

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 22 AUGUST 1979

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

FROM 27 FEBRUARY 1979

268 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

FROM 6 MARCH 1979

312 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

343 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

FROM 15 MAY 1979

391 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

1. What is the current membership of this committee?
2. How many members of this committee were actually born in the Territory?
3. How many members of this committee are of Aboriginal descent?
4. Have persons of Aboriginal descent ever been appointed to this committee?
5. How many members of this committee reside in Darwin?
6. How many members of this committee reside in Alice Springs?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 22 AUGUST 1979

7. How many members of this committee reside in other Territory centres?
8. What is the normal term of appointment to the committee?
9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the committee?

474 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

488 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

FROM 22 MAY 1979

531 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

587 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 22 AUGUST 1979

590 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

FROM 29 MAY 1979

602 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

629 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

FROM 22 AUGUST 1979

689 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

714 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 22 AUGUST 1979

719 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

720 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

726 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

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

762 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

786 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

792 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

793 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

794 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

798 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

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

802 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

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

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

806 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

807 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

808 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

- (a) peanuts;
- (b) guar;
- (c) mung bean;

- (d) sorghum;
- (e) rice;
- (f) maize; and

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

809 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

810 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

811 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

With reference to the Casuarina public library -

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

812 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

438 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that some farmers in the Alice Springs area have received very little or no incentives from government to expand local production of fresh fruit and vegetables?
2. If so, what action will be taken by the NT government to provide incentives for those farmers in need?
3. What action can be taken by the NT government to provide adequate marketing facilities in Alice Springs for local farm produce?

ANSWER

1. The government provides assistance to farmers producing fresh fruit and vegetables in the Alice Springs area by way of the extension activities conducted by Division of Primary Industry staff.
2. The NT government has no plans for offering incentives for extra production to Alice Springs farmers at this stage.

Assistance to producers in need is provided via the Northern Territory Development Corporation through the workings of the Rural Adjustment Scheme and other forms of financial help.

The local market could absorb more local produce than is being grown. Available land and water resources, while limited, would allow for increases in present production.

3. The NT government has no plans for upgrading marketing facilities at Alice Springs. At present these consist of a farmers' market on Saturday mornings in Todd Street, and Tully's fruit and vegetable wholesalers. Tully's would take more local produce if offered.

441 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many new positions have been created in the NT Public Service since self-government, excluding compulsory transferees?

ANSWER

Between 1.7.78 and 31.3.79 there has been a total increase in establishment (positions) of 8,060. During this period 7,028 positions were identified by the Commonwealth as performing functions transferred to the NT government. This is an increase of 1,032 over and above the number identified.

443 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What is the length of the existing pipeline from the sewage treatment plant at Ludmilla to the Darwin harbour?
2. Is it intended to extend the pipeline to 800 metres as was originally specified?
3. Is there any money, allocated for this project, remaining?
4. Are tests carried out of the Ludmilla Creek and Darwin harbour waters and, if so, how often, to measure the effect of the operation of the treatment plant?
5. What are the results of these tests?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. The distance from the land terminal manhole on the north side of East Point, to the point of discharge, is 468 metres.
2. Five alternative possibilities for a pipeline extension have been examined, including consideration of estimated capital and operation costs. All schemes would involve expenditure of several million dollars.

It is proposed to undertake further site investigations and other engineering studies to allow cost estimates and other issues to be more closely examined.

3. Relatively small sums of money remain uncommitted from the original central zone scheme, but such monies are only minor compared with the funds required for any of the extension schemes under consideration.
4. Tests were carried out, taking samples from Ludmilla Creek and the bay both before and after the treatment plant was commissioned. Such samples were taken on 13 different occasions between 1973 and 1978. General testing of the Darwin harbour waters has been carried out for some 10 years and is continuing.
5. In the bay it was found that beyond a radius of 50 metres from the discharge, the results obtained were indistinguishable from the surrounding sea water. These samples were taken when the tide was above mean sea level.

The tests in Ludmilla Creek show a considerable improvement in water quality since the treatment plant was commissioned, as the treatment plant does not normally discharge into the creek, and the pre-existing discharges into the creek were intercepted by the central zone sewerage scheme. An exception to the above arrangement sometimes occurs during times of heavy rainfall, where additional water enters the sewerage reticulation system and dilutes the sewage, and on occasions the treatment plant is by-passed and sewage flows into Ludmilla Creek, where it is further diluted by storm water before discharging into the bay.

445 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is he aware that a market exists in Japan for chillies?
2. Will he make inquiries and obtain particulars and seeds of the desired variety and propagate the plants to enable trial crops to be planted in 1979-80?

ANSWER

1. Yes, although I understand that because of plant quarantine regulations the import market is confined to dried chillies, the demand for which is met mainly by producers in Pakistan, Thailand and China. I also understand that imports in the near future are not expected to increase beyond the current level.
2. No. As a first priority our research resources will be committed to investigating production of the more common crops for the local, southern and near Asian markets.

449 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What assistance can the NT government give the appropriate authorities to hasten the upgrading of radio, telephone and television services for all Territorians?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

The provision of radio, telephone and television services is a responsibility of the Federal government, as is the upgrading of those services. There are no appropriate authorities to be assisted by the Territory government. The Territory government maintains constant pressure on the Commonwealth government by continuing representations for improvement and upgrading of services. It was recently successful in arranging for a visit to the Northern Territory by the Minister for Posts and Telegraphs and I took him on a tour through the Territory to demonstrate the need for improved services, particularly in the remote areas. Although there have been improvements in the services, my government will continue to press for the improvement and upgrading of services provided in the Territory to at least the equivalent of standards provided in the states.

450 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that approximately 30,000 Territorians are deprived of local news, weather forecasts and special programs designed for outback Territorians because the ABC and Telecom have fallen down on their jobs of providing these services?

ANSWER

Yes.

451 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that adequate radio reception could be afforded to the whole of the Territory by the provision of approximately \$700,000 to supply and upgrade transmitters?

ANSWER

No. Please supply particulars.

455 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being done to help make Aboriginal communities such as Roper River self-sufficient in -

- (a) beef;
- (c) fresh vegetables and fruit, such as pawpaw, banana, etc; and
- (d) fish?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth government's policy on Aboriginal affairs has the promotion of self-sufficiency as one of its principal objectives. Communities are given every encouragement and assistance in establishing socio-economic or subsistence type projects. The department's main source of funds for these projects are:

- (a) the "Enterprise" item of the department's Grants-in-Aid program;
- (b) the Aboriginal Loans Commission; and
- (c) the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission, which provides funds for the acquisition of land with a view to establishing and operating subsistence type cattle projects.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

In addition to the above statutory bodies, the Aboriginal Benefit Trust Account (formerly the Aborigines Benefits Trust Fund) also provides funds to communities for developmental purposes. The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, some time ago, outlined proposals to establish an Aboriginal Development Agency, which would integrate the functions of the statutory bodies referred to above and the DAA "Enterprise" item. The object of the agency would be primarily to support the establishment of economic and socio-economic projects at Aboriginal communities.

Subsistence type cattle projects are at present operating at Goulburn Island, Croker Island and Roper River. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs expects to transfer the cattle projects at Hooker Creek and Beswick Station to Aboriginal control as soon as certain financial issues have been resolved. Action is being taken to upgrade existing fishing projects at a number of communities, including Goulburn Island and Croker Island and Umbakumba.

Every possible assistance is given by the department to encourage communities to develop a viable or subsistence type market garden, e.g. Angurugu, Bathurst Island, Garden Point, Port Keats.

Support provided by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the out-station movement is aimed at attaining the highest possible measure of self-sufficiency. This is particularly relevant in the case of out-stations in Arnhem Land where small market gardens and fishing projects have been established or are planned.

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs provides essential support in the establishment of economic and socio-economic projects at Aboriginal communities, based on identified need, and in full consultation with them.

456 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Realising that bread was baked in most communities in the past, could this and other similar ventures be revived to help make Aboriginal communities self-sufficient and provide employment?

ANSWER

The baking of bread is an activity that is supported and encouraged by DAA and there are a number of settlements that are baking bread and supplying other local settlements as well as their own community.

Any enterprise such as a bakery which is put forward by a community for funding is the subject of a feasibility study and if supported, either economically or socially, is approved for funding subject to priority and availability of funds.

Also see my answer to question No. 455.

457 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the present police station to be shifted from Roper Bar to the Roper River Aboriginal community?

If so, is this with the approval of the Aborigines?

Is this with the approval of the general community, who view the present position as strategic in that it controls the crossing of the Roper River?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Is there justification for this move when there are so many single-man stations needing reinforcement, such as Mataranka?

Will the Police Department consider using an auxiliary force of Aborigines chosen by their communities to preserve law and order?

ANSWER

It is intended to close the police station at Roper Bar and rebuild at Ngukurr.

The reasons for making this decision are that most of the police workload in the area centres around Ngukurr, which is isolated from the Roper Bar police station during the wet season. Conversely, the area west of the river has reasonable access from Mataranka.

The present police station is in a sub-standard condition and is sited in a flood-prone area. This has had an influence on the decision to relocate.

There has been extensive consultation with the Aboriginal community which desires the establishment of a police station at Ngukurr.

During the wet season there may be a reduction in services to areas west of the river, but this will be less than the current disruption of the services east of the river. It is anticipated that there will be compensating increases in services west of the river, utilising police resources at Mataranka supplemented from Larrimah. The service will be enhanced by a planned increase in staff at Mataranka in the future.

The Police Department is moving to employ Aboriginal police aides to assist in policing Aboriginal communities. However, it is not envisaged at this stage to utilise poorly educated and minimally trained aides in areas where they cannot be supervised by police officers.

It is anticipated that police aides will first be used for law enforcement duties at Warrabri. This will be used as a model for progressive implementation of the scheme in other areas, including possibly Ngukurr. However, such a move will be contingent upon the establishment of a police station at Ngukurr, so that activities of the aides can be supervised.

458 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

When will Aborigines use the motel they purchased in Katherine as a hostel instead of using hospital beds for overnight accommodation when requiring X-rays, etc?

ANSWER

The Aboriginal hostel in Katherine is operational and Aborigines are taking advantages of the facility. The present accommodation is limited owing to renovations taking place on the premises. The available accommodation is fully utilised.

Aborigines are not compelled to use the hostel, but it is available if the Health Department wishes to book Aboriginal patients in whilst awaiting such requirements as X-rays.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

459 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Are pension and other cheques collected by Aboriginal associations instead of personally by the recipients?

Will identification be provided to enable Aboriginals to be identified when collecting their mail?

ANSWER

Social security benefits are addressed care of an Aboriginal organisation or association if the individual recipient so chooses and has signed a request through Social Security for the transfer.

The Kalano Association is an Aboriginal association which has the facility to provide assistance, such as social security welfare, to Aboriginal people. The premises have been designed to accommodate a social welfare section, and the staff have the expertise to provide the necessary assistance of the Northern Territory Division of the Department of Social Security.

The cheques are given to the Aboriginal beneficiaries personally, and no pressure is placed on anyone to use the benefit in any specific way.

The Yulngu Association provides a wide range of services to a number of remote communities. If so requested by a group or community, the association arranges for benefit cheques to be placed in a trust account. These accounts are then used according to the directions of the group concerned, which normally allocates a certain amount for the regular year-round supply of food items.

When it is necessary to provide corroborative identification of an Aboriginal person for any purpose whatsoever, the DAA area officer or officers of the Kalano Association are available to do so.

461 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it envisaged that the Donkey Camp will satisfy Katherine's requirements for soft water for all time, or is this proposal part of an undisclosed plan by the Northern Territory government to provide water for irrigation, hydro-electric power and drinking?

ANSWER

The Donkey Camp water supply scheme is expected to provide sufficient water for the town of Katherine for the next 20 years at least. However, it is difficult to predict accurately future trends in population and water use, so the situation has to be kept under constant review. Also it is necessary to monitor the behaviour of the water source so that hydrological and environmental predictions can be checked. Thus it is always possible that development of a further supply may be necessary earlier than now expected.

The government is well aware of the long-term prospects for a dam above the gorge and the potential this has for flood mitigation, hydro-electric power and irrigation water as well as drinking water. The cost of a dam would be very high, and at present we have no firm plans for such a development. The present Donkey Camp scheme would, however, fit in well with such a scheme, by providing a suitable point from which to draw water without the need for a costly pipeline from the dam.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

463 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the contract of the Public Service Commissioner expire?

ANSWER

The Public Service Commissioner is not employed under contract. The Administrator, under section 6(2) of the Public Service Act, appoints a person to be commissioner. Mr Campbell was appointed by the Administrator for an initial period which expires on 31.12.80.

465 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of the problems being caused in Katherine and other centres by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs policy of regulating the use of social service cheques to promote separate sales outlets for the purchase of supplies by Aborigines and, if so, will he ask the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to allow Aborigines to choose where they spend their money?

ANSWER

I am not aware of a policy of regulating the use of social service cheques and I direct the honourable member's attention to the answer provided by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, to his question 459. Should he require any further information on this matter, I suggest he might write to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs or the Minister for Social Security as the payment of Social Security benefits are a direct Commonwealth responsibility.

466 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he ascertain from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs who authorised the Yulnyu Association to collect social security cheques from Aborigines at Djembere (Duck Creek), the deduction of amounts necessary to pay for goods purchased on their behalf by the Baruwei Association and the payment of the balance to the Aborigines concerned?

ANSWER

I believe this question has been answered in replies to question 459 and 465 from the honourable member.

467 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the travelling allowance of \$22.50 per day paid to employees under NT Public Service By-law 37(3) represent the amount they are expected to pay for other than motel or hotel accommodation and, if so, are employees instructed to offer this amount to their hosts at stations, Aboriginal communities or "flying camps"?

ANSWER

The amount of \$22.50 per day is paid to employees who are required to stay overnight at localities where commercial accommodation is not available, whether at a station, Aboriginal community or flying camp.

Employees have not been instructed to offer this amount to their hosts just as they are not instructed to offer a particular amount to hotel, motel or lodging-house-keepers where commercial accommodation is available.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

It is, of course, the prerogative of hosts to charge for accommodation and the amount is paid to our employees to cover the many and varied situations involved in reimbursing their hosts or in providing their own food in circumstances where commercial accommodation is not available.

468 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the proposal to take water from the Donkey Camp at Katherine designed only to overcome the problem of mineralised water or is it part of a larger scheme to provide water for irrigation and hydro-electric power?

ANSWER

I respectfully suggest that this matter is one for consideration by my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works.

469 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the hundred or so caravans parked during the wet season at Katherine in school grounds, at the Health Department, around shops and on industrial blocks and ask: is it the government's intention to allow this practice to continue or will the government force the owners of the vans to use the licensed caravan parks in the town?

ANSWER

The only caravan parked in school grounds in Katherine is at the Katherine South Primary School and it is used by the janitor/caretaker employed by the Department of Education. The Department of Health has only 2 caravans parked in Katherine. One is the mobile dental clinic which is parked in Katherine when not in use in the field, and the other is used as a residence by 2 Department of Health employees who fulfill a caretaker role. They are soon to be allocated a house and the van will be removed.

The number of vans parked near shops on industrial blocks is unknown. Very few complaints have been received by the Department of Lands and Housing that the parking of vans is causing problems.

The problem of caravans parked on land other than licensed caravan parks is common to all Northern Territory centres. The government is taking action under existing legislation to deter the practice and is investigating the inclusion of suitable clauses in the new town plans for the various centres to control the use of caravans. In particular, default action is being taken on leases and is meeting with some degree of success. The co-operation of the Housing Commission is also being sought to prevent vans occupying Commission sites.

471 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Does the NT government recognise the inadequacy of the sitting fee of \$10 per hour for members of the Town Planning Board when the board travels to towns such as Katherine where it may only sit for one hour during a round trip that may take 12 hours?
2. Does it also recognise that the case is exacerbated when the board goes on to Tennant Creek from Katherine thereby entailing a further lengthy travelling period?
3. Does the minister expect to retain competent members with the requisite abilities to complete their tasks on this level of remuneration?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

4. Is it the intention of the minister to have the meal allowance of \$2.50 increased now that steak costs \$7.00 per kilogram?

ANSWER

1. In the determination by the Administrator of 12 February 1979, determining fees and allowances payable to statutory authorities, b(i) allows that travelling time be paid to members of the authority travelling to and from meetings. If the Town Planning Board travels to Katherine for a short meeting, members would be paid the daily rate of \$54.00 to cover time spent in travelling.
2. All time spent by members of the board travelling to and from other centres in the Territory is reimbursed, either by the payment of \$10.00 per hour if 4 hours or less are involved, or the daily rate of \$54.00.
3. No. Fees and allowances are under review.
4. Meal allowance at a set rate is not payable to members of the Town Planning Board. Travelling allowance of \$45.00 per day is payable when travel to other centres in the Territory is involved. Costs incurred at meal break of an evening meeting is reimbursed on production of a receipt.

476 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

On what basis are Housing Commission dwellings in Nhulunbuy being allocated?

ANSWER

Twenty houses will shortly be completed and allocation will take place in accordance with the policy approved by Commission members on 7 December 1978, which is as follows:

- (i) families with 3 or more children to be housed first;
- (ii) families with 2 children to be housed next in order of date of application;
- (iii) thereafter, houses to be allocated in order of date of application.

Any new applicants since 7 December 1978 will be housed in order of date of application. There is, however, provision for giving priority allocation to families with proven hardship and responsibility for 2 or more children.

480 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What arrangements are being made to ensure that noise from the operation of the new government printery on the Stuart Highway at Parap will not disturb residents?
2. What hours is it anticipated that the printery will operate?
3. Is a generator provided at the establishment and, if so, will it be operating full-time or for emergencies only?
4. What arrangements have been made to ensure that the noise of the generator does not disturb local residents?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. Noise generated within the new government printery by day to day operations is confined within the building and will therefore not disturb local residents. The only normal noise outside the building is from the air-conditioning unit and vehicles entering and leaving the premises. Noise from the air-conditioner is low enough to be drowned out by normal traffic noise from the Stuart Highway.
2. Hours are 7.30 am to 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday. Some overtime is worked on weekdays and Saturday mornings, but premises are usually vacated by 7.00 pm weekdays. When the house is sitting, limited numbers of staff may be required to work overtime to 11.00 pm.
3. An emergency generator is provided in the new premises. This generator will only run for testing purposes and when main supply fails.
4. An acoustic barrier, to meet the requirements of Australian standard number 1055 "Noise Assessment in Residential Areas", to reduce the noise emission from the generator reaching the boundary of the adjoining properties to the permissible level is to be erected following further noise level studies currently being undertaken.

481 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What were the circumstances at Urapunga Station during Easter when an Aboriginal ceremonial was interrupted by a tribesman innocently fishing from a dinghy fitted with an outboard motor?
2. In what manner did the Aborigines act towards the fisherman and in what way did they request the fisherman to depart?
3. Was damage caused to the boat and equipment and will prosecutions result?
4. Was the site of the fracas on a pastoral lease adjoining a river or on a reserve?

ANSWER

There was such an incident at Urapunga Station during Easter. The matter was reported to the police, but no action was requested and no action is contemplated. Any further information required should be sought from the persons involved in the incident.

483 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will the Aboriginal community at Duck Creek (Djembeere) be connected to the power supply from Mataranka power station?
2. If so, who will guarantee to pay Elecom the costs of line erection, maintenance and power used?

ANSWER

1. No. The community at Duck Creek (Djembeere or Djimbira) is to be supplied with electricity. However, the supply is to come from 2 16 kilowatt Ford Dunlite generating sets which will be located at Duck Creek.
2. The work of installing the power supply system at Duck Creek will be undertaken by the Department of Transport and Works on behalf of the

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Department of Community Development. The project is expected to cost about \$34,000 and is to be funded by the inclusion of a supplementary item in the 1978-79 Northern Territory Civil Works Program. The costs of maintenance of the supply network will be borne by the Department of Community Development.

The matter of service charges in respect of water, electricity, etc., supplied at Aboriginal communities is one which the Department of Community Development is investigating. At present, I am unable to say whether that department will make any attempt to recover from consumers the costs of power used by members of the Duck Creek community. The government has yet to determine the amounts and methods of levying such charges.

487 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the decision to build all houses at ground level affect Katherine which is flood prone and cyclone free?

ANSWER

Northern Territory Housing Commission general public and staff housing will be at ground level except in flood prone areas, where it has been the Commission policy to elevate the houses. This policy will continue, and therefore, housing in flood prone areas in Katherine will be elevated.

489 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that 14 meat exporters have requested information on service facilities to kill and process beef in the Northern Territory as stated by the Secretary of the Cattlemen's Union of Australia, Katherine Branch, at an industry meeting in Katherine on Saturday 27 April 1979?

ANSWER

The Secretary of the Cattlemen's Union, Katherine Branch, indicated during discussion that approximately 14 enquiries for NT beef from southern buyers had been brought to her notice. These buyers had indicated a preference for this beef to be service-killed in the Territory rather than freight live cattle south. Most buying is at present for the domestic market.

490 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the obvious requirement for processing facilities for beef owned by interests other than meatworks licensees, will he make funds available to enable interested parties to supply this requirement?

ANSWER

The financing facilities of the TDC are available to assist where justified in developing these and other similar projects in the Northern Territory.

491 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the manager of Katherine meatworks indicated that his facilities would not be available for use as service works to kill and process cattle for outside interests?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

The Katherine meatworks are not required to kill and process cattle for outside interests unless they choose to do so.

492 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. How much has been spent by the NT government on the experimental cropping program in the Katherine and Daly River areas?
2. What is the amount received by the NT government by way of sales of the crops?
3. Has an analysis been made of the cropping program?
4. If so, what are the results?

ANSWER

1. I believe that the question refers to the Cropping Development Scheme which has been undertaken as a joint government/farmer exercise aimed at promoting cropping in the Northern Territory.

So far payment of \$13,903.50 has been made by way of freight subsidy on fertilisers. Other payments for an aircraft ferry fee subsidy, transport subsidy, and insurance covering some failed crops can be expected. In addition, loans totalling \$154,000 have been made by the NT Development Corporation to the NT Producers' Co-operative for provision of infra-structure.

A further loan of \$30,000 to the Producers' Co-operative by the NT Development Corporation to enable a first advance payment on crops will be made.

2. This scheme did not envisage government acquisition of crops produced. All sales are being handled by the NT Producers' Co-operative on behalf of growers.

The only revenue the NT government will receive, will be by way of crops grown on research stations, and sold through the scheme. No payments for these have yet been received.

3. The Cropping Development Committee which oversights the scheme, is preparing a report on the results of the program. Interim conclusions will be discussed at a meeting of farmers in Katherine on 19 June.
4. A final report with all results documented will not be possible until all sales have been cleared and payments received by growers.

493 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What equipment has been installed in the Alice Springs abattoir to overcome obnoxious smells from the abattoir?
2. What is the capital cost and installation cost?
3. Does the equipment comply with Department of Health requirements?
4. Does the equipment comply with Department of Industrial Development requirements?
5. What is causing the smell emanating from the vicinity of the abattoirs?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

6. What steps have been taken to date to eradicate the smell?
7. Why was the Alice Springs abattoir allowed to be built so close to residential land?
8. What would be the cost of re-siting the abattoirs?

ANSWER

1. To retain its export licence the abattoir must comply with and maintain the very stringent health and hygiene standards set by the United States Department of Agriculture and supervised by the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry. The very nature of abattoir operations means that smells are inevitable particularly where cookers are used. Cooking odours are reduced by means of scrubbers and these have been installed at an estimated cost of \$10,000.
7. The abattoir was constructed in 1970 on a site to the west of the town and well removed from the then existing residential areas. The prevailing winds in the region are from the south-east.
8. It is estimated that a minimum of \$6m would be required to build an export abattoir with the same slaughtering capacity.

524 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Brands Register has been awaiting publication for 3 years?

ANSWER

The Brands Directory has been published. It is being distributed to relevant government organisations and is available to the public.

525 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does freeze-dried beef come under special beef imports when sent to Japan, thus attracting no quota?

ANSWER

Freeze-dried beef falls into the "Processed Meats" category of exports and therefore is not subject to quota.

526 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is there need for service facilities for local consumption at licensed abattoirs, and service facilities for export at export meatworks?

ANSWER

Abattoirs within "licensed abattoir areas" must provide a service kill for local consumption and abattoirs outside "licensed abattoir areas" may provide a service-kill if the works conform to the 4th Schedule of the Abattoir and Slaughtering Act. The market determines the need.

Abattoirs slaughtering for export are under no compulsion to offer service-kill facilities under the above-mentioned Act but are obliged to where the AMLC determines a set of scheduled prices under which they could operate. The need for the facility rests on the degree of producer support and its likely long term viability.

ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

527 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

- (a) Will he investigate the complaint by Mr R.N. Thompson of lot 1198, Fuller Crescent, Katherine, that late reading of his water-meter put him into a higher category for excess water charges?
- (b) Will he endeavour that all water-meters are read by 30 June each year?

ANSWER

- (a) Mr Thompson's complaint has been investigated and the assessment found to be in accordance with the provisions of the Water Supply (Terms and Conditions of Supply) Regulations. The method of calculation has been explained to Mr Thompson.
- (b) The size of the task of meter reading is such that it is impossible to read all meters in the Northern Territory on 30 June each year without the employment of a large number of meter readers. This point was recognised in the preparation of the Water Supply (Terms and Conditions of Supply) Regulations when a time lapse of 2 months was allowed for the meters to be read. It is not considered that this incurs any disadvantage for consumers as the interval between reading does not usually vary by more than a few days. That means that any higher consumption in one year is compensated for by a lower consumption in the next (or vice versa).

528 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Do local residents receive priority in the allocation of pensioner units?
- (b) Do pensioners benefit from the same considerations (such as zone allowance) as public servants?
- (c) How much has been allocated to the Old Pioneers Home at Katherine over the last 10 years?

ANSWER

- (a) The Northern Territory Housing Commission has advised me that local residents do not receive priority in the allocation of pensioner units. The waiting list for these units is based on date of application. Anyone on this waiting list can apply for priority by stating their reasons for special consideration. This provision applies to local residents as well as anyone else who may make application.
- (b) As previously advised in question no. 484.
- (c) The Department of Social Security granted a subsidy of \$8,350 in 1958 to the Old Pioneers Home for the building of 8 self-contained units. There has been no further subsidy allocated since that time.

529 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he investigate why an officer of the Education Department who performed her duties for almost 4 years in the Katherine office was replaced by another applicant for the position?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

I have investigated and am satisfied that the selection and promotion of the appointee was carried out correctly and without animosity or prejudice.

530 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What steps does the government take to pay its bill when unfortunate computer breakdowns or human errors cause embarrassment to its creditors?

ANSWER

In the event of a computer breakdown, steps are taken to minimise delay in the payment of creditors' accounts. Such a breakdown does not prevent cheques being drawn but holds up the normal accounting action whereby it is verified that funds are available under the relevant appropriation to meet the expenditure involved. On these occasions of computer breakdown, departments are contacted by telephone and special clearances obtained to release the cheques in advance of the normal accounting action.

532 Mr PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Can he supply information regarding the Pioneer Cropping Scheme?
- (b) What provisions have been made to receive these crops?
- (c) What policy or procedure has been provided to market, or assist in the marketing of, these crops?

ANSWER

- (a) The Pioneer Cropping Scheme, is a scheme devised and operated by a joint government/farmer committee to promote field crop industry/development in the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory Cabinet approved the establishment of the scheme for an initial one-year period and provided capital for machinery purchase and infra-structure development by the NT Producers Co-operative, insurance for farmers, and subsidies on fertiliser freight and aircraft ferry fees.

The crops being grown under the scheme include peanuts, mung beans, maize and grain sorghum.

Farmers in the scheme are obliged to market their produce through the NT Producers Co-operative.

Officers of the Division of Primary Industry, Department of Industrial Development and the NT Development Corporation are heavily involved in supporting the scheme through extension and research service and through the joint government/farmer committee.

- (b) A series of silos have been erected at the NT Producers Co-operative, Adelaide River, to receive the crop.
- (c) Marketing of crops will be done through the NT Producers Co-operative. The NT Producers Co-operative is obtaining finance from the NT Development Corporation to enable a first advance to be paid to growers. Final payment will be made on sale of the crop.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

533 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he allocate funds for the provision of a domestic satellite to ensure outback Territorians get reasonable radio, telephone and television reception?

ANSWER

The Federal Minister for Posts and Telecommunications recently announced that the estimated cost of a domestic satellite system to service outback areas of Australia is \$600m. As far as can be ascertained, no detailed studies have been done for a system to provide a similar service solely to the Northern Territory. However, based on geographic areas, it is apparent that a significant proportion of the \$600m would be required for a Northern Territory system.

Such an amount would be out of the question considering the Northern Territory government's limited financial resources.

Therefore, I regret that the answer to the question must be no.

534 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he investigate whether a dam above the thirteenth level at Katherine Gorge would enable more "flood prone" land to be used for industrial, commercial and residential purposes in Katherine?

ANSWER

I respectfully suggest that this matter is one for consideration by my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works.

566 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many (a) pistols, (b) high powered firearms are currently licensed in the Northern Territory?
2. How many firearms have been registered in each of the past 2 years?
3. How many firearms does the Registrar of Firearms estimate are currently owned in the Northern Territory?
4. How many deaths, violent or otherwise, have occurred involving firearms in each of the past 2 years including the current year to date?
5. How many injuries involving firearms, violent or otherwise, have occurred in each of the past 2 years, including the current year to date?

ANSWER

1. (a) There are 1,889 pistols currently licensed in the Northern Territory to expire on 30 June 1979.
(b) There are 699 high-powered firearms currently licensed in the Northern Territory to expire on 30 June 1979.
2. Year ending 30 June 1977: there were 11,133 low-powered firearms registered in the Northern Territory.

Year ending 30 June 1978: there were 5,591 low-powered firearms registered in the Northern Territory.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Total 1977 and 1978: 16,724.

3. There are approximately 150,000 low-powered firearms recorded on file in the Firearms Recording Section, Darwin. However, a rough estimate would be approximately 60,000 firearms currently owned in the Northern Territory, the rest being interstate, overseas or destroyed.

4. Deaths which have occurred in the Northern Territory:

1977 - 9
1978 - 15
1979 - 6 up to 8 June 1979.

5. Injuries which have occurred in the Northern Territory:

1977 - 5
1978 - 9
1979 - 5 up to 8 June 1979.

586 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Northern Territory Electricity Commission considered damming Katherine Gorge for hydro-electric purposes and, if so, what conclusions were reached?
2. What are the projected electricity requirements of the area which could be served with power from the gorge and for how long would a hydro-electric scheme be able to cater for those needs?

ANSWER

This matter does not fall within my portfolio. I suggest it be referred to the Minister for Mines and Energy.

588 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does he accept the fact that it is a responsibility of his department to maintain information on Territory meat exports and, if so, is it not also the responsibility of his department to investigate allegations made by members of the Legislative Assembly about processors and exporters engaging in practices detrimental to Territory producers and to take steps to protect the interests of those producers?

ANSWER

- (a) It is the responsibility of my department to maintain information on Territory meat exports. However, I must point out that much of this information is confidential between the AMLC and exporters and is not generally available.
- (b) It is not the responsibility of my department to investigate allegations made by one sector of the industry against another as the department has no legislative powers in this regard.

589 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What efforts has he made to interest meat processors in training and employing local labour in all facets of meatworks operations?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

The government would look sympathetically at any request from meat processors to assist in the training and employing of local labour. No such request has yet been made to government.

591 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of the concern of cattlemen that cattle weigh heavier and yield higher after arduous transport by road and rail to the eastern seaboard than they weigh at Katherine, and that the difference more than pays the higher freight costs and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?

ANSWER

I am aware of claims made that cattle yield better at eastern seaboard meatworks but I have not seen any objective evidence to support these claims. I am also aware of the price difference between Northern Territory and eastern meatworks and I consider that this must relate to the competitive advantages of the eastern meatworks through a greater diversity of available market outlets.

592 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- (a) Is he aware of allegations that 100 caravans are being used outside caravan parks in Katherine?
- (b) Does the Northern Territory government concede that with no serviced land available this practice is justified?
- (c) Will the government concede that with flood mitigation action above the Katherine Gorge much land in an around Katherine now labelled "flood prone" could be utilized for residential and commercial use?

ANSWER

- (a) There are known to be significant numbers of backyard caravans in all Territory centres, however, the precise number of vans in Katherine has not been ascertained by survey.
- (b) There are 18 serviced residential sites available in Katherine. Eight of these lots are soon to be released at auction and the balance of available sites are to be allocated to the Northern Territory Housing Commission. The construction of a new caravan park with approximately 96 sites will help reduce the incidence of caravans in backyards.
- (c) The government is not at present considering any flood mitigation action above the Katherine Gorge. Any flood mitigation action above the gorge could only be considered as part of an overall project concerned with water supply and electricity generation. Further development in the Katherine area is to be located on high ground to the east of the existing town. This area is unaffected by flood problems and future development is being encouraged here so as not to aggravate existing problems. The Department of Lands and Housing is currently looking into the general problem of "flood prone areas" with the aim of formulating a policy for the commercial and residential development of such areas throughout the Northern Territory.

593 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Is he satisfied that the special export quota granted to William

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Angliss as operator of a North Australian export works has been used as intended by the Australian Meat Board?

- (b) How did William Angliss use the special export quota of 2,000 tons during the closure of the company's Darwin works?
- (c) Was this quota used for Vestey cattle going through other service meatworks.

ANSWER

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The operation of a quota granted to a meat exporter is confidential between the AMLC and that exporter.
- (c) Yes.

594 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) What action is the government taking to protect beef producers against arbitrary trim for fat and bruising?
- (b) What action is the government taking to ensure beef producers' interests are protected by the installation of electronic scales at all NT killing facilities?

ANSWER

- (a) The NT government has sought, through the expansion of outlets for NT beef, to provide cattlemen with a choice based on free competition between these outlets. Additionally, the department has undertaken an extension campaign using AMLC and locally produced information with the aim of trying to prevent as much bruising as possible in the handling and transport of stock.
- (b) The government considers that carcass classification trials being conducted throughout Australia, and shortly in the NT, will identify the need for further facilities to protect producers' interests.

595 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the Northern Territory government investigated the desirability of trading beef with South-East Asian countries for petroleum, fertiliser and timber and, if so, with what result?

ANSWER

No consideration has yet been given on a government level to bilateral trade arrangements of the type referred to by the honourable member.

596 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has his department investigated the use of tender stretch or similar tenderising processes or will the Darwin housewife have to rely on imported beef for tender beef?
2. Has any effort been made to ensure chefs, cooks and housewives are educated in choosing suitable beef for particular cooking processes?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. No.
2. The Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation has undertaken considerable promotion to educate housewives in selecting meat for cooking processes.

597 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the Northern Territory government issue an indicative price as a guide to producers desirous of getting top prices for their beef?

ANSWER

My department will not publish an indicative price because it will vary between abattoirs depending on efficiency, carcass weight/grade and market outlets. Thus it would be necessary to prepare an indicative price schedule rather than one indicative price.

Most farmers now receive the AMLC meat market notes, have access to published price reports and can discuss the matter with agents. If these sources are utilised effectively, they are considered adequate.

598 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) What is the AMIEU view on the proposition for 2 shifts to operate meatworks?
- (b) Does he know if the processors believe that the provision of extra freezing and chilling space would be justified?

ANSWER

- (a) I understand that the AMIEU has not formally considered such a proposal.
- (b) A decision of this nature would be based upon demonstrated needs.

599 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

How can the wide price difference paid for cattle in South Australia and the Top End be justified when the end product is sold at the same price to the consumer on the US market?

ANSWER

The major factors influencing the difference in prices paid in South Australia and the Top End are differences in the quality of the cattle offered and the structure of the markets which differ in the degree of competition among bidders for the various outlets.

600 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

- (a) When will the road to Edith Falls be in suitable condition for use by conventional vehicles, including tourist coaches?
- (b) Has he plans to seal this road?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

The access road to Edith Falls has recently been graded and is suitable for use by conventional light vehicles. A new route, which is expected to deviate substantially from the existing road, is currently being investigated and ground surveys are under way.

I cannot anticipate when the project will attain program status. However, it is possible to stage construct the road, with the first stage being to gravelled standard.

601 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What assistance is the Northern Territory government providing to Mount Isa Mines to enable it to overcome its problems with the ore body at MacArthur River?

ANSWER

Problems with the ore body are mainly metallurgical which the company are attempting to overcome, not only by expertise from within their own organisation at Mt Isa and Brisbane, but from research institutions in Australia and overseas. During the last 18 years assistance has been sought from over 70 such institutions.

Unfortunately, there are no organisations or facilities in the Northern Territory which could be of assistance or attempt to match the work already undertaken.

Two officers from my department and one from the Chief Minister's Department are to visit the company in Brisbane during the week of 4 June to examine a proposed feasibility report due to be released at the end of July. Examination of associated research records and discussions on future development proposals with a view to the re-negotiation of their contract, previously with the Commonwealth, will also be undertaken.

630 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

It was reported in the Adelaide "News" on Monday 30 April 1979, that a Mrs Kathy Strehlow "had been appointed a special adviser to the Northern Territory on Aboriginal land rights".

- (a) Is this report true?
- (b) If so, when was Mrs Strehlow appointed to the position of special adviser on Aboriginal land rights and for what period of time will the appointment be effective?
- (c) What salary or fees will be provided for Mrs Strehlow during her appointment?
- (d) What specific qualifications does Mrs Strehlow have to fulfill such a position?
- (e) What will be her duties and responsibilities in this position?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

- (f) Given that competent advisers on Aboriginal land rights already exist locally in Aboriginal communities, organisations and in the Chief Minister's Department, why was Mrs Strehlow appointed?

ANSWER

- (a) No.
(b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) See above.

631 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Is he aware that a carton of canned beer costs \$19.50 at Top Springs and a can retails at \$1?
(b) As the freight per carton is 50¢, will he have what appears to be a case of exorbitant charging investigated by the Consumer Affairs Council?

ANSWER

No. I was not aware of this, but officers of the Office of Consumer Affairs are doing a road tour to many of the remote communities in the Territory in June and Top Springs is included in the itinerary. They have been directed to investigate the price of many commodities, including beer.

I will inform you of the result of the investigations.

632 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

- (a) Is it a fact that apprentices joining NT government departments are denied accommodation subsidy?
(b) As full board at Katherine Hostel is \$53 and a first year apprentice's pay is \$80, leaving a youth only \$27 to live on for 7 days, will he take the matter up with the Public Service Commissioner to ensure that outback apprentices are not discriminated against?

ANSWER

- (a) Apprentices joining NT government departments are not denied an accommodation subsidy if they fulfill the criteria of having to reside away from home in order to take up an apprenticeship. There is provision under the Northern Territory Public Service Act (By-law 53) for the Public Service Commissioner to approve an allowance in such circumstances for NT government employees including apprentices.

It is a matter of an application being made through the apprentice's department for determination by the Commissioner.

The Northern Territory Electricity Commission subsidises its apprentices in similar circumstances, their weekly accommodation subsidy is as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| 1st year apprentice: | \$40.25 |
| 2nd year apprentice: | \$37.05 |
| 3rd year apprentice: | \$40.65 |
| 4th year apprentice: | \$25.90 |

- (b) I am advised that 6 apprentices are accommodated at the Katherine Hostel. Five of these apprentices are employed by the Northern Territory

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Electricity Commission and are in receipt of a subsidy because they are required to live away from home.

The remaining apprentice has been a Katherine resident for approximately 8 years and was successful in obtaining an apprenticeship with the Department of Transport and Works in Katherine and commenced employment in February 1979.

I understand he does not qualify for the accommodation subsidy under the public Service By-laws because he was not required to live away from home in Katherine in order to take up his apprenticeship. At the time he obtained employment he was domiciled with his sister and her husband in Katherine and this arrangement has existed for some years. Recently he has transferred his lodgings to the Katherine Hostel.

However, I am advised he may be eligible for assistance under the Commonwealth Rebate for Apprentice Full-Time Training (CRAFT) scheme which provides a subsidy for apprentices living away from home but with slightly different criteria for eligibility. The allowance under CRAFT is \$21 per week in the first year of apprenticeship reducing to \$8 per week in the second year.

Arrangements are being made for the apprentice to be advised of this information and to submit the necessary application to the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs.

Investigations have disclosed that the apprentice referred to above is the only apprentice apart from NTEC apprentices, employed by NT government departments who is living away from home and not receiving accommodation assistance.

If the honourable member for Elsey has information to the contrary of an apprentice employed by a NT government department not receiving accommodation subsidy but fulfilling the criteria under the Public Service By-laws and makes the details available, I will arrange for the case to be investigated.

633 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Is he aware that his government is threatening legal action against the Girl Guides Association of Katherine to recover \$123 owing for water rates, water account No. 501.71?
- (b) Does he intend to investigate the reason why such a fine self-help body is reluctant to pay this account?

ANSWER

In answer to the question by the honourable member for Elsey regarding legal action to recover water rates being threatened against the Girl Guides Association of Katherine, I am informed that no such action has been initiated by the Department of Transport and Works.

Officers of the Department of Transport and Works are currently investigating the matter.

634 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has the Valuer-General valued the house at lot 3540 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay, which was purchased by the Northern Territory government for the interim manager of the Territory Insurance Office?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

2. If so, on what date was the valuation made?

ANSWER

1. There is no property known as lot 3540 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay.
2. There is a property known as lot 2280 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay, which was purchased for the Territory Insurance Office. It was valued by the Valuer-General on or about 14 February 1979.

659 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What improved market information will become available to Northern Territory cattle producers following the Bureau of Agricultural Economics report on beef price stabilization?

ANSWER

The report of the BAE on beef stabilization will not of itself provide any improved marketing information for Northern Territory cattle producers.

684 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the Northern Territory government looking at the possibility of Tennant Creek meatworks licence being thrown open for tender again?
2. If so, will he explain why this is being considered and what the financial implications are for the Northern Territory government.

ANSWER

1. The issue of an export meatworks licence does not fall within the area of my responsibility.
2. Not relevant.

685 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. Will the Treasurer explain exactly how the proposed standby generators will be funded?
2. If he is unable to do so, can he indicate a date when he will be in a position to release full details?

ANSWER

The requirement to purchase standby generators for the Electricity Commission has been included in the Semi-Government Loan Program being submitted for the approval of the Australian Loan Council in respect of the 1979-80 financial year.

686 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Does he agree that Top End cattlemen are receiving less for their stock because Katherine meatworks is not a service abattoir?
2. If so, what is he doing to rectify this situation?
3. Does the minister agree that Katherine meatworks should be a service abattoir?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. The availability of service-kill facilities would have no effect on prices received except where producers have negotiated alternative outlets and these buyers stipulate that cattle must be slaughtered in the Northern Territory. Competition in the market place determines prices.
2. Not relevant.
3. In the present circumstances it is not considered that Katherine meatworks should be a service-kill abattoir; the works is now killing to capacity and the main demand for service-kill operations is from buyers wishing to meet domestic market needs.

687 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many houses has the Northern Territory government bought from Mr Barry Wyatt?
2. Where are they located and how much did each cost?
3. Did these other houses have a certificate of compliance?
4. In the case of the Basedow Street house bought from Mr Wyatt, is the Northern Territory government aware that one potential buyer, a representative of an overseas government, said he would like a year's maintenance agreement from the vendor because he was not happy about the standard of the work in the building?
5. Who is now occupying the other Wyatt houses bought by the Northern Territory government?
6. Is it a fact that Mr Wyatt himself took the present occupant of the Basedow Street house for a tour of 3 houses, all of which belonged to him?
7. Was the present occupant of the Basedow Street house shown any other houses other than ones belonging to Mr Wyatt?
8. Can he confirm that it took 18 months to build the Basedow Street house?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory government, on behalf of the Territory Insurance Office, has bought one house from Barry Edward Wyatt and Elizabeth Joy Wyatt, his wife.
2. The house is located at lot 2880 Basedow Street, Fannie Bay and the purchase price was \$87,000; however, with incidentals spent, such as curtains and air-conditioning, the price was brought up to \$94,556.
3. No applicable.
4. The real estate agent for the property with whom the government dealt mentioned that the Indonesian government was interested in leasing the property but there was no mention of any purchase or other terms and conditions.
5. Not applicable.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

6. The Minister for Lands and Housing is not in a position to advise what Mr Wyatt did and suggests that the Leader of the Opposition address the question to Mr Wyatt.
7. The present occupant of the Basedow Street house was shown a number of properties by the Property Section of the Department of Transport and Works.
8. The Minister for Lands and Housing is not in a position to answer this question and suggests that the Leader of the Opposition refer to the builder of the house for the information he seeks.

688 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. As he said in answer to a question in this House, executive houses built by the Northern Territory government cost about \$89,000, will he list the executive houses completed and under construction since 1 July last?
2. In each case will he detail the exact cost of each executive house?
3. How many more executive homes will the Northern Territory government build over the next 2 years?
4. Who will occupy these houses?

ANSWER

1. A contract which was arranged by the Department of Construction for & construction of 5 executive houses, was taken over by the NT Housing
2. Commission at the beginning of the 1978-79 financial year. The builder defaulted and went into receivership and the project was let to other builders for completion which is anticipated within 6 weeks.

The combined contract price is \$70,533 each for 2 houses located at lot 2600 Lantana Street, Nightcliff; and lot 4709 Progress Drive, Nightcliff.

The combined contract price is \$60,540 each for 3 houses located at lot 3584 Alawa Crescent, Alawa; lot 3412 Stirling Court, Larrakeyah; and lot 4867 Myilly Terrace, Myilly Point.

A further contract was let in May 1979 for 6 executive houses for \$60,000 each to be built at lot 5481 Cahill Crescent, Nakara; lot 323 Leviathan Court, Nakara; lot 5327 Macredie Street, Nakara; lot 1214 Teal Court, Wulagi; lot 3072 Parsons Street, Fannie Bay; and lot 3780 Packard Street, Larrakeyah.

Land costs are additional and generally are not advised until the houses are occupied. The values would vary widely.

3. The Northern Territory Housing Commission has 12 executive houses on its program for 1979-80: 2 in Alice Springs and 10 in Darwin. It is unlikely that further executive houses (under present terms and conditions) will be constructed due to the phasing out of staff housing and the closure of staff housing lists in Alice Springs and Darwin from 1 July 1981.
4. Executive houses will be allocated to executives (level E4 and above) in accordance with decisions made by the Housing Committee.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

715 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Further to my question on notice number 342, what other functions has he requested be transferred from the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the Territory government?
2. Has a working party of Commonwealth and Territory government officials been established to examine the date of transfer of such functions and, if so, what is the composition of this working party?
3. What matters have been considered to date by the working party?
4. Will the views of Aboriginal communities and organisations throughout the Territory be sought regarding the transfer of further functions from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to the Territory government?

ANSWER

1. Culture, Sport and Recreation; Civil Works Projects; Town Management and Public Utilities; and Housing.
2. Yes. The working party consists of officers from the Commonwealth departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Finance, Aboriginal Affairs and from the Northern Territory government, departments of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Community Development and the Office of the Public Service Commissioner.
3. Matters relating to those functions mentioned above.
4. There will be widespread discussion with Aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory on the transfer of further functions.

716 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has a special committee been established by the NT government to examine Aboriginal town lease applications before or after they are considered by the Town Planning Board?
2. If so, who are the members of this committee?
3. What is the role and purpose of this committee?
4. How many Aboriginal town lease applications have been examined by this committee to date?
5. What recommendations, if any, have been made by this committee to date?
6. Have similar committees been established to examine other applications by community groups for town leases?

ANSWER

1. Yes, the minister has established a committee of 3 senior public servants to advise him on applications for town leases made on a need basis.
2. C. Lovegrove, R. Fountain and I. Barker, QC.
4. Advise the Minister

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

- 4.
- & Advice to Minister is confidential.
- 5.
6. No.

717 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is it a fact that a request by the Tangatjira Council, on behalf of the Parentja Association, for an electricity meter to be connected, at what is known as the Old Timer's Home Aboriginal camp in Alice Springs, was refused by the Electricity Commission?
2. If so, why was the request refused?

ANSWER

It is not correct that the Electricity Commission refused a request by the Tangatjira Council on behalf of the Parentja Association for connection of Electricity to the area known as the Old Times' Home Aboriginal Camp in Alice Springs.

The Commission received an application for supply in August 1978 from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Panel and was advised by the Town Planning Branch that at that time an application for a lease was subject to consideration by the Town Planning Board and that the matter was not resolved. Accordingly, the Commission held the application and wrote to the Housing Panel on 14 September 1978 advising that the Commission would await advice from the Town Planning Board.

Following approval of the allocation of a lease by the Minister for Lands and Housing on 30 April 1979 and subject to Town Planning Board zoning consideration the application for supply is now being processed.

718 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What assistance is provided by NT government surveyors to Aboriginal groups, such as the Tangatjira Council, to survey land in the Alice Springs area for town lease claims?
2. How many government surveyors are employed and based at Alice Springs to assist Aboriginal groups and other community groups to survey land?
3. (a) Has there been any scaling down of the assistance provided by government surveyors since the NT government took over responsibility?
(b) If so, why?

ANSWER

1. Surveyors and other staff of the Department of Lands and Housing in Alice Springs are available to give assistance to Aboriginal groups and any other members of the community wishing to apply for land in Alice Springs. The forms of assistance are:
 - (a) identifying the land sought;
 - (b) providing sketches of that land;
 - (c) on site inspections; and
 - (d) types of tenures and conditions available.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The boundaries are not surveyed prior to granting of a claim but corners can be identified if considered necessary. Once the claim is approved by the minister then survey for title proposed is carried out by surveyors of this department.

2. There are 7 land surveyors employed in the Department of Lands and Housing in Alice Springs together with all necessary support staff.
3. (a) After 1 July 1978 the Commonwealth Survey Office insisted upon and undertook it as their responsibility to assist Aboriginal groups to make claims. The Department of Lands and Housing now provides this assistance which is the same as that provided to any member of the public.
- (b) See the answer to question 3(a).

721 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

1. The statutory authorities which are currently the responsibility of the Chief Minister as well as members' names, are appended herewith.

Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Mr T. Hare, Chairman | Mr J. Hauser |
| Mr I. Barker | Mr B. Litchfield |
| Prof. B. Ovington | Mr W. Mawunydjil |

Territory Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Mr T. Hare, Chairman | Mr M. Stewart |
| Miss D.M. Byrnes | Mr R.N.D. Miller |
| Mr V.T. O'Brien | Mr H. Adams |

Soil Conservation Advisory Committee

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Mr P. Aland, Chairman | Mr J. Fisher |
| Mr C. Wood | Mr A.D.L. Hooper |
| Mr V. Wasilewsky | Mr A. Hagan |
| Mr R. Townsend | Mr C. Connellan |
| Mr R. Hersey | |

Jabiru Town Development Authority

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Mr E.J. Simpson, Chairman | Mr W. Hull |
| Mr C. Fuller | Mr J. Larcombe |
| Mr D. Woods | Mr A. McIntosh |
| Mr A. Blain | |

2. Sitting fees and other allowances paid to members of the first 3 statutory authorities are standard in accordance with the Administrator's Determination (Fees and Allowance payable to Members of Certain Statutory Authorities) of 26 March 1979 (see below).

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The members of the Jabiru Town Development Authority do not receive sitting fees or allowances, however, the authority does reimburse expenses incurred in relation to meetings.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

DETERMINATION BY ADMINISTRATOR

FEES AND ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO MEMBERS OF CERTAIN STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

I, JOHN ARMSTRONG ENGLAND, the Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council and in pursuance of my powers under each of the Acts or the regulations listed in column 1 of the Schedule -

- (a) revoke all previous determinations of fees and allowances payable to the Chairman and members of each of the statutory authorities listed in column 2 of the Schedule; and
- (b) determine that, except in the case of a Chairman or a member who is a Judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory -
 - (i) the fee payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule in respect of each day on which he attends a meeting of the statutory authority or is engaged, with the prior approval of the statutory authority, on business of that authority or travels to or from such a meeting or in connection with such business, shall be, in the case of the Chairman, \$60 or, in the case of another member, \$54 provided that in respect of any day on which such meeting or such business does not continue for longer than 4 hours, the fee payable to the Chairman or a member, if that person resides in the locality where the meeting is held or the business is conducted shall be an amount calculated, in the case of a Chairman, at the rate of \$12 per hour or part thereof or, in the case of another member, at the rate of \$10 per hour or part thereof;
 - (ii) the allowance payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule who is required by the business of the statutory authority to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence shall be \$45 for each such night; and
 - (iii) a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule may pay such transport expenses including fares at first-class rates as, in the opinion of the statutory authority, are reasonably incurred by the Chairman or a member in attending a meeting of , or in connection with business of, the statutory authority.

Dated this 26th day of March 1979.

(Sgd) J.A. ENGLAND
Administrator

By His Honour Command P.A.E. EVERINGHAM
Chief Minister

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SCHEDULE

ACTS, REGULATIONS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

| Column 1 Act or regulations | Column 2 Statutory authority |
|--|--|
| <u>Architects Act</u> | Northern Territory Architects Board |
| <u>Building Act</u> | Building Board |
| <u>Bush Fire Control Act</u> | Bush Fires Council |
| <u>Bush Fires Control Act</u> | Regional Fire Control Committee Alice Springs East Alice Springs West Elliott-Wauchope Gulf Northern Victoria River Barkly Tablelands |
| <u>Child Welfare Act</u> | Child Welfare Council |
| <u>Consumer Protection Act</u> | Consumer Affairs Council |
| <u>Crown Lands Act</u> | Land Board of the Northern Territory |
| <u>Electricity Commission Act</u> | Northern Territory Electricity Commis Commission |
| <u>Electrical Workers and Contract- ors Act</u> | Electrical Workers and Contractors Licensing Board |
| <u>Housing Act</u> | Housing Commission |
| <u>Lottery and Gaming Act</u> | Racing and Gaming Commission |
| <u>Museums and Art Galleries Act</u> | Museums and Art Galleries Board |
| <u>Place Names Act</u> | Place Names Committee |
| <u>Ports Act</u> | Northern Territory Port Authority |
| <u>Road Safety Council Act</u> | Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory |
| <u>Sewerage Regulations</u> | Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Board |
| <u>Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act</u> | Soil Conservation Advisory Committee |
| <u>Territory Development Act</u> | Northern Territory Development Cor- poration |
| <u>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act</u> | Territory Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council |
| <u>Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act</u> | Territory Parks and Wildlife Com- mission |
| <u>Tourist Board Act</u> | Northern Territory Tourist Board |
| <u>Town Planning Act</u> | Town Planning Appeal Committee |
| <u>Town Planning Act</u> | Town Planning Board |
| <u>Veterinary Surgeons Act</u> | Veterinary Surgeons Board of the Northern Territory |

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

722 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

1. The members of each statutory authority under my responsibility for Department of Transport and Works and for the Northern Territory Port Authority are:

Northern Territory Port Authority

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Arthur, W.S., Chairman | Trippe, A.S., Deputy Chairman |
| Milner, Captain T., Member | Wyatt, B., Member |
| Dabovich, P., Member | Warman, P.A.J., General Manager |

Plumbers and Drainers' Licensing Board

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Freeman, W.G., Member | Riley, B.D., Chairman |
| Webb, A.R., Member | Wijenayake, K.P.A. De S., Member |

Road Safety Council of the Northern Territory

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Burgess, W.M., Chairman | Hewitt, J.V., Deputy Chairman |
| Dogson, C.H., Member | Ebrall, P.S., Member |
| Firmin, C.C., Member | Goss, S.A., Member |
| Grove, J.M., Member | Harris, R.J., Member |
| Otley, W.T., Member | Pendlebury, T.R., Member |
| Preston, B.O., Member | Winckler, C.P., Member |

Bush Fires Council

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Landsdowne, K., Chairman | Hauser, J.P., Deputy Chairman |
| Marson, P.J.W., Member | Sullivan, J.M., Member |
| Bird, F., Member | Waudby, W.J., Member |
| Clauson, P., Member | Joseland, D., Member |
| Underwood, J., Member | Falls, R., Member |
| Holtham, P.D., Member | Darben, D.F., Member |

Regional Fire Control Committees

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Northern Regional Fire Control Committee: | Hayes, J.E., Chairman |
| | Garrard, A., Member |
| | Fox, R., Member |
| | Lugg, J., Member |

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Victoria River District Fire Control Committee: | Watts, C.T., Chairman |
| | Fogarty, L.L., Member |
| | Underwood, P.J., Member |
| | Hayes, R., Member |
| | Dayes, C.J., Member |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Gulf Regional Fire Control Committee: | Greig, J.R., Chairman |
| | McColm, A.R., Deputy Chairman |
| | Anlezark, K.J., Member |
| | MacFarlane, A.S., Member |

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Elliott-Wauchope Regional Fire Control Committee:

Clauson, P.A., Chairman
Doran, T.J., Deputy Chairman
Hagan, A.J., Member
Beebe, R.A., Member
Hagan, J.P., Member

Barkly Tablelands Regional Fire Control Committee:

Perriman, J.W., Chairman
Warriner, K., Deputy Chairman
Joseland, D., Member
McQueen, O.G., Member
Jansen, R.F., Member

Alice Springs East Fire Control Committee:

Bird, J.F., Chairman
Hayes, E., Member
Heaslip, G.F., Member
Smith, F.L., Member
Simpson, W.F., Member

Alice Springs West Fire Control Committee:

Bird, J.F., Chairman
Smith, C.D.R., Deputy Chairman
Chisholm, D.A., Member
Waudby, W.J., Member

2. Fees and allowances paid to members are in accordance with a determination by the Administrator, signed on 12 February 1979. The determination allows for payment of the following fees to a chairman or member who is not a judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory.

Sitting fees

Where a meeting does not continue beyond 4 hours:

| | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| Chairman | - | \$12.00 per hour |
| Member | - | \$10.00 per hour. |

Where a meeting continues beyond 4 hours in respect of any day:

| | | |
|----------|---|------------------|
| Chairman | - | \$60.00 per day |
| Member | - | \$54.00 per day. |

Allowances

Chairman or member required to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence: \$45.00 per night.

Transport expenses, including first class air fares, which are reasonably incurred.

723 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. Members of statutory authorities:

Northern Territory Development Corporation

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Clyde G. Adams, Chairman* | Noel L. Buntine, Deputy Chairman |
| Janie L. Hills, Member | Gerald G. Blitner, Member |
| John F. Ryan, Member | Edward Hayes, Member |
| John Grice, Member | |

Northern Territory Tourist Bureau

| | |
|---|---|
| Reginald L. Harris, Chairman | Frederick K. McCue, First Deputy Chairman |
| Gavin Carpenter, Second Deputy Chairman | Renton Kelly, Member |
| Ivan Shepherd, Member | Ian Conway, Member |
| Cyril Riolo, Member | Christopher Hindle, Member |

Veterinary Surgeons' Board

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| David A. Newton-Tabrett, Chairman* | Janice L. Hills, Deputy Chairman |
| | Patrick V. Mornane, Member |

NOTE: Public Service personnel are identified by an asterisk.

2. Fees and allowances paid to members are in accordance with a determination by the Administrator, signed on 12 February 1979.

The determination allows for payment of the following fees to a chairman or member who is not a judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory.

Sitting fees

Where a meeting does not continue beyond 4 hours:

| | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| Chairman | - | \$12.00 per hour |
| Member | - | \$10.00 per hour. |

Where a meeting continues beyond 4 hours in respect of any day:

| | | |
|----------|---|------------------|
| Chairman | - | \$60.00 per day |
| Member | - | \$54.00 per day. |

Allowances

Chairman or member required to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence: \$45.00 per night.

Transport expenses, including first class air fares, which are reasonably incurred.

724 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. Only one statutory authority will be under my responsibility in the Education portfolio as from 1 July 1979. This is the Darwin Community College. The council members of the college in alphabetical order are;

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Dr F.H. Bauer | Dr M.C. Grassie | Mr G.E. Tambling |
| Mr M. Brooks | Mr G. Huybregts | Mrs A. Walker |
| Mr D. Fenton | Mr J. Lawson | Mr A. Watson-Brown |
| Mr H. Garner | Mr K. Pennell | Mr H. Weber |
| Mrs N. Giese | Dr J.W. Suiter | Mr B.J. Willing |

2. Sitting fees

For full day meetings the chairman presently receives \$50 per day and other members \$45 per day. Where a meeting does not continue for more than 4 hours on any day, the chairman receives \$10 per hour or part of an hour and members \$8. It should be noted that the principal or a person who is an employee under the Public Service Act does not receive the above fees.

Allowances

Where a member is necessarily absent from his place of residence in order to attend a council meeting, he shall be paid \$37 for each night he is absent.

The council may also pay such transport expenses as are reasonably incurred by a member, travelling for, or as a result of the business of, the council to and from a place at which a meeting is to be held.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

725 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

1. The members of each statutory authority under my responsibility are -

(a) Museums and Art Galleries Board

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Justice W.E.S. Forster (Chairman) | Mrs N. Giese |
| Mr E.C. Evans | Mr F. Landsdowne |
| Mr C. Patterson | Mr P. Wells |
| Mr B. McRae | |

(b) Consumer Affairs Council

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Mr G. Watkins (Chairman) | Mrs M. Byrnes |
| Mr J. Cummins | Mr B. Heenan |
| Mr F. Kittle | Ms R. Lesley |
| Ms D. Rickard | |

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(c) Parole Board

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Justice W.E.S. Forster (Chairman) | Mr J. Flynn |
| Mr E. Quong | Mr R. Foskey |
| Sr E. Heath | |

(d) Community Service Order Advisory Committee

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Mr G. Gordon (Chairman) | Mr P. Pattent |
| Mr P. Sitzler | Mrs P. Davis |
| Mrs J. McLéan | Mr B. Valadian |
| Mr J. Donnelly | |

(e) Board of Enquiry into Welfare Needs

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Mr B. Martin (Chairman) | Mr L. Maine |
| Mr G. Djerrkura | |

2. The amount paid to each member by way of sitting fees and other allowance is -

The members of the Museums and Art Galleries Board, the Consumer Affairs Council and the Parole Board of the Northern Territory receive fees and allowances in accordance with the determination by the Administrator signed by the Acting Administrator on 12 February 1979 (see below).

This determination provides for fees to members of \$54 per day for each meeting or where a meeting lasts for less than 4 hours at the rate of \$10 per hour.

A chairman receives \$60 per day or \$12 per hour when the meeting lasts for less than 4 hours.

All members receive \$45 per day travelling allowance when required to stay overnight at a place other than their place of residence.

A member of any statutory authority who is a judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory receive their usual salary.

The fees paid to members of the Board of Enquiry into Welfare Needs are -

Chairman: \$240 for each day engaged on board business.

Other members are paid for each day they are engaged on board business on the basis of salary reimbursement -

All 3 members receive travelling allowance applicable to senior public servants. They receive first class air fares and \$45 a day for meals and accommodation.

No fees are paid to members of the Community Service Order Advisory Committee because there is no provision for such payment in the Criminal Law (Conditional Release of Offenders) Act.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

2. Payments are made only to non-Public Service members.

Medical Board

Chairman - \$50 per meeting.

Member - \$45 per meeting (for a meeting longer than 4 hours).

Chairman - \$10 per hour or part thereof for first 4 hours of a meeting.

Member - \$8 per hour or part thereof for first 4 hours of a meeting.

Dentists' Registration Board

No fees or allowances.

Optometrists' Board

Such reasonable out of pocket expenses as are approved by the board.

Pharmacists' Board

Such expenses as are reasonably incurred in attending a meeting as are approved by the minister.

Radiographers' Board

Such fees and allowances as may be prescribed. (No fees etc yet prescribed).

Nurses' Board

No fees or allowances.

Hospital Advisory Boards

The Chairman is paid \$50 per day or part thereof and a member is paid \$45 per day or part thereof providing a meeting extends for more than 4 hours.

Where a meeting continues for less than 4 hours, payments due are \$10 per hour or part thereof to the chairman and \$8 per hour or part thereof to a member.

A travelling allowance of \$37 per night per member is payable and such other reasonable transport expenses whilst on board business as the board may approve.

1. The membership of the Northern Territory Liquor Commission is as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|----------|
| Mr Ian Pitman | - | Chairman |
| Mr Michael Maurice | - | Member |
| Mr Aloysius Narjic | - | Member |

2. Fees for the chairman are covered by Public Service Determination, since he is full-time, and in this case his salary and allowances are established by the Northern Territory Public Service at executive level E4.

Mr Maurice's fee is set by the Administrator at \$50 per hour, or \$250 per day, for a full day in Darwin, or \$350 per day for a full day away from Darwin. Mr Maurice is the barrister on the commission. Mr Narjic's fee is established at \$54 per flat day rate. In addition to these fees, all members have their travelling and accommodation costs met from commission funds.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Optometrists' Board

Chairman - Dr C.H. Gurd
Members - Dr K. Moo
Mr J.C. Sloley

Pharmacists' Board

Chairman - Dr C.H. Gurd
Members - Mr G. Johnstone
Mr G. Fyson
Mr J.A. Hornsby
Mrs D.M. Killen
Mr T.G. Irvine

Radiographers' Board

Chairman - Dr C.H. Gurd
Members - Dr E.M. Bateson
Mr A.J. Hanlon
Mr J.L. Hardie

Nurses' Board

Chairman - Dr C.H. Gurd
Members - Miss L. Reynolds
Mrs J. O'Brien
Dr D. Webling
Miss D. Hayes

Membership of the Hospital Advisory Boards is as follows -

Darwin Hospital Advisory Board

Chairman - Mr E. Quong
Members - Mr B.T. Manning
Mrs C.E. Mohring
Mr H.M. Selvey
Mr E.B. James
Mr B. Valadian
Rev. C.M. Wood
Dr D. Webling

Katherine Hospital Advisory Board

Chairman - Mr K.F. Jordon
Members - Dr J.F. Scattini
Mrs M.F. Cox
Mrs B. Crabb
Mrs H.A. Murphy
Dr K. Prasad

Tennant Creek Hospital Advisory Board

Chairman - Vacant
Members - Mr H.G. Bennett
Mrs M.O. Conway
Mr P.A. Champness
Dr A. Hughes

Alice Springs Hospital Advisory Board

Chairman - Mr M. Johnston
Members - Mrs R. Monks
Mr R. Quarmby
Mr P. Hughes
Dr C. Campbell
Mr McLellan
Mrs D. Marriott
Mrs M. Hornsby

Gove Hospital Advisory Board

Chairman - Mr C. Hindle
Members - Miss M.E. Fletcher
Mrs G. Marvin
Mrs J.S. Walling
Mrs L. Yunupingu
Mrs J. McAlary
Mr E.V. Griffin
Dr P. Aralar
Dr M. Pillai

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

727 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

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

ANSWER

Northern Territory Electricity Commission

Chairman of the Commission (full-time): E.S. Dryer.

Commissioners: K.J. Davey; J. Hair.

Fees: \$54.00 per day.

Meetings less than 4 hours per day: \$10.00 per hour.

Travelling allowance: \$45.00.

Electrical Workers' and Contractors' Licensing Board

Chairman of the board (part-time): W.G. Spear.

Fees: \$60.00 per day.

Meetings less than 4 hours, \$12.00 per hour.

Members: P.R. Ryan; J.F. Lawson; J.J. Humphries (Public Servant);
C.H. Ralphs (Executive Officer, Public Servant).

Fees: \$54.00 per day.

Meetings less than 4 hours, 12.00 per hour.

Travelling allowance: \$45.00.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

728 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

1. There are 6 professional registration boards, 5 hospital advisory boards and the Liquor Commission under the minister's responsibility. Membership of the registration boards is as follows:

Medical Board

Chairman - Dr. C.H. Gurd

Members - Dr E.M. Stack

Mr J.G. Hawkins

Dr J. Brotherton

Mr A. Bromwich

Dentists' Registration Board

Chairman - Dr C.H. Gurd

Members - Dr D. Anderson

Dr C.D. Mansfield

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

DETERMINATION BY ADMINISTRATOR

FEES AND ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO MEMBERS
OF CERTAIN STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

I, WILLIAM EDWARD STANDLEY FORSTER, the Acting Administrator of the Northern Territory of Australia, acting with the advice of the Executive Council and in pursuance of my powers under each of the Acts or the regulations listed in column 1 of the Schedule, with effect on and from 1 July 1978 -

- (a) revoke all previous determinations of fees and allowances payable to the Chairman and members of each of the statutory authorities listed in column 2 of the Schedule; and
- (b) determine that, except in the case of a Chairman or a member who is a Judge of the Supreme Court, a magistrate, an officer or employee of the Australian Public Service or an employee of the Public Service of the Northern Territory -
 - (i) the fee payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule in respect of each day on which he attends a meeting of the statutory authority, is engaged with the prior approval of the statutory authority, on business of that authority or travels to or from such a meeting or in connection with such business shall be, in the case of the Chairamn, \$60 or, in the case of another member, \$54 provided that in respect of any day on which such meeting or such business does not continue for longer than 4 hours, the fees payable to the Chairman or member, if that person resides in the locality where the meeting is held or the business is conducted, shall be an amount calculated, in the case of a Chairman, at the rate of \$12 per hour or part thereof or, in the case of another member, at the rate of \$10 per hour or part thereof;
 - (ii) the allowance payable to the Chairman or a member of a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule who is required by the business of the statutory authority to stay overnight at a place other than his place of residence shall be \$45 for each such night; and
 - (iii) a statutory authority listed in column 2 of the Schedule may pay such transport expenses including fares at first-class rates as, in the opinion of the statutory authority, are reasonably incurred by the Chairman or a member in attending a meeting of, or in connection with business of, the statutory authority.

Dated this twelfth day of February 1979.

(Sgd) Acting Administrator
W.E.S. FORSTER

By His Honour's Command P.A.E. EVERINGHAM
 Chief Minister

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

729 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

The following are members of statutory authorities under the responsibility of the Minister for Lands and Housing:

Land Board

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Chairman | - | V. Wasilewsky, Public Servant |
| Deputy Chairman | - | A. Hooper, Public Servant |
| Members | - | T. Lawler, Public Servant |
| | | A. McGill, Public Servant |
| | | J. Sturtz, Public Servant |
| | | K. Lansdowne |
| | | R. Smith |
| | | A. Hagan |
| | | N. Buntine |
| | | R. Gubb |
| | | R. Beebe |

Land and Valuation Review Tribunal

Hon. Mr Justice E.A. Dunphy
Hon. Mr Justice R.A. Smithers
Hon. Mr Justice W.E.S. Forster
Hon. Mr Justice J.H. Muirhead
Hon. Mr Justice J.F. Gallop
Hon. Mr Justice J.L. Toohey

Town Planning Board

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Chairman | - | R. Withnall * |
| Members | - | M. Hannon |
| | | S. Kennon |
| | | R. Smith |
| | | M. Gort |
| | | B. Willing |
| Local Members | - | C. Black, Darwin |
| | | W. Oestreich, Alice Springs |
| | | D. Sweetman, Katherine |
| | | A. Callaghan, Tennant Creek |
| N.T. Component: | | |
| Regional Member | - | F. Rideout, Public Servant |

Town Planning Appeals Committee

| | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|
| Chairman | - | D. Mildren * |
| Members | - | G. Hunt |
| | | G. Chrisp |
| Deputy Members | - | R. McH. Morrison |
| | | K. Lange |

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Building Board

Chairman - B. Wyatt
Members - J. Hunt
 J. Barker
 E. D'Ambrosio

Architects Registration Board

Chairman - J. Hunt
Members - K. Frey
 J. Wilkins

N.T. Housing Commission

Chairman - G. Stolz **
Members - R. Jacob
 J. Bell
 L. Hansen
 P. Lantzke

The fees and allowances payable to the members are specified in the Determination by the Administrator of 12 February 1979 and are as follows:

Public Servants

- (i) No sitting fees;
- (ii) travelling allowance in accordance with Public Service By-laws.

Non-Public Servants

Chairman:

- (i) \$12 per hour for up to 4 hours and \$60 per day for over 4 hours;
- (ii) travelling allowance of \$45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Members:

- (i) \$10 per hour for up to 4 hours and \$54 per day for over 4 hours;
- (ii) travelling allowance of \$45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Costs incurred during an evening meeting for a meal are reimbursed.

* Action is presently in process to raise to \$250 per day the fees paid to the chairman of the Town Planning Board and the Town Planning Appeals Committee.

** The Chairman of the Housing Commission while not strictly a public servant is nevertheless subject to similar general conditions of service. No additional sitting fees are paid.

730 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

The only statutory authority under the Attorney-General's responsibility is the Companies Auditors Board. Its members are D. Patience, R. Lowry and R. Pearce. The chairman (Mr Patience) is paid \$12.60 per meeting and the other 2 members, \$10.50 per sitting.

731 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

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

ANSWER

Lottery and Gaming Commission

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------------------|
| Chairman | - | B. Davis, Public Servant |
| Members | - | M. O'Mahoney D. Weeks |

The fees and allowances payable to the members are specified in the Determination by the Administrator of 12 February 1979 and are as follows:

Public Servants

- (i) No sitting fees;
- (ii) travelling allowance in accordance with Public Service By-laws.

Non-Public Servants

Chairman:

- (i) \$12 per hour for up to 4 hours and \$60 per day for over 4 hours;
- (ii) travelling allowance of \$45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Members:

- (i) \$10 per hour for up to 4 hours and \$54 per day for over 4 hours;
- (ii) travelling allowance of \$45 per day where overnight travel is involved.

Costs incurred during an evening meeting for a meal are reimbursed.

The fees and allowances for members of all statutory bodies in the Northern Territory are presently under review.

760 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What resources are available in the Department of Industrial Development to encourage and help exports of goods from small primary producers and others to the northern markets in South-East Asia?

ANSWER

The Industry Promotion Division of the Department of Industrial Development is staffed by officers to assist primary producers market their

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

production surplus. Advice is readily available to producers or marketing agencies on how to market production overseas and includes advice on packaging, transportation, promotion and advertising, financial incentives, export documentation and insurance. Direct assistance in locating overseas buyers is available.

761 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What help is available from the Department of Industrial Development for local small primary producers near Darwin and other towns in the Northern Territory to market their products on the local markets, having regard to quality control and continuity of supply in particular?

ANSWER

The Department of Industrial Development encourages local primary producers to market their products through existing agencies such as the Northern Territory Producers Co-op Ltd and the Producers Market. Where producers have a marketable surplus of product, the department, through its Industry Promotion Division is able to assist with the identification and securing of alternative markets. The Department's Division of Primary Industry is able to advise producers on quality control in the production and handling stages.

787 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why did G.I. & G. Favaro Construction Company return to the Department of Transport and Works the contract to realign the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs, when the project was approximately less than half completed?
2. What amount of public money has been paid already to Favaro Construction Company out of the total amount of funds allocated for this realignment project?
3. Is it true that the plant and equipment of Favaro Equipment Company will be hired by the Department of Transport and Works to complete the realignment of the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs and, if so, what charges, terms and conditions will apply to the hire of such equipment?
4. What consideration has been given to letting out to tender the completion of the realignment project?
5. What steps will now be taken by the government to ensure that the realignment project is completed on schedule?
6. What is the estimated cost to complete the realignment of the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. The contractor for realignment of the Stuart Highway in the hills north of Alice Springs, G.I. and G. Favaro Pty Ltd advised the Department of Transport and Works in writing that due to financial reasons it was unable to complete the contract.
2. At the time the contract was taken out of the contractor's hands, the contractor had been paid a total of \$1,109,520. The total estimated cost of the project is \$3.005m and funds have been made available for this purpose.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

3. When the contract was taken over, public tenders were called for the supply of plant on a hire basis. The successful tenderer on some of the required items of plant was G.I. & G. Favaro Equipment Company Pty Ltd.

The items of plant will be hired without operators, at the tender price, and only for the time that they are required.

4. Upon advice from the contractor that he was unable to complete the contract, consideration was given to the various options available to complete the project within available funds and still meet the original target completion date. In order to meet these objectives it was decided that the best course of action was for the Department of Transport and Works to complete the project by direct management.
5. Under the management of the Department of Transport and Works, progress has accelerated and the project is now expected to be completed on schedule.
6. The current estimate to complete the work is \$1.96m.

The completion of the Charles River bridge will be by contract. Tenders have already closed and my department is at present assessing these.

788 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it true that a meeting was convened at Lake Nash on 19 May this year to discuss problems between local Aborigines and the station management?
2. Were the Lake Nash Aborigines advised officially of this meeting and, if so, by whom?
3. Were representatives of the NT government present at the Lake Nash meeting on 19 May this year and, if so, who were they?
4. Were representatives of the Federal government present at this meeting and, if so, who were they?
5. Were representative of the Swift (Australia) Company present at this meeting and, if so, who were they?
6. Were any advisers present at this meeting to assist the Lake Nash Aborigines and, if so, who were they?
7. Did this meeting have the services of an interpreter between the Aborigines and non-Aborigines present and, if so, who was the interpreter and who arranged for his or her services?
8. In what capacity did the Minister for Mines and Energy attend the meeting at Lake Nash on 19 May this year?
9. Is it correct, as reported in the media on 22 May 1979, that the management of Lake Nash Station would allow Aborigines as of Thursday 24 May 1979 -
 - (a) to purchase food supplies from the station store with social security benefits cheques;
 - (b) to cash such cheques;

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(c) to purchase petrol; and

did the management of Lake Nash Station in fact allow such purchases as of 24 May this year?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Two meetings were held at Lake Nash on 19 May 1979. One with station management and the other with Aborigines of Lake Nash Station.
2. Yes, by Mr J. Chudleigh of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Mr D. Kerrin, Aboriginal Liaison Unit, Chief Minister's Department.
3. Yes. Mr Ian Tuxworth, Minister for Health and Energy; Mr G. Nicholson, Crown Solicitor, Attorney-General's Department; Mr J. Gallacher, Executive Officer, Aboriginal Liaison Unit, Chief Minister's Department; Mr D. Kerrin, Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Chief Minister's Department.
4. Yes. Mr R. Huey, Regional Director (Southern) DAA; Mr J. Chudleigh, Area Officer, Tennant Creek, DAA; Mr H. Pepperill, Field Officer, Tennant Creek, DAA.
5. Yes. Mr P. Bassingthwaite; Mr P. Crumlin, Manager of Lake Nash Station was also present.
6. Yes. At the second meeting with the Lake Nash Aborigines there were, in addition to the government officers mentioned above, Rev. J. Downing, Institute of Aboriginal Development, Alice Springs; Mr B. Ede, Director, Central Australian Aborigines Congress; Mr R. Howie, Solicitor, Central Land Council.
7. Yes. The interpreter was Mr Davey Bula and his services were arranged by Rev. J. Downing.
8. Mr Tuxworth attended both meetings in his capacity as Minister for Health.
9. Yes.

789 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What legal, financial and welfare roles does the NT government have in respect of the administration of Aboriginal Affairs in the Territory?
2. Does the NT government propose to take over all the functions of the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Territory?
3. Who are his advisers within the NT government on Aboriginal Affairs policy and what are the qualifications and experience of each of them in the field of Aboriginal Affairs?
4. Which of the advisers are NT public servants and which are Commonwealth public servants?

ANSWER

1. The administration of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory is the responsibility of the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

In accordance with the NT Self-Government Act and the Memorandum of Understanding in respect of financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and a self-governing Northern Territory, the NT government has important legal, financial and welfare roles in respect of Aborigines in that Aborigines are equal members of the total NT community and are entitled to the legal, financial and welfare services available to all other citizens in the Northern Territory.

The Memorandum of Understanding, at paragraphs 44 to 46 inclusive, sets the framework for the special financial arrangements between the Commonwealth and NT government for additional funds which may be necessary to reduce the degree of disadvantage which undoubtedly exists at this stage between many Aborigines and other citizens in the Northern Territory.

2. The NT government has already been given the responsibility for the provision of essential services to Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. It is negotiating with the Commonwealth the transfer of funds for all other state-type functions which are being carried out by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The NT government does not propose to take over all the functions of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory.

The NT government accepts the functional role of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs as summarised in a paper presented to the Aboriginal Affairs Council meeting at Brisbane in November 1978 and I quote:

"The principles on which DAA approaches its responsibility are set out below. Its wish as a department is to co-operate with service delivery agents, whether Commonwealth or state.

- . The principle that DAA does not deliver government services. That is for functional Commonwealth or state authorities.
- . The principle that DAA has the responsibility of ensuring that the Commonwealth's policies are put into effect through co-ordinated practical action by functional authorities in individual communities, supplemented as necessary by direct grants-in-aid to Aboriginal organisations.
- . The principle that DAA has a special interest in and responsibility for relating action by functional authorities to Aboriginal needs. In carrying out this responsibility, it should stimulate, initiate and monitor as well as co-ordinate.
- . The recognition that DAA/government interaction with communities itself has an impact on community plans and progress and that the process should be one in which the community worker is able to give advice and in which also the NAC member fully participate.

The principle that individual states may have their own systems for co-ordinating state services. The role of DAA is seen as that of co-ordinator of total inputs as part of the Commonwealth policy planning and financing responsibility based on Commonwealth legislation and the subject of agreements with states."

3. I do not propose to list all NT public servants who are involved in policy development, but provide the following list of officers of the Aboriginal Liaison Unit who contribute to the advice which I receive.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Creed Lovegrove, Jim Gallacher, Les Penhall. These officers have had a long and close association with Aborigines in the Northern Territory and with their advancement. Additionally, Olive Kennedy, Dennis Kerrin, Hyacinth Tungutalum, Eric Roberts, Wali Wunungmurra, Dean Yibarbuk are Aborigines appointed to positions of Liaison Officer within the Chief Minister's Department.

4. All are Territory public servants.

790 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the Swift (Australia) Company and the Queensland and Northern Territory Pastoral Company - members of the King Ranch Texas Group companies - have attempted to evict the Aboriginal population of Lake Nash Station on 2 occasions in 5 years?
2. Is he aware of the apparent public controversy surrounding the policies of the above-mentioned companies in relation to Aborigines and is he satisfied that this apparent controversy will not inhibit or adversely affect the continued export of Australian and Territory beef by such companies to the United States of America?
3. Is he aware of any proposals by USA civil rights groups to press for the banning of beef exports from Australia to the USA as a result of the company's action against Aborigines at Lake Nash Station?
4. What action, if any, has been taken by the NT government to date to resolve the problems at Lake Nash Station between Aborigines and the management?

ANSWER

1. I am not aware of any attempts to evict the Aboriginal population at Lake Nash.
2. I am aware of the public controversy surrounding the situation between the Lake Nash pastoral management and the Lake Nash Aborigines, but I am unaware that this is likely to adversely affect the continued export of Australian and Territory beef to the USA.
3. No.
4. As a result of the meetings of 19 May, pastoral management at Lake Nash has now agreed to cash all cheques at the local store. The NT government is presently negotiating with the Queensland and Northern Territory Pastoral Company to see whether land suitable to the Lake Nash Aborigines can be made available within Lake Nash for use by the Lake Nash Aborigines. When such land does become available, the NT government would accept the responsibility for the provision of services to the Aboriginal community located on the land set aside.

791 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the cost of fuelling the Stokes Hill power station in the financial years 1972-73; 1975-76; and 1977-78?
2. What is the estimated cost for the current year and for the 1979-80 financial year?
3. Are fuel shortages anticipated for any reason in the 1979-80 financial year and, if so, what measures are planned to overcome them?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. Stokes Hill power station was operated by the Commonwealth government during those years and it is expected that there would be some delay in obtaining this information. It is understood, however, that the costs were as follows:

1972-73 - \$1,139,000; 1975-76 - \$5,858,000; 1977-78 - \$6,937,000.

2. The estimated cost for 1978-79 is \$9,500,000. A figure of \$12,900,000 is presently budgetted for 1979-80.
3. It is clear that the future price and availability of petroleum based fuels must be regarded as uncertain with shortages likely to occur without notice.

In the shorter term, the Electricity Commission has commenced work to rehabilitate some of the wartime tunnel tanks in Darwin to increase storage capacity for Stokes Hill power station.

I have written to the Minister for Administrative Services seeking a 30 year lease for the balance of the underground tanks and the Navy are presently considering a request for the lease of the storage tanks at Doctor's Gully.

The aim is to provide sufficient storage capacity to hold fuel for 6 months operation of Stokes Hill power station.

With regard to the other power stations which operate on distillate, work has already commenced to provide for some 9,500 tonnes of additional storage capacity.

The primary aim of increasing storage capacity is to enable the commission to weather the shortages which may occur from time to time.

In the longer term where the problem of oil supplies will probably worsen, the commission looks to the development of oil and gas deposits in the Mereenie area as well as hydro-electric potential in the Top End and at the Ord River dam.

795 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

I refer to recent grants of \$1,630 to the Family Planning Association, \$1,600 to Pregnancy Healp Incorporated and \$1,500 to the Natural Family Planning Association, Northern Territory, and ask -

- (a) Are these organisations incorporated in the Northern Territory?
- (b) Has the NT Department of Health received audited financial statements from each organisation for 1977-78?
- (c) During 1977-78, how many patients/clients did each organisation service in the Northern Territory?
- (d) How much does each organisation charge for a consultation?
- (e) During 1977-78, how much financial assistance did each organisation receive from the Commonwealth government?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

1. Family Planning Association of the Northern Territory Inc.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) 2,383 consultations at clinic sessions plus various education lectures at school and hospitals.
- (d) Charges are raised for medical consultations only at \$6.50 for a brief consultation and \$8.50 for a standard consultation. Where an intra-uterine device is inserted a combined fee of \$17.60 is charged.
- (d)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Health Program Grant | \$23,268 |
| Family Planning Program Grant | \$22,907 |
| Rent Subsidy Department of the NT | \$ 2,500. |

2. Pregnancy Help Incorporated

- (a) Yes.
- (b) No.
- (c) The organisation did not become active after the Christmas 1974 cyclone, until August 1975.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) Nil.

3. Natural Family Planning Council of the Northern Territory

- (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) Approximately 100.
- (d) An initial consultation fee of \$3.00
- (e) Nil.

796 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

- 1. What arrangements have been made to provide improved conditions for passengers and staff during baggage clearance, immigration clearance and quarantine clearance at the Darwin airport?
- 2. Will the building known as the Customs Hall be air-conditioned?

ANSWER

I wish to inform the honourable member that these matters are Commonwealth responsibilities. Nevertheless, I shall continue to press the Commonwealth government to upgrade facilities at Darwin airport.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

797 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many government buildings in Katherine are not directly connected to the Fire Brigade headquarters by automatic fire alarms and other communications?

ANSWER

There are approximately 14 Northern Territory administered buildings in Katherine not connected to the Fire Brigade's automatic alarm system.

799 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

- (a) What is the estimated cost of the proposed overpass to be constructed at the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway intersection?
- (b) What other options were considered to relieve traffic congestion at that intersection?

ANSWER

- (a) The order of cost estimate for the proposed Bagot Road-Stuart Highway overpass is \$2,500,000.
- (b) Many investigations have taken place to relieve traffic congestion at this intersection and to improve the traffic flow into central business district. Four major projects have been proposed for construction during the 1978-79 and 1979-80 financial years. These projects are the Frances Bay arterial road, Fannie Bay connector road, reconstruction of intersections at Ross Smith Avenue-Stuart Highway, Parap Road-Stuart Highway and Goyder Road-Stuart Highway and the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway overpass.

It is anticipated that the traffic flow at the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway intersection will be substantially improved on the completion of the overpass.

800 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it expected that the reconstruction of the Stuart Highway, which was recently commenced between the 12 and 14 mile, will be completed at that location?

ANSWER

The contractors, Henry and Walker Pty Ltd, are proceeding on schedule and it is expected that the reconstruction of Stuart Highway between 12 and 14 mile will be completed by the end of July 1979.

801 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the government assumed responsibility for maintaining the section of Freds Pass Road which provides the only means of access to the Elizabeth River Estate subdivision in the Hundred of Stangways? If the answer is yes, why has the road not been maintained to acceptable rural standards?

ANSWER

The government has not assumed responsibility for maintaining the section of Freds Pass Road which provides access to the Elizabeth River Estate subdivision.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

803 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What specific conditions over and above normal public service conditions are given to each of the departmental heads in the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

The only specific condition over and above normal Public Service conditions applicable to departmental heads is the payment of an out-of-pocket allowance. In addition, as with some other employees, a departmental head is provided with an official vehicle and telephone in his private residence because of the requirement for official duty after hours.

804 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

During 1978 -

- (a) how many persons were apprehended in accordance with sections 6(1), 6(2), 9 and 11 of the Mental Defectives Ordinance;
- (b) in each of these categories, how many were remanded, and detained -
 - (i) where; and
 - (ii) for how long;
- (c) how many in each category were subsequently found to be mentally defective;
- (d) how many have been transferred to state institutions; and
- (e) how many have been transferred to state institutions under section 17 of the Mental Defectives Ordinance?

ANSWER

- (a) 31 persons.
- (b) (i) 25 persons - Darwin Hospital
 - 1 person - Alice Springs Hospital
 - 4 persons - Darwin's Fannie Bay Gaol
 - 1 person - Alice Springs Gaol
- (ii) 30 persons - 14 days
 - 1 person - 8 days.
- (c) 10 persons.
- (d) 10 persons.
- (e) 2 persons.

805 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

- 1. What is the rate of fluoridation of the Darwin water supply?
- 2. On what basis is the rate determined?
- 3. Is consideration given in determining the rate of the higher consumption of water in tropical areas?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

4. Are any studies being undertaken to assess the effect of the fluoridation of Darwin water supply on the teeth of Darwin children?

ANSWER

1. Within the range of 0.6 to 0.8 mg/litre, i.e. 0.6 to 0.8 parts per million of fluoride.
2. From studies in the USA concerning temperature as a determinant of the fluoridation level and the review of optimum fluoride levels by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia.
3. Yes; as shown by the above studies. The recommended level in temperature climates being 1 : 1.2 parts per million (L: 1.2 mg/litre).
4. A pre-fluoridation survey giving base-line data was conducted in Darwin in July 1972. The National Dental Survey, a Commonwealth/states initiative is now being planned and costed in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This will provide a basis for further surveys on Darwin children.

813 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister or one of his ministers make a full statement to the Assembly during these sittings regarding East-West Airlines' proposed take over of Connair? In particular, will he assure residents of out-back communities that East-West Airlines will provide a service to them and not simply cream off the profitable routes?

ANSWER

It is interesting that the Leader of the Opposition has raised this point at this time. I read in the popular press that discussions are taking place between East-West Airlines and Connair and that there is to be some resolution of these discussions by the 24th or 25th of this month. It is a fact that East-West Airlines have had discussions with officials of the Northern Territory government. I have seen a proposal which East-West Airlines put to the Northern Territory government as to what its attitude should be towards the proposed merger between East-West Airlines and Connair. Some of the terms of that proposal were very interesting to me because East-West Airlines proposed that at least 49% of whatever corporate structure arose out of the merger should be held by residents of the Northern Territory. East-West Airlines further proposed that new and modern aircraft should be obtained to service outback communities and that it take over from Ansett and TAA the routes between Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs and that these be serviced by modern aircraft. East-West Airlines indicated also that it has been seeking approval from the Minister for Transport, Mr Nixon, to re-equip its fleet with modern jet aircraft and that these aircraft be used, together with Fokker Friendship F27 aircraft, in services within the Northern Territory.

There was one outstanding point of the East-West Airlines' proposal: it felt that it could accommodate within its ranks the people presently employed by Connair Pty Ltd and further that it would not need a subsidy for its operations. A subsidy, of course, depends on whether the Northern Territory government, which has at the present time no intra-Territory air navigation powers, can persuade the federal government to give to East-West Airlines - providing modern aircraft are employed and frequencies are improved - the routes between Darwin and Alice Springs. Its proposal also includes a continuation of the route from Alice Springs to Sydney.

I see this as the virtual creation of a third major airline within Australia by the joining together of East-West Airlines and Connair Pty Ltd. East-West Airlines is a most progressive airline with a record of good service to rural communities in outback New South Wales and outback Queensland. It also has as good a record in boosting tourism within eastern Australia as is possible for any airline to have.

This government has been saying ever since it came into office in September 1977 that it abhors the current two-airline policy in Australia. The Northern Territory government has fought to have this policy struck down. By the creation of the new corporate body - I believe it could be called Northern Airlines or Air Australia - the two-airline policy will be effectively placed in jeopardy for the first time because there will be real competition throughout most of Australia. South Australia and Western Australia will be the only 2 states where East-West Airlines or the new Northern Territory Airline will not be operating.

Hopefully, not only will the Northern Territory have spawned, together

with Queensland, Australia's overseas airline, Qantas, but also will give birth to Australia's third major airline. This major airline will do much to promote tourism in the Territory and will assist people in isolated communities by providing increased and better services. I hope that it will be able to provide better and more regular freight services and, generally speaking, I believe that such a merger can only be for the betterment of the Northern Territory and the people of Australia.

814 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

My question relates to Aboriginal housing programs funded by the Commonwealth and administered by the Northern Territory. I asked this question on Thursday 31 May. Was the minister reported correctly on Morning Extra when it was indicated that he had stated it would set a very dangerous precedent to ask neighbours their opinions before moving families into Housing Commission Homes and that he would not be a party to such an exercise?

ANSWER

I confirm the answer that I gave the honourable member. I do not intend to change it.

815 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the current position with the Pellerman offer to use part of the Darwin Hospital for a private hospital facility?

ANSWER

In February this year, Mr Pellerman, who is a private hospital operator in Sydney and who is building another hospital on the Queensland Gold Coast, indicated to the government that he would be interested in taking up part or all of the Darwin Hospital and operating it as a private hospital for the people of Darwin. I encouraged Mr Pellerman to put up a proposal to give us an indication of what he was prepared to pay for the Darwin Hospital and how he saw the whole thing being operated. Subsequently, we received what amounted to a profit and loss statement from Mr Pellerman outlining how he saw the economics of the Darwin Hospital running as a private hospital similar to his present hospital in New South Wales and the hospital he is constructing in Queensland. He indicated that there would be a great saving to the people of the Northern Territory as a result of his entry into the field of private hospital care because he believes that private hospital operations are much more economic and satisfactory so far as the patient is concerned.

The basis of Mr Pellerman's submission was not totally satisfactory from the point of view of the government in that it did not address itself to the questions of satisfactory remuneration for the buildings, the method of operation within the hospital for the sections that Mr Pellerman was interested in and the funding of services that would be provided within the hospital such as steam, electricity, water etc. As honourable members would be aware, the Darwin Hospital is a very large complex which is rather like a rabbit warren in many ways. Over the years, the Health Department has established a rather satisfactory system within the hospital of providing central services and maintenance to the hospital unit. One of the questions that arises is that, if Mr Pellerman was to take up a part of the Darwin Hospital how would the services be shared amongst the persons using the facility? Would Mr Pellerman be interested in assuming the whole use of the boiler house, laundry and kitchen operations

if he was only using part of the hospital? Issues such as these were not mentioned in Mr Pellerman's paper but are certainly matters for further discussion.

One other aspect to which the government has to address itself is what is to become of the Darwin Hospital in the event of the present services such as the psychiatric, the rehabilitation and the geriatric units remaining there. Neither Mr Pellerman nor the facilities that will stay in the Darwin Hospital will use all of the building. What is to become of the rest of it and how is it to be maintained? What will be the cost of that maintenance?

Honourable members will be aware that, when the Casuarina project was put before the Commonwealth Parliamentary Works Committee, there was a provision in the planning for a second stage to be built at Casuarina which would accommodate the psychiatric, geriatric and rehabilitation units that will still be housed at this stage in the Darwin Hospital. The government has to balance the cost of building the additional wing at Casuarina compared with its staying where it is. If an additional wing was built at Casuarina, what would become of the existing Darwin Hospital? There are people within government who would say the hospital should be retained for future growth of the Darwin urban area and its surrounds so that, when the Casuarina complex is fully utilised, the government can return to the building in the main city area and begin to use it again as a hospital. There are certainly many questions to be answered concerning that proposal. If a return to Darwin Hospital occurred after 1985, the question of maintaining the hospital at a satisfactory standard so that it could be re-used after that period is certainly one that would need considerable investigation. As honourable members would know, it is probably more expensive to maintain an empty building than it is to maintain buildings that are used every day.

There are many delicate issues involved in the consideration of using Darwin Hospital as a private hospital. As a government, we are very keen to see a private hospital established in Darwin. We think it would have a great contribution to make to the community because they do contribute much in the other states. A complicating factor is that the federal Minister for Health, as a result of a meeting held in Sydney in May this year, has come to an agreement with the states that there should be no increase in the number of beds made available within the Commonwealth while a current study is being conducted by the states and the Commonwealth on bed costs. This particular request of the Commonwealth would be very valid in respect of the states where bed occupancies in hospitals vary between 35% and 65%. While the Northern Territory would expect to accede to the request of the Commonwealth, we may well justify a case for the Darwin Hospital to be used as a private hospital or not. This issue has been dealt with pretty lightly by some people as though it was just a yes or a no issue. It has very serious financial ramifications for everybody in the Northern Territory and I believe it is an issue that should be dealt with very carefully.

816 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he verify whether exploration will be restricted as a result of the Finnis River land claim?

ANSWER

I would like to present some facts about the Finnis River land claim as they apply to mining exploration and development within the Northern Territory. A press headline the other day suggested that the Finnis

River land claim would deter or wreck mining exploration in the Northern Territory and there were some rather unfortunate, ill-informed comments by someone from the mining industry. I would like to put before honourable members the position so far as this particular land claim is concerned. It is very important that we deal with the facts in this particular issue and not with the surmise and the rhetoric which are often bandied about.

Honourable members would be aware that a land claim has no effect over existing exploration licences or licences granted prior to the lodging of a land claim. These licences continue for their full term and are subject only to the normal provisions of the Northern Territory Mining Act. However, should a land claim be upheld, it affects the applications by the existing exploration licence holders for consequential mining tenements within the area of the exploration licences. The grant of these mining tenements is dependent upon the consent of the appropriate land council and an agreement between the land council and the company concerned is required under sections 40 to 43 of the Aboriginal Land Rights Act.

Applications for further exploration licences which have not been granted prior to the land claim being lodged will be held in abeyance pending the outcome of the hearing of the claim. Should the claim be upheld, then the grant of the exploration licences would be dependent upon the consent of the appropriate land council and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. In the case of mining tenements that are granted prior to the lodging of a claim, these will not be affected. However, applications made after the date of lodgment of the claim will be subject to the normal provisions of sections 40 to 43 of the act.

Turning specifically to the honourable member's question, the Finnis River land claim was lodged with the Aboriginal Land Commissioner on 20 July by the Northern Land Council on behalf of Aboriginals claiming traditional relationships with that area. There are approximately 23 exploration licences granted within the area of the land claim and 29 applications for exploration licences were lodged prior to the lodgment of the claim. There are also 39 mining tenements within the area of the claim and no applications for mining tenements are pending. Preliminary studies undertaken by the Department of Lands and Housing and the Department of Mines and Energy show that a proportion of the land comprising this claim is in fact alienated crown land and cannot be the subject of a claim. If this should prove to be the case, then the effect on mineral exploration would be minimal in this area. I think it will be shown that the effect on mining and exploration will not be as devastating as some people would have us believe.

817 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that a letter signed by Mr Clyde Adams on behalf of the minister has been circulated to officers of the Primary Industry Division instructing them not to answer questions asked by the member for Elsey?

ANSWER

I am surprised to receive such a question as this from the member for Victoria River. I cannot speak to Mr Clyde Adams at the moment because, firstly, he is away on recreational leave overseas and, secondly, he is not secretary of the Department of Primary Production. He is the full-time chairman of the Territory Development Corporation. However, I have had inquiries made of the Director of the Division of Agriculture and

Stock within the Department of Primary Production, Mr Tony Hooper, and I can give an assurance that Mr Hooper denies completely ever instructing any of his officers not to assist in the preparation of answers to questions of any type put by the member for Elsey nor has he done so in relation to any other MLA. He is satisfied that none of his officers has issued such instructions to other officers. Since 1 July 1978, the honourable member for Elsey has put between 50 and 60 questions on notice requiring the preparation of answers by the Division of Agriculture and Stock, formerly called the Division of Primary Industry, and only one of those questions - question on notice 590 concerning beef marketing - has not at the present time been answered. An answer to this question is awaiting ministerial clearance.

818 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the minister explain why the responsibility for price control and tenancy was removed from his department, which is responsible for consumer affairs, to the Department of the Treasury?

ANSWER

I would ask her to place the question on notice.

819 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Does the present shortage of distillate, the threatened shortage of avgas and the almost complete lack of automotive LPG outlets give the minister cause for concern as to the way in which the supply of energy in the Northern Territory is being managed?

ANSWER

There has been some dislocation in the last 2 or 3 weeks over the supply of diesel and avgas to consumers within the Northern Territory. This is an issue that has been blown out of proportion. There has been, on the part of the industries, unfortunate communication with their consumers and their dealers on how the matter should be resolved. One of the facets of supplying fuel, particularly diesel, avgas and petrol, to the Northern Territory market is that it is planned with the shipping companies between 6 and 8 months ahead. As far as the companies are concerned, every gallon that is purchased is virtually sold when it gets here. That does not mean that they have orders for it but it does mean that they have a projected sales commitment or market share to honour.

We have, at the moment, a shortage of avgas. This is not just within the Northern Territory but it is an Australia-wide problem. It appeared obvious to me at the latest Minerals and Energy Council meeting that, while we have a problem, we are probably the least affected state in the Commonwealth.

The shortage of both products was not only caused by the dislocation of supply lines by one particular company but also by the upturn in the Northern Territory economy. If we compare the Northern Territory's economy today to the activity that was going on 12 months ago, I think everybody would agree there has been a very considerable increase in all areas. The beef industry is particularly buoyant. The tourist industry is at a peak and I don't think it has ever been as busy as it is at the moment. The mining industry, with the development of Ranger and Nabarlek and the recommissioning of the smelter and extension works at Gove, is

also in a high period of activity. The coastal surveillance operation, which was not planned for 11 months ago, is also demanding a lot of fuel.

That being the case, the companies had planned for a projected growth which was probably reasonable given the circumstances. Most of them planned for a 30% increase in consumption as a result of activity. We have met the 30% within the Territory and we have exceeded it considerably.

The company that won the diesoline contract unfortunately - and probably they have a great deal of responsibility for this - did not have a supply line that could meet the contracted commitment to the Ranger and Nabarlek projects. They will get over it in the course of time because organising shipping takes time. In the meantime, it has given us the dislocation problems that we have at the moment. On the avgas side, the product is coming from Singapore. Like the rest of Australia, we are getting a supply that is above last year's consumption but definitely not adequate for the amount of activity that is occurring. The industry people advised me that, so far as avgas is concerned, they do not see any easing of the situation at all. In fact, we will have to contract in the areas of joy-riding and parachute jumping if we are to get through this period.

There is a ship due in Darwin on the 27th which will get us out of the current problem regarding diesoline. I have made representations to the management of Shell and the federal Minister for National Development to have the Northern Territory's quota of diesoline increased to a level that will enable us to meet the level of activity at present. It is not an acceptable proposition so far as this government is concerned for the activity that we have all worked so hard to generate to be thwarted by a decision of a company in another place.

One of the discussion points at the recent ministerial conference on energy was the conversion of vehicles to LPG where possible. It was indicated, with some quite strong evidence to support it, that the maximum conversion that we can hope for in this country is between 10% to 15% of vehicles. These would be primarily fleet vehicles such as taxis and hire cars that work within a close proximity of refuelling points because the distribution of LPG is the criterion that decides whether you can convert or not. The conversion will also be slowed down because the Americans, the main producers of conversion kits, have an embargo on their export at the moment because they are looking after themselves first.

So far as the Northern Territory is concerned, LPG is not a proposition for us at the moment because the cost of bringing in a litre of LPG that would do the same work as a litre of petrol is about 44c to 45c a litre. This does not compare favourably with the current cost of petrol or diesel which is around 30 cents. To answer the honourable member's question, there has been some dislocation. I do not think it is a matter of irresponsibility; it is the enormous growth at the moment that is causing it.

820 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the shift of the residential population from the centre of Alice Springs, has any thought been given to the closing or moving of the Nathalie Gorey Pre-school Centre?

ANSWER

The Nathalie Gorey Pre-school has some difficulties in that it originally

operated under a trust. I further believe that the trust indeed has some funds remaining within its accounts. The Alice Springs town council want the Nathalie Gorey Pre-school for the purpose of a senior citizens club to replace the existing Adelaide House Senior Citizens Centre in Todd Street. Certainly, there is a market movement of population due to the opening of new subdivisions in the eastern area of Alice Springs. It would be fairly safe to assume that we will need a pre-school out in that area and probably further primary school facilities. It comes back to locating the original trustees of the Nathalie Gory Pre-school, consulting with the parents who send their children to that pre-school and making sure that the name of that very famous lady of early Alice Springs history is maintained in some other institution. It is a historic pre-school and that woman was very actively associated with early education in Alice Springs. That really is the position at the moment: a recognition of needs of the eastern area of Alice Springs, the requirement of the council for a new facility for pensioners and the resolution of any trust difficulties which may arise in respect of the original trust which set up the Nathalie Gory Pre-school.

821 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERY

Has the Northern Territory government adopted a definite attitude to the banning or deferring indefinitely of sand mining in the rural residential area having regard to the recommendations in the recent rural development plan ?

ANSWER

The government has addressed itself on several occasions to the issue of sand mining in the Howard Springs area. I am sure that everybody knows that the honourable member for Tiwi and Arnhem ride me pretty heavily about it. One thing that has prevented us from getting out of the Howard Springs area completely so far as sand mining is concerned was the lack of a suitable supply from another source. The Department of Mines and Energy has identified another source which will continue to supply Darwin with its needs for some years to come. The area that the honourable member for Tiwi refers to is one that we both inspected recently and I am of the opinion, without having technical data to support me today, that there should be no sand mining in that particular area at all. There is no doubt that it will be a rural residential area. It is already surrounded by rural residential lots and the prospect of putting a sand mining operation in that particular area is not totally satisfactory. Before the application by the companies concerned is rejected, there is a bit more technical data to be compiled. The honourable member can rest assured there will be no sand mining in the particular area we looked at the other day.

822 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister will recall that, in July this year, the Minister for Transport and Works foreshadowed that detailed contractual arrangements would be finalised in early August between the Northern Territory government and John Holland Constructions in relation to the small ships facility at Frances Bay. Can he inform the House whether or not the contractual arrangements referred to have been settled?

ANSWER

The situation is that I initialled or signed, I cannot remember exactly which, heads of agreement with John Holland Constructions earlier this

this year relating to the construction of a small ships repair facility at Frances Bay. At the time I initialled those heads of agreement, I had received advice from the Northern Territory Department of Law that the heads of agreement were in order to sign. In fact, the people giving a commitment under the Heads of the agreement were John Holland Constructions and the Northern Territory government had nothing at all to lose as a result of signing. If the heads of agreement were unenforceable, then John Holland could not enforce them against the Northern Territory government. Seeing John Holland were prepared to do the work and buy a very expensive synchro-lift, which I understand cost them \$500,000, on the strength of the heads of agreement, then good luck to John Holland.

The Leader of the Opposition has not written to the Minister for Industrial Development or myself in respect of this matter. He has not raised this matter officially with us at all; we have simply read what he had to say in the pages of the popular press. If he had a genuine concern for the interests of the people of the Northern Territory, one would think that we would at least have heard officially from him under his letterhead. The situation is that jobs have been created where this facility is being built and additional jobs will be created within the facility when it is finished. It seems to me that what the Leader of the Opposition does not want to see in the Northern Territory is the commencement and the completion of projects that will create jobs. As far as I can see, the Leader of the Opposition takes an immediate set against any project that looks like being employment creating.

The Northern Territory government has concluded contractual arrangements with John Holland Constructions and those contractual arrangements are completely satisfactory now and, from the point of view of the Territory government, always have been because we have been under no legal commitment at all until such time as we sign the formal agreement. John Holland performs any work and enters into any arrangements up to that time at its own risk. If there is any better deal that the Northern Territory government can be in, I would be pleased to hear of it.

823 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise the position with regard to the outbreak of infectious hepatitis in Katherine?

ANSWER

So far this year, there have been 80 cases of hepatitis in the town of Katherine. The outbreak commenced in January with 5 cases in the Jord Construction camp established for the building of the Katherine South School. Further cases developed at the creche at the end of March and spread from there to the community at large. There were 7 cases in April, 16 in May, 19 in June and 19 in July. There were also 7 or 8 cases at the meatworks early in July and all meatworks employees were given gammaglobulin and gammaglobulin was also being widely used in the community. As a result of this, the health inspectorial services have been stepped up to try to identify any sources that may be causing the outbreak.

824 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it still the government's intention to extend the Casuarina campus of the Darwin Community College by the addition of land formerly held under a town lands subdivision lease by the Hooker Corporation Ltd?

ANSWER

The government made an announcement quite some time ago that it was quite happy to issue additional land to the Darwin Community College adjacent to its existing lease. That commitment has never been changed or even reviewed. At that time, investigations were still underway as to future land uses in the area which is generally termed Brinkin as a result of the handback of a private development lease to the government. Since that time, the government has looked at a range of land uses for the area in association with additional land for Darwin Community College. At no time has there been an intention to alter the commitment to the Darwin Community College. Indeed, the government is very concerned that the college should be brought back onto a single campus. The only way for that to happen is to provide additional land for them. I expect that the necessary formal commitments to the college will be completed within some months. I cannot give a specific undertaking when the final lease can be prepared.

825 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

There is a continuing and urgent need to provide additional parking facilities in the inner city area. Could he give any further information as to the availability of land on which to construct such facilities?

ANSWER

There are 2 specific proposals being looked at for multi-storey car parking and associated development in the central business district of Darwin at present. One of them is by a private developer and relates to West Lane. Further, the municipality has been holding preliminary talks with the Darwin Workers Club with a view to the possible use of parts of its site and the air space above its site. Both of these proposals are still very much at the working stage. The government is anxious to see that undertakings are commenced to solve what is regarded as a fairly serious parking problem in Darwin, particularly with the completion of the mall within the very near future. It realises that it will take some time to construct a multi-storey car park even when commitments and financial arrangements are completed. Negotiations have been continuing for many months now between the private developer, the city corporation and the government. We will be moving to have this matter finalised as soon as we can.

826 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is a meeting to take place on Friday of this week in Canberra to discuss increasing the size of Jabiru? Is the Northern Territory government to have an input into that meeting and what is the Northern Territory government's policy on the size of Jabiru?

ANSWER

I know of no such meeting. Nevertheless, that does not mean that such a meeting is not going to take place, particularly if it is being convened by the Australian government. After all, I do not have much control over that government and I can only sling my darts at it from a distance. I will endeavour to obtain the information for the honourable member for Arnhem and let him know whether such a meeting is to take place.

I think the other part to the question was what is the Northern Territory government's policy as to the size of Jabiru. I understand its size has

been limited in the plan that has been presented in relation to the gazettal of Kakadu National Park. I cannot remember the actual area in hectares but the size seems to have been determined for us. I do not think there is a great deal that can be done about it.

827 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

This question concerns specific Aboriginal housing projects in Alice Springs and an answer he gave on Thursday 31 May. He stated there is some community concern and this is appreciated. However, the project will be proceeding on the basis that there will be a Homemaker Service established which will be run by the Department of Community Development. Given the 2 undertakings, why has the Aboriginal housing program not proceeded according to plan but, in fact, has been quite radically altered?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the program is proceeding. At present, there are 10 houses being completed for the program and there have been additional lots set aside for future stages of the program. Contrary to what the honourable member implies, it is not surprising that there have been changes to the original concept of the program. The original proposal was put forward something like 12 months ago and it has been changed a number of times since then. However, it is proceeding and we would hope that, by the time the houses are completed, the tenants will have been screened through the process which is being established and will be installed.

828 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Northern Territory government any definite long-term plans for a continuous supply to Darwin of sand, soil and gravel and are there any details available?

ANSWER

There are alternative supplies of sand and gravel available. I will answer the question in detail later in this sittings.

829 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

To allay the fears of residents of Mount Wells, could he advise whether there is any truth in the rumour that the government battery could be taken over by private industry?

ANSWER

I wish it was not a rumour but a fact. I believe that, if the battery was taken over by private enterprise and run as in the states by private individuals on a contract basis to the gouger and, in some cases, with help from the government, it would be a very acceptable proposition to us. To answer the honourable member's question, I know of no proposal to have the battery farmed out to anybody. If the honourable member has any information, would he please bring it to me so that we can encourage the proponent.

830 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In a statement in May which outlined plans to provide 2 new childcare

centres in the northern suburbs of Darwin, the minister said that the Corporation of the City of Darwin would be responsible for their construction and that Darwin Family Centres would be responsible for their administration. Will the minister now confirm this commitment regarding the administration of those centres?

ANSWER

There was a press release issued earlier this year that did state that I had said that the government would provide funds for the corporation to build 2 childcare centres: one in Nightcliff and one in Casuarina. At that time, the land had not been selected for the Casuarina site and, consequently, no real direction was given by me other than an agreement that maybe it would be a good idea that the day-care centre should operate both of the creches. After I had made that statement, the Corporation of the City of Darwin requested that the one that I had allocated to them in Nightcliff be run by them. They wanted to hold their option open for the second one in Casuarina to be run by, presumably, another organisation. I believe that, in the last couple of months, there has been some consternation between the day-care centre organisation and the council as to who will run the second creche. I am unable to give the council any direction by virtue of the fact that they will be responsible. Any ultimate decision for that second creche will be the council's.

831 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Following the recent success of over-the-counter sales of residential land in Alice Springs and a public auction of industrial land, can the minister advise when the next sale of industrial land in Alice Springs will take place and by what method it will be offered for sale?

ANSWER

There is additional industrial land in Alice Springs which is to be offered to the public in the near future. I cannot think of the specific numbers of blocks but I have instructed the department to institute the necessary action to auction a small number of blocks in the area where it is expected that the demand will be fairly high and to place under the over-the-counter sales system larger numbers of industrial blocks in the Power Street subdivision. The reason I have decided to separate the 2 groups was that the over-the-counter sale system was extremely successful in Alice Springs. However, it can only work where there is a supply that outstrips demand when the initial blocks are offered. With the smaller number of blocks I was referring to closer to the centre of Alice Springs, it is expected that quite a large number of people could be interested in them. The only fair way would be to auction those blocks. However, the persons in Alice Springs interested in obtaining industrial land can be heartened with the news that, within 2 months, all of these lots will be on sale.

832 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that rental housing in Alice Springs is now almost impossible to obtain and that accommodation for tourists in Alice Springs is also at a premium? Is he able to assure the 159 families who are waiting for homes and the 102 applicants for flats that the government will take immediate action to ease the critical housing shortage in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I would suggest that the honourable member await the introduction of the government's budget tomorrow. However, it is not all bad news. The fact that there is a shortage of tourist accommodation in Alice Springs and a shortage of general rental accommodation is obviously a much better situation than one where there is a surplus of both. Alice Springs has picked up from a short period of almost zero growth. It may even have gone backwards a little. I believe that it is partly as a result of this government's initiatives that Alice Springs will take off like the rest of the Northern Territory. We will be doing our very best to meet the needs of the people with the government resources we have available.

833 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister advise me if it is correct that there is insufficient staff to adequately service the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

I noted with interest the remarks made in the press the other day concerning staff shortages at the Darwin Hospital. They do not bear much relationship to the truth. When the Northern Territory government assumed the responsibility for health, there were some 995 people on the staff at the Darwin Hospital. Today, there are 1,108 which is a very considerable increase on the previous complement. Earlier, the hospital had 113 part-time and inoperative staff members which compounded their problem. Today, they are not obliged to do that. There is one other thing about the staff level at the Darwin Hospital. We have a staff level ratio of 3 people to each bed which more than favourably compares with any other hospital in this country. To say that there is a shortage of staff in the hospital is totally incorrect. If honourable members would like to specify any particular shortages of staff in hospitals, I would be grateful. From what I can see, this particular topic is just used as a can to rattle from time to time for political expediency and I do not think it should be used for that.

834 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Some time ago he announced that 10 positions had been created for fulltime music instructors. Allocations were called nationwide and closed in June. Will he be in a position to announce the filling of all these positions soon and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I think the best course would be for the honourable member to wait for the explanatory notes on the budget.

835 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that some of the land formerly held under a town land subdivision lease by the Hooker Corporation for the purpose of developing the Brinkin subdivision is now to be used for the development of executive housing instead of as an addition to the Darwin Community College campus?

ANSWER

I know of no proposal to have executive housing placed in the Brinkin area. However, that is not to say that such proposals have not been looked at. There is a very large area of land concerned. There is a range of uses which will be able to go into the area that will still allow for the accommodation of the needs of the Darwin Community College, the development of the foreshore, the development of Rapid Creek lake, a possible caravan park and also provide a significant buffer zone back from the cliff tops for public recreation and open space. The honourable member's implication, despite my earlier assurance, that the Darwin Community College is going to miss out on additional land is simply mischievous.

836 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the minister advise what steps have been taken to improve the situation relating to orthodontal treatment for citizens in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

This particular question is compounded by the very great difficulty we have in recruiting orthodontists. Unfortunately, all the orthodontists in this country want to work for themselves. They cannot see the point in working for the government at a third of the salary and doing twice the work. We have been successful in recruiting orthodontists for the southern part of the Territory.

There is also a proposal to provide visits by Darwin orthodontists to both Katherine and Nhulunbuy when the opportunity permits. Unfortunately, it will not be possible for a great deal of work to be carried out in these particular centres and the orthodontists' trips will mainly be inspectorial to assess patients and advise them on treatment. They will go to Darwin or Alice for that particular treatment because the provision of equipment for orthodontists in surgeries is a very costly and expensive business and they are not the sort of things we will be setting up all over the Territory.

837 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister will be aware of dissatisfaction among nursing students at the increase in rental charges for their hospital accommodation. Will the minister undertake to provide rental subsidies for nursing students in the same way that apprentices in the Electricity Commission receive substantial rental subsidies for their hostel accommodation.

ANSWER

The honourable member raises a point that is a little more complex than would appear on the surface. I note that the honourable member compares the rental issue for student nurses working in the hospitals of the Northern Territory with the apprentices and trainees within NTEC. There is a slight difference in that the Health Department provides not only accommodation but 3 meals a day for boarders. In the case of NTEC, that additional service is not provided. Rather than go into the issues this morning, I will collect the information that I obtained for the student nurses recently which tries to put the whole issue of rental increases into perspective. This relates not only to the costs in other hospitals but the increases in salaries that they have had within the Northern Territory in recent months.

839 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Could he advise on the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

The Carpentaria College issue has been a very long and sad one. However, I am pleased to announce now that negotiations have been completed with the liquidator for the final transfer of the lease documents and outstanding financial matters which have been a problem for a considerable period now. The government has made a certain payment to the liquidator in settlement of the whole issue. The government is about to advertise inviting expressions of interest from parties who would seek to use the building or redevelop it. The government will consider those applications when received and make a decision on the future use.

840 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he inform this Assembly the reasons why he apparently reversed the order of priorities of the Darwin Community College's submission to the Tertiary Education Commission relating to capital works?

ANSWER

Let me say at the outset that I did not reverse the Darwin Community College's priorities. I cannot do that; that is a matter for the Darwin Community College. Having advance knowledge of the Commonwealth government's guidelines for the Tertiary Education Commission, I indicated the government's priorities in respect of technical, further and advanced education for the Northern Territory.

There is absolutely no point whatever in the government indicating government priorities to the Tertiary Education Commission, knowing in advance that, by doing so, we would get absolutely no money whatsoever from the Tertiary Education Commission. I assume that this relates particularly to the Winnellie campus, which was established as a result of the cyclone damage to the Darwin Community College. In our view, the Commonwealth had a responsibility to make good that damage and to consolidate the campus.

It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to continue making application to the Commonwealth for additional funding for the consolidation of the Casuarina campus. As far as the Northern Territory government is concerned, we place the highest priority commensurate with our resources upon the consolidation of that campus. It is indeed a credit to the staff and the students that they have maintained the standards they have using those most inadequate facilities at Winnellie. Nevertheless, priorities around the Territory are indicated by many people to the government. I certainly accept what I hear from the people of the Community College of Central Australia that they would be delighted to have the facilities of the standard obtaining at the Winnellie campus. The people of Alice Springs claim that their facilities are even worse and I accept that. Everyone who comes to a minister and makes application for a project genuinely believes that their project should have the highest priority in the government's mind. The government recognises nonetheless the most essential requirement of the Darwin Community College is to get out of the Winnellie area and consolidate its campus as a proper unified community college servicing Darwin and the Top End. We have asked the

Department of Transport and Works, in conjunction with the Darwin Community College, to proceed with the development of plans towards the consolidation of that campus. This is now going on.

There are 3 main things which need to be done. The first is to move the School of Business Administration, the Learning Resources Centre and also the School of General Studies which apparently are carried on in most inadequate and most unsatisfactory circumstances in what is little more than a warehouse. When the government has consolidated the requirements of those organisations, we will examine them in light of our other priorities and we will proceed, as soon as we possibly can, with the consolidation of the Darwin Community College at Casuarina.

841 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise who paid for that long stretch of road at Pine Creek which was completed by McMahon Constructions last year and which has been out of operation and closed for some months?

ANSWER

I am not in a position to give an answer to this question because I am not quite certain which stretch of road the honourable member for Victoria River is referring to. If he puts the question on notice, I will see that an answer is provided as soon as possible.

842 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the government any plans to establish a police station on section 358 on the Arnhem Highway at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

As far as I know, the Police Department has no plans at the present time to establish a police station on section 358 of the Arnhem Highway at Humpty Doo. The police monitor the need for additional police stations and a number of police station complexes are under construction at the present time. However, I understand from the commissioner that it is not considered to be a requirement at the present time to establish a station on the site referred to by the honourable member for Tiwi. However, police patrols in the area have been stepped up and there is a long-range police patrol service operating throughout all police districts in the Territory.

843 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware of the deterioration of buildings at Port Essington and, if so, what steps is he taking to ensure the rehabilitation and protection of the site?

ANSWER

The department has had officers from the Heritage Commission examine the site at Port Essington. I will receive a report on that subject shortly.

844 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Some time ago, the press carried a story on the alternative hydro-electric sites in the Northern Territory. Is there a possibility of power being

generated from a scheme known as Mount Nancar and is there a possibility of power being supplied from the Katherine upper gorge? Could the honourable minister inform us if these reports are correct?

ANSWER

Already, there are engineers and geologists working on the Mount Nancar dam prospect and it is anticipated that a report will be ready for submission to Cabinet in December this year. There is every possibility that investigations and feasibility studies will continue and these could possibly lead to the construction of a dam on Mount Nancar that, in years to come, would feed into the Ord River system.

So far as the Katherine River project is concerned, the Snowy Mountains Engineering Commission, in conjunction with officers from the Northern Territory Water Resources Division of the Department of Transport and Works, are looking at the feasibility of building a dam on the upper Katherine River. This dam could supply the means to introduce irrigation, establish flood controls and produce power to the value of 6 or 7 megawatts for the town which would cater for the Katherine demand at its present level. In both cases, work is proceeding but it will be some time before any further feasibility studies are completed.

845 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

There is a street in Alice Springs with a long and dusty history. Can the Chief Minister assure me that Price Street, or portion of it, will be dust-suppressed as soon as possible?

ANSWER

Although I am a former resident of Alice Springs, I cannot recall Price Street and, therefore, I cannot give the assurance that the honourable member desires. However, I will certainly look into the matter with a view to seeing that work is carried out. I would add the caution that, unless it is in section 307, it would be the responsibility of the Corporation of the Municipality of Alice Springs. I will look into the matter for the honourable member for Alice Springs and I will reply to him by letter.

846 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the latest situation regarding the application for the establishment of community government councils in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Applications have been received from the residents of the following communities for the establishment of community government: Lajamanu, Angurugu, Umbakumba, Areyonga, Jay Creek and Snake Bay. The preparation of draft schemes are at an advanced stage and further consultations with the communities is taking place this week. A number of other communities have expressed interest in the schemes and have indicated that applications will be forthcoming. Detailed discussions with the residents have taken place prior to their making any commitment to seek community government under the Northern Territory legislation.

847 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of categorical assurances that have been given to the people of Oenpelli by the federal government, what is the Northern Territory government's policy on the population size of Jabiru?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has no fixed policy on the population size of Jabiru. As I understand it, the town is being constructed to accommodate the workforce primarily associated with the various mining projects that will be established in the area presumably with the approval of the Northern Land Council and the traditional owners. One would imagine that approvals of mining projects of this nature would bring consequential approvals for increases in the size of the population to be accommodated at Jabiru. At present, I understand that there is a figure mentioned publicly of a population of about 3,500 people and the town is being planned on that basis. However, if additional mining projects are approved, this may have to be revised. The funding arrangements for the construction of the town of Jabiru are handled by the Jabiru Town Development Authority in close consultation with the Commonwealth government and with the mining companies concerned who provide the bulk of the funding. Therefore, the size of the town will be very much governed by the amount of money that is made available.

848 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans are there to establish a fire station on section 358 of the Arnhem Highway at Humpty Doo?

ANSWER

How big is section 358 at Arnhem Highway Humpty Doo? Is it one of those 320 acre blocks? So far as I am aware, there is no intention at present for the fire brigade or the Department of Transport and Works to establish a fire station on that particular block of land. A survey was carried out but it was decided that the results did not show that there was a requirement.

849 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that a report on the operations of the Northern Territory Electricity Commission has recently been tabled in the federal parliament? If so, will he undertake to obtain copies for members of this House?

ANSWER

Yes.

850 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I have asked questions previously about the possibility of introducing an interim zoning to sections currently under B5 zoning. This relates to the Esplanade, Mitchell Street and some of those side streets. Could the minister inform me if a review has taken place as yet and, if so, is he able to give any indication of the outcome of that review?

ANSWER

A review has been undertaken of the area concerned. If I recall rightly,

advertisements have already been placed in the newspapers seeking public reaction to a proposal that premises in the area which are hardly viable as residential premises any more be allowed to be used for office development for a period of 5 years during which time no doubt other proposals will come along. The intention of the present B5 zoning in the central business district is to preserve the area for tourist and tourist related industries. However, there has been a great deal of pressure for the Town Planning Board to allow the use of houses in the area as offices in the interim. In answer to the honourable member's question, the review has been undertaken. The owners in the area have been contacted by letter and the proposal is on public exhibition.

851 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will he be appointing people to the Post-School Advisory Council and is it his intention to establish an accreditation committee for the Northern Territory in advance of those appointments?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure what the honourable member means by the second question. If she means an accreditation committee to carry out the functions presently carried out by the National Accreditation Council, the answer would be no. At this stage, we believe the Northern Territory is not sufficiently populous nor does it have sufficient tertiary institutions to justify that type of expense. We do not believe that the Northern Territory has the academic resources of its own to maintain credibility if it pursued a policy of accrediting its own courses. They will continue to work with the national council. We have been invited by the national council's advisory committee to appoint an additional person to that. I think it will be Mr Bill McGrath who is responsible for that area in the department. Basically, we will be still working with the national council for the time being.

The first part of the question related to the establishment of a Post-school Advisory Council. There will be a paper going to Cabinet for the consideration of Executive Council at its next meeting. The appointment is a matter for His Honour the Administrator in Council.

852 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of its radical departure from the original draft, will the Northern Territory government be requesting Senator Webster to conduct a public inquiry into the Jabiluka environmental impact statement?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure that I follow the meaning of the honourable member's question. I assume that he is referring to the fact that the company had originally intended an open-cut operation and, after some consideration, changed its tack and went for the option of underground mining. I would not see any value in this government or the federal government ordering another environmental impact study because what the company has done is to take a more prudent course so far as mining practice is concerned. I would think that every aspect of the company's proposed underground mining operation at Jabiluka would receive as careful a study as the first study by the company when it proposed to have an open-cut operation. I can assure the honourable member that the Northern Territory government, through the Department of Mines and Energy, will be commenting

on the proposal for underground mining but that is a little different from asking the federal government to order another environmental impact study over the whole project.

853 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In July of this year, the minister introduced a scheme to speed up the release of land to the public. This scheme was called the speedy release of land scheme. Could the minister inform the House what response there has been to this scheme?

ANSWER

I regard the scheme as having been of considerable success. There have been 30 applications received since the scheme was introduced, 5 have been to public advertisements seeking objections and objections to 3 of those are under consideration at the present time. The majority of the applications have been for vacant crown land as distinct from applications for excisions from pastoral leases for the use of that land for other than pastoral purposes. There have been some fairly interesting proposals received among the applications. Some difficulty is being experienced in processing applications in that the Valuer-General has received a great deal of work from the Northern Territory government. This scheme has added to that burden and I understand that the South Australian office of the Valuer-General is taking steps to boost up resources in Darwin to help cope with the demand generally. Overall, the scheme is very successful and we are pleased to see it operating that way.

854 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Although there is some seating outside the Alice Springs Hospital, it is set quite some distance back from the driveway. To assist patients and outpatients waiting for taxis and other transport, could some seating please be provided closer to the driveway?

ANSWER

I am well aware of the situation. I would just make a comment that the seating was not put there for people waiting for transport but for patients to sit out in the sun during the course of the day. However, I will take up with the department the possibility of putting seats near the kerb so that people can use them while buses and taxis are coming.

855 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform me when the Department of Health plans to open Casuarina Hospital?

ANSWER

I said yesterday that we were opening the Casuarina Hospital in March next year. One of the factors determining the opening time is the completion of the contracts on the laboratories which were quite separate contracts from the construction of the hospital complex itself. From the point of view of medical or hospital logistics, it is not practical to have the laboratories operating in the old Darwin Hospital while every other facet of the institution is operating 7 miles away. The health people believe it is more prudent to wait till the laboratory is

completed. For that reason, we will be looking at March at least before there will be any move at all.

856 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister is probably aware of rumours that Mr Pellerman of private hospital fame is acting as an agent for American private hospital interests. Has the minister been able to have this rumour investigated and can he give the House an assurance that Mr Pellerman is acting on his own behalf?

ANSWER

I deducted that such a thing might have been a possibility after I saw an ABC TV program one night exposing the entry of American entrepreneurs into the Australian hospital system. On the map showing where these people were operating, there was a ring around Darwin. I thought that was fascinating. I do not have any proof and I have not sought any indication from Mr Pellerman whether he is operating as agent for American companies. That is possible and it is something we should establish. Mr Pellerman has been in hospital administration in his own right for quite a number of years and I do not think it is a natural conclusion to say that one person is associated with another organisation just because the timing is interesting.

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