

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 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

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

391 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the NT Places 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?

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 22 AUGUST 1979

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?

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 programs?

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?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

2. Is the minister aware also 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?

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?

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?

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?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

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?

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?

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?

936 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

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

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?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

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?

938 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

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?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 September 1979

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?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

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?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 18 SEPTEMBER 1979

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?

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?

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?
- (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?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

268 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Did the Prime Minister write to the Chief Minister during 1978 concerning the proposal by the Heritage Commission to proclaim the Alligator Rivers region as part of the national heritage?
2. If so, on what dates?
3. Did the Chief Minister respond?
4. If so, on what dates?
5. Did the Chief Minister object to the proposal?
6. If so, on what terms?

ANSWER

1. No. A letter concerning such a proposal was, however, addressed to the Chief Minister by the Minister for Environment, Housing and Community Development.
2. The letter referred to in 1 was received during November 1978.
3. Yes.
4. 4, 12 and 18 December 1978.
5. Yes.
6. Formal objections were lodged against the proposed listing of the Alligator Rivers region as a whole and a number of smaller areas inside the region because the proposal, in general, did not conform with the requirements of the Australian Heritage Commission Act.

312 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a decision been taken on the type of vehicle which will replace the present Holden pursuit vehicles of the Traffic Branch?
2. Will these vehicles be air-conditioned?
3. Has consideration been given by the department to supplying its officers with personal sidearms instead of the current practice of officers purchasing their own sidearms?

ANSWER

1. The Police Force will replace 8 of its traffic pursuit vehicles this financial year. A specification has been drawn up and depending on the price and availability of vehicles which conform to the specification, a decision will be taken at that time as to the type and brand of vehicle to be purchased.
2. Yes.
3. Officers who purchase their own firearms do so of their own free will. However, there are ample firearms available for issue if and as required.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

343 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister advise the current position of the \$150,000 advanced by the NT government to V.B. Quinton?

ANSWER

No funds have been repaid to date. A statement of affairs has been supplied to the Northern Territory Development Corporation by the receiver of NADC but cannot be finalised until all creditors and debtors are cleared.

488 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many adults currently live on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?
2. How many adults are currently employed on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?
3. How many adults are currently in receipt of unemployment benefits on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?
4. How often are updated statistics collected on the above questions?

ANSWER

1. The following statistics provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics extracted from the hand tabulations of the 1976 census
2. provides the closest answer available to parts 1 and 2 of question 488.

Hand tabulation - Aboriginals, 18 years and over

Bagot	132	Hermannsburg	265
Amoonguna	115	Hooker Creek	307
Angurugu	263	Maningrida	240
Areyonga	136	Melville Island	146
Bathurst Island	408	Milingimbi	257
Beswick/Bamyili	293	Ngukurr	113
Borrooloola	160	Numbulwar	158
Croker Island	132	Oenpelli	223
Daly River	220	Papunya	220
Delissaville	74	Port Keats	401
Docker River	146	Santa Teresa	244
Galawinku	416	Umbakumba	158
Garden Point	117	Yirrkala	264
Goulburn Island	115	Yuendumu	404
Haasts Bluff	85		

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1976 Census - Details of persons residents in Northern Territory Aboriginal Communities

	Aboriginal population	Persons 18 years and over	Total persons	Employed persons 15 years and over
Bagot	296	138	312	68
Amoonguna	199	128	227	61
Angurugu	573	314	700	158
Areyonga	253	160	291	80
Bathurst Island	758	476	895	305
Beswick/Bamyili	566	352	675	180
Borroloola	268	231	370	76
Croker Island	214	152	244	76
Daly River	306	241	430	132
Delissaville	172	112	214	52
Docker River	251	164	275	55
Galawinku	726	515	987	447
Garden Point	207	141	243	99
Goulburn Island	208	134	243	82
Haasts Bluff	163	120	178	48
Hermannsburg	608	316	694	64
Hooker Creek	542	361	616	164
Maningrida	520	319	660	191
Melville Island	246	178	299	94
Milingimbi	605	298	677	137
Ngukurr	228	123	250	66
Numbulwar	330	192	378	92
Oenpelli	447	264	508	128
Papunya	399	261	455	107
Port Keats	819	442	882	268
Santa Teresa	536	282	579	154
Umbakumba	334	188	371	85
Yirrkala	532	325	647	188
Yuendumu	711	495	875	170

3. The Department of Social Security has provided the following answer to part 3 of question 488:

"I must apologise for the delay in answering your letter of 17 May 1979 requesting details of the number of adults currently in receipt of unemployment benefits in Aboriginal settlements in the Northern Territory.

This department does not keep separate figures on unemployment benefits paid to Aboriginals as against non-Aboriginals, but it can be estimated that the current figure would be 1,200."

4. The Bureau of Statistics has advised that statistics are updated at 5 year intervals.

The honourable Leader of the Opposition should note that this information was obtained from Commonwealth government departments not under the control of the NT government and I would ask him and other members to observe Standing Order No. 91 in the future.

531 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Does the Department of Primary Industry have a program of field days and like functions to assist in disseminating knowledge to

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

farmers and pastoralists?

- (b) If there is a program, can it be made public?
- (c) What field days or encouragement groups are planned for small farmers with interests in pigs, goats, poultry, small farming machinery, vegetable growing, flower production, fruit tree growing and horticultural pests?
- (d) If there is no program of field days to assist primary producers, why not?

ANSWER

- (a) Yes. The 1979 program included:

Upper Adelaide River Experiment Station - 22 February
Katherine area - 7 April

Douglas Daly Experiment Station - 4 May

Berrimah Experiment Farm/Laboratory - 14-15 September

Coastal plains district (buffaloes) - Date to be notified.

In addition, a number of short field visits, by smaller groups, are organised as opportunities arise and exhibits are arranged for shows at the major towns.

- (b) Field days are always publicised well in advance throughout the media.
- (c) The planning for the Berrimah Open Day will include the interests of small farmers. The Division of Primary Industry also provides encouragement through its normal extension activities and on request.
- (d) Not applicable.

I would like to stress that experiment farms and research stations are normally open to the public and that the public should not feel that they must wait for an open day to visit the station.

587 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) What measures are intended to control or eradicate noxious weeds such as parkinsonia, mimosa, salvinia, water hyacinth and many others in the Territory?
- (b) Is it a fact that mimosa was virtually eradicated in the NT when the program was stopped?
- (c) Is it a fact that the Department of Primary Industry has only one weeds agronomist who has 2, possibly 3, assistants?

ANSWER

- (a) Chemical, mechanical or biological measures appropriate to the weed species concerned are being used and will continue to be used to eradicate or control noxious weeds in the Territory.
- (b) No.
- (c) The Department of Primary Production has one full-time weeds agronomist, who handles survey, research and legislation, although recently the former district agronomist position in Katherine was

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redeployed to work full-time on the sida weed problem in the district.

Weed control field activities are conducted by technical and labouring staff with up to 3 technical staff and 3 labouring staff being available on a part-time basis.

590 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he set up an authority to enable regular consultations between meat processors and producers to take place for the benefit of the Territory cattle industry as a whole?

ANSWER

My department has been examining this matter for some time and has concluded that a statutory authority of the type found in Queensland and in New South Wales would be expensive to operate and would bring relatively few benefits to the Northern Territory beef industry.

I consider that the Territory beef industry would be far better served by the formation of a consultative committee comprising all sectors of the industry which would provide a forum for liaison and open discussion of beef industry problems which are of specific relevance to the Territory.

My department is presently drawing up terms of reference for the operation of such a committee and I hope soon to be able to discuss the details with industry.

602 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has a form recently been introduced at Darwin Hospital which requires the husband of a married woman seeking an abortion to sign a statement indicating his consent?
2. Was the form drafted by the Attorney-General's Department?
3. Is there any legal necessity for a husband's consent to be obtained before a married woman can obtain an abortion in the NT? If so, please provide details.
4. If the answer to 3 is yes, why has such consent in writing not been obtained previously?
5. If the answer to 3 is no, why is such consent now required?
6. Is the husband's consent required either by the hospital, or in law, or both, in the case of a married woman living separately from her husband?

ANSWER

1. Yes. The form was introduced in 1978. Provision is made in the form for the consent of a husband, but that consent is not a requirement.
2. No.
3. No.
4. Not applicable.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

5. See answer to question 1.

6. See answer to question 1.

629 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Could the minister provide accurate figures on crop development programs at Katherine and Upper Adelaide River experimental farms?
2. Were they a success?

ANSWER

It is assumed that the question refers to the bulk cropping program at each station.

At Katherine Experiment Farm, 8 ha of mungbean, variety Berken, were grown, and produced an average yield of 550 kg/ha. Although this was among the best mungbean crops produced in the past season at Katherine, the result is not regarded by the agronomists concerned as satisfactory.

The lower than hoped for yields could be attributed to the early cut out of the wet season and to the fact that agronomic recommendations, although based on the best information available, were sub-optimal.

Experimental work performed last year has resulted in an alteration to recommendations on planting times and sowing rates which will allow an improved expression of yield potential in the future

At the Upper Adelaide River Experiment Station, a total of 31.5 ha of rice was grown, yielding an average of 3.4 t/ha.

This was made up as follows:

<u>Rice variety</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Yield (t/ha)</u>
IR 22	10 ha	4.34
IR 26	1.7 ha	4.24
IR 8	9.2 ha	3.39
IR 661	6 ha	3.4
Bluebonnet	2.3 ha	2.1

These results were generally quite pleasing, the only disappointment being the low yield of the high quality IR 661 rice.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

689 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Can he say when construction work will actually begin on the Tennant Creek abattoir?
2. When will work start on the scheme to supply water to the abattoir and when is it likely to be finished?
3. How much will the water supply scheme cost the Northern Territory government?
4. What is the latest information from the successful company on the throughput, number of staff they will employ and how soon they expect to be actually killing cattle?

ANSWER

1. Construction work on the Tennant Creek abattoir has commenced and is now well advanced.
2. Final investigation work is being undertaken on the water supply prior to design and construction. The provision of the water supply involves a 2-year program of investigation of the aquifer, design of the bore field and construction of the pipeline.
3. The estimated cost of providing water to the abattoir will not be known until the end of the year, when investigations to assess effective flow from the 2 possible sources are completed.

Present indications are that supply may be met from the Cabbage Gum Basin at an estimated cost for extending the existing water main of \$5,000.

However, with the expected increase in mining and agricultural activities and increased town water requirements, it may be more economic in the long run to develop the Tennant Creek West borefield at an estimated cost of \$3.2m.

4. The latest information from the company indicates that:
 - (i) An initial throughput of 200 head per day is planned increasing quickly to 300 head per day.
 - (ii) Employment at the abattoir will be in the order of 128 persons initially.
 - (iii) It is expected that the construction of the abattoir will be completed by the end of 1979 and that operations will commence early in 1980.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

714 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Have officers of his department recommended the closure of Meneling meatworks and, if so, on what grounds?
2. Have the meatworks in fact been closed?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has no information about the closure of Meneling meatworks.

719 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was received by the Commonwealth by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents during the 1977-78 financial year?
2. How much was received by the Commonwealth by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents for the period 1 July 1978 to 31 December 1978?
3. How much was received by the Northern Territory government by way of payments for hospital services, including physiotherapy, for victims of motor vehicle accidents in the period 1 January 1979 to 31 March 1979?

ANSWER

The information requested by the honourable member is not readily available within the department without involving 4 persons working full-time for 3 days to compile it. In the circumstances I decline to answer the question, unless the honourable member can provide adequate reason to justify this cost.

720 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What was the revenue from the NT bus service for 1977-78?
2. What is the anticipated revenue from the NT bus service for 1978-79?

ANSWER

1. Revenue for 1977-78 was:

Fares	\$179,287
Pensioner passes	\$ 8,000
Payments from Education	\$269,192
Charters	\$ 50,362
Total	<u>\$506,841</u>

2. The actual revenue figures for 1978-79 are now available. These are:

Fares	\$232,201
Pensioner passes	\$ 20,000
Payments from Education	\$161,145
Charters	\$ 20,002
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,394
Total	<u>\$434,742</u>

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

726 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. Who are the members of each statutory authority under the minister's responsibility?
2. How much is paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowances?

ANSWER

As Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation, the minister has no statutory authorities under his responsibility.

762 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Is it a fact that there are navigation hazards in the inner Darwin harbour such as submerged buoys and wrecks which have not yet been cleared?
2. If so, why have they not yet been cleared by the Port Authority?
3. Is it because of a shortage of funds?

ANSWER

There are no known wrecks in Darwin harbour which could be considered a hazard to navigation.

There are still a few remains of wartime wrecks which were not completely removed by the Japanese, but these are in deep water.

There are also a few small vessels which were sunk during cyclone Tracy and have not been raised. These are clear of the main shipping channels and too deep to present a hazard to small vessels. All the main areas of the harbour have been surveyed by the Royal Australian Navy's mine-sweepers since the cyclone.

All ports have their share of derelict vessels and Darwin is no exception. There are 14 Vietnamese refugee vessels which have been beached mainly within the Quarantine Reserve and there are several other vessels beached in Frances Bay. The Port Authority is negotiating with the owners of some of these vessels to have them removed to make way for the fishing boat harbour which is currently under construction.

786 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Further to my question on notice number 438, what extension activities are conducted by Division of Primary Industry staff for the benefit of farmers in the Alice Springs area?
2. Has the NT government received and considered proposals from officers or anyone else regarding incentives for extra production to Alice Springs farmers?
3. What action can he take, by way of upgrading marketing facilities, to ensure that more local farm produce is absorbed by the Alice Springs market?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. Staff of all branches of the Division of Agriculture and Stock provide an extension service to Alice Springs farmers as an integral part of their duties. The service includes:
 - visits, inspections and advice to farmers on request, and on a regular basis;
 - discussions and meetings with the farmer organisation;
 - demonstrations, field or open days, courses and show exhibits;
 - publication of the "Alice Springs Rural Review" newsletter on a regular basis;
 - publication of agnotes, bulletins, handbooks on matters relevant to farming at Alice Springs and assistance in the publication of the "NT Rural Magazine";
 - investigations into specific problems being experienced by farmers.
2. I refer the honourable member to my answer to question on notice 438.
- In addition the Northern Territory government recently had officers
3. of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries investigate horticultural and agricultural production and marketing in the Northern Territory. Field work for the investigation is complete and the report of the group is imminent. When the report is received, its recommendations relating to the development of farming in the Alice Springs area will be examined, and appropriate action initiated.

792 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What is the name and address of the owner(s) of each Northern Territory pastoral lease?
2. What is the name and address of the purchaser(s) of each Northern Territory pastoral lease sold or which otherwise changed ownership during the financial years 1972-73; 1973-74; 1974-75; 1975-76; 1976-77; 1977-78 and 1978-79?

ANSWER

1. See list as follows:

Rogers, R., G.F., A.J. & D.J.
Arapunya Station (PHL3)
2 McKinlay Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

J.A. Turner
Jinka Station (PHL4)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

North Australian Pastoral Co Ltd
Alexandria Station (PLH27-31)
G.P.O. Box 319E
BRISBANE QLD 4001

The Scottish Australian Co Ltd
Burramurra Station (PL488)
G.P.O. Box 237
SYDNEY NSW 2001

M.K. Collings
Ringwood Station (PL512)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Walhallow Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Walhallow Station (PL514)
The Australian Estates Company Ltd
G.P.O. Box 235E
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

R.M. Cadzow & Co Pty Ltd
Phillip Creek Station (PL518)
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

A.S. Trippe
Montejinni Station (PL522)
102-104 East Point Road
DARWIN NT 5790

Desa Cattle Company Pty Ltd
Camfield Station (PL523)
G.P.O. Box 449
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Manbulloo & Helen Springs Pty Ltd
Helen Springs Station (PL524)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

Manbulloo & Helen Springs Pty Ltd
Manbulloo Station (PL525)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

Nutwood Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Nutwood Downs Station (PL526)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

Ord River Pty Ltd
Mistake Creek Station (PL527)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

The Waterloo Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Waterloo Station (PL528)
P.O. Box 946
DARWIN NT 5794

The Scottish Australian Co Ltd
Austral Downs Station (PL530)
G.P.O. Box 237
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Anthony Lagoon Station Pty Ltd
Anthony Lagoon Station (PL531)
C/- Mungabroom Station
Via TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

Swift Australian Co Pty Ltd
Lake Nash Station (PL532)
G.P.O. Box 697
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Rocklands Station Pty Ltd
Rocklands Station (PL533)
406 Lonsdale Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

The Managing Director
King Ranch Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Brunette Downs Station (PL535)
Milton Park
BOWRAL NSW 2576

Webb Bros Pty Ltd
Mount Riddock Station (PL536)
C/- Alcoota Station
P.M.B. 27
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

The Secretary
N.T. Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Rockhampton Downs Station (PL537)
P.O. Box 271
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

The Secretary
Peel River Land & Mineral Co Ltd
Avon Downs Station (PL542)
P.O. Box 271
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Koolpinyah Station Pty Ltd
Koolpinyah Station (PL547)
C/- L. Ah Toy
P.O. Box 2478
DARWIN NT 5794

Hooker Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Rosewood Station (PL549)
G.P.O. Box 3630
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Numery Pastoral Pty Ltd
Numery Station (PL557)
P.O. Box 1145
ALICE SPRINGS 5750

Peter Sherwin
Wallamunga Station (PL558)
C/- Mungabroom Station
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

Birrindudu Station Pty Ltd
Birrindudu Station (PL559)
C/- P. Sherwin
Mungabroom Station
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

W.R. Grace Australia Pty Ltd
Mount Bunday Station (PL561)
P.O. Box 3
ADELAIDE RIVER NT 5783

G.F., J.E. Heaslip
Bond Springs Station (PL563)
C/- Martin & Partners
P.O. Box 88
ALICE SPRINGS

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

T.L. & T.A. McKay
Kulgera Station (PL565)
C/- Martin & Partners
P.O. Box 88
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Northern Agricultural Development
Corporation Ltd
Willeroo Station (PL566)
c/- H.V. Quinton
160 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

NOTE: Transfer of Willeroo to:
Western Development Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 1090
BRISBANE QLD 4001
was effected on 22/8/79

Delamere River Ranch Co Pty Ltd
Delamere Station (PL567)
G.P.O. Box 2737
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dillingham Constructions Pty Ltd
Mountain Valley Station (PL569)
P.O. Box 48
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

R.L. Scobie
Hidden Valley Station (PL570)
DALY WATERS NT 5790

J.D. Gorey
Yambah Station (PL572)
C/- Bennett & Fisher Ltd
Railway Terrace
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.M. & P.A. Severin
Curtin Springs Station (PL573)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Singleton Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Singleton Station (PL574)
C/- Bond Springs Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Gunn Development Pty Ltd
Douglas Station (PL575)
G.P.O. Box 1058 N
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Orange Creek Station Pty Ltd
Orange Creek Station (PL576)
via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Newcastle Waters Pty Ltd
Newcastle Waters Station (PL577)
NEWCASTLE WATERS NT 5760

Webb Brothers Pty Ltd
Alcoota Station (PL579)
P.M.B. 27
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

J.P. Purvis & G.A. Dann
Waite River Station (PL580)
C/- Woodgreen Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Georgina Downs Pty Ltd
Georgina Downs Station (PL581)
QLD & NT Pastoral Co
G.P.O. Box 1113
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Argada Pty Ltd
Argadargada Station (PL582)
C/- Gaffney, Harvey & Ryan
63 Parsons Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

G.A. & R.D. Coppock
Newhaven Station (PL583)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

A. Liddle
Angas Downs Station (PL584)
C/- Bennett & Fisher Ltd
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

The Executors
D.J. Major & R.J. Smith
Mt Cavenagh Station (PL586)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

J.L. Timperon
Gurner Station (PL588)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mount Denison Pty Ltd
Mt Denison Station (PL590)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Eva Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Eva Downs Station (PL591)
The Australian Estates Co Ltd
G.P.O. Box 235
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

The Secretary
Elsey Pastoral Pty Ltd
Elsey Station (PL593)
C/- V.S. Gleeson & Co
7th Floor
P & O Building
2 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Willowra Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Willowra Station (PL594)
C/- Dept Aboriginal Affairs
P.O. Box 241
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

E.J.L., W.B., J.A. & E.A. Hayes
Deep Well Station (PL595)
P.O. Box 249
ALICE SPRINGS 5750

Umbeara Pty Ltd
Umbeara Station (PL596)
FINKE NT 5755

Coolibah Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Coolibah Station (PL597)
C/- Unibeeff Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

W. & P.B. Bright
Robinson River Station (PL598)
Via BORROLOOLA NT 5772

Alroy Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Alroy Downs Station (PL599)
G.P.O. Box 457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Finke Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Henbury Station (PL600)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Webb Bros Pty Ltd
Mt Riddock Station (PL601)
C/- Alcoota Station
P.M.B. 27
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

F.A. & K. James & Sons Pty Ltd
Tarlton Downs Station (PL604)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.W. Pye
Todd River Station (PL605)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Annitowa Pty Ltd
Derwent Station (PL607)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

G.M. & J.E. Turner
Garden Station (PL608)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.V. & P.J. Morton
Victory Downs Station (PL609)
Via FINKE NT 5755

The General Manager
B.H.M. Agricultural Management P/L
Calvert Hills Pty Ltd
Calvert Hills Station (PL611)
17 Macquarie Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Goodparla Land & Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Goodparla Station (PL612)
PINE CREEK NT 5782

Mr R.D. Johnson
Goodparla Land & Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Goodparla Station (PL612)
1342 Creekside Drive
WALLNUT CREEK California 94596

Mr A.P. Andelin
Goodparla Land & Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Goodparla Station (PL612)
P.O. Box 219
PIERCE CITY MA 65723

The Secretary
Hodgson Downs Station (PL613)
The Elsey Station Ltd
C/- V.S. Gleeson & Co
P & O Building
7th Floor
2 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

L.J. Murphy
Idracowra Station (PL614)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.J. Darcy Jnr. T.L., N.E., F.J.
& R.H. Darcy
Mallapunyah Springs Station (PL615)
P.M. Bag 13
KATHERINE NT 5780

E. Kunothe
Mt Ebenezer Station (PL617)
C/- Bennett & Fisher Ltd
ALICE SPRINGS 5750

Panoy Pty Ltd
Wollogorang Station (PL613)
C/- "Ashra Downs"
ARAMAC QLD 4726

J.R. Brown, A.F. & G.L. Creek
Marqua Station (PL619)
Via MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

C.M. & R.A. Chalmers
Mt Swan Station (PL620)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Anningie Station Pty Ltd
Anningie Station (PL622)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

K.M. & E.J. Fogarty
Lucy Creek Station (PL624)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

S.L. & H.J. Goldsworthy
Bushy Park Station (PL625)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Ti-Tree Station (PL626)
P.O. Box 322
WODEN ACT 2606

Andrew L. Smith & Livia N. Smith
Allambi Station (PL627)
P.O. Box 1894
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

M.G. Lines & J. Lines
Coniston Station (PL628)
16 Blackburn Avenue
GLENELG SA 5045

Tempe Downs Pty Ltd
Tempe Downs Station (PL629)
R.A. Duncan
23 Lascelles Avenue
BEAUMONT SA 5066

Lilla Creek Station Pty Ltd
Lilla Creek Station (PL630)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Bronte Norman Douglas
Ban Ban Springs Station (PL631)
219 Blaxland Road
RYDE NSW 2112

Roper Valley Pty Ltd
Roper Valley Station (PL632)
C/- Unibeeff Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

First North Territory Cattle Co
Jindare Station (PL633)
P.O. Box 259
CAMMERAY NSW 2062

First North Territory Cattle Co
Jindare Station (PL633)
P.O. Box 36
DARWIN NT 5794

D.J. Major
Mt Barkly Station (PL634)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mataranka Pty Ltd
Mataranka Station (PL635)
C/- Unibeeff Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Mt Skinner Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Mt Skinner Station (PL636)
C/- Messrs Wilson, Bishop, Bowes
& Craig
56 Todd Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Utopia Station (PL637)
P.O. Box 322
WODEN ACT 2606

Estate H.M. Bathern
Beetaloo Station (PL640)
C/- Bagots Executor & Trustee Co Ltd
198 North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

M.G. Lines, A.G. Colson & Estate
E.N. Polson
Aileron Station (PL641)
C/- Bagots Executor & Trustee Co Ltd
198 North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Davids Holdings Pty Ltd
Tanumbirini Station (PL642)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

Bonrook Pastoral Company Pty Ltd
Bonrook Station (PL643)
C/- Bill Coleman
P.O. BATCHELOR NT 5791

H.V. Leonard
Kurundi Station (PL644)
P.O. Box H112
Australia Square
SYDNEY NSW 2000

B.A. Chalmers
MacDonald Downs Station (PL645)
C/- Dneiper Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

McLaren Nominees Pty Ltd
McLaren Creek Station (PL646)
C/- Wilson, Bishop, Bowes & Craig
56 Todd Street
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

A.W. Cavenagh
Ambalindum Station (PL647)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pine Hill Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Pine Hill Station (PL648)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

E.J. Connellan
Narwietooma Station (PL649)
P.O. Box 1
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

B.A. Chalmers
Dneiper Station (PL652)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mrs J.A. Holt
Delmore Downs Station (PL653)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

H.J.L. & P.L. Bloomfield
Loves Creek Station (PL654)
Bloomfield & Co
P.O. Box 322
NORWOOD SA 5067

Hiraji Limited
Napperby Station (PL655-6)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.A. Fryer
Urapunga Station (PL657)
P.M.B. 30
KATHERINE NT 5780

J.F. & M.C. Bird
Indiana Station (PL659)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Mrs J.A. Holt
Delny Station (PL661)
C/- Delmore Downs Station
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

L.R.M. Pastoral & Trading Co. P/L
Balbirini Station (PL663)
C/- Mr L.R. Morgan
"Humbleton"
TARCUTTA NSW 2652

Mount Isa Mines Limited
McArthur River Station (PL664)
C/- Cridland & Bauer
62 Cavenagh Street
DARWIN NT 5790

Maryfield Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Maryfield Station (PL665)
C/- B.G.L. Killen
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

E.F. & E.D. Hart
Hodgson River Station (PL667)
P.M.B. 35
KATHERINE NT 5780

W.A., B.H. & M.I. Gunn &
C.G. Savill
Gimbat Station (PL668)
Gunn Development Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 1058N
BRISBANE QLD 4001

M.E.F. Willick
Milton Park Station (PL671)
P.O. Box 1121
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.M. Chalmers
Bundey River Station (PL672)
C/- MacDonalld Downs Station
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

E. & J.L. Hayes, W.B., J.A. &
E. Hayes as guardian for
E.A. Hayes
Undoolya Station (PL673)
P.O. Box 249
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Allied Pastoral Enterprises Pty Ltd
Fitzroy Station (PL674)
P.O. Box 36
DARWIN NT 5794

Alroy Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Dalmore Downs Station (PL675)
G.P.O. Box 457
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Townsend Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Stapleton Station (PL676)
P.O. Box 1218
DARWIN NT 5794

Farquharson Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Brunchilly Station (PL677)
C/- H.J. Mortimer
92 Mills Terrace
NORTH ADELAIDE SA 5006

Hooker Estates Ltd
Legune Station (PL679)
Box 3630
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Hooker Estates Ltd
Victoria River Downs Station (PL680)
P.O. Box 3630
SYDNEY NSW 2001

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bryan Bowman
Glen Helen Station (PL681)
P.O. Box 2650
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Lindsay Clarke Pty Ltd
Maryvale Station (PL682)
168 Greenhill Road
WAYVILLE SA 5034

J.H. & M. Keighran
Greenbank Station (PL684)
BORROLOOLA NT 5722

A., A., & A. Anderson
Manangoora Station (PL685)
BORROLOOLA NT 5722

Colinta Holdings Pty Ltd
Bing Bong Station (PL686)
160 Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

A.E. Mawson
Spring Creek Station (PL687)
BORROLOOLA NT 5722

Finniss River Cattle Co Pty Ltd
Finniss River Station (PL689)
P.O. Box 1659
DARWIN NT 5794

Mungabroom Station Pty Ltd
Mungabroom Station (PL690)
Via TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

C.M. & R.M. Chalmers
Atula Station (PL691)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

W.A. & L.D. Wilson
Mongrel Downs Station (PL695)
Werocata
Via BALAKLAVA SA 5461

N.B. Hunt
Kalala Station (PL699)
G.P.O. Box 847
BRISBANE QLD 4001

B.G.L. Killen
St Vidgeon Station (PL700)
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

Tempe Downs Pty Ltd
Middleton Ponds Station (PL703)
23 Lascelles Avenue
BEAUMONT SA 5066

Mataranka Pty Ltd
Mataranka Station (PL704)
C/- Unibeeff Australia Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 816
BRISBANE QLD 4001

B.G.L. Killen
Eva Valley Station (PL705)
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

Kildurk Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Amanbidji Station (PL706)
ANZ Chambers, 3rd Floor, Room 302
41-43 Ainslie Avenue
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dillingham Construction Pty Ltd
Waterhouse Station (PL707)
P.O. Box 48
HAWTHORN VIC 3122

The Scottish Australian Co Ltd
Burrumurra Station (PL708)
G.P.O. Box 237
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Innesvale Cattle Company Pty Ltd
Innesvale Station (PL710)
P.O. Box 1096
KATHERINE NT 5780

J.P.R. Purvis
Woodgreen Station (PL712)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Illadah Pty Ptd
& Elders Trustee & Executors Co Ltd
Tobermorey Station (PL713)
N.T. P.M.B.
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

J.H. & M.E. Groves
Prices Spring Station (PL716)
P.M.B.
C/- Post Office
KATHERINE NT 5780

B.N. Douglas
Mt Ringwood Partnership
Mt Ringwood Station (PL718)
P.O. Box 3495
DARWIN NT 5794

Merino Mining Co Pty Ltd
Dungowan Station (PL721)
25 Gordon Street
EASTWOOD NSW 2122

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

H.P. Walton
Murrarji Station (PL722)
P.O. Box 376
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

D.G.H. Joseland &
Estate T.B.C. Walker
Mittiebah Station (PL723)
P.M.B. 15
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Northern Industries Pty Ltd
Benmara Station (PL724)
P.M.B. 33
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Foster Poultry Farms
Mainoru Station (PL725)
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

Foster Poultry Farms
Mainoru Station (PL726)
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

Rural Improvements Pty Ltd
Humbert River Station (PL727)
Via KATHERINE NT 5780

East Baines Pastoral Pty Ltd
Bullita Station (PL728)
C/- Wilson, Bishop, Bowes & Graig
62 Cavenagh Street
DARWIN NT 5790

Estate T.B.C. Walker
Mt Drummond Station (PL729)
C/- Mittiebah Station
P.M.B. 15
MOUNT ISA QLD 4825

Cresswell Downs Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Cresswell Downs Station (PL730)
The Australian Estates Co Ltd
114-116 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Davids Holdings Pty Ltd
Kiana Station (PL731)
P.O. Box 146
BANKSTOWN NSW 2148

E.J. Hill
Coote Hills Station (PL732)
C/- Loans Supervisor Commonwealth
Development Bank
G.P.O. Box 4054
SYDNEY NSW 2001

A.P.N. Pty Ltd
Shenandoah Station (PL733)
Hayfield-Shenandoah Station
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

B.G.L. Killen
Florina Station (PL735)
81 'Oceana'
108 Elizabeth Bay Road
ELIZABETH BAY NSW 2011

G.H. Mitchell & Sons Pty Ltd
Dorisvale Station (PL736)
G.P.O. Box 1739
ADELAIDE SA 5001

J. Ah Toy Pty Ltd
Claravale Station (PL738)
PINE CREEK NT 5792

K.H. & J.H. Hammer
Bauhinia Station (PL740)
BORROLOOLA NT 5772

Broadmere Pty Ltd
Broadmere Station (PL741)
P.O. Box 105
LAKEMBA NSW 2195

Crowson Pastoral Pty Ltd
Palmer Valley Station (PL742)
P.O. Box 1145
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

S.G. Stanes
Erlunda Station (PL743)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Estate K.H. Dudson & R.J. Withnall
Marrakai Station (PL746)
3 Larrakeyah Terrace
DARWIN NT 5790

T. & K. Baldwin
Annaburroo Station (PL747)
P.O. Box 38832
WINNELLIE NT 5789

R. Rixon
Oolloo Station (PL748)
P.O. ADELAIDE RIVER NT 5783

J.L.S. & P. MacFARLANE
Moroak Station (PL751)
P.M.B. 2
KATHERINE NT 5780

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr M. Earley
Bistec Holding Pty Ltd
Goondooloo Station (PL752)
P.M.B. 46
KATHERINE NT 5780

E. Davis & Bagots Executor &
Trustee Co
Amburla Station (PL753)
198 North Terrace
ADELAIDE SA 5000

N.B. Hunt
Banka Banka Station (PL755)
G.P.O. Box 847
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Limmen Nominees Pty Ltd
Nathan River Station (PL756)
C/- Gaffney, Harvey & Ryan
84 Smith Street
DARWIN NT 5790

H.A., F.F. & K.H. Seeley
Lorella Springs Pty Ltd
Lorella Station (PL757)
P.O. Box 110
EAST BRUNSWICK VIC 3057

Colinta Holdings Pty Ltd
Tawallah Station (PL758)
160 Anne Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Billengarra Pty Ltd &
Rosemont Pty Ltd,
B. Franlee Investments Pty Ltd
Billengarra Station (PL759)
136 Liverpool Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Perkins Nominees Pty Ltd
Dry River Station (PL760)
Care of the Slipway
Frances Bay
DARWIN NT 5790

Evans W. & Y.C.D.
Gorrie Station (PL761)
P.O. Box 38544
WINNELLIE NT 5789

A.G. & C.C.W. Garland
Western Creek Station (PL762)
LARRIMAH NT 5760

Davids Holdings Pty Ltd
Sunday Creek Station (PL763)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Chilla Well Station (PL764)
P.O. Box 322
WODEN ACT 2606

Pauls Jewellers Pty Ltd &
Manassie Holdings
Wildman River Station (PL766)
C/- Gaffney, Harvey & Ryan
84 Smith Street
DARWIN NT 5790

G.J. & K.B. Bennett
(PL767)
P.O. BATCHELOR NT 5791

G.A. Letts Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Curlew Downs Station (PL768)
P.O. BATCHELOR NT 5791

P. & C.N.P. Purich
Batchelor Station (PL769)
P.O. Box 788
DARWIN NT 5794

Anderson Holdings Pty Ltd
Manners Creek Station (PL770)
Via URANDANGIE QLD 4824

D.W. Pye
Stirling Station (PL771)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.G. & J.M. FOGARTY
Mulga Park Station (PL772)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

W. Shadforth
Seven Emu Station (PL773)
Via BORROLOOLA NT 5772

Punglina Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Punglina Station (PL774)
C/- Wardell Nominees Pty Ltd
2nd Floor, Mallam Chambers
26 Mitchell Street
DARWIN NT 5790

E.M. & E.W. Petrick, A.J. & E.C.
Mengel and A.D. Colson
Neutral Junction Station (PL775)
BARROW CREEK NT 5750

McGregor A.G., S.T. &
Anderson W.R., M.E.
Ooratippra Station (PL776)
31 Dutton Terrace
MEDINDIE SA 5081

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

New Crown Pastoral Co Ltd
New Crown Station (PL777)
Via FINKE NT 5755

Andado Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Andado Station (PL778)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Tennant Creek Pastoral Co Pty Ltd
Tennant Creek Station (PL779)
P.O. Box 75
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

E. Milnes
Owen Springs Station (PL780)
C/- Dalgety Australia Ltd
P.O. Box 96
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

D.J. & R.H. Driver
Elkedra Station (PL781)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

C.W. Tapp
Killarney Station (PL782)
P.M.B.
KATHERINE NT 5780

R.R. Morphet
Horseshoe Bend Station (PL784)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Inter-City Enterprises Pty Ltd
Point Stuart Station (PL785)
P.O. Box 1146
DARWIN NT 5794

Point Stuart Estate Pty Ltd
Point Stuart Station (PL786)
P.O. Box 1146
DARWIN NT 5794

E. Rayner
Ballongilly Station (PL788)
P.O. Box 327
KATHERINE NT 5780

E. & D. Morris
Clarence Station (PL789)
P.O. Box 185
KATHERINE NT 5780

The Executor
Mr H.E. Runale
Murray Downs Station (PL790)
221 William Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Ammaroo Pty Ltd
Ammaroo Station (PL791)
Martin & Partners
P.O. 88
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Annitowa Pty Ltd
Annitowa Station (PL792)
C/- Martin & Partners
P.O. Box 88
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Woolner Pty Ltd
Woolner Station (PL793)
C/- L.C. Ah Toy
P.O. Box 2478
DARWIN NT 5794

D.A. Weir
Derry Downs Station (PL794)
ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.L. Clough
Epenarra Station (PL795)
P.O. Box 444
TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

N.L. Buntine
Carbeen Park Station (PL796)
P.O. Box 147
KATHERINE NT 5780

Kinlor Pty Ltd, Rundle Pty Ltd,
Manlor Pty Ltd & Jamlor Pty Ltd
(PL797)
Northgate House
Seventh Floor
321-329 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Larrakeyah Services Pty Ltd
Larrakeyah Station (PL798)
P.O. Box 137
ST LEONARDS NSW 2065

Eykamp R.D. & L.A.
(PL799)
"Medway"
QUIRINDI NSW 2343

D.V. Chandler
Gundagai Station (PL800)
"Koolanooka" Nangus
Via GUNDAGAI NSW 2722

Billytod (N.T.) Pty Ltd
(PL801)
G.P.O. Box 2110
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Braitling Nominees Pty Ltd
Mt Doreen Station (PL802)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Aboriginal Land Fund Commission
Mount Allan Station (PL803)
P.M.B. 322
WODEN ACT 2606

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Wave Hill Pastoral Co
Wave Hill Station (PL804)
C/- Australian Investments Agency
Pty Ltd
G.P.O. Box 3958
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Muramulla Gurindji Co Pty Ltd
Daguragu Station (PL805)
Gurindji Social Club Store
Wattie Creek
Via KATHERINE NT 5780

A.J. & M.A. Hagan
Muckaty Station (PL806)
Via TENNANT CREEK NT 5760

W.J. Waudby
Central Mount Wedge Station
(PL807)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.N.D. Miller
Hamilton Down Station (PL808)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

Connor Doherty & Durack Pty Ltd
Auvergne Station (PL809)
C/- R.A. Long Rigby & Co
4th Floor
25 Barrack Street
PERTH WA 6000

Connor, Doherty & Durack Pty Ltd
(PL810)
C/- R.A. Long Rigby & Co
4th Floor
25 Barrack Street
PERTH WA 6000

Bullo River Pty Ltd
& Jindare Station Pty Ltd
Bullo River Station (PL811-12)
P.O. Box 3471
DARWIN NT 5794

Bonya Creek Pty Ltd
Jervois Station (PL813)
C/-Withnall & Everingham
The Vic
Lot 2310 Smith Street
DARWIN NT 5790

David Holdings Pty Ltd
(PL815)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

David Holdings Pty Ltd
Mary River Station (PL816)
P.O. Box 146
BLACKTOWN NSW 2148

Sutton Motors (Homebush) Pty Ltd
Tipperary Station (PL818-22)
P.O. Box 39
DARWIN NT 5794

A.J. & M.E. Underwood &
B.J. Quilty
Inverway Station (PL823)
Via KUNUNURRA WA 6743

A.H. & M.E. Underwood &
B.J. Quilty
Inverway Station (PL824)
Via KUNUNURRA WA 6743

A.H. & M.E. Underwood &
B.J. Quilty
Inverway Station (PL825)
Via KUNUNURRA WA 6743

R.L. & L.R. Savage
Suplejack Downs (PL826)
Via ALICE SPRINGS NT 5750

R.A. & J.W. Beebe
Ucharonidge Station (PL827)
Via ELLIOTT NT 5760

2. This information is available from the Registrar-General's Office, but would require a title search of each and every pastoral lease instrument. As there are over 230 such instruments, the department has not the resources to undertake such a large project without having to put aside other important work. However, the department has been able to extract the number of pastoral lease transfer transactions for each of the relevant years and these are set out below. These figures include all lease transfers including the transfer of small interests, e.g. between members of a family, but do not include share transfers when the lease is owned by a public company -

1972-73 - 6; 1973-74 - 8; 1974-75 - 9; 1975-76 - 12;
1976-77 - 17; 1977-78 - 12; 1978-79 - 16.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

793 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the problems associated with the high saline content in the water supply of the farm area in Alice Springs and, if so, what steps will be taken by his department to overcome these problems?

ANSWER

Chemical analyses of samples of water from bores within the Alice Springs area show that water quality for irrigation purposes is deteriorating as the water table rises in the inner farm basin. The high water table level has resulted from successive, above average rainfall years and reduced utilization of the town water basin following development of the Mereenie supply system.

Lowering the water table level in the town basin by pumping and irrigation of recreation areas has been investigated by the Department of Transport and Works, and the government is prepared to hand over the town basin bores to the Alice Springs Town Council for this project. The council has applied to the Department of Community Development for a \$1 for \$1 grant to develop the recreation areas, and the Minister for Community Development has accepted the project as being eligible for a matching grant. The government will be making a substantial global grant available to the council for a range of projects and the final decision on implementing this project will rest with the Town Council.

798 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the reasons for the change in the Public Service Home Sales Scheme whereby an eligible public servant can now apply to purchase only the house in which he currently resides?

ANSWER

Following representations by the Public Service Commissioner on behalf of staff union/association members of the Public Service Consultative Council, the government reviewed that part of the staff housing policy relating to the sale of government houses to its employees and has approved an amendment to the policy to permit eligible public servants a choice of houses to purchase.

802 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When will the Bagot speedway be moved to its new location?

In the meantime, will the government assist nearby residents by arranging sound barriers or other protective measures to reduce noise from the speedway's loudspeaker system?

ANSWER

The NT Riders and Drivers Association have undertaken to move to the land provided at Hidden Valley as soon as possible after the 1979 speedway season.

As the present speedway is conducted by agreement between the NTRDA and the Darwin City Council, decisions on whether the speedway is permitted to continue at Bagot Park in 1980 rest with the council.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

In view of the impending relocation of the speedway and recent modifications made to the public address system to provide a larger number of speakers operating at lower volume to reduce disturbance to nearby residents, the government does not plan to erect sound barriers.

806 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he encourage the CSIRO to set up a tropical cattle research centre in the Top End to concentrate on nutrition and other problems associated with cattle turn off in this area?
2. Do experiments with urea, being carried out on sheep at Julia Creek by CSIRO, have a direct bearing on nutrition problems of cattle in the Top End?
3. Does he intend using scientific assistance to help control weeds such as parkinsonia, needle bush, hyptis, rubber bush, china apple, datura forex and others?

ANSWER

1. The CSIRO and the Department of Primary Production operate between them 6 research stations covering various major soil types and climatic areas in the Top End. Work on these stations has included a considerable amount of breeding, nutrition and management research for tropical cattle. I will encourage CSIRO to participate in further research, particularly when this is complementary to the work being done by my departments, but I must emphasise that only the CSIRO can decide whether it can justify the commitment of funds and staff for this purpose.
2. Urea supplementation to cattle has already been researched by the Division of Agriculture and Stock in the Top End.
3. A scientific approach to weed control is already the practice in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory has already sought inclusion of some of our major weeds in the national list for biological control investigations. The government will be considering giving financial assistance to CSIRO to accelerate investigations into the biological control of our major weeds.

807 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the NT government doing now to ensure the promotion of agriculture as recommended by 2 trade delegation reports?
2. What steps are being taken to train farmers, farm laborers, etc, now to implement recommendations of the trade delegation reports?
3. Is the government ensuring that importers of beef are receiving the "after sales care" recommended in the report of the first trade delegation?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government is promoting the development of agriculture in the Territory by the provision of assistance to establish handling, storage and marketing infrastructure.

A cropping development scheme was operated in 1978-79 to assist farmers produce crops for which markets had been identified in the Territory, interstate and overseas.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

At this stage the NT Cropping Development Committee, made up of farmers and government officials, is concentrating on the production and handling of crops. Further market promotion is planned but is dependent on increased production.

2. The Katherine Rural Extension Centre has recently been set up by the Department of Education as a Technical and Further Education Institution. Students from Aboriginal settlements, cattle stations and government departments are attending a number of part-time courses aimed at educating the adult rural population in subjects with rural agricultural application. Pilot educational programs will reveal the educational needs of the rural people and the future direction of the centre. The growth and development of the centre is dependent on the rural population showing their interest by attending the courses offered.
3. All enquiries from existing and prospective customers for NT beef and livestock, including buffaloes and buffalo meat, receive prompt attention. As a result of interest prompted by the last trade mission, a high powered delegation from Majuternak visited the NT to meet local exporters and cattle farmers. Calls on overseas buyers are considered an essential commitment in itineraries of future trade missions.

808 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to make suitable land available for production of -

- (a) peanuts;
- (b) guar;
- (c) mung bean;
- (d) sorghum;
- (e) rice;
- (f) maize;

and such other crops, including pasture seeds and hay, as can be economically marketed in Australia and abroad?

ANSWER

The Department of Lands and Housing is responsible for the administration of land matters in the Northern Territory. It is the agency that releases Crown lands and which approves sub-division of land or changes in land usage.

In establishing policies for release or usage of land for agricultural purposes, the Department of Lands and Housing consults with the Department of Primary Production to establish the biological and economical merits of release/changed usage.

809 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Considering that 6,000 tons of sorghum is needed for Top End stock feed requirements annually, will the government provide, as an incentive to farmers, \$1m for a cargo of 5,000 tons of superphosphate to help establish 50,000-100,000 acres of cultivation?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

An amount of \$1m would be excessive and would not be justified in the existing budgetary situation.

810 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What languages are taught in each high school in the Territory?
2. On what basis are languages to be taught selected?
3. Are efforts made to provide courses in the languages of the larger ethnic groups represented in the NT population?

ANSWER

1. Languages taught in each high school in the Northern Territory are as follows:

Darwin High School	- French, German, Indonesian
Casuarina High School	- French, German, Greek, Indonesian, Spanish
Nightcliff High School	- French, German, Indonesian
St Johns College	- French, German, Indonesian
Tennant Creek Area School	- French, Indonesian
Katherine High School	- Indonesian available as 6 week elective course
Nhulunbuy Area School	- French, German, Indonesian
Alice Springs High School	- French, German, Indonesian, Italian
Sadadeen High School	- French, Indonesian

2. Selection is made according to the expressed interest of students, availability of resource materials and the availability of teachers. The Northern Territory, in common with other states, has a long-standing tradition of teaching European languages, particularly French and German, which are intimately bound up with the cultural heritage of the majority of the population. Indonesian is popular in the Northern Territory due mainly to Indonesia being a near neighbour. Teachers and materials are comparatively readily available.
3. Efforts being made regarding languages of ethnic groups in the Northern Territory.
 - (a) Greek has been introduced to years 10, 11, 12 at Casuarina High School where there is a Greek part-time instructor available. Italian is offered at Alice Springs High School.
 - (b) There are plans to encourage schools to provide further courses in Chinese, Greek, Italian, etc, provided teachers can be appointed. My department has been asked to recruit such teachers from other states. There is only one Greek-speaking student undergoing teacher-training at Darwin Community College.
 - (c) My department is presently implementing a survey of children's backgrounds to provide up-to-date information on numbers involved.
 - (d) A multi-cultural education section has been created within the Professional Services Branch of my Department. Curriculum officers will be appointed to assist schools in the selection and development of appropriate materials.
 - (e) Projects in specific languages have been planned, and close contact is being maintained with southern states, particularly

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

South Australia, where appropriate materials in Greek and Italian are being developed.

811 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With reference to the Casuarina public library -

1. When will it be operating?
2. Will it be open at evenings and weekends as well as normal business hours?
3. In addition to public lending services, will it be able to provide -
 - (a) reference information services;
 - (b) services to institutions such as prisons and hospitals;
 - (c) foreign languages services;
 - (d) services to industry;
 - (e) services to the housebound and to country borrowers; and
 - (f) audio-visual services?
4. What will be its level of staffing?

ANSWER

1. It is expected that the library will open for the public late January or early February 1980 depending on the completion of the building and the time taken for shelving, furniture and stock to be installed.
2. It is proposed to open the library on Wednesday and Friday evenings and Saturday morning in addition to normal daily hours. The proposed hours of opening are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday	-	10.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesday	-	12.00 am - 7.00 pm
Friday	-	10.00 am - 9.00 pm
Saturday	-	10.00 am - 1.00 pm

A total of 42 hours.
3. The library will provide a wide range of services including reference information, foreign language services, services to housebound and country borrowers, with expansion into audio-visual services and services to industry and other institutions as staff and facilities become available.
4. The proposed staffing of library is 15 full-time staff.

812 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What NT government departments (or their branches) have libraries?
2. What are their staffing levels?

ANSWER

1. Listed below are Northern Territory government departments, divisions and statutory authorities which have their own libraries.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

2. Individual staffing levels are shown in each case.

Alice Springs Hospital Medical Library	1 librarian
Central Medical Library	1 librarian
	2 non-librarians
NT Department of Chief Minister's Library	1 librarian
NT Department of Construction Technical Library	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Department of Education, Media Centre and	2 librarians
NT Department of Education, Resource Centre	10 teacher/librarians
	1 library officer
	11 non-librarians
NT Department of Lands and Housing Library	1 non-librarian
NT Department of Law Library	1 librarian
	1 library officer
	1 non-librarian
Department of Community Development (Local Government Division Library)	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Department of Mines and Energy Library	1 library officer
Museum and Art Galleries of the NT Library	1 part-time librarian
NT Electricity Commission Technical Library	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Fire Brigade Training Library	1 part-time non-librarian
NT Department of Primary Production Division of Agriculture and Stock Library	1 librarian
	1 non-librarian
NT Department of Primary Production Division of Fisheries Library	1 part-time non-librarian
Resources Development and Information Centre	1 librarian
Roads Division Library	1 non-librarian
Staff Development, Resource Centre	3 non-librarians
Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission Library	1 part-time non-librarian
Water Division Library	1 librarian
	1 non-librarian

838 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Re: Australian Frontier

1. How much money has Australian Frontier received from the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation?
2. Where is the headquarters of this organisation?
3. Whom do they represent?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

4. Are they an incorporated body? If so, what are the aims and objects as specified in the constitution?
5. Who are the "Public Officers" of the organisation?
6. Are they incorporated in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. Australian Frontier Inc received \$49,370 from the Department of Community Development through the Office of Youth, Sport and Recreation. The contract fee covered salaries and related costs in Melbourne, advertising, printing of leaflets, posters and the final report to the Northern Territory government, secretarial expenses outside of Darwin and Alice Springs and contingencies.
2. Australian Frontier's headquarters are in Melbourne.
3. Australian Frontier is a non-profit, non-partisan social development research organisation and as such does not represent any particular sector.
4. Australian Frontier is an incorporated body. Their goals or "Aims and Objects" as stated publicly are:
 - 4.1 to promote awareness of future Australian issues and problems;
 - 4.2 increase awareness of the implications of economic, political and technological trends;
 - 4.3 assist modification of social, educational and political processes to promote community participation in decision-making; and
 - 4.4 assist individuals and organisations to participate constructively by developing the skills and knowledge necessary for involvement.
5. The "Public Officer" of Australian Frontier Inc is: Mr Barry Johnston, 3rd Floor, Canberra House, 2600; Insurance Broker working in a voluntary capacity for Australian Frontier.
6. Australian Frontier Inc are incorporated in Canberra.

857 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With regard to the National Estate Working Party for the Northern Territory (The Northern Territory Heritage Committee) -

1. What are its terms of reference?
2. Who are its members?
3. What are their qualifications for memberships?

ANSWER

1. The terms of reference for the Northern Territory Heritage Committee are:

To furnish advice to the Minister for Community Development on -

 - (a) the current position in respect of heritage material management including matters of current concern or action, e.g. cyclone damaged historic buildings both government and privately owned;

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

- (b) the measures which the Northern Territory government might or should take in respect of identification, protection, management enhancement and presentation of heritage material in the Northern Territory, including the compilation and maintenance of a state register of natural and historic sites and buildings of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origin, e.g. European, Macassan and Chinese;
 - (c) the adequacy of existing legislation to protect and control heritage material;
 - (d) the establishment of criteria for classification of buildings and sites.
2. The members of the committee are representatives of government departments and organisations who have a direct functional interest in
3. heritage matters. They are:

Chairman: Mr R.J. Norman, Director, Community Services, Department of Community Development.

Members: Mr P.J. Wells, Surveyor-General, Department of Lands and Housing;
Mr P.J. Forrest, Director, National Trust of Australia (NT);
Mr V.T. O'Brien, Secretary, Department of Mines and Energy;
Mr N. Lynagh, Co-ordinator-General, Department of the Chief Minister;
Mr P. Wright, Investigation Officer, Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission;
Mr M. Smith, Architect, Buildings Division, Department of Transport and Works;
Mr A. McGill, Northern Territory Development Corporation and Department of Primary Production;
Mr P.G. Spillett, Arts and Cultural Affairs, Community Services, Department of Community Development;
Dr C. Jack-Hinton, Director, Museums and Art Galleries of the Northern Territory; and
Mr B. Newton, Controller of Works, Commonwealth Department of Housing and Construction.

868 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When and at what cost did the government commission Mr Peter Anderson to do a feasibility study of the small-ship repair facility in Frances Bay and when did Mr Anderson hand his report to the government?

ANSWER

I do not have the exact details. I will provide the information later.

869 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister able to supply me with any further information covering negotiations for using part of the Darwin Hospital for a private facility?

ANSWER

I went on at some length in the last sittings to bring the House up to date with discussions that had taken place between the government and Mr Pellerman on the possible use of the Darwin Hospital as a private hospital. Since that advice was tendered to the members, I have had further discussions with Mr Pellerman and the matter has been to Cabinet. It is suffice to say that we are still negotiating. The government is seeking advice from the head of the New South Wales Health Commission on certain aspects of operating 2 hospitals and the practicality of a private entrepreneur operating out of the old Darwin Hospital. As soon as we have received this advice, we will be in a position to talk to Mr Pellerman. I expect to be in a position to report to the House in about 3 weeks.

870 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How soon after the government received Mr Anderson's report did John Holland receive a copy of the report and why were they given a copy?

ANSWER

This is an extension to the other question. I will provide the information later during the sittings.

871 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it proposed to establish a hospitality and catering training centre at the Baptist Hostel - also known as Gillen House - under the control of the Central Australian Community College. If so, what information is available?

ANSWER

The government has been proposing for some time to establish a school of hospitality and catering to provide a higher standard to the tourist industry throughout the Northern Territory. As Alice Springs is the Mecca of tourism, it seems logical that the school be established in that centre. Subject to agreement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory on the future of Commonwealth hostels, the government originally examined the possibility of using that part of the Alice Springs Commonwealth Hostel known as Melanka House. Mr Ron Gould, who will head that school of hospitality and catering, did an examination of the

facilities in Alice Springs and is of the view that the Baptist Hostel would be more appropriate than Melanka House. To that end, the government has requested details and a Cabinet submission so that we can consider the proposals of the Central Australia Community College in the very near future. Irrespective of the results of the suitability of that institution, it is most certainly the firm commitment of the Northern Territory government to establish a school of hospitality and catering in Alice Springs.

872 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When can we expect the rural members of the Town Planning Authority to be appointed?

ANSWER

I have a list of the applicants for the position of local member for the rural area to sit on the planning authority. I hope to make a decision within the next week or so.

873 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORK

With respect to the government's feasibility study of the small ships repair facility at Frances Bay, why were no other companies provided with copies?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, many companies were provided with copies of the feasibility study.

874 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements will be made for receiving highly infectious cases that may enter Darwin by air when the Commonwealth's quarantine station is closed?

ANSWER

There are plans sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health who control the quarantine operations within the Northern Territory to set up a special quarantine ward in the old ward 4 of Darwin Hospital. In conjunction with this, the Commonwealth department will be supplying to the Northern Territory, on a standby basis, a transit isolator so that people with very highly infectious diseases can be transferred by charter aircraft to the Fairfield Hospital for Infectious Diseases in Victoria.

875 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

As I understand it, Ansett has made a take-over bid for Connair and have asked that, if this is accepted, they be given exclusive rights to operate F28 aircraft in the Northern Territory. Given the Chief Minister's previous objections to the continuation of the 2-airline policy, will his government support this proposal?

ANSWER

I answered questions on this subject and made statements at the last sittings in the absence of my colleague, the Minister for Transport and

Works. I have a considerable interest in the matter because I am averse to the continuation of the 2-airline policy. Although I have no personal knowledge of the fact, I understand that Ansett Transport Industries is negotiating with Connair with a view to purchasing the effects and operation of that airline. I cannot say at what stage those negotiations are at the present time although I do know that East-West Airlines have been negotiating with Connair for several months and, to the best of my knowledge, those negotiations are no closer to fruition. It may well be that Ansett Transport Industries is due to spend several months communting from Alice Springs to Narwietooma selling its package to the Chairman of Connair Pty Ltd.

I receive a bare-bones telex from Ansett Transport Industries yesterday which was the first indication that I had of any firm interest by them in Connair. In fact, only a week or 2 ago, Ansett Transport Industries disclaimed any interest in purchasing Connair and put out a press statement under their general manager's letterhead to that effect. Of course, the sale of Connair is a matter for the directors of that company. It is a private company and it is entitled to sell its assets and undertakings to whomever it considers it can do the best deal with. Ansett is fully entitled to negotiate with the board of Connair.

However, the Northern Territory government has always had as the key-stone of its policy in relation to the creation of a regional airline for the Northern Territory that the interests of the people of the Northern Territory must be a paramount consideration. The second consideration must be the interests of the persons employed by Connair whether they be airline pilots, ground staff reservations clerks or traffic officers; that matter has been very much in the forefront of our minds all along. Our third consideration is to see that the Connair company, if possible, obtains a fair deal out of the whole business.

In its telex, Ansett Transport Industries mentioned that it would guarantee to operate F28 aircraft on the trunk routes in the Northern Territory and would also investigate the replacement of the existing Connair equipment. On the face of it, the Ansett Transport Industries offer seems to be quite a good one. It also gives an undertaking that the interests of the Connair staff will be protected. I noted that immediately because this point has caused some concern to Connair staff in the Territory over the past couple of days. Apparently, communication was made to the Airline Pilots Association by Ansett before any communication was made to the local staff or to the government and various garbled rumours on the future of Connair have been coming through. I reiterate that ATI has given an undertaking, at least in its initial telex, that the interests of the Connair staff will be protected. Of course, that would be a key condition that any successful bidder for Connair would need to provide to obtain any guarantees in the allocation of routes from the Northern Territory government. I would like to reassure the staff of Connair that their interest will not be overlooked by the government. I have given already at least a dozen written and oral assurances to this effect and I do so again. I hope that the Connair staff will accept my assurance that their interests are a foremost consideration in the government's thinking. We do not want the staff of Connair to be unemployed; we do not want the facilities that Connair has built up in the Northern Territory - for instance, their engineering workshop at Alice Springs and their facilities in Darwin - and their routes around the Territory to be lost.

When one looks at the ATI proposal and lifts a bit of the gilt from the gingerbread - the offer that F28 Fellowship aircraft will be put on the trunk routes - one looks for guarantees on the rate, frequency and seating capacity that will be provided. There is no such guarantee at this stage although I do hasten to point out that Ansett's indication to the Northern Territory government is merely a serving of notice that it is negotiating with Connair. At this stage, there are no guarantees on frequency. In effect, one F28 a week could be sent from Darwin to Katherine to Alice Springs and they would have kept their faith.

The Northern Territory government has indicated to Ansett Transport Industries that it is certainly interested in hearing further details of the proposal. I hope that they come in shortly because it has been general knowledge in the aviation industry that Ansett were not interested in Connair. What has been going on between East-West and Connair has been general knowledge for months. I think the Ansett move at this time is really leaving it a bit late. We would have to see a very good proposal from Ansett Transport Industries before the government would shift from its view that the Territory requires a regional airline with a strong interest in maintaining its Territory ties and links, and indeed expanding them, of which the East-West proposal gives us some guarantee. The government's mind is not closed to any proposal on what assistance the Northern Territory government should give to the operator of a future regional airline for the Northern Territory, the more people bidding to get support, the higher the offers will go. The Northern Territory should feel flattered that it is suddenly attracting the giants of the aviation industry.

I can assure honourable members that no agreement will be entered into with any company or individual which does not bear in mind those 3 fundamental principals: firstly, the best interests of the people of the Northern Territory, which can only be served by more frequent flights and better aircraft; secondly, the interests of the staff of Connair; and, thirdly, that Connair itself gets a fair shake although I rather think that the chairman of Connair and his directors are well able to look after themselves in that regard.

876 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Were leaseholders or licensees in Frances Bay invited to comment on Mr Anderson's feasibility study or make proposals and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I will add the honourable gentleman's question to the list.

877 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

I understand that a machine at the Darwin Hospital which operates the patient register and the hospital numbers system has broken down and staff have to operate from boxes arranged on the floor. What measures are in hand to remedy this situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it has been planned for quite some time to put the patient register of the Darwin hospital onto a computer. However, we have had unavoidable delays in this particular area. One of them has been caused by the government's changeover to a larger central computer. Arrangements have also been made for the Health Department to work closely with staff from the Public Service Commissioner's office and to assist in the completion of the general data base for the computer. It is anticipated that this is going to take some time and that the patient register program will have to be temporarily postponed to accommodate the proposal to put staff on a computer.

878 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

After consideration of Mr Anderson's feasibility study on the small-ship repair facility, did the government place newspaper advertisements listing its major findings and seeking proposals from other developers. If so, when did these newspaper advertisements appear? If they did not appear, why not?

ANSWER

I will provide the information to the honourable member later in this sittings.

879 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following on from my previous question, is it proposed that a carpentry and woodworking centre is to be established at premises in Priest Street as part of the Central Australian Community College? If the answer is in the affirmative, are further details available?

ANSWER

The proposal was put to the government by the Central Australian Community College to purchase premises in Priest Street which was previously run as a carpentry and joinery facility. There is no doubt that there is a very significant need in Alice Springs for a carpentry, joinery and trades facility. The Department of Transport and Works is the agency responsible for the purchase of property and assets for the government and for evaluating that property. From a layman's point of view, it would seem to represent good value to any purchaser. I am rather staggered that a private buyer has not already purchased the property. It would seem that poor judgment from the private sector is going to benefit the government.

880 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Some time ago, an application from the Darwin River and Berry Springs Progress Association was made for land in the Berry Springs area. Is the minister aware of this application? If so, would he give me some indication of whether a decision has been made?

ANSWER

I am aware of the application. The organisation applied for a substantial area of land for recreational purposes: ovals, tennis courts and community facilities generally. The government has taken another look at the

situation in rural Darwin regarding land grants of this nature, with a view to rationalising the whole process. There is already a substantial area of land at Fred's Pass which is supported by the whole rural community and there are other applications for more regional recreational facilities.

The government is of the mind that, as the land applied for in this particular case is adjacent to the Berry Springs School land which has been set aside for educational purposes and related activities, it might be better to support the proper development of facilities on the education reserve at Berry Springs with a view to community participation. We are studying this matter at the present time and, bearing in mind that this will set a precedent because of the very scattered nature of development in rural Darwin, it will be necessary to look at this situation many times over in the future.

881 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have any limitations been placed on the rights of existing lessees or licensees in the Frances Bay area which will prevent construction by them of a small-ships repair facility to compete with the John Holland facility?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no.

882 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

After the rural members of the Town Planning Authority have been appointed, how long before the rural development guidelines, which were first on display on 23 April will be considered?

ANSWER

I expect that the rural planning authority will be able to meet virtually straight away to consider the Darwin rural plan and the objections received to that plan during the period that it was recently exhibited. Following their deliberations they will make recommendations to me the adoption of that particular plan. To answer the honourable member's question, consideration can be given to formalising the planning of rural Darwin virtually straight away.

883 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What are the shipping charges proposed to be levied by John Holland for use of its synchro-lift and how do they compare with existing Port Authority charges for use of its slipways?

ANSWER

I have not seen the proposed scale of charges. No doubt, they will be available in due course and I am unaware as to how they compare.

884 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What action is proposed to alleviate the considerable overcrowding at the Nightcliff Community Health Centre?

ANSWER

The department is currently constructing a health centre in Progress Drive in Nightcliff and it is anticipated that this will be completed this year.

885 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much will the Port Authority lose on its slipway as a result of the government's arrangement with John Holland which deprives the Port Authority of all repair work on privately owned vessels?

ANSWER

We are unable to estimate whether there will be any losses incurred by the Port Authority. However, we have undertaken to make good any short term losses. It is the view of many people in the industrial community that the facilities to be provided by John Holland will soon be too small for the vast quantities of work that we expect in the region.

886 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

For some time, we have been trying to have the Salonika railway crossing area cleared of old railway rolling stock. The Northern Territory Electricity Commission is starting to store various goods in that particular area. Is any provision being made to shield these materials from the view of the public.

ANSWER

It is fair to say that anything NTEC is likely to store in the railways yards at Salonika will be much more aesthetically pleasing than the waste metal that the North Australia Railways stored there in past years. NTEC has a very realistic approach to the need to upgrade and beautify the city of Darwin as a whole, in particular any area where they have industrial yards or offices. They are very mindful of the need to improve the surroundings of the railway yards there. They have already started to cart fill to enable them to plant some lawn areas. I believe they have a tree planting program underway and they will increase the number of bougainvillea shrubs along the fence beside the Stuart Highway. There is no doubt that that area will be greatly improved by the admission of NTEC to it.

887 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question deals with the 10 positions for full-time music instructors. Will all those positions be filled and, if so, when? Applications closed in June.

ANSWER

I understand that 6 music instructors who have been working part time have already been appointed or are about to be. The remaining 4 positions will depend upon suitable applicants. The business of music education is highly skilled. We want to make sure that those permanent officers are of the highest standard. Certainly, the 6 that have been selected are of that sort of calibre. We will be proceeding to fill the remaining 4 positions when suitable people are available. Incidentally, all of those 6 will be based in Darwin.

888 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of the concern held by residents in the Emily Gap area in Alice Springs concerning the proposed new causeway across the Todd River? Can he advise the House of the details relating to the relocation of this causeway?

ANSWER

There is an item in the budget for the relocation of the causeway to Emily Gap in Alice Springs. I am surprised the member for MacDonnell has not shown enough interest in his electorate to ask me a question about it this morning. Because of the deterioration of the old causeway, it is proposed to locate a new causeway 600 metres downstream. On the surface, it would appear that some inconvenience could be caused to those people who trade in the caravan park and cater for tourist traffic. For example, Pitchi Ritchi is located just over the river and they have indicated some concern. However, the upgrading of the gap itself the reconstruction of the railway line and the proposal to upgrade the highway through there poses some problems with the location of the causeway. We propose to have a left-hand turn across the old causeway which will meet with a new bitumen road coming back over the new causeway. We think this will alleviate the problem. A meeting will be held this week between the government and the residents concerned and I am hopeful that the information given to them will allay that concern.

889 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the Port Authority's expected financial return from the operation of the \$2m public part of the proposed small ships facility?

ANSWER

I will reply to that question later in this sittings.

890 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What additional annual costs will be incurred by the Port Authority from its management and maintenance of the public part of the small-ships repair facility?

ANSWER

I will reply to that question later in this sittings.

891 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he advise whether copies of the working party report on teaching services in the Northern Territory will be made available to both teachers and parents who are interested in reading that report?

ANSWER

The question implies that no copies have been made available to teachers and parents. A total of 500 copies have already gone out. I have instructed the department to make available whatever additional copies are required.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE - Tuesday 11 September 1979

892 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did John Holland Constructions put its proposal to the government and what was the initial proposal?

ANSWER

I will provide the information to the honourable gentleman later.

893 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Were officers of the Northern Territory Police Force earlier this year sent to the house of Mr David Rettie who was then Director of the Industry Promotion and Trade Delegation Division to demand the return of files relating to the small ships facility? If so, who issued the instructions and were the files handed over?

ANSWER

This appears to be another question in a concerted series of questions on the part of an opposition that says it wants to promote development in the Northern Territory. Yesterday, we heard the Leader of the Opposition say that they are so anxious to promote development in the Northern Territory that they will promise people 5-year payroll tax holidays, 5-year stamp duty holidays, a carte blanche for anyone who wants to propose any particular development in the Northern Territory. The fact that the government has already indicated ages ago that it is prepared to do these things in the case of pioneering industries in the Territory seems of little relevance. We have this morning another question that seems designed at striking down a project being set up by a company together with the Territory government to provide a unique facility in this Territory: a small ships repair facility. There is not one between Cairns and Perth at the present time. If any small ships, especially the prawn trawlers that service the north and run our major fishing industry in the gulf and around the Arnhem Land coast, require a refit, they have to sail as far as Perth or Cairns to get one. The opposition is trying to knock this project which will mean jobs and millions of dollars of turnover coming into Darwin. The government did not have to offer John Holland any incentives; John Holland were prepared to do it. They do not want any payroll tax holiday; they do not want any stamp duty holiday. In any event, a stamp duty holiday would be a rather irrelevant incentive to a small ships facility. They are prepared to put their money into a brand new facility in Darwin with one of the most unique pieces of machinery in the country: a synchro-lift that can handle vessels up to 500 tonnes in weight. What encouragement is this company getting from the opposition? It is raising pinpricking questions about the credibility and honesty of the company in the press and in the Assembly. Mr Speaker, I say to you that the opposition's suggestion that it wants to encourage industry and development in the Territory is nothing more than hypocritical humbug.

Mr Rettie was an officer of the Territory Development Corporation. My recollection is that Mr Rettie left under a cloud because he had made some false statement in a statutory declaration to get into this country. I understand he was a British citizen. I would not know whether the Northern Territory Police Force visited his home or not. I do know, simply because I have heard it from the Director-General of my department, that the immigration authorities were interested in him and his status or that of his wife. That too is another seamy bit of slimy information that I have had to divulge here about someone's personal affairs that have been dragged up by this dredging, mudslinging, slimy opposition.

894 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

The recent collapse of an overhead powerline in Temira Crescent, which

fortunately did not cause any injury to persons, indicates there is a need for urgent maintenance to be carried out on overhead powerlines. Can the minister give me an assurance that this will be done before the coming wet season?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the incident in Temira Crescent. I would like to make the point to the honourable member that rehabilitation and maintenance of overhead lines and all electrical installations is an ongoing process with the commission right throughout the Northern Territory and particularly in the Top End at this time of the year. My understanding is that, during the months leading up to the wet, the commission puts extra effort into inspecting and maintaining overhead powerlines, particularly those that have not had much work on them since before the cyclone. I will obtain an undertaking from the commission and relay it to the honourable member because I believe that the most important aspect of the Electricity Commission's operations is to maintain safe reticulation throughout every community.

895 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that senior departmental officials in January this year expressed serious reservations about the viability of the small ships repair facility? If so, what were those reservations and what has been done to overcome them?

ANSWER

It is a bit disappointing that the opposition should attack correspondence that was being passed between the departments to obtain views as to a future developmental project for the Northern Territory. It must be to their discredit to publicly expose documents that were really written between departments to obtain views as to the feasibility of a project such as the small ships facility. It can do the opposition no good at all. It means that the officers themselves will be loath to provide information for fear someone will leak it to the Star or to the Leader of the Opposition. I do not believe that this is to their credit at all.

896 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I appreciate that this is a council responsibility but have funds been made available to upgrade Undoolya Road for the safety of cyclists using that road?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure whether funds have been provided in this year's allocation to the Municipality of Alice Springs or whether they have sought funds in this year's allocation. It is very difficult to make any definite arrangements as far as funding for particular projects that the council might have in mind until such time as the Territory budget is handed down. We can only give an approximate figure to the councils and from that they would frame their own budget. I am not quite sure whether the Alice Springs council has included the Undoolya Road in this year's capital-works program.

897 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he tell me whether the macropus antilopinus is fully

protected or partly protected in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The answer is yes; it is fully protected in the Northern Territory.

898 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is his government's policy on public tendering for public works and why did not the small ship repair facility go to public tender?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is just an extension of the opposition's sneaky little questions.

Mr ISAACS: Point of order, Mr Speaker! Whatever the circumstance may be, parliamentary language must be used. We listened to a speech from the Chief Minister talking about slime and so on. Well, we can cop that. I think a certain level of language ought to be tolerated and a certain level of language ought not to be tolerated. I would ask you to ask the ministers that, when answering questions, they adhere to a certain level of parliamentary language.

Me STEELE: The opposition well knows that advertisements were called and people were invited to make submissions on the small ships facility. They knew all this information and I wonder if the reasons behind this attack are designed to sway the public media to what they consider to be their alternative to the government's budget. Certainly, they rated a bit of publicity in the press but, in last night's news, the development promised by the Paspalis family got more of a run because it will promote jobs - the same as the small ships facility will. That is what the opposition are crooked on. They do not want anybody to get a job in the Territory.

899 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

I would like to ask a question that is on notice and I hope perhaps that this time we can get an answer. It is directed to the Treasurer. Does this government follow the federal government's policy of issuing certificates of expediency where it is decided that no public tenders will be called? If not, then what practice is followed and what is the basis in law for the procedure?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government's financial activities and principles are laid down largely in the Financial Administration and Audit Act and the government is bound by that act. That act provides for certificates of expediency in certain circumstances but there are a number of other ways in which the government can seek expressions of interest from interested parties. Special arrangements may be implemented to speed up government purchasing programs and these can be found in the treasury regulations which allow various departmental officers, who handle government funds, to seek quotes in certain circumstances. In certain cases, quotes must be in writing and in certain other cases, tenders must be called for. The answer to the honourable member's question is that there is a range of ways by which the government can arrange for expressions of interest in government purchases. They are all laid

down in law and treasury regulations.

900 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Northern Territory government's telephone directory which was issued at the advent of self-government is in a bit of a mess and is outdated. We in the Assembly are the only ones listed correctly. Can he inform me when the new government telephone directory will be ready for distribution?

ANSWER

This is an interesting question. Yesterday, we heard the Office of Information in the Department of the Chief Minister subjected to an attack but here I have a question this morning asking when the Northern Territory government directory will be issued. The new Northern Territory government directory should be available within the next couple of weeks. With the coming across of Health in January and Education in July, considerable additions and amendments to the directory are necessary. The book should be available within a couple of weeks and \$10,000 of the \$221,000 set aside for the Office of Information is directed towards the production of that very useful pamphlet.

901 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who is responsible for the payment of the dredging costs associated with the construction of the small ships repair facility and approximately what is the cost?

ANSWER

The opposition is well aware of the government commitment in the small ships facility. It is not an open-ended commitment. Our commitment is \$2m and we have a contract with John Holland to that extent.

902 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In keeping with the government decision requiring a private subdivider in the Howard Springs area to bituminise certain roads will the government accept a similar responsibility for its subdivision for jail staff houses on Stow Road?

ANSWER

The houses being constructed in the Darwin rural area for prison officers on government land is not strictly a subdivision. The houses are for staff of the Gunn Point prison farm and as such will not be sold to the tenants. They will be kept continuously for that purpose as work related housing and will not be on individual lots although I believe the houses are individually fenced. Strictly speaking, there has not been a subdivision in this area. I also understand that there has not been at this stage any sealed access. I am not sure whether the Department of Community Development proposes to provide sealed access but I can assist the honourable member by saying that, under the old Town Planning Act, the Crown was not bound to follow the normal procedures set down for the public in subdivision work or work which came under the control of the Building Manual. Under the Planning Act now in force, the government is required to undertake the same steps as the private sector in seeking approvals from the planning authority and is subject to the unfortunate delays which are inherent in those

planning procedures which are incorporated for the protection of residents in the area.

903 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will the members of the Education Advisory Council be appointed?

ANSWER

The honourable member asked that question at the last sittings. The position is largely unchanged. The Executive Council papers are being prepared at the moment and hopefully, at the next Executive Council meeting, His Honour and the Executive Council will consider the matter.

904 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

During recent weeks, shortages have occurred in the Northern Territory in both diesel fuel and aviation gasoline and, in some instances, supply has been cut substantially. Could he inform this House of the reasons for this supply problem?

ANSWER

At the last sittings, I reported to the House the state of the diesel and the avgas position in the Northern Territory. Although that was only a week or two ago, things have changed quite considerably. As I said earlier, the shortage of avgas, particularly in the Territory was caused by distribution problems within the industry itself. There was substantial sabotage of pipelines in Aberdare which prevented the companies from importing avgas into Australia and they had to make alternative arrangements. The arrangements were not difficult so far as the supply of the product was concerned but they were most difficult so far as shipping was concerned. This did create quite a problem. At the same time, there were a series of activities which reflected an upturn in the economy in the Northern Territory. There was increased demand on the local front caused by increased mustering in the cattle industry and more aerial charters for coastal surveillance purposes. Generally, the operation of the third-level airline industry was at a peak because there was so much activity in the Territory. This compounded the problem so far as the companies were concerned.

I have had an advice from Shell that they have obtained an additional tanker which will be arriving in Australia in November. This should see us through any likely dislocation during the wet season. I would like to point out that the dislocation in the Northern Territory has been nothing compared with the dislocation in the states. I had a complaint recently from a third-level airline operator who did a charter from Katherine to Mt Isa. The refuellers at Mt Isa refused to refuel the plane so that he could get back to Katherine. He had to return via Tennant Creek so that he could pick up fuel. The shutters are certainly coming down right throughout the industry. It seems to me that those people who are in control of the refuelling outlets and have their own plane companies will do pretty well but those who do not will be scratching. So far as Katherine is concerned, I have been advised by the local charter operator who also has a refuelling operation attached to his own company that, while his fuel supplies are being maintained by the supplier at a sufficient level, his activity is so high that he will have shortage problems if things do not improve. My advice from the company is that things will improve. If anybody has

been deprived of avgas and is unable to operate and maintain their business operations, I would be grateful if they would bring it to our attention so that we could do something about it.

As far as diesel is concerned, the shortage was caused by a great upturn in business activity in the Territory. The oil companies advised me that the current rate of consumption is 40% above last year's level. Although a great deal of this is being consumed in the uranium province, the general activity on the stations and in the mining industry as a whole is such that it has left the industry unable to respond to the upturn. I have had advice from the Shell Company in Melbourne which anticipates that it will be able to relieve all the Northern Territory diesel problems until January. That is as far as it can look into its crystal ball at this stage and is a reasonable effort in view of the national situation.

The Department of Mines and Energy is currently investigating how our community can increase our tankage in the Northern Territory to protect ourselves against fluctuations in supply. One of the difficulties that we have in the Northern Territory is that our tankage is so inadequate that we cannot buy the amounts of fuel we need when they are available because we cannot store them. While the Northern Territory has been short of various products over the last few months, particularly diesel and avgas, we have had tanker loads of it strolling past our front door that we have not been able to bring to Darwin because they are not interested in discharging a fraction of their load; they want to get rid of the lot. If we could accommodate the lot, we would have a deal but we cannot and they just keep on sailing. The only answer to this problem is to adopt the technology of the 1980s and not remain in the past as we have with the small tankage facilities that we have at present which are not adequate for the increasing demands of the business sector in the Northern Territory today.

905 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

As far as the dredging operation of the small ships facility is concerned, were any efforts made to check the competitiveness of the John Holland proposal and, if so, what were the results?

ANSWER

I propose to raise the matter in the adjournment this afternoon to answer those questions asked of me yesterday. It strikes me as fairly strange that the honourable Leader of the Opposition directs all of his questions to me. He seems to have run out of guts as far as asking the Chief Minister any questions.

Mrs Lawrie: Your responsibility!

MR STEELE: I know it is my responsibility but, if you keep a very careful watch on what happens in this House, you will notice that he is really scared of the Chief Minister.

906 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

To what extent does the viability of the small ships facility depend upon the dredging operation?

ANSWER

Totally.

907 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has Cabinet deliberated on what level of assistance can be offered to people disadvantaged as a result of the collapse of Northumberland Insurance?

ANSWER

Cabinet has deliberated on this matter and came to certain conclusions whilst it was visiting Tennant Creek last week. As part of government policy, Cabinet visits many Territory centres, including remote centres such as Maningrida and Yuendumu. We regularly visit major centres such as Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Katherine and Gove. Whilst there is some cost attached to Cabinet visiting these centres, I believe that the business of taking government to the people justifies ...

Mrs Lawrie: Point of order, Mr Speaker! My question was directly concerned with assistance to be offered to the Northumberland Insurance people and not to the peripatetic Cabinet.

Mr SPEAKER: Would the honourable Chief Minister answer the question please?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Cabinet gave consideration to the question of the Northumberland Insurance Company's failure some years ago. As the honourable member for Nightcliff knows, this has been a subject quite close to my heart. In 1974, I introduced legislation which I hoped would have led to the indemnification of the people who were adversely affected by the collapse of Northumberland Insurance. This type of rescue operation was mounted in a couple of states but, at that time, the Commonwealth - it must have been the Whitlam Labor government - refused to have any part of a rescue operation for people injuriously affected by the collapse of Northumberland.

Cabinet came to certain conclusions. However, about 2 days after we arrived at our decisions in Tennant Creek, I received advice from the Crown Solicitor that some funding is to become available through the Commonwealth towards the indemnification of victims of the Northumberland collapse. As a result of that unheralded response from the Commonwealth, the whole thing will have to go back into the melting pot. I would anticipate that, when we have the full details of the federal Department of Finance's offer of assistance, the news for the people who have suffered in this unfortunate matter can only be good.

908 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand the Darwin Trader is due for a refit in September. What provision is being made to assure a continued service to Darwin during that period?

ANSWER

There were some doubts as to the continuation of that service to Darwin. The government had discussions with other shipping companies with a view to providing an alternative vessel to service the port. This

vessel would have been the Germanic, chartered by Bourkes out of Brisbane. That would have caused a certain amount of disruption to people who normally dealt with the eastern states right down to Melbourne. However, on a brighter note, it now appears that the ANL and Australian Portland Cement and Northern Cement will sign a 3-year contract to deliver cement from Geelong to Darwin. I hope that that contract will be signed in the next couple of days in Victoria. A senior officer of the department is in Melbourne currently holding discussions with these people and I hope that Darwin's future with the Trader has been resurrected.

909 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

In fear, with trepidation and in a considerably quavery voice, I ask the following question. Is it true that the arrangement with John Holland means that the Port Authority will not be allowed to let privately owned vessels use the Northern Territory Port Authority's slipway? If so, is he satisfied as Attorney-General that the Northern Territory Port Authority is not in breach of the Trade Practices Act in relation to its exclusive dealings provisions?

Mr STEELE: Point of order, Mr Speaker! I answered that question yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr EVERINGHAM: In view of the fact that the honourable Leader of the Opposition is seeking a legal opinion from me in my capacity as Attorney-General, the question is out of order because Standing Orders preclude ministers from offering opinions. I was asked whether, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, the agreement in relation to the Port Authority's slipway would breach the Restrictive Trade Practices Act and I cannot see that that is anything other than giving a legal opinion.

The arrangements with John Holland regarding the establishment of a small ships repair facility in the Northern Territory has been questioned many times in this House by members of the opposition. I propose to suggest to my colleague, the honourable Minister for Transport and Works, that he make a ministerial statement to the House on the matter in the course of this sittings. I hope that all the information can be laid before this House even though much of it will be of a private and commercial nature. In the normal course of events, I do not think that people should have their affairs laid bare for the scrutiny of their competitors.

For several years, the Northern Territory government, and previous to that the executive, have endeavoured to encourage people to establish a small ships repair facility in the Port of Darwin or anywhere along the Northern Territory coast that was prepared to have one. I have spoken to a number of concerns about it myself but nothing has ever transpired. Last year, the Northern Territory Port Authority advertised in the Northern Territory News seeking expressions of interest from people who were interested in establishing a small ships repair facility. To the best of my knowledge, John Holland Constructions Proprietary Limited were the only people to reply in substance to that advertisement. As a result, they were the people that the Northern Territory government was left to deal with. It is pretty hard to deal with other people if you have only one taker. The whole transaction was submitted to the scrutiny of the Department of Transport and Works.

In fact, I asked the Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works in a conversation in my office what his views were on the competitiveness of the John Holland proposal. His view was that we could not do any better. At that time, the department and the ministers were aware that people such as the opposition would come back later carping and criticising and whinging and moaning. When the show is just about on the road they would realise that it is going to be a good thing and they would like a slice of the action or they would like to kill it altogether. For all I know, it may be that commercial competitors of John Holland Constructions are feeding information to the Opposition or perhaps are bank rolling them to stage this filibuster.

The question of excluding the use of the Port Authority slipway, a pretty primitive slipway, was asked by John Holland. It was not really an unreasonable request since they are investing millions of dollars and they wonder why, when they have a commercial operation, a taxpayer sponsored operation should be permitted to compete with them. We examined this question and, to the best of my recollection, it was likely that the Port Authority would lose in slippage fees a sum of approximately \$40,000 a year if the slipway was occupied full-time by private vessels. The \$40,000 that the Port Authority might theoretically lose - and in practice it would have to be much less than that - would be well worth making up to the Port Authority if we could attract a proper well-equipped small ships facility to Darwin. In any event, the Port Authority slipway can still be used by people who want to use it providing the John Holland facility is not available to them. We certainly compromised there because we did not want the slipway not to be available where it could be needed due to the unavailability of the John Holland facility.

There was another proposal that John Holland made to us and, again, I cannot see why they should be criticised for attempting to secure the best commercial advantage to themselves when they are expending considerable sums of money. They wanted us to guarantee not to promote another facility along the north Australian coastline for a certain period of years and the Northern Territory government was not prepared to give any such guarantee.

I have attempted to be as frank and open as I can about this. The government has no wish to hide information on this subject at all. We are proud to be associated with John Holland in this development. Together with the landbacked wharf, it is perhaps the most major development in the port of Darwin since the first wharf was built before the turn of the century. It is certainly the most noteworthy event in the port of Darwin since the bombing and I really cannot understand this nit-picking attitude of the opposition because the small ships facility can do nothing but good for the Territory. It cannot help but provide jobs and income for this town. It will build up the level of local expertise because of the various facilities that small ships require such as air-conditioning, specialised engineering, welding and electronics. These things will be required to provide back-ups to this facility and business people and employees in the city of Darwin must benefit from this development. The government is truly proud to be associated in it. John Holland have the guts to put their money where their mouth is and we are happy to back them.

The Minister for Transport and Works will deliver a full statement on the whole subject in the course of the next few days so that people can see that the deal is above suspicion and so that the cloud that the opposition is attempting to put over it can be dispelled once and for all.

I will be more than happy to have the whole transaction debated in this House but I think it is a sorry day that, when development comes to the Territory, they yell and yelp about it over there and do nothing but try to knock it. We are forced to debate in the Assembly every development that takes place in the Territory.

910 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In light of the serious shortage of avgas, has a system of rationing been considered for all Northern Territory aircraft operators and those operators who come from interstate?

ANSWER

I would like to make it clear that the Northern Territory government has not at this stage introduced a formal system of rationing. Any rationing that has occurred has been undertaken by the suppliers themselves and I think they have tried to do it on the basis of supplying the consumers with at least the amount of fuel they consumed in a previous period rather than giving them what they have wanted. The Northern Territory government has not considered a rationing program although it may be prudent for us to do so in the course of time. As I announced to the House at the last sittings, the Northern Territory government has set up the Northern Territory Energy Council and this is one of the issues that will be referred to the Council after it has had its first meeting on Monday 17 September. It will be brought together for briefing, establishing its method of operation and so that the members can meet one another and I can meet them and discuss problems with them. Questions such as rationing need to have some broader input than just that of the companies or the government. As far as avgas is concerned, some refuellers have said to me, "Aerial flights and parachute jumps have to be the first to go". That may well be prudent but, before this sort of thing is adopted by the government and/or the industry, I think it should go to the Energy Council for consideration and a recommendation to the government.

So far as diesolene and petrol for cars is concerned, there is no program at the moment for rationing. In the past 2 months, the industry has adopted a system of restricting supplies of diesel to its customers on the basis of supplying them with amounts similar to those they have received in earlier periods. In some cases, the consumer has reacted quite violently and sought help from myself and other parties to have their cases reconsidered. I must be fair to the industry and say that, where companies have won contracts for new work and were not able to get on with that work, the companies have found a way to ensure that work went on and that men were not stood down. The whole thing is operating satisfactorily at the moment. I do not think anybody in this world can give any solid guarantee on the continued supply of fuel in any country at this time. While we have the opportunity to do a little forward planning, we should do so. As soon as it has been done, I will report to the House.

911 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the House what action is proposed as a result of the forced landing of the police plane in Tennant Creek on 2 September?

ANSWER

Just by coincidence, I seem to have certain information here which came to me from the Police Commissioner's office the other day. In the interests of there being no obscurity in this matter, I should briefly answer the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. However, I will seek leave to incorporate the preliminary report of the board of inquiry investigating the forced landing of police aircraft VH-KTS on 1 September 1979 into Hansard.

The police aircraft in question which is the one based normally in Darwin, landed on the Warrego Road approximately 2 miles NNW of Tennant Creek airfield with both engines inoperative. The direct cause of the double engine failure was fuel exhaustion. After landing, the aircraft was found to have a total of only 1.5 litres of aviation gasoline remaining in the fuel tanks. The minimum quantity of fuel required by the Department of Transport regulations for the flight from Tindal to Tennant Creek was 404 litres. Approximate fuel carried on the aircraft on departure from Tindal was not more than 295 litres. Consumption on the flight using normal procedures at 65% power would have been almost identical to the total quantity of fuel carried.

The aircraft fuel system has been expensively checked by Connair engineers and the aircraft has since flown over 15 hours. In fact, the aircraft was in perfect condition after the landing and the chief pilot, Inspector O'Ferrall, went to Tennant Creek and returned the aircraft to Darwin. I guess he took a couple of drums out with him. The only discrepancy noted, referring again to the fuel system instruments, has been an intermittent erroneous indication in an auxilliary fuel tank quantity indicator. This fault has since been corrected and the board has determined this malfunction had no significant bearing on the incident as the pilot was aware that his auxilliary tanks were both empty before departure and he did not plan on using them for the flight in question.

The pilot suffered from a classic mental aberration known as false hypothesis. This form of fixation has been identified by aviation authorities as the major contributory factor in numerous past aircraft accidents and incidents. In this instance, the pilot's false hypothesis was sufficiently strong as to override all the symptoms subsequently presented to him. He was thus led to display extremely poor airmanship and judgment to a point where he refused to acknowledge the gravity of the situation right to the point of failure of the remaining operating engine.

The pilot was fully licensed in accordance with Department of Transport requirements and had been thoroughly familiarised with all aircraft systems and procedures during the course of his endorsement on to the Navajo aircraft of the Air Wing. His past history of employment in the aviation industry was unblemished and he was highly thought of by previous employers and associates. He was in good physical and mental health and had had sufficient rest prior to flying on 1 September 1979. The board has therefore been unable to determine the exact reasons for the appearance and persistence of the pilot's false hypothesis.

and the subsequent deterioration of his standards of airmanship. Such factors as pressure from the recruit induction course, frustration over Tindal fuel availability and comparative immaturity - the pilot is 22 years of age - may have influenced his behaviour although they obviously do not excuse the gross deterioration of the standards required of a professional aviator.

In the light of the findings, these are the recommendations: the board considers that, in the best interest of the Northern Territory Police Force, the pilot in command of VH-KTS on 1 September 1979 be permanently relieved of all flying duties with the Air Wing. The pilot has been advised of the finding of the board. He has been given the option of remaining in the police force and continuing on in the recruit training school as an ordinary constable of the force. He has declined this offer and has submitted his resignation; this will be facilitated. Inspector O'Ferrall, the officer in charge of the Air Wing, in his capacity as chief pilot, is providing the Department of Transport Air Accident Investigation Branch with a report on the incident. Any action taken by the Department of Transport will be totally independent of any action taken by the Northern Territory Police Force.

I seek leave to incorporate in Hansard the copy of the preliminary report of the Board of Inquiry investigating the forced landing of the police aircraft VH-KTS on 1 September 1979.

Leave granted.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INQUIRY
INVESTIGATING THE FORCED LANDING OF POLICE
AIRCRAFT VH-KTS on 1 SEPTEMBER 1979

FINDINGS

The Board has completed its investigation of the forced landing of VH-KTS and pending the compilation of a detailed report, the findings are as follows:

1. VH-KTS landed on the Warrego Road approximately 2 nautical miles NNW of Tennant Creek airfield with both engines inoperative.
2. The direct cause of the double engine failure was fuel exhaustion. After landing, the aircraft was found to have a total of only 1.5 litres of aviation gasoline remaining in the sumps of the aircraft fuel tanks.
3. The aircraft ran out of usable fuel because the pilot in command failed to ensure that sufficient fuel was carried to complete the journey from Tindal to Tennant Creek.
4. The minimum quantity of fuel required by Department of Transport regulations for the flight was 404 litres. Approximate fuel carried on the aircraft on departure from Tindal was not more than 295 litres. Consumption on the flight using normal procedures at 65% power would have been almost identical to the total quantity of fuel carried.
5. The aircraft fuel system has been extensively checked by Connair engineers and the aircraft has since flown over 15 hours. The only discrepancy noted has been an intermittent erroneous indication

in an auxiliary fuel tank quantity indicator. This fault has since been corrected and the Board has determined that this malfunction had no significant bearing on the incident as the pilot was aware that his auxiliary tanks were both empty before departure and he did not plan on using them for the flight in question.

6. As early as halfway through the flight, the pilot was presented with symptoms of fuel system abnormalities and, despite finally - and belatedly - determining that the aircraft was carrying critically low fuel, he elected to continue to Tennant Creek. At no time did he consider making or planning for a landing at either an alternate and closer airfield or, if necessary, on the Stuart Highway.
7. When the aircraft finally exhausted the remaining fuel, the pilot still had not been planning a forced landing. As the remaining operable engine failed, the pilot instinctively turned left and was fortuitously presented with a straight section of the Warrego Highway on which he landed less than 30 seconds after the second engine ceased delivering power.
8. The pilot suffered from a classic mental aberration known as a false hypothesis. This form of fixation has been identified by aviation authorities as the major contributory factor in numerous past aircraft accidents and incidents. In this instance, the pilot's false hypothesis was sufficiently strong as to override all the symptoms subsequently presented to him. He was thus led to display extremely poor airmanship and judgment to a point where he refused to acknowledge the futility of the situation right to the point of failure of the remaining operating engine.
9. The pilot was fully licensed in accordance with Department of Transport requirements and had been thoroughly familiarised with all aircraft systems and procedures during the course of his endorsement onto the Navajo aircraft of the Air Wing. His past history of employment in the aviation industry was unblemished and he was highly thought of by previous employers and associates. He was in good physical and mental health and had had sufficient rest prior to flying on 1 September 1979. The Board has therefore been unable to determine the exact reason for the appearance and persistence of the pilot's false hypothesis and the subsequent deterioration of his standards of airmanship. Such factors as pressures from the recruit induction course, frustration over Tindal fuel availability and comparative immaturity - Hyde is 22 years of age - may have influenced his behaviour, although they obviously do not excuse the gross deterioration of the standards required of a professional aviator.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings, the Board considers that, in the best interest of the Northern Territory Police Force, the pilot in command of VH-KTS on 1 September 1979, Constable Michael K. Hyde, Reg No 1106, be permanently relieved of all flying duties with the Air Wing.

R.E. O'FERRALL (sgd)
Inspector
Chairman

L.R. COSSONS (sgd)
Superintendent (sgd)

T.O. FEGAN (sgd)
Associate Commissioner

7.9.79

912 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has consideration been given to land by Howard Springs Reserve as a future zoo or sanctuary considering the closer proximity to Darwin vis-a-vis Berry Springs?

ANSWER

Consideration has been given to locating a zoo in the Howard Springs area. However, I am advised by officers of the Parks and Wildlife Commission that the area at Howard Springs which was available for the purpose was unsuitable in that the area was insufficient and the soil types were of considerable fragility and would not have been able to stand up to the intensive use by the fauna that obviously would have been incorporated in the zoo. There were arguments advanced that Howard Springs should have been the preferred site for the simple reason that it is a more popular recreation area than Berry Springs. However, those arguments fall to the ground when a head count is considered. In the most recent 12-month period that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has undertaken a head count, 80,000 people visited the Howard Springs Recreation Reserve as against 115,000 people who visited the Berry Springs Recreation Reserve. In addition, there is more area available at Berry Springs and the land is much more suited.

913 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On 10 April this year, the minister advised me that the Division of Primary Industry had formed a technical working party to examine and develop legislation to control the ingredients of stock feeds and including antibiotics. Has this working party reported to the minister and, if not, when is it expected that they will?

ANSWER

The information has not yet come to hand. I will check on the matter during this sittings.

914 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns allegations in yesterday's Northern Territory News that Australian birds were being smuggled out of Central Australia on board American aircraft which service Pine Gap. Can the Chief Minister provide any information concerning these allegations and, if not, will he investigate the report?

ANSWER

In my capacity as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Customs, I suppose I could answer the question. The Northern Territory is concerned about cases of smuggling birds out of the Territory and, for that matter, it is interested in any abuse of wildlife conservation laws. As a result of seeing the report in the Northern Territory News, I requested the Director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission to let me have a full report of the incident. I have no doubt that this will probably be difficult because Commonwealth authorities and the joint defence base research facility are involved. I am sure they will cooperate to the best of their ability but these things take time and I may not have a report to present to the House during the course of this sittings.

Nevertheless, honourable members may rest assured that the matter will be pursued vigorously. However, I am able to advise that rangers seized 11 cockatoos in Alice Springs recently from a person apparently connected with a certain defence facility in that area. The matter is under investigation. At this time, there is no evidence of birds being exported and no evidence that they would have been exported through the joint defence space research facility. That is all the information that I have. In the light of the fact that the investigation is continuing into that particular matter and I have directed an investigation into the other matter from which prosecutions may flow, I may retract my statement that I would inform the Assembly as soon as I could. If proceedings are to be instituted, it may be better that the members of the Assembly learn the facts when the matter appears in the court.

915 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the surfacing of the road to Yuendumu be completed? What will be the width of that road?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman would be aware that a contract for the first stage was let in recent months to seal 90 miles of that road. I am not sure when we let the second stage but it is part of the government's commitment to provide good access to country people and the road will be sealed over the coming years. I cannot give him a firm assurance on the dates at this time.

916 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Space has been sought in the central district for some time now in which to establish a library facility. Could he inform me if space has been found for this purpose as yet?

ANSWER

The answer is no. The department has been investigating possible locations for a temporary library service in the city area. Negotiations have been carried out with the various landowners but we have not been able to find anything suitable. One alternative has recently come to light: the possible use of the bottom of Cavenagh Court. The police were using the premises as a storeroom and the department is actively negotiating with the landlord. There are 4 bookmakers operating in the same building and there is some rumour that they might be moving out. The department is looking at the possibility of taking them over. Until such time as we do find space in the city area, the library will continue to operate in the shocking conditions on the Esplanade.

917 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When is it next proposed to release land for agricultural purposes in the rural areas of Darwin? By what mechanism will this release take place?

ANSWER

It is proposed to release land that has been described internally as the Marrakai blocks, I think there are 6 blocks. The final touches are being put on lease conditions. These blocks of land are just over the

Adelaide River along the Arnhem highway and are serviced with sealed roads and electricity bypasses etc. The method proposed for release is auction.

918 Mr VALE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise what progress has been made in the MacArthur carcass classification trials?

ANSWER

The carcass classification trials, funded through the Australian Agricultural Council, commenced at the Alice Springs abattoir on 30 August. Dr Peter Hooper is our Northern Territory officer in charge of the trials. The meatworks have engaged 2 additional staff for the task. The operators work separately at the beginning and at the end of the killing chain and are objectively recording age, sex, weight, fat cover and bruises. In addition, at the beginning of the day's kill they record the percentage of polled cattle and the temperament of the animals. Both the abattoirs and our staff are very pleased with the progress to date. Although it is not a formal part of the carcass classification trials, it is planned to take the investigation of bruising further and substantial data has been accumulated. We would like to place on record our thanks to the operators of that meatworks for the assistance that they have given us.

919 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Residents of Mount Wells are concerned about an article in the NT News on 24 May about the proposed establishment of a heritage park in the Pine Creek area. Could the Minister define the boundaries of the proposed park during these sittings? What restrictions will be imposed in the park, particularly in relation to mining?

ANSWER

I am very pleased that the honourable member for Victoria River raised this subject at this sittings. Unfortunately I will not be able to define the boundaries of the park in precise detail during these sittings. I want to make it quite clear that the heritage park is merely a concept. The proposed region, rather than having fixed boundaries, would be around Pine Creek and encompassed by the Daly River in the west, possibly the Cullen River to the south, perhaps as far north as Hayes Creek and virtually to the Arnhem Land escarpment. Generally speaking, the idea is to identify those installations that may be of interest and value to people and to purposes of preservation. These places would then be promoted as areas worthy of visitation by tourists and by people living in the Northern Territory.

It is not proposed that people mining in the area, particularly gougers, should in any way be precluded from those activities. The area will not be in the nature of a national park although it is possible that areas of land may be set aside for recreational purposes or for the preservation of particular fauna and flora. In those immediate areas, of course, we have the Katherine Gorge National Park and Pine Creek which is something of a gateway to the Kakadu area. We hope to eventually upgrade the road from Pine Creek. This should make a tremendous tourist triangle: Darwin, Jim Jim or Kakadu down to Pine Creek. We hope that

not only will the regional heritage park concept enable the preservation of these old installations, areas and items of interest and promote tourism but that it will also promote Pine Creek and restore some life and vigour to that historic town. The National Trust has discussed the concept with people in Pine Creek and I sent copies of the statement to those people. I believe that the proposal has been met with considerable approval.

920 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A survey has been carried out to test the public reaction to smoking on buses. Is he able to inform the House if the results of the survey have been conclusive?

ANSWER

The fact that I gave up smoking in February really has nothing to do with this survey. We have conducted a small survey which is not conclusive at this stage. We talked to 860 people which is more than they talk to in a political survey to decide the fate of a government. 420 people were in favour of a smoking ban, 410 were opposed to a ban and 30 people do not know or do not care or suggest segregation. We are still examining the matter and we will look at further figures later.

921 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the information bays that are to be erected on the Stuart Highway north and south of Alice Springs. Can the minister inform me of the progress on those bays?

ANSWER

I cannot provide the information off the top of my head. We discussed the bays in the middle of June at the Rural Roads Conference in Alice Springs. I was of the opinion that they would have been completed by now. I understood that we were talking to the Regional Tourist Promotion Association to obtain their views on the matter. I will check progress and inform the honourable member later.

922 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Why was a decision made not to further consider a future zoo or sanctuary at Fogg Dam?

ANSWER

The decision was taken not to proceed further with a zoo or sanctuary at Fogg Dam because it was felt that it would detract from the character of Fogg Dam. It is believed that that area is presently putting up with a great deal of traffic from visitors. To formalise a zoo there would possibly endanger the unique character of Fogg Dam as far as southern visitors are concerned. For that reason, it was decided not to proceed with the proposal. However, I notice that some fencing is going on in that area.

923 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He may be aware that prior to the cyclone an allotment of land on Trower Road was available to any persons who were interested in building a

private hospital. Can he inform the Assembly whether his department has received inquiries from persons interested in building a private hospital in Darwin?

ANSWER

I do not know that the department has received such an application although that is not to say that one has not been received. The block of land referred to was available prior to the cyclone and unfortunately was not taken up by proponents at the time. Because of the withdrawal of interest by certain parties in commencing a private hospital at that time, the land was used for other purposes. I can assure this House that any party which proposes a private hospital construction in Darwin or elsewhere in the Northern Territory will receive very sympathetic consideration by this government on the availability of land for such a purpose.

924 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER:

This question refers to question 292 asked on 27 February. At that time, I asked him if he was aware that there was a booklet being handed to people when they went to register a firearm which was wildly out of date. It was printed in 1972 and does not include presently protected species. Will he arrange for the reprinting of that booklet to include an up-to-date list of protected species within the Territory.

ANSWER

The answer is no because I have in front of me a second-reading speech that I hope to make when introducing a new Firearms Bill next week. Although I investigated this matter at the time the honourable member for Nightcliff raised it in February, it was decided not to reprint the booklet until the passage of the new act. After the new act has been passed, the booklet can be reprinted and the honourable member's wishes acceded to.

925 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise what action he proposes taking and when he proposes to take such action on the Health Department report into the offensive smells associated with cooking operations at the Alice Springs abattoirs?

ANSWER

I have received a paper today and I would be quite happy to let the honourable member know of the conclusions rather than read the whole report on the operation at the Alice Springs abattoirs. The department made an inspection from the point of view of public health and not relating to any other operation of the abattoirs.

All in all, the operation of the abattoirs in Alice Springs is carried out in a creditable manner. The old perennial problems appear to have been overcome effectively. One problem remains: the cooking smells experienced in Alice Springs in certain weather conditions. Abattoirs are a noxious trade and need to be properly sited in relationship to residential areas. Our founding fathers who built the abattoirs obviously did not have much foresight as to how the town of Alice Springs would develop. Alice Springs is a rapidly growing town and is rapidly approaching the abattoirs. In fact, it has not only approached it but it has gone past it.

The cause of the nuisance is a by-product of the meat-meal operation in which aromatic water vapour is discharged into the atmosphere. This normally disperses without nuisance especially in conditions of reasonable air movement. In conditions of thermal inversion and relatively still air, common at night and early morning in the Alice Springs winter, the aroma-laden water vapour is trapped and accumulates beneath the cold air above. Natural shift of this collection of smelly air then moves the offending gas over the town - hence the nuisance.

The abattoirs people, in cooperation with requests by the Department of Industrial Development and the Health Department, fitted a scrubber to the stack which reduces the aroma to a very limited degree by dissolving some of the odour. An electrostatic precipitator would be useless in this particular operation because of the absence of micro-particulate matter. That leaves 2 solutions to the problem which have to be considered: first, to re-locate the abattoirs well away from the town area and, secondly, to raise the stack heights so that the offensive discharge that goes through the stack can be punched through the inversion layer and disperse above it. We are looking at just how high such a stack would have to be. The department has reported here that a consultant needs to be engaged to decide upon the height of the stack.

This cannot be discounted as a folly because stacks of this nature are built in many places throughout Australia with the express purpose of punching noxious odours into the atmosphere and away from residential areas. Finance would be a major consideration; it could well be that the cost of building the stack is much greater than the cost of shifting the abattoirs. When I have further information, I will report to the House.

926 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

To what extent does the government process lease applications for those people whose property was acquired in the 32 square mile acquisition area?

ANSWER

The stage we have reached in the area of land activity that the Leader of the Opposition mentioned is to seek from the Valuer-General for the Northern Territory the values of all the properties concerned so that we can arrange for lease-back arrangements to those persons who have already had this matter discussed with them. We hope to have a far more secure form of tenure in the not too distant future when other legislation is passed in this House. I understand that the Valuer-General has valued most of the properties concerned. There was a delay for a period of time since public announcement was made on this scheme as a result of a court case. The Valuer-General did not want to determine the value of a property as at 1 July 1978 for the Northern Territory if it was not consistent with the courts ruling on the value of the same property some several years earlier when it was originally acquired by the Commonwealth. However, these matters have been settled now and I am expecting a report from the department recommending a series of valuations to be put to persons who may or may not seek to take up the offers.

927 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the Fisheries Division have any plans to extend the fishing reserve to Doctors Gully and when is this likely to happen?

ANSWER

The Fisheries Division has received a number of complaints from Carl Atkinson at Doctors Gully concerning the activities of amateur fishermen. The division responded immediately to this presence by installing a large sign detailing the area of the reserve in a location where it is clearly visible to people visiting the gully and by increasing their patrolling activity in the area at high tide. The most effective way to counter the activities of unscrupulous amateurs is to extend the reserve to include part of the inter-tidal zone at the base of the cliffs bordering Larrakeyah Terrace. The division has approached the Department of Lands and Housing to provide a technical description of such an extended area and, when this description is available, papers will be prepared for Executive Council consideration.

928 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the approximate cost of the water conservation program commonly known as the "Turn It Off" campaign? And for how much longer is it proposed to pursue this campaign through the media?

ANSWER

I am not too sure of the actual cost of the campaign but I have some figures here on what it has actually saved us in water. In the peak week in 1978 inside the campaign time, we used 134 million gallons and in the peak week in 1979 during the campaign, we used 120 million gallons. I do not think that the campaign probably satisfied all the requirements of the government. It was designed to save funds in the capital works area, particularly the laying of pipes. It has had a reasonable effect on some water conservation but I noted with horror that some of the government buildings have water running down the street so they could not have been watching television.

929 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Chief Minister able to inform me of the locality of the motel site purchased by the government in Alice Springs and the amount of the purchase price?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the purchase price but I understand that an application has been made to purchase a motel site in the Gap area in Alice Springs.

930 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the tobacco allowance for prisoners. If a prisoner is a non-smoker, so that the vice of smoking is not forced on him by the circumstances of his incarceration, can he receive a sweets allowance in lieu?

ANSWER

In answer to the honourable member's question, prisoners are allowed a weekly ration of about 11 grams of tobacco a week which is approximately 3 ounces. There is no allowance for persons who do not smoke to receive sweets or cookies. The department is aware of the anomaly and there is an investigation being carried out now. In the light of that investigation, a recommendation will be made to me as to whether we

should supply sweets to prisoners. The department has taken into consideration that prisoners have money of their own and do receive some kind of income whilst they are in prison. We are making provision for the canteen to be stocked with some 300 or 350 types of articles: soap, lollies, shaving gear, biscuits, writing paper etc. Until such time as the report is handed down, I am unable to give the honourable member any further information. The Minister for Transport and Works has carried out a survey on smoking in buses. Perhaps we should carry out another survey about eating on buses.

931 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have inquiries been made to his department by any organisations or persons other than Mr Pellerman with a view to establishing a private hospital at the existing Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. I am not aware of any other party having expressed an interest in a private hospital in Darwin, in the existing Darwin Hospital or any other place. I would not be averse to receiving a proposal for another party besides Mr Pellerman.

932 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to introduce legislation or put a proposal before Executive Council to amend the regulations to allow trusted prisoners temporary release at such times as Christmas and, if so, will this legislation be introduced in time for that to occur this coming Christmas?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I have not had the opportunity of even discussing this particular proposal with officers of my department but I will take the point up for the honourable member and advise her at a later date.

933 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When can we expect an upgrading of the Howard Springs turn-off?

ANSWER

The Howard Springs turnoff is not on the current program. The department is looking at the future requirements for the upgrading of the intersection and no firm dates are envisaged at this stage.

960 Mr ISAACS to the TREASURER

Can he inform the Assembly who is paying for the repairs on the gas turbine at Stokes Hill?

ANSWER

I cannot inform him who is paying for the repairs on the gas turbine but I will endeavour to seek the information and pass it on during these sittings.

961 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

This concerns the results of the state election held in South Australia last Saturday? In view of those results, does the Chief Minister envisage any acceleration of the sealing of the Stuart Highway between the SA - NT border and Pimber in South Australia?

ANSWER

The results of the South Australian election have returned a Liberal government. The then Leader of the Opposition, Dr Tonkin, indicated some time ago that, if the Liberal Party were elected to office in South Australia, it would endeavour to secure the sealing of the south road to the Northern Territory border within 5 years. I think that we can look forward to some progress in that area and I certainly hope to speak to Dr Tonkin in relation to this matter and other matters next week.

962 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

In last Saturday's NT News, there was an article headed "New South Wales probe on Northern Territory Health Department". Was this inquiry commissioned by the minister and, if so, for what purpose and what are its terms of reference?

ANSWER

There is no inquiry into the Northern Territory Department of Health. I would like to get that message over quite emphatically to the honourable member. The Northern Territory government has sought from the New South Wales Health Commission the advice of 1 of its senior officers on the relationship of private hospitals to state medical services and the practicality of a private entrepreneur operating within a state hospital infrastructure. I did note the article and it is important that I emphasise that there is no reflection on the Department of Health whatsoever in this matter. There is no intention to hold a health inquiry as such. It is purely an opinion that has been sought by the government relating to private health services. As honourable members would be aware, we do not have any private hospitals and we do not have the knowledge of the modus operandi of the 2 services together. In New South Wales, the private hospitals and the Health Department have been working together for over 50 years and we are looking for some information on the relationship of their activities.

963 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he confirm or deny reports on the ABC news this morning that staff cuts are being made at the Darwin Hospital and that sections of the

hospital are being closed down through lack of funds?

ANSWER

I heard the report on the ABC news this morning and I was not quite sure whether they were talking about the same Darwin as the one in the Northern Territory or even the same Darwin hospital. In fact, the situation is not as it was purported to be on the news broadcast. I would like to take the opportunity of putting the facts before honourable members.

In 1978-79 the salaries and wages vote in the Darwin Hospital was \$13.3m. In 1979-80, the salaries and wages vote in the Darwin Hospital is \$15.5m, an increase of \$2.2m. There is a further adjustment of upwards of \$1.5m to be made to the salaries and wages vote when the Casuarina Hospital is commissioned. This increase recognises extra activities that have been conducted by the department such as the psychiatric and rehabilitation units which are to come into operation in this 12 months and also the indexation and other costs that are likely to be incurred by the department during the period. There is absolutely no movement at all against expenditure on the hospitals or on staff and salary votes.

I would like to clear up a couple of other points. The first relates to the level of staffing in the hospitals. Under the Commonwealth system, we had an operation whereby 2 part-time personnel counted on the hospital's establishment as 1 person. For instance, if we had 2 sisters working 4 hours a day they were not shown as 2 people on the establishment but as 1. Under the Northern Territory rules of the public service, these positions are shown as 1. We have taken the matter up with the Public Service Commissioner. He has acknowledged the anomaly and the department and the Public Service Commissioner's office are working at the moment to overcome this administrative problem. There is no inference at all that there will be any lessening of standards within the hospital.

Another point relates to the renewal of limited tenure persons. We have an arrangement in the public service now that we did not have under the Commonwealth whereby persons who are away for periods of leave - maternity leave, study leave or whatever - can now be replaced with limited tenure staff. Where the department has replaced people with limited tenure staff and the limited tenure runs out because the person has come back to work, the department does not renew the limited tenure. I think that is only a fair and reasonable proposition. It is a big improvement on the position 2 years ago where, if a person went on leave, there was no possibility at all of having anybody replace them.

On the news report this morning, a reference was made by the union representative to the closing down of sections of the Darwin Hospital because of inadequate funds. That statement was more of a public mischief than a matter of fact. When I inquired with the department about this particular reference, the only thing that the department can relate to this is that they have consolidated accommodation units within the hospital and, instead of having 2 half-full wings that require cleaning contracts and maintenance, they have put all the people in 1 wing. They have other one on a standby basis to use when required. No sections of the Darwin Hospital have been closed down in the last 6 months since the Northern Territory took over the health function.

964 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to a question which I asked last week. My constituents were not quite happy with the answer so I will re-phrase the question. Will the minister please assure me that funds will be available to improve the edges of Undoolya Road for the safety of cyclists?

ANSWER

I cannot give such an assurance to the honourable member for Alice Springs because it is a local government matter. The local government of Alice Springs will work out its own priorities and determinations for the funding it gets from the Northern Territory government. I would suggest that the honourable member place some pressure on the Alice Springs council.

965 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

During the last sittings, the minister announced the members of the newly established Northern Territory Energy Council. Could he now indicate when the Energy Council will become operative, what will be its function and the frequency of its meetings?

ANSWER

In the August session, I announced the membership of the Northern Territory Energy Council and I indicated that they would be coming together as soon as possible. I am happy to report that the Northern Territory Energy Council had its first meeting on Monday last. There was full representation at the meeting and the day was taken up with briefings by departmental people and persons experienced in the energy field to the members of the council. The function of the council will be to advise the government on issues relating to the energy field within the Northern Territory as they affect the community and as they may affect the government. The government, from time to time, may refer issues to the councils for its advice and consideration. Alternatively, if the council believes that there are issues that should be brought to the government's attention, it has the prerogative to do just that. It is envisaged that the council will sit quarterly during the course of a year and at other times as the need may arise. As a result of last Monday's meeting and the information that was put before the members, they have asked whether they can meet within a month so that they can take up certain matters that were presented to them during the day's briefing. They felt these matters to be of importance and in need of further consideration as soon as possible.

966 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of his earlier answer, will he state that limited tenure employees will continue to be employed at Darwin Hospital during the absence of other employees on leave?

ANSWER

I thought I did say that in my answer. If I did not and the honourable member wants clarification of it, then that is the case. It need not necessarily be the same limited tenure employee because the replacement might be a nurse as against an ambulance driver, a wardman or whatever. The intent is to continue to use limited tenure employees to fill

gaps where persons are away for extended periods.

967 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the tell me if the Gunn Point forestry reserve will be closed down? If so, is a recreation reserve going to be established in the area?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of any intention on the part of the Parks and Wildlife Commission to close down the Gunn Point forest service. There is no doubt that the forestry reserve at Gunn Point is being maintained simply on a care-and-maintenance basis.

On the information that I have at the present time, I do not believe that the reserve has any great forestry potential but the Parks and Wildlife Commission is looking at preparing a plan of management for the usage of the present forestry reserve as a recreational reserve. I believe that this is still in the embryonic stage. This was mentioned to me in passing by the Director of the Territory Parks and Wildlife or one of his officers. In view of the fact that its proximity to Darwin would lend it to this activity, this would be a very good use for an area that has not shown itself to be of much value for forestry purposes.

968 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why was the Nightcliff-Fannie Bay connector road located so far into the Kulaluk area and away from existing roads in Ludmilla? How much has this increased the cost of the road compared with connecting Totem Road to Namarluk Drive and Namarluk Drive to Fannie Bay - the shortest possible route - with provision for a noise barrier to houses affected in Ludmilla? Will locating this road deep into Kulaluk land ruin or decrease the chance of using reclaimed land, for example, the cyclone garbage dump, for ovals in the future?

ANSWER

The question is really a statement of opinion. It is the honourable member's opinion that the road is located deep into Kulaluk and it is my opinion that it is not located deep into Kulaluk. It does not connect with the Namarluk Drive as the DRC would have liked. However, I believe that it suits most parties involved. If I have not answered the questions adequately, he can place them on notice.

969 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

How big will the proposed subdivisional holdings on the Marrakai Plains be and can the minister assure me that they will be covered by rationalised, sensible, down-to-earth covenants?

ANSWER

The answer to the second part of the question is certainly yes. There is a total of 6 blocks to be released in the Marrakai area shortly. Four of these cover an area somewhere between 1,200 and 1,600 hectares. One will cover an area of 6,000 hectares and one will cover an area of 14,000 hectares. All blocks will be released by auction and will have a

minimal development covenant so that bidders will not be deterred although lessees will be encouraged to fulfil these covenants in order to ensure that the blocks are not purchased on a straight speculative basis and that they are purchased by intending developers. We have taken a completely fresh approach to the preparation of covenants in regard to these leases and we solved many problems that we have experienced in the past where covenants have been placed on agricultural land. Miscellaneous leases have been quite unrealistic and subsequent review some years later has caused them to be totally revamped and most of them have been cut in half.

970 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that exemption from compliance with building regulations may be obtained from the Building Board for the payment of a fee of \$50?

ANSWER

I do not think I completely understood the question. It seems that the honourable member is suggesting that, for the payment of a fee, you could have any of the requirements of the building manual waived. Clearly, that would not be the case.

971 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I preface my question by saying that there are many experienced nursing sisters employed part-time at Darwin Hospital. Will the minister confirm that part-time employment will continue to be available at the Darwin Hospital for nursing sisters?

ANSWER

My understanding is that part-time employment for sisters has always been available in all the Northern Territory hospitals. This came about from the days when it was all the department could do to recruit local people to staff its facilities down the track. This goes back quite a few years. In the smaller centres, it meant offering a job to women who were prepared to come in for 2 or 4 or 8 hours a day or to work a night shift. I understand that this practice occurs in the Darwin Hospital to a degree. I know people who do it there and I know people in Alice Springs who do it. I cannot see that there is likely to be any variation in that practice.

972 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of the dispute involving owner-drivers and Dussin Constructions at Adelaide River? Is he aware that the 5 owner-drivers who run the tip trucks are owed an amount in the vicinity of \$23,000 by Dussin Constructions? Can he assure the House that these 5 owner-drivers will be paid?

ANSWER

I am aware of the dispute and the involvement of the owner-drivers. I have had the department look into the contractual arrangements and it is quite clear from our contract that there is no provision for subcontractors to be paid directly. We have written to Dussin and asked him to pay his people. He said that some wrong information had been submitted with

the accounts and that he hoped to resolve the matter fairly soon when other accounts were submitted to him. That is the only information I have to offer. I cannot say that these contractors will be paid by the government. It is the contractor's responsibility and we have asked him to honour his obligations.

973 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he assure me that parking will be provided at the Howard Springs community clinic block so that people do not have to park in the overflow from the hydrant nearby?

ANSWER

The honourable member raised this question with me a week or two ago and I took it up with the department. Parking facilities are to be made available at the health centre. The Department of Construction has already marked out an area that is to be set aside for the parking. I am not sure whether it is to be sealed but it will be an official parking area. I also mention that the member's suggestion on entry and exit to the carparking area has been put to the Department of Transport and Works for their consideration.

974 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is consideration being given to introducing another rating system for electricity charges?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any proposal to change the rating system for electricity charges at the moment. I will seek the information for the honourable member.

975 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will the minister make a statement to the House on the effect of reported staff cutbacks on the program of the Ludmilla special school?

ANSWER

The honourable member no doubt asks this question as a result of a press article appearing in the Saturday NT News written by a gentleman who could be described as having gone to the special school meeting during the week as a parent and then written an article as a journalist. It was a most unfortunate occurrence. With all the sympathy in the world, one would hardly describe a person in that position as an objective journalist. I was rather surprised that the NT News editorial staff would have allowed that to happen. I do not know whether the honourable member wanted a formal statement or an answer to the question. That sort of article undermines the confidence of those parents who have children already at the school. It is most regrettable.

I suppose every school in the Northern Territory has problems but the problems of the Ludmilla special school are the result of its successes and not its failures. It is an outstanding example in Australia of special schools for severely handicapped children. It compares favourably in staffing, programs and in success rates with any school of its type in Australia. The moment the Northern Territory provides services for handicapped children, then many parents of handicapped children who send their children interstate bring their children back to the Northern

Territory where they quite rightly belong. The Ludmilla special school has been so successful that, in a period of 2 years, it has gone from a pupil enrolment of 5 to 25. Its present staffing is 4 full-time professionally trained teachers and 4 teaching aides. That is a staff student ratio of 8:25 yet it is supposed to be deprived of staffing. In addition, there is 1 part-time instructor who had previously been working 4 hours a day and is now working 5 hours. Last term - and this is the only area of concern which I can possibly identify - there was a part-time instructor who was responsible for assisting the children on the buses between the school and home. That person proved to be unsuitable to the principal and his services were terminated. That person has not yet been replaced.

The Regional Director North is having and has been having discussions with the principal and staff at the Ludmilla special school to review its requirements of the Ludmilla Special School in the immediate future. It has now been determined that the school can take on additional pupils and that will lead to even further staff requirements. The director will be visiting the school on Friday with a view to fulfilling those staffing requirements. The problems of the school arise out of its success. It is a fine example of a special school and it is one that the Education Department in the Northern Territory can be proud of.

977 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to the CHIEF MINISTER

When will the plan of management currently being prepared by Professor Ovington for Kakadu National Park be made available for public comment?

ANSWER

I understand that the plan of management is presently being prepared by the ANPWS and should be available within the next few weeks.

977 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He will be aware that, in New South Wales, there has been a partial reversion to outside assessment of higher school certificate students. In the light of that shift in direction by the New South Wales department, could he indicate to the House if the present system in the Territory will continue or is he considering a change in the assessment of students at matriculation and leaving levels?

ANSWER

The question is a very complex one and could not properly be handled in an answer to a question without notice. Last year, the Northern Territory Division of the Commonwealth Department of Education instructed a group of teachers to form a taskforce to examine the assessment and accreditation of courses in Northern Territory schools. I now have that report and I am very pleased with it. The people who compiled the report could not possibly be accused of being bureaucrats. They were teachers and principals who were looking at their own schools. They recognised the necessity to move towards a degree of external assessment. I see no reason why that report should not be a public document. I would be quite happy to make the report available to any member and would be most grateful for comments.

We have been locked into the South Australian matriculation system for some years. It is really only a vehicle for admission into university.

What we do not have is a certificate of sufficient status at years 11 and 12. A system of accreditation or assessment of students in schools and certificates with sufficient clout should be made available to students who leave school in year 12. This certificate must be recognisable by employers as having the full weight of the government behind it. We have seen a movement in Australia over the last decade and a half whereby a child commences school at the pre-school level and can go right through to year 12, without necessarily completing year 12, and not have 1 solitary piece of paper in their hand to indicate performance at any stage during that course of schooling over 11 or 12 years. This is most unsatisfactory. I am quite certain that the taskforce of the department recognised the unsatisfactory nature of this arrangement and will be taking steps to remedy it.

978 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What are the effects of mining on the environment at Gove?

ANSWER

At the risk of being reprimanded by honourable members for making a ministerial statement instead of answering a question, I advise the House that the honourable member gave me forewarning of this and I have had the department prepare a very succinct reply. I should make it clear that any mining operation will affect the environment to some degree. Officers of the department, in conjunction with officers from the Land Conservation Unit, are continuing to ensure that Nabalco takes all practical measures to minimise the extent of unavoidable impact. The company, which is cooperating fully with the department, is achieving very satisfactory results in the rehabilitation of areas where disturbance has taken place and these results are creating world-wide interest. Re-vegetation of the mined areas is following closely behind the mining operations and a maintenance-free cover of trees and grass has been produced which will ultimately lead to the re-establishment of natural forest. In the case of the red mud ponds, despite many who said it could not be done, a vegetation cover has been established over the 30 hectare area of ponds and it is hoped that natural bush land will follow from this initial cover.

979 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the government be placing topsoil over the old cyclone garbage dump at Kulaluk and plant lawns in order to make the area usable? Is the government content with the miniscule 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?

ANSWER

The questions raised by the honourable member would need to be looked at by officers of my own department. Officers of the Department of Transport and Works would certainly be involved in such matters as drainage and sewerage. I intend replying to the honourable members in writing.

Mr STEELE (Transport and Works) (by leave): Mr Speaker, I undertook to answer a series of detailed questions asked of me concerning the John Holland facility and although the government has indicated I would make a statement in the House, I believe that I should still have these

answers recorded in Hansard. I will try to avoid the tedious monologue which was so obnoxious to the honourable member for Arnhem yesterday.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

- 980 Mr STEELE: Question 868: On 3 August 1978, the Department of Industrial Development commissioned Mr Peter Anderson, head of the Department of Business Studies, Darwin Community College, at a cost of \$2,000 to produce a feasibility study on the proposal to establish small ships maintenance and repair facilities in the Port of Darwin. It appears the report was commissioned as a result of John Holland's continuing interest in the feasibility study. Airfares, accommodation, hire-cars, typing, commissioning of survey and printing costs amounted to about \$1,400. Mr Anderson estimates he made \$1 an hour after tax on the project. The Department of Industrial Development received Mr Anderson's report on 6 September 1978.
- 981 Mr STEELE: Question 870: John Holland Constructions Pty Ltd received 2 copies of the report in the week prior to 21 September to assist the company in determining whether it would proceed with negotiations.
- 982 Mr STEELE: Question 873: Other companies were provided with copies and details have already been given.
- 983 Mr STEELE: Question 876: I am informed that lease holders and licensees in Frances Bay were consulted by Mr Anderson during the course of his study.
- 984 Mr STEELE: Question 878: I refer to my answer to question 873 and the Chief Minister's remarks of yesterday. After the earlier advertising in June 1978 by the Port Authority and the distribution to public companies, it was not considered necessary to further advertise.
- 985 Mr STEELE: Question 883: The charges to be levied by John Holland have yet to be determined. Due to the difference in facilities, it would be very hard to realistically compare the.
- 986 Mr STEELE: Question 890: A variety of estimates have been made. The most recent suggests about \$80,000.
- 987 Mr STEELE: Question 892: A formal proposal was made to the Department of Industrial Development by John Holland Constructions on 14 December 1978. The company proposed to finance, design, construct and operate a small ships repair facility at Frances Bay provided the government would work together to construct a public sheltered harbour and small ships wharf adjacent to the repair facility.
- 988 Mr STEELE: Question 895: At the meeting on 22 January attended by officers of the Department of Industrial Development, the Treasury and the Port Authority, reservations were expressed about the legality of the lease-back proposal and of the viability of the proposal. Concern was expressed about the government seeking to compel vessels to use the John Holland facility. As a result, Mr Rettie sought further advice from the Port Authority and the Department of Law. The Port Authority on 13 February provided advice on a number of cost and revenue estimates associated with the public facility. The Department of Law tendered advice to the Department of Industrial Development on 21 February

concerning the draft heads of agreement. At a later meeting held on 21 February and attended by members of the Department of Industrial Development, Transport and Works, Treasury and Law the heads of agreement was discussed in detail. A new draft reflecting the comments was prepared and delivered to John Holland on 22 February.

- 989 Mr STEELE: Question 898: In general, to call open tenders for public works valued in excess of \$10,000, certificates of inexpediency are issued following approval by the Treasurer or his delegate. When there is only one logical supplier for maintenance contracts following provision of capital requiring specialised knowledge - for works on Aboriginal communities which they are competent enough to perform themselves for the provision of equipment which is compatible with already purchased equipment, where time is the essence and it can be demonstrated that it is inexpedient to call public tenders for security and alarm systems and for major projects involving desing-and-construct operations - public tender may be used. However, price is still the most relevant consideration. Contracts may be negotiated with the delegated approval of the minister. This often applies to the leasing of building space for government occupancy. The John Holland contract at Frances Bay is an example of the last category. However, it does have elements which would result in the issue of a certificate of inexpediency. Time was important if the facility was to operate by the coming wet season. The public facility and private facility were integral parts of the one project. There were considerable time and cost savings for having both facilities built by the same organisation.
- 990 Mr STEELE: Question 105: The Department of Transport and Works costed John Holland's tender and considered it to be fair value for money. It now appears that John Holland will make a loss on this contract due to the increased dredging costs.

AUDITOR'S-GENERAL REPORT

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that this Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of the Legislative Assembly Powers and Privileges Ordinance 1977, authorises the publication of the Report of the Auditor-General and that the report be printed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, I move that the report be noted and seek leave to continue my remarks at a later hour.

Leave granted.

Mr PERRON (Treasurer): Mr Speaker, I lay on the table the Annual Report of the Housing Commission for the period 1 July 1975 to 30 June 1976.

991 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What action is the minister taking to ensure that children needing to cross the flow of traffic from the Ludmilla - Fannie Bay connector road on their way to school will be able to do so in safety?

ANSWER

This matter has been drawn to my attention. Obviously, we would not wish to impose a new thoroughfare on a community without making sure that there was some means of either crossing the roads or providing a bus service to service those streets that are populated, particularly in the Coconut Grove area. The department is currently studying the specifications and also analysing the bus routes to see if there are some variations that need to be considered. In due course, we will have that information and we will be able to advise those citizens in that region.

992 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Some time ago, a person was commissioned to report on the control or eradication of coffee bush in the Darwin area. Was such a report asked for and, if so, what were the findings of that report?

ANSWER

A study of the feasibility of eradicating coffee bush in the Darwin area was carried out internally within the department of the Chief Minister in April 1979. The study showed that total eradication would be a very extensive operation which would need to extend over 3 to 5 years and could result in erosion hazards in certain areas unless carefully controlled. Subsequently, some doubt has been expressed as to the cost and feasibility of eradication particularly in areas such as the Myilly Point cliff. An approach based on individual area needs and feasibility of control is being examined.

993 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I am sure he is aware that the Queensland government is taking action to stop the illegal catching and selling of undersized jenny crabs in that state. Having regard to their concern, is he yet convinced that some control on the taking of jenny crabs is necessary in Northern Territory waters?

ANSWER

I do not think it is a matter of convincing me of the nature of the problem. The Fisheries Division is currently going through all the aspects of fisheries that need to be catered for by government. As a demonstration of this, we will be introducing legislation today to rewrite the whole Fisheries Act. In addition to that, we have put out the barramundi review report which is a subject on the notice paper. There are other reports available on mackerel and reef fisheries because we view any of these matters with great concern. We are concerned to ensure the viability of commercial fisheries as they become established. Obviously, in due course the barramundi fishery will need alternatives. The question of jenny crabs will no doubt be arrived at in due course.

994 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What title is used by qualified male nursing staff in our Northern Territory medical service?

ANSWER

I understand that there has been a colloquial expression used to address male nurses as "Mr Sister" which is understandably not appreciated by the profession at all. My advice from the department is that the male nursing fraternity would prefer to be addressed as Mr.

995 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

According to the administrative arrangements order of 2 July, the minister is responsible for museums, art galleries, arts and cultural affairs, libraries, archives and related legislation. Can the minister explain why the oral history project is not being undertaken by his department but is in fact being undertaken by the Chief Minister's Department.

Mr DONDAS: I ask that the question be redirected to the Chief Minister.

Mr EVERINGHAM: If I am correct, the gist of the question was why the oral history project is being undertaken within the Chief Minister's Department and not in the Department of Community Development. The staff organising the oral history committee are based within the Department of the Chief Minister which has the Office of Information within it and has the facilities readily available to undertake the project.

996 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station is unalienated crown land and subject to an Aboriginal land claim?

ANSWER

It is a fact that the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station is unalienated crown land and I believe it is a fact also that a land claim has been lodged over that area. The government will have to consider the implications of this land claim in respect of the continued operations of the Upper Adelaide River Experimental Station. The government has a committee which examines the implications of land claims in so far as they affect the operations of government or the interests of the Northern Territory generally. And as far as I know, the land claim is under examination by the committee at the present time.

997 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are negotiations taking place between the Northern Territory government and Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services Ltd, formerly the Commonwealth Hostels, with a view to the Northern Territory government taking over their Northern Territory operations? If so, what stage have those negotiations reached?

ANSWER

I cannot provide an answer on what stage the negotiations have reached. The Northern Territory government is having transferred to it the assets and properties formerly known throughout the Territory as Commonwealth Hostels. When I was last familiar with this subject, we were negotiating with Commonwealth Catering Services to ensure that they continued, at least for the duration of the contract that they had with the Commonwealth, to administer the premises on behalf of the Northern Territory government. Assuming that that can be arranged between the Northern Territory government and that organisation between now and the period that such contract would run out, the Northern Territory government can re-assess its entire position in relation to these hostels which we have inherited to decide what course of action we should take following that period.

998 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can the minister advise what steps are being taken by his department to provide additional land in Alice Springs for residential purposes.

ANSWER

At the present time, Alice Springs is reasonably catered for as far as residential land is concerned when compared to some other areas in the Territory. However, the continuing studies into areas which will be turned off for subdivision does not stop in any centre and, whilst we do not have at the present time a government subdivision program in Alice Springs, we do have at least one private developer who is interested in a parcel of land and is doing a feasibility study for purposes of private development of a private subdivision in Alice Springs. We are very keen to see this. The area being looked at has a much greater potential for urban settlement than the area that the private subdividers are considering. There is therefore a possibility of a joint private enterprise and government role in subdividing.

As far as Alice Springs is concerned, we do not see any immediate problems with the supply of land. The Northern Territory government's over-the-counter land sales system has commenced in Alice Springs because of the availability of land and that scheme has been an enormous success with some 90 odd blocks being sold within a few days of commencement. That means that there are at least 90 people in Alice Springs who are satisfied as far as land is concerned and now have the task of building houses on those blocks.

999 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it correct that the Health Department will only establish clinics in rural towns and missions?

ANSWER

I do not think that is quite correct. The Health Department has confined its operations to towns and major settlements. For some reason, not known to myself and for which the Department cannot explain, they have never bothered to provide medical services in terms of infrastructure and accompanying facilities to pastoral areas within the Northern Territory which have large Aboriginal populations.

There is a prototype experiment taking place now on a station in the southern half of the Territory which has a large Aboriginal population living on it. The Health Department is putting in some basic infrastructure and working in tandem with the station management who, over the years, has provided the service themselves to the Aboriginals. There is no definitive policy that says the Health Department is not to be involved in this sort of operation and I would hope that, over the years, such an experiment as this in the southern half of the Territory will be extended to the whole of the Territory. It is going to be one of those things of "slowly, slowly catchee monkey".

1000 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that there will be no primary school for the 1980 school year in the district of Malak and that the nearby schools at Anula and Wulagi are at or near full capacity, what arrangements are in hand for the 1980 school year for primary school students now resident in Malak to attend schools?

ANSWER

I will have to get the details required to answer the honourable member's question. I will be more than happy to make sure that that information is conveyed to her. The Malak Primary School proposal is high on the government's list of priorities for early commencement. Design work is currently being undertaken. I am somewhat surprised to learn that the 2 schools she referred to are at full capacity, particularly considering the opening of the Holy Spirit Primary School which significantly relieved the pressure on a number of Northern Suburbs primary schools. I will certainly provide the honourable member with details to her question at a later time.

1001 Mr DOOLAN to the CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the Chief Minister's answer to question 326 regarding the eradication of hyptis at Obiri Rock. He said: "Weedicides have not been used at this stage because they are considered to be ineffective according to the advice that we have". Who gave this advice to the Chief Minister? Does the Chief Minister have confidence in his own Primary Industry Division and is he aware that officers from that division are certain that some weedicides, for example, 24D, are effective against hyptis.

ANSWER

At this stage, I cannot even recall providing the answer to the honourable member for Victoria River in respect of the weed eradication at Obiri Rock. I would say that, if I secured an answer, it would have come from the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission because Obiri Rock is in the area of the Kakadu National Park. If the honourable member would like to put his question on notice, I will secure answers for him. Since he asked me, I will be asking the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. If he chooses to ask the Minister for Industrial Development, no doubt he will ask the Primary Industry Division.

1002 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise what steps have been taken in respect of reported incidents of misuse of explosives and other improper practices in connection with

the reconstruction of Stuart Highway south of Adelaide River?

ANSWER

I believe there were allegations made some weeks ago about the improper use of explosives by the contractors operating on the stretch of road near Adelaide River. Investigations by the explosives inspectors within the Department of Mines and Energy failed to turn up any evidence that would be needed to launch a prosecution. However, there is a general tightening up of the control and use of explosives right throughout the Northern Territory. We passed legislation amending the Explosives Act and subsequent regulations to those amendments have been drawn up and should be ready shortly to help the inspectors in their efforts to oversee and maintain surveillance on the use of explosives in the Northern Territory. They will work with the cooperation of the supervisory personnel from other departments, such as the department of Transport and Works, who often come across people using explosives.

In the Northern Territory, about 5% of total explosives used are on things like drain digging, road construction, dam building etc. The 95% is used mainly in mining activities around Tennant Creek, Groote and Nhulunbuy. The department pointed out that they have had more inspectorial duties on the 5% of material that is used for explosives in civil works away from mining operations than they have had in the whole of the mining operation. That probably comes about by virtue of the fact that turnover of road construction employees is a little bit higher than in the mining industry where explosive's men are generally more settled in their employment.

1003 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On Thursday 13 September, I asked him if the technical working party formed to examine and develop legislation to control the ingredients of stock feeds, including antibiotics, had reported to the minister and, if not, when would it be expected that they would. Can he yet advise me whether they have reported and, if not, when will they?

ANSWER

I have not neglected to reply to that question. I posted a letter to the honourable member yesterday advising her that I had replied in a certain context on 22 May that the working party was due to report by the end of the year. The position has not changed since then.

1004 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Since new legislation was introduced to regulate illegal sand and gravel mining in the rural area, what is being done to police this act after 4.21pm and at weekends and public holidays?

ANSWER

Illegal sand mining in the Howard Springs area has been of continuing interest to me since I became minister. One of the first things the Department of Mines and Energy had to do was set up a surveillance system that would enable them not only to know what was going on in the place during working hours, which is extremely difficult in the spread of activities there, but to be aware of after hours improper practice. The

department is instigating a system of surveillance that will enable us to keep an eye on nocturnal and weekend activities of certain operators. We are not prepared to accept a proposition like that and we will be moving to see that it does not continue.

1005 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he advise me when I might expect a response to my urgent representations of 21 August this year regarding the changes to Agricultural Lease No 683 in the Alice Springs region?

ANSWER

I cannot give a definitive answer to that question at the moment. I am not quite sure of the matters pertaining to that particular lease. However, I will undertake to have a look into it forthwith and get a response back to him.

1006 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I am very grateful to the honourable minister for the assistance he has already given with the problem of the Ross Park drain but there is yet more to be done. Can the minister please advise me whether there are plans to continue the Ross Park drain into the major east-side drain?

ANSWER

I am not too sure of the question or the locality. If the honourable gentleman would either put the question on notice or drop me a note about it, I will try and procure the information he requires.

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