

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

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

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

Government Assistance for Tradesmen to Visit Remote Areas

44 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What assistance will the government provide to enable electrical, plumbing and building tradesmen and inspectors to visit remote centres such as Borroloola to assist home owners?

From 24 February 1981

Katherine Electricity Supply

133 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will electricity to be reticulated to the new water supply at Donkey Camp near Katherine be extended to cater for consumers and future subdivisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

From 2 June 1981

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the \$1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

From 9 June 1981

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

From 18 August 1981

Rape in Southern Region

210 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. (a) How many rapes have been reported in the Southern Command region since 1 July 1980 to 10 June 1981, (b) how many have resulted in charges being laid, (c) what is the state of these charges, and (d) have any reports of rape been false?
2. What facilities and resources are available for the psychological counselling of women raped in (a) the Alice Springs region, and (b) the

Tennant Creek region?

3. Has he received any representations from women's organisations regarding the level of rape counselling services in the Territory?
4. If so, (a) what organisations have made representations, (b) what has been the basis of these representations, and (c) what has been his response?

Darwin Hospital Pathology Laboratory

224 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can he inform me as to the fate of the pathology laboratory at the Darwin Hospital?
2. Has he considered the future of the laboratory in the light of a lack of such scientific facilities in the Department of Primary Production?

Security for Belongings of Hospital Patients

225 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

Incidence of Tuberculosis in 1979-80

241 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What was the incidence of tuberculosis in 1979-80 in (a) Australia, and (b) the Northern Territory?
2. Is his department undertaking any program to eradicate tuberculosis in humans similar to the program being undertaken to eradicate tuberculosis and brucellosis in cattle?

From 24 November 1981

Sexual Assault Cases

379 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many sexual assault cases have been seen at the major Territory hospitals in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1979-80?

From 1 December 1981

Liquor Campaign

500 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

Collia Tin Mine

512 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As a number of people have lost their savings in the Collia tin mine affair,

- (a) what detailed action has been taken by the Department of Mines to settle the matter;

- (b) how much money has been lost by people involved;
- (c) how much did Mr Ken Day receive for the tin he mined from Collia;
- (d) why has he not explained in the Legislative Assembly what action the government has taken;
- (e) did the Department of Law recommend that anybody be charged over the affair and, if so, why was not that recommended action proceeded with;
- (f) was the government's lack of action coloured by the fact that Mr Day was once the head of the Progress Party, whose votes had helped the Country Liberal Party;
- (g) what is now being done about the matter; and
- (h) are police trying to contact the previous leaseholder who disappeared and, if so, do they know in which state he is residing?

Public Housing in NT - Applications

513 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for general public housing were received during (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81, and how many applications were outstanding at (c) 1 July 1980, and (d) 1 July 1981 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, (iv) Nhulunbuy, and (vi) Pine Creek?
2. How many outstanding applications were there for general public housing (a) at 1 July 1980, and (b) at 25 June 1981?
3. How many applications for general public housing were received in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?
4. How many applications for general public housing were cancelled in the financial years (a) 1989-80, and (b) 1980-81?
5. How many tenants were accommodated in the financial years (a) 1979-80, and (b) 1980-81?

Internal Reviews of Health Department

517 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. He stated during the June 1981 sittings that his department had reviews taking place on all aspects of medical services offered to the public, and referred to an internal review of community health services. What were the details and outcome of this review?
2. In regard to other internal reviews conducted during the past year, (a) in which areas were they conducted, (b) who have the committees comprised of, (c) how many times have they met, and (d) what has been the outcome of these reviews?
3. How many internal reviews are being conducted at the moment?

Report on Nursing and Administration of Medicine

527 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When does he expect the report on manpower requirements for nursing and the administration of medicine to be completed?

Psychiatric Services

534 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. For what reason is psychiatric services included in the general administrative expenditure for health services?
2. For what reason has the level of funding for psychiatric services been reduced from \$510,000 to \$475,000? Where will this cut be felt?

Doctor-Patient Ratios in NT

538 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the current ratio of doctors per patient at each hospital in the NT?
2. What are the duty rosters of doctors and nurses? How does this compare with last year?
3. Is the percentage that salaried doctors can earn on top of their income to be increased from 25%? If so, to what level?

From 9 March 1982

'Fellow Territorians' Circular

564 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of a circular letter dated October 1981, addressed to 'Fellow Territorians' and signed by the Chief Minister?

Rapid Creek Water Gardens Project

596 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the Rapid Creek water gardens project already had 2 signs, 1 being a conventional Transport and Works sign and the other a pictorial representation of what the gardens will look like, what was (a) the purpose of erecting a third much larger sign identifying the project, and (b) what was the cost of the third sign?

Geoffrey Peter Bellenger

611 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the hardship suffered by Geoffrey Peter Bellenger, who was injured by a truck on a pedestrian crossing in Alice Springs on 23 May 1975 and who has not yet received any compensation for his injuries or costs?
2. Was the driver of the truck involved in the incident charged with any offence?
3. Is any of the almost 7 years delay between the injury and compensation attributable to any shortcoming or congestion in Northern Territory courts?

Liaison between Government Departments

618 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is there liaison between the Department of Lands, other departments and statutory bodies such as Telecom on the provision of services such as electricity, water, sewerage and telephones for new private or government subdivisions?

From 16 March 1982

Male Public Servants

640 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 30 April 1981, what was (a) the average male earnings in the Northern Territory Public Service, and (b) what were the numbers and levels of the males?

Aboriginal Community Work Program

641 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. The Northern Territory government initiated the Aboriginal Community Work Program for a pilot period of 3 years, which was to conclude in January 1982. Has this occurred?
2. Has a report been compiled for consideration by the government agency reviewing the program?
3. If so, when is it anticipated that the government will table this report?

Motor Vehicles - NTEC

645 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. How many motor vehicles are (a) owned by NTEC, (b) what classes of vehicles are they, and (c) in what numbers?
2. To which designations of NTEC employees are these vehicles allocated and allowed to be driven to and from work?
3. Is it a fact that a lawyer retained by NTEC has an NTEC vehicle assigned to him for his personal use?

Houses, Darwin City Council

649 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of (a) the number of houses owned by the Corporation of the City of Darwin, and (b) to what use these houses are put?

From 25 May 1982

Repairs and Maintenance, Rapid Creek Primary School

657 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What plans does the department have to (a) repair and cyclone proof the roof of the older part of the Rapid Creek Primary School, including the covered way area, (b) paint, (c) replace furniture, and (d) repair gutters in the older part of the school, and (e) bituminize the school carpark?

National Parks, MacDonnell Ranges

663 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 586 regarding the gazetting of a MacDonnell Range National Park and ask:

What other 'acquisition proposals are proceeding satisfactorily in the Central and East MacDonnells', and for what purposes is the Conservation Commission seeking to acquire such land?

Drilling and Exploration, Magellan Petroleum

667 Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What are the details of the current drilling program being pursued by Magellan Petroleum in central Australia?
2. What is the (a) registration number of, and (b) nature of exploration on each E.L. held by the company?
3. What funding has been committed to the exploration program either (a) in general, or (b) for each E.L.?

Education Staff, Banka Banka

670 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many staff positions does his department fund at Banka Banka?
2. Of these, (a) how many are members of the community, and (b) how many were recruited from outside the community?

Blasting, Sadadeen Hills

675 Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What consultation took place, if any, with Aboriginal traditional owners and other citizens before officers of his department commenced blasting a section of the Sadadeen hills to enable erection of a water tank?

From 1 June 1982

Firearms, Security Guards

692 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What, in general terms, are the regulations governing the use of firearms by private security guards, and what type of training and level of competence in the use of firearms by private security guards is required in the Northern Territory?

Life Sentences

693 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In relation to life sentences imposed in the Territory, (a) how many persons are presently serving life sentences, (b) what is the average length of the actual sentence served, (c) are there any administrative procedures for the review of life sentences, and (d) if so, what are they?

From 3 June 1982

Boundaries, Koolpinyah Station

696 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On 9 March 1982 he advised the Assembly that the matter of redrawing the boundaries of Koolpinyah Station was under consideration. Is he yet in a position to provide further information on this matter?

Mt Wells Battery

697 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is the area of the Mt Wells Battery still part of the Ban Ban pastoral lease?

2. If so, is this the reason for the delay in full payment by Jingellic Minerals to the government for the Mt Wells Battery and associated leases?
3. If so, when will this be resolved?

From 17 August 1982

Farmers' Co-operative at Adelaide River

699 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. How many people has the farmers' co-operative at Adelaide River employed on average over the last 5 years?
2. Have continuing accumulated debts from earlier years contributed to the fact that the co-operative is not now solvent?
3. Does the government have any plans for land development north of Adelaide River, or is it content to see blocks sold for real estate value as is occurring at the present time?

Secondary Text Book Allowance

700 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many people received the secondary text book allowance during the period 1 July 1981 to 31 May 1982?

Publicity Officer, Yulara

707 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

What (a) qualifications were required by the Conservation Commission of applicants for the recently-advertised position of Yulara Publicity Officer, (b) how many applications were received, and (c) how many applicants were interviewed?

Dingo Baiting

714 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the concern of cattlemen that aerial baiting of dingoes with the poison 1080 is being scaled down and that the potency of the poison is being reduced?

Life Imprisonment

718 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the effective sentence served by persons receiving life sentences?
2. What review procedures, if any, exist for the periodic review of life sentence detainees?
3. How many people are presently serving life sentences in the Northern Territory?

Coal-fired Power Station, Darwin

719 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

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

Coal-fired Power Station, Darwin

720 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

What is (a) the expected daily consumption of coal, (b) what is the expected waste, and (c) what is the anticipated cost of waste disposal for the proposed coal-fired power station for Darwin?

Power Plant, Elliott

722 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

When was the power generating equipment currently servicing the township of Elliott (a) installed, (b) has there been any major upgrading of the plant since its installation, (c) what is its capacity, (d) how many consumers are serviced by the plant, and (e) what is the level of demand for power from the community?

Power Plant, Newcastle Waters

723 Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

1. When was Newcastle Waters (a) provided with a public power supply, and (b) what was the cost of the provision of that power supply?
2. What is (a) the capacity of the Newcastle Waters power station, (b) how many consumers are using the power, and (c) how many people from Newcastle Waters township signed a petition seeking the provision of a public power supply in October 1980?

From 31 August 1982

Doctor and Nurses, Kalano

724 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the government paying the wages of the Kalano doctor and nursing sisters?

Water Consumption

726 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What was the total water consumption in (a) 1980-81, and (b) 1981-82; total revenue raised from water rates in financial years (c) 1980-81, and (d) 1981-82; and what percentage of water used was unmetered in (e) 1980-81, and (f) 1981-82 in (i) Darwin, (ii) Alice Springs, (iii) Tennant Creek, and (iv) Katherine?

Roads - Pastoral Properties

727 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

On how many pastoral properties (a) does the government maintain roads from the station boundary to the homestead, (b) what is the longest length of road maintained under this system, (c) what is the average length of road maintained, and (d) what was the cost of maintaining these roads in the 1981-82 financial year?

From 2 September 1982

Access Road, Bynoe Harbour

728 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Further to his answer to question 652 (a) what future development does he envisage for the small community at Belyuen which he said generates traffic volumes warranting upgrading the road to the standard presently being constructed; (b) to what additional development in the pastoral, mining, fishing and recreational industries is he referring; (c) fishing and mining by whom; (d) what amount of capitalisation; (e) mining for what; (f) what type of pastoral and recreational development, where, when, by whom and at what capital outlay; and (g) where does the road through Bulldog Pass lead to, or is it part of the main Bynoe Harbour access road?

Loan - Katherine Meatworks

729 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

1. Was a government loan made available to the operators of the Katherine meatworks?
2. If so, (a) was this loan to the value of \$1.4 million, (b) what is the current status of this loan, and (c) is it being serviced correctly?

Free Trade Zone

730 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In relation to the proposal to establish a free trade zone in Darwin, has he requested the Commonwealth government to exercise its power under Section 122 of the Commonwealth Constitution to enable such a free trade zone to be established?
2. If so, what has been the Commonwealth government's response?
3. Would the establishment of a duty-free zone in the Northern Territory create a customs barrier that would concomitantly interfere with trade, commerce and intercourse between the Northern Territory and the states of Australia?
4. Has the Commonwealth government indicated that it would agree to the removal of customs duties?
5. What, if any, specific financial incentives are intended to be offered to potential investors?

2km Drinking Law

731 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

Buffaloes

732 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. How many buffaloes have been received at the government facility at Annaburro Station?

2. Have the suppliers met the conditions required in terms of buffalo type and age?

Emergency Overnight Accommodation for Females

476 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the government aware of the need for emergency overnight accommodation for females in the NT?
2. Does the government intend to provide subsidies to willing organisations such as the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society who have corresponded with the government on such a service and, if so, when?

ANSWER

1. The NT government is aware that single people and families often require emergency overnight accommodation. Any person requiring emergency accommodation should contact an office of the Community Welfare Division where they will be referred to suitable accommodation. Should existing emergency accommodation facilities not be available, financial assistance may be provided to enable the individual or family to seek commercial accommodation.
2. The NT government provides subsidies to the YWCA and the Salvation Army in Darwin to provide emergency accommodation for families. Individuals, including females, who require emergency accommodation are assisted to find such accommodation by officers of the Community Welfare Division. Financial assistance is provided where this is necessary. Rooms in government hostels in the NT are also to be made available to families and single people requiring emergency accommodation. The administrative arrangements for this scheme are currently being considered. Dawn House Womens Refuge, which receives substantial funding from the NT Department of Health, provides emergency accommodation for women in crisis situations. The Darwin Youth Refuge, which also receives substantial funds from the Northern Territory government, provides emergency accommodation for young people. In Alice Springs the NT Department of Health provides funds to the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul to provide crisis accommodation for families and women. It is the government's understanding that the women's refuge 'Community House' management committee will re-open the centre and it is anticipated that funds will be available from the NT Department of Health.

Aboriginal Camping Area in Katherine

477 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the government aware of and does it agree with the decision of the Katherine corporation to allow Aborigines to set up a camping area in Katherine, despite the existence of Kalano Farm and the Corroboree Motel?

ANSWER

The government is aware of the Katherine corporation's decision to establish an Aboriginal camping area within the municipal boundaries of the town.

I do not propose commenting upon the decision of another government taken in respect of an area within its competence.

Transfer of Psychiatric Patients to South Australia

537 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How much was spent in 1980-81 on the transfer of psychiatric patients to South Australia?

2. How many were transferred?
3. What was the average length of stay per patient?
4. When does the NT government expect to provide suitable secure premises for chronic patients in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. Approximately \$4,200 (fares of patients and escorts where applicable).
2. Six.
3. The average length of stay in 1980-81 for psychiatric patients transferred to South Australia is calculated at 80 days approximately.
4. The numbers of severely mentally retarded and chronic mentally ill patients in the NT are too small to justify providing the wide variety of accommodation required. For example, 30 NT patients are currently housed in 9 different styles of accommodation in South Australia.

Yipirinya School in Alice Springs

545 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, has been taken by the Department of Education on the application for registration of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The Yipirinya School Council Incorporated has appealed to the Northern Territory Supreme Court against this decision. In the circumstances, it would not be appropriate to comment further on the matter.

Litter Campaign

547 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How much was spent on the anti-litter campaign?
2. Why was the contract for the campaign awarded to a southern firm?

ANSWER

1. The Litter Control Program has a budget of \$200,000, these funds were provided by industry and are held in a trust account by a firm of chartered accountants.

As advertising is restricted to the Northern Territory, all local television, radio and press organisations are actively involved in the program.

T-shirts have been obtained from local suppliers and printing for promotional material is being arranged through the Government Printer.

2. An advertisement calling for registrations of interest in relation to the program was placed in local and interstate newspapers. Two registrations of interest were received from Darwin organisations, subsequently both organisations advised that they would not, for various reasons, be able to submit a presentation to the committee.

The contract was therefore awarded to a southern firm.

Katherine Town Boundaries

619 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Katherine Municipal Council applied to have the town boundaries extended?

2. If so, (a) has the application been made as a result of any government action, and (b) what benefits would be expected to flow from an extension of the town boundaries?

ANSWER

No, the Katherine Town Council has not applied to have the town boundaries extended.

In November 1981, the Local Government Division of this department wrote to the town clerk pointing out the increasing amount of development outside the Katherine municipal boundary leading to a greater use of town services such as the swimming pool, library and recreation and amusement facilities provided from municipal revenues.

The council would need to balance against increased rate revenue from the extended boundaries, the additional responsibility for specific services such as roads and street lighting in the enlarged municipality.

I believe the matter has been discussed by council, but as yet no further action has been taken.

ILO Conventions

622 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that the Minister for Industrial Relations informed the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 18 November 1981 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 3098) that on 26 May and 3 June 1977 the Northern Territory indicated by letter that in its view the Aboriginal population of the Territory does not constitute a dependent, indigenous population for the purposes of International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939?
2. Who wrote the letter and on what date and by what means did the Northern Territory government authorize it?
3. Is he aware that a former Commonwealth Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations informed the former Leader of the Opposition in the House of Representatives on 4 October 1977 (H. of R. Hansard, p. 1607) that a review instituted by his department in April 1977 had revealed inconsistencies between provisions in the Northern Territory Apprentices Ordinance and the ILO convention?

ANSWER

1. Yes. It should be noted that while the reply of the Minister for Industrial Relations on 18 November 1981 indicates that the 'Northern Territory' expressed a view by letters of 26 May and 3 June 1977, the letters were written on behalf of the then Commonwealth Department of the Northern Territory, not the Northern Territory government. However, in common with all states (as indicated in the Commonwealth Minister's reply of 18 November 1981), I would agree that the Aboriginal population of the Northern Territory does not constitute a 'dependent', indigenous population for the purposes of the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 65, Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) 1939. Aboriginals are equals under the law with other Australian citizens and therefore cannot be regarded as having 'dependent' status.
2. See answer to 1.
3. Yes. However, following transfer of responsibility for the Apprentices Ordinance from the Commonwealth Minister for Education to the Northern Territory government (on 1 January 1978), the Ordinance was repealed and replaced by the Industries Training Act 1979.

Standards Set by ILO Conventions

623 Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by those International Labor Organisation conventions which the ILO lists as basic human rights conventions but which Australia has not yet ratified, viz.:
 - (a) No. 135 - Workers' Representatives, 1971;
 - (b) No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations, 1975;
 - (c) No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service), 1978; and
 - (d) No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities, 1981?
2. What views has the NT government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of each of these conventions?
3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning each of these conventions?

ANSWER

1. The laws and practices of the Northern Territory are regarded as being compatible with the standards set by the above conventions.

In the area of direct Northern Territory government influence, i.e. Workmen's Compensation, Long Service Leave, Annual Leave and Public Holidays, it is policy that workers' representatives receive every courtesy, co-operation and assistance wherever their members' interests are concerned. This policy is also adhered to in Northern Territory Public Service employment.

Under the aegis of the government, the Northern Territory Industrial Relations Consultative Council meets quarterly and is chaired by the Chief Minister. The charter of the council is to enable government, employer organisations and trade unions to consult on industrial relations and associated labour matters and, secondly, through the chairman, advise the government of its views on these matters.

The great majority of the Northern Territory workforce is covered by federal awards, and the rights of their representatives in this case are protected by the provisions of Section 5 of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Under the same Act all rural workers, as defined, are covered by the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union and are eligible to join that organisation unfettered by any laws or policies of the Northern Territory.

All employees in the Northern Territory Public Service enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their employment. Their organisations and unions have complete independence from public authorities and experience no interference in their establishment, functioning or administration.

Their representatives receive every facility to enable them to function promptly and efficiently, both during and outside their hours of work.

The Public Service Commissioner encourages and promotes the full development and utilisation of machinery for negotiation of terms and conditions of employment, and the settlement of any dispute which may arise thereafter.

Public Service employees in the Northern Territory enjoy in full the civil and political rights essential to the normal exercise of freedom of association.

The obligations of the Northern Territory government in the area of

workers with family responsibilities are seen as complementary to the functions of the Commonwealth Department of Social Security, particularly in the area of child care, family services and facilities, and assistance in the exercise of family responsibility. When one considers the comparatively short time the Northern Territory government has been in the field of social welfare, together with the current financial constraints, some appreciable inroads have been made.

2. The conventions referred to in this question are at a comparatively early consultation stage between the Commonwealth and the states. It is a difficult, and sometimes long, process obtaining ratification of a convention as all states and territories, as well as the Commonwealth must conform to every article. This at times results in non-compliance by one state or a single point holding up ratification for years.

The Northern Territory Government has not expressed any direct views to the Commonwealth government on *Convention No. 135, Workers' Representatives*. However, in other areas of industrial relations, complete support has been adequately indicated for the principles contained therein.

No direct dialogue has taken place on the articles of *Convention No. 141 - Rural Workers' Organisations*. The workers who would be defined in this convention are adequately protected by free access to union membership.

Convention No. 151 - Labour Relations (Public Service) has not come under the discussion procedures as yet but as indicated in the answer to question 1 practice in the Northern Territory would seem to satisfy the requirements of this convention.

The Northern Territory has commented on the requirements of *Convention No. 156 - Workers with Family Responsibilities* in conjunction with the contents of the report on the subject emanating from the 67th Session of the 1981 International Labour Conference. The Territory's comments were given under 3 headings:

(a) Child Care and Family Services and Facilities

The recommendation contained therein was supported as it is consistent with Northern Territory government policy in this area. The policy of the Department of Community Development, is to ensure that all members of the community have access to child care services, irrespective of their ability to pay. Child care services should be flexible to allow parents to make choices about the preferred form of care for their children. The department has a statutory responsibility to ensure that standards prescribing quality care are adhered to and helps to ensure that child care staff have access to adequate training.

(b) Social Security

The recommendations in this section were supported in principle. However, as they seek to ensure that individual workers have access to social security entitlements, while fulfilling family responsibilities and irrespective of the occupational activity of their spouse, the implementation of this recommendation would require legislative changes to the Social Services Act; this would have to be a policy decision.

(c) Help in Exercise of Family Responsibility

This section was supported. It is envisaged that in the long term, services of this nature could be provided to workers with family responsibility as part of a broad range of home help services

available to any member of the community in need of them.

As indicated in the answer to question 2 there is a set consultation procedure prior to ratification of conventions.

Convention No. 135 has been discussed generally at technical officer level and although ratification has been recommended a principal inhibiting factor has been the lack of general protective legislation in 2 states, although some protection is afforded to union representatives in these states by their registration under the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

Delay in ratification of Convention No. 141 would seem to be attributable to similar circumstances.

Federal government policies would seem to militate against any progress at present on Convention No. 151.

Discussion on Convention No. 156 has already been indicated in the answer to question 1. This convention has not yet been classified in a priority category.

3. The answer to this question is contained in the reply to question 2.

ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights

624 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1966 ILO Convention on Civil and Political Rights which Australia signed in December 1972 and ratified in August 1980?
2. What views has the Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of this convention since it entered into force in March 1976?
3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have discussions or consultations taken place between the Territory and Commonwealth governments concerning this convention?

ANSWER

1. Almost without exception, the laws and practices of the Northern Territory conform with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, taking into account the reservations and interpretative declarations lodged by the Commonwealth government on behalf of Australia at the time of ratification.

Such 'exceptions' as there are, generally relate to factors of isolation and distance operating in the Territory. For example, Article 10.2(a) provides that 'accused persons shall ... be segregated from convicted persons' in prisons. In the Territory's situation, particularly in remote localities, the cost of providing separate facilities for prisoners on remand and those convicted of offences, is presently prohibitive. To meet the concern of the Territory, and that of some states, the federal government provided in Australia's instrument of ratification that '... the principle of segregation is accepted as an objective to be achieved progressively'. Similar reasoning applies to the requirements of Article 10.2(b) and .3 (second sentence) to provide for segregation of accused and convicted juveniles from adults.

In accordance with Article 40 of the international covenant, Australia was required within one year of ratification, to submit to the United Nations a report on the measures '... adopted which give effect to

the rights recognised (in the covenant) and on the progress made in the enjoyment of those rights'. The report was required to include not only the measures in force in regard to each Article, but any restriction or limitation imposed by law or practice on the enjoyment of rights provided for in the covenant. I have provided the honourable member with a copy of Australia's report, prepared by the Commonwealth after consultation with the Northern Territory and the states.

Finally, it is noted that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is a United Nations instrument not an 'ILO Convention'.

2. & 3. The views of the Territory government on the international covenant have been expressed to the Commonwealth through a forum known as 'Meeting of Ministers on Humans Rights'. The establishment of this forum, comprising the Attorneys-General of the Commonwealth, the states and the Northern Territory, was prompted in late 1978 specifically to consider the terms upon which Australia should ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Entry of Australia into international treaties and conventions is a matter for the Commonwealth government under the constitution. However, the present Commonwealth government has a policy of consulting the states and the Northern Territory in such matters, particularly in cases where, as with the international covenant, the convention or treaty deals with subjects traditionally within the jurisdiction of the states, and more recently the Territory.

The international covenant and the terms of Australia's ratification were discussed at meetings of ministers on human rights held in February, May, July and October 1979. Extensive consultation at officer level also took place before and after the ministerial meetings in 1979. Subsequent to Australia's ratification of the covenant, ministerial meetings in November 1980, April and August 1981 discussed the form and content of the report required under Article 40 of the covenant.

It would neither be practical nor valuable to attempt to identify all the 'views' expressed at ministerial and officers meetings by the Territory on the provisions of the international covenant.

The purpose of such meetings was, of course, to exchange views and attempt to arrive at a consensus on the terms of Australia's ratification of the covenant. In many matters, some or all jurisdictions shared similar concerns or raised similar interpretation issues regarding the provisions of the covenant. In such circumstances, whether the Territory, a state or the Commonwealth expressed a view or agreed with a view suggested by another would often depend on which jurisdiction addressed a particular matter first.

The discussions by the ministerial meetings on human rights resulted in the following text, agreed by all Australian governments, of the reservations and declarations lodged with the United Nations when Australia ratified the international covenant on 13 August 1980:

AUSTRALIAN RESERVATIONS AND DECLARATIONS

Articles 2 and 50

"Australia advises that, the people having united as one people in a Federal Commonwealth under the Crown, it has a federal constitutional system. It accepts that the provisions of the Covenant extend to all parts of Australia as a federal State without any limitations or exceptions. It enters a general reservation that Article 2, paragraphs 2 and 3 and Article 50 shall be given effect consistently with and

subject to the provisions in Article 2, paragraph 2.

Under Article 2, paragraph 2, steps to adopt measures necessary to give effect to the rights recognised in the Covenant are to be taken in accordance with each State Party's Constitutional processes which, in the case of Australia, are the processes of a federation in which legislative, executive and judicial powers to give effect to the rights recognised in the Covenant are distributed among the federal (Commonwealth) authorities and the authorities of the constituent States.

In particular, in relation to the Australian States the implementation of those provisions of the Covenant over whose subject matter the federal authorities exercise legislative, executive and judicial jurisdiction will be a matter for those authorities; and the implementation of those provisions of the Covenant over whose subject matter the authorities of the constituent States exercise legislative, executive and judicial jurisdiction will be a matter for those authorities; and where a provision has both federal and State aspects, its implementation will accordingly be a matter for the respective constitutionally appropriate authorities (for the purpose of implementation, the Northern Territory will be regarded as a constituent State).

To this end, the Australian Government has been in consultation with the responsible State and Territory Ministers with the object of developing co-operative arrangements to co-ordinate and facilitate the implementation of the Covenant."

Article 10

"Australia accepts the principle stated in paragraph 1 of Article 10 and the general principles of the other paragraphs of that Article, but makes the reservation that these and other provisions of the Covenant are without prejudice to laws and lawful arrangements, of the type now in force in Australia, for the preservation of custodial discipline in penal establishments. In relation to paragraph 2(a) the principle of segregation is accepted as an objective to be achieved progressively. In relation to paragraphs 2(b) and 3 (second sentence) the obligation to segregate is accepted only to the extent that such segregation is considered by the responsible authorities to be beneficial to the juveniles or adults concerned."

Article 14

- (a) "Australia accepts paragraph 3(b) on the understanding that the reference to adequate facilities does not require provision to prisoners of all the facilities available to a prisoner's legal representative."
- (b) "Australia accepts the requirement in paragraph 3(d) that everyone is entitled to be tried in his presence, but reserves the right to exclude an accused person where his conduct makes it impossible for the trial to proceed."
- (c) "Australia interprets paragraph 3(d) of Article 14 as consistent with the operation of schemes of legal assistance in which the person assisted is required to make a contribution towards the cost of the defence related to his capacity to pay and determined according to law, or in which assistance is granted in respect of other than indictable offences only after having regard to all relevant matters."
- (d) "Australia makes the reservation that the provision of compensation for miscarriage of justice in the circumstances contemplated in

paragraph 6 of Article 14 may be by administrative procedures rather than pursuant to specific legal provision."

Article 17

"Australia accepts the principles stated in Article 17 without prejudice to the right to enact and administer laws which, insofar as they authorise action which impinges on a person's privacy, family, home or correspondence, are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety, the economic well-being of the country, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others."

Article 19

"Australia interprets paragraph 2 of Article 19 as being compatible with the regulation of radio and television broadcasting in the public interest with the object of providing the best possible broadcasting services to the Australian people."

Article 20

"Australia interprets the rights provided for by Articles 19, 21 and 22 as consistent with Article 20; accordingly, the Commonwealth and the constituent States, having legislated with respect to the subject matter of the Article in matters of practical concern in the interests of public order (ordre public), the right is reserved not to introduce any further legislative provision on these matters."

Article 25

"The reference in paragraph (b) of Article 25 to 'universal and equal suffrage' is accepted without prejudice to laws which provide that factors such as regional interests may be taken into account in defining electoral divisions, or which establish franchises for municipal and other local government elections related to the sources of revenue and the functions of such government."

Convicted Persons

"Australia declares that laws now in force in Australia relating to the rights of persons who have been convicted of serious criminal offences are generally consistent with the requirements of Articles 14, 18, 19, 25 and 26 and reserves the right not to seek amendment of such laws."

Articles 2, 26, etc.

"The provisions of Articles 2(1) and 24(1), 25 and 26 relating to discrimination and distinction between persons shall be without prejudice to laws designed to achieve for the members of some class or classes of persons equal enjoyment of the rights defined in the Covenant. Australia accepts Article 26 on the basis that the object of the provision is to confirm the right of each person to equal treatment in the application of the law."

Convention on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

625 Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. In what respects do the laws and practices of the Northern Territory fall short of the standards set by the 1980 Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women?
2. What views has the Northern Territory government expressed to the Commonwealth government on the provisions of the convention?

3. On (a) what occasions, (b) in what circumstances, (c) at what level, and (d) with what results have consultations taken place between the NT and Commonwealth governments concerning the ratification of the convention?

ANSWER

1. The question of what laws and practices of all jurisdictions in Australia fail to comply with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women is currently under consideration by the Attorneys-General of the Commonwealth, States and Territory in the forum of Ministerial Meetings on Human Rights. At this stage, consideration of the convention is directed largely to issues of interpretation and it will not be possible to provide a list of laws and practices, if any, which do not meet the requirements of the convention before such interpretation issues are resolved.

For further information in this matter, I refer the honourable member to the statement I made in the Legislative Assembly on 11 March 1981 in support of a motion by the honourable member for Nightcliff proposing the Assembly support the United Nation Convention.

2. I refer the honourable member to my statement on 11 March 1981 referred to in 1. above.
3. See 2. above.

Juvenile Crime in NT

626 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has there been an increase in the incidence of juvenile crime in the Northern Territory?
2. If so, (a) can he provide figures to demonstrate this increase, (b) what are the causes of this increase, (c) what action is to be taken to rectify the situation and (d) what are the main offences being committed?
3. What is the average age of juvenile offender?
4. (a) How many juvenile inmates are in NT institutions and how does this figure compare with that for the same period last year?
(b) What is the average length of stay for a juvenile inmate?

ANSWER

1. 'Juvenile' has been regarded as a child up to and including 16 years of age. The amount of crime committed by juveniles cannot be ascertained. Statistics are based on the number of juvenile offenders apprehended for crimes. Offenders are probably in proportion to the total number of offences committed, and it is probable that there has been an increase over 1980 and 1978 but less than 1979.
2. (a) Total figures for the years 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981 are:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1978	749	81	830
1979	1,276	62	1,338
1980	1,042	140	1,182
1981	1,109	158	1,267

- (b) The juvenile age group (10-17 years) increase in population would be the significant factor accounting for the apparent increase in

juvenile crime.

- (c) Youth oriented programs will continue to be supported and developed.
 - (d) Break, enter and steal, larceny, illegal use and interfere with motor vehicle, malicious damage.
3. Statistics for the 6 months ended December 1981 show the average age of an offender for main offences listed in 2(d) as 14 years for both males and females in each instance except for females in respect of 'illegal use of motor vehicles' where the average age is 16 years, but is based on an exceedingly small total of 6 offenders only.
4. (a) In January 1981 there was 1 juvenile remanded in Malak House, and in January 1982 there were 4 juveniles remanded in Malak House.
- In January 1981 there were 6 juveniles held in Giles House and in January 1982 there were 11.
- In January 1981 there were 4 juveniles in NT prisons and in January 1982 there were 5.
- (b) The average length of stay for a juvenile in Giles House is approximately 30 days.
- The average length of stay for a juvenile in prison is 48 days.

School Leavers Entering Apprenticeships

636 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

- 1. Is he aware of the problems that school leavers, particularly those not living with their parents, face when entering apprenticeships?
- 2. If so, what does the NT government do or intend doing to enable such disadvantaged youths to enjoy equality with their peers?

ANSWER

The NT Industries Training Commission is not aware that apprentices (whether residing with their parents or otherwise) are disadvantaged with respect to their peers. In fact, there are at least 3 ways in which apprentices appear more fortunate than other school leavers.

- 1. If obliged to live away from home young apprentices receive some financial assistance through the Commonwealth government's CRAFT scheme. This is not available to school leavers in non-apprenticeship areas.
- 2. The NT Industries Training Commission employs apprentice training supervisors whose role is to oversight the training of apprentices and to ensure that the conditions of the indenture are fulfilled. School leavers in non-apprenticeship areas do not receive such support.
- 3. The terms of the indentures of apprenticeship offer young people security of employment which is not normally available to other school leavers apart from those who secure government positions.

Computers, Department of Education

648 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

- 1. Did the Department of Education hire Price Waterhouse to draw up a report on its use of computers at all levels?
- 2. If so, (a) when was the report given to the department, (b) is it available for scrutiny, and (c) is it true that the department has 14 different types of word processors?

ANSWER

1. The Department of Education engaged Price Waterhouse Associates to undertake a review of operations, information systems and technological requirements.
2. (a) April 1981.
(b) The report is not a public document, however if the honourable member wishes, a copy is available in my office for his perusal.
(c) No. The Department of Education has 3 IBM OS6 and 1 IBM display writer.

Koolpinyah Pastoral Lease

650 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government intend to accept part of Koolpinyah lease in exchange for granting Koolpinyah management an additional lease?
2. If so, what is (a) the location and area of land Koolpinyah is to relinquish to the government and, (b) the location and area of the new land to be released to Koolpinyah?

ANSWER

The position as at 3 June 1982 is as follows:

Negotiations are continuing with the lessee of Koolpinyah pastoral lease aimed at rationalising the property boundaries and land exchanges may be involved. The location and area of the land that may be involved depends on the results of those negotiations and an announcement will be made on their successful conclusion.

Koolpinyah Boundaries

651 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I refer to the proposed 'Rationalisation of boundaries for Koolpinyah' and ask: Is it a fact that both the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority recommended against the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries and, if so, on what information did Cabinet agree on 22 December 1981 to accept in principle the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries?

ANSWER

The position as at 3 June 1982 is as follows:

Negotiations are continuing with the lessee of Koolpinyah pastoral lease in order to rationalise the property boundaries. These negotiations are being held following advice from all relevant departments and authorities.

In vitro Fertilisation Research

653 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the NT government, through the Department of Health, intend to provide funds for further research into *in vitro* fertilisation as Northern Territory couples are affected by it?

ANSWER

The NT Department of Health has not been involved in the highly specialised research program of *in vitro* fertilisation and no proposal has been submitted for research in this field.

Grants-in-Aid, Nhulunbuy Sporting Bodies

654 Mr LEO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I refer to his answer to question No. 605 and ask what was the breakdown of the \$27,199 provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980-81?

ANSWER

The following grants make up the total of \$27,199 provided through grants-in-aid to Nhulunbuy sporting bodies during 1980 and 1981:

Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club (Travel)	\$ 4,154
Gove Junior Soccer Association (Equipment)	\$ 420
Gove Squash Club (Facilities and Coaching/Training)	\$ 8,875
Gove Boating Club (Facilities)	\$ 3,500
Gove Country Golf Club (Facilities)	\$ 8,000
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club for the Judo Club (Equipment)	\$ 2,250
	<u>\$ 27,199</u>

Dangerous Goods Act Commencement

655 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why has the Dangerous Goods Act, assented to in January 1981, not yet come into operation?

ANSWER

The Dangerous Goods Act cannot be brought into operation until the necessary Dangerous Goods Regulations have been drafted. The delay in preparing these regulations has been caused by the difficulty of recruiting suitable staff for the Dangerous Goods Branch of the Department of Mines and Energy.

Only very limited resources were available to carry out the initial drafting of these regulations until the Chief Inspector of Dangerous Goods was recruited in December 1981. Recruiting for this position commenced in September 1980 and no suitable applicant was found until late last year. A supervising inspector was recruited in May 1981 but initially most of his time was taken up with the day to day activities of the newly established branch.

The Dangerous Goods Act covers 8 classes of hazardous chemicals including, explosives, flammable gases and liquids, oxidising agents, poisons and corrosive substances. The regulations are being drafted in sections to cover both general requirements and those specific to each class of chemical. They are therefore both complex and detailed.

Wherever possible suitable Australian codes and regulations from other states are being utilised. However, these need to be checked for consistency with the Dangerous Goods Act and conditions in the Territory.

Tender, RFDS Hangar, Alice Springs

656 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Who was the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at Alice Springs airport?
2. Was this decision consistent with the Tender Board's recommendation?
3. What were the grounds on which the decision was based?

ANSWER

It is noted the honourable Member asks about the successful tenderer for the Royal Flying Doctor Service hangar facility at Alice Springs Airport.

In response, I wish to advise that neither I, as a member of the government, nor officers of my Department of Health, are competent, nor indeed have authority, to answer questions on behalf of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. In view of this, may I suggest that the Member addresses the question to the administration of the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Land Purchases, Northlakes and Brinkin

659 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the government purchased, or does it intend to purchase, blocks of land at the Northlakes Country Club Estate and at Brinkin?
2. If so, for what purpose has the government made or intend to make these purchases?

ANSWER

No.

Recreation Lake, Alice Springs

661 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I draw his attention to the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Protection Authority report tabled in the Assembly on 11 March 1982 in which, in relation to Welatje Terre, the proposed site for the recreation lake, it was stated that it was hoped that alternative locations for the proposed development may be identified in the near future, and ask:

1. Is he able to advise of any such alternative sites?
2. What is the relative feasibility of each site in comparison with Welatje Terre?
3. If no alternative sites have been identified, will the government proceed with construction of a recreation lake at Welatje Terre and, if so, when will the work commence and when is the project expected to be completed?

ANSWER

1. At least 5 possible sites have been examined, including Pyberingie and Ildjarabada on Jay Creek, Birthday Gap on the Hugh River, and Wigley Gorge and the Old Telegraph Station on the Todd River.
2. A feasibility report has been prepared covering the 3 sites selected for closer scrutiny, namely the Old Telegraph Station (Todd River), Birthday Gap (Hugh River) and Ildjarabada (Jay Creek).

The following is part of a feasibility report showing comparisons between these sites:

9. COMPARISON WITH OTHER SITES

This section presents an updated comparison of the three sites previously identified as of most interest.

In order to provide valid comparisons of the size and storage behaviour of the sites, it is assumed that dams at Ildjarabada and Birthday Gap would be of a size so as to display hydrologic similarity, with the Todd proposal - that is, each design storage volume in approximately the same proportion to the available run-off and hence catchment area. Hence in each case, although the actual lake surface areas differ,

the relationship between proportion of maximum area and percentage of time available would be similar.

The main items for comparison are listed in the following table:

<u>Comparison of Sites</u>			
	Telegraph Station (Todd River)	Birthday Gap (Hugh River)	Ildjarabada (Jay Creek)
LAND TENURE	RESERVE/CROWN	PASTORAL LEASE	ABORIGINAL
Distance from Alice Springs (km)	5	68	47
Length of access road required (km)	1	11	2
Accessibility of waters edge	Good	Fair	Good
Catchment area (km ²)	400	310	223
Assumed storage volume (10 ⁶ m ³)	4.3	3.8	2.6
Corresponding surface area (ha)	92	96	64
Estimated surface area exceeded for 90% of time	60	60	45
Maximum depth (m)	13	10	11
Preliminary total cost estimate	\$2.1m	\$3.5m	\$1.3m
Cost per hectare of water provided (when full)	\$23,000	\$36,000	\$20,000

The significantly higher cost of the Birthday Gap site is attributable to high costs of access, clearing and leakage problems. The higher cost of the Todd site compared with Ildjarabada is due to the additional work on saddle weirs and miscellaneous works.

A number of other matters are relevant to the comparison of sites:

- (a) Although the cost per hectare offered could favour the Ildjarabada site, this does not allow for the economic benefit which would flow from using the Todd site for watering parks and gardens. As discussed in 5.06, the present net benefit of the scheme is at least \$1.1 million, which negates half the cost of the Todd site. No worthwhile net benefit would be applicable to a similar scheme for Ildjarabada, because of the distance involved. When the economic benefit associated with flood attenuation is also considered, it is apparent that the real cost per hectare of providing water for recreation at the Todd is in fact much less than for Ildjarabada.
- (b) The Birthday Gap site, by virtue of the topography offered, could offer a high level development with corresponding large storage. Such a development would not be appropriate for a recreation lake owing to the cost and because the storage behaviour would be highly irregular. However, it could be economically attractive in future years as a major water supply storage for Alice Springs - water would be used as and when available from the storage as an alternative to or in conjunction with groundwater.
- (c) In an engineering-geological survey by the Department of Mines and Energy (report in preparation) it has been found that the Birthday Gap site, while suitable for high development, may not be suitable for a low development. This is due to matters relating to foundation permeability and weathering at the spillway site.
- (d) Whether the relative proximity to Alice Springs of the Todd site

is regarded as an advantage depends on one's point of view.

Arguments in favour of the Todd include convenience for the public and the relative ease of management (because it is close to existing management machinery).

- (e) Although there is little appropriate data for Jay Creek and the Hugh River, sediment flows in those rivers are probably lower than in the Todd. This implies that the Todd site would have a shorter life, but is not necessarily a valid consideration because:
 - (i) a sand trap on Jay Creek or the Hugh River would not be as beneficial as at the Todd because there would be no potential for mining of the sand; and
 - (ii) the high sediment load in the Todd may be a justification for the Todd lake in itself, as discussed in Section 4.07.
- (f) Any undesirable environmental effects of a lake would possibly be of more significance in the case of the Todd. No major effects have been identified at this stage, however.

Consideration of the above aspects and the information contained generally in this report confirms earlier indications that the Todd River offers the best site for a recreation lake. Ildjarabada offers the second-best site, although it would not be viable without the support of the Aboriginal land owners.

Acting Secretary

Department of Transport and Works
Darwin

The Director
Office of Aboriginal Liaison
P.O. Box 4396
DARWIN N.T. 5794

Attention: Mr L.A. KENT

QUESTION ON NOTICE No. 661 - PROPOSED SITE FOR RECREATIONAL LAKE -
WELATJE TERRE

The concept of a recreation lake in Alice Springs region dates back many years. At least five possible sites have been examined, including Pyberingie and Ildjarabada on Jay Creek, Birthday Gap on the Hugh River, and Wigley Gorge and the Old Telegraph Station on the Todd River.

Of these, three were selected for closer scrutiny and I enclose copies of part of a feasibility report showing comparisons between these sites.

The Old Telegraph Station site near Alice Springs was eventually selected as being the most favourable on the grounds of distances, accessibility, storage and depth. In addition, the lake could be used for flood mitigation and for watering recreational areas.

Reports on the feasibility, Hydrology Water Quality and Environment have been prepared and the proposal has been widely publicised.

At this stage no firm commitment has been made to commence construction of a recreation lake in the Alice Springs region. It is seen as a political decision.

Should you require any further details please contact Mr Colin Brown of the Water Division on 896655.

(Sgd) C.J. FULLER

3. The matter is still under consideration.

Flagpoles, NT Buildings

664 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to question No. 587 and ask:

What is the cost of the supply of flagpoles for erection at all Northern Territory buildings?

ANSWER

Cost of supply and installation of flagpoles as at 31 March 1982 is \$64,390.

Sale of Housing Commission Units

665 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have purchased housing units of various types since the government announced its home purchase scheme in October 1981?
2. How many units of various types have been released for sale in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine since the scheme was announced?
3. How many people in (a) Alice Springs, (b) Darwin, (c) Tennant Creek, and (d) Katherine have listed their names with the Tenancy Section of the Housing Commission expressing interest in purchasing units of various types?

ANSWER

As the Housing Commission's home purchase schemes for detached 2, 3 and 4-bedroom housing units have been operating in the Territory since well before 1981, it is assumed that the honourable member's question refers to the recently introduced strata title unit sales scheme.

1. In Darwin 14 tenants have purchased town houses since October 1981. No sales of flats, units or town houses have been effected at the other centres.
2. All commission dwelling units which are assessed as suitable under unit titles legislation, will be made available for sale to tenants.
All new development throughout the Territory is designed to comply to strata title requirements and is 'released' for sale to existing or new tenants upon handover.
3. In Darwin, 20 tenants have listed their names expressing interest in transferring to purchase new town houses currently under construction. Five tenants have applied at Katherine whilst no applications have been recorded at Alice Springs or Tennant Creek.

Accommodation for Single-parent Families

666 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the Housing Commission require evidence of custody of children from single-parent families who apply for rental accommodation?

ANSWER

No. However, where marriage breakup is involved this commission requests a statutory declaration confirming physical custody.

Medical Evacuations

668 Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors in the Territory from August 1980 to August 1981?
2. How many medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention were recommended by (a) private GPs, and (b) government hospital doctors from 1 September 1981 to 31 March 1982?

ANSWER

Only government hospital doctors are permitted to authorize medical evacuations for interstate specialist attention, under the Northern Territory government's medical evacuation scheme.

Between August 1980 and August 1981, 129 patients were evacuated; 62 patients were evacuated between 1 September 1981 and 31 March 1982.

Under the Commonwealth government's Isolated Patients Travel Accommodation and Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS), both private general practitioners and government hospital doctors may authorize medical evacuations. I am advised that the Commonwealth government does not record whether the evacuations were authorized by private general practitioners or government hospital doctors.

The number of patients evacuated between August 1980 and August 1981 was 1,462 and between 1 September 1981 and 31 March 1982, 505.

School, Ayers Rock

671 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many school-age children are currently living at Ayers Rock?
2. When will his department provide a school for these children?

ANSWER

1. The number of school-aged children at Ayers Rock varies between 8 and 18.
2. A permanent school for children in the area is planned in the first stage of construction of Yulara village. In the meantime a temporary school will be established for the construction camp associated with the Yulara project and the Ayers Rock children will attend this school. This temporary school will open at the beginning of the second semester 1982.

Community Adviser, Ayers Rock

672 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will his department fund the position of community adviser at Ayers Rock?
2. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. The Department of Community Development has no plans to fund a position of community adviser at Ayers Rock.
2. The department does not, as a general rule, provide funding to communities for the employment of advisers.

Relocation of Pintubis

673 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When does he expect the findings on the review of the relocation of the Pintubi at Kintore and elsewhere to be made known to the Kintore community and relevant government departments?

ANSWER

The review of the Pintubi relocation movement was undertaken by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the question should be directed accordingly.

Petrol Sniffing Workshop

674 Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What action has resulted from an interdepartmental workshop on petrol sniffing held at Papunya on 24 February 1982?

ANSWER

Following the Papunya workshop a meeting of Department of Community Development officers was held in Alice Springs. Subsequent to this meeting the department has commenced consultation with the Lyappa Congress with the view to providing material assistance to the Brown's Bore Outstation where it had been proposed that sniffers be rehabilitated.

Discussions are continuing with the Papunya police and the courts regarding provisions of the Child Welfare Act which relate to protective custody. As well, a working committee has been established with departmental representation to assist with the implementation of the motion carried at the Papunya workshop.

Beef Trade with South-east Asia

676 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does he realise that the attitude of NT meat processors towards our northern neighbours Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Phillipines directly affects the BTB eradication campaign and the development of the beef industry in the NT?
2. If so, will he review the licences of abattoirs that do not accept the NT policy of seeking trade with South-east Asia?

ANSWER

The continued progress of the BTB eradication campaign in the NT and the establishment of alternative markets for NT beef other than the US export market are issues central to the development of the beef industry in the NT.

Producers must have viable export markets for their product to ensure that they are economically capable of maintaining and strengthening their BTB eradication program.

The NT government has already taken an initiative in this direction by seeking a dispensation from the Commonwealth to allow the export of meat from NT domestic abattoirs to meet the needs of the South-east Asian markets.

With regard to NT meat processors, the question implies that some NT abattoirs are resistant to the expansion of our frozen meat trade with South-east Asian countries.

I believe it is in the interests of the whole spectrum of the cattle industry from the producer through to the abattoir owner and the shipper to develop new markets. The government would certainly review its position if, by any chance, a particular organisation appeared to be working against the interests of the NT cattle industry as a whole.

Beef for South-east Asia

677 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In view of the crisis situation which exists in the NT beef industry, will he take urgent steps to contact Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines to determine if beef killed to Australian domestic standards is acceptable and if they require quotes and proposals to supply?

ANSWER

The Chief Minister has already written letters relating to this government initiative addressed to the heads of government of neighbouring countries regarding the Northern Territory government's policy on Australian domestic standard beef to South-east Asia.

Award Wages, Katherine Meatworks

679 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Does the government realise that its efforts to develop the beef industry in the Top End are being hampered by the Katherine Meatworks making over-award sweetheart agreements with AMIEU members?
2. Will the government ensure that this meatworks operates under the AMIEU award or on contract kill as do other meatworks in the Territory?

ANSWER

1. The government is aware of previous complaints from the industry relating to the cost of killing at Katherine Meatworks.
2. The honourable member can be assured that the government will do everything in its power to encourage meatworks to play a very full part in achieving a competitively priced product for our markets, as well as providing the producer with a fair return for his cattle.

Shop Leases, Jabiru

681 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many of the 7 speciality shops available for lease in Jabiru have been leased?
2. To whom have they been leased?
3. What is the period of each lease?
4. What are the terms and conditions of each lease?

ANSWER

1. None of the 7 speciality shops available for lease in Jabiru have, to date, been formally leased, the hold up being the preparation of the sublease documents in registerable form. The land tenure system which will apply to the group of 7 speciality shops is as follows:
 - The land, the subject of the lease, will be vested in the Director, Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in fee simple.
 - The Jabiru Town Development Authority will obtain a lease over this land.

- Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) will then obtain a sublease over the land from the JTDA.
 - The individual operators of the speciality shops will obtain sub-leases over the space which they occupy, from ERA, who are the owners of the buildings.
2. ERA will enter into commercial sublease arrangements with each of the operators of the 7 speciality shops, subject to the finalisation of ERA sublease over the land from JTDA.

In order that the opening of the shops not be delayed while awaiting finalisation of leasing arrangements, ERA has issued letters of intent and understanding over draft sublease agreements to the following businessmen:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Snack bar/take-away-food | Mr Alberto Luglietti |
| • Hairdresser | Mr and Mrs John Mills |
| • Newsagent | Mr B.T. Seeleither |
| • Post office | Australia Post. |

Applications for the remaining 3 shops are still under consideration.

3. JTDA lease from the director will be for a period of 40 years and ERA lease from the JTDA is expected to be for 40 years less 1 day, and it is expected that the term of the sublease for the individual shops will be for normal commercial periods, say, 5 years with the right of renewal for a further 5 years.
4. The terms and conditions, being commercial sublease agreements between ERA and the shopkeepers, are unavailable.

Supermarket Lease, Jabiru

682 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Which company has been given the lease of the supermarket at Jabiru?
2. What is the period of the lease?
3. What are the terms and conditions of the lease?

ANSWER

1. Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) will be granted a sublease by the Jabiru Town Development Authority (JTDA) over the land occupied by the supermarket. It is expected that ERA will enter into a commercial sublease agreement with the supermarket operator, who will be Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd.

It is expected that JTDA sublease to ERA will be finalised within the next 2 months, which is estimated to be the time necessary to survey the land in question and to produce the survey plan and sublease documents in registerable form. In order that opening of the shop is not delayed, ERA has issued a letter of intent and understanding over a draft sublease agreement to Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd.

2. It is expected that the period of Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd sublease from ERA will be 20 years with the right of renewal for a further 10 years.
3. The terms and conditions, being commercial sublease agreement, between ERA and Casuarina Pharmacy Pty Ltd are not available.

Development Costs, Jabiru

683 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a formal cost sharing arrangement on the funding of the development of Jabiru between the JTDA and the mining companies been signed?
2. If yes, what are the details of this cost sharing agreement?

ANSWER

1. A formal cost sharing agreement on the funding of the capital cost of construction of the town of Jabiru between the Jabiru Town Development Authority and the mining companies has not yet been signed, but negotiations have reached an advanced stage which should permit execution of the agreement before the end of June 1982.
2. The details of the cost sharing agreement are not available at this stage.

Operational Funding, Jabiru

684 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has an agreement been reached between the JTDA and mining companies over the funding of the operational costs of the town?
2. If yes, what are the details of this agreement?

ANSWER

1. Interim agreement has been reached between Jabiru Town Development Authority and Energy Resources of Australia over the funding of the operational costs of the town, but it is not intended to enter into a formal agreement with the mining companies until the capital cost sharing agreement has been finalised and executed.
2. The town is currently operating under a town management budget for 1981-82, which was approved by the Chief Minister in May 1981. The budget provides for the levying of municipal rates on property owners in the town, to cover the operating deficit which would otherwise have occurred. Municipal rates are being paid this financial year on all properties where building had commenced by 1 July 1981 and rates and charges for sewerage, water supply and garbage have also been introduced in accordance with the approved budget.

The terms of the formal agreement between the JTDA and the mining companies to cover operational costs of the town are not yet available.

Rating System, Jabiru

685 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was a rating system for Jabiru introduced on 1 July 1981 as indicated in page 22 of the JTDA Annual Report?
2. If yes, what are the details of this rating system?

ANSWER

1. A system of town rates has been introduced in Jabiru with an effective commencement date of 1 July 1981, as indicated on page 22 of the JTDA Annual Report, as tabled in the Legislative Assembly.
2. The JTDA set a budget for operation and maintenance of the township. This budget was submitted to the Chief Minister for approval and was so approved.

The Valuer-General determined the UCV of residential and commercial

blocks of land within the township. The amount of revenue required for operations was divided by the total UCV of all rateable blocks and a rate per dollar of UCV was obtained. This was then adopted as the town rate.

The purchase of capital plant and equipment, while included in the budget approved by the Chief Minister, was funded directly by ERA and was not included in the general rate calculation.

Administration Staff, Jabiru

686 Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

How many people are (a) employed, and (b) at what levels, in the town administrator's office in Jabiru?

ANSWER

(a) There are 4 staff members including the town manager.

A further 6 workmen are employed on a contract hire hourly rate from a local contractor to carry out town maintenance under the works supervisor, who is one of the above 4 staff members.

(b) Staff are aligned to NTPS salary rates:

Town Manager	E3
Accounts Clerk	A7
Secretary/Typist	A3
Works Supervisor	W/S

Aboriginal Education Allocations

687 Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What financial allocations were received from the Commonwealth government for Aboriginal education in 1980-81 and 1981-82?
2. Did Dhupuma College, (a) ever receive a specific allocation of Commonwealth funding and, if so, (b) when, (c) how much, and (d) for what purpose?

ANSWER

1. In 1980-81 there were no Commonwealth grants made to the Department of Education specifically for Aboriginal education.

In 1981-82 the department received one grant of \$125,000 from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to cover salary costs of Aboriginal teachers in homeland centres and one grant amounting to \$74,000 from the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs to provide automotive apprenticeship training for community based Aboriginals.

2. The department has no record of Dhupuma College having received any Commonwealth grants during 1979-80 which was the only year the college operated under Northern Territory government control.

Salt and Lime Supplies

688 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and TOURISM

What action is being taken to supply NT needs for salt and lime?

ANSWER

Currently most bulk salt used in the Northern Territory is imported by road freight from South Australia. Major users are abattoirs who require considerable quantities to preserve cattle and buffalo hides sent inter-

state for processing. Freight costs incurred for the 'top end' are \$120 per tonne. As the need for salt for hide preservation and other uses grows it is envisaged that volume may be sufficient to import by sea, which would be less costly.

Investigations have been undertaken in the past to use salt evaporation ponds in Darwin for local supply but the proponents have considered the operation uneconomical.

Lime is also presently imported into the Territory from South Australia, although a locally established firm, Northern Cement Pty Ltd, is proposing to establish a quick-lime manufacturing plant in Darwin. When established, the plant will supply lime to the building industry, to water and sewerage treatment services and to the growing need for lime in the uranium ore treatment operations.

Northern Cement has already expended considerable resources in efforts to identify suitable limestone deposits for local lime manufacture and those efforts are continuing. If suitable local deposits are not located the proposed manufacturing plant will import limestone.

Encouragement of Horticulturists

690 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What practical encouragement is being given to horticulturists in the Katherine district to grow vegetables and fruit in competition with growers 2,000 miles away?

ANSWER

Most of the research work being conducted at the Berrimah Experimental Farm is directly applicable to the horticulturists in Katherine. Officers from the Horticulture Section are advising Katherine growers on cropping programs, new techniques in irrigation and plastic mulch laying. Small lots of seed of promising new vegetable varieties are under test in the Katherine area.

Horticultural officers are presently establishing a fruit and vegetable block for teaching purposes at the Katherine Research Education Centre.

A new DPP soil testing service has been established for horticulturists, and most horticultural farms in the Katherine area have been tested and growers have been provided with fertiliser recommendations for their various crops.

Studies are also being initiated to coordinate the cropping programs of growers in the Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs areas to ensure better continuity of supply to the local markets of many fruits and vegetables.

Cost of Transfer - Regional Office

691 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What were the removal and re-establishment costs involved in the transfer of the Northern Region office from the old Darwin hospital to Casuarina?

ANSWER

Cost of removal and re-establishment of the Northern Region office to Block 4, Darwin Hospital was approximately \$11,400. This figure is comprised of the cost of removal and the installation of telephones at Block 4.

Golden Perch

694 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has the Department of Primary Production thoroughly examined the possible impact of the introduction of golden perch into Top End streams?
2. If so, is he confident that there will not be any harmful effects of such an action?
3. Will he make available to the Assembly the report of his department on the possible impact of the introduction of these fish when it is complete?

ANSWER

1. Preliminary investigations have been carried out and more detailed studies will continue as information becomes available. These preliminary investigations show that -

Golden perch is indigenous to the central Australian river drainage system (Barkly Tableland region of the Northern Territory).

There are no provisions under the *Fish and Fisheries Act* prohibiting the translocation of fish indigenous to the Northern Territory from one drainage system to another within the Northern Territory.

On 4 March 1982, Mr L. Ah Toy of Koolpinyah Station was issued with a 'C' class licence under the *Fish and Fisheries Act* (Licence No. 82/C/029) to culture live fish for sale in accordance with specific conditions relating to same, namely:

- (i) golden perch (*Macquaria ambigua*) shall be released only in discrete ponds on Koolpinyah Station which are secure from accidental escape into the adjoining natural water system;
- (ii) unimpeded access will be provided to officers of the Fisheries Division to examine the state of ponds containing golden perch; and
- (iii) directions from the Director of Fisheries to make alterations to improve the security of golden perch held under the licence will be duly and expeditiously implemented by the licensee.

On 7 April 1982, the Director of Fisheries issued a permit under the *Fish and Fisheries Act* to Mr Ah Toy to bring into the Northern Territory 2,000 golden perch fingerlings from New South Wales on the basis that their feasibility for fish farming in the top end could be examined under controlled conditions. Approval for this feasibility experiment to proceed was made with the knowledge that -

- Mt Isa Mines introduced golden perch from the Georgina River system into Lake Moondarra (Queensland) and whilst the fish survived and matured, breeding failed to take place (Midgley; Freshwater Fisheries Consultant to Mt Isa Mines, pers. comm.);
- that golden perch were introduced into the Mary River (Queensland east coast) and whilst the fish survived and matured, breeding failed to take place (Midgley, pers. comm.);
- breeding failed to take place in these areas due to unsuitable environmental conditions, particularly high water temperatures.

2. Yes.

3. Yes.

Sealing, Bees Creek Road

695 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A great number of residents of my electorate are forced to use Bees Creek road as an access road to the Stuart Highway, sometimes several times each day. Could he advise if and when the government intends to upgrade and seal this badly corrugated dirt road?

ANSWER

The first stage of the upgrading of Bees Creek Road is proposed for commencement in the 1983-84 financial year.

The work proposed is reconstruction and sealing between the Stuart Highway and Lowther Road - a distance of approximately 1.5 km - at an estimated cost of \$0.3m.

Further upgrading stages will be included in later programs.

Pastoral Lease Roll-overs

698 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will he provide details of the applications received for the roll-over of pastoral leases since March 1981?
2. What action has been taken in respect of these applications?

ANSWER

Details of applications received for the roll-over of pastoral leases since March 1981 and subsequent action taken -

<u>Pastoral Lease</u>	<u>Date of Application</u>	<u>Action to Date</u>
Argadargada	31.3.81	Inspected by Land Board, roll-over granted by Minister.
Mulga Park	15.6.81	Inspected by Land Board, report yet to be sent to Minister.
Lilla Creek	18.6.81	Inspected by Land Board, report sent to Minister.
Hamilton Downs	16.10.81	Inspected by Land Board, roll-over granted by Minister.
Alcoota	6.12.81	As above.
Dalmore Downs	20.1.82	To be referred to Land Board for inspection and report following comments received from other departments.
Alroy Downs	20.1.82	As above.
Tarilton Downs	25.2.82	As above.
Owen Springs	1.3.82	As above.
Mt Skinner	16.3.82	As above.
Tipperary	25.3.82	Application deferred until new Crown Lands Act receives assent.
Elizabeth Downs	25.3.82	As above.
Litchfield	25.3.82	As above.
Forster	25.3.82	As above.
Murray Downs	29.3.82	To be referred to Land Board for inspection and report following comments received from other departments.
Glen Helen	29.3.82	As above.
Tennant Creek	26.5.82	As above.
Indiana	27.5.82	As above.

Driving Time Limits

701 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How does the government intend to implement section 26A of the Traffic Act which places a limit on the time for which drivers of certain vehicles may remain continuously on duty?

ANSWER

My department is currently reviewing all land transport legislation, including the limits on driving placed in section 26A of the Traffic Act, their appropriateness and the most effective means of enforcement. The emphasis is on potential road safety benefits taking account of Northern Territory conditions and experiences elsewhere in attempting to control driving hours. These aspects are also being considered at the national level.

Airfare Increases

702 Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In its submission to the Independent Airfares Committee, the government stated it was prepared to allow IAC to set airfares in the Territory provided IAC gave the Territory government comprehensive advice on proposed airfare determinations on Territory routes, including the cost data on which any increases are based.

What information did IAC provide to the Territory government to justify the recent 7% increase in Territory airfares?

ANSWER

The IAFC has established a format for airfares reviews which requires that detailed information be submitted on movements in direct and indirect operating costs.

The information supplied by ANA was most comprehensive and complied in every way with the requirements of the IAFC who, after consideration, considered the fare increase justified.

Chemical Contamination

703 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is the occupational hygiene section of his department adequately equipped to conduct tests on workers who may have been contaminated with chemicals and solvents?
2. What action will he take to ensure that appropriate medical records are kept of workers handling dangerous substances or operating in hazardous environments?
3. Has the occupational hygiene section of his department (a) monitored levels of exposure to various chemicals and solvents at the BTR Ranger site, and if so, (b) on what date did this commence, and (c) what were the findings?
4. What, if any, provisions exist to require companies to be aware of levels of contamination to which workers may be subject when using chemicals or solvents, or operating in hazardous environments?

ANSWER

In providing a response to the several parts of this question, it may be helpful to mention the respective roles of employer, responsible for the maintenance of safe working conditions and provision of appropriate equipment (including protective equipment), and the Departments of Mines

and Energy, which administers regulations and standards, provides inspectors to ensure compliance, furnishes advice and so forth. It is the policy of the department in meeting its responsibilities to stress the importance of safe practices and conditions, to test the workplace rather than the worker.

1. The Occupational Hygiene Section of the Department of Mines and Energy, is well equipped to monitor, sample and carry out analytical work on the environment, including the working environment. Work of this nature commenced in the Ranger project area in 1978.

Atmospheric, radiation and noise parameters are monitored as a matter of routine. The department also co-operates with the Department of Health in other related work, including analyses of biological samples taken by the Department of Health.

2. Full medical records of workers who present with medical problems resulting from the handling of dangerous substances or from operating in hazardous environments are kept in the Department of Health's hospitals and community health centres. In addition specialised occupational health records are maintained by the Central Office of the Department of Health in accordance with the relevant legislation.

3. (a) Yes.

(b) 27 May 1982.

- (c) Two sets of samples taken on this day at the BTR Ranger site of work, where the solvents xylene and toluene were being used together, showed concentrations, averaged over 30 minutes, of 11 and 5 parts per million and 57 and 258 parts per million respectively. The recommended National Health and Medical Research Council standards for continuous exposure over the working life to xylene and toluene are 100 parts per million each. It will be seen that whilst the xylene concentrations give no cause for alarm, those for toluene require care by ventilation, provision of protective equipment, or in some other way, to ensure that the long-term average is not exceeded for individual workers.

The department was approached several months ago by Messrs BTR, who are specialists in industrial rubber work, and discussion have been held between Messrs BTR, Ranger Uranium Mines, the Federated Miscellaneous Workers Union and the department, on the precautions appropriate to the work, including protective clothing and equipment. The work situation and the precautions in force, appear safe and satisfactory to the various parties, with the exception of a small number of individual workmen who are understood to object to wearing the protection stipulated.

4. Provision exists in the Mines Safety Regulations Part V for the definition of acceptable levels of concentrations of chemical substances which may be present in the workplace.

Part V of the Mines Safety Control Act makes the manager responsible, unless the context otherwise indicates, for compliance with the requirements of the regulations and for ensuring a safe working environment at the mine.

Buffaloes for PNG

704 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What was (a) the cost of the buffaloes purchased for the Papua New Guinea export project at the Beatrice Hill Research Station, and (b) from

where were the buffaloes purchased?

ANSWER

250 head of buffalo heifers were purchased on the open market for \$45.30 per head for the Beatrice Hill-Coastal Plains Research Stations export project. The buffaloes were from Mudginberri Station.

201 head of buffaloes in excellent condition have been delivered to the Department of Primary Industry, Papua New Guinea. The animals were unloaded at Wewak on 16 June 1982.

Buffalo Export Project Staff

705 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

How many extra staff were (a) appointed to the Beatrice Hill Research Station to carry out the latest buffalo export project, (b) were these extra staff transferred from within the Department of Primary Production, and (c) if so, from what sections were they drawn?

ANSWER

There were no staff appointed specifically for the export project.

Two extra people were appointed to the Veterinary Field Research Section for buffalo domestication and research projects. One labourer was deployed from Tortilla Research Station to Veterinary Field Research Section. All 3 people are based at Beatrice Hill.

Buffalo domestication control and research has a high priority in the Department of Primary Production and is an on-going project. The export project was part of the larger project but has provided much information and experience which has proved of great value to both the department and to the buffalo industry.

Aborigines Employed in Conservation Commission

706 Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many Aborigines are employed by the Conservation Commission in the southern administrative region?
2. Of these, how many are employed as rangers, and in which parks or reserves are they currently employed?
3. Does the Conservation Commission conduct ranger training programs for Aborigines in (a) the southern region, and (b) the northern region, and, if so, how many people have (c) received training, or (d) are receiving training in (i) the southern region, and (ii) the northern region?

ANSWER

1. Eighteen persons identifying as Aboriginal or of Aboriginal descent were employed by the Conservation Commission in the southern region at 28 June 1982.

Positions of employment included plant operators, field assistants, drivers, technical assistants, consultants, ranger trainees and utility staff.

2. At 28 June 1982, 2 were employed as trainee rangers, with arrangements in hand to recruit an additional 3. No Aborigines are currently appointed as rangers in the southern region. The parks concerned are Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mt Olga) and Ormiston Gorge.

3. A comprehensive training program for all Conservation Commission rangers was devised last year and is now being implemented, subject to the availability of funds. In addition, the Commonwealth has been approached for funds to enable expansion of the program at Uluru.
- (a) in the southern region, 2 Aborigines are currently receiving training as rangers and action is in hand to recruit another 3 trainees.
- (b) In the northern region, 3 Aborigines are currently receiving training as rangers and action is in hand to recruit another 5 trainees.

Housing Commission Home Loans

708 Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. With regard to the operation of the NT Housing Commission home loans scheme during 1981-82, (a) how many loans were advanced, (b) how many applications were received, (c) what is the value of the average loan advanced, and (d) what is the total value of dwellings financed through the scheme?
2. In what towns or suburbs have houses been built with assistance from the NTHC home loans scheme since the scheme's inception?
3. What is the average waiting time from lodgement of application until receipt of the loan?

ANSWER

1. (a) 488; (b) 799; (c) \$42,484; and (d) \$29,376,560.
2. Darwin - all suburbs excluding city area - Kahlin, Anula, Katherine, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs.
3. 6 to 8 weeks.

Teachers, Amaroo and Utopia

709 Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will replacements be obtained for (a) Mr Keefe and Ms Nash, who have resigned from teaching positions at Amaroo Station, and (b) Mr and Mrs Churchill, who are due to leave Department of Education employ at Utopia Station in June 1982?

ANSWER

Replacement teachers for Amaroo Station and Utopia Station will commence duty at the beginning of the second semester 19 July 1982.

Advisory Services, Primary Production

710 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Given the recent resignation of the Department of Primary Production officer whose prime responsibility was provision of advice to the pig, poultry, dairy, and crocodile industries, what action has been taken to ensure that adequate departmental resources are available to assist in these areas?

ANSWER

The Department of Primary Production is continuing to make available extension advice to the pig, poultry, dairy and crocodile industries. The position recently made vacant has been advertised in Queensland Country Life and the NT News. Pending an appointment, arrangements have been made for another officer to provide this service to producers.

Fish Silage

711 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. Has the government investigated the potential for a fish silage industry in the Northern Territory?
2. Is it the intention of the government to support such a potential industry with loans or grants if investigations prove to be encouraging?

ANSWER

1. Yes. An application was received under the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund and considered by the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund Advisory Committee.
2. Yes. Acting with the advice of the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund Advisory Committee, I approved the inclusion of the fish silage project within the development projects approved for the Fisheries Division and allocated a further \$10,000 to the Fisheries Division under the Gear Development Loan Scheme to further investigate gear loan assistance for the development of this project.

Disease Eradication

712 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Could the herd control measures being introduced to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle also help to eradicate other diseases?

ANSWER

Clearly, herd control measures being introduced to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle will also be available to help eradicate other diseases. Property improvements, such as fencing and water traps, enable animals to be segregated into identifiable groups and regularly mustered for testing. These facilities form the basis for the control and eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis through testing and culling, and would also be able to be used for the control and eradication of other diseases.

Brucellosis and TB Eradication Funding

713 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

If the federal government does meet the demands of the BTB Committee, will the NT government fund the eradication program?

ANSWER

Will the honourable member please rephrase the question as its meaning is not clear.

Cattle Exports to Indonesia

715 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does the NT government intend to accept the same responsibility for assuring TB-free status of live breeder cattle exports to Indonesia as it now accepts for buffalo?

ANSWER

International trade in live animals exported from or imported into Australia is subject to Commonwealth authority and responsibility. Regulation 96A of the Commonwealth Quarantine Act provides that:

- (1) A person shall not export an animal that is a bird or mammal unless the animal has been examined by a quarantine officer who is a veterinary surgeon during the period of forty-eight hours immediately preceding shipment.
- (a) A quarantine officer who has examined any such animal intended for export shall grant such certificates relating to the freedom of the animal from disease or otherwise as the circumstances require.

Just as animals imported into Australia must meet the health conditions prescribed by the Commonwealth government, animals exported to Indonesia must meet the health requirements prescribed by the Indonesian government.

While the Commonwealth government is ultimately responsible for ensuring that breeder cattle exported to Indonesia meet the conditions for TB freedom prescribed by the Indonesian government, the responsibility extends to the producer, the exporter and the certifying officer. Substantial penalties are provided under the Commonwealth Quarantine Act, including Regulation 96A.

Although no State or Territory government has jurisdiction over Australia's international trade in livestock, the NT government provides veterinary services to assist Territory producers and exporters to present animals for export which meet the health requirements of the various importing countries.

Cattle Exports to Indonesia

716 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Does the NT government intend to negotiate long term contracts with Indonesia for the supply of breeder cattle in line with the establishment of the buffalo domestication program?

ANSWER

It is unlikely that the Indonesian government will agree to purchase breeder cattle from the Northern Territory until both brucellosis and tuberculosis have been eradicated from areas in the Northern Territory which can otherwise supply suitable cattle.

Building Regulations, Katherine

717 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are prospective purchasers of residential blocks in Katherine East subdivision adequately warned of the requirements of the Building Authority Branch with regard to flood levels?

ANSWER

Yes, in the Gazette of 26 March 1982 and, before that, of 9 October 1981, wherein the land was advertised as being available for sale, under the heading of 'Information for Intending Purchasers' the public was advised that the building regulations required floor levels of dwellings to be 0.35 metres above the predicted 1 in 100 year recurrent flood and that further information was available in a brochure entitled 'Land Use in Flood Plains - The Interim Flood Plain Management Policy of the Northern Territory'.

Sorghum and Maize Production

721 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

1. What was the size of the 1982 harvest of (a) sorghum, and (b) maize in the Northern Territory?

2. What is the estimated size of the Northern Territory market for both These commodities?
3. When does ADMA expect that demand for both maize and sorghum in the Territory will be wholly met by local production?

ANSWER

1. Final deliveries of grain to ADMA for 1981-82 were (a) sorghum - 2559 tonnes; (b) maize - 620 tonnes; and (c) mung beans - 67 tonnes.
2. Of all grain received, 1400 tonnes of sorghum is unsold. The authority anticipates that buyers will be found prior to the 1982 harvest. A number of end-users of feed grains in the Territory are still drawing on Ord River supplies. It is estimated that without a major feedmill, the demand for unprocessed grain will amount to 4000 to 5000 tonnes.
3. The authority expects the local demand for maize and sorghum to be fully satisfied by local production after the 1983 harvest.

Incident, Maningrida

725 Mr MacFARLANE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What are the details of the recent incident at Manangrida when a 14-year-old petrol sniffing youth held up a nursing sister at gun point?

ANSWER

On 1 August 1982 at 2045 hours, at the Maningrida nurses quarters, an Aboriginal male, aged 16 years, entered the room of a nursing sister residing at the quarters. He pointed an unloaded .44 calibre rifle at the nursing sister to force her to supply him with food. The offender had been sniffing petrol prior to the offence. He was a resident of and was supported at Maningrida and was in no urgent need of food.

The youth was apprehended by Maningrida police and charged with the following offences arising out of the incident -

- assault with intent to rob whilst armed;
- unlawfully on premises;
- aggravated assault;
- possess firearm not holding a shooter's licence; and
- armed with offensive weapon.

He appeared before court at Maningrida on 9 August 1982 and was remanded to appear in Darwin.

The offender appeared before the Children's Court at Casuarina on 10 August 1982 and a plea of 'guilty' to the charge of 'assault with intent to rob whilst armed' was entered.

He was again remanded in custody and is due to appear before the Children's Court for sentence on Tuesday 24 August 1982.

Further charges of 'possession of unregistered firearm' and 'possession of a firearm not holding a shooter's licence' are to be proceeded with on this occasion.

Legislation for Incorporation of School Councils

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will he be introducing legislation to provide for the incorporation of school councils?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise that a bill has been prepared. In the last week, I had detailed discussions with officers of the Departments of Treasury and Law in relation to those difficulties in the use of the Financial Administration and Audit Act as it relates to the proposal for incorporated school councils. I am satisfied that solutions can be found to each of those problems. Cabinet will be considering the draft legislation at its next meeting. I hope to introduce appropriate legislation during the course of this sittings.

Ambulance Service for Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the position regarding the supply of an ambulance service for the people of Jabiru?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you might think it strange that the honourable member for Tiwi asked that question of me as Chief Minister rather than of the Minister for Health. I have some small interest in the town of Jabiru and, as a consequence of the Minister for Health having to go south last week, it fell to my lot to have discussions with the St John Ambulance service. The St John Ambulance service met with me yesterday in the persons of Mr Richard Morris and Mr Burden, the superintendent of the service. We were able to come to an arrangement whereby St John Ambulance will maintain its existing service at Jabiru. Additional space will be allocated to it in the health clinic there to meet with its requirements. I think that the concerns of the people of Jabiru will now be allayed in respect of a vehicular ambulance service. I had the pleasure of conveying this information to a meeting of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council last evening. I am sure that the word has probably circulated in the town of Jabiru by now.

Sewerage and Electrical Installations at Bees Creek

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that sewerage ponds are to be constructed at the end of Gulnare Road? Is it a fact that, in order to install sewerage pipes, 10 metres of land are to be resumed from blocks on the north side of Gulnare Road and that NTEC is to claim a further 12 metre easement on the same blocks for the erection of power poles to service the sewerage ponds which will make a total of 22 metres in all?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the department has 2 projects planned which affect Gulnare Road. One is the sewer outfall from Humpty Doo town centre which will run from the proposed lagoons adjacent to the Elizabeth River. The construction of Gulnare Road between the Stuart Highway and Lovelock Road is also on the 1982-83 draft capital works program. Gulnare Road will ultimately become a distributor road as development in the area proceeds.

The width of the present road reserve is 20 m while the minimum desirable width for that standard of road is 30 m and preferably 35 m. The department identified a probable minimum widening of 10 m along the northern boundary of

the road. The northern side was selected because it is less developed than the southern side. The department commissioned a consulting engineer to design the sewer and roadworks and investigate the total road easement requirements. These requirements are complicated by an NTEC proposal to construct a high tension powerline along that section of Gulnare Road on the northern boundary. This required a further 12 m buffer strip along the frontage of the blocks. The entry onto the properties by surveyors arose during the survey of the sewer line. Unfortunately, the private surveyors engaged by the consultant did not obtain prior approval to enter on the properties. The consultant engineer has been instructed to liaise directly with the people to rectify the damage done and it is anticipated that there will be no further problems in this area.

The road width desirable to accommodate future development has been determined as 30 m. A meeting was held on 30 July by local residents, representatives of the Department of Transport and Works and NTEC to discuss the problems. The proposed 10 m widening on the northern side is now in some doubt because of the existence of multiple water services and a recently installed Telecom cable. Widening on the southern side is complicated by the proximity of dwellings and the presence of an NTEC powerline. Strong objections were raised by the residents regarding proposed sewage lagoons at the Elizabeth River. The department has agreed that it will further examine the options regarding sewage disposal. The situation is complex and requires further examination which will be completed in the next 6 weeks.

Grumman Trackers for Coastal Surveillance

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Would he advise the House if he has received recently any communication from the federal Minister for Defence regarding the possible return of the Grumman Trackers to be based in Darwin for coastal surveillance?

ANSWER

In the recent past, I have not received any formal communication from the Minister for Defence in relation to the return of the Grumman Trackers to Darwin. I have written 3 times to the Minister for Defence regarding the use of Grumman Trackers based in Darwin for coastal surveillance work. My recollection is that the last communication from the Minister for Defence advised me that the matter had been referred to the Committee on Fixed Wing Aircraft. Obviously, there is a committee on airships and balloons as well. I am still waiting for this committee to come up with some sort of response. Since the member for Nightcliff has raised the matter, I will certainly investigate it and perhaps write again to the minister.

Old Darwin Hospital Site

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A beautiful piece of real estate remains unused in the electorate of Port Darwin. I refer to the old Darwin Hospital site. What consideration has been given to the future use of that area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Department of Health has now vacated totally the old Darwin Hospital site at the end of the Darwin peninsula. A portion of the facilities there were leased some time ago to a consortium of the YWCA and the YMCA to utilise the old nurses' accommodation on the site. Regarding the rest of the facilities on the site, I think there are a couple of temporary tenants and there are further demountables under investigation by my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works. The future of the remaining substantial

assets on the site is being determined by his department in consultation with myself. The future of the land itself has not been determined in any way. It is a very substantial portion of land and, at present, the government has no particular proposals for it.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise on the progress of the program to rehabilitate Rum Jungle?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, because it involves Commonwealth government direct funding, the matter of Rum Jungle rehabilitation is being handled by the Co-ordinator-General who, in consultation with the Department of Mines and Energy and the Department of Transport and Works, has presented a 4-year program to the federal government through Senator Carrick, the Minister for National Development and Energy, in relation to the rehabilitation of Rum Jungle. My recollection is that the total cost of the program is in the order of \$14m. In my recent visits to Canberra, I have spoken to Senator Carrick about this matter on 2 occasions. I urged on him the importance of rehabilitation work being funded by the federal government during the course of this year. Whilst no undertakings have been given, I am led to believe that at least there will be money in this year's federal budget to enable the rehabilitation program to commence.

Relocation of Leanyer Dump

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is there a proposal actively under consideration by his department for the relocation of Leanyer dump?

ANSWER

No.

Health Clinic Services at Jabiru

Mrs. PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position of the supply of health clinic services at Jabiru?

ANSWER

On 26 July, the new Community Health Centre at Jabiru become operational and from that centre will be conducted infant health, doctor consultation and first-aid services. The centre will also have 2 holding beds for observation of patients and dental services will be conducted from the new health centre by a private dentist who has taken up residence in the centre. The private dentist will be conducting work on underprivileged people in the community.

The member for Tiwi would already be aware that the centre will not open as a hospital now because of its proximity to Darwin and the very small demand that the people of Jabiru have for hospitalisation services. In fact, there is an average of 1.5 or 1.75 patients per week who require hospitalisation from Jabiru and such a very small figure cannot justify the establishment of a hospital. The furniture and equipment from the Jabiru East Health Centre is being used in the new centre which is to be manned by a full-time doctor, 4 sisters and a clerical assistant who have all transferred from Jabiru East Health Centre.

As the honourable the Chief Minister pointed out a few moments ago, discussions have been going on for some time concerning the evacuation of patients at Jabiru. Certainly, the road evacuation system is settled and it looks as though it will continue as it has in the past with the very kind and generous offices of St John. On the other hand, the department is still reviewing the

best system of evacuation that can be provided by air with the resources and the technology that we have available to us.

I am particularly confident that the services that are being offered at Jabiru are excellent. The services are relevant to the state of the community at this time and, as the community expands and develops and its demographic pattern changes, there will be a need for changes in the way we deliver health care to the people. In that sense, I would ask the member for Tiwi, who has a very close interest in the matter, to keep me advised of community attitudes concerning the level of health care that we deliver so that, if changes are necessary, we can make them at a very early stage and endeavour to continue to deliver the best service possible.

Pharmacy Services to Hospitals

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Since it has been demonstrated that the supply of pharmacy services to the Tennant Creek Hospital on contract by a private pharmacist rather than from within the Health Department is costing the government an additional \$1800 a month, is it still his intention to let contracts for the private supply of pharmacy services to other hospitals in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member has raised an interesting question that is already being addressed by the department and Dr Fleming. About 6 or 9 months ago, the Pharmacy Division of the department did an assessment of transferring its pharmaceutical delivery care to the private pharmacist in the town and it was estimated that there would be considerable savings in this exercise. As it has transpired, the estimates were wrong and the department has incurred a loss. For this reason, the department is reviewing its position and will be going back to the previous system of providing its own pharmacist and its own dispensing service. So far as the delivery of pharmaceutical care is required in other centres, each centre will be assessed on its own merits and any new direction that is believed necessary by the department will be based entirely upon the needs of the community and the best method of delivering care to that community.

Leanyer Dump

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has his department undertaken any investigation of the noxious smells and gases which are presently being emitted from the Leanyer dump and, if so, what are the results of this investigation?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable member to place that question on notice. I make the point that, if honourable members can give an hour's notice of a question of that nature, it would enable people like myself to give a responsible reply.

Nathalie Gorey Pre-school

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER ofr EDUCATION

Would he undertake to keep the Nathalie Gorey name associated with the pre-school that has been moved to the new Sadadeen school complex?

ANSWER

Nathalie Gorey is the name of a person and that family would need to be involved in the use of the name. The arrangement at Nathalie Gorey Pre-school

has always been that of a trust fund which was set up to provide materials for the pre-school. Needless to say, it would be quite improper for the minister of his own motion to transfer those trust funds to another building. Nonetheless, the Gorey family have consented to the continuation of the name at the new Sadadeen pre-school. Indeed, I believe a sign to that effect is being erected at the premises at this time.

Transfer of Alice Springs Policemen

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Were the 14 policemen who are to be compulsorily transferred from Alice Springs given assurances last year that such action would not be taken?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is an interesting question because presumably the honourable member for Nhulunbuy, who is shadow spokesman on police affairs, has obviously not spoken to the police concerned but has taken advice and asked this question as a result of simply reading misleading reports in the media. No policeman in Alice Springs is being compulsorily transferred and certainly not 14 policemen.

The story in fact is this. Last year, the Police Commissioner issued a circular advising members of the police force that, in their own interests and in the interests of their careers developing satisfactorily, they should seek from time to time to move around in the force to gain better experience and to become generally more experienced policemen. Recently, the Assistant Commissioner in Alice Springs issued a circular to a number of police officers who have been in their current positions for many years advising them that it is in their own interests to seek a transfer to another position. That position might well be in Alice Springs if they chose to seek it. It could certainly be in the Southern Division. There has been no compulsory transfer of anyone.

Two circulars have been sent out by the commissioner and by an assistant commissioner. The first was a general circular and the second was a more specific circular advising police who have been in the one position for quite some time that it is in their interests to seek to develop their careers by moving into other positions to gain greater experience. All that has been said is that, if moves are not made within a reasonable time by these various policemen who have been in the one position for a considerable time, then the assistant commissioner and the commissioner may well have to review the position. As far as anyone being compulsorily transferred, they have been given counselling by their superiors as is the responsibility of their superiors who want to see them advance in the force rather than stultify in the one position.

Darwin Water Supply

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

A large percentage of water disappears between the Darwin River Dam and Darwin. This percentage is as high as 20%. Is he aware of this wastage and, if so, what steps have been taken to track down this phantom water?

ANSWER

There is a certain amount of waste in the area that the member refers to. At the moment, the Water Division is investigating. I hope to have a report by mid-September regarding that particular problem.

ADMA Northern Grain Receival Depot

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Will the northern grain receival depot for ADMA be located at Adelaide River?

ANSWER

The board of the corporation is currently looking at this question. I believe that it proposes to make a recommendation towards the end of the month. Certainly Adelaide River has been considered as a logical site but some believe that the facilities should be located right amongst the farmers themselves.

Tenders For Demolition of Stuart Building

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that John Holland and Whelan the Wrecker put in tenders for the demolition of the Stuart Building? Is it also a fact that John Holland was successful over Whelan the Wrecker on the basis of being granted a 5% local industry preference? Is it also a fact that John Holland has subsequently subcontracted the job to Whelan the Wrecker?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer to the honourable member's 3 questions is yes.

BTB Campaign

Mr VALE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Can he advise the outcome of discussions at the recent Australian Agricultural Council on the future course of the BTB campaign in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it was a long way to go for a meeting, but our discussions were very fruitful. We received strong support from the Standing Committee and the Australian Agricultural Council. As a result of the initiatives taken by the Northern Territory, a detailed case will be finalised, in consultation with Western Australia and Queensland, as a matter of urgency and presented to the council in an out-of-term meeting towards the end of this year. The Northern Territory has been successful in obtaining from the Standing Committee on Agriculture a sympathetic understanding of the problems being experienced in northern Australia in implementing the BTB eradication campaign. The attitude of the council at the meeting in New Zealand was a great deal more sympathetic and understanding than at previous meetings. The delegation argued strongly for an extension of the taxation concessions beyond 1984 to 1992, the immediate increase in compensation for tuberculosis reactors to 75%, the introduction of special holding facilities and other capital assistance.

Housing Commission Loan Statistics

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to his answer to question on notice number 708 in which he said the number of applications received for Northern Territory Housing Commission loans was 799 and the number of applications approved was 488. I also refer him to his subsequent disputation of those figures. Why were such false figures provided in answer to a question placed on notice in this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have a string of figures before me at present to answer the honourable member's question in detail. I can indicate that what

has been recorded in the past by the Housing Commission under the heading of applications for loans were also applications for a statement of eligibility for a loan. Members will be aware that the first approach to the Housing Commission when a person is trying to establish whether or not he is in a position to buy a home in the Northern Territory is to establish his eligibility for the Northern Territory loan which has a number of criteria related to it. Anyone who approached the Housing Commission and gave particulars of his income etc was given a document which in many cases said he was eligible for a loan of X dollars and the repayments would be X dollars. The person could then go away and decide whether or not he could afford to purchase a home or to have a home built. He could establish from that document exactly what bracket he was in as far as the market was concerned.

Many of those people do come back to complete further documentation to apply for a loan from the Housing Commission, which action required of course details of the house and land to be purchased, its price and the contract for the construction of the house on that land. However, many people do not come back. They might find that they cannot afford the necessary deposit, they cannot raise the funds additional to the government's loan which may be required for their bracket or they cannot find a suitable property on the market. Whatever the reason, there are many applicants who do not come back.

Unfortunately, the member for MacDonnell just grasped the figures that were presented to him in the question on notice that he refers to and claimed that the difference between applicants and loans approved obviously had to be loans rejected. He did not consider that there might be a batch of loans on hand, which of course there is at any given time. In subsequent releases on the subject, I indicated that there were in fact 56 loans on hand and that the loans take several weeks to process. That is not unusual. I will have to look again in Hansard at the actual question the member put to me and see if there is further information required to be provided to him.

Overpass for Darwin High School

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Since the government has provided a pedestrian overpass to enable the children of the northern suburbs to cross the road to play safely in the water gardens, will the government provide a similar overpass to enable the children of the inner suburbs to get safely to high school?

ANSWER

I presume that the honourable member for Fannie Bay is referring to an overpass for the Darwin High School students and St Johns College. When we first completed the overpass on Bagot Road, traffic studies indicated that there was no need for an overpass for Darwin High School. Prior to the completion of the overpass, traffic banked up along East Point Road as far as the old Fannie Bay Gaol. Since December last year, this has not occurred to the same extent and, until such time as it is warranted, I have no intention of proceeding with an overpass in that area.

Palmerston Area - Garbage Disposal

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that garbage from the Palmerston area will go to Leanyer dump and not into a dump established at Palmerston?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, not necessarily. There are quite a number of users of the Leanyer dump who live outside the municipality of Darwin although the dump is operated and run by the Darwin City Council. To compensate the council for this

use by people who are not rate-paying residents of Darwin, the government makes an ex gratia payment to the council each year. If the very small initial population of Palmerston in the early period had to use Leanyer dump, or whatever major dump Darwin has in the future, I do not see that as a terrible thing.

Officers of the Palmerston Development Authority tell me that presently they are examining 2 sites as potential interim refuse disposal sites within the boundaries of Palmerston. Whilst these would not have a long life, such use could contribute to small reclamation projects and improve the land for other purposes. A firm has been engaged as a consultant to look at long-term requirements and suitable areas in Palmerston for refuse disposal, at first I wondered if we should go to the expense of engaging consultants to investigate sites for garbage disposal. However, whilst Palmerston may be a couple of kilometres from the banks of the Elizabeth River, any of the potential areas that could be used as dumps clearly border on mangrove areas which exist in the area. Therefore, there is some sensitivity about the question and we should investigate it properly. To answer the honourable member's question, we may not use Leanyer dump for Palmerston residents in the early stages, but the option has not been ruled out totally.

Assistance from Singapore for Rice Growing

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has the Northern Territory government been offered financial and technical assistance by the Singapore government or a private organisation based in Singapore to promote rice growing in the Northern Territory? If so, what were the terms of the offer and what was the response of the government?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any offer from Singapore-based interests. We have liaised with people in the Philippines for quite some time but, apart from that, I am not aware of any other consultations.

Caretaker for Malak Pre-school

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Recently he has received representation from the Malak Pre-school Association concerning incidents of breaking and entering the school. Has he made a decision, as a result of those representations, to place a resident caretaker at the school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of concern in the area. I will have the subject investigated and inform the honourable member later in the sittings.

Bulletin Article on Roxby Downs

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

Is he aware of an article in the Bulletin of 8 August which claims that linear methods were used on Roxby Downs some 300 m below the surface? Is he also aware that the article predicts that an 80 km diameter area in the Harts Range region is worthy of exploration on the same linear predictions? Would he, therefore, bring the article to his department's attention for consideration and to that of mining interests who may wish to explore the region further?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am grateful that the honourable member raised this question. It had escaped my notice and, until it was raised with officers of the depart-

ment, it had escaped theirs. The information surrounding this is of interest to all members. The study of lineaments, which are often evident on aerial photographs or at least Landsat images, is an important tool for company geologists, government and university personnel. It is one of the more recent tools of exploration to become available. Many major mineral deposits have a close, spacial relationship with such linear features and Roxby Downs is one such case. Whether or not the lineaments have played a direct role in the mineralising processes is often open to debate. The pros and cons of this debate constitute an ongoing theme in geological literature. In many instances, the lineaments appear to represent major faults or factors in the earth's crust which probably have acted as conduits for mineralising fluids. Generally speaking, lineament studies must be considered in conjunction with other avenues of geological, geochemical and geophysical investigations when assessing the mineral potential of any area. It is interesting that the company which used this to its great advantage at Roxby Downs is one of the most successful exploration companies in Australia if the premise is accepted that tonnage is really the measure of a company's success in exploration. Certainly, Western Mining has tonnage. I think the concept should be pursued more closely by our own people and our own exploration companies and I will be bringing it to their attention.

Housing Commission Loan Applications

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer him to the answer to my previous question in which he said that many people approaching the Housing Commission for assessment of eligibility did not in fact follow through their applications. Is he monitoring the fate of those people who do not follow through?

ANSWER

As I indicated in my earlier reply, we really have no idea why people do not come back and make further applications although we can reasonably assume why a number of them do not. At that stage, it is a matter of establishing exactly what their entitlement is under the Home Loans Scheme. As members know there are about 10 categories of income eligibility as well as requirements concerning ownership of land and former activity in the Northern Territory. It is quite unreasonable for the government to be expected to follow up every person who does not come back. Some of them would have travelled interstate while others would have decided not to proceed with an application for a whole range of personal reasons. I do not see that that is of concern. The important thing is that the government loans scheme is there for them if they want to come back. It has helped an enormous number of people in the Northern Territory to date. Something like \$76m has gone into the scheme since October 1978 when it was introduced by the government. There has not been a single applicant who has been rejected for want of funds through the scheme.

The member made some criticism in the press that we did not use all the money that we had allocated last year for this scheme. Of course, government estimates at the beginning of a year in the Appropriation Bill are exactly that: estimates of expenditure. To a degree, we are gazing into a crystal ball. Most figures in a budget alter during the course of a year either through overexpenditure or underexpenditure for a very wide range of good reasons. Again this year, we will have to assess how many loans we are likely to make and what level those loans are likely to be. It will be an estimate and no doubt it will not be accurate. By the end of the year, adjustments will have to be made. The important point is that every eligible person who came to the government for a loan was given a loan if he was prepared to proceed with it. There was no holding back whatsoever of a single applicant for want of funds. The view that people have been disadvantaged by the government's actions is nonsense.

Vacancy on Jabiru Town Advisory Council

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the recent resignation from the Jabiru Town Advisory Council, can the Chief Minister tell me when a declaration will be made as to the person who will fill that vacancy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Tiwi for raising that question. I spoke to Mr Ray McHenry regarding the matter last night because I observed that there was one member short at the meeting of the Jabiru Town Advisory Council. He informed me that the provisions of the legislation that we passed here not so long ago provided that the person who was the next most successful at the recent election would fill any vacancy. The vacancy was created by the routine transfer of a Department of Health employee. The person next in the line was Mr Norbert Olaf Detlef Tenthly who is a sergeant of police at Jabiru. I hope that my recollection in that regard is correct. In any event, it appears that the person next in line at the election will fill the vacancy. The only political aspect of the transfer of the doctor from Jabiru is that people sought to make it political. I am assured by the Secretary of the Department of Health that it is a perfectly routine transfer according to the system that he normally operates within his department. This transfer was sought to be brought into the political arena to attempt to have the transfer revoked.

There are 2 things which I hope we as a government will not interfere with in any sense. One is the Housing Commission housing lists which must have a certain inviolability about them. If there are to be people who are pushed up the public housing list, then they must go through the committee that provides the only avenue of appeal. The other area where I certainly would not want to become involved or want any of my ministers to become involved would be in attempting to override public service decisions on the transfer of personnel. I think those 2 matters are subjects about which there must be certainty in the minds of the public. People who have their names on a housing list must know that there will not be political interference to put people higher up the list who might bring pressure to bear on ministers. It is also for the protection of the ministers themselves because, if it is known that by putting pressure on a minister you can get yourself higher up the housing list, then it will invite hundreds of people to put pressure on. We just could not operate the system in that way. Likewise, a transfer notice must be complied with and no one has been able to show that this doctor was not transferred in accordance with the usual practice and procedure of the Department of Health. Remarks were made that apparently the Chief Minister ordered his transfer. I am afraid I cannot even remember the good doctor's name so I could not have ordered his transfer.

Subdivision Conditions

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When permission is granted to a developer to open up a new subdivision, the developer has to agree to certain conditions imposed by the Northern Territory Planning Authority in the instrument of determination. Could he advise who has the ultimate responsibility of ensuring that these conditions are complied with before the blocks are available for sale to purchasers?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, before the Registrar-General is prepared to register titles for those blocks so that people can purchase them, he obtains a certificate from the Lands Branch and from the Surveyor-General that the works have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the various authorities. This

system is aimed at preventing persons subdividing land that has not been serviced in accordance with the conditions of approval that were granted.

Education of Children from Isolated Areas

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is the government considering any proposal to provide for the primary and secondary school of the Territory's isolated schoolchildren by assisting with the provision of facilities in Darwin similar to those that were formerly provided by Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member would be well aware of the program throughout the Northern Territory to provide assistance to isolated children. As for the possibility of doing anything along the lines previously provided by Carpentaria College, the answer is no. It is not currently anticipated that that is the best direction in which to move. Mr Speaker, the schools of the air are based in Katherine and Alice Springs. They seem to be the 2 centres which service the rural district of the Northern Territory and it would seem to me to be proper to develop the system with facilities which are already in those 2 centres and to improve them rather than completely re-establish a replacement system in Darwin similar to that of the old Carpentaria College model.

Yulara Tourist Village

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many people or companies have approached the Northern Territory Development Corporation with regard to taking up units when they are completed at the Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member means the Conservation Commission which is actually handling the project rather than the Northern Territory Development Corporation. I am not aware, although no doubt I could find out, of the exact number of people who have approached the Conservation Commission expressing an interest in purchasing any of the various components of the Yulara project. These include 2 hotels, a tavern, supermarket, various speciality shops and other things. In July, I was concerned to learn from the Conservation Commission that a relatively small number of Territory contractors had registered their interest in being involved in the construction of Yulara. Certainly, we are all Australians and we must see that the government administers its contract so that there is no disadvantage to contractors outside the Territory but wherever possible, we must advantage people who are established in the Territory in the hope that they will provide employment.

I must confess that I have not examined the matter in detail but prima facie it appears to me that a construction firm in Darwin has been guilty of a rather cynical misuse of the local preference clause in respect of the demolition of a certain building not far from the precincts of this Assembly. An examination of this particular misuse of the local preference could result in what I would regard as a grave detriment to the total construction industry: the abolition of such preference. If it is to be misused in that fashion, we must have as our paramount consideration the taxpayer's dollar. We are not interested particularly in just going through a middleman to get at the action. It appears to me that this is what may well have happened in that case and I have asked the Minister for Transport and Works to report to me on the matter so that, if necessary, the whole business can be brought before Cabinet for review.

As a general principle, this government wants to support Territory contractors, subcontractors and suppliers. Because I noticed that a relatively small number of Territory contractors had registered, I thought it wise to bring the matter to the notice of the Master Builders Association. Once the registration process had closed, no doubt some of these contractors would wake up and come crying at a later stage when they saw that someone else had won a juicy contract that they could not even tender for because they were not registered. I am satisfied that the Masters Builders Association has brought the matter forcefully to the notice of its members and also sought publicity in an attempt to do this. It is hoped that there will be considerable use of Territory subcontractors and suppliers by any southern companies that do gain contracts here.

I would like to say something about some of our local contracting firms, some of whom seek to avail themselves of our local preference clause. I had better not make too much of that because I believe the local preference clause has only had to be availed of about half a dozen times in almost as many years. These local firms, when they get the contracts from the government, often subcontract to and buy their supplies from southerners to save a few dollars and to make a bigger profit on the contract. We have examined the legalities of having some sort of requirement in the contract for the use of local subcontractors and suppliers wherever possible but I am advised that it is simply not practical to frame a clause which will cover the situation. All you could have would be a sort of pious statement of policy waffle which would not be binding on anyone and it is pointless putting a clause like that in what is intended to be a binding contract.

However, everyone knows the government's policy. It is the policy of this Assembly. Certainly, local firms must be competitive which is something that has to be hammered home too because they cannot just sit on their butts behind a desk in Darwin and be non-competitive and expect to get the work. They must be competitive. At the same time, local contractors, certainly when dealing with government contracts, should be looking to give some sort of preference to local subcontractors and suppliers. Especially at this time, when the economic climate around Australia is tough, it is necessary that as Territorians we all hang together for survival and that we try to keep the dollars circulating as much as possible in the Territory and maintain a maximum of Territory employment.

I thank the honourable member for Port Darwin for asking me this question. I have certainly roamed beyond the parameters of the question that he asked. I was concerned that Territory contractors had not registered in any great numbers - at the most there were 3 or 4 - for the Yulara project. I hope that others have availed themselves of the opportunity to do that. I hope that no company comes crying to me in 12 or 18 months when it finds that a southerner has walked away with the contract.

Contract for Housing in Brunei

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Honourable members would recall the Chief Minister advised this Assembly of what appeared to be an extremely promising contract - I think it was in Brunei - for a substantial order for prefabricated houses. Could he advise if there has been any followup action on that?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, whilst I was in Singapore or Kuala Lumpur a few months ago, I ran into someone from Brunei who passed this information to me. I phoned the information back to the Northern Territory Development Corporation. I also asked that the Master Builders Association be informed. I believe that there was some publicity given to this matter in my absence. The contract was for

3000 housing units in Brunei. Of course there would be absolutely no question that the Brunei Government with its massive financial reserves could afford to meet such a contract. In any event, I believe that the winning of such a contract by the Northern Territory would have been of tremendous assistance in developing shipping and barge services between northern Australia and South-east Asia, in particular Brunei but possibly also Singapore.

I am not aware whether there has been any consortium of Territory companies formed to bid for this contract because I have not followed it up. I do not really consider it my job to nursemaid the construction industry to that extent. It must be given the opportunities and that is where my job stops. I hope there has been because I foresaw that perhaps the job would be too big for an individual company, but it could be a good one for a combination of them, perhaps to work in with one of our local shipping companies such as V.B. Perkins. I hope that that sort of thing has happened. However, there is one thing that I do know. I was approached last week for a letter of introduction to people in Brunei by White Industries which is doing the Yulara project and is interested in other projects in Darwin. It is constructing the casino. I understand that Whites were going to Brunei to investigate the situation and to bid for the contract. I guess that Whites are as well established in the Northern Territory as other companies such as John Holland which we regard as local. Therefore, I do know of that interest but that is the only interest of which I am aware.

Gunn Point Recreational Plan

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer yet again to public access for recreational purposes to the Gunn Point area. In December and May, the Chief Minister advised of a second draft of a recreational plan for the area being provided by the Conservation Commission. Is such a plan ready and, if so, when will he table the plan for public discussion?

ANSWER

I will read this briefing note that I received on the matter from the Conservation Commission which I think goes at least some of the way to answering her concerns.

Development for recreation at Gunn Point is proceeding on a staged program. Unimpeded access to the beaches has been provided and a toilet block has been constructed at the main beach. Maintenance of the toilets, beach areas and swimming areas is being carried out by Gunn Point Prison Farm. The government is soon to consider a 3-year development program to enhance the recreation opportunities of the peninsula. The main points in this program are the development of camping grounds with ablution facilities near the beach, improved access by road, construction of boat ramps to allow fishermen to use the waters of the area, the development of picnic spots with barbecues, tables and so on to cater for the increasing number of day trippers, and a beach protection program similar to that carried out on Casuarina Beach. The Conservation Commission expects development to keep pace with the growing demand for recreation outlets near Darwin and it anticipates that, in the future, Gunn Point will be a prime recreation asset for the people of Darwin and for visitors.

Mr Speaker, we saw a proposal in Cabinet 2 months ago now. We made some alterations to it and referred it back to the Conservation Commission. It certainly included a 3-year or even a 4-year program at that time. As I recall, we asked the Conservation Commission to telescope the timeframe for the program. From memory, we asked it to complete a road - I think it was intended to be built in a couple of years - within the next financial year. This has to be taken to some extent with a grain of salt and not as gospel because this was a

while ago. I cannot remember everything absolutely. I do know that we sped up the program and, as soon as we have a final document from the Conservation Commission, I will be more than happy to make it available to honourable members.

Federal Budget Health Grant

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that funding for the health grant in last night's federal budget showed a reduction from \$26m to \$23m? What does the minister see as the implications for the Territory health system of such a reduction in funding?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to put that question on notice. The information is about 12 hours old. In fact, the matter will be addressed in our own budget in the next few days. The answers that she is looking for will be catered for quite adequately at that time.

Palm Valley Gas Pipeline

Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he advise who is the successful tenderer for the Palm Valley to Alice Springs gas pipeline?

ANSWER

The government has decided to recall tenders for this project for several reasons. The principal reason is that negotiations with the Central Land Council to obtain agreement for an easement for the pipeline have been protracted and cannot now be finalised until at least the end of August. Negotiations with the 2 lowest tenderers have demonstrated that firm financing commitments, which were claimed, do not exist. Validity dates for all current tenders expire today. The recently announced depreciation allowances which the Commonwealth has introduced could provide for more attractive tenders to be received. The government will be moving quickly to call new tenders at the earliest possible date.

Sanderson High School

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When does he expect that the construction of the Sanderson High School will be commenced?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will advise the honourable member later.

Fire Prevention and Control in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Could the Chief Minister give me results from the meetings that were held in the rural area regarding fire prevention and control?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is an interesting question from the honourable member for Tiwi. By saying that, I do not imply that her other questions are not interesting also. The bushfire meetings of which she speaks were regarded by the Conservation Commission as being reasonably successful. It was a bit disappointed at the level of attendance by people at some of the meetings. That is what it said in its briefing to me. What was not in the briefing was that the advertisements for the first meeting appeared on a Friday and the meeting was held on a Monday. Since this is a relatively small place, the minister sometimes notices things like that. There were 5 meetings which were scattered around the rural area and people did have an opportunity to attend a meeting if they really wanted to. The attendance varied but was not as high as expected. They were considered to be successful because a full spectrum of views of the community

were presented and discussed. A consolidated report on the outcome of the meeting is currently being compiled by the Conservation Commission for further consideration. It will prepare a draft fire control policy for submission to Cabinet. Cabinet will give tentative approval to that policy and will then bring it to this Assembly for debate. It can be debated and any useful suggestions can perhaps be incorporated in the further work that the Conservation Commission will do on it before it is finally approved by Cabinet and promulgated.

I noticed that Trees, an organisation which I support, collected signatures on a petition at the Darwin Garden Fair again this year. It asked me to present the petition on its behalf, which I was pleased to do. I might say that the initiative of the Conservation Commission and other organs of the government is certainly being helped by the work of the Trees organisation. During the past year, a number of meetings were held between representatives of Trees, government and, I think, local government.

In addition, in the petition yesterday, Trees asked for protection of rain forest areas. This is a matter that the Conservation Commission is concerned with. It has a number of rain forest areas at least gazetted at the present time and a couple more are planned for gazettal in the near future. I understand that Holmes Jungle is one area that will shortly come before Cabinet for consideration. One of the problems is feral animals. On that point, this government several years ago arranged for consideration of this problem by the Feral Animals Inquiry. The report of that inquiry was tabled in this Assembly and it was commended by all members. Since then, over a period of 3 years, funds have been allocated to the Feral Animals Committee which has been established within government to plan for the eradication or at least the control of feral animals. I understand that the priorities that have been given have accorded buffaloes top priority with feral pigs perhaps coming second. At the last sittings, I reported to this Assembly by way of a statement in relation to some of the work that has been going on in respect of buffaloes. Later in the sittings, I hope to circulate some technical documents on buffalo population for the information of members. I had a look at them over the weekend. I think some members at least will be interested. I am certain the honourable member for Tiwi will be interested. I hope to be able to circulate these documents when I receive enough copies later in the sittings.

Mr Speaker, the matter of fire control in the Territory is dear to my heart. It has been said to me that, if we were to practise fire control in the Territory as it is practised in Victoria, it would cost us not millions but almost billions annually. Therefore, we have to come to some modus operandi which is a compromise between our present situation and the level of fire control that can be exercised in smaller and more densely populated areas. It is towards that end that we have directed the efforts of the Conservation Commission.

Alleged Illegal Fishing in Keep River Area

Mrs LAWEIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Has he yet determined whether charges will be laid against 3 Western Australians regarding alleged illegal fishing activities in the Keep River area on 3 and 4 July?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I received a further report in relation to that matter yesterday. Fairly detailed preliminary inquiries have been carried out by the police. In that regard, a superintendent was dispatched to Western Australia to accumulate such evidence as could be obtained at this stage. As a result, a report was made to me which I referred to the Solicitor-General. I have

not yet received any final advising from the Solicitor-General as to whether any charges may be laid and, if so, the nature of those charges. The Solicitor-General could come back and say that perhaps other efforts should be directed towards obtaining evidence in other particular areas. That may be his advice. If the evidence is procurable by the police, then they will be directed to do that. I am not, therefore, in a position to say at this stage what charges, if any, will be laid against the people referred to by the member for Nightcliff.

South Australian Public Examinations Board

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

South Australia proposes to change the structure and functions of its statutory board for public examinations in a draft bill for the establishment of a public examinations authority. If such a bill were passed by the South Australian government, would there be any diminution of standard particularly in respect of those Northern Territory students wishing to undertake tertiary or university studies?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is difficult to answer the question with a great deal of certainty at this stage. For the information of members, the arrangement is that, as a result of the Keeves Report commissioned by the South Australian Minister for Education, the functions of the present Public Examinations Board are to be absorbed into a new board called the public examinations authority. Members would be well aware that the present system of matriculation is designed for one purpose and one purpose only: to classify people in order of merit for entry into university. Over the last few years, particularly in the Northern Territory, we have seen a movement towards course structures designed more particularly for the broader community, not just those courses required for entry into university.

With this movement away from a strict line of learning designed for university entrance, we also find the lack of a provision of an assessment for those students who decided to do 12 years of schooling but do not necessarily wish to enter tertiary education. The idea of the public examination authority is to give accreditation and certification for a broader range of subjects. The intention most certainly is not to lower the standards of academic achievement for those students who do not wish to enter university. The university authority will be well represented on the public examinations authority, as will a wide range of people from other disciplines in education including employer and employee representatives.

I might say that we intend staying with South Australia by way of purchasing, if you like, right of entry into its scheme. Nonetheless, it should provide for not only a wider range of accreditation but an encouragement of a wider range of more relevant courses being taught at the more senior levels of our high schools. Territory parents and students can rest assured that, on my understanding of the matter - and I am in continual touch with the minister's office in South Australia - if this legislation is enacted, there will be no lowering of standards for the purpose of entry into university. Rather, we would hope to see a raising of standards in areas which are not related to the university.

Mr Speaker, the programs for matriculation have now been set for the school year 1983-84. No matter what happens in the South Australian Parliament for this year and next year, it is unlikely that there will be any change in the method of assessment of accreditation of Year 12 students. Perhaps the best thing I can do is to undertake to have distributed to honorable members the very detailed press release put out by the Honourable Harold Allison, the South Australian Minister for Education, later during the course

of the sittings. Indeed, Mr Speaker, if the staff is listening to the broadcast system that you have made available perhaps photocopies could be prepared this morning and we will have them distributed shortly after lunch.

ADMA Grain Receival Depots

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it still the intention of the government as previously stated to hand over the grain receival depots now being established by ADMA to farmers to be operated by them?

ANSWER

The final details of this particular situation have not been decided. Firstly, we must select a site for the receival depot. When the board finalises that, those sorts of management arrangements could then be struck

Specialist Medical Staff in Health Department

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the ongoing negotiations for the transfer of Health Department specialist doctors to private practice and on sessional hospital arrangements, how many full-time specialist positions does the Health Department intend to retain at Darwin and Alice Springs Hospitals?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would be happy to obtain that information for the honourable member if she places the question on notice.

Subdivision in the Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the moratorium on subdivision down to 5 acres in the rural area be lifted?

ANSWER

Late last year, the Department of Transport and Works, through its Water Division, undertook a survey of the rural area's water supply. At that time, there was some concern that the aquifer was being polluted by various landowners in that area through substandard bore equipment that was being installed or maintained. That study is not expected to be finalised until late September. Once that information is available, I will be passing it on to the Cabinet and Cabinet will decide what further arrangements should be made.

Alice Springs Police - Compensation for Transfer

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will those Alice Springs policemen who have accepted long-term financial commitments in Alice Springs as a result of having been told that they will not be compulsorily transferred receive any compensation if they are transferred other than by application?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that he has not told any police that they will not be compulsorily transferred.

Nightcliff Dental Clinic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it still his intention to close the Nightcliff Dental Clinic and, if so, is he aware that that will result in a reduction of available Department of

Health dentists in the northern suburbs from 5 to 2?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I advised the honourable member in March that we would be transferring the Nightcliff centre to the new building near Casuarina Shopping Centre where both the Sanderson and the Nightcliff clinics would be amalgamated. I am not sure that the honourable member's statement is true that the number of dentists in that region will be reduced. I will investigate it and respond to her later.

Prison Farm in Central Australia

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the minister advise the progress of negotiations on acquiring suitable land for a prison farm in Central Australia? Will he consider compulsory acquisition of land should such negotiations falter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would rather not give the name of the properties in respect of which negotiations are going on at the moment but I would be more than happy to inform the opposition spokesman of the identity of those places privately. On a property at the moment, a drilling project is being undertaken to find suitable and potable water. We simply cannot establish a prison farm without there being adequate water supplies. A number of pastoralists have been extremely cooperative and it is anticipated that we will be in a position to commence the construction of a prison farm and have it operating within the course of this financial year. The fundamental task is to find a reasonable water supply to establish the prison farm. Once that is done, I think we can move very quickly.

Dress Standards at Casinos

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

The standard of dress to enter the casinos in Darwin and Alice Springs has recently been reviewed by Federal Hotels. Has the government been monitoring the standard of dress at the casinos, is it happy with the standard of dress at casinos and will the minister assure me that the standard of dress to enter both casinos will remain high?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter is the government's business because it is set down in our laws as part of the many, varied and detailed controls that the government may exercise in relation to casinos in the Northern Territory. As I have stated before, I think that industry is possibly more controlled than any other in the Territory. Mr Speaker, the subject of dress standards for casinos in the Territory will perhaps be one of public debate forever. It has certainly been constant since we have had casinos in the Territory. Opinion on what is an acceptable standard of dress varies with almost the number of people you can ask on the subject and, for that reason, I can see an ongoing problem.

The government does not monitor dress standards in the casino specifically to the point where government inspectors - who of course are in all casinos - pay particular regard to this matter by way of recording the number of persons they see dressed to a good standard or otherwise. It is an area which can be monitored to some degree through personal contact. I receive advice from various people on the subject, as do other ministers, and no doubt all members of the Assembly. From one's own occasional visits to the casino, some idea can

be obtained fairly quickly as to how the dress standards are policed and whether they are to one's particular liking.

The difficulty faced over the past couple of years has been over the interpretation of what are jeans. The earlier dress standards forbade jeans being worn in a casino. With the variety of designs and materials on the markets these days, it is sometimes very difficult and one can quickly get into an argument about what jeans are. Federal Hotels asked me if I would agree to their changing the dress standard to place primary emphasis on neat dress. Although the blue denim type jeans technically are still excluded there are what might be called dress jeans which most people would find acceptable in casinos. The recent changes to the standards were designed to accommodate that dress jeans could be allowed but not ordinary jeans. It will not solve all the problems because we are now having a debate on what are dress jeans. The government does take an interest in this matter.

As minister responsible, I believe that it is important that we keep a certain level of dress standards in casinos in the Northern Territory. They are facilities that were put there primarily to add to the tourist attractions in the Northern Territory and they are still there for that very purpose. They are also very great employment creators for the Territory and that has been demonstrated. However, we want visitors to the Territory to be attracted to casinos and to feel that, when they go to casinos, they will be in an atmosphere which is appropriate to casinos. Whilst we will continue to keep an eye on the situation as distinct from positive bureaucratic monitoring, we will try to keep as high a standard as possible. The accent these days will be on neat attire rather than specifically on the type or design of material.

Housing for Teachers

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He would be aware of the public concern and the concern of organisations such as the Teachers Federation and COGSO with the continuing problem of teacher housing. I refer the minister to his press release of 26 July on employment opportunities and recruitment for the Northern Territory Teaching Service. With this expanding employment and recruitment that is being carried out, what steps are being taken by the minister to ensure that these recruits will be adequately housed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, really I do not see the relevance between a guaranteed employment scheme through the Darwin Community College and housing. I do not see the connection at all. If we are to recruit for teachers, then the housing problem exists in respect of each of those teachers whether from local or interstate schools. One would think that at least in their early years and having regard to the fact that Darwin is the largest centre in the Territory, they would be likely to have a better prospect of their own accommodation than teachers we have to recruit for other places.

The government is very much aware of the problem, particularly in places such as Nhulunbuy. I believe the problem has largely been overcome in Tennant Creek. It is rapidly being overcome in Katherine. There is a difficulty remaining in Alice Springs, particularly in relation to about 4 teachers who are in Malanka. Nhulunbuy is the main problem. Personally I have had detailed negotiations recently with Nabalco Limited, with its most senior officers and members of the board and I am expecting, through the Minister for Lands and Housing, a proposition from that organisation in the near future. In Nhulunbuy, the Department of Education is purchasing 4 houses that are to be upgraded for teacher accommodation. We are hopeful of an offer from Nabalco in respect of surplus accommodation which it currently has by way of a short-term lease until

such time as a longer-term solution can be found, not only in respect to teacher housing in that community, but in general government employee housing.

Development on Cox Peninsula

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In answer to a question on notice concerning the type of development envisaged on Cox Peninsula which would justify the building of the Bynoe Harbour access road, he replied that, apart from providing an upgraded road to the Belyuen community, it would assist in the increasing development of the pastoral, fishing and mining industries. I am only seeking general answers. Can he give some further details of what type of development is taking place or envisioned in the pastoral industry? Can he advise the Assembly what type of fishing development and what type of mining is taking place?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Youth Needs in the Northern Suburbs

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When will a committee formed at a public meeting in March to examine youth needs in the northern suburbs report back to a public meeting?

ANSWER

As I understand it, the committee was supposed to report back within 3 months. I was to attend a meeting last night with the Youth Advisory Forum and that information would have been given to me then by the delegates at that meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend because of another commitment. However, I will obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member at a later date.

Old Timers' Village for Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

I understand the plans for the rural old timers' village have been commented on by the Minister for Community Development and the Minister for Lands and Housing and they are now with the Minister for Health. Could he give me the views of the Department of Health regarding the establishment of an old timers' village in the rural area?

ANSWER

As the honourable member said, my colleagues and I have been working for some time on a proposal for the establishment of residential accommodation for people in the rural area, particularly retired and senior citizens. It is my intention to make a ministerial statement in the second week of this sittings in relation to this matter.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

The wet season is fast approaching. When the humidity rises, the palm leaf beetle will once again take to the skies. At what stage are tests on the virus to control the beetle and when are we likely to see the virus introduced into the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The question has taken some time to decide. We dispatched an officer to West Samoa to study the parasite that would in theory gobble up the problem.

Presently, the parasites are in quarantine in Queensland and specific tests are being undertaken on the parasites to see that they do not become themselves an unwanted problem. When that work has been finalised, we will go about getting final approval to release them in the Northern Territory.

ADAM Grain Receival Depot

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

The minister advised me yesterday that Adelaide River was being considered as a possible site for the northern grain receival depot of ADMA. As part of that proposal, would there be an upgrading of the grain receival depot that is already there or would a completely new facility be constructed?

ANSWER

The options that the honourable member refers to have been considered. It would be ultimately desirable for the township of Adelaide River if some other enterprise could be established. It would be to the commercial and economic benefit of the people in that town. Obviously, there are other realities that have to be taken into account and the decision will be taken after full consideration.

School Crossings

Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Following the remarks I made in the adjournment last night, is he in a position to advise the Assembly who has the responsibility for the monitoring and proper ordering of school crossings?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand from my inquiries this morning that these school crossings are in fact provided by local government who also provide the flags for them. However, as a result of my discussions with the Minister for Education, the head of his department and the Acting Commission of Police, we decided that the whole matter should be looked at. If there are to be crossings, we should determine whether there should be distinctions between them. After all, it seems as though it may have led to problems in that motorists could think that they need not be careful around school crossings at all hours whereas children might think that crossings are perfectly safe to use at all times. We are arranging for a paper to be prepared after input from the relevant authorities - such as the Department of Transport and Works, the Road Safety Council, the Education Department, the police and local government - to decide whether we should persist with this concept of school crossings or indeed simply have one type of pedestrian crossing which is inviolable at all times.

Exemptions from 2 km Law in Alice Springs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to an Alice Springs alderman's suggestion that the Alice Springs Town Council seek exemption under the 2 km law for 4 areas in Alice Springs and set up facilities for public drinkers. Will the government support such a proposal?

ANSWER

It is very pleasing to infer from the statement by the member for MacDonnell that he considers the 2 km legislation to be a good thing. All I can say is that I have not seen this proposal by an alderman of the Alice Springs Town Council but it is a matter for that council whether it chooses to adopt the proposal or not because the legislation of course devolves responsibility on councils to make decisions as to whether they wish to apply for these sorts

of exemptions. Therefore, the ball is fairly and squarely in the court of the Alice Springs council. If, however, it would like the government to hold its hand in the matter, it only has to write to us about it and we will be happy to share such of the odium as it feels may attach to the matter.

New Darwin Airport

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the latest estimate of the commencement date for the construction of a new terminal at Darwin Airport?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is an interesting question because, as honourable members know, the Minister for Civil Aviation, Wal Fife, was here for the federal Cabinet meeting in June. He and I, and his predecessor, Ralph Hunt, have had lengthy correspondence on this subject and many meetings. Until the appointment of Ian Sinclair as Minister for Defence recently, it appeared as though the Royal Australian Air Force base at Darwin would be upgraded to be able to have the capacity to handle a squadron of fighters. As a consequence of this, the civil terminal would have needed to be relocated and a new civil terminal constructed on the northern side of the RAAF base adjacent to Rapid Creek, and a general aviation area would have needed to be constructed not far distant from the civil terminal.

Honourable members may recall that Wal Fife in fact invited members of the press to come with him on a tour of the RAAF base. At that time, he unveiled sketches and plans of the proposed civil terminal and general aviation area and took members of the press on a tour of the various proposed sites. Shortly before then, Ian Sinclair was appointed Minister for Defence and a review of some of the activities of the Department of Defence was undertaken. As a consequence of that review, it appears that the Northern Territory will have a considerable infusion of defence commitment.

Honourable members would have noticed that in last night's federal budget an amount of \$4.18m towards the Tindal aerodrome was allocated under the heading of defence. At this stage, I dare not call it 'air base' but it appears very likely that Tindal will be upgraded and developed into quite a complex for use by the RAAF. At the same time, the Minister for Defence made it clear at his press conference a week or so ago when he had discussions with myself and the federal member, Grant Tambling, that the Darwin base would also have to be upgraded to enable it to handle RAAF fighter squadrons. I think that the new fighter is the F18 which is a very complex aircraft that requires a considerable amount of infrastructure to enable its requirements to be met. There is no doubt that Darwin RAAF base will have to be upgraded to enable it to handle these fighters. At present, a review is being undertaken which will decide exactly what infrastructure is needed and whether it will be the whole of the proposed stage 1 of the various contracts for the RAAF base before Tindal came to the forefront. Work has been halted for the time being on the civil terminal and also on the general aviation area. It may be that the whole of the south side of the complex may not be required by the RAAF. I am not able to make any commitments along those lines. Indeed, I do not really know. Obviously, the whole of the RAAF complex in Darwin is in the melting pot to the extent that what will be needed for the F18 and other aircraft using the RAAF base is being looked at again. Obviously, Darwin's requirements for an upgraded civil terminal and additional general aviation facilities are also being kept in mind.

All that would have been done this year in respect of the civil terminal was design work and a not very substantial amount of money would be required for that. I would expect the review to be completed within a couple of months

and design work can then proceed after various announcements have been made and after the matter has been referred to the Parliamentary Public Works Committee. I do not think that a new civil, international terminal for Darwin is in any doubt. I think that the location of that terminal is possibly in a state of flux. There is no doubt that the federal government and the minister concerned appreciate the absolute necessity for new general aviation facilities for Darwin.

Those are the problems that are being faced at the moment, Mr Speaker. I think that the Territory over all can only gain from what is going on. Therefore, I am trying to exercise patience in this matter because I believe that the establishment by the RAAF of a major base at Tindal will be a tremendous boost not only to Katherine but also to defence in the north of Australia. It is not for me to make announcements in this regard but the plans that the RAAF certainly would like to see for Tindal would really do much to make Australians in this part of the country feel a great deal more secure. I would ask honourable members to remain patient at least for a couple of months. I hope that, within that time, the respective Ministers for Defence and Civil Aviation will be able to advise us what exactly is going on.

Assistance for Meatworks at Katherine

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has an approach been made by the company proposing to establish a second meatworks at Katherine for financial assistance from the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any approach to establish additional meatworks in the Katherine area. I have been advised that the Urala meatworks was sold. It is being pulled down and reconstructed to make another meatworks there. I am not aware of any plans to obtain finance from any government source.

Bridging of Peel Creek

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the government any plans for bridging Peel Creek which is crossed by Spencer Road, a gazetted road, as some 30 to 40 residents have no access to the Stuart Highway during the wet season?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any proposal to put a bridge across Peel Creek. However, I will attempt to find out from the department and let the honourable member know today.

Subdivision at 34-mile

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I understand that there is a subdivision about to take place at the 34-mile, and there have been some hindrances either connected with subdivision and/or electricity reticulation. Could the honourable minister give me some information?

ANSWER

I am advised that there has been some difficulty in having electricity reticulated to a particular subdivision at the 34-mile area. A number of transformers had to be installed and they had considerable difficulty in properly earthing some of these. This is not an unusual problem in rural Darwin where there are technical problems with earthing electrical equipment from time to

time. However, I am advised that, as of yesterday, the earthing problems were fixed. Five transformers have been installed and the completion notice for the electrical reticulation has been issued. NTEC were testing the system yesterday with a view to energising it forthwith. A couple of applications outstanding for electricity in this area are expected to be connected tomorrow.

Motor Vehicle Registration

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it not true that people resident in the Territory for 3 months are required to register their vehicles in the Territory and is it not also true that those who refuse to do so deprive the Territory of legitimate revenue? Would the honourable minister undertake to investigate, at least in a general way, the complaints of constituents of mine who, having brought such matters to the notice of the police on several occasions, have observed no tangible results?

ANSWER

The answer is yes to all questions.

TDC Loan to Tennant Creek Meatworks

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is there an outstanding loan of \$1m in the Northern Territory Development Corporation for the Tennant Creek meatworks and, if so, is this loan being serviced to the satisfaction of the corporation?

ANSWER

There is a loan outstanding from the TDC to the proprietors of the Tennant Creek abattoirs. My understanding is that the loan is being serviced adequately as are most of the other loans that we have extended to the meatworks.

Standards of Service at Darwin Hostels

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the government intend to enforce the provisions of the tender documents covering the new management of 2 hostels in Darwin which required services to be maintained at former levels in view of clear evidence that standards in areas such as catering have diminished?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Housing Commission, which has charge of administration of the tender the honourable member refers to, has been monitoring the situation in regard to the hostels and in regard to the tender documents and their requirements. About 8 days ago, I asked for a report on whether any aspects of the tenders were being breached as far as the law was concerned and, if so, in what regard. The report that reached me following some inquiry was that the tenderers had not breached the contract at all and no action was required in that regard at that time.

Town Planning Controls for Darwin City Council

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is there a timeframe envisaged for the devolution of town planning controls for the Darwin City Council?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is one of those questions where one can very readily be accused of passing the buck. I doubt it has a great deal to do with the

minister responsible for local government. In fact, the whole operational side rests with my colleague, the Minister for Lands and Housing. I would like to state that I am reluctant to promote the cause of local government to take over the total functions of planning and building control in the municipalities. We have a relatively small population in the Northern Territory. Our population centres are very widely scattered and I believe that a continuity is required in standards and methodology in each of these areas. Previously I was Minister for Lands and Housing and I certainly was not anxious to see these functions totally handed over. As to what arrangements can be entered into by way of local government servicing some of the standard provisions which are basically under the umbrella of the responsible minister, we have not yet determined. It is on public record in many places that I am a great believer in the devolution of functions to local government. I do not believe that one should go pell-mell into devolution of functions on local government when that is not in the interests of all citizens.

Management of Territory's Prawn Resources

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In February of this year, the government appointed a fisheries consultant whose stated function was to develop a plan to provide for the effective management of the Territory's prawn resources. Could he advise the Assembly of the progress of that study and when a report will be available to this Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

Health Services to Aboriginal Communities

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer him to his suspended criticism to withdraw financial and administrative services from the locally-based health services at Papunya, Utopia and in the Pitjantjatjara homelands. Will he advise the Assembly of his intentions in this regard during these sittings?

ANSWER

The honourable member may or may not be aware that last weekend I had the opportunity to meet with the federal Ministers for Health and Aboriginal Affairs and the South Australian Minister for Health and representatives of the Western Australian government in relation to the problems of servicing Aboriginals in remote areas of central Australia. Some live on our side of the border and some live in Western Australia and South Australia. The provision of aerial medical flights, surveys and other services, such as pharmaceutical and other paramedic services, to these health groups is a total issue. It involves more than the cost of sending an aeroplane to a specific place. Let me expand that a little for the benefit of the honourable member. The department conducts remote health services in about 80 places in the Northern Territory. Two places where we do not are in central Australia. One of them is Papunya and the other is in the Pitjantjatjara homelands area in South Australia. The conduct of health services there is the prerogative of the South Australian government.

In cold hard reality, the taxpayers of the Northern Territory pay over \$1m a year to hospitalise South Australians in Northern Territory hospitals and it is my view that that account should fall to South Australia. South Australia is very good to us in some senses. It takes patients from the Northern Territory and we pay for them from time to time so it is my view that, when South Australian patients come to the Northern Territory, then that account should fall to South Australia. That premise has been accepted now by the South Australian government and we are moving forward on it. But it does

not stop there because we have independent health services operating in the Northern Territory, particularly in central Australia, some of which are quite removed from any influence or involvement of the Northern Territory Department of Health. This is fine because we are not in the business of competing with people who want to deliver health services. There is more than enough to be done without people involved in the area competing to do the things that need to be done. The Territory position was put to me when I first became responsible for health even before the executive responsibility was transferred that we should try and wind down the independent services because they had long-term difficulties that we would live to regret. My view at the time - and, in hindsight, I was wrong - was that we should let the people do their thing.

The department has compiled an information paper that I presented to the ministers on Saturday. It indicates that the independent health services per se have some difficulties that spill over to the rest of us. Let me just highlight, without putting a great deal of emphasis on it at all, the problems of Papunya. Over the last year, we have admitted to hospital in the Alice Springs area 77 children for the treatment of measles. There were many other children in the region who had measles but who did not need to be admitted to hospital. That is a matter of concern because we have vaccines today to prevent children from becoming so sick that they have to go to hospital. In central Australia, we have a situation where, of the 77 children admitted, 42 came from Papunya, 5 from the camp areas in Alice Springs and 17 came from the Pitjantjatjara homelands in South Australia. Without being emotional about the problem, it is not unreasonable to say that the hospitalisation cost of those patients would be in the order of \$15 000 to \$20 000. I might make the point that it is money that we could have well spent on preventative areas of health. I would rather keep the people out of the system than be spending a fortune on keeping them alive when they get into it. The reality is that, where we have a blip on the curve like that, it shows up in the Alice Springs Hospital. The paediatricians can detect if there is a problem in a community. Where that community is our responsibility, we can get in there quickly and overcome the problem that has developed, be it measles, malnutrition or whatever. In the case of the independent services, the problem is that we really do not have a capacity to become involved and prevent the people from becoming so ill as to require hospitalisation.

Mr Speaker, I have highlighted one aspect. Of course, the pain is only a small part of this whole business. The lifesaving mechanism comes at the end of all the trauma that should never have started in the first place. I guess that is what is irritating the people in the department who are really standing at the bottom of a cliff just catching people as they come over instead of building a rail around the top to stop them falling over in the first place. Let me highlight for members some of the other problems that were presented on Saturday and I might add that these were not known to me at all. The representatives from Western Australia painted a situation that happened last year in one of their small settlements in the north-east corner of the state. A baby was very ill with diarrhoea and a plane from Kalgoorlie was requested. The 2 planes at Kalgoorlie were out and were not available until the next day. We had an RFDS plane in the air that was diverted 467 miles at a cost of \$15.0 a mile to the Northern Territory government. The plane landed but the people would not get on the plane because it was going to Alice Springs and not to Kalgoorlie. Our plane came back to the Territory. The next day the Western Australians sent a plane from Kalgoorlie to this settlement to pick up the baby, which was deteriorating rapidly, and another patient. On the way home, the plane crashed as a result of a storm. Members might remember the story. Two pilots and a nursing passenger were lost. An Aboriginal was picked up. The baby lived through the crash but died the next day from diarrhoea. The Western Australians feel it is past any reasonable bounds. They too are looking for a solution to the problem.

The honourable member would probably be aware of a place called Kintore which is an outstation very close to the border. I believe it is a few miles north of Docker River. Kintore is an outstation of Papunya, I believe, and there are quite a few people there. There is a body of opinion, and I will not say from where, that Kintore ought to move into Western Australia and become someone else's problem. I think that is really putting our heads in the sand and not addressing ourselves to the reality that, firstly, there is no such thing as an independent service because we all rely on someone else. Secondly, if people are socially or geographically related to Alice Springs, Katherine or anywhere else, then we ought to devise a mechanism, setting aside state boundaries, to deliver care to the people and apportion the responsibility to the parties that are concerned on the basis of the responsibility that is involved.

This whole area is a minefield. Many people are now trying to work their way through it to devolve a system of delivery that will provide the best level of care and be in the best interests of the whole community. If the honourable member is interested, I would appreciate him giving me his views on where we are going. At the moment, a fair mix of people is involved. Three state governments and 2 federal departments are directly involved plus services such as the RFDS in Western Australia and the RFDS and St John Ambulance in the Territory.

I would like to advise the honourable member that the plane rides to which he alluded were but a very small part of the whole equation. For the time being, until the ministers meeting in October, we will continue our aerial evacuation system. I cannot give him any undertaking that it will continue after October. If the meeting breaks down in October, that will be sad and we will have to get together and find a way around any problems that occur, but it is my hope ...

Mr B. Collins: Have you read any good books lately?

Mr TUXWORTH: I am sorry that the honourable Leader of the Opposition finds the problem so boring, Mr Speaker. Really it is a very difficult one. It will take the resolve of many people to make it work.

Katherine High School

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that in the first half of this year there was a staff turnover of 13 at the Katherine High School to the great concern of parents, has the minister or his department investigated the reasons for these numerous resignations?

ANSWER

This has been a matter of considerable concern to the school and to parents and students. Instability as the result of rapid turnover of staff at any school is a highly undesirable thing. Mr Speaker, I think you were involved in the rather detailed discussions that the commissioner and the secretary of the department had with the school council and the principal. I cannot say that any definite resolution of the problem was reached at that meeting but the school council was certainly informed of the reasons. It is not a matter peculiar to Katherine; it is something we face throughout the Northern Territory, particularly with secondary schools. In far too many instances, people whom we recruit from down south are on a waiting list for a job in their home state. All too often, this information is not disclosed to the recruiting officer at the time. In fact, we are merely being used in the Northern Territory as a stopgap employment avenue. Very often, the person leaves his home address with the southern department and a job offer is subsequently made through the parents' address. When the teacher is subsequently informed of the acceptance of his job application in the southern state, which could be 6 months or 12 months or 6 weeks after coming to the Territory, the teacher quite often gives the principal of the school about 24 hours notice. He simply wanders in and gives his resignation. There is nothing that we can do about it as long as people who apply for jobs in the Northern Territory do not inform us that they are continuing applicants for jobs down south. We have 200 to 300 teachers a year who come to the Territory and leave. It is a very significant problem which will only be overcome by increasing the number of teachers who come from our own Northern Territory. It will be a long time, if ever, before we will be in a position to have sufficient locally-trained teachers to remove this problem. I agree with the people of Katherine. It is a serious problem. But I am afraid it is one that we do not have any ready answers to.

Restrictions on Access to Billabongs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Concern has been expressed by the people of Jabiru that Island Billabong, Jabiluka Billabong, Ja Ja Billabong, Leichardt Billabong and Magela Point have been fenced off and notices erected by the NLC? Can he tell me whether these restrictions on the people of Jabiru are to continue?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, concern has been expressed we are told by the honourable member for Tiwi by people at Jabiru township that Island Billabong, Jabiluka Billabong, Ja Ja Billabong, Leichardt Billabong and Magela Point have been fenced off and notices have been erected by the Northern Land Council presumably warning against trespass. The member for Tiwi has received complaints about this action as has the Office of Aboriginal Liaison. The background is that, on 28 June 1982, Senator Bernie Kilgariff, on behalf of the Governor-General, handed over the deed of grant for 6785 ha of land at Jabiluka to Toby Kangele representing the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land. This area comprised that part of the Jabiluka project area which was recommended by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner as a result of the Alligator River Stage 2 Land Claim. A small portion of the Ja Ja project area was not recommended by the

commissioner. The area granted does not represent all that part of the land claim which was recommended and a further deed of grant is likely to be handed over in due course.

The purpose of handing over part of the recommended area at that time was to formalise the right of the Northern Land Council and traditional owners to conclude negotiations with Pancontinental joint-venturers on the issue of a mining lease to the project area. The land in question - that is, the 6785 ha - is now Aboriginal land, administered by the Northern Land Council and subject to the entry provisions of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. It also comprises a mineral lease issued by the Minister for Mines and Energy and is subject to an agreement reached between the NLC, representing the traditional owners, and the joint-venturers. The implication of the change in status of the land is that the area concerned will become subject to dual control: that imposed because it is Aboriginal land and that imposed because it is a mining lease. Department of Lands officers have identified the Jabiluka, Ja Ja and Island Billabongs - all within the area recently granted. Magela Point does not appear on the maps and cannot be identified. A Leichardt Billabong falls within Kakadu National Park and therefore it is puzzling that the NLC would be interfering with that. The explanation is that Leichardt Billabong is a local name and it is most likely that all the billabongs in Magela Point fall within the 6785 ha recently granted as Aboriginal land. My officers have been informed by the manager of the Northern Land Council that part of the agreement with the joint-venturers is that notices be placed on all tracks within the mining lease which depart from the main Oenpelli Road informing travellers that this is now Aboriginal land and departure from the main road is prohibited. There is also mention of the fenced areas in the agreement and an accompanying map shows this as being along that part of the mineral lease boundary which abuts the main Oenpelli Road and Ja Ja. This would prevent access to the area east of the road within the project area but I doubt if the billabongs are on that side as it is getting close to the escarpment. I think it could be assumed that the NLC would be within the letter of the law in undertaking the work which is the subject of concern by the Jabiru residents and, no doubt, other visitors to the area.

Nevertheless, the land council indulges in double standards. It is forever preaching the need for consultation if the support of the Aboriginals is to be expected by governments but it apparently considers that the feelings of non-Aboriginals mean nothing and their support is unimportant. It is not hard to understand the reaction of the people of Jabiru who have for several years been able to relax, picnic and fish on these beautiful billabongs when they are suddenly confronted with fences and provocative notices without any prior notification or consultation. It smacks of an arrogance which is becoming increasingly evident and which is alienating reasonable people who have wanted in the past to establish good relations with their Aboriginal neighbours. The public relations aspect of this exercise seems, in my opinion, to have been very ineptly handled by the land council.

Hospital Administration

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In this Assembly some time ago, he said: 'All the chief executive officers in our hospitals are doctors. We have not had a situation in the past where a hospital was not administered by medical personnel and it would be the policy of this government to continue that practice'. Can the minister explain the Gazette notice of 30 July appointing a person who is not a medical practitioner to be in charge of Gove District Hospital and does he intend this new practice to extend to other hospitals in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

This matter falls within the prerogative of the secretary of the department. I would expect that there is an explanation. I am happy to take that up with the secretary and obtain an explanation for the honourable member.

Ablution Block for Karguru Bush Camp

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What stage has planning reached for the provision of an ablution block east of the present Karguru bush camp at Tennant Creek as agreed to by the local council and government authorities and when will the project be completed?

ANSWER

I do not have details that the honourable gentleman seeks. I will certainly obtain the information and inform him later.

Sports Complex in Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the minister give details of any proposal between the Northern Territory government and the Katherine Corporation regarding the possible purchase of a sports complex in Katherine owned by D. and K. Facaro?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was approached in February by the council to have a look at the facility built by Mr Facaro which at that time had been undergoing an unprofitable period. Mr Facaro had other businesses in the Territory and was finding it a bit hard to maintain them all. He had offered this facility to the council. At the time, the council was not really in favour of taking up the offer and of course the matter lapsed. Last week, I received a representation from the Mayor of Katherine who had spoken to me and followed that up with a letter saying that the council had investigated the Facaro proposal again and now thought that it could be interested in taking over the facility if there was some government assistance in purchasing it. The Mayor of Katherine went away and she was supposed to come back to me with some final details of the cost. At that stage, it was in the order of some \$700 000. She seemed to think that the figure she was putting forward might not be the correct figure, and needed a little bit more time to establish the correct figure that Mr Facaro wanted because there were building costs and some leasing costs regarding equipment within the building. She asked me whether the Northern Territory government would be interested in providing some financial assistance, presumably on a 2 to 1 basis. I told her at the time that I would have to wait until she confirmed the figure Facaro wanted and, once we had the established figure, I would only be too pleased to discuss it with my Cabinet colleagues in the budget context.

There was the announcement in the federal budget on Tuesday that Tindal will be upgraded and many millions of dollars spent to provide facilities for a fighter squadron. I believe that the council's interest in this matter certainly demands some attention by the government because we are building indoor sports stadiums in Darwin and looking at providing some indoor facility in Alice Springs. In Tennant Creek, a study will be commissioned on indoor, recreational facilities. It would only be a matter of time before the Katherine council, unlike the Darwin City Council, will want to provide some kind of facility for its residents. I will certainly canvass the proposal with my Cabinet colleagues and, in the meantime, obtain further information from Mayor Davies and her aldermen of their intention because I believe it has to be almost a unanimous decision of the council to proceed with that particular facility. I believe

that it involves some \$700 000 at this stage and, if we were to agree to a 2-to-1 subsidy, it would mean a \$500 000 grant from the Northern Territory government and \$180 000 from the Katherine council, which would certainly give the council some impetus in that recreation area. Of course, if Tindal is to proceed as it appears it will, in another couple of years, we will need those recreation facilities in Katherine. Of course, the townspeople will be asking for those facilities and it could end up costing the government a lot more. I will investigate the matter further on your behalf. Once the council comes back with the final information, I will take the matter up further with my Cabinet colleagues.

Median Opening in Telegraph Terrace

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

Has he considered my request to provide a median opening in Telegraph Terrace to allow access for traffic into the swimming pool car-park area?

ANSWER

I have received representations from the honourable member for Alice Springs regarding the problem. It is a problem because people coming up Telegraph Terrace are dropping children over the road from the swimming pool and letting their children negotiate Telegraph Terrace to get to the pool. I believe that the council is working out some kind of engineering plan to provide improved parking facilities in that area. I believe that, once funds are available and the council is in agreement, then we will proceed to open the median strip at that point.

Mosquito Eradication in Ilpapa Swamp

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Pursuant to an undertaking given in the Assembly during the last sittings, has the minister investigated the honourable member for Stuart's suggestion for dumping rubble in the Ilpapa swamp as a measure to assist mosquito eradication and, if so, what are the results of his investigations?

ANSWER

Several things have happened in that area. They have burnt off certain areas of the swamp to try to reduce the mosquito problem. I must be honest and tell the honourable member for MacDonnell that, at this stage, the department is still investigating the proposal to dump rubble in that area.

Eastern Seaboard Shipping Service to Darwin

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Most honourable members will be aware that the Darwin Trader is likely to finish her run to Darwin in November. Could he advise what arrangements are being made for an interim shipping service between November and February when the new facility will be available?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the outset, I will advise all honourable members that, in the federal budget, \$1.5m has been made available for the continuation of an eastern seaboard Darwin shipping service. I understand that the Darwin Trader will remain on the run until such time as our railroad is commissioned and in operation in the Darwin port. However, I believe that the Australian National Shipping Line is investigating an alternative vessel to make the run. At this stage, it is not sure which vessel will be used but, as I understand it, it has probably 3 or 4 vessels that would be suitable and could be put on the eastern seaboard service. Now that the federal government has made the commitment for

further funding of \$1.5m, officers of the Department of Transport and Construction and ANL will take this matter up. I believe that ANL has said that the Darwin Trader could be a good vessel to ply between the eastern seaboard and New Zealand on certain types of cargo. Due to the downturn in the shipping industry on the eastern seaboard it could select one of several ships to provide a fortnightly service. We are asking for a fortnightly service and are very confident that we will be able to convince ANL that freight cargoes will be available as a result of development in the Northern Territory.

Management of Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it still his intention to transfer the management of Casuarina Coastal Reserve from the Conservation Commission to the Darwin City Council?

ANSWER

Not at this time, Mr Speaker.

Tenancy System for Housing Commission Accommodation

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will government departments represented in remote localities such as Nhulunbuy be allowed to return to a system of head tenancy of Housing Commission accommodation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government's policy has been to rationalise the dual system of housing that we have in the Territory at present and have had for many years. I refer to the public service housing list and the public housing and construction program. Announcements have been made about amalgamating those lists over a period of time. However, there will be a continuing need, particularly in areas outside Darwin, for replacement officer housing to be identified separately and held separately for key officers of government departments. Those houses will probably be vested in the various departments concerned. There will be certain conditions attaching to them. They will not normally be for sale because, if the occupant leaves the job or leaves the town, accommodation will be required immediately for a replacement officer. Therefore, sales will be restricted. I advise the honourable member that, increasingly, departments will identify their specific needs. Once those needs are accepted by government, allocations will be made.

Identity Cards

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Recently the topic of identity cards has been raised in the media. Has Cabinet discussed the possibility of introducing identity cards into the Northern Territory and, if so, what has been the outcome of those discussions?

ANSWER

Cabinet has never discussed as far as I can recall the introduction of identity cards for citizens of the Northern Territory. Most of us are so notorious that we require no such identification. On a serious note, I personally would be disquieted by such a proposal. I realise it has advantages for people who are in the business of looking after credit lines in respect of credit cards. I dare say, if one had a licence that had a photograph on it, it could be an advantage in identification purposes for banks and retailers where one was attempting to charge something to a credit card. I would personally have a feeling of unease - I would not say it was grave unease - at the introduction of such a system. I realise that, in some countries, everyone

carries an identification card. In some countries, everyone carries a number that he has to quote. In the United States, everyone has a social security number. They seem to get by. This country has not found it necessary to bring in a system of identity cards. I would not do anything to further the idea. Let me put it that way.

Foreshore Policy

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the government announce its final foreshore policy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government's foreshore policy which it introduced as an interim policy some time back now will be going to Cabinet very shortly and I hope to make a statement on the subject during the second week of this sittings.

The honourable member for Millner has been critical in the press that the government has been tardy in this matter. Can I just remind him that, at the time that the government announced an interim policy and put on display that interim policy, we also announced that the foreshores would be protected broadly along the lines of the policy until such time as the matter was thoroughly reviewed and until we had time to assess public input. Indeed, I will be recommending some modifications to Cabinet in that regard and will be announcing the government's decision in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, the Planning Authority and the Department of Lands have been instructed for several months now not to entertain applications for development proposals on the foreshores as indicated by the plan that was exhibited. I do not see that the delay in this matter has been in any way detrimental. The situation is frozen, as it were, as far as the foreshores are concerned. I am not sure that it is holding up any development applications. Certainly, the foreshores are not under threat during the period of exhibition. Quite clearly it is in the government's and the Northern Territory's interests to have this matter thoroughly examined and exhibited so that we make decisions which are proper, having regard to the fact that, once such a policy is adopted, it will very likely be in force for a very long time and will have a significant effect on the way Darwin foreshores develop.

Armed Holdup of Nursing Sister at Maningrida

Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can he advise the circumstances surrounding the recent armed holdup of a nursing sister at Maningrida.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, on 1 August 1982 at 10.45 pm at the Maningrida nurses quarters, an Aboriginal male person aged 16 years entered the room of a nursing sister residing at the quarters. It is said that he pointed an unloaded .44 calibre rifle at the nursing sister to force her to supply him with food. It is further alleged that he had been sniffing petrol prior to the commission of the offence. He was a resident at Maningrida and was not in urgent need of food. He was apprehended by Maningrida police and charged with a number of offences arising out of the incident: assault with intent to rob whilst armed, being unlawfully on premises, aggravated assault, possessing a firearm but not holding a shooter's licence, and being harmed with an offensive weapon. He appeared before the court at Maningrida on 9 August and was remanded to appear at Darwin. He appeared before the Children's Court at Casuarina on 10 August and a plea of guilty to the charge of assault with intent to rob whilst armed was entered. He was again remanded in custody and is due to appear before the Children's Court at Casuarina for sentence on Tuesday 24 August 1982.

Camping in Bynoe Harbour Area

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He is aware that people are camping in what can only be described as shacks around the Bynoe Harbour area. Is his department preparing a plan of management for that area so that any progress will be orderly and for the benefit of all?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has been concerned for some time at the growth of illegal structures in the Bynoe Harbour area which have been put up willy-nilly over a period of years by persons frequenting the area on weekends for the purposes of fishing. It has been of some concern because the structures have become more and more substantial. I believe now some of them are worth considerable money yet are sitting on vacant Crown land and, in some cases, on sand dunes. This causes us concern. This development demonstrates a need for land to be released in this area so that people can formalise their occupation, not where they are at present but in a satisfactory location. Quite clearly, the community has established in this way in frustration at not having any alternative access to facilities in the Bynoe Harbour area. In this regard, we felt that it would be quite unpopular and probably unwarranted simply to move in with government powers to tear such shacks down. We are now working on a plan to have some land in the area released so that it can be sold and proper access provided into the area for the increasing numbers of Darwinites who are using Bynoe Harbour as a recreational facility. There are certainly some very nice beaches there and excellent fishing. These areas will be formalised and people will be able to build structures under some form of control. At that time, we will require the buildings that are there now illegally to be demolished.

Control of Casuarina Coastal Reserve

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Given that an offer was made to the Darwin City Council for the takeover of the management of Casuarina Coastal Reserve, what are the reasons for now withdrawing the offer?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Casuarina Coastal Reserve was offered to the council on certain conditions some weeks ago. The offer was conditional upon a satisfactory memorandum of understanding being negotiated so that the actual management of the reserve would remain with the Conservation Commission for some time. However, that offer was made before the council decided that it would not apply for any exemptions under the proposed amendments to the Summary Offences Act or the Liquor Act. As a result of that decision being taken by the council, the government decided to withdraw its offer for the time being. The Conservation Commission has a great deal yet to do at Casuarina and the timing of the offer was probably in advance of actual requirements. In due course, when the Conservation Commission has completed its work, no doubt the government will see if the council is prepared to accept the offer. I might say that I had a very guarded response from the Lord Mayor to the offer. I dare say that, in due course, the offer will be renewed.

Betting Systems

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Has the government investigated alternative betting systems such as TAB which may assist the 2 Territory turf clubs which are at present facing extreme financial difficulties.

ANSWER

The government is continually keeping a range of matters under review in regard to taxation and incentives to industry and sport. Certainly, we are continually monitoring racing and gaming. At present, the race clubs in the Northern Territory are receiving, if I recall correctly, 100% of the funds that are raised by the government through bookmakers' fees and turnover taxes.

Undoolya Connector Road

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

Is there any change to the commencement date of the work on the connector road between Scott Terrace Bridge and Undoolya Road as predicted last sittings?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had forewarning of this question. The specific item is included as a component of the Sadadeen residential subdivision which is currently in the construction phase. The survey and final design work for the Undoolya connector road is scheduled to commence when the negotiations between the Department of Lands, the Central Land Council and the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority concerning the alignment are completed. I understand the contract is to be let and work commence approximately 14 weeks after the clearance for the proposed line has been obtained. The construction of this road is expected to be completed within 32 weeks of the commencement.

National Aborigines Day

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Would the Chief Minister consider the granting of a Northern Territory public holiday on National Aborigines Day which falls on 9 July of each year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am pleased that the honourable member has given me this opportunity to talk about a subject that is fairly dear to my heart and that is productivity. This country is in a very poor way at the moment because of lack of productivity. We see a general strike in Queensland at the moment in relation to working hours in the public sector. Whilst I might not perhaps want to see any strikes develop in this part of the world, the fact of the matter is that all Australians should realise that the country is in a pretty sick economic condition and it has been in a sick condition because, for too long, we have pampered ourselves with protection of industries that just cannot stand up in the open market, and we have recreated thousands of jobs ...

Mr Bell: That is not answering the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Any further questions?

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When does he expect to announce management arrangements for the East Point Reserve and adjacent land which has been under consideration for some time now?

ANSWER

I will obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member during the course of these sittings. It is certainly a matter of interest to most Darwinites and it is a matter in which I have taken a personal interest in so far as boundaries and future arrangements for staff are concerned. I would like to collect the information together and provide it in the course of the sittings.

Under-age Employment of Aboriginal Children

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I am aware that he has put out a press statement on this but I think it might be of use to make a statement to the Assembly on it. Could he report to the Assembly on the results of the investigation carried out by officers of his department into the recent allegations by the head teacher of Lake Nash School about under-age employment of Aboriginal children?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, when this matter first came to attention, I made a statement in the Assembly and, if I recall correctly, that was some 9 months ago. The circumstances could well have changed by now but the facts of the matter, as I understood them at that time, were that both children were of compulsory school age. The position now is that one is not and the other is. The parents live in Queensland. As you are aware, Mr Speaker, the station in question is very close to the Queensland border. The difficulty we face is this. In order to give dispensation under our Education Act for them to work, which I would do almost automatically in circumstances such as these, an application must be received from the parents. However, as they are within a Queensland jurisdiction, they are not in a position to make application to the Northern Territory minister for dispensation for the children. The only options are to arrest the children at the border and turn them back and tell them to go back to their parents - which is not in the children's interest because they will not get any education where they are anyway, - or hi-jack them to Lake Nash School - which is 200 km from where they wish to live or work - or place them in some sort of custody and bring them across to Kormilda. As you know, Mr Speaker, the children would be distraught if we did that. They would run away and be at far greater risk than they are working under the supervision of the station manager.

Mr Speaker, it is one of those situations which is less than satisfactory but it is a decision that was taken by the Department of Community Development in consultation with the Departments of Education and Law as being in the best interests of the children. One of the lads is now over the age for compulsory school attendance which would mean that, if we were to do anything, we would not only separate the children from proximity to their parents but also separate brother from brother. Certainly this would not be in the interests of the children concerned. The best solution is for us to contact the parents through Queensland agencies and perhaps seek some form of formal exemption from education for them, if for no other reason than to comply with the strictest letter of the law.

ADMA Efforts to Market Horticultural Produce

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

A very important aspect of any commercial venture is marketing. What efforts is the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority making to market Northern Territory horticultural produce?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member did give me some notice of this question. The ADMA organisation has been most successful in marketing the Territory's horticultural produce locally, interstate and overseas. As a result, there has been a strong demand. The problem now is not so much one of marketing but more one of assisting growers to meet demands. To date, a number of local, interstate and overseas promotions have taken place resulting in strong inquiries for our produce. These inquiries have been aided by the good response from Territory growers to a series of seminars hosted by ADMA to give advice on post harvest treatment, handling and presentation.

Due to the efforts of ADMA and a number of successful long-time Territory farmers, Northern Territory rockmelons are being marketed in Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane and negotiations are proceeding for shipment to Tasmania and New Zealand. Rockmelons supplied to Brisbane are currently achieving prices up to double that of Queensland fruit simply because of quality and presentation. Territory tomatoes are being supplied to the Adelaide market and are achieving premium prices, again because of quality and presentation. Papaws and cucumbers are also being shipped to Adelaide and strong inquiries are being received for more zucchinis. Territory rockmelons have received good response in South-east Asia. The placing of trial shipments has resulted in rapid recognition of the Territory as a source of high-quality produce. Numerous inquiries are being received by ADMA from interstate for a wide variety of products and, on the local market, Territory produce is being promoted and further promotions are planned. The next one will be later this month at Coles New World Casuarina. At the moment, at the peak of the season, some 35% of local demand is being met, although it must be borne in mind that, averaged over a full year, the Territory is still only supplying 10% of its own requirements. It is hoped that this overall supply figure will be substantially upgraded over the next 3 years. Clearly, these promotional efforts have been well established and are successful. The problem now is not so much one of more marketing being required but more advice to ensure that we do not run into problems with supply.

Security of Old-timers' Homes in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that, on the night of 6 August, 3 cottages were broken into in the old-timers' homes in Alice Springs? Would he therefore agree to assist the old-timers' homes with security arrangements to improve the safety of the badly frightened residents?

ANSWER

I was not aware that 3 old-timers' cottages had been broken into on 6 August, but I will bring the matter to the attention of the Commissioner of Police and ask him to speak to the responsible authorities at the old-timers' homes.

Territory's Bee Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I was delighted to hear his last answer so totally contradict his previous statement. The minister gave the Assembly an undertaking at the last sittings that he would take action to protect the Territory's bee industry. Could he advise the Assembly what action he has taken?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

Water Division Recommendation on Septic Tanks in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand a meeting was held a few weeks ago between Water Division officers and some people in the rural area. At that meeting, the stated intention of the Water Division officers was that a blanket recommendation would be put forward that all the people in the rural area would have to re-install septic tanks which could place great financial burden on many of the people. Is that a fact?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unable to confirm the likely outcome of the meeting. However, I would ask that the honourable member write me a letter. I will certainly try to find out what is going on. With regard to septic tanks, most members would be aware that they come under the province of the Minister for Health, and she should direct any further questions regarding that to him.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that, under the terms of the mortgage debenture between the Buntine group of companies and the Northern Territory Development Corporation, the appointment of a receiver-manager renders the money guaranteed by the NTDC immediately payable?

Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, if I might have the call.

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable Chief Minister.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): Mr Speaker, the matter of the Buntine group of companies is presently subject to litigation before the Northern Territory Supreme Court. The whole matter of the Northern Territory Development Corporation's guarantee to the Buntine group of companies has been referred to me for my opinion on what action should be taken to protect the government's interests. As Attorney-General, I ask honourable members to direct questions of a legal nature, such as the question the honourable member for Sanderson just posed, to myself.

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that, under the terms of the mortgage debenture between the Buntine group of companies and the Northern Territory Development Corporation, the appointment of a receiver-manager renders the money guarantee by the NTDC immediately payable?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Buntine group of companies has been experiencing liquidity difficulties and creditor pressure for some time. The records in the Registrar of Companies Office disclose that the companies in the group - Buntine Roadways Pty Ltd, Buntine Terminals Pty Ltd, Buntine Freightways of Australia Pty Ltd and NT Trailer Sales Pty Ltd - are all registered in the Territory and have common directorships. The directors are Roy Charles Willoughby, Mark Hugh Newham, North Star Holdings Pty Ltd and James Roland Dalziel. East Kimberly Transport Pty Ltd, a subsidiary of Buntine Transport Pty Ltd, is incorporated in Western Australia and has the same directors. The companies were originally controlled by Mr Noel Buntine and members of his family but control passed to the present directors in about May 1981. A notice under section 222 of the Companies Act demanding payment of a debt was given by Transport Tyre Sales Pty Ltd on 9 August 1982. The ANZ Bank, which has first priority security on assets of the group, appointed a receiver-manager on 23 August last. The receiver is attempting to establish the true financial circumstances of the group and, until a full evaluation of the books of accounts, inspection of assets and substantiation of liability have been undertaken, the receiver is unable to advise the course of action to be pursued. Preliminary investigations by Garraway and Partners, Chartered Accountants of Darwin, prior to the appointment of a receiver indicated that there were unsecured creditors in the order of \$2m in addition to the secured borrowings from the ANZ Bank, ESANDA and Citibank, and lease commitments to Citicorp and ESANDA. The application for the winding up of the group of companies taken out by Transport Tyre Sales Pty Ltd is listed for hearing on 9 September next. I am informed that, in evaluating the action to be taken, the receiver is examining the prospect of the sale of the companies as a going concern and the sale of the various assets of those companies. It would appear that, if a compulsory winding up proceeds, assets remaining after secured creditors have been satisfied will not be sufficient to pay unsecured creditors.

The Northern Territory Development Corporation executed a guarantee in favour of Citibank intending to support advances to Buntine Roadways Pty Ltd. The advances were to be for the purposes of working capital, refinancing leasing

contracts and business development. The corporation has security by way of second ranking charges of assets of each of the companies in the group, excluding real estate. It holds a guarantee from North South Holdings Pty Ltd and personal guarantees from Messrs Willoughby, Newham and Dalziel. It also holds a charge of assets of Transport and Property Holdings Pty Ltd which is the shareholder of all the shares in the group.

Mr Noel Buntine is recorded as having a charge over the shares of that company. In addition to its charge, the ANZ Bank has mortgages on the real estate owned by the companies and its securities rank ahead of the Development Corporation to the extent of the first \$1m. I understand though that the bank is owed about \$800 000.

Citibank has informed the corporation that the advance of \$750 000 has been fully drawn and the corporation's solicitors have written to Citibank requesting the dates and the amounts of the advances provided and to whom the advances were made. When this information is received, the corporation will be able to assess the extent of its contingent liabilities in the event - and I would ask the honourable member to listen to this - that Citibank calls upon it under the terms of the guarantee. The corporation has had notices of appointment prepared to enable it to inspect the company books of account and other records and to enable it to fully explore the extent of its liability under the guarantee. Mr Speaker, these inspections are proceeding.

Until such time as the receiver-manager and the corporation have established the true financial position, the extent of any exposure of the corporation is unknown. The book value of assets appears to be sufficient to satisfy any liability the corporation may incur. But what those assets will realise in all the circumstances is another matter. The corporation continues to be actively involved with the ANZ Bank and other interests with a view to determining the true position and to take such steps as may be necessary to protect itself. Whether or not the corporation will be called upon to meet the whole or any part of its guarantee commitment and, if so, the extent to which it could reasonably expect to cover its liability from assets, the subject of the charge and from the personal guarantees are not yet known. The corporation, Mr Speaker, is presently considering legal advice that it has received concerning its guarantee and securities and the courses of action that are open to it.

Health Services at Ti Tree Homestead

Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of recent press reports indicating trouble at Ti Tree in central Australia, can he advise what steps, if any, his department is taking to provide health services to the residents at Ti Tree Homestead in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, much has been said in the last couple of days in the press about the situation at Ti Tree. At this stage, the department has kept a very low profile on it because I believe that the situation is not as bad as some people would have us believe. For the benefit of honourable members, I would like to give them the background on Ti Tree Station. It is a private station run by Aborigines. The Health Department has had an involvement on Ti Tree for about 17 years. In fact, the area has been serviced by people such as Dr Whittenbury and Dr Kirke for at least 15 years and there has been a very close relationship between the department and the people on the station over that time.

Mr Speaker, I would also make the point that the station itself has a small clinic. It could only be regarded as humble. But it also has 2 Aboriginal health workers in situ on the station who are employees of the Department of

Health and who rotate in and out of the health workers training school in Alice Springs on a regular basis, as do all health workers in the southern end of the Territory.

Mr Speaker, the situation at Ti Tree is also supported by the presence of the clinic there which is staffed by 3 sisters. Although Ti Tree itself is very small and does not warrant a staff of that size, the mobile run from Ti Tree is pretty comprehensive and most of the activities of the lakes are taken up by the rural work. One of the sisters has been on our payroll for at least 10 years and the other 2 have been with us for some 3 or 4 years. All are regarded as very competent members of the staff and the community.

A situation arose a couple of weeks ago where, undoubtedly, there was a difference of opinion or a conflict between some people on the station and some members of our staff. As a result, a letter was received from legal aid asking the department not to go to Ti Tree anymore. It said that sisters were not required to visit the station by the people there and that there was a sister working on the station at all times. I understand that the sister alluded to, who would be available to work on the station, was a Mrs Edwards who is the wife of a gentleman working there. As far as we have been able to ascertain, Mr Edwards is not a trained sister and is not competent to call herself a trained sister in the Northern Territory. As far as the department is concerned, she would not qualify for the rural subsidy that is paid to trained sisters in remote areas. Nevertheless, if the people at Ti Tree do not wish the department to go there, that wish will be respected.

Mr Speaker, as a result of the situation that developed there, Dr Kirke in Alice Springs instructed the girls not to go to Ti Tree on the regular visits but to be certain they were available for emergencies. The people from Ti Tree who came to the clinic would be able to have treatment at the clinic. Over a period of a couple of weeks, several members of the community did present themselves at the Ti Tree town clinic for treatment.

Mr Speaker, I have been concerned that such a relationship should exist. Last week, I took the opportunity to visit Ti Tree Station and talk with the people. Regrettably, most of my time was taken up talking to Mr and Mrs Edwards. During the course of my interview with Mr and Mrs Edwards, they saw fit to make some serious allegations against the integrity and professionalism of the staff. These matters were of such concern that I believe they should be placed in writing and investigated. Mr and Mrs Edwards have promised that they will put their complaints in writing and, when I receive them, I will ask Dr Fleming to investigate the matters. The department is happy to provide services to the people at Ti Tree Station on the basis of need and desire. The matters that have been put before me by Mr and Mrs Edwards are serious and will be investigated fully.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Given the obvious conflict between the role of Mr Richard Allert as a member of the NTDC which is owed some \$750 000 from the sale of the Buntine group of companies and his partnership in the firm Allert Heard and Co who have been appointed receivers and managers of that group of companies, will the minister remove this conflict by asking Mr Allert to step down from his position with the NTDC?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it was not the government's decision to appoint Allert Heard as receiver for the Buntine group. We do appoint members to the NTDC of course. I think that these people are professionals. I do not see that there would be any conflict in respect of that appointment.

Fog Bay Closure

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the Assembly on the progress of negotiations for the closure of Fog Bay and the establishment of a fishery west of the Wessels?

ANSWER

Just before this Assembly adjourned the week before last, we had an interesting debate in relation to fishing and the Northern Territory economy. I was interested to hear the views of honourable members in that debate because some of their views bear little contact with the reality of the fishing industry in the Northern Territory at present. After the Assembly rose, I travelled to Perth where I met on the Friday morning with the Western Australian Premier and with the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Dick Old. I presented to them personally a submission in support of the west of the Wessels fishery which I had prepared and dispatched earlier to them through the mail. Both ministers were pleased at that time to assure me of their support. Consequently, after leaving Perth, and with their approval, the approval of the Queensland Premier and the approval of the federal minister, I met with Directors of Fisheries from the Commonwealth, from Queensland and from Western Australia in Brisbane on the Monday morning. Also present at that meeting were my colleague, the honourable Minister for Primary Production, and the Director of Fisheries in the Northern Territory, Mr Dick Slack-Smith.

Mr Speaker, we, of course, ran into much tougher weather when we actually encountered the officials who are, it seems to me, fairly determined to do all they can to protect the interests of their states. But as I pointed out to those gentlemen in speaking to the Northern Territory's submission, the facts of the matter are that, in each of the last 3 years, approximately the same tonnage of prawns has been landed out of the northern prawn fishery, and yet, in the same period, the number of boats working in the fishery has increased quite dramatically. Obviously, therefore, the northern fishery as it presently exists is not capable of providing a living, or even sustenance, for the number of boats that are now using it and there is a further prospect of vessels entering the fishery because there are a number of licence holders who have not yet taken up the option of fishing in the northern Australian prawn fishery.

Mr Speaker, at the meeting in Brisbane we were successful in reaching agreement with the directors of fisheries on the closure in effect of the Fog Bay area by a technical arrangement which will limit the size of the nets which are able to be used in the prawn fishery off Fog Bay. I would point out that the fishery itself is not in Fog Bay; it is off Fog Bay. It is beyond the 3-mile territorial limit. We have succeeded at present in coming to an arrangement on that point which will go forward I understand to the meeting of the Australian Fisheries Council which is a meeting of all fisheries ministers throughout Australia. That, I think, is being held in Hobart some time in October and I expect at that time there will be a formal agreement or endorsement of the closure of Fog Bay. The various technical details in relation to the regulation of that fishery are to be determined in the meantime.

As for the west of the Wessels fishery, I made it clear to the directors that the Northern Territory was determined to have its way and that the west of the Wessels fishery was going to come into being whether the fishing industry liked it or not. Quite frankly, Mr Speaker, the directors of fisheries are under intense pressure as you will have realised in view of the media coverage that occurred in the Northern Territory during my absence when fisheries organisations in Queensland and I think Western Australia leapt into the attack against the Northern Territory for daring to propose that we have our own limited entry fishery west of the Wessels. These people involved in the fishing industry are going to maintain that it is better in the interests of the

Australian fishing industry to continue with the fishery extending from Cape York to the Western Australian border.

However, I travelled to Cairns on Monday afternoon and in Cairns I met with representatives of the major Australian prawn fishing companies. I think there are about 10 of them. There was a meeting of about 15 to 20 people held in Cairns, which I was able to speak to. I was subjected to intense questioning by the representatives of these fishing companies who obviously have no liking whatsoever for our proposal and have, to some extent I think, been caught napping. However, they will now, no doubt, bring considerable political pressure to bear and, therefore, the fight is far from over. If these fishing companies say that our proposal is not a good one for the rational management of the north Australian fishery, then I want to know from them what is. I have given them 3 weeks to provide me with a submission in writing as to why the Northern Territory should not proceed further with its proposal for the closure or limited entry to the fishery west of the Wessels.

I should receive this submissions with 3 weeks of last Tuesday. There will be a further meeting of directors of fisheries with my colleague and myself before the Australian Fisheries Council meeting in Hobart. I am not quite sure of the timing of that as it will depend on a number of other events. I told the directors of fisheries that the Northern Territory is determined to proceed with this proposal and I conveyed the same message in exactly the same terms to the representatives of the big fishing companies. Although I do not expect that the proposal will necessarily come into operation within the next 3 months, or even the next 6 months, I am hopeful that, by maintaining fairly constant pressure, we should be able to bring it into operation within the reasonably foreseeable future.

NTDC Guarantee to North Clay Industries

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he inform the Assembly of the nature of the guarantee made by Northern Territory Development Corporation to the company North Clay Industries on 29 July 1982 to the value of \$2.1m in conjunction with a merchant bank known as Amrol Australia? Can he inform the Assembly of the nature of the security demanded by the NTDC in relation to this guarantee of \$2.1m?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is not prepared to provide that information.

Handover of Land to NT Pensioners Association

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Some time ago approval was given for land next to Tracy Lodge to be handed over to the Northern Territory Pensioners Association. Is he able to inform me when title to that land will be handed over to the Northern Territory Pensioners Association?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member for Port Darwin a specific date at this stage. However, I will attempt to obtain that information and pass it on to him. I can assure him that, some time ago, the government set aside land next to Tracy Lodge in the heart of Darwin for an expansion of Tracy Lodge in future years. It is part of the government's overall campaign to accommodate the needs of the aged in the Territory. I can assure him that that land is under no threat. I will investigate the procedure for issuing title and advise him of a date.

Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Were the company accounts of Transport Property Holdings audited before the NTDC committed itself to give a guarantee of \$750 000 in favour of Citibank?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Chief Minister, as Attorney-General, has indicated to the Assembly that questions of this nature at this time should be directed to him.

Ms D'ROZARIO: Mr Speaker, may I draw the attention of the honourable minister to the provisions of section 19A of the Territory Development Act under which he sets the terms and conditions of the guarantee and signs the guarantee in these circumstances.

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable Chief Minister.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): As honourable members of the opposition know, there is litigation pending in respect of this whole matter and the Northern Territory Development Corporation's position may well be prejudiced by answers given to questions in this Assembly. Therefore, at the beginning of question time, I did give honourable members opposite the courtesy of inviting them to ask questions of me in relation to legal matters. Since that time, we have seen honourable members of the opposition attempt to prejudice the Northern Territory Development Corporation's position in any litigation by the asking of 3 questions of a legal nature to other ministers.

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, I redirect my question to the Chief Minister. Were the accounts of Transport Property Holdings audited before the NTDC committed itself to a guarantee of \$750 000 in favour of Citibank?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the original guarantee from the Northern Territory Development Corporation was for the companies that made up the Buntine group which I spelled out in some detail in my earlier answer to the question of the honourable member for Sanderson. If she had listened to my answer to that question, she would not have needed to ask this question at all.

Daly Street Fire Station

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is consideration being given to relocating the Daly Street Fire Station?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there have been rumours outside the corridors of the Chan Building regarding the relocation of the Daly Street Fire Station. These rumours are not correct. It is only a couple of years since we decided not to relocate the fire station in the Parap area and to upgrade the Daly Street station. In this year's capital works program, moneys will be made available to upgrade the Daly Street station. There could be a proposal at some future date - 1987 or 1988 - to upgrade or relocate the Winnellie Fire Station and bring it closer to the industrial areas of Winnellie and Stuart Park. However, at this time there is no intention to relocate the Daly Street Fire Station.

Palm Valley to Alice Springs Gas Pipeline

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it the intention of the government to offer the successful tenderer for the gas pipeline from Palm Valley gasfields to Alice Springs a guarantee in support of any money that the company may borrow to undertake this development?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member will have to redirect his question. At no stage has the NTDC nor myself been involved in the question of the pipeline.

Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Program

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

In relation to the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication program, can he explain the interaction between the Australian Agricultural Council, the Standing Committee on Agriculture, the Northern Australian Sub-group and the National BTB Eradication Planning Group?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Australian Agricultural Council is composed of all state and Territory Ministers of Agriculture and is chaired by the Commonwealth minister. It meets twice a year in various capitals and New Zealand. The Standing Committee on Agriculture is made up of the public service heads of departments of agriculture. That committee meets twice a year, immediately preceding the Australian Agricultural Council meeting and prepares the agenda items and supporting papers for consideration by the ministers.

At the recent July meeting held in Rotorua, New Zealand, the Northern Territory pressed the need for the Commonwealth to provide special funding and additional general provisions for the brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaign for northern Australia to include the northern areas of Queensland, Western Australia and the Territory. The Northern Territory sees this area as having special problems for the eradication of the 2 diseases because of the difficult terrain and depressed cattle prices. This view was generally supported by the Standing Committee on Agriculture and the ministers' meeting and, as a result, a northern Australian sub-group was set up consisting of representatives of Queensland, Western Australia, the Northern Territory and the Commonwealth to consider the problems and make recommendations to the AAC for its resolution, with special reference to additional recurrent funding support for such operations as mustering, holding costs etc, as well as for capital assistance for the provision of fencing, cattle grids and other essential items that are needed in the BTB program. This sub-group has already had a first meeting in Darwin and will report next month to the larger group; that is, the national BTB Planning Group which overviews the eradication campaign in Australia as a whole.

Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Were written inquiries made to the company Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd in relation to its financial position at the time that a guarantee was made by the NTDC?

ANSWER

I am informed that inquiries were made of a company known as Transport Property Holdings Pty Ltd prior to the execution of the guarantee in favour of Citicorp. I am told that execution of the guarantee was deferred until the corporation was supplied with information that it had sought from the companies.

Mr Speaker, I will just refer to an earlier question by the Leader of the Opposition to my colleague, the Minister for Primary Production. I have inspected a register of guarantees kept by the Northern Territory Development Corporation and I am assured that those are the only guarantees that have been granted by the NTDC. In that register I can find no reference whatsoever to any such guarantee as mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition.

Kennon Holdings Loan

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the government guarantee a loan from Citibank to a company called Kennon Holdings in October 1980? If so, was the value of that NTDC guarantee \$820 000 and was the loan secured against the assets of that company?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of confidentiality is one that the government is concerned about in its dealings with the public and people who seek support in their borrowings from the government. Mr Speaker, at this stage we are not prepared to bandy around names of those persons through the press unnecessarily.

Clearing of Land on Oolloo Station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

He will be aware that ADMA ordered 300 acres of Oolloo cleared, which posed a severe erosion problem, and which was promptly ordered reafforested by the Conservation Commission. Given these facts, would he ensure that, before any clearing is ordered by ADMA on that station, the Conservation Commission's advice is sought?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the exact details to which the honourable member refers. However, I have been assured by the chairman that consultation with the Conservation Commission does take place on a regular basis. As far as I know, ADMA has never gone out of its way to cause conservation problems.

Large-animal Pound for Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the latest on the large-animal pound for the rural area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Tiwi has made representations to me on this matter. I have had the issue thoroughly investigated. It would seem that the present provisions of the Pounds Act are insufficient for us to establish a pound in the rural area. The Pounds Act was designed to provide for pounds within built-up or municipal areas. It was not envisaged that they would be located other than in municipal areas. Of course, the Darwin rural area is not so incorporated. As a result, I think it would be necessary to introduce legislation to facilitate the establishment of such pounds. I would propose at the same time - and Cabinet has already considered this matter - to strengthen the provisions of the existing Pounds Act in relation to pounds within the municipalities and also to allow for them outside, probably by ministerial direction.

However, I would remind the honourable member that, to establish a pound, someone has to pay for it. I suppose one can partially offset costs by increasing the fees for impoundment and fines for breaches of the act. Nonetheless, as we all are well aware, never has it happened to date that a pound breaks even, much less makes a profit. So, of course, someone has to pay for it. The rural people then should bear in mind that, while they are considering local government for their own area, when they make requests of this nature, they must consider the cost implications as well.

NTDC Loans Outstanding

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What action has he taken to recover the arrears in relation to total loans outstanding to the Northern Territory Development Corporation, which was stated by him as being in the order of \$1.6m? Can he inform the Assembly as to how much of that amount has been recovered at this time?

ANSWER

The question of arrears to the corporation has been addressed and it is an ongoing process. The loans arrears comprise loans dating back to the Primary Producers Board and the Business Relief Loans Fund which were set up after the cyclone. Some of those arrears would be very difficult to get back in the security of the corporation. It is an ongoing process. The position is never particularly stable. It is an up-and-down position. I would be happy to talk to the honourable member about that particular situation on a confidential basis.

Review of NT Road Laws

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

At the present time, a review of the road laws in the Northern Territory is being carried out by the Northern Territory government. Can he inform me when this review is likely to be completed?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I am unable to tell the honourable member for Port Darwin when the review will be completed because it is an ongoing review. It could take as long as 2 years. However, I am hopeful that a report will be made available early next year for government consideration regarding any amendment to legislation that may be required.

Assurances to Shell Company re Buntine Group

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What financial assurances did he give to the Shell Company in order to maintain fuel supplies to the Buntine group?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there were no assurances of finance given to the Shell Company in any respect to assist with the continuation of the Buntine operation. There was a liaison between my office, the NTDC and the Shell group which induced the Shell people to be very cooperative for which we thank them. The position is that most of the cattle are being transported throughout the Northern Territory to market. The Buntine group had some control formerly over about 80% of the actual movement of live cattle throughout the Territory. There is a growth of other operators moving into cattle transport activity which they were not in formerly and, at this stage, it is believed that there will be no dislocation resulting from the financial problems being experienced by the Buntine group. The only difficulty that may occur is the movement of cattle in large numbers, say, to go on a ship. That would be the only problem likely to be experienced. In future operations, it is clear that a general direction would need to be undertaken to expedite large movements of cattle throughout the Northern Territory.

Meatmeal Plant for Small and Mobile Abattoirs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

If a fish silage plant is to be established in the Territory with money provided by the Northern Territory Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund, what is being done about establishing some simple form of meatmeal plant for small abattoirs and mobile abattoirs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is true that the assistance has been arranged for a Territory fisherman who will be loaned the necessary equipment to engage in fish silage production. The question of meatmeal and meatmeal products has not been addressed in this way. We understand that currently meatworks produce some of their own meatmeal. We have not addressed that side of the question.

Quickline Plant for Darwin

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the NTDC made available a loan or a guarantee to a company - and I am not asking him to name it - that intends to develop a quicklime manufacturing plant in Darwin? What is the status of this proposal at present?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that some discussions and negotiations are being undertaken with a company to assist in the construction of a quicklime plant. I do not have a position report in front of me but there has been no assistance at this time.

Rural Readjustment Funds

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise why only 16% of the rural readjustment funds that were available to the Territory last year were spent, given the present state of the Northern Territory's beef industry?

ANSWER

I do not have the precise information which the honourable member requires. From my experience in dealing with loans to primary producers, the difficulty has been in primary producers satisfying the requirements demanded of us by the Commonwealth in granting the Northern Territory those funds. I understand that this matter will be debated later this morning.

Department Store for Darwin

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he inform me whether the Northern Territory Development Corporation is negotiating with a major southern retailer to establish a department store in Darwin?

ANSWER

I understand that the Northern Territory Development Corporation has at various times talked to department stores in the states and I understand that those department stores have dispatched officers to Darwin at different times to determine the potential for the establishment of a department store in Darwin.

Channel Island Power-station

Mr LEO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the role of the Northern Territory Development Corporation in the construction of the Channel Island power-station?

ANSWER

I am not aware of a close relationship between the Northern Territory Development Corporation and the Channel Island power-station at this time.

Rubbish on Private Land

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

There appears to be no way of forcing owners of properties to clear their land of rubbish and old building materials. What is the government doing to change this situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will have to inquire into this matter further as a result of a claim by the member for Port Darwin that there are no powers to compel landowners to clean up their properties. When widespread freeholding was introduced in towns throughout the Territory by this government, the conditions were abolished whereby lessees of land had to maintain the property in a reasonable condition. However, there is in the Darwin City Council's by-laws a provision whereby the council can require landowners to undertake certain works on their land and clean it up. I appreciate that this bylaw is probably not as extensive as we would like. It may relate to the situation of the possible harbouring of vermin. I will investigate the matter further because it is of concern to myself and no doubt other members in Darwin that there is still the odd block throughout various suburbs which has not been developed since Cyclone Tracy. In fact, some of them are in appalling condition with

grass, trees, shrubs and rubbish. If the council bylaws are not strong enough to deal with this matter, we should speak with the council with a view to having the bylaws redrafted so that it does have such powers. Local governments in the states do have these powers. I am not sure that it is really the role of the state government or, in our case, the Territory government to promulgate laws to enable us to go onto private land in an urban area and demand that it be cleaned up. This is truly a matter that rests with the city council.

Howard Springs School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Now that there is sometimes a third policeman at the Fred's Pass Police Office and in view of the great increase in traffic on Whitewood Road where the Howard Springs School is situated and a recent accident involving a child after school, will the police return to their previous practice of a few years ago of sometimes being on duty outside the Howard Springs School for a short time after school comes out in the afternoon?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the number of school crossings in use in the greater Darwin area during the normal week days always exceeds the number of available police personnel. Some schools have not just one crossing, but 2 and sometimes 3. I am advised by the Commissioner of Police that crossings of this type cannot receive regular supervision. Nevertheless, police will attend them when other commitments permit. The recent accident alluded to by the honourable member was caused, I am informed, by a child alighting from and running from behind a school bus into the path of an oncoming vehicle. It did not relate directly to the use of the crossing. Consequent upon this question being asked earlier in this sittings, the adequacy of existing legislation and regulations in respect of school crossings is presently being examined by the police together with the Department of Education.

Water Storage for Alice Springs

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

Is the new water storage tank on the Sadadeen Range expected to be completed on schedule and could he assure the town of Alice Springs that it will not suffer water shortages in the immediate future except in highly unlikely circumstances?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is expected that the new water storage tank will be completed very shortly. The department will effect the final pour in the next couple of days and will then upgrade the rest of the water supply. There is an item of \$2.7m for this in this year's capital works program and it should go to tender in the latter part of this financial year. This upgrading, with the new storage tank, should provide Alice Springs with an adequate water supply.

Costigan Report

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Northern Territory government investigated the effects, if any, of the Costigan Report on the Northern Territory and is the government carrying out any investigations as to the extent of tax avoidance schemes, such as the bottom-of-the-harbour scheme, in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, tax avoidance schemes such as bottom-of-the-harbour schemes have no relevance to the Northern Territory government as such. It has no

taxation legislation, that I am aware of, whereby bottom-of-the-harbour schemes would avail people one jot of benefit. The federal government's income tax laws are those that are claimed to be transgressed by bottom-of-the-harbour tax avoidance schemes and, therefore, it rests squarely in the court of the Australian Taxation Department and the Attorney-General's Department of the Commonwealth to investigate such schemes and decide whether prosecution should be launched or not.

I had a brief discussion with the Police Commissioner last week as a consequence of the tabling of portion of the report of the Costigan Commission of Inquiry. Of course, we have the section of the report that has been made available generally. We do not have any access to those portions of the report that have been kept confidential by the federal government, although I understand that those sections of the report have been made available to the Victorian government and also to the federal Leader of the Opposition for his perusal on a confidential basis. Nonetheless, that part of the report that we have is being studied by the Police Commissioner for any relevance it may have to the Northern Territory. He did tell me that, on a preliminary reading of the report - and I have not yet had time to read it myself - there appeared to be little of relevance in it for the Northern Territory.

Mr Speaker, the question of tax avoidance is a very topical one and the question of the establishment of a crimes commission is also a very topical one. It is believed in some quarters that the establishment of a crimes commission will do much towards the elimination of organised crime in this country. The Northern Territory is maintaining a very keen interest in the Commonwealth proposals to establish a national crimes commission. It is also maintaining a keen interest in a bill presently before the federal parliament called the Criminal Investigation Bill. As we see it at present, the Commonwealth government is engaged in what amounts to a collision course with itself. To establish the Crimes Commission as proposed will simply bring into the public forum matters capable of investigation by a commission which, in many cases, could not be brought, on the evidence available, before a court. Unfortunately, as I understand it, after the preliminary dredging and skirmishing has been done, it will then be incumbent upon the police force to launch and carry the necessary prosecutions. These police prosecutions will be subject to the normal laws of evidence in the court. I understand that it is now proposed that the police will be bound by the provisions of the proposed Criminal Investigation Bill. I might say that, when I refer to police in this context, I am referring to the federal police. As far as we can see, the Criminal Investigation Bill will virtually handcuff the police in their attempts to investigate organised crime. In fact, it will totally negate any benefit that might be derived from the establishment of a crimes commission. The Northern Territory is attempting to bring some rationality to the Commonwealth proposals. We have made representations at very senior levels of the federal government in this regard. We see absolutely no point in the establishment of this commission at this time if another piece of legislation is going through which will further hamper and dampen any work that the police might be able to do to combat organised crime in this country.

Illegal Fishing of Keep River

Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I refer to a question I asked of him a week ago. Has he yet determined whether charges will be laid against 3 West Australians regarding alleged illegal fishing activities in the Keep River on 3 and 4 July?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not like to give an answer to a question of this nature off the top of my head although I do recall something on this subject coming

through my office last week. I think it was with the material from the Solicitor-General that I examined over the weekend and passed on to the Police Commissioner. I would rather take this question on board and give the member for Nightcliff a considered answer tomorrow.

Whilst I am on my feet, the honourable member for Nightcliff yesterday asked a question of the Minister for Industrial Development in relation to the clearing of certain land at Ooloo Station by ADMA. She asked the minister whether the Land Conservation Unit of the Conservation Commission, which of course comes under my administration, has had to require ADMA to reafforest 300 ha of land at Ooloo Station. The information that I have been supplied with by the Conservation Commission is as follows. Firstly, no such requirement has been sought by the Land Conservation Unit of the commission from ADMA. Secondly, the Land Conservation Unit has been working in close consultation with ADMA since the inception of the pilot project farms and has assisted in the delineation of the land suitable for arable agriculture. Officers are currently working in the field and advising on soil erosion control measures. Thirdly, regular interdepartmental committee meetings are held between ADMA, the Conservation Commission, the Department of Primary Production, the Department of Lands, the Department of Transport and Works and CSIRO to ensure satisfactory liaison.

Single Officer Accommodation in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the Housing Commission single officer accommodation development in Bath Street, Alice Springs, be ready for occupancy and will this development assist with the accommodation problems of teachers in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Housing Commission expects the premises mentioned by the honourable member for Alice Springs to be ready for occupation by late November or early December this year. The development of the 18 units will assist the accommodation problem in Alice Springs and there is a possibility that 8 of the units could be offered to teachers. The figure of 8 is based on the Housing Commission's public service waiting list as at yesterday. Whilst the accommodation units are not being specifically set aside for teachers, teachers are public servants and are entitled to housing in accordance with a waiting list. Obviously, the evidence suggests that quite a number of those units will be occupied by teachers in due course.

All-weather Causeway Across Todd River

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I preface my question by reminding him of a petition containing 291 signatures of Alice Springs residents calling for an all-weather causeway across the Todd River. What action is the government taking to provide such an all-weather causeway over the Todd River, considering this request for a basic service by such a large group of Territorians?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I refer the honourable member to the budget papers released yesterday by the Treasurer. If my memory serves me right, funds are available in this year's capital works program for upgrading of the Heavitree Gap area. Presumably, the causeway could be included in that.

Harry Chan Ward

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Concern has been expressed that children in the Harry Chan Nursing Ward will be transferred to the new nursing home at Palmerston when it is completed. As this will isolate the children from the education resources of the Henbury Avenue Special School, and other resources available for handicapped children in Darwin, will he ensure that this does not take place?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it would be fair to say that the new nursing home at Palmerston will be a much more appropriate environment for these children than is the Harry Chan Ward in the Darwin Hospital. The availability of educational facilities for these children is one that has not escaped my department's notice. There has been a great deal of discussion on this. I understand that my colleague, the Minister for Education, has been involved in some discussions too. The honourable member said that transfer to Palmerston would remove the children from the facilities of Henbury school. We are talking about children who are not particularly mobile and who have some rather severe handicaps. So far as their place of abode is concerned, being at Palmerston is not greatly different from being in the Harry Chan Ward at the Darwin Hospital. Mr Speaker, the important thing for my department to do in cooperation with the Department of Education is to ensure that children have the special education facilities available to them where they need them. My prime concern is to see that children are accommodated and nursed in the most suitable environment. I have great difficulty accepting the premise that the Darwin Hospital is a better environment than the rural setting that the children are going to be exposed to down at Palmerston. So I can assure the honourable member that I am aware of her concern. I do not share her concern at this time and I know my colleague the Minister for Education and I will be monitoring the situation very closely to see that the children to which we are referring receive any facility that we can offer them and in the best way.

Land at Myilly Point

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He will be aware that an area of land at Myilly Point, formerly held by the Defence Department, was relinquished to the Northern Territory government. In fact, it was considered as a possible site for the future Parliament House. Is he aware that the Department of Defence is now actively considering building a defence facility on that area and that also a licensed restaurant is being considered for the area - I presume not with the defence facility?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of interest being expressed by various parties in the portion of land the honourable member refers to. Until a firm proposal is made, no such comment can be made on the subject except to say that any proposal to develop the area would require a change of zoning. I think the area at the present time is zoned either 01 or 03 and, therefore, development would require rezoning. If the Commonwealth reached agreement with the Territory government that it should have the land for development, it would of course pay for the land because all land - other than land acquired by the Commonwealth at self-government under freehold - required by the Commonwealth is normally paid for at market rates unless some other pro rata arrangement has been agreed upon.

Citibank Guarantee of Government Funds

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did Citibank seek a guarantee from the Northern Territory government for funds that it was to make available to North South Holdings for the construction of the gas pipeline between Palm Valley and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question should be redirected to the Treasurer.

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Did Citibank seek a guarantee from the Northern Territory government for funds that it was to make available to North South Holdings for the construction of the gas pipeline between Palm Valley and Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it would be totally inappropriate for me to enter into any discussion publicly on the negotiations that took place following the close of tenders for the first time for the transport of gas from Palm Valley to Alice Springs. There has been 1 brief statement put out by myself very carefully worded as to the reasons for the government deciding to cancel tenders and recall them. Prior to that time, there was quite a lot of activity in assessing tender submissions. As those tenders were all cancelled and have been recalled, I think that it would be totally inappropriate for me to discuss the matter further publicly.

Motor Vehicle Licences for 16-year-olds

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the minister's recent attendance at the Australian Transport Advisory Council and its professed involvement in the uniform approach to vehicles and driver regulations, what is the position of motor vehicle licences for 16-year-olds who live in the country and who cannot attend high school courses on driving?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of 16-year-olds driving was not discussed at the recent ATAC conference. However, it is present policy that the licensing procedures for various agencies be reviewed. At this stage, the ministers of the various states do not intend proceeding with the issue of licences for students under the age of 16. However, it has been left to the states to decide what particular course of action they will adopt. I would be prepared to ask my department to prepare a submission for Cabinet with a view to investigating the possibility of issuing driver's licences in certain cases to 16-year-olds. However, such a licence would not be able to be used in any other state at the moment. I will take it on board and come up with some kind of documentation for Cabinet consideration.

NTDC Audit Procedures

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a standard practice of the Northern Territory Development Corporation to request audits on the accounts of companies to which it is considering giving loans or guarantees?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the NTDC has a standard practice of obtaining all relevant financial information available to enable it to ascertain the extent to which

it should assist a borrower. I believe that the practice is being carried out in every case.

Government Blocks near Kahlin

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

My question relates to 5 blocks of land which front the old Darwin Hospital area overlooking Kahlin. The government owns these blocks. Has the government considered selling these blocks for residential purposes?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the blocks are indeed prime blocks of land in the Darwin sense but the government has not proposed selling them at this stage, although some interest in purchasing the land has been expressed by at least 1 party. The government proposes for the time being to keep the parcel of land around the old Darwin Hospital site intact. At the present time, the site is being studied. In the meantime, the land is not available for public release.

NTDC Guarantee for Alice Springs Hotel Construction

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

Is the proposal by the Central Australian Development Company to construct a hotel in Alice Springs to proceed and, if so, has the Northern Territory Development Corporation guaranteed all or any of the money required for the project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the proposal the honourable member refers to in Alice Springs has some hurdles to overcome before it can be finalised, not the least of which is the area of land proposed to be developed in Alice Springs, which comprises at the present time the Alice Springs golf course - held under a special purpose lease. The development is constrained somewhat by claims of sacred sites in the area. In this regard, negotiations have been going on, though not very successfully, for some time. Apart from that, the financing arrangements for a major hotel in the area have been under discussion for some time by all sorts of interested parties. It is too early for us to say exactly when it will go ahead or the terms under which government assistance might be provided to that particular project because that will depend on where funds are to come from, who are to be the final owners of the project and how it is to be specifically financed. Certainly, as a matter of government policy, a major international-class hotel in Alice Springs would receive government support.

Top End Gun Club Application for Land

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a final decision been made to grant a block of land, part of a section on Girraween Road in 100 of Bagot, to the Top End Gun Club?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Top End Gun Club was advised in April this year that application for the site had lapsed through problems that we had with the site. The site does not have adequate access at present. To provide access to the site would involve a crossing over the Howard River which could be very expensive. The department felt it would be inappropriate to give a substantial area of land to a gun club or any other club if it did not have adequate access to the property. Very shortly, there would be continuous pressure upon the government to assist with or provide access, no doubt at some considerable expense. An alternative area of land was offered to the gun club at Berry Springs. However, this was rejected out of hand by the club. It was informed in October

1981 that its original application had lapsed because it had been rejected for a particular purpose. It can be assured that, from the Department of Lands' point of view, the file on that matter had closed. Until solutions to the problem can be overcome, the matter will stay closed unless the gun club seeks to resurrect it and provide some more answers.

Buntine Group - Investigation by Garraway and Partners

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who commissioned the preliminary investigation by Garraway and Partners, Chartered Accounts, into the activities of the Buntine Group of companies and was this report commissioned and received?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the member to place his question on notice.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the published policy of the Northern Territory Development Corporation that it does not see as its role the provision of assistance to general transport operations, what was the justification for the provision of assistance by way of guarantee to the Buntine group? By way of a footnote, may I inform the minister that this published policy is to be found on page 6 of the Northern Territory Development Corporation Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 1981.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the policies of the Northern Territory Development Corporation need to be flexible from time to time. If there are serious economic conditions prevailing in which the government sees that assistance should be provided, the government would take a decision in that respect. Obviously, the board of the corporation is not the sole decision-making body in respect of those sorts of decisions.

Sewage Ponds near Gulnare Road

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has reconsideration been given to the decision to build sewage ponds at the end of Gulnare Road?

ANSWER

There are other options open to the government. One of those options is to construct a small sewage treatment plant in the vicinity of the Humpty Doo village which the sewerage system will service.

Palm Valley Gas Pipeline

Mr BELL to TREASURER

I refer him to his previous answer in which he suggested that there had been a lengthy contractual process associated with the construction of the Palm Valley to Alice Springs pipeline and his reason given in the Assembly and in the media that this was due at least in part to the protracted negotiations. Is he able to give a specific deadline to substantiate his allegation that the time involved was due to the protracted negotiations with the land council?

ANSWER

I can inform the honourable member that the documents have not been signed yet.

NTDC Assistance to Building Industry

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he inform of the progress made by the Northern Territory Development Corporation in assisting the Territory's building industry in gaining contracts in Malaysia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the NTDC has considered the question of assisting the private sector establish a relationship with Brunei in respect of the resettlement program being undertaken in that country. In recent weeks, the Chief Minister advised the Assembly of assistance he has provided to a company in its negotiations with that country. At this stage, there is no other information which I am able to report.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Mr LEO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Was the NTDC informed by the current owners of the Buntine Group of efforts to sell their operations to Sabah interests and of the Foreign Investments Review Board's objections to that proposal? If so, was the Territory government prepared to support such a move by Buntine's to sell their operation to interests outside of Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of any such information. In respect to the Foreign Investments Review Board, I am not aware what role it would have in the sale of an Australian company to Sabah. I have no information on that.

Bus for Jabiru School

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that 20 children travel to the Jabiru School by private vehicles from Mudginberri Station, Jabiluka and the Border Store, and that this will rise to 24 next month, will he endeavour to look into the question of providing a school bus for these children?

ANSWER

There are 2 criteria which are used by the department in making a judgment as to whether or not a school bus will be provided. Firstly, there must be sufficient numbers and the numbers must be sufficiently stable. As the honourable member would be aware, at the moment, there are about 25 Aboriginal children and 6 European children travelling from the Mudginberri area to Jabiru School. The problem is that it is an extremely unstable population. The children's families frequently move between Jabiru, Mudgingerri, Cannon Hill, Oenpelli and other places. That is one consideration which is to be taken into account. The second consideration is that the cost of providing transport subsidy to the parents should be more than the cost of running a bus. Those particular criteria have not yet been reached but the department is monitoring the situation and, when all those factors come together, certainly we would consider the provision of a bus.

Appointee to Gove District Hospital Board

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Given that applications for the position vacant on the Gove District Hospital Board closed on 4 June, could he give some indication when the new appointment is likely to be made?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I shall announce the name of the person who is to fill the position this week. In explanation as to why the matter took so long, there was an earlier applicant who agreed to undertake the job and subsequently withdrew. The matter then had to be reconsidered.

Accommodation for Psychiatric Patients in South Australia

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has final agreement been reached with the South Australian government regarding accommodation for some long-term psychiatric patients in South Australian institutions?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, so far as I understand, the South Australian government and the Northern Territory have had a long-standing relationship over some 15 years whereby South Australia has provided psychiatric accommodation for people from the Northern Territory. That relationship still exists. Over the years, South Australia has been very helpful to the Northern Territory government by helping to place psychiatric patients. We pay for the service that we receive from the South Australian government in this regard. I have no knowledge of any proposal to change the arrangement and I expect it to continue.

Game Fishing Industry in Northern Territory

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY

A discussion paper on the game fishing industry was distributed earlier this year. What action has the government taken to support the game fishing industry in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, a report called Game Fishing Prospects in Northern Territory Waters was brought down in April 1982. This was a discussion paper. It appears that there are prospects for game fishing in the areas west of Bathurst Island near the Cootamundra Shoal and, more significantly according to this report, the area about Cape Wessell and Truant Bank near Nhulunbuy. There has been much interest expressed to myself and to the department in respect of game fishing and talks are being undertaken at this present time to enable the government to plan just what its efforts during 1982-83 will be.

Nightcliff Dental Clinic

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it still his intention to close the Nightcliff Dental Clinic and, if so, is it a fact that that will result in the reduction of available Department of Health dentists in the Northern suburbs from 5 to 2?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I had intended to answer the honourable member's question at the end of question time this morning. The present position is that we have at Nightcliff Dental Clinic 3 dentists and at Sanderson Dental Clinic 2 dentists. After amalgamation at Casuarina Plaza, there will be 2 dentists. The explanation for that from the department is that the analysis of the monthly workload statistics for the Nightcliff Dental Clinic shows that the dentists there are underemployed and that a review of the total workload at Nightcliff and Sanderson Dental Health Clinics suggests that there is enough curative work for no more than 2 dentists.

NTDC Loan to Mode Office Services

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the NTDC make a loan or provide a guarantee to Mode Office Services and was this loan or guarantee secured by company assets?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of that company name.

Consultant for NT Prawn Fishery

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

This is a repeat of a question which I asked last week without getting an answer. The Department of Primary Production employed in February this year a consultant whose specific task was to develop a management plan for the Northern Territory's prawn fishery. Is he yet in a position to advise what progress has been made by that consultant?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no.

School at Mudginberri

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will a school be re-established at Mudginberri for children who live there and who currently travel from there to the Jabiru School?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I answered that question in passing when I answered the question in relation to the school bus. The answer to her question at this stage is that it is not proposed to reopen the school at Mudginberri for the very reasons I have just given; that is, the student population of that area is extremely unstable. It varies from 5 to 30 and it would be quite impossible to establish a school given those circumstances. It is also to be borne in mind that children in a place like Mudginberri with a fairly close large school like Jabiru benefit very much from being transported to that school. They have the benefit of the better facilities which can be made available in a larger school as opposed to a 1 or 2 teacher school.

Mr Speaker, the subject is one for judgment from time to time. At this stage, it is not contemplated to reopen the school at Mudginberri which was closed in 1981. As at 27 July, there were 6 European and 25 Aboriginal children being transported but that number could so vary as to make provision of a school at this time unwise.

Territory Students Attending Universities Interstate

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

During the March sittings, I asked him if the Education Department had any intention of assisting tertiary students who have to attend compulsorily university at odd times of the year? I have not had an answer to that yet. Does the government have any intention of assisting people who have to attend compulsorily university for a short period twice a year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is no proposal currently before government in this particular matter. I would certainly be prepared to investigate the matter further and perhaps discuss the issue with the honourable member. It is worthy of examination.

Investigation into Movement of Teachers within the NT

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the much publicised problems at Katherine High School in respect of turnover of staff recently, has the department commissioned an investigation and report on the movement of teachers within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there have been many inquiries held at regional superintendent or regional director level and by the Teaching Service Commissioner in conjunction with principals. As I have indicated to the Assembly before, the reasons vary greatly. Just as an aside, there is a lot of fuss in relation to housing procedures in Alice Springs and the belief in some people's minds that it is one cause for the instability of teachers in that area. It is interesting to note that, of all the teachers who have left the Alice Springs High School this year, not one has given accommodation as the reason for leaving. As I indicated, the most common reason for teachers leaving is that they obtain a position in one of the states having merely used the NT as a stop-gap employment. There can be family reasons. A teacher may decide to teach in the Territory for a couple of years and then use the Northern Territory as a stepping-stone to South-east Asia or England. The reason given is very rarely dissatisfaction with our system. That happens but it is extremely rare. Most teachers leave for family reasons or because they used us as a source of employment for a short-term period.

Mr Speaker, the Teaching Service Commissioner, the secretary of the department and I are particularly concerned about the matter, as indeed is the government. It is for this reason that the Treasurer announced yesterday the scheme that the government is to introduce by way of scholarships to try and bring stability into the Teaching Service principally through training our own teachers as far as we have the capacity to do so, and encouraging people to train in the southern institutions with a specific intention of coming to the Northern Territory. As the Treasurer announced, we are going to provide financial assistance for that.

Housing Commission Units in Fannie Bay

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Some 24 Housing Commission home units were completed in Fannie Bay near Kurringal about 2 months ago and have been vacant since that time. In view of the difficulties being experienced by the Housing Commission in selling these units and the shortage of low-cost accommodation in Darwin, how long will the minister wait before making these units available for rental accommodation?

ANSWER

The honourable member is obviously aware that it is government policy to sell these particular units rather than rent them. We feel that Kurringal has enough persons renting accommodation without renting more in that area. However, I will inquire into the matter of how long they have been vacant and whether they have been actually handed over. I am not quite sure about that. They have certainly been finished for a while. Sometimes it takes a while for contractors to finalise units to the degree that the commission is prepared to formally accept them. I will inquire also as to the level of interest from persons the Housing Commission has approached - firstly, existing tenants and, secondly, prospective tenants. I will then report to the honourable member.

Medical Staffing in Barkly Region

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the level of medical staffing at present offered in Tennant Creek and the Barkly region? How does this compare with staffing a year ago and what are the future plans for staffing health services for Tennant Creek and the Barkly region?

ANSWER

I would think that there are some 200 people with the responsibility of delivering health care to Tennant Creek and the Barkly region. I do not carry the information about all of those positions in my head. I ask the member to place his question on notice and I will answer it in detail.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On the basis of his recent statement in a government press release that the Buntine group had been provided with a guarantee at mid-1981, can he inform the Assembly whether a guarantee was in fact given in mid-1981 and, if so, was that guarantee replaced by a mortgage debenture entered into by the NTDC in February 1982?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable the Chief Minister.

ANSWER

This is quite clearly a question of a legal nature and I reply with the question: how can a guarantee be replaced by a mortgage debenture?

Access to Alice Springs Pool

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

Has he received any response yet from the Alice Springs Town Council regarding the proposed one-way access from Telegraph Terrace into the swimming pool car-park?

ANSWER

The answer is no. However, I expect officers of the Department of Transport and Works and members of the council to discuss this proposal some time this week.

Low-cost Housing Display for Central Australia

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

Has he considered sponsoring a low-cost housing display village for central Australia along the lines of the low-cost housing display at Karama?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I can refer the matter to the Housing Commission which keeps a constant eye on the initiatives that government might take in regard to the construction of low-cost housing. The exercise undertaken at Karama was really to see what the private sector could come up with in terms of low-cost housing. It was a proposal assisted by government financially but, primarily, it was to give designers and builders the opportunity of building such accommodation to see what public support such designs received. The intention was that it would lead to the construction of those houses on a bigger scale, not just for their display to the public. However, I will refer the matter to the Housing Commission to consider what low-cost housing initiatives it might take in centres other than Darwin.

Promotion of Territory Fruit and Vegetables

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has he any plans to promote Territory fruit and vegetables in centres other than Darwin?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government plans to promote Territory grown fruit and vegetables in other centres. It may not be possible to do so in 1982 but planning for displays will take place in 1983.

First Year Apprentices

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What arrangements have been made for the trade training of first year apprentices in the fields of electronics, TV and radio repairs and small business machines whose employers were notified yesterday that their second semester bloc release due to start on Monday has been cancelled?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this matter was first brought to my attention by the honourable member this morning. As I understand the matter, the Industries Training Commission was informed by the Darwin Community College on Friday 27 August that the course would not be conducted this year. The consequences to employers and employees alike would be obvious. If they were to pick up the time missed in that course next year, there would be something like a 4 months' absence from employment by those apprentices. The information I have been given is that the college uses - and I use that word deliberately - the excuse that it has been unable to employ an appropriate lecturer. I have been told by the college that it expects to employ an appropriate lecturer on 13 September. Whether that happened this morning as a result of the fuss between my office, the member for Nightcliff, the ITC and the community college, I do not know. Nonetheless, I am told that a lecturer will be employed on 13 September. As a result, the course will be conducted this year.

I make the observation that, on a number of occasions, I have spoken in this Assembly on the question of ministerial control over the activities of the Darwin Community College. It is quite clearly the view of this Assembly that autonomy should attach to the community college and that political interference should not apply. I wonder where one's duty starts and where one's duty ends. It seems to me that, every time there is a problem in the delivery of courses in the Darwin Community College, the people who are affected are trade trainees. I rarely, if ever, get a problem with the dreamy stuff of advanced education, desirable as it may be. Surely the essential duty of that college should lie with TAFE and trade training. Mr Speaker, I give notice here that I intend calling a full meeting of the Darwin Community College Council to thrash this matter out once and for all. Quite frankly, Mr Speaker, if I am not satisfied with the outcome of that meeting, and not satisfied as to improved performance as far as these young people go, then I will go back to Cabinet with a proposition to change the act.

Children Taking Work Experience with Police Force

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the position regarding children taking work experience with the police force whose parents are required to sign an indemnity form? How does this affect normal third party insurance?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the question of the honourable member for Tiwi apparently relates to children engaged in work experience with the police force by riding in police cars and whether, having signed some form of indemnity in respect of compensation cover in relation to the general activities they might engage in with the police force, they are covered by the provisions of the Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act. The situation is that children who ride in police cars are not excluded from obtaining benefits whether under the general provisions of the Motor Accidents (Compensation) Act, allowing lump sum compensation, or from bringing an action for pain and suffering or loss of amenities. Nor would the indemnity prevent the parent bringing a claim or action as next of kin of the child.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

It was stated in a recent press release from the minister that the Buntine Group had been provided with a guarantee in mid-1981 by the NTDC. Will the minister now confirm that this is the case?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government at the time undertook to provide a guarantee in the middle of 1981.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, I ask a supplementary question. Will he now inform the Assembly of the amount involved in the 1981 guarantee, the current position of that guarantee and the relationship between that guarantee and the guarantee given by the NTDC to the Buntine Group in February of this year.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Fishing Legislation Exemption of Tiwi People

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

I would like to ask him if an exemption can be granted to the Tiwi Islanders so that they can take barramundi in the closed season - this is with an A1 licence - because of their reliance on fish in their diet?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am advised that past experience shows that relatively few barramundi are taken in fish traps. The closed season applies only to professional fishermen and does not apply to fish traps. There are 3 licensed fish traps on Melville Island and interest has been expressed by the Garden Point Progress Association for a licence for a fish trap.

Public Service Home Loans Scheme

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is the minister aware that, on ABC television last night, the Secretary of the ACOA, Rod Ellis, criticised the government's decision to increase the public service staff home loans scheme interest rate by 1% in the budget? Is he further aware that the Secretary of the ACOA claimed this was grossly unfair because, under the government Home Loans Scheme for the public, there were many examples of people securing \$100 000 loans at an interest rate of 4%?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I did not see the particular program. However, I was advised of the contents of the program and I regard the comments made by the union official as mischievous and outrageous. Even officials of the TLC and, more particularly, union officials of the ACOA, know that the government Home Loans Scheme applicable to the public has an absolute maximum of \$50 000. It is only public servants who can obtain government loans in excess of that figure. A claim on television that people have obtained \$100 000 loans at 4% is clearly nonsense and I challenge the officials to name one such person so that we can conduct an investigation, although it would be a rather fruitless investigation. Mr Speaker, only public servants in the Northern Territory can obtain government loans in excess of \$50 000 and some have had loans in the vicinity of \$100 000 under the very concessional interest rates which were outlined in the Assembly

yesterday when I announced that the government had decided to increase interest rates by 1% on those loans. The comments last night on the radio were a very poor attempt to try to show public servants in a poor light, following the government's decision, by claiming that the Northern Territory government's public loan scheme is somehow vastly more generous, which it certainly is not.

Buntine Group and NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his answer on Tuesday to a question on the position of the NTDC and the Buntine group. On the basis that the Chief Minister has examined the financial and legal aspects of the transaction concerning the NTDC's guarantee, can he assure the Assembly that there are no irregularities involved in the transfer of company shares from the Buntine group to Mr Dalziel?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I certainly would not like to pass an opinion on the nature of the transfer of shares from the Buntine family to Mr Dalziel and his cohorts as new owners of the Buntine group of companies. That is not something for me to venture an opinion on at this stage. In any event, Mr Speaker, you would be aware that Standing Orders preclude the asking of a question that seeks a legal opinion. Should this matter have to go further, then obviously it is going to be subject to litigation. One point I would like to make very clearly is that there is no suggestion at this stage that the NTDC has been called on by Citibank, under the guarantee, and so there is no suggestion, at this stage, that the NTDC will have to expend one penny. The NTDC has already sought legal advice from the Department of Law as to what the situation would be if it were called on by Citibank. I do not know if Citibank will, in fact, be able to call on it until such time as the receiver has arrived at some firmer stage of the affairs in relation to what is to be the future of the Buntine Group: whether it is to be sold as a going concern or whether it is to be sold for its assets. At that time, obviously, the likelihood of creditors being paid out of the assets of the group will become a lot clearer. I guess Citibank's course of action will become clearer to it and observers. At that time, obviously the Northern Territory Development Corporation will have to make known its attitude to Citibank in respect of any guarantee that may have been made.

At this stage, I am not prepared to disclose the nature of the legal advisings that are presently being given to the NTDC in respect of the whole transaction. Suffice to say that the government legal advisers, with whom I have been discussing this matter, and I have decided to adopt a very conservative attitude at this stage. I believe it is far too soon to make any prognosis as to whether the government will have to pay or the NTDC will have to pay one penny in respect of the Buntine group's problems.

A number of aspects of this whole affair concern me. The opposition has indicated, by a press release issued by the honourable member for Sanderson, that it does not question the granting of the guarantee to the Buntine group. It is only concerned with the veil of secrecy that shrouds the whole affair. If the opposition does not question the granting of the guarantee to the Buntine group, why are we in receipt of all these questions that relate specifically to financial matters, dates etc? If it is only interested in the veil of secrecy, then why not realise that the government and the NTDC are certainly not going to show their hand at this stage as to the attitude that will be taken in respect of the guarantee. Guarantees are always subject to certain conditions. In our view, we have to examine the whole transaction - and it may be that a court will have to examine the whole transaction - to see that all conditions of the granting of the guarantee are met. I think it is far too early to begin to make any definite statements, one way or the other, about these matters.

I consider that the opposition is doing the Territory taxpayer a grave disservice by attempting to weasel out on fishing expeditions the sort of facts that can only help people who want to take money from the taxpayer. Mr Speaker, if the opposition is genuinely interested in Territory development, it will realise that commercial transactions require a degree of confidentiality. I said yesterday, and I have said before, that anyone who wants to know about most commercial transactions can at least find out the bare bones of them by walking round to the Titles Office and the Companies Office. Unfortunately, a lot of people who walk round there cannot read the things or understand them when they get them.

The situation is that, if we are seeking to attract investment to the Territory, businesses, companies and investors like to believe that there is a degree of confidentiality attaching to their transactions. Whether that is in fact true or not is not the case. These companies, these investors, like to think that they will not be all over the front, back or middle page of the paper. It happens here in the Northern Territory at the drop of a hat. Every single issue in this Territory and every matter of Territory development is sought to be politicised by the opposition and sought to be politicised by the tuppenny rag that we have that circulates as a newspaper in Darwin. If that sort of thing continues, we will drive potential investors away. In this time of world recession, I would have thought that Territorians would have been glad to be getting money, so long as it is clean money, from wherever it can in the world. I have no objections to the Russians or the Chinese investing in the Northern Territory. We have been advised by the opposition in the past to send delegations to China. But apparently, money coming from a member of the British Commonwealth, Malaysia, is suspect although money coming from China would not be. If we want jobs and development in this Territory, then we will have to be prepared to meet some of the requirements of the people who want to invest here. The people who want to invest here want to do it quietly without newspapers being sold and opposition politicians' egos being gratified every time they want to carry out some transaction which is creating jobs for Territorians.

Soil Sampling Surveys on Oolloo Station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What soil sampling surveys were carried out on Oolloo Station prior to its acquisition and what were the results of these surveys?

ANSWER

I understand that soil sampling has been undertaken in that Daly River basin since the early 1960s. In the debate that will ensue this morning, some of the details of the earlier relationship between Oolloo and the government of the day will be mentioned. I am assured by the Chairman of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority that sufficient soil samples were taken to ascertain the extent of arability of Oolloo in respect of government plans and I am satisfied with that information.

Sporting Complex in Katherine

Mr VALE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Can he advise if the Northern Territory government has yet reached any agreement with the Katherine Town Council over the proposed purchase of the sporting complex in Katherine owned by D. and K. Fracaro?

ANSWER

Last week, I was asked a question in regard to the sporting complex in Katherine and the government's attitude to Katherine council's proposal for 2

to 1 funding. I mentioned that I would be discussing that proposal with my Cabinet colleagues. Since making that statement, I received a telegram from the Mayor of the Katherine Town Council saying that, unless the Northern Territory government were able to purchase the facility outright and presumably hand it to them on a plate, they would be unable to proceed with the proposal. I spoke to the Mayor and tried to ascertain the council's final position. There was a council meeting during the week. I would like to read this into Hansard so that we can put this matter to rest once and for all:

Re the Katherine Sporting Complex, the following motion was passed with a 4-3 majority on Monday 30 August 1982: that the Council seek full funding for the purchase of the Katherine Sporting Complex and ongoing annual operation deficit funding for the sporting complex.

Regards,

The Mayor, Pat Davies.

I am unable to proceed with this particular proposal because, when I first started discussing this with the Mayor and other people in Katherine, it was with the view that the Northern Territory government would provide some financial assistance, presumably the 2 to 1 funding. In light of this recent decision made by the council, I am unable to proceed with it. As far as I am concerned, the matter will rest.

Buntine Group

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he prepared to make available to me, on a confidential basis, the preliminary investigation into the financial state of the Buntine group of companies conducted by Garraway and Partners?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would be prepared to make that document available to the honourable member on a confidential basis so long as it is confidential to her, personally, alone, and no copies are made or taken of it.

Arafura Hostel Site

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The large area of land formerly occupied by the Arafura Hostel at Parap, which has been vacant for 4½ years, was passed in when offered at auction earlier this year. The government subsequently called for expressions of interest from possible developers. What is the current state of proposals to develop this land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not have an up-to-date brief on this subject before me. However, I can recall that, subsequent to that auction, we received a number of expressions of interest from persons who felt that, if some arrangement could be entered into between developers and the government over payment for the land, other than the full cash price up-front as is the case at auctions, there may be parties interested in taking it up. As a result, I formally withdrew the land from sale over the counter, where it automatically goes after an auction if it is passed in. It is then vacant Crown land in the city and can be applied for by virtually any party which can meet certain requirements. The government can then negotiate with any party on the sale of the land. Negotiations are proceeding with developers on this particular proposal and I hope, in the near future, to be in a position to come to an agreement to sell the land to a developer for the original purpose of subdividing and developing it.

Darwin Rural Plan

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the Darwin Rural Plan be adopted?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that there is some confusion in the rural community about the rural plan. There is in fact a rural plan that was adopted some time ago. However, there has been some action on substantial amendments to the plan of late. I think that that has created some confusion in the minds of people who presently think they do not have a formal rural plan when in fact they do.

However, an amendment to the rural plan went on display for 42 days on 21 October 1981. This was to extend planning control into that part of the 32-square-mile acquisition area outside Palmerston and also to reduce the number of consent uses for which advertising and environmental impact statements were required. The instrument and submissions received were considered by the Rural Planning Authority in February this year. As a result, various further amendments were made. At the same time, because of the proposed village centre development at Humpty Doo, it became necessary to make further amendments to the zoning tables into varied clauses of the plan. Consequently, the Rural Planning Authority at its meeting on 17 June 1982 resolved to recommend rejection of the draft planning instrument - that was DR2 - and to seek a more comprehensive amendment to the rural plan. This more comprehensive document, DR4, went on display on 4 August 1982 and will be displayed for 56 days.

I can assure the honourable member that there is a formal rural plan at the present time. It could certainly do with the amendments proposed in the draft amendment that is on display at the present time. I do urge people in the rural area to take a keen interest in this amendment. It is comprehensive and it makes submissions to the Rural Planning Authority.

Advertising Campaign on Land Rights Act

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to his national advertising campaign regarding proposed amendments to the federal Aboriginal Land Rights Act. Which firm provided the artwork and composing of the advertisements? I understand that no expressions of interest were sought from local people in the Territory skilled in this trade.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the position in relation to this national advertising campaign in respect of the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments' proposals - and I emphasise that they are the Commonwealth government's proposals as well as the Northern Territory's proposals - for amendments to the Aboriginal Land Rights Act is that there is at present no advertising agency as such established in the Territory. For that reason, it was necessary to seek expressions of interest from advertising agencies elsewhere. The Territory government sought proposals from 2 agencies in Sydney which were selected for us by southern people with some experience in this field. We are not professing to have a great deal of experience in the area ourselves.

I cannot remember the names of both agencies. One was a particularly large agency whose name is almost a household word and, unfortunately, I forget it. The other was a small agency and the proprietor's name is Rodney Silver. In fact, both agencies came to the Territory to submit their proposals to the government. We elected to accept the proposals of the Rodney Silver agency. It of course handles its artwork in house and the whole thing was prepared in the submission and it was simply a matter of converting the submission into newspaper ads. I really do not think that, in the circumstances, there was any

possibility of the artwork being handled in the Territory because it was a package of 1 advertisement. It is pretty hard to split that up too many ways.

Mt Ebenezer School

Mr BELL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer him to my comments about the problems at Mt Ebenezer in a previous adjournment debate. Will he undertake to investigate as a matter of urgency, firstly, the provision of a second school caravan and, secondly, adequate transport for children at that school?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the matter is currently under review.

Use of Water in Jabiru

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of water restrictions a couple of months ago in Jabiru and in view of the Territory campaign to use water thriftily, can he tell me if the Jabiru Town Development Authority or its contractors will continue to wash down the Jabiru roads after they have already been swept?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, even though I would not have thought that the roads at Jabiru are in need of resealing, nonetheless, I am told that the answer to this question is that the Jabiru Town Development Authority is embarking on a road resealing program as part of its final construction of roads in the town. Before resealing with bitumen, it is essential to remove from the road surfaces all dirt, clay etc which, in some places, is now deposited as a very hard layer. In many areas, it has been impossible to remove this clay with a rotary broom and it has been necessary to wash the material from the roads to be resealed. The authority does not intend to wash roadways in the town as a continuing practice and intends to economise on the use of water to the maximum extent possible. There are no water restrictions in the town.

Child Welfare Legislation

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

We have now been waiting for the new child welfare legislation for 4 years. Can he indicate when it will be ready for presentation in the Assembly?

ANSWER

Cabinet has now settled the drafting instructions which are with the legislative draftsman. I hope to be able to introduce both of these bills at the next sittings.

Oolloo Station

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is it a fact that the majority of Oolloo Station is limestone country which is excellent for grazing and hopeless for cropping?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not know if that is a fact or not but certainly there is a lot of limestone country in that general area. Certainly, it would be useless for cropping. Like all the land in that area, the arable parts have to be selected, as we found in the case of the other acquisition to provide the first 2 farms.

Permissible Blood Alcohol Level

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the minister given any consideration to reducing the permissible blood alcohol level from 0.08 to 0.05?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is no. I wonder why the honourable member for Port Darwin has asked me that question. At the moment, the legislation we have regarding 0.08 or random breath-testing is due for consideration some time next year regarding continuation, reintroduction or amendment. At the moment, such a reduction is not under consideration.

Development in Bees Creek Area

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In reply to a question I asked earlier in the week concerning a proposal to build sewage ponds at the end of Gulnare Road, he advised that Gulnare Road would eventually become a distributor road. At present, Gulnare Road is about 20 m wide and a distributor road is normally 30 m to 35 m wide. Does this mean that there are likely to be further excisions or easements on properties along Gulnare Road and what proposals for development are envisaged in the Bees Creek Area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was under the impression that I gave the honourable member for Victoria River a comprehensive answer because I had some forewarning of the question. Since the last sittings, I have received representations from the Bees Creek area regarding water and road problems there. I will undertake to set up a meeting between officers of the Department of Transport and Works Water and Road Divisions with residents to discuss the problem. I understand officers are already making the necessary arrangements.

Gulnare Road will eventually become a major service road. At present, the department is only taking the necessary steps to allow future widening and development of the road. I would be pleased to take the point up with the honourable member after the sittings. Maybe he could discuss with officers of the Department of Transport and Works the future development.

Role of NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the NTDC is a lender of last resort to assist the establishment of new industry and can he further confirm that it is not the purpose of the NTDC to assist businesses to compete with those already established in the Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it is an established fact that the NTDC judges every application on its merit. It is clear that, in respect of hotels, there might be a need to support additional hotel-motel accommodation.

Racing and Gaming Commission

Mr LEO to TREASURER

Does the Racing and Gaming Commission assess the accuracy of bookmakers' declared turnovers and, if such assessments have been done, what are the results?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as honourable members would know, it is virtually impossible to accurately assess the accuracy of turnover that bookmakers declare to the government. As is the case with a number of other industries, the information received by the Racing and Gaming Commission from bookmakers is in the form of returns on their weekly turnover. The Racing and Gaming Commission keeps as close an eye as it can on this matter. Indeed, there have been prosecutions of late. Honourable members would know of a particular bookmaker who was found to be not declaring all the turnover he was receiving. In addition, the Racing and Gaming Commission does have a close liaison with interstate policing agencies who keep an eye on bookmakers' activities and illegal punting activities interstate. Certain information is exchanged between those bodies which is very useful to the Racing and Gaming Commission in keeping an eye on bookmakers' turnover in the Northern Territory.

It is one of those situations that could be related to the SP operations interstate. It is an area that governments and police forces have found very difficult to police properly. Estimates of SP operations interstate are quite enormous. We had a recent report that estimated the SP operations in Victoria, for example, as equivalent almost to the legal TAB operations in that state. I am not sure what the government particularly could do further to keep this matter under close control. It was suggested to me by a gentleman the other day that we could legalise phone tapping of bookmakers' phones. This would not be very popular not only with bookmakers but also with many people in the community who would see such moves by governments spreading to other areas.

Sewerage Lines in Millner

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will a program of sewerage line rehabilitation be undertaken in the suburb of Millner in this financial year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have had some forewarning of this question. The advice I have is that it is necessary continuously to rehabilitate sewerage systems. There is a \$500 000 item on the 1982-83 capital works program for stage 1 of the rehabilitation of the Darwin sewerage system. It is still necessary to determine the area which needs the most attention and the Department of Transport and Works is investigating that at the moment. Therefore, I am unable to say whether any work on the sewerage system in Millner will take place this financial year.

However, there will be some upgrading of sewerage headworks in the Millner area. Until the Water Division can satisfy me that there will be very little disruption caused by upgrading sewerage services in that area, I find it very difficult to proceed. The proposal, at this stage, is that it will upgrade the sewerage right throughout Millner, Tiwi and other parts of the Northern suburbs. Virtually this will involve entry to every house block and digging up swimming pools and chicken runs which have been placed on easements illegally. I have asked my department to make a survey to determine how extensive the work will be in that area. When land is issued for sale for residential use, easements are put there for a particular reason. When the time comes to upgrade sewerage lines in any area, there will be problems. Therefore I have asked my department to undertake a survey to find out how extensive the interruptions will be on those easements. We will take it from there.

It is a very sensitive area. I believe that a good public relations exercise must be entered into. I think every householder should be consulted. As the law stands at the moment, the cost of upgrading sewerage works on a particular property is borne by the owner of that block. The main sewerage

lines are placed by the government but expenses involved with the sewerage line to a residence should be borne by the occupier. It is very sensitive. I assure honourable members that I will not proceed until I am quite sure that there will be very little disruption to the people living in the area.

Farm-fuel Projects

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Is the government giving any encouragement to farm-fuel projects and can he give brief details?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place her question on notice.

Central Zone Sewerage Plant at Ludmilla

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

No money has been allocated in the capital works program to upgrade or modify the central zone sewerage treatment plant at Ludmilla. What decision has been taken with regard to this plant following a study of problems associated with it conducted by his department earlier this year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is an upgrading taking place right now. Most members living in the northern suburbs who drive along Dick Ward Drive will see that a new facility has been constructed alongside the old facility. As far as the treatment plant itself is concerned, the study is continuing. It was complicated by a proposal by an entrepreneur in Darwin to develop the area and provide a residential housing estate. The proposal would have involved moving the treatment plant, converting it to a pumping station or even putting in another sewerage line probably to come out somewhere in the Berrimah area, which is where the new treatment ponds have been established. Because of the delays regarding that particular development proposal, the department has conducted a very low-key operation. We understand the developer will not now proceed and the department has rethought possibilities for upgrading the Ludmilla treatment plant.

Road Improvement Requirements in Central Australia

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to a public statement made by the Chief Minister regarding a meeting at Ayers Rock on 7 and 8 June between central Australian outstation groups and the Aboriginal Development Commission Chairman, Mr Charles Perkins. Has the minister sent a questionnaire to all major Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory seeking information on their requirements for road improvements, according to an undertaking contained in the Chief Minister's statement?

ANSWER

I made an announcement supporting the Chief Minister's approval at the recent meeting held at Kormilda College with Aboriginal land councils. I sent a letter to all these organisations requesting information on their needs regarding the upgrading of roads and other problems that they have had with roads. I am starting to receive some replies to those letters.

Tanning of Hides in the Northern Territory

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

Has any interest been expressed in tanning cattle hides in the Territory instead of sending the raw hides down south. Would the minister undertake to

have his department investigate the possibilities of such an enterprise and promote the same if it seems feasible?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Northern Territory Development Corporation has called for expressions of interest in the establishment of a tannery in northern Australia. Some of the difficulties facing such a venture are the quality of hides, the distance from markets, the actual markets themselves and the damage to hides due to infestation of parasites. I will bring the honourable member up to date on the proposal when the information comes to hand.

Poll on Health Services in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Did the Health Department commission a poll on health services in Nhulunbuy and other places and, if so, will he make the results of that poll available to the Assembly?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am happy to confirm that one of the polling organisations is currently taking a sample in the Northern Territory and collecting information for the Health Department. I understand that the organisation concerned is also asking questions other than those commissioned by the Health Department. I cannot give him any indication as to whether that information would be available to us, but certainly the information that is coming to us so far as the Health Department is concerned would be freely available to him.

I would just like to put honourable members in the picture concerning the information we are seeking because it is quite important. Honourable members would be aware that about 62% of our population is entitled to free health care in the hospitals; that is, they qualify under the Department of Social Security's guidelines for free medical health. Therefore, the taxpayers of the Northern Territory foot the bill. That percentage is very much higher than any other state in Australia and it is one of the things that the Commonwealth considered in granting us the extra \$4m. We really need to know about the other 38%. It is important that we get an understanding of how many people in that area are in health funds, what level of health care they are taking, what age groups they are in, where they live and why.

Let me just give honourable members a bit of background on this. After 9 months of the new system, we have already written off as a complete loss \$200 000 to \$300 000 worth of disputed hospital accounts. That is not a bad effort for the first 9 months and it is not unreasonable to assume that it will climb considerably. What we need to know is why people are not in health funds. Do they have financial difficulties? Don't they believe they will get sick? In the event of those people not being in health funds, what responsibility will fall on the taxpayers in general? We need to know the answers to those questions.

It is also important for the department to know where the people live. There may be a group in one particular town. Perhaps a special age group can be identified. It might be single parents or school leavers. It could be a whole range of things. We would like to identify where those people who are not in funds live, ascertain why they are not in funds and implement an advertising policy that would encourage people to take hospital cover. The risks are very great for the person who is not covered and the burden is also great for the taxpayer who has to pick up the bill.

The other important thing for us to know is what level of cover people have and why. Do people take a higher level of cover in the Northern Territory

expecting to have private accommodation in our hospitals? If they do, are they aware that private accommodation is not available on demand? Alternatively, should we try to provide private accommodation in our hospitals?

Another consideration is in relation to the level of health care that people take. Do they take the minimal level of health care because that is all they can afford or do they have other reasons for doing that? The department is also keen to find out how often people in that 38% bracket use services, if they are happy with the services and, if they are not, what is their area of dissatisfaction. Is it the transportation? Is it the care? Is it the food, the medical service, the manner etc? What is it that people find unsatisfactory for the money that they have spent?

The Morgan Gallop poll people said to the department that they did not regard the information we were seeking important enough to justify a special poll and that they would include it when they were doing one some time. Also, they did not ordinarily go outside the metropolis of Darwin to obtain their information. On that basis, we undertook to pay the extra expenses in getting the information that we wanted in other towns because it is absolutely essential that we know what the patterns are in each of our communities.

Mr Speaker, I would just say to the honourable member, as I said a moment ago, the information is of a general nature. He is quite welcome to peruse it when it is all available and I think members generally would find it interesting to see what the attitudes of the community are towards health insurance and the levels of cover that they expect and we give.

Sewerage Pipes

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

Is it the intention of his department to specify the long-lasting plastic line pipes in new and replacement sewerage lines?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is very difficult to answer the honourable member. However, I would imagine that the department, in deciding its specifications, would have a variety of options regarding sewerage pipes. I will undertake to obtain from the department further information and supply it to the honourable member later.

Marina in Sadgroves Creek

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

A newspaper report in May said that the government hoped within 2 months to have a firm proposal for a marina in the Sadgroves Creek area. What is the current state of that proposal?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would have to check on that newspaper article to see whether I was quoted correctly if, indeed, I am quoted as saying 'a firm proposal within 2 months'. When one starts looking at a new area not formerly looked at for a project as complex environmentally as a marina, it would be very unusual for me to say that a firm proposal would be around one way or the other within 2 months. Certainly, the government has been proceeding. Preliminary investigations indicate that the area is indeed suitable for a marina. Indeed, it may be suitable for a couple of developments that are marina related but complement each other.

Whilst that may sound a little confusing, the government proposes to collate more information, take these studies a stage further and, at a suitable time when firm decisions can be made, move to release them publicly. We will

be discussing the matter with interested parties, including yachting people and those who have expressed interest in the subject. We will discuss their needs. The Port Authority, which has general jurisdiction over this area, will have an input. We will consider the systems of mooring which might be designed to enable Frances Bay and Sadgroves Creek to accommodate many more yachts than they do at the present time because of the long mooring system which is used at the present time. We will have regard to the size and strength of the tides. Systems have been recommended which would enable close mooring and that could increase greatly the mooring capacity of Sadgroves Creek.

As information which is firm enough to be released to the public becomes available, the government will be releasing it. At this stage, it is a bit premature to say a great deal about the detail of what is evolving.

National Aborigines Day

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

This is a repeat of a question from a previous sittings. Would he consider granting a Northern Territory public holiday on National Aborigines Day which falls on 9 July each year?

No answer given.

Water Accounts

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

After the recent increases in water charges, has he considered the introduction of twice-yearly water billing?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, honourable members would be aware that the Water Division employed a consultant by the name of W.D. Scott and Co to investigate how we could upgrade our services and save money. One of the recommendations from Scott was that half-yearly bills be implemented. At this stage, I have not addressed myself to that matter but will do so in the new year.

Infant Mortality Statistics

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the past, following meetings of the Maternal and Infant Mortality Committee, infant mortality statistics for the Northern Territory used to be separately published by the Northern Territory Department of Health. Now that the department has ceased the habit of producing regular statistical bulletins, will he undertake to publish those statistics for the past year or table them in the Assembly?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker. I will take it up with the secretary of the department and see what we can do to obtain the information for honourable members.

Causeway at Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made in negotiations with the Alice Springs Town Council regarding the promised causeway at the RSL crossing in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

From memory, the budget papers indicate that a figure of \$200 000 has been set aside for the construction of that causeway. It is not a government-

controlled road. The council will now be required to put forward an application for those funds in the normal way under the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Once it has drawn up the engineering specifications to its own satisfaction, the money can be paid by way of a special purpose grant to the council and the causeway will be constructed.

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