

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 15 MARCH 1977

FROM 17 NOVEMBER 1976

1550 Mr BALLANTYNE to Dr LETTS

Has there been a feasibility study made in the Northern Territory for the use of the Northern Territory rivers to load and transport live cattle for export?

FROM 7 DECEMBER 1976

1626 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK

Has a water filter been fitted at the departmental residence of the Director of Health in Darwin and, if so, was the filter installed at departmental expense and how much did it cost?

FROM 21 DECEMBER 1976

1628 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Could you please advise the following in respect of -

- (1) Central Australian Aboriginal Medical Service;
- (2) Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service;
- (3) Central Australian Aborigines Congress;
- (4) Aboriginal Hostels Ltd, Alice Springs -
 - (a) The number of persons employed;
 - (b) Titles and remuneration received, and other employment benefits;
 - (c) Who is responsible for the hiring and firing of their employees;
 - (d) Are the organisations' financial records and expenditure subject to any audit requirements, if so what;
 - (e) Are vehicle records and logbooks kept?

1629 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

1. Can he advise the name of the contractor company in charge of the construction of the Timber Creek Police Station?
2. Is it true that this company is having financial difficulties?
3. Is the construction of the Timber Creek Police Station on schedule in keeping with the requirements of the Department of Construction?
4. If not, what are the problems and why the delays?

FROM 1 MARCH 1977

1720 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

1. Is there an emergency power supply provided for the ABC television transmitter in Darwin?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 15 MARCH 1977

2. If so, what is the nature of the emergency supply?
3. Is the Postal Institute of the Northern Territory Social Club situated adjacent to the ABC television transmitter in Darwin?
4. Who or what is the registered lessee of the land on which the Postal Institute of the Northern Territory Social Club is situated?
5. Is the Postal Institute of the Northern Territory Social Club provided with an alternative supply of electric power to the normal Darwin reticulated power supply?
6. If so, what is the source of the alternative power supply?
7. If the alternative power supply is not provided by the club itself was its provision to the club authorised by the supplier?
8. If not, what then is the basis of the supply? If so, what charges are levied for the supply?
9. Was there on 5 January 1977 a strike by Public Servants which necessitated the shut down of the normal Darwin power supply?
10. Was on 5 January 1977 the Postal Institute of the Northern Territory Social Club supplied with power from an alternative source?
11. If so, who authorised the supply of power on that day?
12. What charges were made for the supply of power on that day, if the supply was authorised?
13. Is it the policy of the Australian Broadcasting Commission or the Post Master General's Department to permit use of their emergency power supply by outside bodies?
14. If not, why was this exception made?

1722 Mr STEELE to Miss ANDREW

How many persons were breathalyser tested in the Territory in 1976 and what was the blood alcohol concentration in each case?

1723 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN

I refer to the 1,500 sheets of high-quality teak ply wood given to the people of Darwin from the Government and people of Burma and ask -

- (a) how many of these ply wood sheets have been distributed;
- (b) by whom were they distributed;
- (c) to whom were they distributed;
- (d) when were they distributed;
- (e) how many remain in stock;
- (f) where are the remaining sheets being held; and
- (g) to what purpose is it intended to put the remaining sheets?

1724 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

I refer to the Aboriginal Development Foundation and ask -

1. (a) how many members does it have;
(b) do members of this foundation meet and, if so, how often;
(c) are elections held and, if so, when; and
(d) are financial statements issued and, if so, to whom?
2. Is this foundation holding \$100,000 received from various sources since Cyclone Tracy and, if so, what audit checks are made on the funds received?

FROM 15 MARCH 1977

1810 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

1. From whom or where did the Department of Aboriginal Affairs obtain or purchase the galvanised iron with which they built the shed on the Maranboy commonage near the creek adjacent to Bamyili settlement?
2. Can he confirm that this iron was removed from a number of buildings on mining leases at Maranboy?
3. In view of the answer given by a Mr Lovegrove on 25 July 1974 to the effect that road-building material possibly came from an area of land over which there were mineral leases, authorising the mining of tin, will the Department of Aboriginal Affairs undertake the expense of cleaning out the shaft since, as a result of the removal of this gravel from the collar, there has been dumped into the shaft, a large quantity of gravel which makes it necessary for considerable work to be done before the shaft can be worked again?

1625 Mr MANUELL to Dr LETTS

What is necessary to raise the Alice Springs Abattoirs to export licence standard?

ANSWER

The administration of export abattoirs falls within the province of the Department of Primary Industry and an on-site inspection of the premises by personnel of that department would be necessary to determine precise alterations and additions necessary to upgrade to export licence standards. From general knowledge only these alterations would be extensive, involve considerable capital outlay and, as a consequence, necessitate a greatly increased throughput to recoup that outlay.

1718 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr RYAN

Is it the intention of the owner to build an engineering workshop measuring 150 feet long on his property Lot V of Lot B of Section 240 in the Hundred of Bagot?

ANSWER

It is the intention of the owners of Lot V Section 290 Hundred of Bagot to build an engineering workshop on that land. The approximate dimensions of the proposed building are 115 feet by 52 feet. A permit to construct the building was issued on 19 October 1976.

1719 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK

Has any attempt been made to monitor the effects of the increased cash flow on the economy, the work force, liquor consumption, and possible improvement in living standards as a result of the recent increases in Family Allowance payments, which provide additional funds of up to \$100,000 per year to some larger Aboriginal settlements?

ANSWER

So far as the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in the Northern Territory is concerned the short answer to this question is "no".

The department has from time to time made an examination of the total inflow of money to some Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory and attempted to assess the use to which it is put and the advantages, and disadvantages which may have resulted to the communities concerned. It has been able to get some idea of the amount of money per capita flowing into these communities and to ascertain the percentage which appears to be utilised on such things as food, clothing, payment for accommodation and services, and the amount used on what might be termed as luxuries, such as entertainment, liquor, other luxury foodstuffs, motor cars.

This sort of examination has not been carried out in respect of all major Aboriginal communities and in those places which have been examined the use of the Family Allowances component of total income has not been separated.

The department in the Northern Territory does not have a Research Branch and therefore any examination which has been undertaken has lacked the expertise of properly qualified researchers and the sort of methodology and longevity which would disclose long term benefits and disadvantages.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

1721 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

What action has the Government taken or does the Government propose to take with respect to the implementation of the Else Mitchell Report in so far as that report applies to urban land?

ANSWER

An inter-departmental committee comprising representatives of the Department of Administrative Services, Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Attorney-General's, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and Environment, Housing and Community Development, was established early in 1976 to consider the final report of the Commission of Enquiry into Land Tenures. The Australian Taxation Office, the National Capital Development Commission and the Department of Transport were also involved.

A number of meetings were held during last year and a further meeting was held on 3 February of this year.

The final report of the inter-departmental committee is expected shortly.

1725 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TAMBLING

Is it intended, and if so when, to reintroduce the sale of government homes scheme in Darwin?

ANSWER

This morning the Administrator mentioned that a bill for a sale of homes scheme for the Housing Commission would be again presented to this Assembly and I have just given notice of that bill. In the negotiations to finalise the details for the scheme, I have been mindful that we would also like to see a scheme introduced to enable public servants to purchase their homes in Darwin. I have been advised by the Minister for the Northern Territory that he has instructed his department to align the terms and conditions of the sale of government homes scheme as closely as possible to that of the Housing Commission. I have been advised by officers of the Department of the Northern Territory that they are working to that objective and, hopefully, following the reintroduction of the Housing Commission scheme, a scheme will be introduced for the sale of government homes.

1726 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

Can he advise this Assembly if houses that are not fully repaired will be included in the terms of the sale of those homes to public servants?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide any information with regard to the availability of substandard housing.

1727 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Why is airconditioning in government offices left on overnight and at weekends when power is being rationed in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The airconditioning in government owned office blocks was turned off during day and night during recent major generation failures at Stokes Hill powerhouse. However, when load shedding is necessary as a result of a short term generation failure, it is usually impractical to call in personnel after hours or on weekends to turn off airconditioning as the fault may be corrected before such action is taken. Therefore, it is considered that the action would be rather unwarranted.

1728 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he indicate when a Beef Industry Conference is likely to be held in the Northern Territory and where such a conference will be held?

ANSWER

There are arrangements being made for a Beef Industry Conference to be held in the Northern Territory. It is anticipated that the conference will be held in Alice Springs on 23 April, possibly continuing on to 24 April. The Commonwealth Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Sinclair, has indicated that he will be endeavouring to attend on those dates

and also the Northern Territory Cattle Producers Council is planning to have its annual general meeting the day before in Alice Springs.

1729 Mr KENTISH to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he explain why persons brought into hospital at Health Department expense from remote areas are repatriated in different ways? Some are returned to their homes on travel warrants, while others are told to find their own way home at their own expense.

ANSWER

I will seek the information and supply it later in the sittings.

1730 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

Why has the Department of the Northern Territory refused to allow persons on the housing list to move into homes which are completed but which have not been connected to the electricity supply because of an industrial dispute?

ANSWER

The houses in question have not been handed over to the Department of the Northern Territory and therefore cannot be allocated to persons on the government housing list.

1731 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he advise how many beef producers have availed themselves of carry-on loans this financial year? Are sufficient funds remaining to satisfy anticipated demands until June this year? Will funds be available for this scheme to continue after 1 July this year?

ANSWER

I am advised that 29 producers have been allocated assistance under the 1976-77 carry-on loan scheme. The Primary Producers Board has sufficient applications under consideration for next week's board meeting to probably exhaust funds available to this scheme. No decision has been made to provide funds for the Territory for the continuation of assistance beyond 30 June at this stage. However, one will be pursuing the matter to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the Primary Producers Board to effectively assist cattle producers who are facing difficult times.

1732 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TAMBLING

We have heard quite a bit in the media lately about the Home Finance Trustee loans, their scope and availability. Does he propose to make any representations to increase the maximum amount of the loans from \$15,000?

ANSWER

The Majority Party intends to seek an increase from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the Home Finance Trustee Loan Scheme at the moment and a further increase to \$25,000 in a subsequent financial year. In making that statement, I would also draw members' attention to the fact that the Home Finance Trustee does draw his funds from the loan market and loans currently available within that market. We would always have to

be careful that any increase in the limits of funds does not then restrict then the numbers of people that may be eligible to receive such loans.

1733 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr PERRON

When will the report on the Aboriginal live-in colleges be available and, if it becomes available shortly, will it be tabled in this Assembly?

ANSWER

The report is in the final stages of being compiled and I will undertake to seek from the department the date on which the report will be available and see if I can get a copy for the honourable member.

1734 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

Is it the intention of the Majority Party to require those people having Cabinet status to declare their interests in commercial and/or shareholdings within the Northern Territory and within Australia? If so, on what terms and conditions?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. I do not have any intention of asking the Cabinet Members to do this. However, I am quite prepared to have the item listed as one for Cabinet discussion and see what the view of the Cabinet is on it. My personal opinion has been for a long time that this is a grossly exaggerated situation and one in which it is impossible in many cases to get an accurate definition as to how far interests extend. When you take family interests, husband and wife interests, partnership interests etc into account, how do you find what an individual member's interest is? That is largely my personal view but I would be quite happy to have it discussed by the Cabinet and the member might like to ask me the question at some subsequent time.

1735 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

I have read in the Centralian Advocate about the sale of the Alice Springs Abattoirs to a company called Wales Meat Exporters. I would like to ask him whether in fact the shares owned by shareholders of the Alice Springs Abattoirs have in fact been purchased by Wales Meat Exporters? If they have been purchased by that company, is it the intention of that company to raise the Alice Springs Abattoirs to an export licence standard and, if so, to what export licence standard? Has it indicated at this stage what export contracts it has negotiated? If the reports in the Centralian Advocate that it has sufficient work contracts substantiating the export of beef from Central Australia are correct, what provisions has it made to accommodate the additional workforce that will be necessary to sustain that manufacture?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable Cabinet Member for Resources may require time to write these questions down. I do suggest that questions like this should be put on notice.

Mr POLLOCK: I am unable to provide all the information required of the honourable member but I shall endeavour to make a full answer tomorrow.

1736 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he advise the present status of the fruit fly eradication campaign, how successful it is and if any indication can be given as to when the embargo on the movement of fruit and vegetables out of that prohibited area in Alice Springs will be lifted?

ANSWER

There has been an outbreak of Mediterranean Fruit Fly in the Alice Springs district and a quarantine zone has been declared in respect of the area. During the month of February, as a result of a campaign conducted by the Animal Industry and Agricultural Branch, only one fruit fly of the species was detected - on 14 February. It is hoped that the present campaign will continue for at least another 4 to 6 weeks depending on the discovery of any more flies. If there are no more flies discovered in the next 4 weeks, the campaign will be scaled down to a degree and a trapping program continued. There is no indication at this stage when the ban on the export of fruit and vegetables from the Alice Springs area may be lifted. One could not expect that it will be in the foreseeable future - that is, within the next 12 months - and this is a matter for concern. Over recent years, a large amount of citrus fruit has been exported from Alice Springs to Darwin and people in Darwin will be deprived of that supply unless some fumigation arrangements can be made. It looks as if that will be remote.

1737 Mr EVERINGHAM to Miss ANDREW

Is it a fact that telephone conversations going into and coming out from police stations and Police Headquarters in Darwin are taped and, if this is the case, by what authority and for what reason?

ANSWER

I know that the telephone calls going through the 815555 number are taped. This matter was investigated last year and I am sure that the appropriate authorities have been procured by the Northern Territory Police under the terms of Telecom arrangement.

1738 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW

Many things have changed since the last sittings of this Assembly; Cabinet Members are now accepting Cabinet responsibility. Is it her intention to continue to persist in the situation whereby Police Officers are not easily identified - that is, they wear neither identification number nor name?

ANSWER

The matter is under review.

1739 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

My question concerns the budget allocation for work on the road west of Alice Springs to Jay Creek. Can he advise whether in fact that entire road section is to be bulldozed or whether the existing bitumen road is to be only widened?

ANSWER

I would ask that the question be placed on notice.

1740 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

Prior to Christmas 1974, there was a service available to the members of the Legislative Assembly whereby ordinances were available to each member. He will be aware that, due to the cyclone, nearly all of those volumes have disappeared. Has he or anyone on his behalf taken any steps to secure that printed copies of ordinances will be available to each member of the Legislative Assembly? If he has not done so, will he take such steps that are available to him immediately, so that members can at least be able to have within their offices a copy of the laws of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I have a somewhat different recollection and interpretation of the situation before the cyclone than the one the honourable member has suggested. In the 10 years that I have been associated with the legislature, I have never known an up-to-date copy of the ordinances of the Northern Territory being available to every member, and I do not believe that has ever been the situation.

Mr Withnall: Every member had the books.

Dr LETTS: The full range of fully up-dated ordinances are available, as far as I am aware, only in 2 places - in a set of drawers in this Chamber and also in the library of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. Other than that, people had to look after their own ordinances as best they could. This should be the situation. I understand, Mr Speaker, that this is actually more in your province than mine. Following the cyclone and in the reconstruction period, I did have a number of discussions with the Clerk and we did set about trying to get sets established in strategic places and available to members as reference documents. I will check as to how that situation has developed and I will advise the honourable member later. The situation is not as he put it as far as I know.

1741 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

Will he provide me with further information if I assure him that my question was directed to the possession by each member of the Legislative Council prior to the elections in 1974 of a copy of the laws of the Northern Territory up to 1960, together with annual volumes from 1961 to 1966. Those were presented to each member and were then understood to be his personal property. Ordinarily, each member kept them within his office and they were very regularly used by each member. Since the cyclone those volumes have disappeared, and I ask the honourable member what steps he will take to replace the material which was available to every elected member before the cyclone?

ANSWER

The honourable member's question in its amended and more precise form is now clearer to me. Once again, I think the honourable member for Port Darwin should know that this was a service provided by the office of the Speaker and the Clerk of this legislature to the people concerned, and I believe that that would still be the case; it was a service provided by the office of the Speaker. However, I will make

representations to Mr Speaker, sir, and see if the honourable member's request can be met.

1742 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Did he recently attend an ATAC conference in Hobart and, if so, in what status did he attend the conference; was it delegate or observer status?

ANSWER

I attended a meeting of the Australian Transport Advisory Council in Hobart on Friday in the esteemed position of observer.

1743 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW

Since we last met, she has assumed many responsibilities which are rightfully the province of this Assembly. Having regard to that, is it the honourable member's intention to introduce legislation bringing back vagrancy laws in the Northern Territory or is it her intention to agree with the repeal of these dreadful former provisions?

ANSWER

The Police and Police Offences Ordinance is currently under review and, amongst other questions, the question of vagrancy is being considered by the relevant committee.

1744 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

At the Hobart ATAC conference, was there any indication that the Federal Government would be appropriating funds to the South Australian Government to be put towards the redevelopment and upgrading of the Stuart Highway south of Alice Springs to Port Augusta?

ANSWER

At the conference the Federal Minister made available the 1977-78 road fund figures to all the states and it is now common knowledge; it has been released to the press. The South Australian Government is receiving about \$18m for national highway development in South Australia. Through the Chairman of ATAC, who was the Federal Minister for Transport, I asked the Transport Minister for South Australia whether there were sufficient funds to start upgrading the Stuart Highway in South Australia and he informed me that there would be no way that they would be spending money on upgrading the Stuart Highway. So it does appear that the upgrading of the Stuart Highway could be delayed although I think that the Minister for Transport in South Australia was also playing a little bit of politics, knowing full well that we are very keen to see the Stuart Highway upgraded. He would expect that we will lobby the Federal Government to ensure that South Australia will get sufficient funds. I believe that they are going to do a short stretch of road between Pimba and Port Augusta, about 30 kilometres. I understand that that is in fact going to be done next year so that is really the start of the upgrading of the highway.

I mentioned at a private meeting with the Federal Transport Minister, shortly after the meeting, that I was concerned with the funding of the South Australian highways and expressed the desire that possibly the Government could look at extending further funds to South Aust-

ralia so that they can continue to upgrade the highway. It is very difficult to assess exactly what will happen because I think the South Australian Government will be playing politics on this particular issue.

1745 Mr VALE to Mr PERRON

Is he aware of the present overcrowding in the Community College at Alice Springs? Are there any plans or proposals under way to expand the facilities of that college and when?

ANSWER

There is an interim committee being set up in the Northern Territory called the Technical and Further Education Council. It is being set up by the Minister for Education, Senator Carrick. One of its tasks is to look at the role of the Community College in Alice Springs and its future, I will endeavour to give a complete answer to the honourable member at a later date.

1746 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW

I refer to the answer she gave to my previous question regarding the reintroduction or not of the law regarding vagrancy in the Northern Territory; she stated that this particular aspect was being reviewed by the relevant committee. I am aware that she now alone has cabinet responsibility for this area and I ask her what this relevant committee is?

ANSWER

Whilst I might be the Cabinet Member for Law, I do not have expertise in all the areas of law and administration that is required and, as with most other people with responsibilities in various areas, there are certain advisers who take the first look at changes in legislation and offer their advice. That is indeed the stage which any proposed change to the Police and Police Offences Ordinance is at. I think my answer was satisfactory.

1747 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW

I asked who the committee was and I have received no reply. I repeat my question, who are the members comprising, to use her own phrase, "the relevant committee"?

ANSWER

I consider this committee to be a committee of my own personal advisers who have been chosen for their expertise. It is not a statutory authority and I see no need to discuss names.

1748 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING

What advance has been made with proposals for obtaining something in the nature of Commonwealth employee's compensation for members of this Assembly and also for contributory pensions for members?

ANSWER

I am aware that submissions have been made to the Minister for the Northern Territory in this regard, both by your office, Mr Speaker,

and by the Majority Party, as part of the overall review that must be made by the Remuneration Tribunal. I can indicate that members of the Majority Party have certainly made known their views to the Minister that this matter has been dragging on for too long and has been tardily handled by the Commonwealth Government.

1749 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he advise what proposals are underway by the Health Department and the Department of the Northern Territory in Alice Springs to utilise the sewerage water for irrigation and on what date that may take place? Are there any proposals to suspend the sending of the \$105,000 allocated in this year's Budget for the provision of another sewerage pond?

ANSWER

The Health Department would only be one agency involved in the utilization of waters from the sewerage ponds and it would be acting in an advisory capacity. The question could be redirected to the honourable Cabinet Member for Transport and Secondary Industry as this project would fall under his jurisdiction.

1750 Mr BALLANTYNE to Miss ANDREW

What is the Aboriginal education content in the police recruit training program?

ANSWER

This has recently been increased. There are approximately 24 hours involved now in the initial 16 week period of training. About 4 hours are spent on health and education, about 10 hours on anthropology, about 10 hours on Aboriginal communities and 2 hours are taken up in examination. There are courses available as a part of in-service training. At the retention course undergone by police officers at the end of their first year, there is a further 6 to 8 hours spent in general education regarding the Aboriginal communities.

1751 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr RYAN

The question of the honourable member for Stuart seems to have fallen on deaf ears in the end. I wonder if the Cabinet Member for Transport and Secondary Industry might answer that question bearing in mind that the Civil Works Program for the Northern Territory in 1976/77 actually had detailed that amount of \$105,000.

ANSWER

The question related to the Civil Works Program and, as spokesman for Works, I have an answer. An item of \$105,000 was put aside for the building of a new sewerage pond. However, due to the changed Department of Health requirements, funds not expended on the additional pond will be put towards an irrigation system currently under investigation by the Department of the Northern Territory and the Department of Health.

1752 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

I preface my question by reading an answer he gave to a question on notice. I asked the honourable member what action the Commonwealth

Government had taken with respect to the Else-Mitchell Report as it dealt with urban land tenure. I received the following answer:

"An interdepartmental committee comprising representatives of the Departments of Administrative Services, Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Attorney-General, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury and Environment, Housing and Community Development, was established early in 1976 to consider the final report of the Commission of Inquiry into land tenures. The Australian Taxation Office, the National Capital Development Commission and the Department of Transport were also involved. A number of meetings were held during last year and a further meeting was held on 3 February this year."

Will the honourable member obtain an answer from the Commonwealth Government as to why it was necessary for interdepartmental committees to consider a report of acknowledged experts such as Mr Rae Else-Mitchell and the other 2 members who sat with him? Why, if there was a need for some interdepartmental committee, has nothing been done since the report was tabled, and is it considered necessary that Alice in Wonderland should be appointed as an additional member?

ANSWER

The question reminds me somewhat of the previous questions which were asked about sewerage. Normally, on receiving a reply in a question from the department in the terms which he has read out, I would send it back for re-treatment. However, I thought that the opportunity was too good to miss to have such an answer recorded in Hansard for our great-great-grandchildren to look back on the state of the Territory in present times. I intend to frame my copy of the answer alongside a photo I have on my wall of a boar pig.

I will take on board the further questions asked by the honourable member for Port Darwin and endeavour to supply him with information in respect to those questions.

1753 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW

Upon what terms and conditions and at what times are uniformed police in urban areas armed?

ANSWER

I will obtain that information for the honourable member. I have an idea but I am not sure.

1754 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

Some honourable members and yourself, Mr Speaker, might remember the long saga that I had last year with the then honourable Executive Member for Resource Development in relation to the sale of a \$6,000 Taiwanese, or some sort of oriental fishing boat, back to its owners. Now it appears to have turned up again in Port Darwin, once again having been arrested by the naval authorities. What I am seeking to obtain from the honourable Cabinet Member is an assurance to this House that the vessel will not again be sold to its previous owners.

ANSWER

Regrettably I am not in a position to give a direction as to what might happen to this fishing boat. The wish expressed by the honourable

member that the boat not be sold back to its former owners or any other owners under any conditions has been transmitted to the Minister responsible. One would hope that he will concur with our wishes.

1755 Mr BALLANTYNE to Miss ANDREW

This is a follow-up to a question which I asked in December last year. Could she tell me if we are going to get a police boat at Nhulunbuy, and when? Are we going to get one, will it be equipped for ocean-going or just bay work, and will the police be liaising with other areas such as Groote Eylandt and Elcho Island?

ANSWER

Perhaps the honourable member for Nhulunbuy could make representations to a certain company involved in this area. He could see the Cabinet Member for Resources regarding a certain boat in the harbour. On the subject of the provision of a boat for Nhulunbuy, I understand that it is planned to provide one this year; it depends on the estimates and the success in getting a certain amount of money for equipment of the Police Force.

1756 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

I redirect the question pertaining to sewerage farms in Alice Springs to the Cabinet Member for Resources. I think that the proposal is bogged down somewhere in the Health Department of the NT. I seek assurance from the Cabinet Member for Resources to get it pushed out the end of the line so that the water can possibly be utilised, rather than having the unnecessary expenditure of \$105,000 of taxpayers' money.

ANSWER

My principal interest in this matter of course is that it is in my electorate and I have raised the matter in debates in this Assembly from time to time. All I can do in answer to the honourable member's question is to assure him that I will be doing everything to ensure that the matter is finalised, and finalised satisfactorily and quickly.

1757 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK

Last year, when he was Executive Member for Social Affairs, I asked him a question several times regarding the Block 8 cafeteria. I have been asking the same question for 18 months now and now that he has taken over the resources portfolio, maybe he can give this House an undertaking that the Block 8 cafeteria will open very shortly?

ANSWER

I do not think that this is a matter which falls into my present portfolio. I am not sure where the matter stands at the moment, apart from the fact that the Block 8 cafeteria of course is not operating and is not open, and there is no sign of it opening. The honourable member would be perhaps better advised to make a direct approach to the department responsible to see if something can be got going.

1758 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Having in mind the fact that he bears some responsibility for both hous-

ing and representation on the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, can he advise this Assembly of the arrangements made for officers of the Reconstruction Commission who presently occupy Government housing and the DRC, presumably at the end of this year?

ANSWER

I am aware that the Minister for the Northern Territory will be making the announcement that the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is to wind up on 31 December. The Minister is mindful of the employment and associated conditions of all employees of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and is currently undertaking a series of arrangements to ensure that employment and other conditions are satisfactorily met.

1759 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

When is it expected that the permanent head of the Department of the Northern Territory will reside permanently in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

My understanding is that he spends approximately 50% of his time in Canberra and 50% of his time in Darwin. He has residences in both those centres and I suppose he could claim either address as far as the electoral roll or other identification of place of residence is concerned. I believe that it is not his intention to take up full time residence in the Northern Territory because of commitments in parliamentary and other duties to his Minister in Canberra. He expects to divide his time between those 2 centres.

1760 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

Can he please advise how many loans in the Northern Territory have been approved over the last 5 years by the Home Finance Trustee for the \$15,000 loan, and is there an estimate of how many loans there are likely to be approved in 1977?

ANSWER

A number of loans have been granted by the Home Finance Trustee over the last 5 years in response to applications received. In the last 5 calendar years: in 1972 73 loans were approved; 1973, 102; 1974, 106; 1975, 31; 1976, 194. On previous trends, and from the applications which are being submitted at the moment, it is estimated that 200 loans will be approved in 1977.

1761 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he give any indication of the outlook for the beef market in the Northern Territory in 1977?

ANSWER

The Animal Industry and Agricultural Branch have given me some advice on this matter. They tell me that the outlook for beef in 1977 according to the Australian Meat Board as at 4 February is that the world beef market has grown stronger than at any time since world prices commenced the downturn in late 1973. The major reasons for this assessment are briefly: the cattle price cycles in North America and Europe will level off and turn upward; the EEC will change its import control system from jumelage to one of variable levels and its officials are forecasting increased opportunities for importers in 1977; the economies of the United States of America, Canada and Japan are continuing their gradual recovery and there should be corresponding improvements in demands in these countries; the devaluation in November increased the ability of the Australian exporters to take advantage of the greater number of inquiries by prospective overseas buyers; and cattle populations in America and EEC have declined substantially and are continuing to do so. The American herd has dropped from 130m to 122m. The following represents the Board's current assessment of likely export levels and should not be interpreted as a precise forecast but indications are that the Australian beef and veal exports in 1,000 tonnes of boneless equivalent to United States of America in 1976, 268; 1977, 288; Canada 51, 23; Japan 71, 75; EEC 13, 20; USSR 14 to 70; Eastern European 15 to 50; other destinations 134 to 130; canned beef and veal 33 to 35; in total, an increase from 599,000 to 691,000 tonnes boneless equivalent.

Also this morning, a market note for livestock and meat published weekly by the Australian Meat Board gave a further indication of prospects of a greater flow of beef to Egypt. There are encouraging signs that there is an increasing amount of export markets for the Australian beef industry. I would be cautious in any forecast of any overnight outstanding increases. I think that the prospects are a bit brighter than they were in the last 12 months.

1762 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

How many residential lots of land are currently available in Darwin and what are the proportions of government and private ownership?

ANSWER

A survey has just been completed by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission which identifies that there are 11,097 residential sites in Darwin. Of these, 10,677 are for house lots and the remaining 420 are for sites containing flats. The statistics relating to flats, where there are 420 sites, indicate that the sites would accommodate approximately 3,000 housing units or flats.

1763 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

What construction standards will be observed with the work on Newcastle causeway?

ANSWER

The question asked by the honourable member for Stuart is as a result of a rumour which is persisting that the standards for the bridge works proposed at Newcastle Creek will not be sufficient to carry heavy transport. In fact, the standards of the bridge works there are in accordance with the National Highway Standard. The Stuart Highway is a national highway and the bridge work, I can assure members, will be of the highest standard possible. Maybe one of the reasons for the concern is that a couple of the bridges that were built under the first 3-year road program were not built to this particular standard and we do have some problems at the moment: the Taylor Creek bridge approaches were washed away last week. I would like to point out to honourable members that under the first 3-year road program, which has now been completed - we are now in the second 3-year program - the Stuart Highway was not designated a national highway and the bridges were built on 50-year flood levels. However, this does not apply to the present situation and any bridges now constructed on the Stuart and Barkly Highways will be to national highway standard and I think we will see a great improvement over the situation that exists at present. Finally, I am hopeful that the contracts for the upgrading and bridging of the Newcastle Creek will be let within the next week or so.

1764 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

What speech therapy is available for children in the education system in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to find out that information and reply to the honourable member later.

1765 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

My question concerns the proposed Dripstone High School. Since the exam results came out for matriculation last year, it may now be apparent that we should perhaps have more technical colleges and fewer high schools. When is it proposed to call tenders for the Dripstone High School?

ANSWER

An application has been forwarded to the Government to obtain approval to go to tender on the Dripstone High School in April of this year with the view to commencing construction in June of this year. At

this time, word has not been received from the Government. I will undertake to find out the latest information for the honourable member.

1766 Mr KENTISH to Mr PERRON

Why is no education officer available at the Darwin gaol?

ANSWER

Applications have been invited for the position of teacher in charge at the Darwin gaol. However, no suitable applications have been received by the department. The Department of Education is endeavouring to fill the position as soon as possible.

1767 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

What is the current interest rate charged by the Home Finance Trustee for additional \$15,000 loans and what are the total borrowings of the Home Finance Trustee for the additional home scheme and at what rate of interest has this money been secured and what additional monies will be required to fund the scheme at the end of 1977?

ANSWER

The Home Finance Trustee must ensure that his lending rate of interest is in line with his borrowing rate of interest. The trustee has been able to establish his new rate at 10% with a 1% reduction for payment on or before the due date making an effective 9% interest rate. The rate of 9% effective on loans approved by the Home Finance Trustee was established only after considering outstanding loans and estimated loans to June 1977 and future borrowings at 9.5%. It is not anticipated that a further review of interest rates will be undertaken before 30 June 1977.

With regard to the total borrowings of the scheme and at what rate of interest this had been secured, total borrowings at the last available date - several weeks ago - were of the order of \$4.15m at an effective overall repayment interest rate by the Home Finance Trustee of 8.42%. Additional monies have been secured with regard to meeting the present commitments of the Home Finance Trustee. These additional monies were raised at 9.5% interest rate and this in turn raises the trustee's effective repayment rate to 8.58%. It is anticipated that a further \$3m will be needed to finance the scheme in 1977-78 based on the applications and the indicated figures that I gave in answer to an earlier question. The borrowing of this additional \$3m will raise the repayment interest rate to 8.93% if funds can be secured at 9.5%.

1768 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr RYAN

I asked him on Tuesday 21 December 1976 if the owner of lot B of section 290 Hundred of Bagot at Howard Springs intends to build an engineering workshop 150 feet long on the block mentioned. Could he please give me an answer on that question.

ANSWER

I am not too sure whether I asked him to put that question on notice. I do believe that I have seen an answer to that question from the department. I will check and advise him, but I feel sure that the question has been answered.

1769 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Has the \$30,000 allocated in the last budget for a tourist development study yet been provided?

ANSWER

I presume that the money has been allocated because the study is under way.

1770 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

Has the sale of the Alice Springs Abattoirs to Wales Meat Exporters had any effect on the supply of beef to the local domestic market in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I can give some advice in relation to that matter. First, I will answer some of the questions that the honourable member asked on the general subject yesterday. He asked whether it is a fact that the shares owned by shareholders to the Alice Springs Abattoirs have been purchased by Wales Meat Exporters. I am advised that the Alice Springs Abattoirs has been sold to Wales Meat Exporters. It is the intention of that company to convert the abattoirs to export standard and I am told that there is intense construction and renovation activity at the moment at the abattoirs to bring it up to export standard. It will be raised to the Department of Primary Industry standard which is based on American requirements for meat. I am told that the abattoirs at this stage considers it does have markets and, although I have not been advised officially, I am told that they are looking at the prospect of processing some 70,000 head per annum through the works. This would be a considerable number of cattle and perhaps more than what would be turned off in Central Australia itself.

He also asked whether provision was being made to accommodate the workforce. I am told that work has already started on staff quarters in the abattoirs area and one would imagine that the company would have other interests in town in securing accommodation through the normal channels.

In relation to the local market, these renovations have resulted in the abattoirs ceasing to kill and local domestic suppliers are restricted at the moment. This is causing some concern. The department is endeavouring to arrange a meeting of all the butchers concerned. It was unsuccessful on Friday and again on Monday but they are hopeful that a meeting can be arranged so that adequate arrangements can be made to maintain a supply of meat to the domestic market in the Territory. At the moment, quite a deal of meat is being imported to the Territory. This is causing concern because Territory officials are not satisfied with some of the inspection standards at the abattoirs at which this meat is being killed.

1771 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

The Cabinet Member replied to a question concerning the number of residential blocks currently available in Darwin. What is the proportion of government and private ownership? Is information available concerning the reconstruction status of housing units in Darwin and does this information give details of the number of sites on which no work has been done?

ANSWER

I apologise to the honourable member for not giving the full answer to the question and the information he sought. Of the 10,677 house lots in Darwin, 5,268 are owned by the private sector. The Government has 3,072, the Department of Defence 552, the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the Australian Railways have 85 and the Northern Territory Housing Commission, 1,700. The Government has 5 sites for flats and members will recognise that they are rather large and the Housing Commission has 7 whereas the private sector has 408. With regard to the reconstruction status, the survey that has just been completed by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission gives comprehensive details with regard to the number of houses that have been rebuilt or new homes that have been built, homes that are currently being rebuilt, homes on which temporary repairs have been carried out or perhaps the building was restored as it was precyclone. It also gives further information relating to sites where no work has been done or where perhaps the sites are just clear. In the private sector, there are 715 sites identified as having no work done and a further 474 that are clear sites. In the Government sector, there are 652 sites where either no work has been done or the sites are clear and available. Similarly, there are statistics available for each of the other categories and I will be pleased to make these available to all honourable members.

1773 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Can he advise when the unsealed northern section of the street known as Norman Jones Street and in fact now renamed Price Street in Alice Springs is going to be sealed? If it is not to be sealed, what work will be carried out immediately?

ANSWER

This particular section of road is used by residents of Alice Springs to by-pass a section of the Stuart Highway. This section of the Stuart Highway will be under construction shortly and the honourable member for Stuart is concerned that the extra traffic on that particular section of gravel road will cause it to deteriorate. We have made approaches to the Department and asked for that particular section of road to be sealed. There are some difficulties, however, because the land on which the road is built belongs to the Railways and while the Railways are not particularly active in the Northern Territory there are still certain provisions which have to be looked at before another department can carry out roadworks on the Railway property. I am still liaising with the Department of the Northern Territory on the matter. They are going to do some gravelling of the road which will improve it slightly but, with the assistance of the honourable member for Stuart, I will continue to press for the road to be sealed even if this means the granting of a lease to the Department of the Northern Territory for the land on which the road is built. The amount of money involved is not significant and I feel sure that, providing we keep the nose to the grindstone, we will get a satisfactory result.

1774 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr RYAN

Is it a fact that the 2 major airlines are proposing to charge the same air fares on the Sydney-Alice Springs-Sydney direct route as are now being charged for the circuitous route via Adelaide and Melbourne? If so, what is his attitude to such a fare structure, does he think it justified and, if not, what is he doing about it?

ANSWER

Last week I spent several days in Alice Springs and this particular matter was brought to my attention, that the pricing of the direct flight from Alice Springs to Sydney was going to be the same as the longer flight through Adelaide. As far as I am concerned, that is absolutely ridiculous, particularly from a tourism point of view. If we are going to attract people from Sydney, which is the place where most overseas tourists arrive in Australia, obviously we have got to be able to offer them a satisfactory rate on a flight. I took the matter up with the Minister for Transport in Hobart on Friday; he agreed with me that there should be some reduction in the cost and has asked me to remind him of the matter. I also on the way back happened to cross paths with the managing director of TAA, and I mentioned to him that we considered that it was ridiculous that they should charge the same price for a direct flight from Alice Springs to Sydney, that I had taken the matter up with the Minister for Transport, that he had agreed with me and that I would be making further application to the Minister to intervene. I also intend to contact the airlines and bring the matter up.

A similar situation existed I believe in the direct flight between Alice Springs and Cairns. I believe that the airlines made a single approach and, with a certain amount of pushing and shoving, they did reduce the fare to something which is now considered reasonable. I hope we can achieve the same result if we speak with the airlines on this particular flight.

1775 Mr KENTISH to Miss ANDREW

What action, if any, has been taken in respect to a number of my constituents at Galiwinku in Arnhem Land who threatened an aeroplane and a pilot with spears?

ANSWER

I do not have the information immediately available. I will obtain it for the honourable member before the end of this sittings.

1776 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

How did the Home Finance Trustee secure the finance for the additional home loan scheme, and what effect will the increase in the loan limit ceiling - to say \$20,000 or \$25,000 - have on the operation of the scheme?

ANSWER

Honourable members might be aware from the Home Loans Ordinance, that the Trustee may accept an advance made to him by a bank or a body corporate, an institution or person approved by the Minister. The Home Finance Trustee competes with other building societies in the money market to secure finance for the scheme's continuance. However, if funds cannot be secured from private lending institutions, he does have recourse, as a last resort, to Treasury for loans at the going rate of interest at the banks to building societies. No funds are appropriated to the Home Finance Trustee under the Appropriation Bill for this scheme. In the past, the trustee has been able to ask the Treasury to seek Loan Council approval on his behalf for his borrowers. However, in 1977-78, he must present a borrowing program to the Loan Council. This is because it is estimated that \$3m - that is,

200 loans at \$15,000 each - will be required. Constraint on the amount of borrowing the trustee will be able to undertake in 1977-78, will be subject to Loan Council approval to his program, the availability of funds for the loan market, the amount of funds Treasury are willing to advance him, and the going rate of the banks' interest to building societies.

In consequence of an increase in the loan limit from \$15,000 to \$20,000 or \$25,000, as has recently been called for - and, I might mention, endorsed by the Majority Party as a necessary policy initiative - it would have to be borne in mind that it would be necessary for the trustee to make a bid for further funds from those already estimated for; that is, the \$3m in the coming financial year. At the present rate of interest charged by banks to building societies of 9.5%, further borrowings by the Home Finance Trustee in 1977-78 beyond his estimate may result in a further increase in the interest rate on his lendings.

1777 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

With the proposed opening of Casuarina Hospital, is it intended that that hospital will be a training hospital for nurses and will Darwin Hospital continue to be such a hospital?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the Casuarina Hospital will become a training hospital, and not just for nurses aides but for the complete nursing course. As to whether similar functions will continue at the present Darwin Hospital, I will ascertain that information and reply at a later date.

1778 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

I refer to the answer to the question before last from the honourable member for Stuart. I take on board the remarks he made to that question about the washing away of the approaches to the Taylor Creek Bridge but I would like to ask the honourable member if there is any truth in the rumour that the bridge itself has shifted in its foundations since the most recent floods?

ANSWER

This matter was raised in Alice Springs. I was there the day that the washout occurred, and I heard secondhand that a police sergeant had spoken to somebody who in turn spoke to me. The story was that the approaches to the bridge had washed away and that the bridge proper had moved. It seemed unlikely to me, but anything is possible, so I rang the Department of Construction in Darwin and spoke to one of the engineers. I was unable to get onto the person that I had asked for but the engineer that I spoke to was aware of the problem. They were still awaiting full reports from the area. When I said that the approaches were washed away, he said, "That's right, they have been washed away approximately 100 metres from the end of the bridge and about 1 metre deep". This was a bit unfortunate because they had been about to let a contract for the strengthening of the approaches. May be somebody would like to ask me why the approaches were not made strong in the first place and I might guess at an answer. When I mentioned the fact that the bridge had moved, he thought that it would be extremely unlikely and suggested that that particular bridge is built on a corner it would have a certain amount of camber. I have

not spoken to anybody since then to confirm or deny whether he was right or not, but he did suggest that the bridge would be built on an angle if it was built on a corner and, with the approaches washed away, to anybody standing back having a look it would appear that the bridge had tilted to one side. I have not confirmed this suggestion, I may do so to try to clarify the situation.

1779 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Will he take the necessary steps to have the building covenants on residential blocks extended from 1 year to 2 years?

ANSWER

It is the policy of the Majority Party to have the times for complying with covenants on residential blocks extended to requiring commencement within 2 years and completion of the dwelling within a further 2 years after the sale of blocks by the Government. I will be approaching the Federal Government in the near future in regard to this matter to see if we can have this policy implemented.

1780 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

Could he tell me if there is a shortage of anaesthetists in the Territory? If there is, can he tell us what the intention of the Health Department is to bring into the Territory more people qualified in this work?

ANSWER

Yes, there has been and it appears there will always be a shortage of such professionals as anaesthetists, orthodontists, dentists, paediatricians and other people who work in very specialised fields. The Department of Health accepts this as a fact of life and has a continuing program of recruitment going on but it rarely sees the occasion that meets the demand.

1781 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

Honourable members may have heard this morning a news report to the effect that the Fourth Division Officers' Association has voted to continue its bans on overtime and the like which have been affecting life in Darwin recently. Are the continuation of these bans likely to lead to any further power cuts being imposed on the citizenry of Darwin and, if so, what recommendation, if any, has the honourable Cabinet Member to offer to the Minister for the Northern Territory, or other responsible authority, to see that this intolerable situation will not continue?

ANSWER

If there are people who can come up with the answer how to stop intolerable situations continuing, I am sure they are going to be very welcome in this country. However, being more specific in regard to the question, I understand that there are members of the Fourth Division Officer's Association in the powerhouse itself and I will undertake to find out whether, if they went on an overtime ban, they are in a position to restrict the power supply to Darwin. I will advise the honourable member on the next sitting day.

1782 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW

On December 8 last year, I asked the then Executive Member for Law whether she was aware that the Police Commissioner had apparently issued instructions to his officers that they were under no circumstances to discuss police problems or personal problems concerning their homes etc with members of this Assembly. The Executive Member replied that she was not aware that this instruction had been issued and therefore could not give any reason. Is she now aware of any such instruction and, if so, will she table a copy of it in this Assembly?

ANSWER

No such instruction as such has been given. The Commissioner did issue a communiqué, number 2 of 1977, and I will read it to you. It is regarding communications with members of the Legislative Assembly. "In order that the best possible information may be supplied to the Executive Member for Law and other politicians, it is essential that the answers to questions asked by those persons be supplied through headquarters. Members are directed that they are not to provide any information under such circumstances except as outlined. Any member approached is to note the question respectfully and formally reply that the answer will be supplied from headquarters. Reports setting out details of the request and all relevant information are to be immediately forwarded through the usual channels to the Commissioner of Police for a reply."

This is in line with the policy of other government departments where the director or permanent head usually signs the information that is supplied to any elected member or anyone else for that matter. It is an administrative matter so that the person who is responsible can keep his finger on the pulse of his department or organisation. The Commissioner did not intend in any way to deprive the police from raising their personal problems with members. There seems to have been some misunderstanding amongst some police officers, especially in the southern region, and the Commissioner will issue a further communiqué pointing out that this relates only to matters concerning the police force and the work the police do.

1783 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

When will the No. 5 generator at the power station be in service?

ANSWER

The infamous No. 5 generator at Stokes Hill power station is expected to be brought back on line in about the middle of March.

1784 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that the Nightcliff Dental Clinic is offering to students of primary schools in the area a dental therapy service but the department is refusing to supply any means of transport? If he is aware of this, would he take all steps to correct it?

ANSWER

I am not aware of this problem. I am aware that no such ferry service is available to the other communities of the Territory but I will endeavour to follow it up with the Director of Health and see whether it can be resolved.

1785 Mr MANUELL to Mr PERRON

Is it a fact that there is no uniformity of curriculum amongst senior and junior schools in the Northern Territory and, if so, why not? Can he advise me if the Northern Territory Director of Education has control over the curriculum standards of these schools?

ANSWER

I believe that I should seek detailed information from the Department of Education and present it in this House at a later date.

1786 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

Is this year's allocation to the Northern Territory of export tonnage of beef to United States markets more or less than last year? With the purchase of the Alice Springs Abattoir, will any export contract that that abattoir gains in the near future with the United States affect present allocations of tonnages to existing Top End abattoirs?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the question because I do not have the figures with me. One would hope that the allocation of any additional quota to the proposed Alice Springs export abattoir would not affect the existing operators in the Territory. I will endeavour to find more information and provide it to the member during this session.

1787 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Will he examine the archaic covenants attached to the many rural holdings in the Northern Territory with a view to initiating replacement of the present land title restrictions with incentive covenants for investment and improved production efficiency?

ANSWER

Yes.

1788 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

Will future Housing Commission policy include the construction and sale of units by use of strata title?

ANSWER

There is no present intention of the Northern Territory Housing Commission to be involved in strata titles.

1789 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

Is it a fact that the homes sales scheme for Commonwealth public servants will not be reintroduced until the final form of the proposed single housing authority is known?

ANSWER

I indicated clearly yesterday that the Minister for the Northern Territory in determining the terms and conditions for the sale of government homes was of the opinion that it should be reintroduced on lines similar to those proposed by the Majority Party in its reintroduction

of a Housing Commission home sales scheme. I believe that there is no constraint for the government to wait until such time as there is a single housing authority.

1790 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr RYAN

Has the finishing and sealing of Whitewood Road and the stabilising or sealing of Hillier Road, which is the bus circuit to the new school, been placed on the estimates for 1977-78?

ANSWER

I do not have that information available. I will get it and advise the honourable member for Tiwi later on in these sittings.

1791 Mr WITHNALL to Mr RYAN

Can he confirm that there was a fire at Fire Brigade Headquarters this morning?

ANSWER

I cannot confirm whether there was a fire at Fire Brigade Headquarters. I will endeavour to find out if in fact it took place. If there was a fire at Fire Brigade Headquarters, I am quite sure that the Fire Brigade of the Northern Territory would have handled the situation admirably.

1792 Mr KENTISH to Mr RYAN

Would he investigate the possibility of installing traffic lights to function during peak hours at the Berrimah crossroads or stationing a traffic policeman there at peak hours?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any plans to put traffic lights at the Berrimah crossing, nor am I aware of any intentions to put a traffic policeman out there. However, I will make some inquiries and find out what the intentions are. I realise that there are some problems out there during peak traffic times and I will try to establish what the plans are for that crossing.

1793 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN

When will the reconstruction of Trower Road between "Crystal Corner" and Rapid Creek Road commence?

ANSWER

The reconstruction of that section of road is under the control of the municipal council.

Mrs Lawrie: Are you sure?

Mr RYAN: Yes, I am sure that the repairs and upgrading of that section of road are to be undertaken by the council. I do not know whether the honourable Cabinet Member for Finance and Local Government could add anything to that. I believe it was originally on this year's program but I have an idea that it may have been postponed until next year. I will try to confirm that later on.

1794 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

We are aware that the DRC is to cease operation in December 1977. What is to be the fate of the Citizens' Advisory Council?

ANSWER

I would hope that the fate of the Darwin Citizens' Council will be the same as the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and it will fade out on the same date.

1795 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Is funding to be made available to shift the speedway to another location to allow the release of that land for other purposes?

ANSWER

The issue of relocation of the speedway is a complicated matter because the current Speedway Association only has permissive occupancy of an area that is a city corporation reserve. The Darwin Reconstruction Commission, as part of its planning proposal, has been trying to locate a suitable alternative site for the relocation of the speedway. Several have been looked at in detail, including sites behind Coonawarra and sites at the far end of the airport adjacent to McMillans Road in the Berrimah area. I am not aware that the final stages of any agreement have been reached and I am aware that the Minister will also have to be involved with regard to the allocation of any funds for the acquisition of the considerable capital improvements that have been made by the Speedway Association on the present site.

1796 Mr STEELE to Mr RYAN

I draw his attention to the state of the road between Wave Hill and the Hooker Creek settlement. Could he see that the road is immediately graded so that development materials can get in and cattle from the pastoral projects get out?

ANSWER

I will contact the Department of the Northern Territory which has the responsibility for looking after these roads and see if something can be done.

1797 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Is the Registrar of Motor Vehicles continuing his investigation into alternative coloured number plates for use in the Northern Territory? Is there any comment that the honourable Cabinet Member can give to this House at this stage?

ANSWER

The Registrar is not conducting any further investigations into the matter. Last year they did fit number plates of various colours to vehicles in Darwin to test their durability. The next step will be, I would assume, for the Majority Party to examine the various colours that have been suggested and come up with a proposed new colour for Northern Territory number plates. I anticipate that I will be bringing it before Cabinet some time this year.

1798 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

This question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the Cabinet Member advise if Northern Territory abattoirs will this year announce a predetermined price for cattle so that producers can arrange cattle musters and transportation well in advance of the cattle season, and will he seek this cooperation from the abattoirs? Is it also a fact that Northern Territory abattoirs sell on a forward market?

ANSWER

I do not know what the abattoirs are going to do this season in relation to their pricing structure or how they are going to go about it. I will certainly take the matter up with them. As far as selling on a forward market, we have heard it said that the Alice Springs Export Abattoir has not got any markets yet, so I do not know how they are going to set a price. It is principally a commercial decision for them as to whether they set their prices in advance or whether they set the price as the season goes on. No doubt if they set a certain price and the market took a sharp upturn, the cattle producers would want to see the prices rise, so it is a dog-chasing-its-tail situation. I will take the matter up with the abattoirs and see if some advice can be given to producers.

1799 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Will he summarise the results of the 1976 disease eradication program in the beef industry and say whether the results were up to expectation?

ANSWER

I did have some advice of this question, but unfortunately all the information to adequately answer the question is not available from the department as yet. I will provide a full answer to the honourable member on the next sitting day.

1800 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

Is it the intention to introduce legislation to control the pest control industry, which is flourishing in Darwin, to control the use of pesticides and provide minimum standards of safety for people operating in that industry?

ANSWER

Legislation of the type mentioned by the honourable member for Night-cliff is on our legislative program. It has been cleared as legislation necessary to be introduced, along with something like 90 other items. It has been necessary, because of the volume of legislation that needs attention, to give these various priorities and I am not quite certain where this particular piece stands on that priority list. As always, we are very much hampered by drafting facilities and when the Premier of Western Australia contacted me some weeks ago, before the election, and offered resources, I did give him some indication that an area in which we would probably appreciate some help would be parliamentary and legislative drafting. I hope to be able to follow that matter up with him now that the results of the election are known. Subject to drafting constraints, we would hope to make some progress with such legislation this year.

1801 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

I have asked this same question for about 5 years now. Is it the intention to introduce controls on the use of antibiotics in stock feeds in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I believe that some legislation in respect of quality of stock feeds is also on the list, but I do not think it has a very high priority and it is unlikely, with the drafting bottlenecks that exist, that it would be introduced this year.

1802 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TUXWORTH

Will the inaugural meeting of the Northern Territory Consultative Committee on Social Welfare take place today?

ANSWER

Senator Guilfoyle, Chairman of the Northern Territory Consultative Committee on Social Welfare, has already convened the meeting in Block 8. It started at 10 o'clock and it will continue throughout the day. I do not have any advice on the items on the agenda that will be discussed at the meeting.

1803 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me what speech therapy is available for children in the education system in the Northern Territory. The Department of Health has recently acquired the services of 2 speech therapists who will be available for consultation by children in the Northern Territory. Further, the Department of Education is in the process of advertising 3 further vacancies for speech therapists.

1804 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Jingili asked me a question relating to the continuing overtime bans by the Fourth Division Officers' Association and I undertook to find out if this would affect power supplies in Darwin. I am advised that, although there are a considerable number of members of the Fourth Division Officers' Association on the turbine floor at the powerhouse, the overtime bans were not extended to the powerhouse. As a result, we do not expect any power disruptions from that quarter.

1805 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Miss ANDREW: The honourable member for Arnhem asked me what action had taken place following the threatening of an aircraft and pilot with spears at Galiwinku. In fact, I am advised that the constituents at Galiwinku did not have any spears. There are no police charges proposed against the persons involved in this incident because police inquiries do not show that any weapon was used. I understand that what is described as a strong verbal protest was made to the pilot by an Elcho Islander that charter aircraft operators should not be allowed to bring liquor onto the island.

1806 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Miss ANDREW: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked about the terms and conditions under which the police in urban areas are armed. I would advise that the police draw firearms at the discretion and direction of the officer in charge of the station to which they are attached - that is, the officer in charge of the station and not the officer in charge of the shift. During day and evening shifts firearms are to be concealed when carried. Concealment of firearms does not apply to members whilst on money escort duty.

1807 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Miss ANDREW: For the further information of the member for Nhulunbuy, the boat that is hoped to be ordered, providing sufficient funds are available, is a sixteen foot dinghy with a 35 horsepower motor and trailer.

1808 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TUXWORTH: The member for Arnhem asked whether there was any explanation as to why persons brought into hospital at Health Department expense from remote areas were repatriated in different ways, some at their own expense and some at the expense of the Commonwealth. I have been advised by the Department of Health that the evacuation of a patient is at public expense but the entitlement to repatriation is based on the means test. If the former patient's income is below a certain figure, the person is repatriated at public expense. Other persons pay their own fares.

1809 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked: "With the proposed opening of the Casuarina Hospital is it intended that that hospital will be a training centre for nurses, and will Darwin Hospital continue to be such a hospital?". I indicated that it was my understanding that Casuarina would become a training hospital for nurses. I have received further information to suggest that the Darwin Hospital training facilities should be used for training Aboriginal Health workers. However, no firm decision has been made on this aspect.

Mrs Lawrie: What about Casuarina, will it be a training hospital?

Mr TUXWORTH: Yes.

1811 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Can you give a firm date as to the introduction of the sale of government homes in the Darwin area and advise of the terms and conditions of that scheme?

ANSWER

The policy with regard to the reintroduction of a sale of government homes in the Darwin area rests entirely with the Minister for the Northern Territory. In answer to a similar question last week, I did indicate that the Minister was keen to reintroduce the scheme as quickly as possible on terms and conditions broadly similar to those currently before this House in the sale of homes to Housing Commission tenants.

1812 Mr VALE to Mr TAMBLING

Does the Government intend to satisfy local needs for housing before disposing of the remaining Tindal homes?

ANSWER

The situation with regard to Katherine housing is that the Department of the Northern Territory is responsible for the construction and management of homes for government servants in Katherine and the Northern Territory Housing Commission looks after the general community. Both the department and the Housing Commission regularly survey the needs and are aware of the housing requirements of that community. The remnant of houses at Tindal which was formerly a RAAF base are the property of the Department of Administrative Services. That department is seeking to sell and dispose of the old housing at Tindal.

1813 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

Is it a fact that the Darwin Reconstruction Commission has agreed to a marina proposal and, if so, what is the location and who are the owners of the land?

ANSWER

There has been considerable press coverage to date with regard to certain town planning proposals considered at a meeting of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission some months ago. A particular developer sought endorsement for the site which would be best described as the northern end of Mindil Beach, the area adjacent to Darwin High School. The commission and the Town Planning Board have agreed in principle that the site would be suitable. However, the owners of the land are the Department of Education, which owns the areas that approach the cliffs on the Darwin High School side, and the Corporation of the City of Darwin which has a reserve over part of the flat land at the base. There has been considerable liaison between the corporation and the planning authority to look more carefully at the issue and to continue the arrangements to facilitate the development of a marina in that area.

1814 Mr STEELE to Mr PERRON

If it is a fact that the marina proposal will take in high school land, would he have this matter looked at very closely on the basis that there is not enough land available for those facilities there and make

sure that the interests of the school are safeguarded?

ANSWER

I will keep a particular eye on the application to take land from an educational facility in the Northern Territory for other use and try to ensure that the educational use is protected.

1815 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

I ask a question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Has he sought advice as to whether the administration of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976 and the proposed supporting legislation constitute a breach of the Racial Discrimination Act 1975? If he has sought such advice, what were the terms of that advice?

ANSWER

I have not sought advice myself. I have brought the matter to the attention of both the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Minister for the Northern Territory and informed them of the comments made by the member for Port Darwin in the second reading debate on the complementary legislation in the earlier sittings of this Assembly. I believe that further advice from the Attorney-General's Department will be sought by both those ministers and that the Minister for the Northern Territory will advise me of the outcome.

1816 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TUXWORTH

Advertisements have appeared in newspapers recently calling for organisations concerned with the advancement of cultural, sporting and recreational facilities in the Northern Territory to apply for grants under the community grant scheme. As it has been the practice to make grants to organisations involved in social service type activities, has there been a change of policy in that direction?

ANSWER

The omission in the advertisement of any reference to organisations that perform social functions in the community has been brought to my attention from many quarters of the Northern Territory. I would like to say, without any reservation at all, that there has been no change in policy. It is the wish of the Majority Party to assist any organisation which contributes in any way at all. The last thing that this party would like to see is any erosion of the existing contribution that these organisations get.

1817 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

We are all aware that the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is closing down its operations in the Territory and I believe some technical and advisory staff have been given notice and are leaving. In view of this, is the public relations department of the DRC to be the last part of that organisation disbanded and will it remain on the payroll until the bitter end?

ANSWER

I am aware, as is the honourable member, that the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is to terminate its activities on 31 December. With regard to the administrative arrangements that must be made to ensure a sat-

isfactory transition to other departments and to the community generally, it will be important that most government departments have a direct liaison with regard to the technical and other fields. I have not seen any details as to how the administrative arrangements will be made. I would hope that some of the public relations staff, at least, will remain until the bitter end, whether or not it would be the full department I do not know but I will certainly seek further information for the honourable member.

1818 Mr STEELE to Mr RYAN

Does the operation of the Tender Board include obtaining a full financial appraisal of those companies and persons applying for a tender? Does the Tender Board require from tendering companies a list of the details of company directors? Is the Tender Board a fixed group of people and what are the qualifications of the board members? Is it a fact that a company owned approximately 75% by the Government recently lost a government contract?

ANSWER

I do not have an answer to the first 3 parts of the question. To the last part, I do have an answer which is yes. A company which is 75% owned by the Government did lose a contract recently. I will get answers to the other parts of the question and advise the honourable member later this sittings.

1819 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

I refer to an announcement that agreement has been reached between the Commonwealth and the states on the preparation of a Federal Companies Act applying throughout the Commonwealth of Australia to be administered by a joint administration on which the Commonwealth and the states would be represented. I ask whether he or any other member of his administration has been consulted on this matter or in the matter of Territory participation in the joint administration of the new federal act. If the answer is no, will he press strongly a claim that the Territory should be accorded full participation upon the same basis as the states?

ANSWER

No approach has been made to me in this matter and I believe that no approach has been made to the Cabinet Member with responsibilities in the field of law. I think the answer is probably no, and that being so I will follow up the claims of the Northern Territory along the lines suggested by the honourable member for Port Darwin. To get confirmation of the situation I suggest that the first part of the question at least might be redirected to the Cabinet Member for Law.

1820 Mr WITHNALL to Miss ANDREW

I redirect the first part of the question to the Cabinet Member for Law.

ANSWER

The answer is no. This matter was brought to my attention after a visit by myself, the Majority Leader and the Deputy Majority Leader last week. I have had discussions with the Minister, Mr Howard, and there

was a meeting on 11 March to which the Territory was not invited. I asked why. They said that the ACT was not invited either so I pointed out that there was a grave difference between the state of constitutional development in the 2 territories. I understand that Mr Howard will contact me this afternoon to discuss the matter.

1821 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

When will the rebuilding of the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory commence and on what site will it be relocated? Is he aware that the statutory body has stored most of its very valuable artifact collections since the cyclone? In fact, the only exhibits that I know of are the art works.

ANSWER

I am aware of the difficulty that the Museums Board is having in storing its artifacts and other items of interest. In answer to the first part of the question, the rebuilding of a museum in this city has not been one of the first priorities of the DRC and understandably so. At the moment, it has been held up by the allocation of land. In a recent communication I had with the Chairman of the DRC concerning the allocation of land so that budget provisions could be made for a museum in future, he advised me that the matter is being looked at, as it has been for the past 2 years.

1822 Mr KENTISH to Mr TUXWORTH

Has he any knowledge of a move to revive the annual Darwin Eisteddfod and has there been any support from the DRC in that direction?

ANSWER

The answer to both questions is no. I have no knowledge in either instance.

1823 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Will the report compiled by the Bureau of Transport Economics on the Northern Territory freight and transport problems be made available to the public?

ANSWER

When I attended the ATAC conference in Hobart several weeks ago, I did ask the Transport Minister about the current situation regarding that report. I have followed it up with a telegram this morning asking him if he could advise me when he expects the report to be tabled in the Federal Parliament.

1824 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TAMBLING

In view of the apparent desire of the honourable member for Nightcliff has displayed in her earlier question to boost unemployment in Darwin by dismissing the entire public relations staff of the DRC and the apparent desire of the honourable member for Arnhem to have the members of the DRC sing for their supper, I ask whether there are any plans in hand for the absorption amongst existing departments of members of the DRC staff?

ANSWER

A number of the staff of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission are Australian public servants and have been either seconded or appointed to positions within the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. They will naturally have the right to transfer back into the Australian Public Service. With regard to people who were employed from outside the public service, I am aware that the Minister for the Northern Territory has instructed that the full employment implications of all people employed should be carefully looked at and, wherever possible, they should be appointed to positions that may be available in various departments. The Northern Territory Public Service would also be keen to look at the particular abilities and availabilities of certain staff of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission.

1825 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

What is the position regarding an amendment to the Local Government Ordinance to ensure that bylaws made by the council are valid and enforceable?

ANSWER

Discussions have taken place between officers of the Finance and Local Government Department and the Corporation of the City of Darwin and tentative drafts have been prepared for examination by both the Darwin and Alice Springs Corporations. If the drafts are accepted by the corporations and the Northern Territory Cabinet, they will be processed and amendments introduced into this Assembly.

1826 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr RYAN

Has a tender been let for road work from Larapinta Drive between Alice Springs and Jay Creek? If so, what is the nature of the work, who is the successful tenderer and what is the cost of that work? Has any decision been made on upgrading the Standley Chasm Road between Jay Creek and Standley Chasm?

ANSWER

A tender has been let for the roadworks on Larapinta Drive between Alice Springs and Jay Creek. Concerning the second part of the question, I have been informed that a press release has gone to the federal member for his information and to pass on to the press. I was unable to get that information and it cannot be release to anyone else; he has been designated to make the release. The upgrading of the particular section between Jay Creek turnoff to the major creek crossing about a kilometre from the chasm itself is on next year's draft program.

1827 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that the double-storey flats in Mitchell Street, previously occupied by the Fire Brigade, are now occupied by some 50 people who have no authority to be there? Is he aware that there is no water connected to the premises and these people are defecating in the yard of the premises? Is he aware also that the Department of Health has steadfastly refused to do anything about it, that the police have refused to do anything about it and that every person in the administration of the Northern Territory who has been approached has refused to admit that it is his responsibility? Since it clearly is the honour-

able member's responsibility, what is he going to do about it?

ANSWER

The first thing that comes to mind would be to collect some rent. I am not aware of any of the claims made by the honourable member. I will look at the problem and report back again in this sitting as to what action should be taken and can be taken.

1828 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK

Can he advise if a beef carcass classification chain is to be installed in the upgrading of the Alice Springs abattoir?

ANSWER

A beef carcass classification chain which is proposed to be experimented with at other abattoirs throughout Australia will not be installed at the Alice Springs abattoirs during the upgrading project. This is perhaps unfortunate in some respects. I have spoken to the Department of Primary Industry and they advise that some 16 chains are to be installed on an experimental basis at abattoirs throughout Australia, in all the mainland states but none in the Northern Territory or Tasmania. Originally, there were to be 16 to be installed costing some \$25,000 each; however, with devaluation, the funds will only now allow the purchase of 13 so the chances of getting one are remote. In fact, the department advises that it will not be possible and therefore a chain will not be installed at Alice Springs.

1829 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

I understand that the preliminary report of the Electricity Commission of Inquiry has been delivered to the Minister for the Northern Territory and I was wondering whether the honourable Cabinet Member would find it possible to table a copy of that report in this House at his earliest convenience?

ANSWER

The minister concerned is actually the Minister for Construction. I have been in touch with the Minister's office since he has received the report and have asked if he would be able to let me have a copy of the interim report for tabling in this House. He has advised that, as this report is not the final report and as the committee has still to complete its investigations, in order that the committee's further investigations will not be prejudiced, the Minister had decided not to make this interim report public. The committee members will be returning to Darwin during April and the Minister expects to receive the final report by the end of May. That report will be made public.

1830 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW

When is it expected, if at all, that uniformed police will again be identified either by number or by name?

ANSWER

The manner is under review.

1831 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Has the Cabinet Member, following representations made earlier to the Federal Minister for Transport, received any advice from that Federal Minister as to the restructuring of fare costs between Alice Springs and Sydney?

ANSWER

I have not received any further notification from the Minister for Transport. I have, however, spoken to senior employees of one of the airlines and explained the problem to them. The initial reaction was that they would do something about it and I intend to follow that up and ensure that they do in fact have a look at the fare structure between Alice Springs and Sydney. I took the trouble to measure the distances and work out the approximate mileage, and there is a difference of approximately 300 kilometres going through Adelaide to Sydney rather than direct from Alice Springs to Sydney, so there is a fairly significant distance plus the inconvenience of having to land and take off one extra time. I hope that the companies concerned will take the necessary action. I intend to follow it up to see that they do.

1832 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr RYAN

What action has the Department of Construction taken over the past 2 years to complete the Dowsett houses at Papunya and Areyonga? When will work be effected to complete construction?

ANSWER

I have been in touch with the Department of Construction. Unfortunately, they were unable to give me the answer before the Assembly sat this morning but I hope that I will have it after lunch.

1833 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Can he advise this Assembly the outcome of a conference held in Adelaide last week concerning the need to upgrade the Stuart Highway to South Australia?

ANSWER

The conference held in Adelaide on Saturday was reasonably successful. There was quite a large roll-up of people who were interested. There were the members of the Chamber of Commerce including the president and vice-president from Alice Springs, the federal members, Mr Calder and Senator Kilgariff. There were also representatives from industry and the pastoral industry in South Australia as well as opposition members of the South Australian Parliament. The question of the road into the Northern Territory was discussed at some length and something which I think in the Northern Territory we have been aware of for some time was confirmed, that the road is a very important link to the Territory. I think South Australians are at last coming to realise that the road link is an important link to them, particularly to their industry. I think they realise now that because of the sealing of the road from Queensland and the subsequent use of that road by a large number of truck operators their business with the Northern Territory has been reduced.

The day before the meeting, I went to see the Minister for Transport in South Australia to ask him what the current situation is regarding any future work on the highway. I may have mentioned at the last sittings that, with the road funds as they are this year, most states are extremely unhappy with the amount of money being given for the upgrading of roads in Australia, and South Australia was amongst them. The Minister informed me that, in view of the fact that they have had insufficient funds granted to them this year, there is a very strong possibility that they will reduce the amount of work that they were going to do next year, which was to seal a section of road between Port Augusta and Pimba. It is quite likely, according to the Minister, that this will even be taken off the program in South Australia next year, which means that the Stuart Highway is going backwards instead of forwards. That is one of the reasons I proposed that motion to be debated tomorrow. I am hoping that South Australia will also keep the pressure on. The purpose of this meeting also was to ensure that the federal members interested will also, in the form of submissions which have been asked for from all people interested, be putting the pressure on the Federal Government to make funds available.

1834 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

Has he had any indication from the Federal Minister responsible for the Australian Broadcasting Commission or Telecom about the connection of Alice Springs with the microwave link? When can Alice Springs expect to be connected with that link and receive and enjoy current television programs as enjoyed by other states?

ANSWER

I do not have any information as to when that is likely to happen but I will attempt to find out and advise the honourable member for Alice Springs later in the sittings.

1835 (Number not used)

1836 Mr STEELE to Mr PERRON

Are new primary schools for Darwin being designed for the 3-tier school system?

ANSWER

The answer to that question is no. Preliminary investigations in Darwin are now being conducted in all sections of the community to determine whether or not such an arrangement as the 3-tier school system best suits Darwin's needs.

1837 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK

Recently, Canada, the United States, Russia and, to a lesser extent, Japan, unilaterally declared 200 mile prohibited fishing zones off their coasts. Now that countries such as Japan, Korea and Formosa have been chased out of coastal waters off Russia, Alaska, Canada and the United States will the Federal Government take any action to counter what will obviously become a massive move by all those fishing countries to fish in waters off the Australian coast and seriously deplete our fisheries reserves?

ANSWER

The matter of the 200-mile limit has been of some contention throughout the world for some time. My understanding is that the Commonwealth Government's attitude has been not to take unilateral action but rather to get a consensus and to act in concert with an internationally defined agreement. We have been waiting and no action internationally has been agreed upon. I understand that the countries of the South Pacific region had a conference in Suva last year and resolved that if the forthcoming Law of the Sea Convention did not make a decision on the matter, then all countries in the South Pacific region would act in concert to implement the 200-mile sea limit. This is the situation at the moment. If the next conference on the law of the sea does not agree on the matter, then the countries of the South Pacific will act in concert and implement the 200-mile limit.

1838 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

What facilities will there be available at the Casuarina Hospital for the training of nurses?

ANSWER

I have had further advice from the Department of Health concerning training schemes for nurses. It is intended that a school of general nursing and a school of midwifery nursing will be established at the Casuarina Hospital. Students from the school of general nursing will spend time in both Casuarina and Darwin Hospitals whilst gaining clinical experience. I have also another comment to make about the possible use of the Alice Springs Hospital as a training centre: the department is still of the opinion that it will remain as a major school for training nursing aides, in the future.

1839 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Is he aware of hardship being caused to residents in the Victoria River district by the failure of the Government to provide reasonable access over the King River on the Victoria Highway?

ANSWER

I am aware of the problems that exist on the Victoria Highway with regard to the King River bridge. I believe that the King River bridge is not on the program for upgrading and I have found out that, while the Victoria Highway is being designated a national highway, there is some proposed corridor study to establish where the road is going to run as a national highway. This is news to me and if it is in fact true it would appear that we have once again seen the abuse of a corridor study being thrown up which as far as I am concerned only holds up the upgrading of any highway. In fact, I think that might be a problem we will strike with the Barkly Highway. So things do not look all that good out on the Victoria Highway. But we will keep pressing and hope that we will get something done to upgrade the bridge as well as many of the other trouble spots which occur in the Northern Territory road system.

1840 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TAMBLING

Is the honourable member aware of the proposal to rezone lot 4589 Freshwater Road, Jingili? This is presently held under an agricultural lease and to what use does the applicant for rezoning intend to put the land? Are there any objections to the proposal and, if so, how many?

ANSWER

I am aware of an application by a proposed developer of the site in Freshwater Road. I believe the applicant is a sporting association which would like to use the lease for both recreational and clubhouse facilities. It has been advertised and objections have been invited. I have not yet seen any resubmission of the proposal with any objections.

1841 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Is he aware that Lands Branch is sending out letters to holders of Darwin town leases who have residential leases and who presently have caravans on those blocks advising them that the leases will be forfeited unless they move the caravans within 28 days? I am seeking to know whether there was any liaison between Lands Branch and the DRC before this action was taken.

ANSWER

I am aware that there has been consultation with the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and the Corporation of the City of Darwin with regard to a number of very unsatisfactory caravan tenancies, if I can call them that, on residential allotments in Darwin and that the matter is currently under review. I am not surprised that the Lands Branch may have taken action where these unsatisfactory situations have been highlighted. I would be keen to learn of any situations where the honourable member may believe that the Lands Branch has acted generally rather than looking at specific cases.

1842 Mr VALE to Mr TAMBLING

This question is asked on behalf of the honourable member for Barkly. Can he advise what the position is regarding the removal of kerbside petrol pumps in Tennant Creek?

ANSWER

For some time the petrol bowsers in Tennant Creek, where there are a number of them still on footpaths, has been a very lively topic in that community. The Town Management Board and the Department of the Northern Territory were actively involved in it. My department has been looking very carefully at this over the last couple of months and we have now reached an agreement with the Department of the Northern Territory that any action will be deferred until an auction for a future service station site has taken place. In addition, an extension to the existing service station site will be permitted to allow rebuilding and installation of the pumps in an acceptable location.

1843 Mr MANUELL to Mr TAMBLING

Have tenders yet been called for the construction of the bridge over the Todd River in Alice Springs and, if so, when do tenders close?

When is it expected that work will commence on the contract and does he have any idea of the completion date of that bridge?

ANSWER

I ask him to place that question on notice.

1844 Mr EVERINGHAM to Miss ANDREW

My question is of particular relevance because late last year we saw the passage of the Counter Disaster Ordinance. Is the honourable Cabinet Member aware of the stress that was caused to residents of low lying property along Rapid Creek last night by flooding, and the further distress which may be expected later today when the tide comes in? If so, what steps have been taken to alleviate this distress? Are accommodation centres being made ready if these are to be needed and are sandbags to be placed in position to attempt to mitigate damage to the houses?

ANSWER

Yes, I am aware of the flooding danger at Rapid Creek. The Director of Emergency Services and members of his department and representatives of the Police Force are currently out in the area conducting a survey as to what is best to do. I will report to the House the results of that survey later in the day.

1845 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

A report relating to the Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund was tabled in the Federal House last month. Why has that report not been tabled in this House?

ANSWER

I believe the report referred to by the honourable member was a routine monthly report or several of them that were tabled in the Federal House. I will seek to obtain a copy and have it tabled.

1846 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

Is he able to tell me when the contract is to be let for the building of the Dripstone High School?

ANSWER

I have constantly, over the past few months, sought information from the Darwin Reconstruction Commission as to the progress with the plans to construct the Dripstone High School. During the first week of this sitting I answered a question to the effect that the Government had not as yet replied to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission's requests for permission to go to tender before the end of the financial year. I believe the situation may still be the same at the moment. However, I will undertake to get the information today and supply it to the honourable member.

1847 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr PERRON

He has no doubt seen news reports recently in relation to the Land and Business Agents Ordinance which was passed through the Legislative Council in 1974. Why has the ordinance not yet come into effect?

ANSWER

The Land and Business Agents Ordinance has been with the drafting office for some considerable time awaiting modifications so that it could be brought into effect. The ordinance as it was passed through the then Legislative Council left much to be desired. The structure

of the board which was to be set up was quite unsatisfactory. It seems that there had been insufficient consultation with the government departments who would have responsibility for administering the ordinance at the time that the ordinance was being drafted and passed through the House. I have done an extensive amount of work on the ordinance and made recommendations to the people who write up drafting instructions. The bill is bogged along with many others in the system because we are faced with a shortage of drafting facilities. The Majority Party is as anxious as the Northern Territory Real Estate Institute is to get this ordinance into effect so that there is some control, particularly over the trust account activities of real estate agents in the Northern Territory.

1848 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Is he aware that in Alice Springs there are no scaffolding inspectors and that fees are apparently being collected for the inspection of building scaffoldings? Will he undertake to have either a building scaffolding inspector appointed immediately or to have those inspection fees suspended?

ANSWER

I have an answer somewhere here on my desk. It would appear it has been misplaced. I am afraid I will have to find the answer and relay it to the honourable member as soon as I can.

1849 Mr KENTISH to Mr PERRON

Are Aboriginal children required by law to attend school in the same way as white children are?

ANSWER

Yes, the Education Ordinance in the Northern Territory does not differentiate between Aboriginal children and non-Aboriginal children, so in fact I understand Aboriginal children are legally obliged to attend school.

1850 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Can he give any indication as to the fate of the demountable units purchased by the DRC for use by the Department of the Northern Territory? When is it expected that vacated units will be disposed of and has the method of disposal been decided, will it be by auction or by what method?

ANSWER

I am aware that the demountables are the property of the Government. A number of them were purchased by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and a number of them were purchased prior to funds being made available to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. The commission has currently under review a recommendation to go to the Minister on how the demountables ought to be disposed of and the Minister for the Northern Territory has also instructed his department to ascertain what community interests are expressed in this; for example, should a number of the demountable toilet and facility blocks be made available to the city corporation, should service clubs and community organisations such as Old Timers Homes - not necessarily in Darwin - have access to them. I am aware that the Minister has commissioned a

study of the implications of making the money available to community groups and the terms and conditions that Treasury would find acceptable.

1851 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Why has the new wing of the Katherine Hospital not been used?

ANSWER

I will obtain the information for the honourable member.

1852 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TAMBLING

Can he advise whether it is a fact that, as early as 1974, plans were designed for the augmentation of the sewerage system at Rapid Creek and, if that is a fact, why has the contract not been let before today?

ANSWER

The design of the sewerage requirements for Rapid Creek was carried out in 1974. Cyclone Tracy had a major impact on the Darwin community late in that year and, as a result, a large proportion of the area was naturally affected by what became known as the surge area. Further, there were insufficient funds in the 1974-75 works program for the contract to go ahead. I am now advised that the job will go to tender on Thursday 17 March.

1853 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Has Treasury made a decision on the request for surplus transportable buildings for the Old Timers Home in Katherine?

ANSWER

This matter is related to the study that the Minister for the Northern Territory has commissioned with regard to the use and financial implications of making demountables available to community organisations. I am not aware that Treasury has finalised the terms and conditions under which such units can be transferred to community organisations.

1854 Mr BALLANTYNE to Miss ANDREW

On 1 March, I asked a question about the police boat at Nhulunbuy and the Cabinet Member gave me an answer with which I was not too happy. Is the 16 foot boat with the 35 hp motor only an interim measure to help overcome the problem and will the commissioner give consideration in the future to buying a much larger boat to go out into the ocean and provide a rescue service in that area?

ANSWER

The provision of boats or other equipment is always governed by financial restriction. The provision of the 16 foot motor boat for Nhulunbuy was the best that could be done under the current financial arrangement. Further consideration to the whole scope of the provision of boats for police forces throughout the Northern Territory, whether it be for crossing rivers in the Tennant Creek area or in

the coastal situation, is being reviewed by the planning and research section of the police force and consideration is being given to other types of boats.

1855 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW

Are there any proposals to increase the number of police officers on settlements from 2 to 3 and, in those other remote areas where there is one officer, to increase the number to 2?

ANSWER

The police force would be only too delighted to have a minimum of 3 officers on these settlements. The placement of police officers is governed by the ceiling restrictions placed on the Northern Territory Public Service and there are only so many men to go around. There will be a continuation of this policy of 2 men and, in some situations, 1 man on the settlements until such time as the numerical strength of the police force is increased.

1856 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

At the last sitting I spoke of illiteracy in Northern Territory schools. Has he discussed this problem with the Director of Education? Has he received any advice from the director, if so, could he advise this House? Further, is it his intention to make representation for special remedial teachers to be made available to overcome the incredible problem of illiteracy?

ANSWER

If I recall correctly, the honourable member's question earlier in these sittings related to a number of positions for speech therapists which were still vacant.

Mrs Lawrie: No, it had nothing to do with speech therapists.

Mr PERRON: If the honourable member is referring to her adjournment debate speech, no, I have not studied it in detail at this stage nor made any representations on her behalf to the Director of Education.

1857 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware of a virus in the Territory called the Roys River Virus? If so, can he tell me if there has been any research done on this virus in recent years? Is he aware that there have been cases recently I understand in the Nhulunbuy area, and have there been cases known in the Darwin-Top End area in recent times?

ANSWER

I must confess I have no knowledge of any virus called the Ross River Virus. In reply to the rest of the member's question, I will endeavour to get the answers for him during this sittings.

1858 Mr EVERINGHAM to Dr LETTS

I was very pleased to see the report in last night's paper of a redistribution plan. What type of machinery will have to be set up to carry out the proposed redistribution and how long might that take? Is it possible that seats such as Port Darwin which have lost 1,000

constituents might disappear in the redistribution?

ANSWER

I was also pleased to see that the Minister has decided to initiate a redistribution following representations which I have made to him for some time. The machinery is set out in the Northern Territory Administration Act. The announcement said that a committee would be established within a month but I hope that it will be earlier. Two of the 3 members of the committee are prescribed by the Northern Territory Administration Act so there is really only one member to be appointed. On the assumption that it could be set up within the next fortnight, I do not believe that it has a very large task to do because some of the matters which it has to take into consideration have no doubt already been considered by the committee which was set up in 1974 for this purpose. The physical features have not changed, the means of communication have not changed to a great extent and the diversity of interest has not changed markedly. Thus, it will be mainly a redistribution based on distribution of population. I do not think that the committee will have a very prolonged task in drawing lines on a map and publishing those maps in the Northern Territory Gazette. I am not trying to pre-empt the work of the committee but I think that, with the information that they have available, probably 2 to 3 weeks would be sufficient to consider the population distribution. On publication of the maps, they would have to wait 30 days for public comment and reaction to those maps. That would take us up until early May and, after examining the public comment, they submit their final report to the Minister and the electoral boundaries become fixed. It seems that the whole thing could be done by the end of May.

As far as Port Darwin electorate is concerned, the committee has to take into account the population figures as well as electoral roll figures and 2 sets of figures have been issued in the last day or so which illustrate the discrepancies between those. For example, Victoria River is one of the biggest electorates in terms of total population but it is not so high in terms of people on the electoral roll. If Port Darwin is to disappear by virtue of its diminution of numbers, and that is a job for the electoral committee to decide, I would be quite happy to accept it as an extension of the Darwin Harbour which is at present in my electorate.

1859 Mr STEELE to Mr POLLOCK

Is it true that the shipping of livestock will again take place through the port of Darwin, what numbers of cattle and buffalo are expected and are shipping facilities available to satisfy the needs of the exporters?

ANSWER

I understand that live herd cattle shipments are to recommence through Darwin but, at the moment, the facilities are not available. I have asked the departments for advice on the matter and will advise the honourable member during this sittings.

1860 Mr KENTIISH to Mr RYAN

Is he aware of any provision in the estimates for the sealing of the branch road to Umbakumba on Groote Eylandt?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any provision for the sealing of the Umbakumba Road but I will seek the information.

1861 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING

Has his attention been drawn to the fact that a sewerage inspection pit in Conigrave Street Fannie Bay has overflowed during every wet season for the last 15 years and, if so, has he invited the attention of the Department of Reconstruction to this problem?

ANSWER

My attention has not been drawn recently to this problem. However, I will make the necessary representations.

1862 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN

Is he yet able to answer my question concerning building scaffolding inspectors?

ANSWER

I have found the answer but I am not all that happy with it. I will discuss it further with the department because I do not think it answers the question satisfactorily.

1863 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Alice Springs asked me whether it is true that there is no uniformity of curriculum amongst senior and junior schools in the Northern Territory and, if so, why there is not. He also asked whether the Northern Territory Director of Education has control over the curriculum standards of these schools. A reply has been supplied to me by the department:

For all primary schools in the Northern Territory, there are recommended course outlines in all subjects. The diversity of our schools demands an extensive range of recommended courses to be available. Not all of these are always in print as limitations on funds and printing facilities make it impossible to keep up with the high turn over in staff and consequent loss of published materials. Most schools have recommended courses in most subjects and have access to those that they lack through the curriculum advisers services upon demand. The professional judgment of teachers determines the manner in which the courses will be used and, on many occasions, such of the options available as will best suit a particular school or group of children within a school.

Particularly upon matters where community values are not clear, community participation in such decisions is required. An example would be in the elements of cultural education programs in Aboriginal communities or choice of vernacular language for a bilingual program. This is much less likely to happen where the recommended guidelines on writing, reading and mathematics are concerned.

Secondary schools are all constrained by the fact that the South Australian Public Examination Board's matriculation will be taken by all those who plan to go on to tertiary education. This influences all levels of secondary education and it is argued that, where so

small a proportion of children actually seek a tertiary education, the strength of the influence may well be inappropriate and even damaging. Teachers are very aware of this and various programs are under way to try to protect the best interests of those for whom a tertiary education is not likely. Some 80% in the Northern Territory will quite certainly not seek tertiary education. Within the last year a scheme both to promote and control the development of more appropriate courses for such students has been underway. A registration committee of the Northern Territory Division of the Australian Department of Education checks the planning and documentation of all year-11 and year-12 courses which are not directed to the Matriculation examination. A register of these courses will be published within the next few weeks as it is currently in draft form. Courses included in this register will be available upon request from either the school or the head office of the division in Darwin and only these, or recommended South Australian courses, may be included in the Northern Territory School Leavers Certificate for year 11 and 12 school leavers.

1864 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked questions with regard to the widening of Trower Road and what provision has been made for this to commence this year or next year. The information that has been supplied to me is that the proposal to widen Trower Road in Nightcliff involves a 2-stage program. The first stage, the widening of the outbound lane between Nightcliff Road and Oliver Street, went to tender on 17 March this year. The second stage, the widening of the inbound lane, has been proposed for the 1977-78 financial year. Such a proposal, of course requires the approval of the Federal Government and, if such approval is granted, it is proposed that stage 2 commence after stage 1 has been completed.

1865 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TAMBLING: The other question asked of me by the honourable member for Nightcliff related to the Bagot Speedway, as to when it would be relocated, where it is to be relocated and whether any money had been made available for its relocation. The additional information provided to me is that the relocation of the Bagot Speedway is related to the proposed development of the residential subdivision adjacent to the present speedway site. No date for any relocation of the speedway has been set but a proposal to change its site has been put forward for the next financial year. The proposal has yet to be considered by the Federal Government. If approved, the proposal for the relocation of the speedway involves the development of a new site at the eastern end of the Darwin airport runway. No funds have been expended on the proposal to date.

1866 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: The honourable member for Tiwi asked whether the sealing of Whitewood Road will take place in the financial year 1977-78. The answer is that no proposal to extend the sealing of Whitewood Road has been included in the proposals for the next financial year. However, at present a program of safety sign posting is being undertaken on this road.

1867 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: The honourable member for Tiwi asked me about the building of

an engineering workshop. The following information has been supplied to me: "It is the intention of the owners of Lot 5, Section 2190, Bagot to build an engineering workshop on that land. The approximate dimensions of the proposed building are 115 feet by 52 feet. A permit to construct the building was issued on 19 October 1976."

1868 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: I was asked a question about the Taylor Creek bridge. There was some doubt about its stability. I have been assured by the Department of Construction that the bridge has not moved. As I speculated earlier, the bridge is located on a corner and there is super elevation on the bridge which gives the impression that it is leaning one way.

1869 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr TUXWORTH: Yesterday I received a question from the honourable member for Port Darwin concerning the illegal occupancy of a set of double storey flats in Mitchell Street. The Department of Health has provided the following answer: "The building referred to is controlled by the Department of the Northern Territory and it is to be transferred to the Department of Health for use as a sobering up centre and headquarters for the Darwin Foundation for Drug and Alcohol Dependency. The Department of the Northern Territory is currently in contact with Crown Law concerning the eviction of illegal squatters and believes it is quite false for the honourable member to say that the Department of Health and the Department of the Northern Territory have refused to take action."

1870 Mr DONDAS to Dr LETTS

Has the Commonwealth Government been asked for a clear statement of its policy concerning the 2 kilometres of sea adjoining Aboriginal land? Has the Government stated a policy and, if so, what is that policy?

ANSWER

The answer is yes. On 7 February this year, I made a formal request to the Government through the Minister for the Northern Territory to indicate the policy on the 2 kilometre off-shore sea ownership. I pointed out that a number of ministers were involved including the Minister for Primary Industry who issues Commonwealth fishing licences, the Minister for National Resources who is concerned with off-shore exploration and resources, the Minister for Environment who is concerned with marine parks where they occur off the Australian coastline, the Minister for the Northern Territory, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and possibly some other Commonwealth Ministers - I sought a collective government view on the matter but I have not yet received that view.

1871 Mr MANUELL to Mr POLLOCK

Is any provision made by the Department of the Northern Territory for the loading of livestock onto aircraft at the Alice Springs airport? If there is no provision at the present time, is there any plan by the department to provide these facilities, thereby permitting the export of live cattle by air from Alice Springs and the Central Australian region?

ANSWER

At present there are no facilities at the Alice Springs airport for the loading of live cattle onto aircraft. I had a preliminary discussion a couple of weeks ago with a departmental officer about the matter and it is our feeling that if a need arises for the loading of livestock at Alice Springs, then the use of portable yards and facilities could be quite easily made available and there would not be any great problem in providing the facility at relatively short notice. I am quite confident that if something more positive or more long-term was needed, then the appropriate steps would be taken in that regard.

1872 Mr VALE to Miss ANDREW

Will she give consideration to placing an additional police officer temporarily at settlements on pay weekends?

ANSWER

Certainly consideration will be given to this but, as I stated in my answer yesterday, restrictions on both finance and manpower make this virtually impossible at the moment.

1873 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS

Is he aware that the Rules of the Supreme Court Ordinance are not available anywhere in the Territory; one has to write to Canberra for copies? Would he take immediate steps to see that copies are made available in the Territory for people wishing to purchase them?

ANSWER

I was not aware of this and I thank the honourable member for drawing it to my attention. I will do the best I can in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Law to see that the needs of the people of the Northern Territory are met in this regard,

1874 Mr STEELE to Mr POLLOCK

Will the financial collapse of the Parkes group of companies last week have any affect on the Katherine meatworks?

ANSWER

I am advised that the collapse of the Parkes group of companies last week will not have any affect on the operation of the Katherine meatworks. There is no financial connection between the two operations although the principal of the Parkes group of companies is a member of the board of the company which does have connections with the Katherine abattoir. The connection is no more than a manpower situation and there is no financial implication.

1875 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

Can he advise me to what extent the latest Aboriginal claims for land cover the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I can provide some information. Claims are still being lodged through the land councils with the office of the Interim Land Commissioner. There is difficulty in obtaining some details of these claims. The Interim Land Commissioner can indicate the name of a particular claim but not always the actual details of the total area involved in each claim. The office of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs also has some information in this regard. The Woodward Report suggested that, on claims being received, they should be transmitted to the Department of the Northern Territory so that the Lands Branch there can have this information and examine it. I understand that this is not the general rule, that there are considerable delays in obtaining that information and it is not always possible to obtain it in detail. However, I have been attempting to map the known claims that have been lodged as they come in and I have a rough map prepared. I am trying to get this done in the form of a properly printed map which would be available to members of this Assembly. I hold up this copy which indicates in terms of the coloured areas the extent of the claims now officially lodged with the Land Commissioner and indicate that to the best of my calculations this now represents some 35% of the land area of the Northern Territory. I am still working on this and I will provide further details to the honourable member as soon as they are available.

1876 Mr STEELE to Dr LETTS

Is it a fact that the Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser is involved in a company that has some organisational or management effect in the Northern Territory? Is it true that there is a land claim on that cattle property?

ANSWER

I cannot answer the question with any degree of accuracy. The only connection that I know is that one of Mr Fraser's relatives was a member of the board of a cattle station in the Northern Territory. I understand there is now a claim over part of that station,

1877 Mr MANUELL to Mr RYAN

What effect, if any, has the cutback on the day labour force within the Department of Construction had? If the cutback in day labour has had a detrimental effect, has the private sector been able to take up the slack that has been created?

ANSWER

The government attitude towards the public sector has been to reduce staff wherever possible. This is reflected in the Department of Construction and I believe that there are some problems being encountered in the day to day operation of certain types of work. The day labour force has been fairly active over past years in the Northern Territory carrying out emergency repairs and also general maintenance. As a result of the reductions, it was hoped that the private sector could pick up the slack. It does appear, however, that certain types of work are difficult to handle through the tender system. Documents have to be prepared and then the normal time lapse occurs between the calling of the tenders and the letting of the tenders. With a day labour force, the supervisor is able to inspect a road and then deploy part of the day labour force to carry out the work. Whilst there has been a certain picking up of the work by the private sector, the Government should look closely at its attitude to the day labour force and make sure that they do not leave us in a situation where emergency work cannot be carried out because of red tape.

1878 Mr MANUELL to Mr TAMBLING

What was the total amount spent by the Commonwealth Government in reconstructing Darwin after the cyclone?

ANSWER

I am sure honourable members will appreciate that the Commonwealth Government's contribution to the reconstruction of Darwin has been quite substantial. It is basically funded through a number of agencies: the Darwin Reconstruction Commission which handles the civil works program that the Commonwealth takes as a liability, the Northern Territory Housing Commission and also the special 6% loan scheme conducted by the Home Finance Trustee. The figures that have been made available to me - and I will round them off to the nearest million for convenience - show that an amount of \$22m was spent on restoration work in the first 6-month period after the cyclone, that is, Commonwealth restoration of a capital nature; the Darwin Reconstruction Commission has spent in its program to date approximately \$211m; the Northern Territory Housing Commission has spent on capital projects in the same period approximately \$29m; and the Home Finance Trustee for the 6% reconstruction loan has provided \$22m. That gives a total at this stage of \$284m. I would point out that a considerable proportion of the expenditure by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and the Northern Territory Housing Commission would have been expended in the normal course of events under the civil works program.

1879 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

How many blocks of industrial land in the Darwin area have been auctioned by the Department of the NT each year since 1970 and what was the average price paid for land per block at each of these auctions?

ANSWER

I sought to have answers to these questions yesterday from the Lands Branch and so far I have failed to get those answers. I have no option but to ask the honourable member for Casuarina to place the questions on notice.

1880 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

In the adjournment debate last night, I advised him I would be asking for answers to questions relating to the Cyclone Tracy Trust Fund. I have discussed the matter with the honourable member so there is no need to repeat the question in detail. When can the answers be expected?

ANSWER

I have made representation to the Minister's office and to officers who service the trust fund for the information. I am sure that the honourable member will appreciate that it is complex to get some of this information out and the department is seeking to do so today. The Minister for the Northern Territory is absent overseas and the matter will have to be referred to the Acting Minister's office. I was advised this morning that hopefully the answers would be available this afternoon.

1881 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

Would he also attempt to obtain an answer to the question I asked him 2 days ago as to why the monthly reports from the Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund have not been tabled in this House?

ANSWER

I have already asked for that information.

1882 Mr DONDAS to Mr PERRON

When will the next industrial land auction be held?

ANSWER

I am informed that this is a matter of policy and the answer would not be supplied to me.

1883 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr RYAN

Is he aware of the tour DC9 service from Perth to Cairns being established by TAA? Is he aware that already we have a jet service from Perth to Nhulunbuy by MMA which is a long standing company in the Territory and Western Australia? Is there any action to be taken for MMA to extend its service from Perth, Darwin, Nhulunbuy and Cairns?

ANSWER

I know that 2 weeks ago TAA did have what they called a proving flight from Perth. The service has not yet been started. There are still some problems on interpretations of the court ruling. I assume that they will go ahead as soon as they have been clarified. MMA has had a jet service from Perth to Nhulunbuy for some time. I have certainly no objections to another company starting up a similar service. A bit of competition can have some beneficial results for the people who live in the area. I do not know of any reason why Ansett could not have a jet service from Nhulunbuy to Cairns. I think it is up to the companies themselves to decide whether it is worth it. As far as the Territory is concerned, we do not care how many flights come in and go out of the place as long as there are plenty of them. We will have as many as they are prepared to put on.

1884 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK

Is a Darwin farmers' produce market to be established and, if so, under what control and when and where will it be?

ANSWER

In recent weeks, there have been talks between the Mayor and myself. Last Friday, there was a public meeting called in Darwin to discuss the proposal and some 35 people attended. We all agreed that such a market would be quite a valuable acquisition to the Darwin area, to encourage the production of primary produce and also to provide an outlet for that produce. The matter will rest with the Darwin City Corporation. I understand that the corporation is moving to obtain a piece of land suitable for a market. This is a matter for negotiation with the relevant Northern Territory department. Subject to the provision of the land, a market should be established in the relatively near future. It is also envisaged that the market will provide an outlet for home industries, arts and crafts and nurserymen.

1885 Mr STEELE to Mr PERRON

In reply to the honourable member for Casuarina, he said that the department was unable to give him an answer because it was a policy matter. Does this mean that he has no liaison with the department, does it mean that he has to go to the Minister for every fiddling little thing that has to be explained to the people of Darwin? What does his answer mean?

ANSWER

The answer does not mean that I have to go to the Minister for every little thing. Obviously, it depends on which section of the Department of the Northern Territory I am dealing with as to whether I get answers to your questions or not. In regard to these land questions, I am particularly disappointed that the answers were not made available within 24 hours. It isn't difficult information to collect but I seem to strike an obstacle there, particularly with matters relating to policy.

1886 Mr STEELE to Mr POLLOCK

What action is being taken in respect of outstanding applications for entry into the limited Northern Territory barramundi fishery? What provision will be made for those people who do not currently hold a

barramundi licence and who have commenced building a fishing vessel with the intention of entering the barramundi fishery?

ANSWER

The matter of the barramundi fishery has been a matter of conjecture for some time and, after discussions, an ad hoc committee has been established to advise the Chief Inspector of Fisheries on all matters relating to the management, control, protection, regulation and development of the Northern Territory barramundi fishery. This ad hoc committee consists of the chief inspector, the president of the Commercial Fishermen's Association and myself. We have had a meeting and made certain recommendations regarding the total number of gill net licences to be issued for the 1977 season and the extension to coastal waters of the existing prohibition which currently applies to inland waters in relation to where the fish may be caught. In relation to people who have commenced building a boat, those people would be well advised to advise the Fisheries Department of their intention to apply for a fishing licence because it is the feeling that persons who now want to commence building boats may find themselves in a difficult position to obtain a licence at a later date.

1887 Mr STEELE to Mr TUXWORTH

I refer to the dole. Is it true that you are prevented from getting social service benefits if you hold a restricted fishing licence and you cannot fish?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such circumstances. It would seem to me to be totally iniquitous if it exists and I will look into it and see what the story is and reply later this day.

1888 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

When will the Department of Health start recruiting staff for the Casuarina Hospital?

ANSWER

I will try to get the information.

1889 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING

In view of the fact that almost 8,000 people were redirected yesterday from McMillans Road bridge because of flooding, what steps are being taken to reintroduce planning for an arterial road to the northern suburbs where some 50% of the population reside?

ANSWER

The Darwin Reconstruction Commission has undertaken a series of reviews on town planning and this includes a major review of the transport studies and the requirements of Darwin. It is currently being conducted and will be presented to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission within the next month or so.

1890 Mr WITHNALL to Mr PERRON

Will he take up with the unemployment office in Darwin the matter of providing more staff so that the public can be served without waiting for interminable lengths of time?

ANSWER

I have recently received information that the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations throughout Australia is to get an increase in staff of some 300 employees. This is to be spread throughout Australia and I believe that the Territory branch of that department will be getting some assistance in this regard. I will take it up with the people concerned and ensure that the Northern Territory is fully represented in this regard.

1891 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING

I asked him earlier about the availability of demountables for private sale. I understand they are not yet available and I now ask him what is to be done with the large number of government caravans collecting on government blocks in their hundreds? Are they to be auctioned, made available to the general public for purchase or what?

ANSWER

With regard to the question that the honourable member asked, I believe yesterday, with regard to demountables, I struck one of the cooperative sections of the Department of the Northern Territory and I have an answer supplied. It is that it is intended to phase out the demountable units when they are no longer required for temporary accommodation. Timing is not clear at this stage as this will depend on the rate of handover of houses to the department. The Department of the Northern Territory has circularised other departments, government authorities and charitable bodies to ascertain future requirements for other than residential accommodation in Darwin. A decision will then be made on the disposal of the remainder, possibly either by auction or by tender. With regard to caravans, I believe that several of these vans have already been offered for sale or for tender and the whole matter is currently under a similar review as to how they will be disposed of. I believe they are looking at letting them out in large numbers to ensure that there is no flooding back into the residential accommodation problem of Darwin.

1892 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: The honourable member for Gillen asked a question about houses at Areyonga and Papunya. In June 1975, Dowsett Constructions went into liquidation and at that time they had 7 contracts with the Department of Construction. On 5 June 1975 one contract was cancelled and 6 were taken over to be completed at the contractor's expense. One of the contracts taken over was No. 197 of 1972-73, stage two, industrialised buildings, and this contract included 2 residences at Areyonga and Papunya as well as 7 residences and 2 toilet ablution blocks at Maningrida, 4 residences at Snake Bay, 5 at Umbakumba, 4 on Bathurst Island, 2 at Hooker Creek, 2 at Roper River, 2 at Warrabri and 2 a Yuendumu. Of the work taken over under contract No. 197 of 1972-73, the Department of Construction has completed all outstanding work at Maningrida, Snake Bay, Umbakumba, Bathurst Island and Roper River. Plans for the completion of work at the remaining areas are well advanced. However, additional funds are required and submissions have

been made by the client department to the Department of Finance for these funds.

1893 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: The honourable member for Stuart asked me a question about scaffolding inspectors. There does appear to be a problem with the scaffolding inspectors visiting Alice Springs. The situation is that when a contract is let a scaffolding inspection fee is paid relating to the cost of the contract. In Darwin, where we have permanent inspectors, an inspection takes place on a regular basis. However, in Alice Springs they are only visited irregularly. The department hopes that this will be improved in the future and in fact are trying to establish a permanent inspector in Alice Springs. I have asked, in view of the iniquitous situation between Darwin and the other centres in the Northern Territory, whether or not the department could look at the possibility of having 2 scales of fees - one for Darwin where the permanent scaffolding inspectors are available to carry out the service which the contractor is paying for and another scale of fees in the areas down the track where the visits of the inspector are fairly wide apart. This could solve the problem. They have said that they will look at possible amendment to the regulations prescribing a smaller fee in the centres outside Darwin.

1894 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr RYAN: The honourable member for Arnhem asked me a question concerning the sealing and upgrading of the Umbakumba Road. This job is not on any program. I believe it has almost made the program on a couple of occasions but has been taken off. At the moment it does not sit on any program. The only work that will be done in this dry season will be some resealing of the road.

1895 ANSWER TO QUESTION

Mr PERRON: The member for Nhulunbuy asked me questions in relation to power failure at Dhupuma College at Gove. He asked what caused the 2 AC generators to become unserviceable. There is evidence that moisture in the alternators caused the breakdown. There is no indication of trouble due to lack of maintenance. He asked me also whether a proper maintenance plan would be drawn up according to the manufacturer's recommendations. The manufacturer's recommendations are used as a basis for maintenance. He also asked if the dismantled engine on the large generator set would be restored to operational order. It is intended to restore the set when parts become available. This may take 6 months as parts have to be imported from overseas.

In further explanation of the breakdown, the Department of Education employs an operator to make daily checks on fuel, oil and water and also to keep the station clean. It has been suggested that the operator, when hosing down the floor, may have inadvertently directed water into the alternators and that would explain a failure due to moisture. This matter has been discussed with the principal with a view to ensuring that every precaution is taken to avoid water entering electrical equipment.

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

1 - 3 and 15 - 17 March 1977

- Aboriginal -
 colleges (Ballantyne) 1733
 compulsory schooling (Kentish) 1849
 Family Allowance Payments (Kentish) 1719
- Aboriginal land - 2 kilometre area (Dondas) 1870
- Airconditioning of Government Offices (Dondas) 1727
- Air fares, Sydney-Alice Springs (Robertson) 1774; (Manuell) 1831
- Alice Springs -
 Abattoir (Manuell) 1625, 1735, 1770
 Community College (Vale) 1745
 livestock, aircraft loading (Manuell) 1871
 Microwave link (Manuell) 1834
 Road work, Jay Creek (Robertson) 1826
 Scaffolding inspectors (Vale) 1848, 1862; (Ryan) 1893
- Anaesthetists, shortage in Territory (Ballantyne) 1780
- Areyonga, Papunya housing (Robertson) 1832; (Ryan) 1892
- Assembly members, pensions and compensation (Withnall) 1748
- ATAC conference (Manuell) 1742; (Vale) 1833
- Bagot Speedway (Lawrie) 1795; (Tambling) 1865
- Barramundi fishing licence (Steele) 1886
- Beef -
 carcass classification (Vale) 1828
 Conference (Vale) 1728
 disease eradication (Vale) 1799
 market in NT (Vale) 1761
- Berrimah traffic lights (Kentish) 1792
- Block 8 cafeteria (Dondas) 1757
- Building covenants (Dondas) 1779
- Business Agents Ordinance (Everingham) 1847
- Cabinet Members, declaration of interests (Lawrie) 1734
- Cabinet Member for Education and Planning, liaison (Steele) 1885
- Caravans on residential lots (Lawrie) 1841
- Carry-on finance (Vale) 1731
- Casuarina Hospital -
 nurse training centre (Lawrie) 1777; (Dondas) 1838; (Tuxworth) 1809
 staff (Lawrie) 1888
- Cattle prices (Vale) 1798
- Child speech therapy (Lawrie) 1764; (Perron) 1803
- Citizens Advisory Council (Dondas) 1794
- Coloured number plates (Manuell) 1797
- Community grants (Robertson) 1816
- Conigrave Street, sewage (Steele) 1861
- Council Bylaws (Dondas) 1825
- "Crystal Corner" road construction (Lawrie) 1793; (Tambling) 1864
- Cyclone reconstruction cost (Manuell) 1878
- Cyclone Tracy Trust Fund (Lawrie) 1845, 1880, 1881
- Darwin Eisteddfod (Kentish) 1822
- Darwin live cattle export (Steele) 1859
- Darwin residential lots (Steele) 1762, 1771
- Day labour force (Manuell) 1877
- Demountable units (Lawrie) 1850, 1891
- Department of NT permanent head (Lawrie) 1759
- Dhupuma College power failure (Perron) 1895
- Dole (Steele) 1887
- DRC -
 employees housing rights (Lawrie) 1758
 employees redeployment (Everingham) 1824
 public relations (Lawrie) 1817
- Dripstone High School (Everingham) 1765; (Dondas) 1846
- Electoral redistribution (Everingham) 1858
- Electricity inquiry (Everingham) 1829
- Extent of land claims (Withnall) 1875
- Federal Companies Act (Withnall) 1819, 1820
- Fire Brigade Headquarters, fire (Withnall) 1791
- Fishing limit 200 mile (Everingham) 1837
- Fraser, Malcolm and NT cattle station (Steele) 1876
- Fruit fly (Vale) 1736
- Galiwinku, spear attack on aeroplane (Kentish) 1775; (Andrew) 1805
- Gaol education officer (Kentish) 1766
- Government homes, electricity connections (Dondas) 1730
- Government home sales (Everingham) 1725; (Steele) 1726, 1789; (Lawrie) 1811
- Health Department, repatriation of patients (Kentish) 1729; (Tuxworth) 1808
- Home Finance Trustee Loans (Dondas) 1760; (Everingham) 1732
 interest rate (Dondas) 1767
 loan ceilings (Dondas) 1776
- Housing Commission strata title policy (Steele) 1788
- Howard Springs lot B engineering workshop (Tungutalum) 1719, 1768; (Ryan) 1867
- Howard Springs road (Tungutalum) 1790;

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

- (Ryan) 1866
Industrial land auctions (Dondas) 1879, 1882
Illiteracy (Lawrie) 1856
Jay Creek road (Vale) 1739
Katherine Hospital (Dondas) 1851
King River bridge (Vale) 1839
Lot 4589 rezone (Everingham) 1840
Marina proposal (Steele) 1813, 1814
Market (Kentish) 1884
Mitchell Street flats, squatters (Withnall) 1827; (Tuxworth) 1869
Newcastle causeway, construction standards (Vale) 1763
Nhulunbuy police boat (Ballantyne) 1755, 1854; (Andrew) 1807
Northern suburbs arterial road (Dondas) 1889
NT Art Gallery and Museum (Ballantyne) 1821
NT beef exports (Vale) 1787
NT freight report (Vale) 1823
NT Welfare Committee (Robertson) 1802
Old Timers Home, transportable buildings (Dondas) 1853
Ordinances, bound volumes (Withnall) 1740, 1741
Overtime bans, Fourth Division Officers Association (Everingham) 1781; (Perron) 1804
Parkes Companies (Steele) 1874
Perth-Cairns jet (Ballantyne) 1883
Pest control (Lawrie) 1800
Police, armed (Lawrie) 1753; (Andrew) 1806
Police Commissioner's instruction (Vale) 1782
Police identification (Lawrie) 1738, 1830
Police telephone recordings (Everingham) 1737
Police training, Aboriginal content (Ballantyne) 1750
Power Station, No 5 generator (Dondas) 1783
Primary schools (Steele) 1836
Racial discrimination and land rights (Withnall) 1815
Rapid Creek flooding (Everingham) 1844
Redeployment of DRC staff (Everingham) 1824
Ross River virus (Ballantyne) 1857
School curriculum uniformity (Manuell) 1785; (Perron) 1863
Sealing of Norman Jones Street (Vale) 1773
Settlement Police numbers (Vale) 1855, 1872
Sewerage at Rapid Creek (Everingham) 1852
Stock feeds (Lawrie) 1801
Stuart Highway upgrading (Manuell) 1744
Supreme Court Rules (Lawrie) 1873
Taiwanese fishing boat (Everingham) 1754
Taylor Creek Bridge (Manuell) 1778; (Ryan) 1868
Tender Board policy (Steele) 1818
Tennant Creek bowsers (Vale) 1842
Tindal housing (Tambling) 1812
Todd River bridge tenders (Manuell) 1843
Tourist development budget (Vale) 1769
Transport to Nightcliff Dental Clinic (Lawrie) 1784
Umbakumba roads (Kentish) 1860; (Ryan) 1894
Unemployment office (Withnall) 1890
Urban land (Withnall) 1721, 1752
Vagrancy laws (Lawrie) 1743, 1746, 1747
Wave Hill road (Steele) 1796