

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order  
An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 11 OCTOBER 1979

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FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins & Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 15 MAY 1979

474 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is it a fact that shortage of serviced land in Katherine is preventing the provision of sufficient housing for the 20-odd people on the Housing Commission list?
2. Does the NT government have plans for providing Katherine with a satellite development area as it has for Darwin?
3. Will 5 and 10 acre blocks be available in the Katherine area in 1979?

FROM 11 SEPTEMBER 1979

858 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it true that the Department of Education has no adequate and proper facilities for the Aboriginal Vocational Training Program in Alice Springs?
2. Has the Department of Education agreed to the purchase of a fully equipped workshop facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs and, if so, what purchase price has been agreed?
3. When did the Department of Education first consider the purchase of this facility?
4. If the Department of Education intends to purchase this facility, when will the contract be completed?

859 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the anguish and confusion among some Central Australian Aboriginal communities over the rules and regulations governing burials, which are being administered by his department?
2. Would the minister explain why he has been unable to give a full reply, as promised, to the points raised in my telegram of 9 August 1979?
3. Will the minister provide a clear statement on the way in which the rules and regulations governing burials in isolated areas will be administered?
4. Will the minister give an absolute assurance that the traditional and ceremonial rites of Aboriginal communities will be respected, and that officers of his department will handle such matters with discretion?
5. Will the minister give an assurance that officers of his department will not seek information from relatives of the deceased Aboriginal which will add to their anguish and threaten their cultural practices?

860 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 14 August 1979, over the signature of Dr Lyn Walker, Head of the Department of Education Studies of the Darwin Community College, which has been sent to all external students enrolled with the Darwin Community College?
2. Does the minister share Dr Walker's concern that the Community College's commitment to external studies is under threat?
3. Is it true that the Darwin Community College, principal and staff, regard the position of a co-ordinator of external studies to be absolutely essential for the proper maintenance of the college's external studies program and, if so, does the minister share this opinion?
4. Can the minister give an assurance that cost-paring exercises will not erode the academic integrity of the Darwin Community College or affect its external study program?

865 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

By what provisions of which Act are premises situated at lot 1769 Town of Darwin being used as offices?

FROM 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

867 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who paid for repairs on the new section of road near Pine Creek, which was completed by McMahon Constructions only last year but has been closed to traffic for many months this year because of its extremely poor construction?

934 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How does the Katherine development projection by Pak Poy fit in with the present desperate situation for residential, industrial and commercial land sites?
2. Has the industrial subdivision and the residential subdivision of Katherine East been deferred because of lack of funds?
3. What are the contributing factors of the desperate land shortage in Katherine?

935 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the Chief Minister satisfied himself that the federally funded associations in Katherine - Yulungu Association Inc. and Baruwei Enterprises Pty Ltd - are not competing unfairly with private enterprise?
2. If these associations fill a community need, will he fund other associations and unions such as the Cattlemens Union of Australia (Katherine Branch) and the Northern Farmers and Pastoralists Association to fill a similar community need?

937 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. In view of the importance of the live cattle export trade to the NT cattle industry, will holding facilities be established at the wharf and will unloading facilities be improved?
2. What were the circumstances which resulted in the "Orient Clipper" incurring \$60,000 (or approximately \$40 per head for each of the 1,400 head of cattle loaded) in stevedoring charges in June 1979?

939 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are courses being devised for rural dwellers a responsibility of the KREC or a college of practical education, or an intrusion by the DCC?

940 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What steps are being taken to satisfy the demand for land in Katherine and to give this centre "over the counter" land sales?

941 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the expressed opinion of the Chief Minister of the value of tourism to the NT does the government intend to lower the tax on toilet facilities which are not used to capacity for months on end during the off season for tourists?

944 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

How many streets in Katherine are not up to the subdivisional standard contained in the offer of local government?

945 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has a moratorium been placed on aerial baiting with 1080?
2. If so, is there justification for this action?

947 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road to Springvale homestead be sealed?

948 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Teachers Federation a policy on teachers' dress, hair and beard styles?

949 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the need for small rural holdings around Katherine, will the government negotiate with local landholders such as Manbulloo station to provide such living areas?

950 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated annual cost of plumbing repairs in Katherine due to mineralisation of the water supply?

951 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When will a virologist be appointed to the new laboratory at Berrimah?

2. Is botulism killing cattle in the Mountain Valley-Moroak-Mataranka area?

952 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it true that the Darwin Community College has 130 teaching staff and 3,455 equivalent full-time students?
2. Is it true that the Community College of Central Australia has 16 teaching staff and 985 equivalent full-time students?
3. Is it true that at the Darwin Community College the student/staff ratio is 27 to 1 and at the Community College of Central Australia it is 62 to 1?
4. Is it true that the Community College of Central Australia staff and council, and the Alice Springs community, had been led to believe by the minister that the change of status of the Alice Springs Community College from an annexe of the Darwin Community College to a Technical and Further Education College within the Education Department would mean that the college would receive greater funds and improve its facilities and resources?
5. Did the Council of the Community College of Central Australia seek a budget allocation of \$1,435,000 for this financial year?
6. Does the allocation of only \$900,000 by the government to the Community College of Central Australia indicate that post-school education in the centre can be properly served by a lesser amount than the College Council sought?
7. Does the minister recognise that the budget allocation is totally inadequate to maintain proper services to the Central Australian community?
8. Does the budget allocation of \$900,000 indicate that the minister has no faith in the analysis of the needs of post-school education in the centre by the College Council?
9. If the answer to 8 is yes, does this lack of confidence in the College Council indicate that the minister will seek to change the composition of the Council; and, if so, will the College Council be replaced by departmental staff answerable to the minister?
10. If the answer to question 8 is no, will the minister ensure that the budget allocation to the Community College of Central Australia is immediately increased to the sum requested by the Council; that is, \$1,435,000?

953 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the minister table the lot numbers and location of the houses involved in the Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme in Alice Springs?
2. How much money was received by the NT government from the Federal government in the last financial year for the scheme?
3. How many new houses will be built?
4. How many old houses will be converted?

5. When did the building and conversion program begin?
6. When will the program end?
7. When will tenants start to move in?
8. When the scheme was first proposed were any of the houses to be built or converted opposite or next to privately-owned houses?
9. If so, how many?
10. Will any houses now being built or converted be opposite or next to privately-owned houses?
11. If so, how many?
12. Did the minister receive a letter from the Central Land Council on 17 July, over the signature of Mr Ross Howie, asking for an early reply regarding several questions on the scheme?
13. Has the minister replied?
14. If so, when did he reply?
15. If not, why?

954 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the minister aware of the case of Emily Jako Nambajimba, who was sentenced to 2 years gaol in 1977 with a non-parole period of 4 months?
2. Is the minister aware that this woman was not granted parole even though the judge, Mr Justice Muirhead, asked the Parole Board to find suitable accommodation for Ms Jako as "she is, in fact, no criminal but a young woman, an epileptic, suffering a most serious personality disorder"?
3. What steps were taken to find the suitable accommodation recommended by the judge?
4. Does the minister agree that there is an urgent need for a half-way home facility in Alice Springs to take care of people like Emily Jako Nambajimba?
5. Is the minister aware that there are several other people in urgent need of such a facility?
6. Will the minister take action to ensure such a facility is provided?
7. What does the minister suggest should be done for Ms Jako to ensure she receives a "meaningful program for her care" as Mr Justice Muirhead suggested?

956 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

- (a) Who are the members of the Oral History Committee?
- (b) What are their qualifications?
- (c) What are the terms of reference of the committee?

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- (d) Where is it intended that the material collected be stored?
- (e) Is it intended that this material be available for use (e.g. in publications) and, if so, is the donor's permission obtained?
- (f) Do interviewers receive any training?
- (g) In selecting interviewees, what efforts are made to minimise biases in the collection towards certain periods or events, districts or racial groups?

957 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How and when will the new director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission be selected?
2. What qualifications will be required for the position?
3. What will the salary be?
4. Can the minister give an assurance that the government will make every endeavour and advertise internationally to get the best possible person for the job?
5. Who will be on the selection panel for the position?

958 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Does he agree that there is an urgent need for an Aboriginal vocational training facility at the Community College of Central Australia?
2. Did the minister inspect a facility in Priest Street, Alice Springs, called "Sportorama" and agree that this would meet the needs of an Aboriginal vocational training facility?
3. Was the building valued and, if so, how much was it valued at?
4. Did the minister agree that the property should be acquired for Aboriginal vocational training purposes and that acquisition should be made in this financial year?
5. Is there an allocation in the Budget for acquiring this facility and, if not, why?
6. Will the minister ask Cabinet to ensure that the premises are acquired this financial year?

FROM 11 OCTOBER 1979

959 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Education Department provide special assistance for gifted children? If so, what, in detail, are the programs currently in operation, and have additional funds been allocated for them in the 1979-80 financial year?

1008 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the breakdown of expenditure of the Office of Information for the year 1978-79?

1009 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations received subsidies for social workers employed in community work in 1978-79?
2. Which organisations will receive the subsidy in 1979-80?

1010 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which community organisations received Grants-in-Aid in 1978-79?
2. How much did each organisation receive?
3. Which community organisations applied for Grants-in-Aid for 1979-80?
4. Which organisations will receive Grants-in-Aid in 1979-80?
5. How much will each organisation receive?

1011 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which church organisations received the loans now administered by the Community Welfare Division?
2. What are the terms of those loans?

1012 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and OWRKS

1. Why was the Nightcliff-Fannie Bay connector road located so far into the Kulaluk area and away from existing roads at Ludmilla?
2. How much has this increased the cost of the road compared to connecting Totem Road to Nemarluk Drive and Nemarluk Drive to Fannie Bay by the shortest possible route, with provision for a noise barrier to houses affected in Ludmilla?
3. Does locating the road deep into Kulaluk land ruin or decrease the chance of using reclaimed land there (i.e. cyclone garbage dump) for ovals in the future?

1013 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the government be placing topsoil over the old cyclone garbage dump at Kulaluk and planting lawns in order to make the area useable?
2. Is the government content with the minuscule rehabilitation efforts made along the line of the sewerage pipes through Kulaluk which destroyed rain forest drainage patterns; and will it do more to aid rehabilitation in this area?
3. Will the government survey the damage done to the natural drainage and tidal flows of the Kulaluk area by sewerage works and the resulting death and changes to native vegetation there, with a view to deciding proper rehabilitative action?
4. Will the government urgently assist in the clean-up of old refuse dumps and mining in the Kulaluk area now while the area has been burned off with a view to creating fire protection lines to protect the remnant rain forest habitat of this area?



1014 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

In answer to Question No. 326 regarding eradication of hyptis at Obiri Rock, the Chief Minister said:

"Weedicides have not been used at this stage because they are considered to be ineffective according to the advice we have."

1. Who gave this advice to the Chief Minister?
2. Does the Chief Minister have confidence in his own Department of Primary Production?
3. Is he aware that officers of the NT Department of Primary Production are certain that some weedicides (e.g. 2 4 D) are effective against hyptis?

1015 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the minister's intentions in regard to the early integration of handicapped children into the school system?

1016 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he ascertain from the Federal Minister for Transport the cause of an incident at Tindal airport on Tuesday 2 October 1979 involving a TAA Friendship aircraft, a Lear Jet and a light aircraft from Darwin and obtain from the minister, for the information of the Assembly, details of any action he is taking to prevent such incidents occurring in the future?

1017 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the need for and the practicability of establishing a barramundi hatchery in the Territory been investigated and, if so, with what results?

1018 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

To whom and for what kinds of licences should persons wishing to establish crocodile farms in the Territory apply?

1019 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the electrical wiring of houses at Duck Creek be completed to enable proper use to be made of the generators and power lines already supplied?

1020 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who was responsible for the organisation of the design/construct competition for the museum and art gallery?

1021 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Who chose the judging panel for the museum and art gallery competition, and who were its members?

1022 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were all panel members present during the oral presentations by the competing firms in the museum and art gallery competition and, if not, who

were the substitutes for panel members and for what parts of the presentations were they present?

1023 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Which panel members and/or substitutes were present when the decision was made to allow John Holland Construction Pty Ltd to revise its design for the museum and art gallery after the initial assessment?

(b) When was that decision made?

1024 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were any other of the competing firms, apart from John Holland Construction Pty Ltd, given the opportunity to revise their designs for the museum and art gallery after the initial assessment and, if not, why not?

1025 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery vary from the brief in that it did not include a theatre?

1026 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the original John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design for the museum and art gallery provide less area than required by the brief?

1027 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Was the original John Holland Construction Pty Ltd scheme for the museum and art gallery closer to the beach than all other submissions despite instructions in the design brief that the foreshore should not be disturbed?

1028 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will siting of the museum and art gallery close to the foreshore result in considerable amount of fill being required?

1029 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(a) Did any departmental officers provide advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel and, if so, who were they, and on what matters did they advise the panel?

(b) If the answer to (a) is yes, why was this necessary in view of the fact that a leading Australian architect, Mr Bryce Mortlock, was available to provide expert advice to the panel?

1030 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock advise the museum and art gallery competition judging panel that the initial John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design was superior to all others?

1031 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that John Holland Construction Pty Ltd be invited to revise its initial submission on the design of the museum and art gallery?

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1032 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock recommend that other candidates be invited to revise their submissions on the design of the museum and art gallery?

1033 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is Mr Bryce Mortlock's written advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel available to be seen by me or other members of the Legislative Assembly?

1034 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Bryce Mortlock examine the revised submission of John Holland Construction Pty Ltd to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel?

1035 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When was the final decision made by the museum and art gallery competition judging panel to accept the revised John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design?

1036 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Which museum and art gallery competition judging panel members and/or substitutes were present when the final decision was made to accept the revised John Holland Construction Pty Ltd design?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

391 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the NT Place Names Committee and ask the following:

1. What is the current membership of this committee?
2. How many members of this committee were actually born in the Territory?
3. How many members of this committee are of Aboriginal descent?
4. Have persons of Aboriginal descent ever been appointed to this committee?
5. How many members of this committee reside in Darwin?
6. How many members of this committee reside in Alice Springs?
7. How many members of this committee reside in other Territory centres?
8. What is the normal term of appointment to the committee?
9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?

ANSWER

1. Eight - (Mr E.C. Evans, Mrs C.M. Oxford, Mr J.R. Bridgland, Mrs P.M. Davies, Mr A.E. Chittock, Mr J.C. Marriott, Mr P.G. Spillett, Mr P.J. Wells).
2. One.
3. None.
4. Believed nil.
5. Five.
6. One.
7. Two.
8. The Act does not specify a term of appointment.
9. The duties and responsibilities of the committee as set out in the Act are to make reports to the minister containing recommendations in relation to the naming of or the altering of the name of a public place. The committee is required to forward to the minister with each such report any communication, and particulars of any representations received by it in relation to the naming or the altering of a name of a public place to which the report relates.

794 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has he investigated the means of making more land, presently flood prone, available for housing in Katherine, or is the answer to this problem one for the Minister for Transport and Works as stated in your answer to question No. 534?

ANSWER

Yes. The government has been examining a number of alternative proposals to increase land availability in Katherine and private subdivision near

Katherine is expected in the near future.

The government is reviewing policy not to release flood prone land and this may result in further housing blocks becoming available.

861 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the minister aware of a letter, dated 30 July 1979, which was sent to the Director of Education, Dr J. Eedle, by the Acting Director of the Institute for Aboriginal Development concerning the future educational role of the institute?
2. Is the minister aware that the Acting Director of the Institute for Aboriginal Development has not received to date a reply from Dr Eedle?
3. Can the minister categorically squash the rumour that the Department of Education intends to take over the work of the institute?

ANSWER

1. Yes, I am aware of the letter because along with Mr Perkins and 3 others I received a carbon copy of the letter written.
2. Yes, I am aware of the delay in both my reply and the secretary's reply and can only apologise for the delay.
3. Yes, I can categorically deny this rumour. There has been close co-operation between the department and the institute, as indicated in the letter. The institute is a private agency and obtains its funding from a variety of sources. There is no way that the Department of Education could "take over" institute activities, even if it wished to do so, which it does not, as the department has no influence over its funding arrangements.

862 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What was the original completion date and cost of completing the new Stuart Highway section at Barrow Creek?
2. What is the present scheduled completion date and cost?
3. Have there been any delays and, if so, what was the cause or causes of the delays?
4. Who was employed as the contractor to complete this project?

ANSWER

1. Original completion date: 29 June 1979.  
Original project value: \$1,727,570.
2. Current estimated completion date: 23 October 1979.  
Estimated project completion value: \$1,752,270.
3. Yes. The general reasons for the delays are as follows:
  - 8 weeks 4 days - unseasonal wet weather.
  - 5 weeks 2 days - alteration of pipe to be used from spiro-lock metal to reinforced concrete; late confirmation and delivery delays involved.
  - 1 week 5 days - sheeting of detours (increased scope of work).

1 week - additional excavation to find suitable rock in bridge foundations.

4. Boulderstone-Crawford Joint Venture.

863 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the proposed recreation lake for Alice Springs go ahead and, if so, where will it be sited?
2. Have Aboriginal leaders and organisations been consulted about the proposed recreation lake and its likely impact on traditional Aboriginal sites of significance?
3. Have environmental studies been carried out on the site for the proposed recreation lake?
4. If the proposed recreation lake is to go ahead, when will work commence?
5. How much will the proposed recreation lake cost?
6. If the recreation lake project is not to proceed, what are the reasons?
7. Will the minister supply to me all reports relating to the lake project including environmental studies, site tests and any comments from Aboriginal and other community leaders?

ANSWER

1. A recreation lake is planned for Alice Springs and 4 sites have been closely considered.
  - Todd River - upstream from the Old Telegraph Station;
  - Jay Creek (2 locations); and
  - Birthday Gap on the Hugh River.No final decision has been made at this time but the Todd River site is preferred for the following reasons:
  - proximity to town;
  - good access;
  - adjacent to existing attraction and reserve; and
  - could provide a supplementary water source for Alice Springs in an emergency.
2. Discussions on 2 sacred sites in the area of the Todd River site are being held with the Central Land Council.
3. The investigations so far have included hydrology, geology and soil conservation. When a firm decision is made on the engineering suitability of the site, environmental considerations will be examined.
4. If the tests are satisfactory and a design can be commissioned by the end of this year, work could commence in the second half of 1980.
5. It is not possible to give firm costs at this point but an order of cost of approximately \$2 million is envisaged.
6. There has been no decision that the recreation lake project will not proceed.

7. A report on the engineering geology of the Todd River site is being prepared and other reports will follow on completion of investigations. Normal environmental requirements will be satisfied in due course. A formal reply has not yet been received from the Central Land Council.

864 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to Circular No. 79/145, with reference No. 78/2021, which was sent to all Territory schools over the signature of the Deputy Secretary of the Programs Division, dated 3 August 1979 and headed "Northern Territory Department of Education", which instructed school principals to advise their part-time instructors of the uncertainty of their positions, and ask -

1. Is this the circular which the minister described as "unofficial" or the result of a "misunderstanding" between Darwin and other Territory centres when he announced publicly that funds for part-time instructors would not be cut?
2. Could the minister explain his definition of an "unofficial" circular from officers of his department?
3. Will he state what is the precise situation regarding the future of part-time instructors in schools throughout the Territory?

ANSWER

Circular No. 79/145, with reference No. 78/2021, was sent to all Territory schools explaining that a reassessment of part-time instructors allocations would be carried out at the end of August. This is a normal exercise, carried out each year when funds available for part-time instructors are known.

As there are never unlimited funds available for the employment of part-time instructors, each school is advised of its basic allocation for a financial year, and principals are expected to ensure that part-time instructors services are distributed reasonably evenly throughout the year. My department is aware of at least one urban school in Alice Springs where, if the current rate of expenditure continues, the school will have used its 1979-80 entitlement by the end of the 1979 school year. It was felt that the circular was quite clear in its intentions.

1. The "unofficial circular" was not a circular as such but a letter written to various part-time instructors in Alice Springs and was promulgated by a departmental officer in that area. It would seem that the person concerned misinterpreted the departmental Circular No. 79/145.
2. "Unofficial" was the term applied to the issue of the above-mentioned letter, without clearance by a senior officer who would have picked up the misinterpretation of facts.
3. I can assure you that my department has no intention of reducing the services provided by part-time instructors. It is, however, reviewing its administrative procedures in this area with a view to making the most effective use of part-time instructor resources.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

866 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

For each of the following centres -

Darwin; Alice Springs; Nhulunbuy; Katherine; and Tennant Creek -

- (a) on what dates were the last 3 contracts let for the construction of detached houses by the Housing Commission?
- (b) What was the contract price per detached house in each of the last 3 contracts?

ANSWER

|               |   |                  |         |   |   |
|---------------|---|------------------|---------|---|---|
| DARWIN        | - | 1. Contract 304  | 5.9.79  | - | Price \$30,684 per house.                       |
|               |   | 2. Contract 719B | 23.4.79 | - | Price \$33,495 per house.                       |
|               |   | 3. Contract 719A | 20.4.79 | - | Price \$33,495 per house.                       |
| ALICE SPRINGS | - | 1. Contract 607  | 1.6.79  | - | Price \$21,060 per house.                       |
|               |   | 2. Contract 606  | 2.4.79  | - | Price \$20,962 per house.                       |
|               |   | 3. Contract 605  | 30.3.79 | - | Price \$27,435 per house.                       |
| NHULUNBUY     | - | 1. Contract 676  | 1.6.79  | - | Price \$42,500 per house.                       |
|               |   | 2. Contract 265  | 20.6.78 | - | Price \$43,753 per house,<br>(elevated houses). |
|               |   |                  |         | - | Price \$40,687 per house,<br>(public housing).  |
| KATHERINE     | - | 1. Contract 503  | 1.6.79  | - | Price \$35,090 per house.                       |
|               |   | 2. Contract 501  | 2.3.79  | - | Price \$32,920 per house.                       |
|               |   | 3. Contract 266  | 22.5.78 | - | Price \$32,656 per house.                       |
| TENNANT CREEK | - | 1. Contract 553  | 4.7.79  | - | Price \$28,765 per house.                       |
|               |   | 2. Contract 551  | 25.5.79 | - | Price \$38,680 per house.                       |
|               |   | 3. Contract 232  | 2.3.77  | - | Price \$29,000 per house.                       |

936 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will sulphuric acid be available to turn phosphate dust and phosphate rock into cheap fertilizer?

ANSWER

The following information has been supplied by the Minister for Industrial Development:

"The question appears to be linked to a recent media announcement about the arrival of a consignment of sulphuric acid in Darwin. This importation was made by Queensland Mines through a facility constructed on land leased from the Port Authority and is for the exclusive use of the company in its processing of uranium ore."

938 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is being done to replace existing medical services aircraft with aircraft capable of being operated economically from airstrips in the Territory by pilots other than commercial airline pilots?



ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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ANSWER

We are looking at the possibility of replacing Nomad aircraft by a smaller number of faster pressurised aircraft which will enable a more economical use of our total resources. The question of pilots has, however, not been looked at.

942 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Katherine Corporation be allowed to make by-laws ultra vires as a measure to speed up effective local government?

ANSWER

No.

943 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will private telephones be available in Katherine Hospital for patients requiring them, such as a businessman confined to hospital with a broken leg?

ANSWER

I have asked the Department of Health to examine the practicality of the rental of private telephones by hospital patients, but provision has already been made for patients' telephones at Casuarina Hospital.

946 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the estimated completion date for the new water supply for Katherine from the Donkey Camp intake?

ANSWER

July 1981.

955 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Who is responsible for the metal sheds being constructed at the Aboriginal camp at Uluru?
2. How many sheds will be built?
3. How much are the sheds costing?
4. How many Aboriginal people live at Uluru?
5. What facilities are to be provided in the sheds?
6. What advice was sought from the Aboriginal community and from experts on Aboriginal housing before work on the sheds was started?
7. Does the minister consider that the sheds are appropriate housing for the Aboriginal people at Uluru?
8. What plans for Aboriginal housing are contained within the proposed Yulara Village?

ANSWER

1. Aboriginal housing at Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mount Olga) National Park is the responsibility of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. This government, through the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, has continued to express its concern at the appalling housing conditions for Aboriginal people camping at Ayers Rock and its disappointment that after nearly 2 years, as far as we have been advised, the ANPWS still only propose to build one house at the park. The Aboriginal people living at the park have traditional affiliations with the area and are, for the most part, elderly people.

In view of this, when the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission was recently requested by Aboriginal people at Ayers Rock to provide prefabricated all weather shelter similar to that being erected at the Hermannsburg outstation, the TPWC purchased these units and assisted the Aboriginals to erect them at their current camping area at Ayers Rock.

2. The TPWC have purchased 2 units and have requested the Central Land Council to advise as to whether it is their understanding that the Aboriginal people want further units and whether the supply of these has the support of Central Land Council. If the answer to both is in the affirmative, the TPWC intend to provide between 5 to 6 additional units. These may not all be of the Hermannsburg type and current proposals are also taking into consideration a housing system designed by the Commonwealth Department of Construction which embody the same principles.
3. The 2 units already purchased have cost \$2,331.80 each, delivered on site. It is again stressed that the responsibility for Aboriginal housing on this park rests with the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service and that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has taken this action to provide some protection for these elderly Aboriginal people.
4. To our knowledge, at Friday 28 September, there were 20 Aboriginal people camping at Ayers Rock. This number varies considerably as they are traditionally oriented people and numbers fluctuate considerably with people coming and going on "business" and visiting relatives.
5. No facilities are provided in the sheds. They are a simple lock-up weatherproof shed, with windows and an external verandah for outdoor living. They are designed solely for all weather protection and have a heavy duty fibro floor to allow cooking fires to be lit inside if required. If the ANPWS is unable to provide basic services such as water and toilet facilities to the remaining Aboriginal people camping at Ayers Rock, over and above the one house that they propose to build, then the TPWC will probably have to assist once more.
6. The sheds were provided in response to the request from Aboriginal people at Ayers Rock. They are designed and built by Aboriginal people at Hermannsburg to suit their housing requirements at the outstations and can be readily transported and re-erected in keeping with their desire to follow a traditional lifestyle. The Commonwealth Department of Construction proposals which are also being evaluated, embody these principles of mobility and in addition, incorporate insulated building materials and a greater flexibility in that they can be added to and expanded to incorporate normal facilities in response to the occupants' needs.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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7. No one considers the sheds to be appropriate housing for the Aboriginal people at Uluru. They are regarded only as temporary weatherproof shelter, although they may also serve some transitional function in a progression to more sophisticated accommodation. Moreover, it is not intended to impose western values on a people who may prefer a more traditional lifestyle.
  
8. The development plan for the Yulara Village provides for serviced land for the eventual construction of motels, campgrounds and housing lots which will be made available for lease by interested departments, organisations and individuals. Provision has also been made for possible development requirements of Aboriginal groups should they desire areas separate from the planned village development. Actual development of facilities for Aboriginal people will be incorporated in the next stage of development of the Yulara Village, tentatively programmed for 1980-81 and further discussions will be held with the Aboriginal groups on their requirements as a prelude to planning.

(This information was also provided in response to a question from Mr Perkins - 11 September 1979 - on the provision of suitable housing for Aboriginal people in the Yulara Village area).

1037 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that confiscated fishing gear has been given by the Fisheries Division and the Department of Industrial Development to Aboriginal communities?

ANSWER

No items of confiscated gear or equipment have been donated to Aboriginal communities for commercial fishing ventures. In some instances, confiscated gill nets have been used in training courses for Aboriginals but, in all of these cases, the gill nets were not marked or tended when seized for being illegally set. No subsequent claims of ownership for any of these nets were lodged with the Fisheries Division. All fishing nets that are in a good condition at the completion of Aboriginal training courses are returned to Darwin. Nets which are damaged beyond economical repair are not returned. It is not current division policy to sell gear back to the offenders. Under government disposal procedure, such gear must be either auctioned or sold by tender. At the moment, we are not disposing of such gear because our powers to do so are imprecise. However, the new Fisheries Bill which was introduced in the last sittings will clear up this problem.

1038 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of the activities of the Yipirinya School at Alice Springs? If so, what help does the Education Department propose to give to the school? Is it a fact that the Education Department has actually prohibited the mention of this school on the Aboriginal program on radio 8HA? If so, I would like to know why?

ANSWER

The question has about 4 barrells to it and deals with quite a complex matter. I ask the honourable member to put it on notice.

1039 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I asked the minister some time ago whether the Northern Territory Electricity Commission would be requested to carry out urgent maintenance on overhead wires. Recently, there was another accident in Kahlin. Has he asked for the maintenance to be carried out and, if so, is he able to report on NTEC's progress in that maintenance program?

ANSWER

I recall that the honourable member raised the particular issue of high voltage maintenance in the Darwin area. At the time, I gave an indication to the honourable member of the works that were being done. I took the issue up with the Northern Territory Electricity Commission which advised me that they will be proceedings to have all the rehabilitation and maintenance work in the Darwin area brought to a conclusion as soon as possible. Maintenance is not something that will commence this year and finish next year; it will continue for ever and ever. I guess that the people living in the suburbs of Darwin who are suffering from intermittent blackouts as a result of maintenance operations are well aware that maintenance is a continuing operation.

I have not been able to get details of the accident at Kahlin. I am not aware of whether the accident was caused by poor maintenance on the part of the commission but I will endeavour to get and provide that information for the honourable member as soon as possible.

1040 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

During the August sittings and on 12 September, I asked the Minister when the members of the Education Advisory Council would be appointed. On 12 September he replied that the Executive Council papers were being prepared at the time and that, hopefully at the next Executive Council meeting, his Honour and the Executive Council would consider the matter.

In view of the previous answer to this same question, has executive council met and considered this matter? Can he indicate when these advisory councils will be appointed?

ANSWER

The appropriate documentation is now prepared and, although I gave an undertaking to the honourable member that I would endeavour to get it before his Honour at the next meeting of the Executive Council, difficulty has arisen as to the membership of 1 member. It is for that reason that a re-think had to take place. Nevertheless, the documents are finalised and his Honour the Administrator and the Executive Council should be considering them at the next meeting.

1041 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Which private people went on the recent trade mission and what was the government's responsibility for their inclusion?

ANSWER

The private people who went on the recent mission to Singapore were Mr Peter Rau from Tristar, Mr Ron Hersey who is a farmer from Katherine, Mr Roger Rooney of V.B. Perkins and Company, Mr John Hickman, Mr Nick Paspalis and Mr Graham Varden. The government had no responsibility for the welfare of these people or to provide fares or financial assistance. However, they are entitled to some reimbursement from the Crown as a result of their expedition to Singapore. Our assistance came in the form of assisting them with appointments with senior officials and generally offering advice wherever possible.

1042 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister aware that some part-time nursing sisters at Darwin Hospital have been told, upon taking holidays, that they will be unable to obtain part-time employment on their return? Will the minister investigate this in view of his earlier assurance to the Assembly that part-time employment would continue to be made available for these sisters?

ANSWER

I will most certainly investigate the matter. If the honourable member would like to quietly give me the names of the people that are involved, it would make that process of investigation much simpler.

1043 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise what steps he has taken to ensure that Northern Territory residents will receive a direct TV coverage of this year's Melbourne Cup?

ANSWER

Recent reports indicated that the Northern Territory would not receive a direct television coverage of the Melbourne Cup because the Victoria Racing Club had sold exclusive television rights to the 0-10 network which does not service the Northern Territory. In any event, the only commercial television channel in the Territory is in Darwin. Coupled with the problems of television coverage of the cricket and the fact that the Territory missed out on a direct telecast of the VFL grand final, this prompted me to send a letter and a telex to the Chairman of the Victorian Racing Club asking him whether it would be possible, in view of the fact that the 0-10 network did not operate in the Territory, for the VRC to allow the ABC to televise the Melbourne Cup in the Territory. I must thank the Chairman of the Victoria Racing Club for the promptness of his action. Within 2 days he had indicated that the 0-10 network and the Victoria Racing Club had absolutely no objections, that facilities would be made available to the ABC and that it was up to them from there on in.

At the same time, I sent a telex to the Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Commission asking him whether he would be agreeable to the ABC in the Territory televising the cup. I have not as yet heard anything from him. In the meantime, I have communicated with him again and told him that the VRC is agreeable. At the present time, it is in the hands of the Australian Broadcasting Commission. I really hope that they won't sulk about televising the Melbourne Cup in the Territory the way they seem to be sulking over providing cricket coverage simply because a commercial interest has the rights elsewhere. The Australian Broadcasting Commission has a very serious responsibility to Territorians because it is the only media network that covers the whole of the Territory and we depend on it to a much greater extent than people elsewhere. I believe that its senior management and the commission itself must have regard to the special requirements of the Northern Territory and be prepared to do things here that they may not necessarily have to do in the states which are well provided with commercial TV coverage.

1044 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

In the light of previous answers he has given to my queries regarding Connair and continuing press speculation as to its future, can he give the House any indication of the likely ownership of Connair in the future?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate the expected future ownership of Connair. Most of the press speculation in relation to the future of Connair is generated by the management of Connair itself. Naturally, it wants to try to create as big a market as possible for the sale of the company and I suppose commercially one cannot blame it for that. At present, the Northern Territory government has indicated to any corporation or group that has approached it that the purchase of Connair will not necessarily mean that that person or corporation will be given any rights in the Northern Territory other than those presently held by Connair itself. In other

words, a ticket buying Connair will not be a ticket to become the Northern Territory's regional airline. At present, we are in receipt of submissions of one sort or another from East-West Airlines, Trans Australia Airlines and Ansett Airlines. We are waiting for detailed submissions from the 2 major domestic operators and I think, in fairness, that East-West Airlines should be permitted to re-submit if it so desires.

The Northern Territory government is not particularly interested in what they have done in the past but what they are likely to do in the future. We are interested to know things such as anticipated levels of fare, expected frequencies, types of aircraft and the proposed methods by which the airlines would suggest that fares and freight rates be increased rather than the glamorous side of the airline industry. I understand from Mr Connellan that other companies may be interested. We have had a telex from him recently indicating that an overseas company is prepared to buy Connair subject to his earlier sale of Connair to TAA or any other company. We will certainly look at all these propositions in some detail but it may be a month before they are received in Darwin.

In the meantime, Connair is quite capable of operating and will continue to receive the federal government subsidy until September of next year. There is no reason for haste; it is not a matter which we should rush into. I have given the staff of Connair - and I think some staff members generate the interests of the honourable member for Nightcliff in this matter - assurances that their interests will be protected. I believe that everyone who has indicated an interest in Connair to date has also indicated that there would be no staff retrenchments. I really cannot do more than that. I think the government is doing more for Connair staff in that way than the management of Connair has done for its staff over the last several years. Every time it looked like having a subsidy fight with the government, it told the staff that they would all be retrenched or words to that effect and has used them as political muscle in its bid for subsidy. I again report that the government will do everything humanly possible to protect the interests of Connair staff and that everyone in the aviation industry understands this. I do not think I can serve any good purpose by repeated that assurance any more.

1045 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Because of the

Because of the killing of a Victorian man by a crocodile at the Rainbow Cliff area off Gove last weekend, what steps have been taken by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to have the crocodiles in that area of the Gove Peninsula taken away from those recreational areas?

ANSWER

I was saddened to hear of the tragic and bizarre circumstances of the death of the young skindiver at Rainbow Cliff near Nhulunbuy last weekend. I immediately asked the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to carry out a survey of the number of crocodiles in the area. I believe that the Parks and Wildlife Commission has already established a task force to carry out this job. Attempts will be made to trap and move to another location any crocodiles which are located close to popular swimming or diving areas. Obviously, this will be a difficult task.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

1046 Mr EVERINGHAM: I have a telex from the Chairman of the ABC which is relevant to an earlier question: "Reference your telex message sent 4 October. Having regard to current commission policy, I cannot give you an assurance that the ABC will carry a live telecast to Northern Territory of Melbourne Cup if VRC agrees to your requests". He had not received my second telex by then. "Film of the race is expected to be included in early evening ABC television news bulletins of Tuesday November 6 in all states and in Northern Territory". It looks as though I will have to go back to the crease.

1047 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the minister aware that a company called Diorama Pty Ltd is building a diorama of Aboriginal folklore and a souvenir shop on lot 4571 in the town of Alice Springs? Can he confirm whether planning approval was given for this development?

ANSWER

I do not know the dates and times of the approvals for a diorama which is being built in Alice Springs. I have no personal knowledge on the subject. However, I will seek the information and pass it on to the honourable member.

1048 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it proposed to amend the breathalyser legislation to remove the power of police to require all vehicle passengers in road accidents to submit to blood tests?

ANSWER

I have noted newspaper reports of alleged proposed amendments to the breathalyser legislation in the last couple of days. Although there was a file on my desk when I returned to the Northern Territory yesterday afternoon containing certain suggestions regarding a number of aspects of the legislation, that file certainly did not emanate from the police. As yet, no submission in respect of amendments to the breathalyser legislation has gone to Cabinet where it would certainly have to be considered before amendments were agreed to.

The honourable member for Stuart asked whether an amendment is proposed to remove the provision whereby occupants rather than passengers - and I make that distinction deliberately - can be requested to submit to a blood test following a motor accident. It is a matter for a court to determine who was the driver of a motor vehicle that was involved in an accident as a result of which prosecution or civil proceedings might flow; it is not a decision to be taken by the police or by a doctor. How is a doctor to decide who is the driver when persons are brought to him at the hospital? Although I certainly would not expect that the procedure would be a general one, it is for this reason that the provision is in the bill. This provision is contained in legislation in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and, legally, I can see a very good reason for it. I am not sure who is proposing any amendments to the legislation at this stage. We will certainly look at any proposal for amendments but I want to bring it to the attention of members so that they will be aware of the specific reason for the inclusion of that clause in the bill.



1049 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Dorisvale barytes mine been purchased by Utah company?

ANSWER

I understand that there has been a takeover by Utah of the Australian company that is currently operating in the Dorisvale barytes mine. I am not aware that that transaction has been concluded but I think that, before the Dorisvale barytes mine was included in such a purchase, there should be talks with the Northern Territory government because we have invested on roads and improvements in the area to enable that project to get off the ground. If there was some benevolent organisation like Utah around the ridges, we would be willing to talk to them about the inclusion of the particular mine in such a transaction.

1050 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise whether the Health Department has done any investigation that will encourage it to proceed with fluoridation of the Katherine water supply?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I would just like to bring honourable members up to date with some of the work that has been done by the Health Department in this particular area. As you are aware, Mr Speaker, about 6 months ago there was a lot of opposition voiced in Katherine to the proposal that fluoride be introduced to the water there as a means of trying to reduce the prevalence of dental caries in the town. Various groups took exception to the proposal and expressed their opposition. Subsequently, we sent officers from the Health Department to talk to these people and to put the case for fluoride from the health point of view.

After that, I discussed the issue with Dr Gurd and asked him whether the department had made any comparisons between children that were born and bred in Katherine with those that were born and bred in Tennant Creek because Tennant Creek has natural fluoride in its water. It would have been interesting to obtain a comparison of the prevalence of dental caries in children. I thought that such a survey would be a very simple matter and I left it with the department. The department embarked on an exhaustive investigation of the difference between the children in Tennant Creek and Katherine. The survey is common throughout Australia from the point of view of the dental profession. There is a standard system of making comparisons of this nature. It was conducted in both towns by the dentists and the dental therapists. The criteria that we used was based on the Australia-wide criteria. Just to give you a bit of background on that, there is an index which is used by the dental authorities for this evaluation which is called the DMFDEN baseline index. The DMF index indicates the presence of the dental caries. They add these 2 factors and divide the number by the number of people that are involved and come up with what they call a community baseline figure.

The particular survey involved 176 children from Katherine and 96 children from Tennant Creek. The children involved were between 5 and 12 years of

age, born and bred in the towns and had not been out of the area except on holidays or for brief periods.

The results of the survey for the ages of 5-10 years showed that dental caries were 3 times more prevalent among Katherine children than among Tennant Creek children. In the 11-12 year age groups, Tennant Creek children had less dental caries than Katherine children but the department felt that, because there were only 39 children in that classification, they did not really get a good cross-section of the community and a good figure for a baseline index.

Another interesting result came from a comparison of the baseline indices for both Katherine and Tennant Creek with figures from Tamworth and Canberra where fluoride has been added to the water for more than 10 years. The interesting fact was that the existing baseline figure in Katherine, about 5.16, is comparable to the figures available for Tamworth and Canberra before fluoride was added to the water in those 2 towns. The latest figures for Tennant Creek are comparable to the latest figures for Tamworth and Canberra where fluoride has been added to the water for more than 10 years.

The results of the department's investigation show that there is a good deal of benefit to be gained by the addition of fluoride to the water. There will always be objections to fluoride in the water but, from the point of view of preventing dental caries in children, the evidence supports, without any reservation in my mind, the concept of introducing fluoride to the Katherine water supply.

1051 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform me on the development of the Harts Range gem find?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure whether the honourable member is referring to the ruby discovery by Hillrise Investments in that particular area. I advised the House some time ago that a very interesting ruby discovery had been made over a very large strike zone in the particular area. One of the difficulties that confronted the company was marketing the product. The gem must be very pure because there is not much of a market for second-rate rubies.

The company has sent people to Germany and have established that they have a market for their particular product. Recently, they floated an Australian company through the Stock Exchange to further investigate and develop the area.

This discovery lies near the Harts Range, 130 miles out of Alice Springs. I would just like to assure the honourable member that the fossickings of individuals in this particular area will not be interrupted by the activities of the company because they are in 2 different locations.

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