aboriginal Communities

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT:

When will the Northern Territory government's legal action against Telecom on behalf of Aboriginal communities be brought to court or, alternatively, has Telecom undertaken to provide essential communications services for those communities, as it is bound to do under its charter?

Mr Bell: On your capital works program too, Barry.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I heard an interjection from the member for MacDonnell about capital works. I think he should treat the question a little more seriously

given that the member for Stuart, in particular, has mentioned in this Assembly the need for better telephone communications within his electorate. It surprises me to see the mirth of the member for MacDonnell when a serious question that is obviously very important to his constituents is raised in this Assembly. However, I am learning to live with the member for MacDonnell and the way he approaches things.

It is regrettable that the Northern Territory government has been forced to take legal action to bring Telecom to the point of doing what it is supposed to do. The matter is complex but I will try to make it simple for the purposes of my response to the honourable member's question. Particularly for the member for MacDonnell, I will make it as simple as I possibly can.

There are 13 remote communities which lack decent communication services and Telecom is obliged to provide those services. Telecom has been aware of this for years and our efforts to secure any sort of appropriate timetable for the delivery of services have come to nought. There are not many occasions when I find myself in total agreement with the Central Land Council and the Northern Land Council but, on this issue, I can say that we are united.

The communities are due to be served by the Digital Radio Concentrator System or DRCS. The Territory government accepts that this cannot be delivered immediately, but wants Telecom to provide interim satellite telecommunication to the communities until that occurs. Telecom, however, has offered specific communities telecommunication services via its ITERRA satellite services, but at a price greater than that which should be applicable to remote area communities. Telecom is offering a service at a cost appropriate to a commercial concern such as a substantial goldmining operation. This is much greater than the price which is gazetted under section 11(6) of Telecom's act for services to remote area communities.

In the case of Ngukurr, Telecom installed the ITERRA service and then charged the community at the greatly increased rate. On the instructions of the Ngukurr Community Council, the Territory government is now seeking to recover from Telecom about \$37 000 which we judge the community has been overcharged. This matter has been set down for a Federal Court hearing on 15 September.

Separate from the action the government has now started, there are further legal proceedings against Telecom on behalf of 13 other communities. For the benefit of honourable members, the communities are Warruwi, Minjilang, Numbulwar, Bulman, Papunya, Kintore, Mt Liebig, Gapuwiyak, Docker River, Utopia, Lajamanu, Mount Allan, and Willowra. This follows a written response from Telecom that it would connect telecommunication services to those communities only at the higher commercial rate - in other words, under the same arrangements as at Ngukurr.

On 27 July, I received a curious letter from the Central Land Council, suggesting that the Territory government should stop its legal actions and itself pay for part of the cost of the interim services. I do not know who the Central Land Council thinks it is representing on this matter. Certainly, it cannot be the Aboriginal communities mentioned because they fully agree with the Territory government's action on their behalf. It is interesting that the land councils were set up to represent the Aboriginal people of the Northern Territory and yet, on the one issue on which they can stand up and fight, on the representation which I have received from these people, the land councils have ducked their responsibilities.

Mr Firmin: Apologists for the bloody ALP.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ludmilla will withdraw that remark.

Mr Firmin: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, it is also alarming to receive a suggestion that the people of the Territory should pay for what Telecom is obliged to provide under its charter. It is not as though Telecom is strapped for cash. Last year, Telecom's profit was just on \$800m, more than half the entire Northern Territory budget. The cost to Telecom of providing decent and appropriate services to all the communities that I have mentioned would be in the range of \$1.2m.

In this matter, Telecom is clearly not meeting its obligations. The Territory government has undertaken legal action on behalf of the communities in good faith and only after discussions and negotiations led us nowhere. It is shameful that legal proceedings have to be brought to bear to bring this massive organisation to account and to force it to do what it was set up to do: to provide a service to Australians.

Once again, I express my absolute disbelief at the way in which this question was considered a joke by the member for MacDonnell, who should be representing his constituents in the manner in which the member for Stuart represents his. Even in his maiden speech, the member for Stuart mentioned the lack of telecommunications in his electorate and I wish that the member for MacDonnell would treat the matter as seriously as does the member for Stuart.

Doctor's Gully Property - Transfer of Title

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

I refer to the transfer of title of the Treasurer's Doctor's Gully property, dated 28 June 1989. Did he inform the media at the time that the transfer was to take advantage of the difference between Commonwealth personal tax and company tax rates? As Treasurer, was he not aware of a further advantage - that is, that he intended to raise duties in this budget on precisely this sort of transaction from 4% to 5% and has he thus, through inside knowledge, saved himself and his company more than \$5000?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will take the honourable member's question on notice. I do not think that, at any stage, I informed the media of the purposes of the action, as he implied. I will have to check the transcripts and I will be happy to respond to his question later during these sittings.

Reconstruction of Darwin and Alice Springs Airports

Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

This question may be a little untimely. However, I have been asking it consistently for the last 7 months. What progress has the FAC made on reconstruction works at the Alice Springs and Darwin Airports?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is correct that the member for Casuarina has been asking questions about this matter for quite some time and so have the citizens of the Northern Territory. There is some good news. I understand that contracts for some works have been let or are about to be let for the completion of some of the interim facilities which were commenced back in 1984-85, such as the water tower, for which tenders close on 24 August. The partially completed water tower remains in place as a token of the discontinuation of the project by the federal government in 1985. A couple of other minor ancillary projects are also proceeding and I am pleased to acknowledge the commitment by the FAC in that regard.

Honourable members would be aware that, about 3 weeks ago, the federal Public Works Committee came to Darwin to appraise the project and to assess once again whether the extent of work and the value was in the best interests of the taxpayer. Of course, this flies in the face of the so-called commercialisation of the Federal Airports Commission which was to take the matter out of the federal government's direct control. We are well aware, however, that that is another charade and that the FAC is totally answerable to the federal government, the minister and the bureaucratic processes. It cannot even engage people on a higher level than that agreed to by the federal government, if any expertise or whatever is needed.

I put it to Senator Collins and Warren Snowdon some 18 months ago that the project would be delayed by bureaucratic red tape associated with the FAC in its attempts to get on with the job, and that problem has still not been addressed. As I understand it, all of the matters which have arisen as a result of last minute concerns raised by the airline companies have not been resolved. I understand that the airline companies are very concerned about the rates which they may have to pay. The general aviation industry is also

concerned about the rates that they may have to pay for the use of facilities which have been put in place by the taxpayer over a period of decades. Those concerns relate to potential increases of 3 to 4 times the current rate up to 7 times the current rate. Those rates are not just a matter of concern to the companies involved but will eventually be the concern of all users of the facilities.

Those questions should have been asked when Senator Collins and the federal member, Warren Snowdon, made their announcement on 19 August 1988. The ironic coincidence is that that is the same date, though 12 months later, as last Saturday's by-election. In their circular to Wanguri electors, those 2 federal representatives again claimed: 'What we promise, we deliver'. Once again, I ask when? In their circular, Senator Collins and Mr Snowdon claimed that construction of the new airport terminals 'is now under way'. It is not. On 19 August last year, the 2 federal representatives stated that a transfer would occur within a month - that was, by the end of October - and that construction would commence by the end of that year. That date was then revised to April this year and, later, to November this year.

Operators in the general aviation area in Darwin have expressed some concern that the lease has not yet been transferred to the FAC. I am pleased to pass on assurances that that will not affect the construction program. However, at least 3 operators are concerned that their subleases have been held up causing delays in extending their facilities.

As far as the commencement of construction is concerned, we were all aware that, in the case of a big project like this, some period of time would be required for design development and the calling of tenders. Originally, we were given to believe that tenders would be called in July for a design construction package. Those tenders still have not been called. I am assured that that is probably almost entirely due to the fact that the FAC has not been able to come to full agreement with the airlines, who will be the major users, and that those tenders might go out some time in the near future. In my humble view, that will not by any means allow commencement of the project by November, as re-promised by the federal members. It really is time for them to come clean and to answer a simple question: is the federal government's red tape and bureaucratic control of the FAC the cause of part of the delay?

Territorians have had enough. We waited a long time for the federal coalition to announce in 1983 that the project would proceed, and we have waited 5 years since early 1985 when Peter Morris announced that he would have a 6-month review. People are still asking the question, and I will continue to ask it. We need some positive answers, not hollow promises. There are 2 ALP federal politicians who, to use their words, 'put their necks on the line' on 19 August 1988 ...

Mr Dondas: Collins will not do it. He wants to become a minister. He will not rock the boat.

Mr FINCH: ... and this electorate will keep them to that commitment. It will be necks for sure.

Doctor's Gully Property - Transfer of Title

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

Basically, I will repeat the second half of my earlier question, which the Treasurer did not attempt to answer.

Was the Treasurer not aware, at the time he transferred title of his Doctor's Gully property, that he intended to raise duties in this budget on precisely that sort of transaction from 4% to 5%, with the effect of increasing the amount of duty that would have to be paid?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I was not aware of what the Northern Territory Cabinet would decide as far as revenue options for the Territory budget were concerned. At the time of making the decision, I was acting on advice from my accountant, received earlier this year, that my wife and I should establish a company structure to run the financial affairs of the business that we own. His advice was that the appropriate course was to have the new arrangements come into effect for the financial year commencing 1 July this year and, indeed, that is what we did. Those actions were commenced ...

Mr Ede: Doctor's Gully smells to heaven.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PERRON: ... prior to budget deliberations. If the honourable members opposite are implying that a member of the government, particularly a Cabinet member, in fact is unable to continue his personal affairs because of his role as a Cabinet member, then ...

Mr Smith: There is a pretty fair conflict of interest.

Mr Coulter: Bring on a substantive motion for a censure motion. Go on. Do it now!

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, I reject any implication by the opposition that I was aware that the Territory Cabinet would take an option to increase stamp duty on higher value properties in this particular budget at the time these decisions were made by my family in consultation with my accountant.

Federal Funding of Aboriginal Organisations

Mr HATTON to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I read in the media this week that the honourable minister had written to the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs expressing concern about funding for Aboriginal organisations. Would the minister please explain the concerns that led him to write such a letter and inform the House whether he has received any response?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for the question. As members would be aware, the federal government has established a range of community organisations over the years in relation to Aboriginal people. I could refer, for example, to Tangentyere, Jurnkurakurr or Kalano, which have been directly

funded by the Commonwealth government for many years. They also receive substantial funds from the Northern Territory government. Members would be very much aware that, a few years ago, the ADC unilaterally withdrew its funding from Tangentyere in Alice Springs. As a consequence, the Northern Territory government, through the Department of Community Development, was forced to pick up the tab in that year and following years for basically the whole of its operations, whether or not they were local government operations which were being funded by the Department of Community Development in other cases. The Office of Local government is now picking up the tab for Tangentyere, essentially in toto.

We thought at first that the action of the federal government in unilaterally withdrawing funds from Aboriginal organisations was perhaps an aberration which was just occurring in 1 or 2 cases. However, a clear pattern is now emerging in which the federal government establishes community organisations for Aboriginal people, funds them for a short time and then withdraws funding without notice, without consulting the Northern Territory government and without consulting the Aboriginal people, in the expectation that the Northern Territory government will pick up the tab through the Office of Local Government.

As I said, this occurred with Tangentyere a few years ago and it has now happened with Jurnkurakurr. Honourable members have heard about the problems being faced by Jurnkurakurr because the federal government has withdrawn funding, expecting the Northern Territory government to meet the shortfall immediately. This government recognises its responsibility to Aboriginal people and is prepared to support Aboriginal people. I would defy anyone here to indicate that the funding provided to the Northern Territory Aboriginal people is insignificant. The funding provided by the Office of Local Government for Aboriginal people and Aboriginal organisations outstrips federal government funding time and time again.

When we look at the funding patterns in terms of the role of the Office of Local Government and the role of the federal government, we see that the federal government provides approximately \$6m spread across all local governing bodies in the Northern Territory, including municipal councils and Aboriginal organisations and councils. The Northern Territory government contributes 3 times that amount for the same purpose, and it is the only state or territory in Australia to do so. The fact is that, this year, the people of the Jurnkurakurr outstation organisation have lost federal government support. We are expected to pick up the tab. The Kalano organisation in Katherine has also been told that the federal government will no longer provide funding. The federal government has determined that funding of these organisations falls within the local government responsibilities of the Northern Territory government. We know that many of the functions performed by those organisations are not the responsibility of local government. There was no consultation. We heard about the funding cut to Kalano when its representatives came to us and said: 'This is what the federal government has said. Here is the letter. It is not going to give us any money'.

In February, I wrote to Hon Gerry Hand, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra, and I have not yet had a reply. I have written again this week. Hopefully, I will get a response from the honourable minister this time. The facts are that, without any consultation with the Northern Territory government and without any consultation with Aboriginal people, the federal government, through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, is gradually withdrawing funding from Aboriginal people and expecting the Northern Territory to pick up the tab. That is not occurring in relation to local

government alone. I can also cite education, health, and transport and works. On basically every issue that you wish to think of, Mr Speaker, we are being asked to pick up the tab.

That is fine. We recognise our responsibility. However, we are not receiving the funds to enable us to carry it out. In the past, a sum of money was provided to the Northern Territory government to pick up local government responsibility for 50 councils. There are now 400 or 500 such councils but no additional funding has been provided. The federal government picked up the tab initially and then withdrew without providing any extra dollars to us. It is expecting us to pick up the tab from the very small sum which it provides - \$6m a year for local government right across the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory is already disadvantaged in comparison with the states in that regard but we are being asked to pick up the tab.

Two-thirds of untied funds to Aboriginal councils currently come from Northern Territory government coffers. One-third of total local government funds across municipal, community and other local governing bodies come from the federal government. That is simply not adequate. I certainly hope that the federal minister will respond to my letter on this occasion and that he will not continue to treat Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory in this cavalier fashion.

Alice Springs Casino

Mr FLOREANI to MINISTER for TOURISM

The ABC 7.30 Report last week made several serious allegations regarding the Alice Springs casino, in particular, that security surveillance by casino inspectors was interfered with, that money was laundered to the extent of \$80 000 per month and that chips were purchased with rubber cheques. These allegations are very serious. Will the minister advise whether the allegations are true or not?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for his question because, at last, we are in a position to address matters which have been raised continually in the media without anybody really standing up and asking the questions.

Let me go back to the start of these allegations. Les Rochester of the 7.30 Report approached me on 26 July asking me to accept an interview on the subject of allegations about cheque cashing facilities at the Alice Springs casino. The allegations related to incorrect procedures being adopted by the casino in relation to cheque cashing facilities. The reporter concerned did the interview with me. He had in his possession a number of photostat copies of government inspector day-book entries. These photocopies were made by a former government casino inspector whilst he was in the employ of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission, one Mr Michael Cafe. The photocopies were made at 6 am on 12 December 1988, whilst Mr Cafe was on sick leave. Mr Cafe obtained entry using his ID card, via the security staff of the casino, and spent some 40 minutes in that office. He left carrying his own personal possessions and papers. Later that morning, Mr Cafe came into the office and resigned. I understand that he was, or had been, the secretary of the Territory Nationals in Alice Springs. The photocopied documents were passed on to Mr Rochester, who thought that they warranted investigation.

I would now like to deal as clearly as I can with the problems as perceived by Mr Rochester. I will deal first with the cheque cashing procedures. At the Alice Springs casino on 24 December 1988, a client cashed a \$15 000 cheque. Subsequently, on 2 January 1988, he cashed a \$5000 cheque, making a total of \$20 000 cashed. As members would possibly be aware, there is a written ministerial direction to casino managements, one of a number of such directions, requiring that any cheque presented through the cashier's cage must be cashed within 10 days. On 6 January 1988, the customer asked the casino not to bank the cheque as to do so would embarrass him and the bank would probably return the cheque.

On 23 March, the Alice Springs casino made application to the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission to amend the presentation period. I stress that the casino was already in breach of the 10-day banking rule. This was considered by the commission and the casino has advised verbally that its application had been denied. On 7 April, a written instruction was issued to that effect. On 20 May, the customer paid the casino \$3000 to reduce the outstanding amount of \$20 000 to \$17 000. A new cheque for \$17 000 was written.

Mr Smith: By whom?

Mr POOLE: By the client. In other words, he said that he wanted to reduce the \$20 000 by paying \$3000 cash. He also wrote a new cheque for \$17 000. At this point, I received a visit from the government casino inspector in my Alice Springs electoral office. He informed me that the Alice Springs casino was not complying with ministerial directions with regard to the banking of outstanding cheques. I immediately telephoned the Chairman of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission and instituted an audit. The audit was done ...

Mr Smith: Four months after, the minister is advised. Righto.

Mr POOLE: I beg your pardon?

Mr Smith: Four months after the cheque bounced, you were advised. Right? Fine.

Mr POOLE: The audit was done. I was not even the minister at the time the whole episode originally started, I believe. However, that is irrelevant.

The audit was done on 24 May and a written instruction was given to the casino to bank the cheque. On 25 May, the cheque for \$17 000 was banked. On 7 June, the cheque was returned marked 'refer to drawer'. It should be pointed out that casino taxes are paid on the basis of gross profit, and no distinction is made between cash or cheques. No deductions from gross profit are permitted whether or not cheques are honoured by the bank. At this point, the cheque became a commercial debt of the casino. I understand that this outstanding amount of \$17 000 has been reduced by \$2000, and the debt currently stands at \$15 000.

The operators of the Alice Springs casino were requested to show cause why their casino manager licence should not be terminated. Their response ...

Mr Ede: When?

Mr POOLE: Immediately after the audit was done.

Their response was to plead for mitigation as no material gain was obtained, and their interest was purely to protect the reputation of a client. The commission discussed this matter at 2 commission meetings, I believe and, as a result, a severe warning was issued on 24 January 1988 that any further repetition of such behaviour would result in the casino manager losing his licence. The operators of the casino were also warned that their licence would be placed in jeopardy if deliberate breaches of ministerial directions were permitted.

On 4 November 1988, the casino manager brought to the attention of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission the fact that a cheque had been cashed for the same client. This also was clearly contrary to ministerial directions. The relevant direction clearly states: 'Cheque cashing facilities cannot be offered to any client who currently has outstanding debts incurred by "refer to drawer" cheques'. On investigation, I believe it was discovered that 2 cheques totalling \$4000 had been cashed with the money being accepted for play. Interestingly, the duty casino inspector on this occasion was one Michael Cafe. It was his responsibility to ensure that this did not happen. Because of the involvement of the inspector and the fact that the casino manager had declared the incident, the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission decided to take no further action other than to reiterate its previous warning. It did so in a letter which said:

You would be well advised to note my caution to your casino manager and be aware that this commission intends to extend no further leniency to him in the event of any future procedural violation.

Advice was also given in relation to the responsibility of the operator under clause 4.3(d) of the Alice Springs Casino Operators Agreement. I should add that, to this date, no further violation has been noted.

During the course of the interview for the 7.30 Report - and I stress that that took place on 26 July - it was put to me by the reporter that there were a number of other matters that warranted investigation with regard to casino operations. In fact, he had embarked on a trip to Alice Springs with a 7.30 Report team to conduct his own investigations and had met with closed doors and no-comment responses. He asked me specifically about the matter I have just dealt with in respect of cheque cashing facilities. He asked about the poker machine question raised by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. He asked about a possible cover-up of a blackjack game in Alice Springs and about the procedure employed for checking out security officers. I informed him directly that I had no knowledge of the matters which he had raised and that I would have them investigated. I immediately instituted an internal report by the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission and requested the minister responsible for police, the Chief Minister, to ask the NT Police Force to investigate the allegations.

I have received an internal report and I am quite happy to deal with the various aspects of that report. It was quite apparent that, apart from the procedural matter concerning the cashing of cheques, which had already been handled by the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission, there was no substance to any of the other claims. I was filmed on, I think, a Wednesday or Thursday. I invited the reporter to attend my office so he could be aware of the results of my investigation. I produced the report and went through it with him on condition that there be no notation of any names. That was because allegations of this sort can bring to light the names of all sorts of people who have done absolutely nothing wrong. I went through the report with the interviewer and dealt with all the specific items which he had raised.

It is worthy of note that a number of the allegations that he made to me on camera in the initial interview were not even run when the 7.30 Report went to air. It is also interesting to note that, when the ABC decided to run the program some 3½ weeks after the interview was conducted, virtually no mention was made of my having gone through the report with the interviewer to address all the specific items which had been raised. The program was run 2 nights before the Wanguri by-election. In fact, if my memory is correct, the program even covered the results of opinion polls on the Wanguri by-election. I have asked the Managing Director of the ABC, Mr David Hill, to investigate the actions of the 7.30 Report and the reporter concerned under a particular section of the ABC Act which relates to political bias. Certainly, research was not done properly because the report was factually incorrect. The timing of its release was, in my opinion, most questionable. I have asked Mr Hill, under section 82 of the ABC Act, to take action to ensure that my questions are properly investigated and answered.

From time to time, we will always receive allegations concerning activities such as money laundering. On this occasion, the 7.30 Report raised the allegation itself. The allegation was not attributed to the former government casino inspector. It came out of the blue, but I presume it must have been something that he had suggested. The Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission investigated that particular question, as did the police.

I am told that the interim police report says: 'It appears that the allegation has been made by a dissatisfied employee and there is no evidence to suggest that the gentleman referred to actually laundered any money'. The Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission report quite clearly indicates that, far from coming to Alice Springs casino every month and laundering \$80 000, this particular gentleman has been to the Alice Springs casino in November 1988 on 1 occasion and gambled 3 times. He is a Chinese gentleman. Of the total amount of money that he cashed for casino chips and played with, he lost \$6300. He was not paid by cheque and therefore he is either a Chinese launderer or maybe an Irish launderer because he certainly was not making any money out of his activity.

Mr Ede: That is not what laundering is about.

Mr POOLE: I know exactly what laundering is about. I am quite happy to debate laundering with you. There is no evidence of laundering. Certainly, there were no winners cheques issued by the Alice Springs casino during the months of October and November at that time.

I am satisfied that what we have is a disgruntled employee attempting to create a few problems for his former employers and for the casino. His attempt is misguided because everything is being investigated by the casino inspectorate, the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission and the Northern Territory Police. When the Chief Minister receives those police reports, no doubt they will be discussed further.

Port of Darwin - Emergency Procedures

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer the minister to some serious allegations made in the media yesterday by the Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade. Can he advise the House whether the emergency procedures for the Port of Darwin are adequate?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is important to say at the outset that the Port of Darwin has an appropriate evacuation plan in case of all emergencies but, in particular, with regard to nuclear accident emergencies. I was alarmed to hear last Friday, on the eve of the by-election, a statement from Senator Maguire that 'the Port of Darwin did not have any evacuation plan'. That statement was totally incorrect. In fact, not only do we have a plan, but we have a very well developed plan that has resulted from cooperation and involvement of all parties involved - the unions and the TLC, who contributed much of the plan, the Darwin Port Authority, port users and the federal agencies.

I am still astounded by some of the statements made by Senator Maguire, and he made another yesterday morning. He ought to be adopting a far more responsible approach. He crows that he wants this to be a matter of consultation with the Northern Territory government. The first thing that he ought to do when he is about to make an outrageous statement on the eve of a by-election is to contact the appropriate Northern Territory minister with an outline of his concerns. Certainly, there has been a fair bit of confusion, not only in the honourable Senator's mind but in the minds of the local Trades and Labor Council secretary and myself in terms of just what the report of the Senate committee was driving at. Jamie Robertson thought that the matter raised concerned the remote location where ships identified as having radioactivity leaks would be taken. That, however, is not the case. In relation to the 3 remote anchorages, the Senator said yesterday morning that the furthest one was perfect, not only in terms of distance but, more appropriately, in terms of prevailing wind directions.

We have to put this matter in perspective. A very comprehensive plan is in place. It takes effect when a ship receives approval from the federal government or one of its committees to enter the Port of Darwin. All users of the port are then notified, together with the unions, the police and the NT Emergency Service. Additional supplementary notices are issued. This is all in accordance with a very well developed emergency and safety procedure document.

To claim that we do not have such a plan is nonsense. A plan was developed following the adoption of interim procedures in 1984. Those procedures were adjusted and amended in August 1988. This was done mainly at the instigation of the unions and I give them credit for that. I am happy to table a copy of that plan, which I have here in my hand. Despite the Senator's allegations, it is a public document. We distributed it to some 60 appropriate people including port users, union members and all and sundry. The procedures are described in a general sense on 25 noticeboards in the port area. They are in 3 languages, particularly to help personnel from the overseas fishing vessels which frequently use the port.

There has been 1 trial evacuation since the plan was brought down. We learnt some lessons from that and, in fact, a second trial is now overdue. It will occur when the union and the stevedoring companies identify an appropriate time, which will be when there is a large number of workers and a large number of ships on site. That is what is required for a decent exercise. Every week, the siren is tested.

The Senator referred to a 2.2 km evacuation zone requirement. That is nonsense and the Senator knows it. The first immediate automatic zone for evacuation is 600 m. It does not include any of the CBD at all. The

procedures then involve not only evacuation of personnel from the port area but movement of the offending ship from its berth. Providing that there is not an extremely severe leak combined with the worst possible wind conditions and a delay of several hours, there is no panic to evacuate any area beyond the 600 m automatic zone.

We have to get the risks into perspective. If there is a problem, we have in place probably the best plan in Australia for emergency service procedures in evacuating personnel from the general danger region which, I believe, is the region covered in the Emergency Service Plan. Members will have seen recent television announcements concerning the notification of non-cyclone warning systems, which are part of the very comprehensive, workable and regularly trialed procedures in Darwin. Because of our cyclone exposure, these procedures are better than those used anywhere else in the country.

We have been subjected to a heap of scaremongering nonsense ...

Mr Hatton: A few days before a by-election.

Mr FINCH: ... which, coincidentally, has occurred a couple of days before a by-election. The Territory government has a most appropriate plan in place. If constructive suggestions evolve over a period of time, we will of course listen to them. We listened to the unions and other port users last year and we are about acting in a responsible manner. The Senator needs to take a leaf out of our book instead of crying from Canberra. I believe he did not even come here to check on whether there was a plan in place and to ask what is occurring. He did not telephone and say: 'I have a problem'. He did not consult. His actions are in accord with the track record of the so-called consultative government of Bob Hawke.

Doctor's Gully Property - Transfer of Title

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

I have before me a photocopy of the front page of the NT News of Wednesday 14 June. The front page article, which appears under the by-line of Frank Alcorta, is headed 'Tough Cuts to follow Cobourg'. It states that Mr Perron was on the eve of his departure for budget discussions at Cobourg. I understand that those discussions took place on 15 and 16 June. I want to read 2 relevant paragraphs. The first reads as follows: 'The NT Public Service faces tough cuts and there will be increases in some taxes and charges'. And the third last paragraph: 'Mr Perron did not reveal details about the precise nature of the increases in taxes and charges, but it is widely expected the main burden will fall on alcohol, tobacco, stamp duty and payroll tax'.

Mr Perron: Well? A little bit of journalistic speculation.

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, that took place ...

Mr Perron: He was wrong on payroll tax, wasn't he?

Mr SMITH: That meeting took place 2 weeks before the transfer of the Treasurer's Doctor's Gully property, and I ask my question again: was he not aware at the time that he transferred the Doctor's Gully property that his government intended to raise duties on precisely that kind of transaction?

Mr COULTER: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The Leader of the Opposition would be well aware of standing order 121. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to question the character ...

Mr Smith: I am asking a question.

Mr COULTER: ... of the Chief Minister and the motives of the Chief Minister, let him move a substantive motion. Instead of this rumour and innuendo, let us have a substantive motion. Let the Leader of the Opposition move to censure the Chief Minister and we will see how his argument stacks up, Mr Speaker. For the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition, let me read standing order 121:

Questions shall not be asked which reflect on or are critical of the character or conduct of those persons whose conduct may only be challenged on a substantive motion. Any questions critical of the character or conduct of other persons must be asked in writing.

We are happy to have this debate. We are not running away from it. A lot of innuendo, rumour and journalistic licence is being quoted here. The last part of the second paragraph read by the Leader of the Opposition is not a quote from the Chief Minister, not at all.

Mr Smith: That is right.

Mr COULTER: It is wrong in regard to payroll tax, Mr Speaker ...

Mr Perron: And liquor taxes.

Mr COULTER: ... and liquor taxes.

Mr Speaker, I ask the Leader of the Opposition either to bring on a substantive motion or to refrain from asking these questions.

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, the opposition will decide on its tactics, not the government.

Mr Coulter: You will ask questions in the manner that standing orders dictate.

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, I have simply asked a question which requires some information that the honourable Treasurer possesses.

Mr Leo: There is no reflection at all.

Mr Coulter: Well, that is good. You are not reflecting on the Treasurer. Is that correct?

Mr Leo: That is right.

Mr Coulter: That is good. As long as we have that out before we get into it.

Mr Smith: We shall now decide what we do next.

Mr Coulter: That is good, as long as you are not reflecting on the Treasurer. That is the point that I am trying to make.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members are unable to ask questions in such a way that they may or can reflect on a member. However, I believe that, at this stage at least, the Leader of the Opposition is seeking information and, as such, there is no point of order.

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, I have finished my question.

ANSWER

Following that debate, Mr Speaker, from my recollection of the question put to me, the answer was no.

Mr Bell: You had better be careful. You would not want to be misleading the House.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I will again remind honourable members that they are not the only ones interested in the questions or the answers. Members in the public gallery and those people outside listening to the radio broadcasts are also interested. I ask, out of courtesy to those people and other members, that interjections cease.

Visit of Federal Minister for Education

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Recently, it was recorded in the Tennant Creek Times that the Commonwealth Minister for Education, Hon John Dawkins, had visited the Territory and accompanied the Minister for Education on his visits to Aboriginal communities. Can the minister advise us on the outcome of these visits with the federal minister, Mr Dawkins?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I expected a question from the opposition in relation to the visit by the federal Minister for Education, Hon John Dawkins, but unfortunately it has not been asked so far.

The visit of Mr Dawkins was intended really to allow him to see how I am conducting my review into Aboriginal education. I think that it was a very successful exercise, and I am sure that John Dawkins has a better understanding of the problems confronting us in the Northern Territory, particularly some of the serious problems in Aboriginal communities. I believe that also he has a better understanding of the potential for taxpayers' dollars to be wasted in many of those communities.

It is very important that we have a good relationship with the Commonwealth government. It puts many millions of dollars into assisting the provision of services and facilities in the Territory, such as education facilities. In fact, I had hoped that Hon John Dawkins would have the opportunity to open one of those facilities, and I refer to the Mutitjulu School which was completed following the expenditure of a considerable amount of federal government money. Unfortunately, through the intervention of Warren Snowdon, that opening was not able to take place.

I note the fact that the Yuendumu Sports were being held on that particular weekend. Even so, a small ceremony could have taken place to open

the Mutitjulu School, but let us forget that for the moment. The reality is that that community would not even allow the minister to visit it to look at the facility. I find that very difficult to accept. We respected the wishes of the community council but I will say here that I think it is disgraceful that a minister of the Crown, particularly a federal minister, was unable to visit that community to look at that particular facility. The exercise was simply to show him where the taxpayers' dollars are going and what was being built as a result of that expenditure.

As I said, I am disappointed. I do not know what Warren Snowdon is worried about. Is he worried that the Commonwealth government may get on with the Northern Territory government? I think it is time that he stopped this nonsense. John Dawkins came to the Territory at my request. As a result, he had the opportunity to attend the Yuendumu Sports. I was to take him to the sports on Saturday morning, but we were to be there for only an hour and a half and the organisers wanted us to be there longer. For that reason, he came down later and took part in the sports on Sunday.

It is very important that we have a good relationship with the Commonwealth and that our federal ministerial counterparts come to the Territory to see where the dollars are being spent and how we are going about addressing some of the problems. John Dawkin's trip included visits to Finke, Tennant Creek and Ngukurr. I also took him to Kormilda College to see the work being done there. Finally, we went to Oenpelli and he took a jet from there to Yuendumu.

I close by saying that we need to have good relationships with the Commonwealth government in relation to this. I have tried very hard and I am very pleased that John Dawkins came to the Northern Territory at my request. I believe that, as a result of that, he now has a better understanding of the problems ...

Mr Ede: A better understanding of how you conduct ...

Mr HARRIS: ... that we have in the Northern Territory.

You will note in the future what you have just said because he does have a better understanding. You will note that some of the directions that he takes will reflect that understanding.

I am very pleased to inform members that I believe that the visit was successful and beneficial for the minister. I hope that he is able to visit the Territory again and, indeed, to open the Mutitjulu School at some later stage. I hope that the federal member for the Territory, Warren Snowdon, does not try to intervene again and have a community reach a stage of requesting ministers not to visit it.

Compensation for Chamberlains

Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In the absence of the Attorney-General, I direct my question to the Minister for Mines and Energy. It concerns a matter which, I am sure, is of interest and concern to all Territorians and, indeed, many Australians. Is he able to give any information regarding the Chamberlain compensation case?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will take the question on notice. I am not sure whether the Attorney-General will be present tomorrow. However, I will relay the question to him.

Doctor's Gully Property - Transfer of Title

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

Hansard shows that, during yesterday's question time, he was asked if he was aware at the time of his Doctor's Gully transaction that he intended to raise the rate of duty on such transactions in his budget. Hansard shows that the Chief Minister's reply to the question was no. However, in his personal explanation some hours later, he told this House that he was aware of his intention to raise the duty and, as Treasurer, proceeded with his personal transactions regardless.

Does the Chief Minister understand that these admissions, on their own, establish beyond any dispute the case for his resignation? Will he now make good the \$5750 lost to Consolidated Revenue and will he now resign?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is obviously taking whatever opportunities he can find to try to get further media coverage on this matter. I advised the Assembly yesterday that decisions taken, to transfer the title of a property belonging to myself to a company, were taken months before any deliberations on this year's Northern Territory budget.

I am very proud of my record as Treasurer of the Northern Territory. If I had wanted to blemish that record by fiddling the books in some way, I would obviously have recommended to Cabinet, in considering the available tax options, that we not touch stamp duty. That would have avoided any possibility of criticism being directed at me and it would have eliminated any possibility of a debate such as this. Indeed, I could have gone further. I could have argued that, in the interests of business in the Northern Territory, we should perhaps reduce stamp duty. I could then have deferred the transaction that I was proposing at that time, in order to save a bit more money.

An enormous amount of trust is placed in one as Treasurer of the Northern Territory, as it is placed on all ministers of the Northern Territory government. We adhere to that trust very firmly. As I say, I am proud of my record in handling the financial affairs of the Northern Territory. I have no reason whatsoever to feel a shadow of guilt in relation to this matter. I made the decision months earlier - I say 'months' - before we realised that the federal government would propose a cut to the Northern Territory budget which was twice that made to the states and which would necessitate Cabinet considering a tax options paper in the middle of June.

Mr Speaker, I seek leave to table a statutory declaration from my accountant. Honourable members will see that it demonstrates that, as long ago as December last year, this matter was discussed with him. Instructions were given in January 1989 when the decision was taken.

Leave granted.

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition has nothing more substantial to do with the House's time, particularly given that the Northern Territory budget has been brought down recently and he has received a fair bit of criticism over his initial reaction to it, that is a terrible shame. It is a shame that the population of the Northern Territory has to tolerate this waste of the Assembly's time.

Land Tax

Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

The Leader of the Opposition has said publicly that he would favour the imposition of a land tax in the Territory as an alternative to some other taxes. Does the Treasurer have any information about how a land tax would apply and whether it has been considered as a tax form in the Northern Territory?

Mr SMITH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! That question is based on an untruth. I have not said that. I have said that a land tax would be considered by the opposition. I have certainly not said that a land tax would be adopted by the opposition.

Mr Dondas: You said you would favour the imposition ...

Mr Smith: I have not said that.

Mr Dondas: The term that I used was 'in favour of'.

Mr Smith: I have not said that. This is pretty desperate stuff, isn't it?

Mr Setter: It is a fine line.

Mr Coulter: There is no point of order anyway.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I advise the Leader of Government Business that I will rule on whether there is a point of order or not. There is no point of order.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, certainly in speaking on the 7.30 Report a couple of nights ago, the Leader of the Opposition did indeed indicate that the Labor Party, if it ever assumed office in the Territory, would consider the imposition of a land tax in the Northern Territory to raise revenue. He said a couple of other things which were fairly amazing. He said he would have reduced public service expenditure by \$10m this year. In addition, he announced recently that the ALP would be very keen to introduce a \$30m scheme to assist shaky businesses in the Northern Territory.

I hope that the Leader of the Opposition will take the opportunity, when he replies to the budget today, to address some of the questions that I am sure Territorians are interested in. In his considerations of a land tax for the Northern Territory, a tax specifically rejected by the Northern Territory government in the 11 years since self-government, it would be helpful if he advised Territorians of some of the criteria which would be applied in its implementation. Would it apply to all Territorians, thereby creating the inequity of having double taxation on residential properties in municipal areas which, of course, already pay local government rates? Would he exempt residential properties and impose a higher level of impost on commercial properties in the Northern Territory, thereby making the burden carried by productive people in the community even heavier than it is today? It is important that the shadow spokesman on economic affairs in this Assembly clearly advise the community of the sort of criteria he intends to apply in this area.

He has also made an amazing statement about a \$10m cut to public service expenditure which he would have imposed this year. He has an obligation to address that very question in his reply today. Where would he reduce expenditure? We must bear in mind that we are now in the fifth year of savage cuts by the federal government to the Northern Territory's budget and the public service departments have been screwed down very savagely year after year. He tells us now there is \$10m-worth of savings there. I would like to know, and so would others, where he would find that \$10m? Would he take it from education or health services? Would he take it from the TDZ and stop it building the factories which people require to create some jobs? Would he take it from the Tourist Commission which is promoting the Territory and trying to bring tourists here, if we can only keep the aeroplanes flying? Perhaps he could take it from the police or correctional services. Would he take it from the arts or sport and recreation? He should tell us where he would make the cuts. Who are the public servants who would have lost their jobs in the \$10m cut which he believes should have been made in this year's budget?

I hope that the Leader of the Opposition will tell us this morning about where the \$30m will come from to prop up non-commercial business, as announced in his recent economic policy. We are fascinated to know where the money would come from. There may be an opportunity that we have overlooked and, as Treasurer, I would be most interested in hearing where the dollars could be found. Perhaps he thinks that he could get it by adopting the Territory Nationals' 21-point plan and selling off Yulara and the Sheratons. I can assure him that, if he were to terminate those financial arrangements, he would face a debt much larger than \$30m. He knows, as does the Leader of the Territory Nationals, that such a notion is an absolute nonsense.

Mr Tuxworth: That is a load of hogwash, and you know it. You are locked into debt you cannot afford to pay.

Mr Coulter: The last time electricity charges went up was when Ian Tuxworth was Chief Minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Doctor's Gully Property - Transfer of Title

Mr SMITH to DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

In light of the Chief Minister's previous response in which he refused to resign and refused to pay back \$5750, will the Deputy Chief Minister advise the Chief Minister of his responsibilities to the parliament and to the community, and will he, if not for the good of the parliament then for the survival of his own party, advise the Chief Minister to resign?

No answer given.

Mr Smith: You are not prepared to get up and support him, are you?

Mr Coulter: What a lot of nonsense.

Mr Smith: You are not prepared to get up and support him.

Mr Coulter: Why don't you wake up to yourself?

Mr Smith: Good one, Barry.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PERRON: Have you got anything constructive to say today, anything at all?

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Anzac Hill Flagpoles Illumination

Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

By way of preamble, I appreciate the late invitation to the opening ceremony in relation to the lighted flagpoles on Anzac Hill but, even at this late stage, would it not be worth considering inviting the whole town of Alice Springs by means of a few radio advertisements? The flagpoles are a significant gift from the government and from the people of the Territory to the RSL to honour those who gave their lives in various wars. The opening ceremony is a significant event and I believe that it needs to be more widely canvassed.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was pleased indeed to agree to a proposal put to me by the RSL in Alice Springs some months ago. It involved the placing of 2 floodlit flagpoles on top of Anzac Hill, that very prominent lookout in Alice Springs. Those poles would fly the Territory and Australian flags in much the same way as occurs in Darwin at present. I apologise to the honourable member that, as a result of an oversight, an invitation was not extended to him to the opening, which I understand will be held tomorrow evening. Unfortunately, I will not be able to get to Alice Springs to perform that duty myself and I understand that you, Sir, will be performing that duty on my behalf.

Unfortunately, I am unaware of the details of the ceremony and who has been invited. I understood that a group of relevant people had been invited and I am prepared to have a look at what arrangements have been made. If I think there is a need for change, I will certainly issue some instructions during the course of today.

Alice Springs Casino

Mr HATTON to MINISTER FOR TOURISM

Last night, on the ABC television news, an allegation was made that a cheque, additional to those mentioned by the minister in the House during yesterday's question time, was cashed contrary to ministerial directions. An entry in the government inspector's logbook of 30 October, purporting to support that allegation, was shown on television. Can the minister confirm whether the allegation was correct or not and, if it was correct, can he advise what action was taken?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am getting fed up with this constant trial by the ABC. Once again, ABC research is wildly inaccurate and unprofessional. Once again, I have had to write to the Managing Director of the ABC requesting him to investigate the reporting of yet another unfounded allegation. I believe that the ABC, through its public funding, is trying to destroy the credibility of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission and the Alice Springs casino.

Yesterday in question time, I gave a clear and accurate description of a series of events relating to an incident that occurred on 29 October, when a client at the casino cashed cheques to the value of \$6000 and, at the end of gaming, redeemed \$2000 of that amount. I stated that \$4000 was banked and cleared.

The amateur detectives of the ABC 7.30 Report, who have already produced at least 2 poorly researched and unprofessional items, one relating to the prison farm at Beatrice Hill and the other relating to a series of allegations against the Alice Springs casino, have done it again. They have compounded their action by clearly displaying a stolen document on television. I believe that they are trying to justify their original report. However, they failed to point out a number of things to viewers and I quote their words:

Mr Poole said he had no knowledge of any others prior to that date. The 4 cheques Mr Poole referred to do show up in the government inspector's logbook of 30 October. So does one more written 2 days earlier by the same patron for \$4000.

If the researcher had bothered to read the logbook, specifically the entry which has the number 430 on the page, he would have seen quite clearly, in the left hand column, a date which reads 30/10/88 and a time of 20.45 which of course is 8.45 pm. Under the heading of 'Cheques', there is a list of cheques which includes the patron's cheques of \$4000. The very next entry, which is separated by a ruled line after the cheque summary, is clearly marked 20.50, which is 5 minutes after the previous entry. That entry reads: 'Further to above entry, tonight's count produces 4 cheque credits for the patron, 2 x \$2000 and 2 x \$1000'. Despite this entry, the ABC reporter inferred that these were separate transactions. In fact, they refer to the same transaction. The ABC reporter, reading from an illegally obtained document, has again misinformed the public.

I stated clearly in question time yesterday that the patron had cashed \$4000 whilst gaming, which started on the evening of 29 October and continued into the early morning of 30 October. Those entries were written up by the government inspector on duty at that time, who was the secretary of the Territory Nationals in Alice Springs, Michael Cafe.

Government casino control records for the period 28 October through to 30 October, clearly and unquestionably show that, regardless of the date written in the logbook of the cheques, the casino operator accepted those cheques on 29 October. What I cannot understand is why the reporters have decided to set up the ABC as a de facto opposition, particularly when I have given them the opportunity to ask myself and the Chairman of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission whatever questions they need to ask and have said we will explain anything they do not understand. The casino industry is a specialised industry. The casino inspectors are trained to oversee and investigate that industry. I do not expect an ABC reporter to be able to interpret a government casino inspector's logbook, but I am quite happy to answer any questions on anything that is written on the documents which the ABC obtained illegally.

The ABC may be assured that I will not let the matter rest. The wider community expects it to act responsibly. In a letter to my press secretary, the ABC Director of Television states: 'A key element of ABC editorial guidelines is that the ABC has a duty to report the discussion with all its contradictions provided there is a reasonable and adequately researched basis for the story in the first place'. It is obvious to me that the ABC's strict

editorial guidelines, which apparently attempt to ensure that balance is generally satisfied, have again not been followed. Again, I have taken action under section 82 of the ABC Act to have this report investigated.

Doctor's Gully Property - Transfer of Title

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it true that on a previous occasion, as Acting Chief Minister, the present Chief Minister attacked a member of this House for his use of travel allowance and did that member describe his actions as not illegal but morally wrong? Is it true that, as Acting Chief Minister, the present Chief Minister issued an ultimatum to that member that he must repay the sum contested? Was that member the member for Barkly, another former CLP Chief Minister? I ask the Chief Minister whether he will now apply to himself the same high standards he then demanded of the member for Barkly.

No answer given.

Electricity Rates

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I ask this question of the minister in his capacity as minister with responsibility for the Power and Water Authority.

Is he aware that, in many cases, commercial electricity rates paid by builders using electric power when building homes on rural blocks have subsequently been charged to the occupants of those homes, who continue to pay those commercial rates unknowingly? What will the minister do about this situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, if the member for Koolpinyah would like to give me more details, I will investigate the matter. Is she talking about a builder who uses a buzz-saw from a domestic power source in the construction of another building?

Mrs Padgham-Purich: No. The builder builds a home and the occupier of that home subsequently continues to be charged commercial rates.

Mr Coulter: I will certainly investigate the honourable member's claim and respond to her question during the course of these sittings.

Local Government - Non-release of Federal Funds

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

This question follows a question which the minister answered on Tuesday. It concerned the refusal of the federal Minister for Local Government to release funds to Northern Territory local government bodies. Can the minister advise if any progress has been made in helping those councils obtain their funds? If not, is there anything the minister can do to provide relief to local government councils in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I must inform honourable members that I do not yet have an answer from the federal Minister for Local Government in relation to the release of federal funds to local government in the Northern Territory. I will reiterate some of what I said the other day because I think it is important.

The Grants Commission has provided to me, as it is obliged to do, its figures for the distribution of federal local government funds this year. Those figures were forwarded to the federal minister to allow her to release the funds. I might say here that the federal minister has no other role in this matter. Once the criteria for release of dollars are met, she has no other role but to ensure that the Grants Commission has recommended distribution of funds in accordance with the guidelines agreed between the federal minister and myself. I can affirm that the Grants Commission has done so and that the federal minister agrees that it has done so. However, there has still been no release of those funds to councils in the Northern Territory.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware, funds for councils in the Northern Territory are distributed on the basis of horizontal equalisation. The agreed criteria have been met and, although the federal minister agrees that that is the case, she is not prepared to release the funds. I can only assume that she will not release those funds because the application of the criteria has not led to the situation which she wanted. She believed that there would be a greater flow of funds to smaller councils than has occurred. She has no role to play in that. It is up to the Grants Commission and the Northern Territory government.

I say again that the \$6m-odd that is provided by the federal government to local government in the Northern Territory each year is spread across all local governments. It is distributed to municipal governments, community governments and other local governing bodies which are funded as local government organisations. At present, those governments and organisations require that \$6m in order to continue their efforts for their communities.

I think it is worth saying again that the Northern Territory is the only state or territory government that provides untied funds to any local governing body. We provide in the order of \$11m compared with the federal government's \$6m. Those funds are for the use of community government and other local governing bodies only. They are not distributed to municipal governments. They are to help community government councils and small Aboriginal councils, which members opposite purport to represent. The federal minister is not prepared to provide funds to those councils because the federal government's attempts at social engineering have not paid dividends.

Several courses of action are open to us. We are working on a number of fronts at present, one of which is a legal front. Another option, which is quite practical and which I have in fact taken, is to instruct the Office of Local Government immediately to release the second quarter Territory funds to those councils, that is, some 6 weeks before their release is due. I have done that so that the councils which members opposite purport to represent can continue to function. That shows the determination and the reasonableness of the Northern Territory government. It contrasts sharply with the approach of the federal minister in playing her social games.

As I said the other day, I will not wear this sort of treatment from the Commonwealth government. Last year, the people of Australia and the people of the Northern Territory made it quite clear to the federal government that local government is the responsibility of state and territory governments. That is not denied. The federal minister does not deny that we have stuck by the rules in all this, but she says that she is not releasing the money. I am convinced that it is the federal minister rather than her advisers who has set this game in motion and I am not prepared to wear it. If we are forced to take legal action to have those funds released to Aboriginal communities and other local governing bodies, we will take that legal action.

I think the attitude of the federal minister in this matter is outrageous. It is quite inappropriate for her to hold up funds which have been recommended for distribution under guidelines which she agreed to, simply because those guidelines have not produced the result which she wanted.

Child-care Centre Employees - Registration Scheme

Mr BELL TO MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

I direct my questions to the Chief Minister in his capacity as Acting Minister for Health and Community Services. The questions relate to answers he gave earlier this week.

On Tuesday, the Chief Minister referred to a meeting of child-care centre directors held at Malak Child-care Centre on 17 August. Mr Speaker, you will recall, and I am sure the Chief Minister will recall, and the Hansard shows in any case, that the Chief Minister led this House to believe that child-care workers in the Northern Territory did not press for a registration scheme.

My questions without notice are as follows. When the Chief Minister made that statement, was he aware that minutes of that meeting exist? Was the Chief Minister aware that his account of that meeting was untrue? Presumably the Chief Minister was aware that the secretary of his department represented him at that meeting, and I presume that the secretary informed him of the outcome of the meeting. Can the Chief Minister then explain why he misled this parliament?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not believe that I misled the parliament. I would also like to correct the member for MacDonnell. I am not the Acting Minister for Health and Community Services. I am the minister. The member opposite takes great delight in picking up members of this House on the basis that they should be absolutely correct, and I would have expected him to know that.

In referring, as I did earlier this week, to the outcome of the meeting of directors of child-care centres in Darwin, I note the absence of a motion calling for potential employees to be checked out by government. That was the issue which the Leader of the Opposition raised during the week prior to the Wanguri by-election. He stated that the government should establish a system for checking out the bona fides and the suitability of any person who applies for a job in a child-care centre. What particularly interested me was the outcome of the meeting in relation to that suggestion. I am relying again on memory now because I have not read the papers for a few days. However, I understand that the meeting made no call, certainly no unanimous call, for the government to establish a register of potential workers in child-care centres who had been checked out by the government in terms of police records and other employment bona fides.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I do not believe that I misled the House in any way in my reference to that meeting.

Yambah Station

Mr PALMER to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the Assembly of the position held by the Northern Territory government on the recent events at Yambah Station and their impact upon the excision process in the Territory in general?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is nice to think that, during the course of these sittings, this Assembly is going to consider subjects which have significant impact on the Northern Territory. It is a shame to realise that honourable members opposite, particularly those 2 representing rural electorates in central Australia, have not taken the opportunity by the third day of these sittings to raise the question of Yambah ...

Mr Bell: We have been waiting to find out what you were going to do about it, and the Prime Minister ...

Mr PERRON: Why did you not ask then? No, you are too busy trying to score a few political points across the Chamber.

Mr Bell: I did not have to. It was on the front page of the paper.

Mr Reed: Is that where you get your information?

Mr Bell: You cannot read, Mike.

Mr PERRON: Members opposite are far more interested in a political front page than they are in discussing a subject of great concern to Territorians and one about which we will be hearing a great deal more in the future.

Recent events at Yambah cannot be isolated from the overall issue of Aboriginal community living areas and land claims to public purpose lands. While I can accept in part the frustration felt by Aboriginal groups in what they regard as a legitimate pursuit of living areas, I deplore the recent action in occupying the Yambah lease as unnecessarily provocative.

The Prime Minister and I have had negotiations over the past few months on the whole question of living areas, stock routes and reserves. One of the responsibilities of all governments is to balance the various competing interests, and the Yambah situation is no exception. The Prime Minister, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and myself have all agreed that the Yambah situation is particularly sensitive and complex. It will not be resolved without a concerted and cooperative effort by all parties involved. In the present situation, one of the parties which can contribute to resolution of the situation at Yambah and, indeed, the whole issue of land for living areas, has been driven away from the negotiating table by the federal government's intransigence. The failure of the Commonwealth government to commence the amendments to section 50 of the Land Rights Act, amendments passed by both Houses of the federal parliament in 1987, is a major contributing factor to this unhappy state of affairs.

Honourable members would be aware that the Commonwealth recently proposed to take precipitate action on this issue. It indicated that it intended to add certain areas contained in stock routes and stock reserves to the schedule of the Land Rights Act as Aboriginal land, without any consideration of a hearing in relation to traditional attachment as is required under the provisions of the Land Rights Act. Further, the Commonwealth proposed to establish a Commonwealth tribunal to hear applications for living areas on pastoral leases and recommend compulsory acquisition if necessary. The resulting title would be known as Commonwealth inalienable title. Honourable members are all pretty familiar with that title. If the Commonwealth pursues that course, for the first time in history, the land claim process will be extended to alienated lands in the Northern Territory. Mr Speaker, you can just imagine the reaction of Territorians to that proposition. I propose to make a statement later today on this matter to inform members in further detail concerning the state of negotiations between the Prime Minister and myself.

However, to return to the situation at Yambah, Aboriginal people have a statutory right under Northern Territory law to enter a pastoral lease where they do not ordinarily reside on the land within the meaning of the relevant act. This does not extend to a right of residence. The pastoral lessee in this case, Mr Aaron Gorey, has taken certain legal actions to guard against trespass and to have the occupiers demonstrate that they are in fact acting within the law. Mr Speaker, who can blame him?

There is no easy answer to the Yambah question. Initially, demands were made for 5 or 6 separate living areas on the property. Later, the applicants and their legal advisers, the Central Land Council, refined the proposal to 1 area of around 77 km² to accommodate all groups. As I understand it, the pastoralist was prepared to accede to this request by offering such a living area in the north-east portion of the lease. Unfortunately, it seems that this area has poor ground water potential. The applicant groups, however, want an excision area in the vicinity of Parry Creek, an area which apparently is the heartland of the particular pastoral property. For its part, the government would consider the allocation of funds to locate an adequate water supply on the lease if this would assist a resolution to the Yambah question.

The guidelines for excisions were agreed to a couple of years ago between all parties. They refer to people who reside on pastoral leases, people who resided on pastoral leases in the recent past, or people who can demonstrate forcible removal from a pastoral lease. The land council presented a list of 147 applicants, together with details of their association with the lease. However, a check of the records dating back to 1954 revealed that, in that period, 87 people resided on Yambah at different times. Only 7 of those correlated to the list of applicants that we see today. I mention this mainly to demonstrate that the situation at Yambah is very complex. Indeed, it is far more complex than I have been able to outline here. Sadly, I am not confident of an early resolution to the situation, following advice from the Prime Minister which I received the day before yesterday. I will be elaborating further on that advice in this Assembly later this morning.

Land Tax

Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

Earlier in question time I directed a question without notice to the Treasurer in relation to land tax. The Leader of the Opposition called a point of order in relation to the nature of that question. Therefore, my question to the Treasurer is as follows.

Is he aware of a statement made by the Leader of the Opposition during an ABC radio interview on 22 August? The reporter asked the Leader of the Opposition if he would introduce new taxes if he were the Chief Minister. The Leader of the Opposition said: 'That is one of the options that we obviously have to look at but we are not going to disclose our attitude at this particular stage'. The reporter then asked another question: 'What about land tax?' The Leader of the Opposition replied: 'That is certainly something that has to be seriously looked at. It is something that this government has shied away from. It is something that any government which is serious about extending the tax base has to have a serious look at'.

Is the Treasurer aware of that statement made by the Leader of the Opposition, and is he now in a position to tell us how that tax would apply in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition obviously very much regrets having made the statement at all now because he is trying hard to backtrack. He did use the words that 'it is something that this government has shied away from', indicating quite clearly that the Labor Party is serious about the possibility of a land tax in the Northern Territory. I say to him again that he has a responsibility to advise Territorians in his address on the budget this morning of the sort of criteria he would apply to the application of land tax in the Northern Territory. As a CLP government, we have specifically stayed away from imposing a land tax in the Northern Territory for 11 years. It is a tax that is imposed in some states. We do not believe that it would be equitable to apply it in the Northern Territory.

I am sure that Territorians are very interested in this matter because many of them own land in the Northern Territory. If the ALP is putting itself forward as some sort of alternative government, we want to know exactly what its economic policies are and what it would mean to Territorians if the opposition were putting together this budget today. How would it balance the books - if, indeed, it would try to do so? The Leader of the Opposition has a responsibility to address the question of land tax today in order to clear the matter up.

Katherine Fire Station

Mr TIPILOURA to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister is aware of grave concerns about risk to life and property resulting from the decision to leave the new Katherine Fire Station unmanned from 5 pm to 9 am. He will be aware that all 9 Katherine auxiliary firemen have petitioned his department to reverse this decision. Has he been informed that the change to using the police will result, in many cases, in delays of 20 minutes in response times? Does he accept his responsibility for the protection of life and property in Katherine?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly accept responsibility for the provision of a reasonable level of services to protect the safety of persons and property throughout the Northern Territory. I will take on board the honourable member's concerns in relation to the Katherine Fire Station and examine the matter to see whether I consider the arrangements instituted by the hierarchy of the NT Fire Service to be satisfactory.

Effects of Airlines Dispute

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for TOURISM

The minister would be well aware of the discomfort created by the current airlines strike. Many tourists and visitors to the Northern Territory have been considerably inconvenienced by the strike that is in force at the moment. What action has the Northern Territory government taken to assist passengers stranded as a result of the strike?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the effect of the strike is extremely widespread. Northern Territory government tourist bureaus interstate report that the number of cancellations or disruptions to date has not been great. However, the rapidly emerging problem for the Territory's economy is shown by the fact that forward bookings are currently down by about 25%. Obviously, that relates very closely to the general public's insecurity with regard to travelling arrangements.

The indication in the short term is that the airline pilots' strike will have a disastrous impact on the September to October peak, which is a holiday period and normally is fully booked. Australians will obviously take their holidays in places which are readily accessible by surface transport or private vehicle - places that we are normally in strong competition with anyway such as Noosa, Surfers Paradise, northern New South Wales and Thredbo, the ski field area.

The largest tourist operator in the Northern Territory told me about a fortnight ago that this month would have been the biggest month he had ever had in all the years that he has been in business in the Northern Territory. He has been operating since the mid-1950s and carries literally tens of thousands of people per annum. He said yesterday that he is currently operating at about 50% of capacity. Considerable work had been done around the traps to develop what we believed would be our biggest tourist season ever. A number of foreign television companies were to come to the Northern Territory to film parts of the Territory and return to display our beautiful product in their own marketplaces: Nippon TV, Chilean TV and, I believe, a couple of companies from the UK. All those plans have been thrown into disarray.

With regard to people who are stranded, it must be pointed out that there is still coach capacity. There is certainly still accommodation capacity in the Northern Territory. I do not think that anybody will be out on the streets. Of course, the problem is that, when you are on holiday and have budgeted for a certain period at a particular destination and you suddenly find that you cannot get home or have to use alternative means to get home, you will eventually run out of money. I would like the media to publicise as widely as possible the fact that the Alice Springs Tourist Bureau on 521299 and the Darwin Tourist Bureau on 816611 are available 7 days a week to assist anybody who is stranded. If people do not have accommodation or are unable to return home, we ask them to contact the government tourist bureaus. To date, we have been assisting people. In fact, not many bookings have been lost in the Territory except during the last couple of days. Obviously, some of the slack resulting from cancellations has been taken up by other people who have the financial resources to book additional sightseeing tours, having found themselves staying in the Territory for longer than they had expected. Of course, as people run out of money, the position will worsen, assuming that this industrial impasse is not overcome.

If this dispute continues past the weekend, let me make no bones about the fact that the consequences for the industry will be disastrous. I believe the industry was recovering well after suffering earlier this year as a result of the domestic travel depression that was felt Australia-wide. Not only do we stand to lose much of the hard groundwork that has been put in by the Tourist Commission and the tourist bureaus but the industry stands to suffer financial problems at the end of this current peak period, which is normally the one time of year when operators can really obtain a significant return on their investments. Normally this is the time of the year when occupancy rates in hotels and motels are at their peak. At present, occupancy rates are starting to fall rapidly. People are moving out of the more expensive accommodation into lower priced accommodation and eventually they will make the decision to try to get home using any means available to them.

Let me assure Territorians and members of this House that the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau has been ready to assist stranded passengers and will continue do to so. It is open 7 days a week to assist any stranded passengers who need that assistance.

Alice Springs Casino - Police Inquiry Report

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

I address this question to the Chief Minister in his capacity as the minister responsible for the Northern Territory Police Force. Will he make publicly available the NT Police Force inquiry report into the operations of the Alice Springs casino?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, recently 2 matters were referred to the Territory police in relation to the Alice Springs casino. I have not seen either report and I look forward to receiving them. When that occurs, and if I consider that their contents are appropriate for tabling, I will certainly table them.

Mr Smith: How can the minister have seen the reports if they have not been through you first?

Mr PERRON: The minister is able to receive reports from the police force if ...

Mr Smith: So they do not go through the police minister first? What a funny system you operate!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PERRON: I will look into this matter and advise the House further. I was asked whether I would table the reports.

Mr Leo: Would you make them publicly available? I suppose tabling them is the same thing.

Mr PERRON: I have not as yet read the reports and, upon doing so, will make a decision as to whether or not their contents are suitable for tabling. Honourable members would be aware that not every report prepared by the police is suitable for tabling. Until I have looked at these reports, I really cannot make that decision.

Pacific School Games - Government Assistance

Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

A press release was issued recently stating that the construction of the international outdoor stadium at Marrara will be completed. I welcome that statement made by the Chief Minister. My question to the Minister for Education is: what assistance will the Northern Territory government provide to assist the conduct of the Pacific School Games in Darwin in 1992?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Chief Minister's announcement last week was very positive. It is a pity that it did not receive the coverage that it deserved because the Pacific School Games will be the largest sporting event ever held in the Northern Territory. Something like 3000 primary and secondary students will take part in the games, which are the equivalent of an Olympic Games for young people in the region. The 3000 participants will come from 23 countries around the Pacific as well as all the states and territories of Australia.

To give honourable members an idea of the scale of the games, I refer to the Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane, where 1500 athletes from 45 countries competed. At the Edinburgh Commonwealth Games, 1600 competitors from 26 countries competed. The Masters Games, which have been a great success in the Northern Territory, involved something like 2500 competitors. However, these Pacific School Games in 1992 will involve 3000-odd competitors. It is expected that an additional 3000 parents and officials will attend, giving a total of 6000 visitors to Darwin. I do not need to spell out for honourable members the tremendous economic benefits that such an event will have.

During the next 3 years of planning, the government will be giving financial assistance. Announcements about that assistance will be made as time goes by. I might say that the responsibility for organising the games lies with the Australian Sports Council. The Northern Territory School Sports Council will be responsible for ensuring that everything is in place to meet the requirements of the games.

This year's budget makes provision for a synthetic track, which will be constructed by 1992. We will be able to put on a wonderful show here and there will be definite benefits to the Northern Territory and Darwin in particular. The Pacific School Games are of major importance throughout the Pacific region. The scale of the games needs to be emphasised. They will bring 6000 people to Darwin. Last week's announcement was very positive and it is a pity that it did not receive a great deal of media coverage. I would like to wish all the people who will be involved in that exercise well. It will put enormous strain on Brian Deslandes, the Chairman of the NT School Sports Council, and his members, but I am sure that, with government assistance in funds and in kind, they will be able to carry out their duties in a most professional manner.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

Alice Springs Casino - Police Inquiry Report

Mr PERRON (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I wish to clarify an answer I gave earlier in relation to police reports.

I understand that, in fact, an interim report of only a few lines on the subject of allegations of money laundering at the Alice Springs casino did

come into my office and was possibly handed to me during the last couple of days. A copy was given to the minister responsible for racing and gaming, as is quite reasonable. I do not recall seeing that report although it is probably on my desk with many other papers. I understand that it reports briefly on current progress in examining the matter and implies that a further report is coming.

Mr Smith: What about the report into the blackjack table?

Mr PERRON: I have probably received an interim police report on one of the matters which was referred to them recently.

Year 10 Examinations

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer the Minister for Education to allegations that I passed on to him last night which would indicate that the security and integrity of the forthcoming Year 10 examinations have been compromised. Is it true that some students who have been picked for interstate excursions will be allowed to sit the examinations early? Are some of the teachers who are involved in developing the examinations now involved in coaching students for those exams, with a possibility of subconsciously giving their students some advantage? There are allegations that the exams were trialed at Year 11 level at Darwin High. There is also the possibility that the examinations were accessed and copies taken from the Mac computer in the Professional Services Branch.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for Stuart for his question. The matter which he raised last night is a very serious one. As I indicated at that time, we were aware that moves were being considered to discredit the Year 10 assessment. There were 3 ways in which that could be done. First, there was a proposal to run a program of civil disobedience. That was floated by COGSO and the Northern Territory Teachers Federation. The people involved in that exercise should be ashamed of themselves but I am very pleased to note that it was not persisted with. The second possibility was that papers or information would be leaked, and the honourable member referred to that. As I mentioned, contingency plans are in place to cover that particular situation. The third manner in which the exams could be discredited was to arrange for students to be away from their school during the course of the examination period.

I might say that schools have known for a long time that the exams were to be held at the end of September. Indeed, all schools were notified in March that that was to be the case. Nevertheless, yesterday I received a ministerial seeking approval for overseas travel for a number of students, including some Year 10 students. That is a disappointment. I will come to the answer to the question in a minute but I think it is important that I cover all of this. It is a disappointment when the school concerned knew in March that the examinations were to occur. It should not have involved Year 10 students in that particular excursion and I have not approved that travel.

A number of issues were raised last night by the member for Stuart. The first referred to student exemptions and the possibility that students permitted to sit for the exams early could pass on information to other students. I indicate that some students have received exemptions and I stress that it is not unusual for that to occur. It is a normal practice. There are certain circumstances in which that occurs. These include hospitalisation, correspondence, participation in national competitions and so forth. The small number of students involved will sit for the exams after other students or at the same time. There is therefore no risk to the main body of students.

The second question related to teachers involved in panels setting the examinations whilst continuing to teach Year 10 classes and the possibility that they could subconsciously teach to the test. Mr Speaker, that really impugns the integrity of the teachers involved, who have all signed a declaration.

Mr Ede interjecting.

Mr HARRIS: Just listen to the answers I am giving. All examination systems involve practising teachers in the setting of examinations. It is not uncommon and it is a matter of trusting good people. The other aspect that must be realised is that, in the maths area particularly, the examination covers the entire curriculum. People teaching Year 10 students would be aware that the examinations will be based on the whole curriculum. To answer the question asked by the member for Stuart, there are teachers on the panel which set the examination and those teachers are teaching in the schools.

The third question related to the actual tests being trialed with Year 11 students at Darwin High School. Inquiries with Darwin High School to date have revealed no evidence that this has occurred. I am investigating that matter further because I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that if there is any risk whatsoever of the examination papers being out in the community at this time, a different examination will be set for the end of September.

The fourth question concerned access to a hard disk. I think the honourable member was referring to the fact that, before security was fully in place, there was a possibility that information could have been obtained from the computer. As I mentioned last night, it is a stand-alone computer but, during the period when papers were transferred to soft disk for safe storage, it was possible that information could have been obtained. Again I say that this is a very serious allegation. In fact, the police have been called in to investigate that particular matter.

I mentioned last night, and I need to mention here today again, that contingency plans are in place and, regardless of any campaign which may be launched to discredit the Year 10 assessment package introduced by the government this year, we will ensure that the integrity and confidentiality of examination papers is maintained. I have made that very clear. If the member for Stuart has information, he has the responsibility to provide me with the source of that information ...

Mr Ede: I most certainly will not.

Mr HARRIS: He says that he most certainly will not. He has raised a very serious matter. If he has information which can assist in an investigation of this matter, he should provide it.

Mr Ede: I will provide you with the information but I will not provide you with the names of my sources.

Mr HARRIS: As I have said, the police have been called in to investigate this matter further. I can assure parents that contingency plans are in place so that, if there is any risk at all that the examination papers are out in the community, that matter can be addressed by the board.

Economic Indicators in Alice Springs

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

I understand that the southern region of his department has just concluded a survey of economic indicators in Alice Springs. Does that survey indicate a positive or negative response for the Alice Springs area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, no doubt all honourable members will be pleased to discover that the latest economic indicators point to a distinctly resurgent Alice Springs' economy. The southern region office of the Department of Industries and Development has completed such a survey and, from today, it will be releasing a series of graphs and charts to the Alice Springs community. Those graphs, 20 of them in all, paint an accurate picture of the town's economic state. They will be updated regularly and made available to the public as part of the government's strategy to keep the community informed about changing economic circumstances, thereby providing vital information to the private sector and contributing to economic opportunities.

The information is based on statistics drawn from sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Valuer-General's Office and the Motor Vehicle Registry. Not all of the graphs tell good news, but most of them certainly do, at the very least showing sharp upturns during the past 12 months. I will provide honourable members with some examples.

The average sale price of a detached dwelling has risen from about \$86 000 in 1987-1988 to about \$94 000 in 1988-89. At the same time, the price of residential land has fallen from about \$33 000 to \$23 000. According to the latest figures available, receipts from room nights in Alice Springs hotels and motels have increased sharply, from about \$330 000 to over \$500 000. Telephone service supplies have risen from \$9000 to \$9500.

The volume of freight carried into Alice Springs has fallen slightly, but freight carried out has increased quite sharply. Indications from revenue at Alice Springs Airport indicate that the number of passengers coming through the terminal continues to be very steady - obviously, that was written before the airline pilots' strike. Motor vehicle registrations have bottomed out. In terms of the federal Treasurer's well-known J-curve, numbers fell between 1984-85 and 1987-88, but rose vigorously in 1988-89. The value of horticultural products has increased in spectacular fashion from about \$250 000 in 1986 to over \$1m in 1988. Cattle turn-off numbers have stayed steady and enrolments in schools are on the increase again after a slight fall between 1987 and 1988.

Mr Speaker the graphs are most interesting and I would be pleased to provide copies to interested honourable members on application. I will hand the Leader of the Opposition a copy now. Copies for other members will be made available during the course of the day if they so wish.

The graphs provide the same detail as those provided by the Treasurer in Budget Paper No 6. As I say, they are warts-and-all graphs and indicators. Some are good and some are bad but I am sure that, like yourself Mr Speaker, honourable members will be interested to see that some of the figures which have been quoted about the depressed state of the Alice Springs economy and the Centralian economy generally simply are not accurate. Things are going very well down there. Times are still tight and hard but there are some breakthroughs and these graphs indicate that quite vividly.

Darwin High School

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In asking this question, I remind the minister that Darwin High School is located in his own electorate. Can he confirm that Year 12 students at that

school, now only weeks away from their final examinations, have no qualified French teacher, even though a qualified French teacher was made redundant at this time last year and paid many thousands of dollars in redundancy pay? Can he also confirm that those students have to attend word-processing classes after hours because the school has no teacher available in this area, and a teacher from Casuarina High School has to take the classes? Has the school also been forced to bring a teacher back from medical retirement to teach accounting and is it true that other teacher shortages are so severe that two Band 2 teachers are taking on double teaching loads and at least one teacher who is paid to work part-time is actually working full-time in an attempt to get children through the exams? Given the heroic efforts of the teachers and the damage to the students' future, what excuse is the minister - who is also the local member - offering to parents, students and teachers about this sorry situation?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I advise all honourable members that question time is limited to 1 hour and long questions seeking considerable detail, such as that just asked by the honourable member, as is his right, should more appropriately be placed on notice.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member for Stuart raised this issue on another occasion. I will say to him initially that he ought to get his facts right because Darwin High School is not in my electorate. Perhaps he ought ...

Mr Ede: I will take you up on that. You don't know.

Mr Dondas: He knows his own electorate.

Mr Ede: He doesn't. I checked.

Mr HARRIS: It is disappointing when teachers leave schools in the middle of the year. Indeed, people who are prepared to do that should give some thought to changing their profession. Most teachers realise that they have a responsibility to the students whom they teach. It is true that teachers have left Darwin High School, at very short notice in some cases, and this has left students in a difficult situation. However, there are teachers within the system who are willing to work extra time to cover those positions and to help those students. I am grateful to those teachers because they are professional in the true sense.

Mr Speaker, it is not possible for me to positively address the issue of teachers leaving in mid-year. Perhaps the Northern Territory Teachers Federation and, indeed, the member for Stuart and others, should endeavour to make it very clear to people entering the teaching profession that there is a need to have a degree of commitment ...

Mr Ede: How about you doing something about their conditions of employment?

Mr HARRIS: Listen here, would you just keep quiet for a moment? You might learn something.

Mr Ede: You have been promising it for 9 months.

Mr HARRIS: I have made it very clear in this Assembly that there are processes which frustrate efforts to improve teaching conditions. I have made that very clear.

Mr Speaker, in the budget speech you will note that we have taken action in relation to incentives. We have introduced a Master Teachers Program, and I will give further details on that in due course. The events at Darwin High School are most unfortunate, but I understand that all classes are being attended to in an appropriate manner at this point in time.

This business about teachers leaving the Territory and teachers not being prepared to come to the Territory is a load of nonsense. We were able to recruit teachers to fill those vacant positions. They, however, were responsible. They would not leave their interstate positions. They would not leave their students at this time of the year. They are staying in their present positions and are quite happy to start working here next year.

Mr Ede: Why don't you look after the teachers we already have?

Mr HARRIS: We can attract teachers to the Territory. Our conditions are good. In fact, Bob Wharton, the former President of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation, said that we have a very good system here. Others would agree. We have an excellent system in the Territory and even the current president of the federation agrees on that.

Mr Speaker, the member for Stuart is simply trying to make political mileage out of the situation.

Mr Ede: What about those kids who ...

Mr HARRIS: The reality is that teachers who leave at this time of the year should be condemned. They have a responsibility to students. The member for Stuart is also aware that we are trying to get more and more local people involved in the teaching profession and we have plans which will accomplish that. We will continue to work for the betterment of teachers and we will continue to provide better facilities than anywhere else in Australia. Our staffing formulas are as good as, if not better than, anywhere else in the country. I believe that we are looking after our teachers and I can assure the House that we will continue to fight to ensure that incentives are introduced to help our teachers here in the Territory. We will be encouraging more local people to get involved in the teaching profession.

Mr Speaker, I condemn those teachers who have left at this time of the school year.

Mr Ede: I am sure that the kids will be very grateful.

Mr HARRIS: The member for Stuart shouts across the Chamber that it is all very well and what about the students? Can't he hear me? I agree with him. It is disgraceful for teachers to leave in the middle of the year. We have been able to fill those positions temporarily. The member for Stuart is aware of that and the teachers who are assisting are to be thanked for their efforts. They have a professional approach and it is a pity that their former colleagues did not have a similar approach.

Litchfield Park - Upgrading of Roads

Mr HATTON to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What program for upgrading of roads in Litchfield National Park is provided for in the 1989-90 budget?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in response to the question from the member for Nightcliff, this is currently a matter of serious concern, and not just in a budgetary sense. The Minister for Tourism has spoken quite proudly about the developments in Litchfield National Park, as has the Minister for Conservation. A great deal is happening now in terms of developing facilities in the park. However, the question of the roads is much more important than merely providing access to the park.

I have become increasingly concerned about the number of accidents which have occurred within the park in recent times. During the dry season, heavy amounts of traffic, including many 4-wheel-drive vehicles, have caused damage to the roads to such an extent that serious accidents are occurring. During the weekend before last, for example, there were 3 roll-overs on roads in the park. Those accidents are occurring as a result of a combination of factors. Speed is one, together with the corrugation caused by heavy buses and other large vehicles, and accumulation of dust in some sections of winding road.

In the context of these problems, Cabinet gave more consideration to roads in this park than might otherwise have been given and this year the budget allocation for road upgrading in the park has been increased to some \$4m. The Department of Transport and Works has determined that construction of the Ada Creek crossing will be undertaken this year. Drainage works, formation and gravelling will be carried out in the section of the ring road between the upper Finnis River and Wangi Falls. The sealing of the Windmill Road and selected sections of road between Florence and Wangi Falls are on the current program. In fact, a contract for the majority of that work was let the other day. The plan is to get as much as possible done this year to enable greater access during the wet season although, of course, that will depend upon the intensity of rainfall during the season. Last year, we were unfortunate in having a very early start to the wet season which set back the road program and led to significant road damage.

The forward program for the next 5 years will not see the complete sealing of the road through the park but the road surface will certainly be upgraded to a suitable and safe standard. Most of the lower sections of the ring road will be sealed to provide appropriate access. In the meantime, the department is trying to maintain the road at a reasonable standard. We will be placing some additional warning signs for people who are not used to driving on gravel roads. People need to take special care on these gravel roads as they are becoming corrugated very quickly. There is a need for specific care to ensure that our tourism reputation is not damaged because of injuries to people.

Flood Mitigation in Alice Springs

Mr COLLINS to TREASURER

I refer initially to the Treasurer's budget speech. At page 18, he mentioned that \$800 000 had been allocated for design work on the Alice Springs flood mitigation dam. However, in the document 'Regional Highlights, Alice Springs and Barkly', there is a reference which says: 'Alice Springs flood mitigation dam - construct \$15m'. Would he please set the record straight in relation to this matter? We do not want to do the sort of thing that the federal government does, making big announcements about 5-year projects when the intention is only to carry out a little of the work in the first year.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, to clarify the matter, I can advise the honourable member that the budget papers show a cash provision of \$800 000 for this financial year. The reference to a figure of \$15m relates to a program for the dam. It would have been fairly silly for us to put in the budget papers a figure of \$800 000 for the dam. The figure of \$15m is an indication of the size of the project as estimated at present. I hope that it has not led to any confusion.

I certainly do not want to adopt the practice adopted by the federal Treasurer in giving the impression, when announcing projects, that the figures are cash amounts when, in fact, they are program figures. A recent example was the relocation of the cavalry regiment to Darwin. I think the federal government proposes to spend some \$65m on that project. That was the impression given in the budget recently handed down by the federal Treasurer. In fact, that budget contains \$2.5m, with the balance to be spread over a fairly long period of time.

That reminds me of another interesting item in the federal Treasurer's budget speech. He said that, in 1995, pensioners in Australia will no longer be required to pay income tax. I thought it interesting that a government which is in power today and which may well not be in power in 6 months time, makes a commitment in its budget that pensioners will not have to pay tax in 5 years time. I think that is going overboard in terms of commitments to the public - commitments which governments cannot honestly be sure of meeting.

Hong Kong Expo

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Plans for the Northern Territory Resources and Lifestyle Expo in Hong Kong in November are obviously well advanced. Is the minister in a position to advise the House of the level of Territory participation in the expo, both from the public and the private sector?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to do that. I preface my response to the honourable member with the general observation that the Hong Kong Expo at the New World Centre from 1 to 5 November will dwarf any previous trade exhibition mounted by the Northern Territory. I am particularly heartened by the levels of interest and commitment from the private sector. At last count, 26 companies had made commitments to the expo, either as exhibitors or participants in seminars. They range from high-profile companies like Westpac to small exhibitors with specific expertise, such as Territory Ochre which plans to display works by Territory artists.

Most Territory government departments and authorities will have a presence at the expo. The Department of Industries and Development and the Trade Development Zone will obviously have a bigger presence than others, both in terms of displays and seminar participation. Others are contributing to displays but not sending staff. The Commonwealth will also be participating through Austrade and the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Expo organisers are currently working with Commonwealth immigration authorities to establish a mechanism for handling the expected high levels of direct immigration inquiries. Mr Speaker, you will appreciate that, during the past 2 months, Darwin and the Northern Territory have received a high degree

of publicity as desirable areas for relocation and we know, on the basis of interest shown in advance of the exhibition, that the Territory exhibit will be the centre of much attention. Immigration, of course, is not a direct responsibility of the Territory government. It would, however, be unrealistic to go into the expo with the intention of ignoring it. It is too much to expect that Hong Kong people will distinguish between the Territory government and the federal government or be familiar with our federal system. It would also be a dereliction of duty to simply turn away immigration inquiries made in good faith. Expo organisers are therefore in the process, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, of setting up a system to handle immigration questions, at least in the first instance.

Perhaps I should explain to honourable members that the Hong Kong Expo is not simply a government exercise. It is being organised jointly with the Territory private sector and, indeed, the organising committee is comprised largely of private sector representatives. I could talk for some time about how the expo is progressing and what it is likely to achieve. However, in the interests of keeping this response during question time brief, I will conclude by informing honourable members of the intended program of events.

The official opening ceremony on 1 November will be performed by the Chief Minister in association with Hong Kong dignitaries. That night, the Chief Minister will host the official Territory expo dinner at the Hong Kong Sheraton, at which Territory produce will comprise the entire menu. Each day during the expo, an Aboriginal group will perform for visitors. New crocodile skin fashion wear is being produced especially for the expo, and there will be demonstrations by the Territory's male and female world crab tying champions. The seminar program includes coverage of investment opportunities in minerals and energy processing. In addition, general business investment opportunities, Territory professional and freight services, tourism, transport, education, technical and further education and the Northern Territory University will all figure prominently in the expo. There will be assorted hospitality functions and produce-tasting of Territory food, particularly seafood. All in all, given that the whole exhibition part of the expo has been integrated into an attractive and purposeful display of the Territory's resources and lifestyle, it should be a monumental event.

Organisers are catering for about 15 000 visitors a day. Many more than that could turn up, but the display has been designed to accommodate that sort of traffic flow comfortably. If more attend, queues are likely to develop. Should that occur, the organisers have prepared contingency plans to entertain and inform people waiting in queues.

The Hong Kong Expo will lift the profile of the Northern Territory enormously in one of the world's major trading centres. I believe it will be a significant event in the development story of the Northern Territory.

Alice Springs Casino

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TOURISM

I preface the question by asking the minister if he recalls attacking the credibility and professionalism of the ABC 7.30 Report in his investigation of credit betting at the Alice Springs Casino. Does he understand that his credibility and professionalism is now under further scrutiny as a result of statements made to this House? Secondly, does he accept that the documents quoted from in this House have established that he was wrong in stating that a total of 5 cheques from a certain gambler were accepted by the casino? And

thirdly, will he please explain how he failed to get his facts right even before delivering a prepared statement on the matter to this House?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to answer the member for Nhulunbuy's questions. Probably the easiest way to do so is to go through the document tabled in this House last night by the member for Barkly, purporting to be a statement made by one Mr Michael Cafe who, at the time the allegations were raised, was a government casino inspector.

The first point Mr Cafe made was to deny that he had ever supplied the ABC 7.30 Report with documents. I did not suggest that Mr Cafe gave the stolen casino documents to the 7.30 Report. Rather, I believed that they were handed over by the member for Barkly. Mr Cafe gave the documents to Mr Tuxworth.

In paragraph 2 of his statement, Mr Cafe says: 'I deny making the photocopies as alleged on 1 December 1988 at 6 am or any other time'. Mr Speaker, I have read an incident report which states that a casino security officer was approached by Michael Cafe, who was dressed in a T-shirt, shorts and sandals. According to the report, he established his identity with an ID card and asked for the alarm in the casino inspector's office to be isolated. The time was just after 6 am on 12 December 1988. The government casino inspector, Michael Cafe, had been on sick leave from 15 November and, as the security officer was a new employee, he did not know him personally. He therefore checked with his security manager and asked to see Mr Cafe's ID again.

Mr Cafe deliberately contravened a written instruction applying to all commission inspectors by attending the casino whilst off duty and without authorisation. Cafe, according to the security officer, appeared to have other things on his mind and to be upset. The alarm was isolated at 6.13 am and access was given. The report of the security officer states that Cafe was seen in that office reading a large green book. It looked like an incident book of some sort. Cafe vacated the office and the security officer reset the alarm at 6.40. The only large green book in that office, to the Racing and Gaming and Liquor Commission's knowledge, is the government inspectorate logbook.

Mr Cafe says that I accused him of covertly entering the Alice Springs casino on 12 December and that the statement I made was deliberately misleading. He is wrong. He had no right to be in the casino on that occasion. He was on sick leave and he contravened a government inspectorate direction from the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission. It is not correct to say that I should be aware that anyone can come or go at any hour of the day or night. It is not correct.

In the fourth paragraph of his statement, Mr Cafe says:

To suggest that the 7.30 Report story was manufactured by me because I was a member of the Northern Territory Nationals is nonsense. The illegal acts and improprieties which I complained to Mr Poole about were carried out over a period of approximately 12 months and I visited Mr Poole on no less than 6 occasions.

Mr Speaker, I do not believe that Mr Cafe made any complaints because he was a member of the Territory Nationals.

In response to his claim that he visited me on 6 occasions, I agree that he did visit me several times. I am not sure exactly how many times he visited me because he had a habit of dropping into my office occasionally, bearing in mind that I was a backbencher at the time and frequently in my electorate office in Alice Springs. I should say that his first visit to me was to ask for my assistance in securing his tenure in a federal government house as, at the time, he was employed as a security guard at Pine Gap. I am not sure of the exact sequence of Mr Cafe's visits and I do not believe that it is particularly relevant. However, on another occasion he came to see me because he was being threatened with suspension or dismissal from the federal guard service at Pine Gap. This was because he had a second job and had not received permission to have other employment.

On yet another occasion when he came to see me in my electorate office, he said that he believed his employers were trying to get rid of him because he had made a number of allegations about improper practices and procedures at the joint defence facility. On that occasion, I spoke to the senior Australian defence official at Pine Gap who told me that the allegations had been investigated by the Federal Police. A police inspector had been flown up from Adelaide and found Mr Cafe's allegations to be unsubstantiated. On another visit to my office, Mr Cafe told me that he had resigned because he felt that pressure had been put on him and that the government wanted him to vacate his house. He felt that that was unfair because his wife was still employed at the base as a security guard although, having been recruited locally, she was technically not entitled to housing. I followed up that request with the base administration and I believe that she was allowed to stay in the house.

The fifth and sixth paragraphs of Mr Cafe's letter basically allege that he showed me various reports and that I made comments about the Chairman of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission, and a security inspector.

Mr Speaker, Mr Cafe alleged that the Alice Springs casino was not handling cheques correctly in terms of the 10-day banking period. As a result, I asked the Chairman of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission to conduct an audit of the casino's safe and to advise me of the results. It was clear from the report, as I have previously indicated to the House, that the correct procedures were not being followed. The casino inspector concerned was counselled and reprimanded. The matter was subsequently discussed by the commissioners of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission, and the gaming manager was asked to show cause why his operator's licence should not be suspended. The commissioners decided to reprimand him and to warn him that any further breaches could result in the loss of his licence. They ordered him to obey ministerial directions.

I recall Mr Cafe advising me of his view that gaming surveillance equipment in the Alice Springs casino was not effective in certain areas of the casino. As a result, I arranged a visit to the casino to inspect the camera system. I must point out to honourable members that a new and far more effective and sophisticated system was installed in the Darwin casino in the last financial year and provision has been made in this year's budget for the installation of a similar system in the Alice Springs casino.

Mr Speaker, I did discuss with Mr Cafe the possibility of giving casino inspectors the additional responsibility of being liquor inspectors. The suggestion, that I showed a lack of faith in the Chairman of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission and the senior inspector, is absolutely ludicrous. I deny it.

The sixth paragraph of the Cafe's letter relates to certain sequences in the cashing of cheques. I make the following comment. With regard to the gaming incident on the nights of 29 and 30 October, when further cheques were accepted by the casino, I am satisfied that the casino manager was telling the truth when he admitted his mistake. This is verified by the report covering the incident which I received from the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission. I stand by the previous statement I made in this House.

The seventh paragraph concerns my advice to this House that Mr Cafe had written up cheque entries. I acknowledge that I did make a mistake in that respect. He was not the officer who actually wrote up the entries. He was on duty both before and after the time when the cheques were written up.

In his eighth paragraph, Mr Cafe refers to the amount in cheques cashed by a client of the casino on the nights of 29 and 30 October 1988 and states that the amount 'was \$6000 not \$4000 as stated by the minister in parliament'. I have already stated in this House that the total amount in cheques accepted by the casino on the nights of 29 and 30 October was \$4000. I had previously stated that the gambler had purchased a cheque back for \$2000. Mr Speaker, I will be tabling some documentary evidence with regard to that. I am happy to table the casino logbook entry and the cheque credit slips covering those amounts.

Despite what the ABC has continually alleged, there is no additional \$4000. It is purely a total amount from a list of cheques which appears on the document which I have here. Despite the fact that that entry says the date is 28 October, honourable members will see clearly that each form has time clock entries which show when each cheque was handed in.

I should perhaps explain how the cheque cashing facility works. If you have an arrangement to cash a cheque at the casino, you present the cheque at the counter and the casino takes it. You do not receive gambling chips. You receive what are called counter credit slips. You hand these slips in at whatever table you play at and, when the slip is placed in the cash box, you receive the value of the slip in chips. At the end of the evening, when you take your winnings, if any, to the cash desk and hand in your chips, if the total amount of chips is more than the value of the cheque that you have presented that night, the casino will substitute your cheque for the amount of money. In other words, the casino will give your cheque back and take the cash from you. That is standard practice around the world in all casinos.

As I said, there is a date and time clock entry for every cheque received and the issue of credit slips. The cash receipts of 28, 29, 30 and 31 October have been examined in detail. No other cheques were presented by the patron in question.

Mr Smith: How many were there altogether?

Mr POOLE: There were 2 at \$2000 and 2 at \$1000. At the end of the evening, he bought \$2000-worth of value back. There was an original figure of \$6000 and, at the end of the evening, he bought back \$2000 or got back his cheque.

Mr Smith: How many cheques were there?

Mr POOLE: I just told you there are 4 cheques: \$2000, \$2000, \$1000 and \$1000. He bought \$2000-worth of cheques back at the end of the evening.

I refer back to Cafe's comments that the original dishonoured cheques written by the gambler were presented to the casino in exchange for the cheque credits on 24 December 1987. He said: 'According to Mr Poole the casino was asked not to bank the first cheque because it would not be met on presentation. The casino management had already breached the ministerial directions by at least 2 days at that stage'.

Going back to 24 December 1987, the first cheque was for \$15 000. It was dated 24 December. The second cheque for \$5000 was dated 2 January 1988. Therefore, both cheques were within the 10-day period allowed and, as the first cheque had not been dishonoured because it had not been presented at that time, no breach of ministerial directions had occurred. I have no knowledge as to whether or not government casino inspectors received advice of the dates relating to the application for an extension of time over the cheques. I was not even involved with the portfolio at the time because I was a backbencher.

In his tenth paragraph, Mr Cafe says: 'At least 3 offences regarding the passing of valueless cheques had been committed and still the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission and the minister, who had been advised of the situation, allowed ... the casino manager to continue on in the manager's role'. I have told this House that the 2 cheques written, one for \$5000 and one for \$15 000, totalling \$20 000, were replaced by \$3000 cash and a cheque for \$17 000. The \$17 000 cheque was the first cheque that was banked and dishonoured. That cheque was held as a commercial debt which, as I stated previously, has now been reduced to \$15 000. I accepted the decision of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission to warn the casino manager and the casino operators.

In his eleventh paragraph, Mr Cafe says: 'According to Mr Poole, a meeting was held on 24 January 1988 concerning the casino manager's licence. Nothing was made known of these meetings to the government casino inspectors; no notation was made in the daybook at the Alice Springs casino'. I am advised that the commission board held its meeting on 4 November 1988. The report was noted by the commission and no further action was deemed necessary apart from the reiteration of the original warning. Notation of the report has been confirmed by commission board minutes of meetings.

In his twelfth paragraph, Mr Cafe says: 'I refer again to the statement made by the minister where he refers to the casino manager notifying the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission of cheques again being cashed for Mr Heavy Gambler'. He suggests that this never happened. It is possible that the casino manager advised the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission that he had again contravened ministerial directions because he was aware that a report had been made on his actions. However, the fact is that Mr Cafe was negligent in his duty. He should have prevented the transaction occurring, and that was the only reason why the casino manager's licence was not cancelled.

In his thirteenth paragraph, Mr Cafe says: 'Mr Poole was well aware of the fact that Mr Borg had been untruthful ...'. I am not aware of any report by Mr Cafe dated 1 November 1988. I cannot make any comment.

His fourteenth paragraph covers the actual cheques. Let me list the cheques and, hopefully, we can all get it right this time. There was a cheque for \$15 000, dated 24 December 1987. There was a cheque for \$5000, dated 2 January 1988. These cheques were replaced by a \$20 000 cheque, dated 29 March 1988. As confirmed by the reports, the \$20 000 cheque was replaced, after payment of \$3000 cash, by a cheque for \$17 000. This cheque was banked

on 25 May 1988. The \$17 000 cheque was the first cheque which was presented to the bank and subsequently dishonoured. A further \$2000 was paid in cash to reduce this outstanding debt to \$15 000. A new cheque was written by the client and the casino subsequently banked it. It was returned marked 'refer to drawer'. This cheque is now held by the casino as a commercial debt.

Other cheques from this patron were: \$2000, dated 29 October; another \$2000, dated 29 October; \$1000, dated 29 October; and another \$1000, dated 29 October. One of the \$2000 cheques was redeemed at close of play and the rest were banked and cleared. Those are the cheques covered by the heading in the casino inspector's logbook dated 30 October in the sum of \$4000 with a cheque dated 28 October and that is where I believe all the confusion has arisen. Mr Speaker, I table these documents which include the casino credit slips which are clearly time-clock stamped.

It is important to note that the casino operator is required to approach a patron who has dishonoured cheques each time he enters the casino in order to request that the cheques be honoured. The casino operator is certainly permitted to accept cheques and cash from a patron who has a dishonoured cheque outstanding in order for that cheque or that debt to be reduced.

I do not accept that Mr Cafe was persecuted by casino management. I have noted various comments in Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission documents which suggest to me that Mr Cafe's fellow employees, and certainly his supervisors, regarded him as incompetent. In any event, whilst he was under investigation, he made the decision to resign.

In his final paragraph, Mr Cafe says: 'I recall quite clearly the minister telling me that he would not interfere with the running of the commission, irrespective of what happened, and it was obvious nothing was going to change so, when I was approached by Mr Rochester of the 7.30 Report, I volunteered certain information'. I refer honourable members to paragraphs 1 and 2 of Mr Cafe's statement and suggest that he either made photocopies or has an exceptional memory, one which is capable of recalling in detail events which took place almost a year ago. I suggest that the photocopies were supplied to the member for Barkly and that he passed them on to the 7.30 Report. As late as this morning, I was told that Mr Cafe had still not resigned from the Alice Springs Branch of the Territory Nationals and that members of the party regard him, and I quote, as 'a man who was always scheming and causing eyebrows to be raised'.

The ABC has made much of this whole episode. I still find it interesting that the ABC saw fit to show the interview with me more than 3 weeks after it was filmed and some 2 days before the Wanguri by-election, even though I had shown the ABC reporter the results of the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission's investigative report 4 days after the reporter had brought those allegations to my attention.

At the conclusion of the initial interview with the ABC, I immediately requested the Chief Minister to ask the NT Police Force to investigate the allegations made. The same day that I made this request in writing, the Chief Minister sent a written instruction to the Commissioner of Police. I would remind honourable members that, with a single exception, all of Mr Cafe's allegations relate to procedural matters or breaches of ministerial directions. The only allegation relating to criminal activity - and I am still not sure whether it was made by the ABC or Mr Cafe because I had heard nothing of the allegations until I watched the 7.30 Report - was that regarding the laundering of money. On that occasion, the NT Police Force was

again asked to investigate, as was the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission. The Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission's report quite clearly proves that the gambler alleged to be laundering \$80 000 per month, who apparently comes from Adelaide, had gambled on only 3 occasions on a single trip to Alice Springs in November. He lost \$6300, and no casino gaming winner's cheques were issued during that period. In fact, and this says something about casinos, no casino gaming winning cheques were issued at all during the months of October and November.

The interim police report which I commented on previously indicates that there appears to be no substance to the allegations. I am satisfied that the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission has acted correctly. The casino manager and the operator have been severely reprimanded for their breach of directions, and I assure honourable members that it is apparent that no criminal action has taken place.

Neither I, nor the Racing, Gaming and Liquor Commission nor, certainly, the Northern Territory government, will tolerate disregard by operators of the rules and regulations governing the operation of casinos in the Northern Territory.

Year 10 Examinations

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer the minister to his refusal to authorise a cultural exchange trip to Indonesia by Year 10 students of Sanderson High School on the grounds that they will be away for the mathematics portion of the Year 10 external examinations. Given that the various sporting and dance groups from Kormilda College, and presumably anyone who is sick or otherwise incapable of sitting the examinations, will be given the option of sitting for a different examination of assessed equal difficulty at a later stage, will the minister take into account the enormous amount of work already undertaken on the Indonesian excursion and the benefit of the trip to students, authorise the trip, and allow those students to join others sitting at the supplementary examinations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, can I state that only one set of examination papers will be issued. I will recapitulate on the matter of the Sanderson High School trip because it is a disappointment to me that this ever had to happen. I say that because the school itself knows full well that there is a procedure which must be followed when arranging overseas excursions. That procedure requires that the Department of Education be notified. Following that, the matter eventually comes to the minister. In the case of Sanderson High School, that procedure was not followed. Indeed, it was only recently - I think on 23 August - that the department was made aware that a trip to Indonesia was being considered.

Mr Smith: That is not true.

Mr HARRIS: I am led to believe that that is the situation. The Leader of the Opposition may believe otherwise. In fact, I understand that the superintendent only found out by accident that the trip involved Year 10 students. I will go through the procedures. It is important that they are understood because the people who are being hurt are the kids and that is occurring because the school did not follow procedures.

Earlier this year, the schools were notified that the Year 10 assessment package was to proceed and that examinations would occur at the end of September. During the course of March, schools were advised of the examination dates, which were 26, 27 and 28 September, and that the examinations would account for 30% of the assessment in English and mathematics. Schools knew all the details in March.

At that stage, the Sanderson trip was due to leave on 30 September. There was no problem. That date was outside the examination period and there would have been no hassles whatsoever. On 5 July, it was found that there were problems in relation to the itinerary. On that date, the travel agent informed Sanderson High that there were problems. He provided alternative dates for the trip. Those dates were outside the examination period.

Mr Ede: And the students would have had to take an extra week off school.

Mr HARRIS: If you are sincere about this trip and you want the exchange to take place ...

Mr Ede interjecting.

Mr HARRIS: Mr Speaker, if members opposite would stop this chatter and listen, they might learn something about responsibility and looking after the interests of the children.

The reality is that alternative dates could have been chosen by Sanderson High. The school knew that but it chose to propose that the students depart on 27 September, which is the second day of the examination period. I class that as irresponsible. The school knew. Sometimes you have slip-ups in itineraries and sometimes you have to make sacrifices. I believe that the school council itself had the opportunity to proceed with the trip on the alternative dates, which were outside the examination period. As I said last night, I have approved travel arrangements for the Year 8 students and the teachers who will accompany them. Travel requests in relation to teachers will need to be reconsidered because fewer teachers may be going as a result of the travel of the Year 10 students not being approved.

Can I just say again, Mr Speaker, that it is a disappointment. Students save money to go on these trips. I understand that any money outlaid on behalf of the students is to be recovered but, if there were a problem in that area, I would do whatever I could to assist. I repeat that the situation is disappointing. As I said yesterday, there have been people, and there are a number at Sanderson, who have been trying to frustrate the whole matter of the examinations.

Mr Ede: Take it out on them.

Mr HARRIS: It is not a matter of taking it out on them at all. I am being responsible. There are many responsible parents who would take the same attitude as the government in relation to this. It is very important that those excursions and exchanges take place. There is no question about that, and they will continue. The government has put a great deal of effort into that link with the Indonesian area. Indeed, we are seen throughout Australia as leading the way in that regard. There is no question about that and it is because of the CLP government that that has occurred. We will continue to foster those relationships.

This matter should not have even reached me. The issue could have been resolved long ago. There are loose ends with this trip. I do not know if the Leader of the Opposition or the opposition spokesman on education is aware that there are concerns about certain aspects of this trip which still have to be chased up and sorted out. If the school had gone through the right process, those matters could have been looked at responsibly and the students would not have been disadvantaged.

BTEC - Investigation into Allegations

Mr PALMER to CHIEF MINISTER

In his capacity as minister responsible for the police, can he advise the current status of the police investigation into allegations surrounding the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, on 22 August 1989, the Commissioner of Police forwarded to the government a comprehensive report on the investigations into allegations made by various people in relation to criminality in BTEC. This report has been dispatched to the federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy for his

information. Honourable members will recall that this police investigation was initiated following the receipt by the Territory government of allegations made to the federal minister. The report has also been referred to the Department of Law, through my colleague the Attorney-General, for its consideration and opinion.

The investigative team comprised 4 detectives, headed by an acting inspector and under the supervision of the Detective Superintendent Crime Division. The team conducted inquiries between June and August 1989 throughout the Northern Territory and in Adelaide, Canberra, New South Wales and Queensland. All relevant persons were located and statements taken and recorded. The conclusion arising from the investigation is that no evidence of criminality, substantial malpractice or maladministration has been identified. I do not intend to detail the contents of the report at this time nor indeed do I intend to table the report in this Assembly. As I mentioned earlier, the report is now with the Department of Law for its consideration and opinion, as recommended to me by the Commissioner of Police.

Year 10 Examinations

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he confirm that all Year 10 students at Kormilda College have been given a deferral for the Year 10 examinations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot confirm that at this time, but I will obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member.

Kangaroo 89 - Benefits to Territory

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Is he able to quantify any specific benefits which have accrued to Territory suppliers to date as a result of the military exercise Kangaroo 89?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for his question. I can indeed confirm that the Industrial Supplies Office, in particular, has been active and successful in this regard. Whilst final figures have not yet been determined, and some military personnel are likely to be here longer than planned because of the airline dispute, there is no doubt that the Kangaroo 89 exercise has been a real boon to the wide spectrum of Territory businesses.

It is most difficult to accurately quantify the massive sum spent in the Northern Territory in connection with Kangaroo 89. Certainly, personal expenditure by the thousands of service personnel involved must be taken into account. Our entertainment and food industries would be the most significant recipients of that expenditure. The number of people on the beach at the Beer Can Regatta last Sunday was an indication that military personnel are still in town. At a later date, when the final expenditure figures are received, I shall provide them to the House.

However, I can provide the House with examples of the sorts of expenditures which have occurred. Data supplied by the Industrial Supplies Office concerning purchases by the Second Field Supply Battalion alone, which

is located at the 2½ Mile, indicates that expenditure totals nearly \$4m to date. Supplies to the Navy and the RAAF above this \$4m have not been costed in total. Honourable members may be interested in the composition of the \$4m.

It included expenditure on 320 000 eggs. In fact, I know of a farm which increased the number of its chooks to ensure that the egg supply could be maintained during the Kangaroo 89 exercise. The farmer had to subcontract and bring in extra chooks to keep the egg supply up. The troops drank 800 000 poppers during the exercise. The total bill for eggs and poppers was \$1.515m. That indicates the sort of health food which the Army is fed on. There is good vitamin C in the poppers and iron in the eggs.

The value of bulk fuel sold in Darwin alone was \$824 000. Civilian retailers in Darwin, Katherine, Alice Springs and Kununurra sold an additional \$260 000 worth. The hire of pumps, mobile phones, porta-potties, display boards, televisions, videos, fridges etc accounted for another \$30 000. Vehicle hire was \$50 000. In the general stores category, hardware, tools, detergents, medical products, plumbing, batteries etc came to \$540 000. Spare parts for Macks, Mercedes, fork-lifts, graders, tyres, batteries etc came to \$610 000. And the laundry bill alone was \$29 000.

The mind boggles at the thought of soldiers consuming 800 000 poppers, and I trust that the empties have all been disposed of properly. I presume that the occasional green, white or blue popper was also opened, and it would be interesting to know what that figure was.

Mr Smith: That is a classified secret.

Mr COULTER: Yes, probably it would be classified. The Territory consumes some \$78m-worth of alcohol on a regular basis, and I am sure that the 1989-90 figures will be increased somewhat.

The Kangaroo 89 exercise has been a good, cooperative effort between the private sector, government and military authorities, with a valuable coordination role discharged by our Industrial Supplies Office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the army personnel for their presence in Darwin. I believe that they were well behaved, contrary to the reports in the papers leading up to this exercise. They are a credit to Australia. I enjoyed watching the dogfights and the aircraft movements, and I think we can all be very proud of our armed forces, not only for Kangaroo 89 itself but for the way they behaved themselves here during the campaign. I would like to pay tribute also to the federal minister, Bomber Beazley, for his attempts to lift the morale of the Army, the Navy and the RAAF. He is indeed a fine Minister for Defence and I can only look forward to his further cooperation on the relocation of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment to Palmerston.

Excisions from Pastoral Properties

Mr LANHUPUY to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister received a letter from the Northern Land Council during the last 2 days requesting him to make officers of his government available to meet with land council officers to achieve an early solution to the difficulties in relation to NT titles for Aboriginal communities living on pastoral properties? If he has, can he advise whether he intends to make those officers available and when?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware that my office has received a letter from the Northern Land Council in the last 2 days on the matter of excisions. If the letter was sent, that surprises me somewhat. Such matters are normally brought to my attention immediately.

I did receive a fax from the Prime Minister on the subject of excisions this morning. I have not yet had time to consider the matter in any detail although I am pleased to be able to inform honourable members that the Prime Minister is proposing further negotiations on the matters to which I took exception in his original offer. He has proposed that I go to Canberra to meet with him and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs late next week. I will certainly consider that and respond fairly shortly. It may be that the Prime Minister will have to arrange some transport for me if the pilots' strike is not over by then.

Mr Speaker, I have no problem with meeting with the land council to discuss these issues. Indeed, the officers of the Territory government and the land councils do meet from time to time on a whole range of issues affecting the Northern Territory. I would not like any honourable member or, indeed, any listener to question time this morning, to get the impression that the Northern Territory government does not negotiate with and cooperate with land councils on a whole range of matters. However, whilst not cutting off the possibility of further talks with the land councils on this particular issue, and having regard to the history of the matter over several years, the positions of all the parties involved are very clearly known. It has come down to a matter for governments to resolve. Both governments know the positions of the respective parties. In my view, neither party will have all of its first principles accepted when this matter is resolved. That is probably not unreasonable. I guess that is what negotiations are all about.

The fact is that it is a matter to be resolved between governments. Governments have the powers to enact such a resolution. That is what I will be seeking when I meet again with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. I will again state very strongly the Territory government's objections to several provisions which were inserted in the last offer made by the federal government about a week ago. I will make inquiries with my office in relation to the letter referred to by the honourable member and I will consider its contents in due course.

School Leaver Program

Mr HATTON to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Could the minister please advise as to the outcome of the government's 1989 School Leaver Program?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am pleased that that question has been asked because the School Leaver Program administered by the Department of Labour and Administrative Services has proven to be an enormous success over the last couple of years. We have stepped up the program quite dramatically and the amount of support which has been given to the program, not only by the young people who have taken advantage of it but by employers in the Northern Territory in both the public and the private sector, has been very pleasing.

Only a couple of years ago, the program catered for some 400-odd students annually but, as I said, we have stepped up the program quite dramatically over the last 2 years and, in this calendar year, the School Leaver Program has directly placed 951 students in training positions. Those are young people who left school last year and failed to find employment in the work force in the early part of the year. The positions ranged right across the board: the automotive industry, the tourist industry, clerical areas of the public service and the private sector, and retailing positions. The retail industry picked up a significant number of young school leavers this year.

The program has grown quite dramatically in the last couple of years. In my speech in the budget debate yesterday, I indicated that the allocation for the program this year will be \$1.29m. That money will go directly into the training of young people during the coming year. We deliberately commence the individual programs which comprise the School Leaver Program in February to March, so that we are not catering to those people who, having left school at the end of the year, are able to find work as a matter of course. The School Leaver Program is designed to pick up those people who find it difficult to obtain work, either because of the type of work they are seeking or because the qualifications they have at the end of their schooling are not as good as those of others.

It has been a successful program and it will continue. The commitment of this government to the young people of the Northern Territory is unquestioned. We have shown this commitment and we will continue to show it.

Neighbourhood Watch in Wanguri and Tiwi

Mr BAILEY to CHIEF MINISTER

When will he fulfil his promise made in the recent by-election that Neighbourhood Watch will be extended to Wanguri and Tiwi?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am expecting a report from the Commissioner of Police in the near future relating to the results of the trial Neighbourhood Watch programs which have been under way in a number of Darwin suburbs.

Mr Smith: He is backing off the by-election promise already.

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition does not want to listen, perhaps he could leave the Chamber and give us all some peace.

I am expecting a report on the success of the trial period and, on the basis of that, the government will consider the extent to which Neighbourhood Watch will be extended through the urban areas in the Territory. I expect that the program will operate quite extensively. As I said during the election campaign, the program will be extended to Wanguri. I cannot give a specific date nor did I give a specific date during the election campaign.

Safety House Scheme

Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I believe that the police have been appointed as the coordinators of the Safety House Program. Could he report on the state of affairs in relation to the program?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, I cannot respond to the honourable member's question off the cuff. I will be happy to provide him with details of this matter, perhaps during the course of today. I am sure that my office will prepare a suitable paper on the subject.

Gunn Point Subdivision

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What process, particularly in relation to environmental concerns, must occur before a decision is made on the proposed Gunn Point subdivision?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, last week, during question time and in the adjournment debates, the member for Koolpinyah made a number of assertions about the Gunn Point subdivision which I think should be clarified further. On the one hand, the honourable member asked if I would disallow the cliff-top part of the subdivision. On the other hand, she stated that she knew that a recommendation had gone to me from the Planning Authority with this expected outcome. She followed this up in the adjournment debate by admitting that her information was 'an educated guess, as these decisions are confidential'. The honourable member said she assumed nothing further would be done in the future in relation to a preliminary environmental report or an environmental impact statement because all the work had been done. She also said that she had not been misinformed and did not put out any misinformation.

I think it would be wise for me to advise the House, particularly the honourable member for Koolpinyah, of the actual process followed by the government. I note that the honourable member claims to have probably forgotten more about conservation than I will ever know. If I did not know the honourable member so well, I would probably be tempted to say that, if formerly she knew anything about such issues, she has most certainly forgotten it now. However, I would certainly not be so cheeky as to suggest that that might be true.

Before the government embarks on any development, it follows a well-documented process. The first stage of this process is production of a land use structure plan. Normally, these plans are exhibited for public comment before being finalised and are then published by the government as a clear indication to the public of the intended future land use. Of necessity, they are long-term documents and they are sufficiently flexible to take into account changed community attitudes and circumstances. Structure plans are followed by statutory zoning plans which, in turn, are followed by detailed development proposals, such as subdivisional and development applications.

In the case of Gunn Point, there have been several documents. A draft land use structure plan for the entire Gunn Point peninsula and a draft land use concept plan, which includes finer detail for the Shoal Bay coastal area, were exhibited. This was undertaken in conjunction with the rezoning proposal and preliminary subdivision proposals to which I will refer later. At the same time, a preliminary environmental report, or PER, was being prepared in accordance with the procedures set down by the Environmental Assessment Act. This was made available to the Planning Authority for consideration, together with any submission received as a result of the public exhibition period. I draw this to the attention of the member for Koolpinyah to ensure that she is aware of the detailed procedures which exist under Territory law.

Mrs Padgham-Purich: I know all about the detailed procedures.

Mr MANZIE: Once a PER has been prepared, the Conservation Commission assesses it in consultation with the relevant government departments and authorities and reports back to me, as Minister for Conservation. At that stage, a number of options are available to me. I can accept the PER as satisfactory, I can take note of any deficiencies or areas which may require further attention in the PER, I can call for further information on those issues or I can request that a full environmental impact statement or EIS be prepared.

In the case of the Gunn Point proposals, there were certain issues which required more detailed assessment. These included erosion of the cliff face, about which so much has been said both in this House and in the media. I have directed the proponent of the proposal - and the proponent is the Department of Lands and Housing - to prepare further detailed information on matters raised within the report to me by the Conservation Commission. That work is in hand and I can assure honourable members that not only has no decision been made but, further, no decision will be made until full procedures under the Environmental Assessment Act have been followed. It may not be necessary to go to a full EIS. However, that decision will rest on the degree of detail supplied following my request for further information on the PER.

The other matter raised was the question of the subdivision proposal for Gunn Point. It is true that the Department of Lands and Housing lodged an application for subdivision development to be considered in conjunction with the overall rezoning proposal for the area.

Mr Dondas: That has been going on for 5 years now.

Mr MANZIE: That is right. It has been going on for quite a while. This has been done with the intention of placing before the Planning Authority as much information as possible to allow it to make a considered decision. I would like the member for Koolpinyah to be aware of the fact that I requested the authority to deal first with the matter of rezoning and then to report back before taking any action in relation to a decision on the subdivision application. In fact, the authority has given me a preliminary report and expressed certain environmental and amenity concerns. It was at this point that I requested that the subdivision application be held in abeyance until further information became available.

I have also asked the Department of Lands and Housing to look at alternative subdivision designs which will address the concerns raised so far, particularly those in relation to the cliff-top blocks. Once the environmental processes have been completed to my satisfaction and the Planning Authority is satisfied that all matters of concern have been fully addressed, it will be time to determine the subdivision application.

There remains only one more point to be clarified and that is the nonsense about 10 000 people being crowded on the cliff top.

Mrs Padgham-Purich: It is in the development proposal.

Mr MANZIE: It is abundantly clear that the land use plans for the whole area were drawn up to cater for an estimated population of about 10 000. This may not occur for another 50 years, but it is the responsibility of this government to ensure that services, planning and environmental assessment take into account the ultimate development potential of the area.

The initial subdivision proposed was predominantly for weekender usage although that use may change in time. The government certainly would not want to limit citizens' right to occupy their land on a permanent basis. If a permanent population establishes there, it will be because of the foresight shown by this government and the adherence to the full processes of urban and regional planning. This foresight extends to ensuring that adequate land, appropriately located, remains available for commercial uses should such a development occur.

I hope that clarifies for all honourable members the situation in relation to Gunn Point. I think it is important to go over the 2 main issues. Firstly, there is no proposal to race ahead and take steps there which are environmentally inappropriate and, secondly, there is certainly no intention to place 10 000 people on the cliff tops at Gunn Point tomorrow.

Members interjecting.

Mr MANZIE: This is important, Mr Speaker. Comments are made by honourable members in this House, and it is important that the community is aware that the situation that has been presented to it ...

Mr Ede: I did not fear that 10 000 people would be sitting on the edge of a cliff.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Speaker, the member for Stuart thinks he is very amusing. There are people who have concerns about some of the totally false claims which have been made about this area. These claims have created some misconceptions which need to be clarified. If the member for Stuart thinks it is funny, that is fine. His attitude, however, is typical of that of members of the Labor Party in the Territory. They do not care about the genuine concerns people have. They are interested only in slinging mud and dispensing innuendo and untruth. The community is aware of that but I think it is appropriate that members opposite should hold their peace for a short time in the House while questions which concern the community are answered. Members opposite can make all the noise and throw all the mud they like in their own time. I thank all honourable members in the House, except the member for Stuart, for their indulgence in this matter.

Crimes (Compensation) Act Claims

Mr TUXWORTH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

How many people have been issued with compensation certificates in accordance with the Crimes (Compensation) Act? Also, how many claims have been paid in accordance with the sums stated on certificates, and how many have not been paid in accordance with the sums stated on certificates? And could the ...

A member: What, off the top of his head?

Mr TUXWORTH: There are not a very many claims, Mr Speaker. Let us get that part straight. I am sure the last of my questions will appeal to the Attorney-General, because he will be able to speak for a long time on this.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! In view of the amount of detail sought by the member for Barkly, could I suggest that he place the questions on the Notice Paper?

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, could I ask the Attorney-General whether he would be prepared to respond later in the day?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would ask the member for Barkly to put the questions on notice. He knows full well that questions requiring so much detail should be put on notice and I think that he is trying to waste the House's time by seeking to give the impression that his question should be answered on the spot. It is ridiculous.

Retail Petrol Prices

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Some 2 months ago, the minister announced that the Northern Territory Department of Mines and Energy, together with the Prices Surveillance Authority, had commenced a joint review of retail petrol prices in the Territory. Can the honourable minister advise on the outcome of that investigation and its conclusions?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Ludmilla for his question. It is a question that people are waiting to have answered. Unfortunately, the joint review into the structure of petrol pricing has not yet been completed. In the first instance, I had asked that the review take as short a time as possible, and it did not appear likely to be a lengthy exercise. However, the work of the joint review committee has been delayed by a national public inquiry into petrol prices by the Prices Surveillance Authority and the need for the Territory to compile a detailed submission to that inquiry. That has been done. Meanwhile, the joint review into the Territory's situation is largely completed and should be available to the government in the near future.

As part of the review, officers have met with representatives of the oil supply and retailing industries in Darwin. I understand that, contrary to popular belief, there is some level of price discounting by retail petrol outlets in Darwin, although to a much lesser degree than in big cities like Sydney and Melbourne. Of course, the review will not be telling us anything we do not know about the various components that make up the price of Territory petrol at the pumps.

Although some honourable members do not want to be reminded about it, we all know that the price of petrol is high and keeps getting higher due to the federal government's indexed excise duty. Petrol costs an average of 63.9¢ per litre at the Darwin bowser. Of this, the federal government takes a massive 22.4¢ through excise duty. At present, the Territory government takes 3.5¢ from this as a franchise fee, although we know that that figure will increase shortly.

A further 24¢ is for the purchase of the crude oil and cost of refining and delivery to Darwin. I emphasise that to honourable members because I think that the significance of that figure is often overlooked. Going out and discovering the oil, setting up the platform, pumping the oil to shore, applying all the necessary chemical additives and delivering the fuel to Darwin, costs 24¢ per litre. The federal government's excise duty is 22.4¢ per litre. If that is not a grab, I do not know what is. With all the

millions of billions of dollars which go into oil refineries, discovering oil and building platforms at a cost of \$400m, the fuel still gets here for 24¢ a litre, after being transported from international ports, and then along comes the federal government and says: 'We'll take 22¢ of that'.

My real concern relates to the fact that the oil reserves in Bass Strait are winding down. By the end of October 1989, the Northern Territory will be producing the equivalent of one-third of the Bass Strait oil supply. Bass Strait has now come down to about 350 000 barrels of oil a day. We will be producing in excess of 100 000 barrels a day within the next few months. What worries me is that federal governments of either political persuasion have taken \$40 000m worth of revenue out of Bass Strait. Currently, it takes \$1800m out of Bass Strait. What will happen when Bass Strait runs down? Where will the federal government get the money to fund the \$26 000m of social security payments made in Australia today? That worries me. It worries me because the federal government will look for another grab.

Already, Senator Cook has said that gas will be subject to excise. That was first mentioned at the national ministers meeting which I attended in Hobart. This means that gas prices need to increase. We cannot import gas. Western Australia, the Northern Territory and New South Wales are heavily reliant on gas for power generation in particular. If the federal minister intends to levy a tax of some sort on gas to make up the shortfall in relation to Bass Strait, I have grave concerns.

In terms of export income, the gas from the North-west Shelf is currently as valuable as the national wool or wheat cheque - about \$200 000m. Will the federal government tax that as well? It is of great concern to us here in the Northern Territory that federal governments of both political persuasions have taken \$40 000m out of the wealth that has been created through Bass Strait, whose reserves are now running down at an alarming rate.

Where will the money come from? Will there be a tax on gas, which means increased electricity prices for everybody? Will there be an increase on uranium? The gold tax certainly will not make up for it. We are talking about massive amounts, the equivalent of the annual wheat or wool cheque. When Bass Strait supplies come to an end, the federal government will miss out on considerable revenue. At present, the federal government levies an excise of 22.4¢ per litre of petrol. The producers, the refiners and the shippers only get 24¢ for delivering their product here. Talk about the middleman ripping off the customer, Mr Speaker!

The federal government's take has increased by 260% in the past 6 years. The rate of excise is indexed to increases in the consumer price index. On current indications, this will cause a rise in the price of petrol of between 1¢ and 2¢ per litre every year. In other words, the price of petrol comes about courtesy of the Treasury in Canberra and that will continue to occur.

In the Territory, we will do what we can to bring about discounting levels which will make the price of petrol at the bowser as reasonable as possible. The Energy Division of the Department of Mines and Energy is looking at all the options available to ensure that. The reality is that the federal Labor government grabs the lion's share and is solely responsible for the increases in petrol prices during the last 6 years.

Mr Leo interjecting.

Mr COULTER: The member for Nhulunbuy sits there giving us the benefit of his great knowledge of macro-economics and what is really occurring in Australia today.

Mr Leo interjecting.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, I can tell him that the people out there with their fingers on the pump, looking at the prices at the bowser, have more knowledge than he has as he sits there with his finger on the pulse of his great economic knowledge.

Nhulunbuy Wharf

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Mr Speaker, on Tuesday 22 August, the minister assured me in this House that the Nhulunbuy wharf, which is managed by Perkins Shipping, is also owned by Perkins Shipping despite the substantial financial contribution which the Northern Territory government made towards the wharf's construction. Can the minister confirm that Perkins Shipping owns the wharf in Nhulunbuy, as he maintained on Tuesday 22? If so, under what arrangement was the Northern Territory's financial contribution transferred to Perkins Shipping? If Perkins Shipping does not own the wharf, why does the Northern Territory government not demand that the wharf be made available to all potential users of the wharf, with the same provisions as apply to the Darwin public wharf?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as I indicated to the member for Nhulunbuy last week, the facilities at Nhulunbuy are leased in their entirety to Perkins Shipping. The leased area contains a barge landing and a small wharf.

It is correct to say - no, I had better qualify that and say that, to my knowledge, the facility as such is totally owned by Perkins Shipping. I shall check the exact legal situation and advise the honourable member later in the day. It is my recollection that the facility was built and financed substantially by Perkins, with a contribution from the Northern Territory government in return for which there is an agreement under which fishing vessels and government vessels can use the facility on terms equivalent to the wharfage charges at Darwin wharf.

There is no agreement with Perkins in respect of other private cargo vessels. Much negotiation has been occurring following some disputation between Perkins and other operators in regard to access and to cost of access. To that extent, I have had a positive commitment from Perkins that it is more than happy to negotiate appropriate rates with any of those other operators. To that end, I will be checking with the various operators after the sittings to see whether those arrangements have been put in place.

Subsidy to Sheratons

Mr FLOREANI to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

On ABC radio this morning, the minister stated that the pilots' strike would increase the Territory taxpayers' subsidy to the Sheratons by \$200 000 per week or possibly \$1m per month. Would the minister confirm whether this is the maximum exposure that the government is likely to face?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think I mentioned in the Chamber yesterday as well as on radio this morning, that the loss being experienced by the Sheratons at the moment is around \$200 000 a week. It could get worse, depending on how long the strike continues and depending on how long we continue to maintain our staffing levels. A range of management decisions have to be made which will vary the shortfall required. At present, \$200 000 a week is a figure that is being realised as a result of the airlines strike.

NT Government Advertising

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I have noticed that the format of advertising of positions vacant in the public service has changed significantly in recent months. Is this method of advertising more expensive, and what results have been achieved to date?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question is a good one. There has been considerable discussion about the new advertising format of the Northern Territory Public Service. The area that is most noticeable is advertising for positions in the Northern Territory and I can confirm that we are saving money through the new arrangements. Mr Speaker, you will have noticed the block advertising, often full-page, placed through the group which currently has the advertising contract with the Northern Territory government.

As a part of that advertising campaign, in the early stages at least, we placed a small section at the bottom of each advertisement, in which we asked people whether they had considered working in the Northern Territory and to make contact if they were interested. That has produced a significant number of responses. In fact, we had to cease the practice because, apart from people responding specifically to jobs advertised, over 500 people made contact saying that they were interested in working here, giving information about their skills and asking what we had to offer. As a result, we have been able to pick up a number of people with skills that have previously been very difficult to obtain. I am talking about professional people, such as those in the medical and engineering professions, whom it has been very difficult to attract.

The Department of Labour and Administrative Services has prepared an information folder which has been sent out to all prospective job applicants, to those people whom we think will fit in to a job, and to people who have expressed interest in working here and have skills which are needed. A department which may be interested in a particular person adds its own information to the general package and the material is sent to the person concerned. People who make contact advising of their skills rather than responding to particular job vacancies are placed on a list of people who may be able to fill a position at some time in the future. Departments are notified that these people are available and some have been able to pick up people for areas of work where recruitment has previously been difficult. We have sent out 700 information folders and they have had a big impact on people who have responded to job advertisements. The feedback we have received indicates that recipients of the folders have found them very useful in terms of providing information about the Territory.

The opposition says that public servants are leaving the Territory in droves but that is not true. As of yesterday, we are only 95 under our MSL, which is the best situation we have been in since 1987. In fact, in 1987 we were significantly further below our MSL. We are only 95 below MSL and most of the vacant positions are in the professional categories which are very difficult to fill. There is no problem attracting people from within the Northern Territory to most positions in the public service. It is only with particular professional and technical positions that we have some difficulty. The new advertising format and the folder which we send to prospective job applicants have been very successful in overcoming that problem.

I am very proud of the efforts of my department in its efforts to lift the profile of the Northern Territory as a place of employment. The profile of the Territory is now very high. For a while it was very poor. I would have to place some of the blame for that on the member for Barkly who attempted in 1985-86 to take away from public servants so much of what they had fought for. The fact is that the Northern Territory is competing effectively in the marketplace now. We are able to attract very good people to the Northern Territory and, together with the Minister for Industries and Development and the Minister for Tourism, we are working up a program to make the Northern Territory even more attractive as an employment destination.

Health and Community Services Portfolio

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister presently holds the Health and Community Services portfolio. I refer him to his indication prior to the recent Wanguri by-election that, during these sittings, he would announce the new Minister for Health and Community Services. Given the problems the department has been experiencing under his ministry in respect of child-care, tuberculosis and juvenile offenders, how much longer can the decision be delayed? I ask the Chief Minister to inform the House of exactly when the appointment will be made.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am indeed the Minister for Health and Community Services at present.

It is very interesting to hear the member for MacDonnell say that there are a range of important issues in the Health and Community Services portfolio which urgently need to be addressed, particularly when one considers that the opposition has allowed almost 6 days of these sittings to pass with hardly a question relating to the portfolio. There were a couple of questions about child-care centres earlier in the sittings but the opposition has been prepared to waste 6 hours of the Assembly's time debating an absolutely pointless and unfounded censure motion. The opposition chastised us during that debate for accusing it of wasting the time of this Assembly. Now, at 10.59 am on the last day of the sittings, 1 minute before the end of question time, the member for MacDonnell wants to imply that there is a range of important issues which honourable members should start to address. I think he should be ashamed of himself for having stood up in this Assembly and admitted it.

Mr Bell: So the answer is that you do not know.

Assistance to Primary Producers During Pilots' Strike

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

Does the government intend to continue to assist primary producers to export horticultural produce interstate during the pilots' strike and, if so, what form will this assistance take? Further, what is the extent of the government's financial help extended to those primary producers who have unfortunately lost so much of this season's crop of horticultural products?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government, and my department in particular, commenced work last week to address the needs of both horticulturists and fishermen who were having difficulty in getting produce to market as a result of the pilots' strike and resultant the lack of air transport. Many fishermen have been able to make arrangements with airfreight carriers such as TNT and are getting their product to market. This is particularly important from their point of view, given that those products are very perishable, particularly in the case of live mud crabs. They have had some success in this regard.

The horticulturists, together with the department, have been able to find some forms of alternative transport. The Horticultural Association met this week and provided some advice to the department. It has indicated that most of its members have been able to find alternative transport. One or two growers are nearing the end of the season for their particular products and they will probably be winding down a little earlier than anticipated. However, alternative transport has been found in many cases. Transport is very important given that Territory growers have established markets in the south over a number of years, have developed products of very high quality and have been able to supply their markets consistently. As I have said, the department is continuing to assist growers to find transport to get their product to market.

The Minister for Industries and Development referred yesterday to action being taken to provide further assistance and, I believe, gave full details. I can assure the member for Koolpinyah that the department is pursuing the matter of transport requirements in conjunction with the Minister for Industries and Development.

ANSWER TO QUESTION
Katherine Fire Station

Mr PERRON (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I have a response to a question asked of me during the course of these sittings by the member for Arafura in relation to the manning of the Katherine Fire Station.

In 1986, the Northern Territory Fire Service and the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia negotiated the rationalisation of manning of fire stations in the Northern Territory. As part of this agreement, the permanent staff numbers in Katherine were reduced from 5 to 2 members on a rotating shift basis. In addition, an electronic call-out system was introduced to remove the necessity for the station to be manned during the night hours and on weekends. At the time, there was considerable public debate about this decision. However, negotiations with both the auxiliary firefighters and the Katherine Town Council settled the issue.

Soon after the decision to close the station at night was made, it was found necessary to produce a form of security duty to prevent vandalism. A special rate of payment was arranged until the new police, fire and emergency complex could open. This duty is continuing. The new police, fire and emergency service complex in Katherine is nearing completion. It is expected that the complex will be opened in October. Recently, there has been media reporting of claims by auxiliary firefighters that there will be increased response times as a result of the changed manning. They reportedly seek to maintain the night time manning of the station.

Clearly, Katherine has grown since the agreement was signed in 1986. However, Katherine's population has stabilised and the fire calls in the period from 1986 to the present have increased by an average of just 1.5 per fortnight. The present level of call-outs is approximately 280 per year. At present, the Director of the NT Fire Service sees no reason to change the proposed arrangements for manning as set out in the agreement.

On 2 August 1989, discussions were held with the Mayor of Katherine over this issue. The Mayor expressed concerns about the changes. After discussions, he understood the position and asked that the fire protection of Katherine be monitored and reviewed from time to time to ensure that the town was receiving an appropriate level of cover. It was agreed that this was not only desirable, but a proper process for the Director of the Fire Service in any case. That evening, the director met with the auxiliary firefighters and they were clearly concerned that the media has been developing this issue out of all proportion. In fact, the auxiliaries denied that they had initiated the comments attributed to them in the media. Indeed, they accused other persons of creating the issue.

The auxiliaries will operate from the new complex from the date of opening under the operating instructions agreed to in the manning package. The director has given an undertaking to monitor the situation to ensure that every effort is made to provide the people of Katherine with a proper and timely response to fire and emergencies.

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