

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 21 FEBRUARY 1980

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

FROM 20 NOVEMBER 1979

1092 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

- (a) What is the annual post-operative infection rate for the past 5 years for the Alice Springs hospital?
- (b) Are comparative figures available over the same period for the major hospitals in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what are they?

1139 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Bearing in mind that the price of vegetables in Alice Springs is sometimes double that in Adelaide, and that the so-called Alice Springs "farm area" is plagued by salt problems, will the minister advise what steps will be taken to provide a more suitable alternative area for the production of farm produce in the centre?

FROM 12 FEBRUARY 1980

1157 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of the electricity needs of an uranium enrichment plant and the cost of establishment of such a plant?

1183 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why does the Motor Vehicle Registry no longer place on car registration stickers the date of expiry of registration of the car and the engine number of the car?

1210 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why has the Darwin rural area, including Berrimah, only been given \$80,000 for the re-gravelling of rural roads out of a total allocation of \$11.5 million for repairs and maintenance?

1213 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the North Australian Baptist Homes Trust in relation to hostels in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs?
2. How much has been repaid?
3. If these properties are surrendered, will the loans be 'extinguished'?
4. Under what terms will the loans be 'extinguished'?

1214 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc.?

2. How much was repaid?

3. What are the terms under which these loans were 'extinguished'?

1218 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In answer to a question asked on Tuesday 13.11.79 the minister said environmental inspectors can work after hours and on weekends to maintain surveillance over some of the illegal mining in the rural area.

How many man hours have been taken up with this work since this reorganisation, what areas have been under surveillance, at what time of day and how much illegal sand and gravel mining was found?

1221 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. When is the Mines Safety Control Act expected to commence?

2. When will regulations to this Act come into existence?

1225 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Why has the Survey Branch sole occupancy of a building on a residential block in Third Street, Katherine, when residential land is at a premium in the town?

2. Are there special circumstances, such as refusal by the Public Service Commissioner to pay adequate travelling allowance or camping allowance, which make spasmodic occupancy of this building essential?

1226 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Do secondary school teachers have a guaranteed release time amounting to at least 10% of teaching time for preparation, marking examinations, papers, &c?

2. Do primary school teachers enjoy the same provision and, if not, why not?

1229 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the estimated operating costs of the small generators at the:

(a) 15-mile Experiment Farm;

(b) Katherine Gorge; and

(c) 14-mile Caves?

1230 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

To what extent do government departments and statutory authorities have to consult the Public Service Commissioner's office on industrial relations matters?

1231 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What guarantees of occupancy by Northern Territory government departments are given to developers of office accommodation in the Territory?

1264 Mr ISAACS to THE TREASURER

Could the Treasurer advise the Assembly as to the amount of the Treasurer's advance spent in the second quarter of the financial year 1979-80 and also the nature of that expenditure?

1265 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What was the cost of the trip to the recent PATA conference in Manila?
2. How many overseas trips have been undertaken by Ministers on official business in the calendar year 1979?
3. What has been the total cost of these trips?

1266 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin during the financial year 1978?
2. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin from 1 July 1979 to 31 December 1979?

1267 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has he attempted to persuade the government to base him in Alice Springs instead of Darwin?
2. If so, why is he still based in Darwin?
3. If not, will he do so?

1268 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can the Minister for Health tell the Assembly how many people travel interstate for radio therapy and associated treatment annually?
2. What is the cost to the Northern Territory government to provide this service?
3. Has a study been undertaken to determine whether this situation is a cost effective one over a 5 year period?
4. Has this severe dislocation been assessed in relation to the overall management of the disease and to the mental attitude of the patient involved?

1269 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many vehicles use the level crossing daily at the Larapinta Drive - Telegraph Terrace intersection in Alice Springs?
2. Is it true that a set of traffic lights will be installed at the intersection and crossing?
3. In the matter of arrangements being made for the standard gauge railway planning, what decision-making powers are held by -
 - (a) the NT government;
 - (b) the Alice Springs Municipality; and
 - (c) the Australian National Railways Commission?

4. In the event of a dispute over the location of the railway, is it true that the Alice Springs municipality can be over-ruled by the A.N.R.?
5. Will the Minister supply a list, including dates, names of participants and the agenda of meetings which have been held between the A.N.R. and his department during the past two years and, if not, why not?

1270 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the steering committee on tourism been formed to date as part of the governments promised program announced last August to further heritage conservation and tourist development in the Northern Territory?
2. If not, why not?
3. If so, can the Minister detail the committee's achievements and undertakings to date?
4. What action has the committee taken to ensure optimum involvement by all levels of government, community groups, and the tourist industry in the task of furthering heritage conservation and tourist development in the Territory?
5. How will all regions and locations within the Territory benefit from the committee's programmes?

1271 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the Department of Lands and Housing approved the lease application of the Ilpapa Association for a site adjacent to the Blatherskite Range, about 600 metres west of the Staurt Highway, Alice Springs?
2. If not, why not?
3. If so, why has the Minister failed to inform either the Ilpapa Association or the Tangatjira Council of the decision?
4. Is the Minister aware that in a letter dated 11 November 1979, the Minister for Transport and Works advised the Ilpapa Association that electricity connection to the site was to proceed?
5. Is it true that the Minister subsequently advised NTEC not to proceed with the connection of electricity, claiming lack of support for the lease claim from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs?
6. Is the Minister aware that the Central Regional Director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, after receiving confirmation of support for the site proposal from the Secretary of Health, wrote to his Department last month indicating his support for the site proposal?
7. In the light of documented support from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs, can the Minister identify the obstructions currently facing the Ilpapa Association in the development of the site, and specifically in electricity connection?
8. Is it true that the Minister visited Alice Springs last month?
9. Is it true that the Minister stated in correspondence last September that he would offer alternative land to the Ilpapa Association on his next visit to Alice Springs?

10. If so, why did the Minister fail to consult the Ilpapa Association on his last visit to Alice Springs?

1272 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are members of the Northern Territory Police allowed to purchase their own hand guns for official use and, if so, what regulations govern the ownership of these weapons?
2. Will the Minister supply all the instructions and regulations governing the carrying and use of firearms by Northern Territory Police?
3. If not, why not?

1273 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why is Palmdale Insurance not deregistered as a writer of workers compensation insurance in the Northern Territory?

1297 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the guidelines followed in assessing the credentials of a company wishing to sell workers compensation policies within the Northern Territory?

1298 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the Minister provide the House with more details about the type of aircraft, particularly light aircraft, to be used by the new Northern Territory airline?
2. Is he aware that people of Western Queensland rejected proposals to replace the domestic carriers with a new service using smaller planes likely to be used in the Northern Territory?
3. What steps is the Government taking to ensure that air travellers in the Northern Territory do not receive an inferior service in terms of in-flight service and facilities under the new airline?

1299 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he advise what facilities are provided at Berrimah Gaol for female prisoners in terms of -
 - (a) sport and recreation;
 - (b) work areas and work undertaken;
 - (c) work release programs; and
 - (d) further education?
2. Will he further advise in what way these facilities differ, if any, from those available to male prisoners?

1300 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has he received a letter dated 22 October 1979 from the Alice Springs Todd Traders Association regarding problems associated with unsuitable parking facilities and service lanes?
2. If so, has he considered the questions raised in this letter and replied to the association?

3. What action does he propose to take to resolve the lack of adequate parking facilities and service lanes in Alice Springs.

1301 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who is responsible for the maintenance of internal service roads in Aboriginal communities?
2. Who is responsible for the maintenance of main access roads to Aboriginal communities?
3. Is the planning of main access roads to Aboriginal communities and internal service roads undertaken as a correlated construction exercise?
4. Who is responsible for the construction and maintenance of access roads to Aboriginal outstations?
5. Does the government offer on-site technical assistance to Aboriginal communities in respect of road building?
6. Is there Aboriginal representation on the Rural Roads Board?
7. What safeguards exist to ensure the preservation of Aboriginal sacred sites which may be affected by road construction?

1302 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What is the NT Government's policy regarding the concept of Aboriginal communities employing their own adult educators?
2. What is the NT Government's policy regarding Aboriginal communities assessing the performance of adult educators within their own communities?
3. What priority will Aboriginal vocational training receive in the 1980-81 NT Education budget?

1303 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many students graduated from all courses last year at Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively?
2. What proportion of last year's graduates from Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively are now -
 - (a) employed; and
 - (b) unemployed?

1304 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Considering that the Minister advised the Ilpapa Association in November 1979 that arrangements for electricity supply were to proceed, when will the Association be provided with suitable electricity supply?

1305 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it a fact that an organisation or incorporated body must first obtain the approval of the NT Department of Education in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee and, if so, why?

2. What criteria are used by the Education Department in assessing an organisation's performance or goals in respect of approvals from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?
3. Is it a fact that the Education Department has refused to approve the activities of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs in conjunction with two applications for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee made in 1978 and 1979 and, if so, why?
4. Does an "independent school" within the terms of the Education Act require approval from the Education Department in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?
5. What is the government's policy on Aboriginal self-management in education?
6. Is it a fact that the Principal Education Adviser for the Alice Springs region recently informed the Yipirinya Council that the best solution for the Council is to become a part of the Education Department and, if so, why?
7. Does the Minister plan to support other education proposals similar to the Yipirinya School?

860 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

1. Yes, I have recently read this letter.
2. No, I do not share Dr Walker's concern that the Community College's commitment to external studies is under threat.
3. The Darwin Community College, principal and staff, recognise that the effectiveness of the college's external studies program would be increased by designating an individual as responsible for the coordination of the college's external studies program and are proceeding accordingly.
4. The 1979-80 budget provides for some growth in college activities and there will be no erosion of the academic integrity of the Darwin Community College.

The College is currently reviewing its activities for 1980 so that its resources are utilised in accordance with the priorities attached to the various programs of the college.

937 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

1. There are no immediate plans to establish cattle holding facilities within the port of Darwin as there is not sufficient land available adjacent to the main wharf areas.

What limited amount of land that is available in the port must be used for the handling and storage of general cargo and bulk cargo.

Existing cattle unloading facilities at Fort Hill wharf are being relocated to the Iron Ore wharf as part of the overall new wharf project. Unloading facilities are being upgraded and improved in the

process incorporating overhead gates to replace existing swing gates that have caused problems in the past.

An improved hydraulic hoist rampway is to be erected parallel to the Iron Ore wharf face sloping down to ships deck. The new rampway is designed to allow loading of cattle on board ships even at medium low tide.

2. Northern Territory Port Authority port charges associated with the loading of 1367 cattle on board the "Orient Clipper" in June 1979 amounted to \$4.92 per head.

Burns Philp Co Ltd were shipping agents for the "Orient Clipper" - June 1979 voyage. While details of their stevedoring and owner's account charges are not available, it is understood that their charges did not exceed \$25 per head. At least part of this cost was attributed to one wharf gang being rostered for an afternoon shift and no cattle were delivered for loading on that shift.

941 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

A tax is not levied on toilet facilities in the Northern Territory.

An across the board annual charge is made for the installation and maintenance of a sewerage system. This charge is not influenced by day to day usage and applies even where a property is not connected to the sewer.

Any reduction in charge to some users would result in increased charges to other users.

The government does not intend to reduce charges on toilet facilities at tourist establishments. Tourists are being encouraged to visit the Territory in all seasons. This should increase usage of facilities and improve recovery of costs on a more even basis throughout the year.

948 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

The following information was provided to me by the Northern Territory Teachers' Federation:

- (a) That our (NTTF) Policy Register contains no statement on this matter.
- (b) That we take the view that teachers will, as responsible and professional people, adopt dress, hair and beard styles appropriate to their location and situation.
- (c) That despite rumours to the contrary, the Federation does not insist that vigorous facial hair and beard styles should be a pre-requisite for membership of the Territory's Teaching Service.

953 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Will the minister table the lot numbers and location of the houses involved in the Special Aboriginal Housing Scheme in Alice Springs?
2. How much money was received by the NT government from the federal government in the last financial year for the scheme?
3. How many new houses will be built?
4. How many old houses will be converted?
5. When did the building and conversion program begin?
6. When will the program end?
7. When will tenants start to move in?
8. When the scheme was first proposed were any of the houses to be built or converted opposite or next to privately-owned houses?
9. If so, how many?
10. Will any houses now being built or converted be opposite or next to privately-owned houses?
11. If so, how many?
12. Did the minister receive a letter from the Central Land Council on 17 July, over the signature of Mr Ross Howie, asking for an early reply regarding several questions on the scheme?
13. Has the minister replied?
14. If so, when did he reply?
15. If not, why?

ANSWER

1. No
2. In the 1979-80 financial year \$726,000 was received from the federal government for the program. These funds are for allocation throughout the Northern Territory.
3. Ten new houses will be built in Alice Springs this financial year.
4. No houses will be converted under this scheme in Alice Springs.
5. The building program began on 30 March 1979
6. The last house will be completed in late March 1980.
7. The government has decided that the most appropriate and effective method of arranging tenancies would be to delegate some decision making power to an Aboriginal Management Committee. This committee will decide when the houses will be occupied.
8. Yes.

9. Five houses were originally planned for construction proximate to privately-owned dwellings.
10. In this instance no. However, one of the houses in Giles Street is next to a row of single storey privately owned flats.
11. Not applicable.
- 12.) Yes
- 13.) Yes
14. 19 October 1979.
15. Not applicable.

959 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

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

ANSWER

The question is in effect, 3 questions, and is answered as such.

1. Does the Education Department provide Special Assistance for gifted children?

Yes the department does provide special assistance to gifted children. There are several aspects to the nature of the commitment and the assistance that these children receive.

Staffing and inservice-

- (a) A process of identification conducted by guidance officers and special advisory teachers through routine group testing and individual assessment of possible bright children.
- (b) The provision of 2 special resource teachers and one part-time instructor who have both an advisory and supportive teaching role. The advisory role is to stimulate an awareness of the existence of these children and to encourage school based initiatives to satisfy unmet needs. Their role is confined to short term supportive teaching in the areas of their particular expertise and assist in organisation of projects between schools which are seeking to provide enrichment programs. Most of these projects involve these officers in activities held after school hours and on weekends.
- (c) An officer of the department has been working part-time, since the inception of the existing program, on preparing an evaluative report on the current method of approaching the task. This report is almost completed.
- (d) The department has funded two conferences on the teaching of gifted children and provided interstate trips for 3 officers involved in Advisory Services.

2. What in detail, are the programs currently in operation?

School initiated programs

Several schools have initiated programs which have been developed by rearranging existing programs. Additional staffing was not provided other than the temporary services of two special resource teachers. Close parent and teacher contact characterises the implementation and continuation of these programs. Eight schools have initiated programs to cater for the gifted but many schools prefer not to draw undue attention to gifted children and the enrichment programs offered may achieve the desired results by subtle manipulation of the curriculum or by providing an extensive choice of interest electives.

3. Have additional funds been allocated in the 1979-80 financial year?

Firm allocation for 1979-80 has not been determined as the needs are still being examined in the special area, which includes the gifted. It is anticipated at this stage that the 1979-80 allocation will be additional in comparison with other years but the difference will be only marginal. This is due to the current approach to gifted programs being based on a philosophy of self help with a minimum of subsidisation. In addition to money allocated to the resource teachers to enable them to finance any new stimulus programs not funded from local school resources, excursion funds are made available to subsidise some weekend excursion programs. The excursion funds are similar to those set aside for other special groups of children i.e. handicapped.

1009 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

1. The following organisations received a grant under the subsidised Social Worker Scheme in 1978-79.
 - (a) Finke River Mission, Alice Springs;
 - (b) YWCA Darwin Inc.;
 - (c) Franciscan Sisters, Tennant Creek;
 - (d) Canossian Sisters Darwin;
 - (e) Catholic Church Alice Springs;
 - (f) St. Mary's Childrens' Village, Alice Springs; and
 - (g) Galiwinku Community Inc.
2. The same organisations are currently in receipt of a subsidy in 1979-80.
3. The following applications are under consideration for 1979-80
 - (a) Australian Red Cross, Darwin Branch;
 - (b) The Catholic Church, Alice Springs; and
 - (c) Darwin Family Centres.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1010 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

	\$
1. & 2. Aboriginal Students New Zealand Tour (Department of Education)	5,000
Adelaide Symphony Orchestra	9,000
Alice Springs Art Foundation	1,000
Alice Springs Girl Guides Local Association	2,000
Alice Springs High School Band and Choir Association	1,700
Alice Springs Scout Group Committee	3,000
Alice Springs Senior Citizens Association	1,000
Alice Springs S.P.C.A.	1,000
Alice Springs Table Tennis Association	1,000
Alice Springs Theatre Group	3,000
Alice Springs Y.M.C.A.	5,250
Alice Springs Youth Centre Inc	66,000
Alice Springs Y.W.C.A.	5,000
Alyangula Area School Association	2,300
Apex Club of Alice Springs Inc	500
Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)	56,300
Arunga Park Speedway	2,632
Australian Inland Mission Old Timers Home Alice Springs	20,000
Australian Inland Mission, Tennant Creek	30,000
Batchelor School Fund	250
Boys' Brigade	500
Bradshaw Scout and Cub Group Committee	1,000
Browns Mart	59,950
Browns Mart - Compass	2,000
Browns Mart - Kids Convoy	1,000
Casuarina Girl Guides	118
Central Australia Junior Soccer Association	2,000
City to Surf Run	600
The Corporation of the City of Darwin	260,000
C.R.E.S.T.	500

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

	\$
Crisis Line Inc	1,000
Daly River Community Development Association	5,000
Darwin Bougainvillea Festival Committee	4,250
Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence	7,500
Darwin Family Centres Inc	251
Darwin Junior Baseball League	2,000
Darwin Junior Soccer Association	2,000
Darwin Motor Sports Complex	201,000
Darwin Rotary Club	500
Darwin Rugby Football League	7,000
Darwin Sailing Club	1,000
Darwin Stamp and Coin Club	750
Darwin Sub Aqua Club	5,000
Darwin Tenpin Bowling	1,774
Darwin Theatre Group	5,000
Darwin Toy Library Association	3,000
Department of Education - Aboriginal Studies	2,000
Dynamoes Sports Club	500
Fellowship of Australian Writers	4,000
Forster Foundation for Drug Rehabilitation	4,500
The Gap Youth and Community Centre	13,000
The Good Neighbour Council of the Northern Territory	14,538
Gove Arts Theatre	1,020
Gove Land/Sea Communication	1,500
Gove Surf Life Saving Club	600
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association Inc	5,500
Katherine Citizens and Youth Club	3,000
Katherine Community Creche	1,500
Katherine Country Womens Association	250
Katherine Guides, Scouts and Brownies	2,250
Katherine Junior Cricket	880
Katherine Little Athletics	1,500
Katherine Railway Station	12,000
Katherine Regional Council Inc	44,000
Katherine Tennis Club	750
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	21,260
Mallapunyah Springs Parents and Citizens Association	750
National Trust	24,000
Ngulu Shire Council	3,000
Nhulunbuy Town Oval	10,000
Nhulunbuy Youth Club	560

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

North Australian Eisteddfod Society	2,182
Northern Territory Amateur Athletics	133
Northern Territory Amateur Swimming	500
Northern Territory Area Scout Association	10,000
Northern Territory Council of Social Service	21,500
Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	21,000
Northern Territory Craft Association	20,200
Northern Territory Cricket Association	400
Northern Territory Environment Council	1,000
Northern Territory Football League Inc	7,967
Northern Territory Girl Guides	5,000
Northern Territory Hockey Association	13,000
Northern Territory Local Government	1,000
Northern Territory Mini Bike Association	1,668
Northern Territory Netball Association	3,946
Northern Territory Pistol Shooting	1,200
Northern Territory Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association	1,000
Northern Territory Secondary Schools Sports Association	1,000
Northern Territory Soccer Federation	1,900
Northern Territory Tennis Association	10,000
Northern Territory Youth Hostels	2,500
Nursing Mothers Association of Australia	251
Oranda Judo Club	2,250
Parents Without Partners N.T. Inc	1,000
Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc.	5,000
Project Garden City	788
Rapid Creek Primary School	200
Rotary Christmas Toy Appeal	500
Santa Teresa Sporting and Social Club	500
S.P.C.A. Darwin	2,000
Springvale Homestead	1,000
St Vincent de Paul Society - Alice Springs	6,000
St Vincent de Paul Society - Darwin	7,500
Tennant Creek Community Development Council	19,500
Tennant Creek Country Womens Association	550
Tennant Creek Golf Club	500
Tennant Creek Hospital	3,000
Tennant Creek Little Athletics	500
Tennant Creek Pensioners Association	11,000

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

	\$
Top End Gem and Mineral Club	875
Unemployed Workers Union	100
Warrabri Blue Grass Band	800
Warrabri Y.M.C.A.	250
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community	4,500
Y.M.C.A. - Aboriginal Settlement	2,220
Y.M.C.A. - Darwin	32,000
Y.M.C.A. - School Leavers	1,270
Y.M.C.A. - Youth Leaders	650
Y.W.C.A. - Darwin Youth Refuge	29,450
Y.W.C.A. - Darwin	4,500
3. Alawa Scouts	
Alice Springs Amateur Cycling	
Alice Springs Art Foundation	
Alice Springs Baseball Association	
Alice Springs Bowling Club	
Alice Springs Cricket Association	
Alice Springs Folk Festival	
Alice Springs Golf Club	
Alice Springs Masonic Hall Association Inc	
Alice Springs Mens Hockey Association	
Alice Springs Obedience Dog Club	
Alice Springs Pony Club	
Alice Springs Senior Citizens Centre	
Alice Springs Table Tennis	
Alice Springs Tenpin Bowling Association	
Alice Springs Top Half Folk Federation	
Alice Springs Traeger Museum	
Alice Springs Womens Centre	
Alice Springs Youth Centre	
Anguruga School	
ANSUA - A New Start for the Under Achiever	
Apex Club of Australia	
Apex Club of Palmerston	
Apostleship of the Sea, Darwin Inc	
Araluen Cultural Trust	
Arnhem Gun, Pistol and Rifle Club	
Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)	
Arunga Park Speedway	
Australian and New Zealand Schools Exploring Society	
Australian Association of Dance Education	

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Australian Inland Mission Old Timers Home, Alice Springs
Australian Red Cross, N.T. Division, for Old Timers Home,
Tennant Creek
Australian Tang Soo Doo Association
Australian Youth Performing Arts Association
Bagot Park Speedway
Bindi Centre - Alice Springs
'Bloodwood' Folk Group
Bougainvillea Festival Inc
Boys Brigade
Browns Mart Community Arts Project
Casuarina High School
Central Australian Aviation
Central Australian Conservation Council
Central Australian Junior Motor Cycle Club
Clyde Fenton School
Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek
Country Womens Association of the Northern Territory
Craft Council of North Australia
C.R.E.S.T.
Darwin Bowls Club
Darwin Community College
Darwin Family Centres Inc
Darwin Film Society
Darwin Golf Club
Darwin Gun Club
Darwin Junior Baseball League
Darwin Marriage Guidance Council
Darwin Motorcycle Club
Darwin Netball Association
Darwin Pistol Club
Darwin Prisoners' Aid
Darwin Rifle Club
Darwin Rugby Football League
Darwin Second Scout Group
Darwin Table Tennis Association
Darwin Tenpin Bowling
Darwin Theatre Group
Darwin Toy Library Association
Darwin Womens Centre
Deaf Childrens Association of the Northern Territory
Edelweiss Shooting Group

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ethnic Communities Council of the Northern Territory
Finke River Mission
Full Gospel Revival Fellowship
The Gap Youth and Community Centre
Gove Arts Theatre
Gove Country Golf Club
Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club
Gove Squash Club
Creek Ladies Creche
Greek Orthodox Community of North Australia
Groote Eylandt Tennis Club
Gsell Centre
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association Inc
Handicapped Persons Association of the Northern Territory
Harvey's House Youth Refuge
Howard Springs Scouts
Institute for Aboriginal Development
Junior Tenpin Bowling Association - Darwin
Kanguru School Council
Katherine Citizens and Youth Club
Katherine Come Dancing Club
Katherine Country Womens Association
Katherine Girls Marching Association
Katherine Golf Club Inc
Katherine Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Parents
Katherine Horse and Pony Club
Katherine Little Athletics
Katherine Old Timers Home
Katherine Polocrosse Association
Katherine Regional Council Inc
Katherine Tennis Club
Katherine Theatre Group
Katherine Works Social Club
Keep Australia Beautiful Council
King Cobra Rod and Custom Club
Kiwanis Club of Darwin
Milingimbi Council
Missionary Franciscan Sisters, Tennant Creek
MOBS
National Folk Festival (Alice Springs)
Nhulunbuy Corporation Fishing Club

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club
Nhulunbuy Production Sedan Club
Nightcliff Rugby League
Nightcliff Swimming Association
North Australian Baptist Home Trust, Darwin
North Australian Gliding Club
Northern Australian Motor Sports Club
Northern Territory Advisory Committee on Education
Northern Territory Aerobatic Chapter
Northern Territory Athletics Centre
Northern Territory Amateur Power Lifting Association
Northern Territory Amateur Swimming Association
Northern Territory Area Scout Association
Northern Territory Arrow and Arafura Cadets
Northern Territory Arts Council
Northern Territory Ballet Association
Northern Territory Baseball League
Northern Territory Cricket Association
Northern Territory Council of Social Service
Northern Territory Council on the Ageing
Northern Territory Darts Council
Northern Territory District Bowling Association
Northern Territory Eight-ball Association
Northern Territory Eisteddfod Council
Northern Territory Environment Council
Northern Territory Football League
Northern Territory Hockey Association
Northern Territory Inter-town Chess
Northern Territory Junior Soccer Federation
Northern Territory Laser Association
Northern Territory Marching Girls Association
Northern Territory Netball Association
Northern Territory Pensioners Association
Northern Territory Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association
Northern Territory Rachuiig Committee
Northern Territory Region Girl Guides
Northern Territory Rugby Football
Northern Territory Schools and Junior Rugby Union Inc
Northern Territory Secondary Schools Sports Association
Northern Territory Softball Association

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Northern Territory Soccer Federation
Northern Territory Squash Racquets Association
Northern Territory Tennis Association
Northern Territory Womens Soccer Federation
Nungalinga College
Parents Without Partners
Pitche Ritchie Sanctuary
Police and Citizens Youth Club
Project Garden City
The Rape Crisis Centre
Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory
RepcO Reliability Trial
Salvation Army Alice Springs
Salvation Army Sunrise Centre Darwin
Salvation Army Youth Group
St Marys Primary School Choir
St Pauls Church Katherine
St Vincent de Paul Society Alice Springs
St Vincent de Paul Society Darwin
Tennant Creek Baseball Association
Tennant Creek Clay Shooting Association
Tennant Creek Community Development Council
Tennant Creek Community Creche
Tennant Creek Country Womens Association
Tennant Creek Gliding Club
Tennant Creek District Cricket Association
Tennant Creek Hospital Auxiliary
Tennant Creek Softball Association
Tennant Creek Speedway Club
Tennant Creek Theatrical Club
Tennant Creek Warrabri Y.M.C.A.
Tennant Creek Womens Bowling Club
Tennant Creek Youth Club
Top End Folk Federation
Top End Gem and Mineral Club
Volunteer Resource and Development Centre
Waratah Sports Club
Warririwi Community Inc
Yirkala Dhanbul Community Association
Y.M.C.A. Alice Springs

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Y.M.C.A. Darwin

Y.W.C.A. Alice Springs

Y.W.C.A. Darwin

4. and A complete answer cannot be given at this stage as many applications are still being assessed. The following is a list of approved grants, most of which have been paid.

5.

	\$
Alice Springs Art Foundation	2,500
Alice Springs Cricket Association	600
Alice Springs Golf Club	15,000
Alice Springs Pony Club	200
ANSUA - A New Start for the Under Achiever	1,020
Apostleship of the Sea, Darwin Inc	5,000
Araluen Cultural Trust	35,000
Arnhem Gun Pistol and Rifle Club	2,000
Arts Council of Australia (N.T. Division)	71,000
Australian Inland Mission Old Timers Home Alice Springs	1,173
Australian Red Cross Old Timers Home Katherine	5,000
Australian Red Cross Old Timers Home Tennant Creek	966
Bougainvillea Festival	5,000
Brown's Mart Community Arts Project Inc	65,000
Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek	7,000
Country Womens Association of the Northern Territory	4,800
Craft Council of North Australia	41,000
C.R.E.S.T	2,000
Crisis Line Inc	6,500
Darwin Film Society	2,500
Darwin Pistol Club	20,000
Darwin Table Tennis	588
The Gap Youth and Community Centre	17,000
Gove Country Golf Club	5,000
Gove Peninsula Surf Life Saving Club	2,500
Gove Squash Club	3,000
Greek Ladies Creche	250
Greek Orthodox Community of North Australia	480
Groote Eylandt Tennis Club	700
Hamilton Downs Youth Camp Association Inc	13,000
Heritage Projects	90,000
Institute for Aboriginal Development	20,050
Katherine Citizens and Youth Club	9,000

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Katherine Community Relations Committee	5,000
Katherine Horse and Pony Club	5,000
Katherine Regional Council Inc	17,900
Keep Australia Beautiful Council	27,500
National Folk Festival	4,000
National Trust of Australia (N.T. Division)	30,000
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club	5,000
North Australian Gliding Club	1,000
North Australian Motor Sports Club	800
Northern Territory Aerobatic Chapter	1,372
Northern Territory Athletics Centre	1,594
Northern Territory Amateur Swimming Association	1,000
Northern Territory Amateur Power Lifting Association	531
Northern Territory Area Scout Association	27,400
Northern Territory Baseball League	3,000
Northern Territory Ballet Association	1,000
Northern Territory Cricket Association	2,240
Northern Territory Council of Social Service	6,075
Northern Territory Council on the Ageing	24,400
Northern Territory Darts Council	5,170
Northern Territory Eisteddfod Council	2,500
Northern Territory Football League	400
Northern Territory Hockey Association	900
Northern Territory Inter-town Chess	500
Northern Territory Junior Soccer Federation	2,140
Northern Territory Laser Association	790
Northern Territory Marching Girls Association	480
Northern Territory Netball Association	500
Northern Territory Pensioners Association	500
Northern Territory Rachuiq Committee	3,840
Northern Territory Region Girl Guides	12,000
Northern Territory Schools and Junior Rugby Union Inc	2,130
Northern Territory Soccer Federation	1,500
Northern Territory Softball Association	1,500
Northern Territory Squash Racquets Association	3,453
Northern Territory Table Tennis Association	1,800
Northern Territory Tennis Association	400
Northern Territory Womens Soccer Federation	2,500
Parents Without Partners	2,750
Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Association of Alice Springs Inc	6,000

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

	\$
Rehabilitation Association of the Northern Territory	6,000
Salvation Army Alice Springs	6,000
St Marys Primary School Choir	1,500
St Vincent de Paul Society Alice Springs	7,200
St Vincent de Paul Society Darwin	10,000
Tennant Creek Baseball Association	1,500
Tennant Creek Clay Shooting Club	2,000
Tennant Creek Community Development Council	19,850
Tennant Creek Speedway	2,500
Tennant Creek Theatrical Club	425
Tennant Creek Womens Bowling Club	400
Waratah Sports Club	5,500
Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association	6,750
Y.M.C.A. Alice Springs	9,000
Y.M.C.A. Darwin	24,000
Y.M.C.A. Talc Head Camp	12,500
Y.W.C.A. Darwin - Youth Refuge	1,980
* Y.W.C.A. Darwin	15,488
* Y.W.C.A. also in receipt of Community Worker Subsidy of	\$8,500.00 p.a.

1011 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The following church organisations have received loans under the scheme:

1. Aborigines Inland Mission received 2 loans for Retta Dixon Homes, Darwin. These loans have been repaid in full.
2. The United Evangelical Lutheran Church has received a loan for a children's home in Alice Springs. Approximately \$44,500 is outstanding against the loan.
3. The Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust (now the Uniting Church) has received 4 loans. Two of these loans were for Warrawee Children's Hospital in Adelaide which have since been discharged and 2 loans were made in relation to St Phillip's College in Alice Springs. Approx. \$293,000 remains outstanding against these loans.
4. The United Church in North Australia received one loan in relation to Griffith's House, Alice Springs. This loan has now been discharged.

5. The Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc. received 3 loans in relation to Carpentaria College, Darwin. These have subsequently been extinguished following the surrender of the property.
6. The Methodist Overseas Mission now part of the Uniting Church received one loan in relation to Sommerville Homes in Darwin. There is approx. \$260,000 outstanding against this loan.
7. The Catholic Church has received 3 loans, one in relation to St John's College, Darwin, which has approx. \$207,500 outstanding; one in relation to Bakhita Village, Darwin, which has approx. \$317,500 outstanding, one in relation to Salonika Girls Hostel which has approx. \$406,000 outstanding.
8. The YWCA has received 3 loans; one in relation to the Darwin Hostel which has approx. \$430,000 outstanding, 2 in relation to the Alice Springs Hostel which has approx. \$268,000 outstanding.
9. The YMCA has received one loan in relation to their hostel in Darwin. Approx. \$687,000 is outstanding on this loan.
10. The Church of England has received one loan in relation to "The Lodge" hostel in Alice Springs. Approx. \$376,000 is outstanding against this loan.
11. The North Australian Baptist Homes Trust has received 3 loans in relation to hostels in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs. Negotiations are presently taking place regarding the surrender of these properties.

No loans have been issue since 1976.

2. Finance was available at 1% per annum with a maximum repayment term of 60 years.

1013 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

The Kulaluk special purpose lease has been registered and issued to Mr Bobby Secretary, President of the Gwalwa Daraniki Association and the development of this parcel of land will be in accord with the wishes of the Kulaluk people.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Department of Aboriginal Affairs is presently working with the Kulaluk people in the compilation of an overall development plan for the whole area which takes into consideration the matters you have raised. At the same time the NT government has offered assistance to the Kulaluk people by way of making appropriate officers available to give advice where required on the development plan.

1019 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

This work has been completed.

1020 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Department of Transport and Works as the Northern Territory government construction authority was responsible for the organisation of the design/construct competition for the museum and art gallery.

1021 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The judging panel was chosen by Cabinet. The members, apart from myself, were Minister for Transport and Works, Hon. Roger Steele, Chairman of Museums and Art Galleries Board, Mr Justice Forster.

1022 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Were all panel members present during the oral presentations by the competing firms in the museum and art gallery competition and, if not, who were the substitutes for panel members and for what parts of the presentations were they present?

ANSWER

Hon. Roger Steele was present during all 4 oral presentations. I was present for the 2 presentations during the morning session and was represented by my deputy, Mr J. Larcombe, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Community Development in the afternoon. Mr Justice Forster was unable to be present and was represented by his deputy Dr Colin Jack-Hinton.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1023 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

- (a) The following panel members were present when the decision was made to allow John Holland's to revise its design :
Hon. Roger Steele;
Mr Jack Larcombe (deputising for me); and
Dr Colin Jack-Hinton (deputising for Mr Justice Forster).
- (b) The decision was made on 7 June 1979, the day after the oral presentations.

1024 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The John Holland submission conformed more closely with the intent and function of the complex than any other entry and was the preferred architectural solution. Provided they were able to make the necessary revisions their design would be selected. The panel therefore considered that it would be unfair to ask other competitors to revise their designs until Holland's demonstrated their inability to do so. This decision was taken in recognition of the considerable expense already incurred by the contestants, and was intended to avoid further costs being incurred by contestants having no possibility of success.

1025 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The original John Holland design included a multi-purpose educational area in lieu of a theatrette which the designers believed would satisfy the needs of the museum and art gallery. This was not the case and was one of the functional revisions required to satisfy the judges.

1026 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The brief specified the optimum area for the museum and art gallery as 9,000 square metres, with an absolute minimum of 6,000 square metres. At over 7,800 square metres, the John Holland design was well within these limits.

1027 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The brief made no stipulation as regards location of the complex on the site. The brief required the building to be of low profile, blending with the terrain and its immediate environment, taking advantage of the natural slope of the site. It was left to the competitors to locate their building anywhere on the site provided it was above the primary surge line. In fact, the closest any building is to the boundary along the foreshore is 40 metres which is considered to be an adequate buffer zone. The brief did refer to not disturbing the foreshore by landscaping and in this regard the Holland's submission is fully conforming.

1028 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The sloping nature of the site resulted in all submissions having some degree of cut and fill. It is usual for the earthworks to roughly balance out, this being the most economical method and John Holland's submission is no exception. As previously stated, all building works are at least 40 metres from the boundary of the site on the foreshore side and it is not proposed to place any fill in this corridor.

1029 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Did any departmental officers provide advice to the museum and art gallery competition judging panel and, if so, who were they, and on what matters did they advise the panel?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is yes, why was this necessary in view of the fact that a leading Australian architect, Mr Bryce Mortlock, was available to provide expert advice to the panel?

ANSWER

Senior professional officers of the Department of Transport and Works prepared analyses of specialised technical areas of all submissions and their reports were co-ordinated through the Design Manager to Mr Bryce Mortlock. No advice was provided direct to the judges by these officers and sole comment on the aesthetics of the designs was made by Mr Bryce Mortlock.

1030 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes. Mr Mortlock did advise the panel that the initial John Holland design was superior to the others.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1031 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes. Mr Mortlock recommended that John Holland's be invited to revise their internal functional arrangement of areas without damaging the integrity of their design.

1032 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Mr Mortlock indicated that, in the unlikely event of John Holland's not being able to satisfactorily revise their design, it would be desirable to invite other competitors to do so.

1033 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The written comments by Mr Mortlock to the judges are in the form of a critique. I have no objection to making the critique available for your perusal on a personal and confidential basis.

1034 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes. Mr Mortlock made a special return visit on 22 June to examine the revised submission.

1035 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The final decision was made at a composite meeting of Cabinet and the judging panel on 23 June, at which Mr Mortlock was invited to report on each of the submissions.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1036 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The following panel members were present when the final decision was made:

Hon. Roger Steele; Dr Colin Jack-Hinton (deputising for Mr Justice Forster); and myself.

1052 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware of the activities of the Yipirinya School at Alice Springs and, if so, what help does the Education Department propose to give to the school?
2. Is it a fact that the Education Department has prohibited mention of this school on the Aboriginal program on radio 8HA and, if so, why?

ANSWER

Both the department and I have, for some time now, been communicating with the Yipirinya School Council about the form of education which would best suit the circumstances.

In correspondence with the council, it has been indicated that modifications to normal school arrangements can be made.

The department has also offered to establish a series of out-lying classes which would be annexes of an existing school, such as Traegar Park Primary School, and provide teachers to work in the camp areas with younger children.

I have spoken with the Chairman of the Council and advised him that, while I recognise the right of groups to seek to establish independent schools under the Northern Territory Education Act, there are many financial and administrative difficulties associated with their particular proposal.

Officers of the department will continue efforts to draw up an educational program of high quality in a form appropriate and acceptable to the people concerned.

Through the Technical and Further Education Branch, the department sponsors an Aboriginal program weekly on radio station 8HA. Mention of the Yipirinya School has not been specifically omitted. There has been no directive issued prohibiting broadcasting of Yipirinya news items.

1054 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Have the creditors of the Roper River community store, who were owed \$167,000, been paid and under what system does this community now operate its store?
2. Are there debts remaining and, if so, how will they be paid?
3. Are the books of community stores audited?

4. What steps have been taken to prevent a repetition of losses in community stores?

ANSWER

1. The majority of creditors of the Roper River community store have been paid, but there are a number of additional debts incurred after the initial backlog of creditors was cleared. The community now operates its store under a private agreement between itself and a business firm from Katherine. Under this arrangement, the community has relinquished responsibility for the store and, in exchange, receives a monthly payment from the businessman for the right to operate the consumer store at Roper River.
2. The department has calculated that there is approximately \$37,070 outstanding to current trade creditors. In view of the high level of assistance provided to the store over the past years from the Aborigines Benefits Trust Fund and the Aboriginal Loans Commission, it is unlikely that further assistance will be provided from these sources. The department takes the view that the outstanding creditors should be paid by the community utilising the money it receives under the agreement reached between it and the Katherine businessman.
3. Yes. The last set of audited accounts prepared for the Roper River Citizens Club (the operator of the store) covered the period 12 February 1978 to 3 April 1979, and showed a substantial loss for that period.
4. Community stores are an independent operation and, as such, do not come directly under the control of this department. There is, however, a great deal of concern within the department and in the Northern Territory Department of Community Development at the level of losses being sustained by a number of stores in Aboriginal communities. Several possible solutions have been identified, but their introduction will be dependent upon their acceptance by the communities concerned. It should be noted, however, that recent policy decisions of the Aborigines Benefit Trust Account have made it unlikely that further financial assistance from this source will be available to community stores which incur substantial losses. One solution to the problem is of course the one adopted in respect of the Roper River community store, as this arrangement assures the community of a well-stocked and well-run store and a guaranteed level of income by way of rental payments.

1057 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Was the meeting of cattlemen, held in Katherine on 29 October 1979, called to allow the Bureau of Animal Health to put a case for the eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis or to allow cattlemen to discuss the 4 options put forward by the cattle industry?
2. Did it achieve either purpose?

ANSWER

1. The meeting of the cattlemen held in Katherine on 29 October 1979 was called by the NT Cattle Producers Council, the Australian Bureau of Animal Health and the Northern Territory Department of Primary Production. It was convened by these 3 organisations to discuss the difficulties for cattlemen in eradicating tuberculosis and brucellosis in the remote areas of Australia. An earlier meeting was held in Alice Springs on 28 October to discuss the problems of the Barkly Tableland

and Alice Springs districts, and the one on 29 October was more specifically to discuss the difficulties in the Top End.

The meeting was very well attended by cattlemen in a wide area. It was chaired by Mr Tony Hooper of the Division of Agriculture and Stock along with Dr Leith Andrews of the Bureau of Animal Health and Mr Bill de Vos of the NT Cattle Producers Council.

Dr Andrews presented a paper prepared by the Bureau of Animal Health in consultation with veterinary officers from various remote areas of Australia.

Dr Andrews described the possible situation in the future which could arise when countries that import our beef become free of tuberculosis and brucellosis. He referred particularly to the United States. He said that while there is no absolute proof that these countries will totally ban the imports of our beef, we are already seeing evidence that they should be quite stringent. A recent example included the rejection of milk products to the United States from properties affected with brucellosis.

Four options for disease eradication were put to the meeting by Dr Andrews and I assume that these are the options mentioned in the question. The options could be applied separately or in conjunction, and consist of:

- (a) whole herd testing;
- (b) part herd testing, concentrating on younger cattle only and separating them from the older cattle;
- (c) an extension of (b) which is to test weaner animals only and separate them from older stock; or
- (d) destocking the entire herds and restocking with disease free cattle.

Thus, to actually specifically answer the honourable member's question, it would be correct to say that both the case for the eradication of the 2 diseases and the 4 options for disease eradication were put to the meeting.

2. The meeting achieved its purpose in that a large number of cattlemen attended and expressed their opinions about their problems. Cattlemen from different areas have different problems. Some can see that they will have successful programs and will achieve good progress by 1984. Others can see little hope of having sufficient finance and sufficient control of their herds to justify practical eradication campaigns. The meeting was successful in that it was a start towards more detailed analyses of every individual cattleman's problems in their stations.

1058 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Fisheries Division examine the economics and purpose of the fish farm at Kununurra before recommending against the establishment of barramundi hatcheries in the Territory?

ANSWER

The Fisheries Division has not recommended against an examination of the feasibility and practicability of establishing a barramundi hatchery in the Territory.

When information has been sought by members of the public on this matter, the Fisheries Division have given consolidated advice incorporating information available from Australian research (including that which was conducted at Kununurra) together with the latest information from overseas research.

Acknowledging the importance of fisheries (both marine and fresh-water) to the primary economy of the Territory and the need to fully develop and manage existing and potential new fish resources, a watching brief is being kept on aquaculture developments, including barramundi hatcheries, at this juncture.

1059 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Will he have swimming pools built at each of the schools in Katherine to enable children to learn swimming and life saving as part of their education?
2. In considering this proposal will he take into account the opposition which many ratepayers have to the idea of a town swimming pool?

ANSWER

1. No. It is not the policy of the Education Department to provide swimming pools on school sites.
2. I understand the Department of Community Development has been given approval to enter into discussions with the Katherine Corporation on joint funding arrangements for the construction of a swimming pool.

1060 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that efforts to provide Katherine and district with low cost LP gas supplies are being hindered by an Aboriginal land claim over the site chosen for a gas depot?

ANSWER

The short answer to the honourable member's question is "No".

A Katherine resident applied for part of the old Katherine Railway Reserve for use as a bulk storage site for LP gas.

The block sought was formerly affected by an Aboriginal land claim but the claim was superseded when the Katherine Town Planning Region was gazetted.

I am not aware of any other current proposal for the bulk storage of LP gas at Katherine.

1091 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- (a) What is the current waiting time for Housing Commission homes and flats in Darwin and Alice Springs?
- (b) Is any information available concerning the waiting time for Commission houses and flats in the suburbs of Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what is the waiting time for Commission flats and houses in the suburbs of these capitals?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ANSWER

(a) The current waiting times for NTHC accommodation in Darwin and Alice Springs are as follows:

<u>Public</u>		<u>Staff</u>	
<u>DARWIN</u>			
1 BR	3 months	Bedsitter	Indefinite
2 BR	7- 9 months	1 BR	36 months
3 BR	12-15 months	2 BR	9-11 months
4 BR	18 months	3 BR	12 months
		4 BR	15 months
		Executive	Depends on vacates
<u>ALICE SPRINGS</u>			
		Bedsitter	10 months
1 BR	12-18 months	1 BR	12-18 months
2 BR	6 months	2 BR	12 months
3 BR	9 months	3 BR	18 months
4 BR	18 months	4 BR	18 months
		Executive	Indefinite

(b) Detailed information on waiting times in other capital cities is not readily available and would vary greatly depending on location and type of dwelling, however, a general average is:

Victoria	3 years
New South Wales	4 years
South Australia	4 years
Western Australia	3 years

1117 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that on the inaugural journey of the Darwin-New Guinea shipping route, a number of NT buffaloes were found to have TB? If so, what was the origin of the buffaloes and what steps have been taken to assure our trading partners, especially New Guinea, that this will not recur?

ANSWER

The incident to which reference is made in the question was not associated with the inauguration of the Papua New Guinea shipping service.

However, when a consignment of buffaloes from Darwin arrived in Papua New Guinea in late 1978, tuberculosis was found to be present in some of the animals.

These buffaloes originated from a number of properties in the Darwin area. They were taken to a central point where a tuberculosis test was applied and reactors removed before shipment.

On arrival in Papua New Guinea, another tuberculosis test was applied and further reactors were identified.

It is not unusual for buffaloes which have been subjected to the stresses of mustering, transporting and yarding to produce a false negative response to an initial tuberculosis test.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The government is concerned that trade with Papua New Guinea and the new shipping service which will help develop commerce between the Territory and Papua New Guinea, should not be jeopardised.

Discussions have been held with Papua New Guinea veterinary authorities and agreement has been reached on testing procedures which should prevent a recurrence.

1118 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation grant special quotas to North Australian meatworks in 1979, as the Australian Meat Board had done, to overcome geographical difficulties?
2. What quotas in tonnes were granted to each meatworks, including William Angliss?

ANSWER

1. I assume that the question refers to quotas for the North Australian Meatworks to the United States market. My information is that the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation did grant special quotas to North Australian Meatworks in 1979.
2. The actual quotas in tonnes to each meatworks is confidential between the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation and the individual companies concerned. My information is that total tonnage for the Northern Meatworks was about 13,000 tonnes.

1119 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will cattle holding facilities be established at the Darwin wharf and cattle loading facilities improved?

Will general unloading facilities be improved?

ANSWER

Please refer to the answer given to Question No. 937.

1120 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Chief Veterinary Officer, Mr D. Newton-Tabrett, tell the cattle industry meeting at Katherine recently that if Australian beef was banned from the US it would be because of brucellosis and not tuberculosis?
2. If this is a fact, will all cattle slaughtered in the Northern Territory have blood samples taken in an endeavour to locate areas where the disease is prevalent?
3. Does he agree with the Canberra based Bureau of Animal Health that brucellosis will be eradicated in the Territory by 1984?

ANSWER

1. At the cattle industry meeting recently held in Katherine, the Chief Veterinary Officer, Mr D. Newton-Tabrett, indicated that in his opinion it would be more probable that Australian beef would be restricted to the United States because of brucellosis. Either disease, however, could be the cause of restrictions.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

2. Both diseases, brucellosis and tuberculosis, are being closely monitored in slaughtered cattle in the Northern Territory. Female cattle and bulls are being blood sampled and recorded at slaughter and cattle with tuberculosis lesions are being identified and recorded.
3. Mr Newton-Tabrett agrees with Canberra based Bureau of Animal Health that brucellosis should be eradicated to the stage of Provisional Freedom in the Territory by 1984.

1121 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Are government departmental caravans parked on residential blocks in Katherine to avoid keeping them in caravan parks or because of the shortage of serviced land?

ANSWER

In order to reply it will be necessary to be provided with details of the departments and blocks referred to in the question.

1122 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the tax on toilet facilities in Katherine continue through the tourist off season?

ANSWER

See answer to Question No. 941.

1140 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Territory Development Corporation's "Detailed Investigation into Tourist Needs Throughout the NT" been completed; and, if not, when will it be completed?
2. When will the corporation's report be produced and will the report be made public?
3. What areas have been surveyed?
4. Has the corporation sought the views of Aboriginal groups and organisations and, if not, will the minister ensure that it does?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Development Corporation, in conjunction with the Northern Territory Tourist Board, has commenced a detailed investigation into tourist needs throughout the Territory. The investigation - a 100% coverage survey of tourist accommodation outlets and the views and attitudes of the proprietors of those outlets - is being determined.

The second stage, a visitor attitudinal survey, is subject to current planning. This survey is likely to take up to 12 months to complete. However, the information collected on an on-going basis will be of use to the in-coming Tourist Commissioner as it is collected.

2. Because the overall survey is not complete, the corporation does not intend at this stage to produce a formal report. However, the statistical results of the Tourist Accommodation Outlet Survey are readily available from the corporation now.
3. Covered above.
4. The views of Aboriginal groups and organisations, except when relevant to those parts of the overall survey referred to above, have not been sought at this stage. In proceeding with the survey, however, it will clearly be necessary for the Territory Development Corporation and the Tourist Commission to solicit extensive and comprehensive views from all persons and organisations directly or indirectly involved in Territory tourism in order to ensure that government involvement in the development of the industry is to the greatest benefit of all Territorians. Indeed, the greatest contribution can be expected from the Tourism Advisory Council which does include representatives from the Central, Northern and Tiwi Land Councils.

1141 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Will he supply a copy of the instructions given to the police for the arrest and treatment of persons "for protective custody", including the measures taken to ensure that those arrested are aware of their rights?
2. What measures are taken to ensure that the police do not misuse their powers of arrest under "protective custody"?

ANSWER

1. The original provisions concerning protective custody were contained in section 33A of the Police and Police Offences Act. The relevant provisions are now in sections 128 to 133 of the Police Administration Act.

Circular Memorandum No. 29 of 1976 was distributed on 30 December 1976 relating to the Police and Police Offences Act provisions. Those instructions are still applied to the Police Administration Act provisions.

Differences between the provisions of the two acts were set out in a training booklet and distributed to members prior to the commencement of the Police Administration Act.

A copy of the memorandum and the extract from the training booklet is supplied for the information of the honourable member.

2. The terms of the legislation and the circular memorandum are protection against misuse of powers of arrest for protective custody. Persons in protective custody are informed of their rights should they inquire or if they indicate any objection to apprehension and detention. Additionally, senior members check prisoners and records to ensure the correct exercise of power under those provisions.

Division 4 - Apprehension without Arrest

- 128.(1) Where a member of the Police Force has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is intoxicated with alcohol or a drug and that that person is -
- (a) in a public place, or trespassing on private property; and
 - (b) because of his intoxicated condition, likely to -
 - (i) commit an offence;
 - (ii) use physical force against another person;
 - (iii) cause damage to the property of another person;
 - (iv) intimidate, alarm or cause substantial annoyance to another person;
 - (v) unreasonably disrupt the privacy of another person;
 - (vi) cause bodily harm to himself or expose himself to bodily harm;
 - (vii) expose himself to having an offence committed upon or against him; or
 - (viii) be unable to adequately care for himself and is not likely to be adequately cared for by any other person,
- the member may, without warrant, apprehend and take that person into custody.
- (2) For the purposes of carrying out his duties under sub-section (1), a member may, without warrant, enter upon private property.
- (3) A member of the Police Force who takes a person into custody under sub-section (1) may -
- (a) search or cause to be searched that person; and
 - (b) remove or cause to be removed from that person for safe keeping until the person is released from custody, any money or valuables that are found on or about that person and any item on or about that person that is likely to cause harm to that person or any other person or that could be used by that person or any other person to cause harm to himself or another.
- (4) For the purposes of sub-section (3), the person of a woman shall not be searched except by a woman.
- (5) All money or valuables taken from a person under sub-section (3) shall be recorded in a register kept for that purpose and shall be returned to that person on receipt of a signature or other mark made by that person in the register.
- 129.(1) Subject to this Division, a person who has been apprehended and taken into custody under section 128 shall be held in the custody of a member of the Police Force, but only for so long as it reasonably appears to the member of the Police Force in whose custody he is held that the person remains intoxicated.
- (2) Subject to this Division, where it reasonably appears to a member of the Police Force in whose custody a person is held at the time

under this section that the person is no longer intoxicated, the member shall, without any further or other authority than this sub-section, release that person or cause him to be released from custody without his entering into any recognizance or bail.

- (3) A person who has been taken into custody under this section and who is in custody after midnight and before half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, may be held in custody until half past 7 o'clock in the morning on that day, notwithstanding that the person is no longer intoxicated.
- 130.(1) A person in custody after apprehension under section 128 -
- (a) shall not be charged with an offence;
 - (b) shall not be questioned by a member in relation to an offence; and
 - (c) shall not be photographed or have his fingerprints taken.
- (2) Where a person is questioned in contravention of sub-section (1)(b) any answers which he may give to any such question shall be inadmissible in evidence against him in any proceedings.
- 131.(1) The member of the Police Force in whose custody a person is held under this Division may, at any time, without any further or other authority than this sub-section, release that person or cause him to be released without his entering into a recognizance or bail, into the care of a person who the member reasonably believes is a person capable of taking adequate care of that person.
- (2) A person in custody shall not be released under sub-section (1) into the care of another person if the person in custody objects to being released into the care of that person.
- 132.(1) If, after a period of 6 hours after a person has been taken into custody under section 128, it reasonably appears to the member of the Police Force in whose custody he is held that the grounds for the apprehension and taking into custody continue, the member of the Police Force shall bring the person, as soon as practicable, unless sooner released under this Division, before a justice.
- (2) Where a person is brought before a justice under sub-section (1), the justice shall -
- (a) if it appears to him that the grounds on which the person was apprehended no longer exist - order the release of the person from custody; or
 - (b) if it appears to him that the grounds on which the person was apprehended continue - give such directions as he thinks fit to a member of the Police Force for the safety and welfare of the person including, if he thinks fit, keeping him in the custody of a member of the Police Force (but only for so long as it reasonably appears to the member of the Police Force in whose custody he is held at the time that those grounds continue) or releasing him from custody.
- 133.(1) A person apprehended under section 128 may, at any time after such apprehension, request a member to take him before a justice in order that the person may make an application to the justice for his release.

- (2) Where a request is made of a member under sub-section (1) he shall, if it is reasonably practicable for the person to be brought before a justice forthwith, bring the person, or cause the person to be brought, before the justice forthwith.

APPENDIX "B"

PROTECTIVE CUSTODY

The 'Protective Custody' sections in the Police and Police Offences Act and Police Administration Act are almost identical. However, there are a number of quite important differences and these are listed.

POLICE AND POLICE OFFENCES ACT	POLICE ADMINISTRATION ACT
<p><u>Section 33A</u> <u>Apprehension of Drunken Person Without Warrant</u></p>	<p><u>Section 128-133</u> <u>Apprehension Without Arrest</u></p>
<p><u>Sub-Section (4)</u></p> <p>a person shall not be charged with an offence while he is in custody after apprehension under this section, but nothing in this section prevents a person from being apprehended and charged with an offence after his release from custody under this section.</p>	<p><u>Section 130</u></p> <p>(1) A person in custody after apprehension under Section 128-</p> <p>(a) shall not be charged with an offence;</p> <p>(b) shall not be questioned by a member in relation to an offence; and</p> <p>(c) shall not be photographed or have his fingerprints taken.</p> <p>(2) Where a person is questioned in contravention of sub-section (1)(b) any answers which he may give to any such question shall be inadmissible in evidence against him in any proceedings.</p>
<p>NO EQUIVALENT</p>	<p><u>Section 131</u></p> <p>(1) A person apprehended under Section 128 may, at any time after such apprehension, request a member to take him before a justice in order that the person may make an application to the Justice for his release.</p> <p>(2) Where a request is made of a member under sub-section (1) he shall, if it is reasonably practicable for the person to be brought before a Justice forthwith, bring the person, or cause the person to be brought, before a Justice forthwith unless sooner released.</p>
<p><u>Sub-Section (7)</u></p> <p>A member of the Police Force who refuses or fails to comply with a requirement of this section or with a direction given under sub-section (6) is guilty of a neglect of duty punishable as provided by this Ordinance.</p>	<p>NO EQUIVALENT SECTION</p>

Police Headquarters,
DARWIN, N.T.
30 December 1976

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM No. 29 of 1976:

DRUNKENNESS - PROTECTIVE CUSTODY PROVISIONS -
SECTION 33A, POLICE AND POLICE OFFENCES ORDINANCE

Special Circular dated 9 July 1974 and Circular Memorandum 1/1975 are cancelled.

The relevant part of Section 33A of the Police and Police Offences Ordinance reads:

"Where a member of the Police Force has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is intoxicated with alcohol or a drug and that person is -

- (a) in a public place, or trespassing on private property; and
- (b) because of his intoxicated condition, likely to -
 - (i) commit an offence;
 - (ii) use physical force against another person;
 - (iii) cause damage to the property of another person;
 - (iv) intimidate, alarm or cause substantial annoyance to another person;
 - (v) unreasonably disrupt the privacy of another person;
 - (vi) cause bodily harm to himself or expose himself to bodily harm;
 - (vii) expose himself to having an offence committed upon or against him; or
 - (viii) be unable to adequately care for himself and is not likely to be adequately cared for by any other person;

the member may without warrant apprehend and take that person into custody."

Members who apprehend persons under the above provisions are required to enter particulars of the category of 33A(b)(i) to (viii) under which the apprehended person is taken into custody. This is to be recorded immediately under the name of the person apprehended, for example -

Fred JONES
Intoxicated with alcohol/drug and likely to expose himself to bodily harm.

John GREEN
Intoxicated with alcohol/drug and likely to cause damage to property of another person.

If any intoxicated person commits an offence under any other law, action is to be taken in relation to that specific offence and not use Section 33A as a substitute.

In addition to the necessary Station entries, members are to record in their note books particulars of circumstances surrounding the apprehension of persons under Section 33A, sufficient to enable details to be recalled by the member at a later date.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Supervisors are to ensure that this instruction is to be complied with by all members at all times.

(Sgd) W.J. McLAREN
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

INDEX HEADINGS:

1. Drunkenness - Protective Custody.
2. Protective Custody Provisions.
3. Police Offences Ordinance - Section 33A.

1184 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Could the Treasurer advise the Assembly as to the amount of the Treasurer's advance spent in the first 3 months of the financial year 1979-80 and also the nature of that expenditure?

ANSWER

The appropriation included in the Supply Act 1979-80 against Advance to the Treasurer was \$1,490,000.

During the period 1 July 1979 to 28 September 1979, \$478,000 was issued from Advance to the Treasurer to cover expenditure proposals provided in the Budget but not specifically included in the Supply Act. This is a normal occurrence as the Supply Act is traditionally based around the levels of expenditure in the previous year. Upon assent to the Appropriation Act (No.1) 1979-80 on 28 September, all advances issued from Advance to the Treasurer lapsed.

At 30 September, no expenditure had been incurred against the Advance to the Treasurer of \$12,251,000 included in the Appropriation Act (No.1) 1979-80.

1208 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What percentage of appeals against provisional promotions in the NTPS, from 1/7/78 to 30/6/79, have been successful?

ANSWER

14.7 per cent. The reply needs the following qualifications -

1. Only promotions attracting active (i.e. non-protective) appeals have been considered.
2. In the case of multiple promotions and/or appeals each promotion appealed against is counted except where one appellant against a number of promotions is successful in one appeal. For example where one appellant against 3 promotions is unsuccessful in all 3, then 3 unsuccessful appeals are counted but where one of these appeals is allowed, then one successful appeal is counted and the other promotions are ignored.

1209 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Under what conditions and which crops will be covered by operations of the Crop Development Scheme for 1979-80?

2. What staff is available to service this scheme?
3. What markets are available for crops grown in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. The conditions which will apply to the operations of the Crop Development Scheme for the 1980 season are those which were recommended by the Crop Development Committee with respect to infrastructural development at Adelaide River and subsidies to assist farmers. The progress of the Crop Development Scheme in 1979 as well as the background to the incentives now offered are laid out in the Crop Development Committee Report.
2. Staff to service the scheme comprise officers of the agriculture, scientific services and economics/marketing sections of the Division of Agriculture and Stock. In addition, producers may contact representatives of the Crop Development Committee for assistance.
3. For the 1979-80 season all maize and sorghum produced will be marketed to feed users in the Northern Territory. Outlets for peanuts and mungbeans have been found through the Queensland Peanut Marketing Board and the WA (Ord) Producers' Co-operative. The Crop Development Committee considered that no further crops to those previously supported should be added to the scheme.

1211 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What stage has been reached in the recommissioning of the North Australia Railway?

ANSWER

The Commonwealth government has agreed to our proposals that:

- we jointly undertake a study into the benefits and costs of a standard gauge rail link between Alice Springs and Darwin; and
- the Australian National Railways identify the corridor for this railway so that the land can be reserved.

Work has commenced on both subjects.

The joint study team of Mr Grant Taylor, Commonwealth Department of Transport and Mr Bill Foo, Department of Transport and Works are expected to have their report completed by the end of the year.

The Chief Minister has written to the Prime Minister urging a Commonwealth commitment to commence construction of the rail link within 5 years.

1212 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. How much meat meal is used annually in stock feeds made in and imported into the Northern Territory?
2. How much land would it take to produce the grains contained in the stock feeds consumed annually in the Northern Territory - including fowl feed, pig feed, &c.?

ANSWER

1. In 1978, 562 tonnes of Northern Territory meat and bone meal and 502 tonnes of imported protein concentrates were used as feed ingredients in the Northern Territory.
2. Some 3,500 tonnes of grains and grain by-products were imported into the Northern Territory in 1978 for incorporation in stockfeeds. This tonnage could be produced off 2,000 - 3,000 hectares depending on yields achieved for the various crops.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1215 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

In respect of former mining tenements identified by numbers 1K and 7K -

- (a) what was the reason for the acquisition of these tenements by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Service; and
- (b) what was the cost of the acquisition?

ANSWER

Mining tenements 1K and 7K are situated at Oolloo Crossing on the Daly River. They were purchased on behalf of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission in June 1979 at a price of \$20,000.

The acquisition of this land by the commission is in keeping with proposals to establish a Daly River wild river concept. This involves the provision of access to and camping areas on the river at a number of locations and the conservation of the river and its banks.

At the present time, the only access to the river system under the control of the commission is through the Katherine Gorge and Low Level areas and at the Daly River Crossing. The acquisition of this area provides a very valuable third access to the river. It is also in close proximity to the existing Douglas River Hot Springs Reserve and the Butterfly Gorge.

1216 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is power generated at the Katherine powerhouse sufficient to supply the 15-mile Experiment Farm, the Katherine Gorge and the 14-mile caves?

Is it feasible to supply these government-controlled operations from Katherine and eliminate small, costly generators at each site?

ANSWER

Power generated from the Katherine power station is sufficient to supply the load at the nominated areas but the following work would be required -

15-mile Experimental Farm: Construction of 15 miles of 22kV overhead at an estimated total cost of \$100,000. This 22 kV overhead would service the experimental farm plus 3 families.

Katherine Gorge: Construction of 19 miles of 11kV overhead at an estimated total cost of \$161,000. This 11 kV overhead would service the ranger at the Katherine Gorge together with the kiosk and caravan park.

14 mile Caves: This will require an extension of the 11 kV system from Tindal, a distance of 6 miles at an estimated total cost of \$35,000. This 11 kV overhead would service the 2 rangers' houses.

The feasibility of these extensions must be related to further development within the nominated areas and it is possible that the small generating systems can be dispensed with at the expense of large capital costs to extend the Katherine distribution system to what is now a very small number of consumers.

1217 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In the Animal Production Branch section of the Department of Primary Production's Division of Agriculture and Stock handbook mention is made of research programs and investigation of buffalo husbandry. Can the Minister give me details of this and its practical applications to farmers?

ANSWER

Investigations into buffalo husbandry undertaken by the Department of Primary Production have included:

in feral populations:

calving, predation, age structure, food and grazing, water and wallows, movements and distribution

in domestic herds:

domestication, branding and tattooing, dehorning, behaviour, handling and fencing

weaning, castration, mating/calving times, fertility, survival, heat tolerance and wallows

grazing habits, pasture utilisation, growth rates, feed lot performance, performance relative to Brahman/Shorthorn cross cattle, carcass composition.

The information obtained from these studies will have practical application in:

the management of feral buffalo populations;

defining the role of commercial buffalo production in the Territory economy;

the establishment and operation of commercial buffalo enterprises;

developing any regulatory measures considered necessary to protect the buffalo industry.

1219 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What population of Darwin and environs will the Darwin River Dam and the Manton River Dam be able to support -

- (a) with no regulation; and
- (b) with regulation?

ANSWER

No mandatory restrictions are contemplated.

With no conservation a population of 86,000 could be supplied.

With voluntary restraint this would rise to 92,000.

1220 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the intention of the Northern Territory government to establish or to encourage establishment of a marine park for the enjoyment by tourists and the Northern Territory public of piscatorial pleasures of capture and passive observation of fish?

ANSWER

The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is presently considering the establishment of marine national parks and reserves in a number of Northern Territory regions. The parks and reserves will be established to protect valuable coastal and marine environments and for the management and conservation of marine flora and fauna communities. In keeping with the commission's policies, provision will be made for public enjoyment, education and recreation in marine parks where compatible with the conservation goals. Marine parks and reserves will be in effect an extension of the existing system of parks and reserves throughout the Northern Territory.

Legal advice was recently obtained on a number of matters connected with the establishment of marine parks and reserves. Of particular importance to any future action is the proposed Commonwealth legislation on Coastal Waters (Northern Territory Powers) and Coastal Waters (Northern Territory Title) which will define the legislative power of the Northern Territory in respect of territorial seas. Once this is clarified, action can be commenced on the establishment of marine parks and reserves.

1222 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Why is the water tower on Whitewood Road not functional yet?
2. Was the construction up to the Department of Transport and Works standards and, if not, when will it be rectified and at whose expense?

ANSWER

The Whitewood Road water tower is still in the maintenance period and was emptied for a short period in December for a corrosion check. Any faults will be rectified by the contractor.

The tank was built in accordance with the specifications and the various Australian codes.

1223 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

If there are subsequent connections of blocks to the reticulated electricity before the elapse of the bond or levy time to the original energised blocks, will these later block owners have to pay a proportionate bond or levy and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

When an extension of the power system has been made with the aid of consumer contributions, there is no provision for subsequent connections to that system to be charged a proportionate contribution.

This is a problem which has concerned electricity authorities for years. It is not possible to keep going back and compensating people for new consumers. Every section of a HV extension will, at some time in the future, become a supply trunk for yet another subdivision and so on right back to the power station.

1224 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has a restricted list of fruit and vegetables, available to residents of Jabiru, been prepared because of National Parks and Wildlife Regulations? If so, has the list been approved by a competent dietitian?

ANSWER

It is not true that there is a restriction on the type of fruit and vegetables which can be eaten by the residents of Jabiru.

The residents will be able to enjoy similar fruit and vegetables as Darwin residents do. It is expected they will be obtainable from the local supermarket in the normal way.

It is true, however, that there is a restriction on the plant species which can be grown in Jabiru.

A list of indigenous Australian plant species has been approved by the Jabiru Town Development Authority, following consultation with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission and the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This list includes trees, shrubs, fruit trees, fruiting plants, vegetables and decorative indoor plants and should be sufficient to meet the needs of the most discerning gardening enthusiast.

1226 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Do secondary school teachers have a guaranteed release time amounting to at least 10% of teaching time for preparation, marking examinations papers, etc.?
2. Do primary school teachers enjoy the same provision and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Yes. All secondary school teachers have at least 10% (generally more) of their weekly program for preparation and marking, etc. It must be recognised that release time is not time off from work but is release from face-to-face teaching for the purpose of performing other associated duties, eg.
 - . the setting and marking of tests
 - . the marking of assignments and projects
 - . the preparation for lessons including practicals
 - . research and reading of supplementary subject matter.
2. No. In a primary school there are fewer tests to set and mark and there is less additional research and reading of subject matter required. However, primary teachers do undertake a considerable amount of preparation for their lessons, and are required to keep a large number of individual student and class records.

Officers of the Department have recently held extended discussions with the NT Teachers' Federation on this (and other) issues and we are in full agreement that subject to funds being made available by the Commonwealth for staff improvement, the staffing of primary schools in urban centres should be improved by a factor of 10% as soon as possible. The additional staff which this would provide could be utilised in one or more of the following ways:

1. reduction in class sizes in the early childhood years (1-3)
2. deployment of specialist teachers in areas such as music, art and crafts, physical education
3. some release time from direct teaching for teachers to enable them better to carry out their associated duties.

In the urban areas of the Northern Territory there are approximately 500 Band 1 and Band 2 teachers employed. A 10% improvement would mean an additional 50-odd Band 1 teachers at a cost of a little in excess of $\frac{1}{2}$ million. The improvement factor requested is restricted to urban centres only as outback schools already have a more generous pupil teacher ratio.

NOTE: Specialist teachers, over and above the existing establishment are employed in most schools, which already provides an opportunity for some release time for class teachers depending on the precise system of timetabling used in the school.

1227 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is the department going to allocate funds to the Darwin Primary School so that it can purchase appropriate furniture and fittings prior to the commencement of the 1980 school year?
2. If not, when will the school be allocated the money?
3. If the school is not being allocated any money at all for this purpose, why is it not?

ANSWER

1. Funds are not allocated to schools for the purchase of furniture. Furniture is ordered by the Department for all Government schools, and in the case of Darwin Primary School orders have been placed and delivery is expected before the commencement of the second term of 1980.
2. & 3. These questions are answered as in (1.) above.

1228 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the NT government investigated the possibility of obtaining federal government funds for the financing of the Katherine dam under the recently announced scheme of diverting from oil generation of electricity to alternative sources of energy such as hydro-power?

ANSWER

To date the Katherine hydro-electric scheme has not reached the stage where estimates can be made with any degree of accuracy. As soon as:

- (a) the project is proved to be technically possible; and
- (b) economically viable;

then the Electricity Commission, in conjunction with the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works and the Land Development Division of Department of Lands and Housing, will recommend to the government by way of a Cabinet paper how the costs shall be apportioned and where loan funds shall be obtained from.

1230 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

To what extent do government departments and statutory authorities have to consult the Public Service Commissioner's office on industrial relations matters?

ANSWER

Section 27 of the Public Service Act vests the power of determination of salaries and conditions of employees with the Public Service Commissioner. As all employees of Departments and statutory authorities (except Northern Territory Electricity Commission) are public servants, Departments and authorities must consult with the Public Service Commissioner on industrial relations issues in respect of these matters.

All other industrial relations matters arising from administrative actions are dealt with directly by management, with the Public Service Commissioner's Office providing a consultancy service to management on request.

Northern Territory Electricity Commission liaises with and keeps the Public Service Commissioner informed of industrial relations matters arising within the Commission.

1231 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What guarantees of occupancy by Northern Territory government departments are given to developers of office accommodation in the Territory?

ANSWER

No pre-commitment or guarantee is given initially to any developer prior to commencement of construction. Once construction is under way and we have a requirement for additional office space determined by forward planning of long term office accommodation requirements for all Northern Territory Government Departments, then negotiations may be entered into with the developer for the option to lease part or the whole of the building when completed. At that stage a guarantee of occupancy may be given for a set period up to a maximum of ten years as determined by circumstances related to forward planning. Usually a three year to five year period is negotiated with option for renewal thereafter if required and formal lease agreements are then executed.

1232 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is Palmdale Insurance Company still registered under the Workers Compensation Act and hence able to issue workers' compensation policies and, if so, why?

ANSWER

I signed a letter to Palmdale Insurance Company this morning so I have some knowledge of the present situation with that company. It has gone into liquidation in the south and naturally its branches in places such as the Territory are in the same situation. It wrote to the government requesting that its policies of workmen's compensation insurance be cancelled. We have responded to the company advising that the workmen's compensation policies will not be cancelled and that they are valid until the date of expiry. Of course, any shortfall that there may be in meeting claims on workers' compensation policies issued by Palmdale will be met by the Nominal Insurer.

1233 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What plans do Territory Parks and Wildlife officers have to administer the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act with reference to the keeping of protected fauna by private individuals?

ANSWER

The question that the honourable member for Tiwi has asked me is an interesting one. Territory Parks and Wildlife officers have attempted at all times to do their best to administer the act and its regulations effectively. From time to time, there have been problems because of the dispersal of the population throughout the Territory and the difficulties in meeting all inspectorial requirements. Indeed, there has been a backlog in dealing with applications for permission to keep wildlife privately but I understand that this backlog has now been almost cleared. Inspectors should be on top of the position in the very near future and should be able to carry out regular inspections.

1234 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Was he aware that the New South Wales Workers' Compensation Commission had refused Palmdale a licence to operate in the field of workers' compensation insurance? If so, what steps were taken to ensure that Palmdale were viable before they were given a licence in the Northern Territory to write workers' compensation insurance?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the New South Wales Workers' Compensation Commission had refused Palmdale Insurance Company a licence to write workers' compensation insurance in New South Wales. I will be interested to see evidence of that from the honourable the Leader of the Opposition. Nevertheless, Palmdale Insurance Company in the Northern Territory had been authorised to write workers' compensation business until its recent entry into liquidation. I understand that inspections of the Northern Territory branch indicates that it was carrying on business on a sound and profitable basis. I understand it has gone into liquidation as a result of unsound investment rather than unsound insurance trading.

1235 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will tenders be called for the use of the Darwin Hospital as a private hospital?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member an exact date. The tender documents are currently being drawn up by the department and, as soon as they are ready and have been approved by Cabinet, they will be given to the Tender Board for processing.

1236 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Nominal Insurer requested the government to cancel the registration of Palmdale Insurance as a writer of workers' compensation in the Territory.

ANSWER

I am informed by my colleague the Treasurer that the Nominal Insurer has requested the government to cancel the authority of Palmdale to write workers' compensation in the Northern Territory. This follows on from the company entering into liquidation.

1237 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road into the contractors' village at Nhulunbuy be upgraded?

ANSWER

The road is not on our current works program but we are giving the work required further consideration and hope that it can be committed to a works program later in the year.

1238 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Following on correspondence I have had with the minister, can he please advise me if a decision has been reached regarding motor vehicle registration reminders? If so, what is the decision?

ANSWER

Renewal notices will be sent out for vehicle registrations and for licences. The problem with the labels has not been resolved. We are looking closely at producing a new label which might alleviate some of the problems. The possibility of computerisation was raised in this House last year. We are unable to shift over to modern computerisation like the airlines, which was mentioned in that debate, and we are not prepared at this stage to have the labels typed individually because of the delays involved. We are still looking at the problem of labels and I think that we will come up with an adequate response.

1239 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the government yet decided on a level of annual subsidy to the Darwin city council for the development of the multi-storey car park in the Central Business District?

ANSWER

After a long period of negotiation with the city council officers and calculations of the subsidy necessary to enable the Darwin city council to overcome the current parking difficulties in the central business district, the government decided on a form of government assistance which has been offered to the corporation. We have offered the corporation a direct grant subsidy of \$1.7m and will also hand over various blocks of land throughout the central business district in Darwin which have been earmarked as suitable for either present or future car parking. That land is valued at about \$510,000. The offer was made to the corporation last Friday. I understand that the corporation will hold a meeting today to consider the offer. I hope that they will see the offer for what it is: a genuine offer by government to give the corporation sufficient funds to enable it to provide a total of some 1,400 car parking spaces off the street in Darwin. This includes the existing car parks that are off street in the various areas operated by the city council itself.

1240 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why has Palmdale Insurance Company not been de-registered as the writer of workers' compensation insurance in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I would ask him to place that question on notice.

1241 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he inform me if any tenders were received for the letting of the cafeteria in the Chan Building?

ANSWER

Tenders have been called but, as far as I know, no tenders have been received. I understand that perhaps 1 or 2 offers rather than acceptances of the tender have been received. I understand that my department is considering the position at the present time.

1242 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

It is the policy of the Darwin Hospital that it will not arrange for persons admitted to the Casualty Section to see a private specialist if they request it. Is this in line with the minister's own policy and, if not, will he act to change the policy presently being implemented by people at the Darwin Hospital?

ANSWER

Did the honourable member refer to a private specialist or a private practitioner?

Mrs Lawrie: Either.

Mr TUXWORTH: My understanding is that, if a patient is admitted to the hospital and requests to see his private practitioner, that can be arranged. If that is not the case and the honourable member documents certain cases for me to have investigated, I will be happy to do that.

So far as referral to a specialist is concerned, when people are referred by departmental doctors to specialists, they are referred to the specialists of the department's choice. If the honourable member has any knowledge of people being denied access to their private practitioners, I would welcome a letter from her.

1243 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that staffing at the new Casuarina Library which he opened yesterday has been reduced to 11 despite the minister's assurance in the Assembly late last year that the library would have a full-time staff of 15? What effect will this reduction have on the range of services to be offered by the library and the hours that it will be opened to the public?

ANSWER

We are working on the recommendations of the state librarian in Western Australia, Professor Sharman, that a staff of 15 is the number that Casuarina Library should employ. The library was opened only yesterday. It is our intention to evaluate the effect of the opening of the Casuarina Library on the Nightcliff Library. After that evaluation, it may be necessary to close the Nightcliff Library. The staff would then be transferred over to the Casuarina Library. If the Nightcliff Library remains viable, I will put the case to my Cabinet colleagues for additional staff at the Casuarina Library. We anticipate that the library service will operate for 40½ hours per week. I would imagine that in the next 2 or 3 months I will be in a position to put that proposition to my colleagues.

1244 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who is responsible for the upkeep of the road from Humpty Doo to the Elizabeth Valley area, the Department of Transport and Works or the land developer? If it is the developer, what redress do the block holders have when the road is in disrepair?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works regularly maintains the first 2 kilometres of this access road from the Arnhem Highway which is part of the Fred's Pass Road. The remaining 8 kilometres have not been accepted for maintenance by the government and are not maintained by my department. As to the last part of the question, I would only be giving an opinion and I do not think that is proper.

1245 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the Chief Minister's visit to Manila with a large delegation at considerable public expense, why has permission been refused to the Department of Primary Industry's librarian to attend a conference and workshop for rural librarians in Manila in March of this year?

ANSWER

These matters have nothing in common. I would have thought that a librarian going overseas to study librarian matters is quite a separate issue from tourism. If the honourable gentleman wants to raise the question of the Manila trip, he should do so with the Chief

Minister who is more qualified to answer. As for the librarian being refused permission to go to Manila for a conference, some 8 months ago I sent an application to the Overseas Travel Committee with a recommendation that the librarian be supported. The recommendation was knocked back. That is the only information I have.

1246 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are all schools in the Northern Territory fully staffed for the 1980 school year?

ANSWER

Regrettably, the answer to that question is no. I do not know the position exactly in the Top End. I understand that, in the Darwin district and in relation to the rural schools throughout the Territory, the problem is non-existent. There are some teaching staff members missing from the Alice Springs High School and from Tennant Creek. This is a result of the problems with accommodation and the failure of the recruitment mechanism somewhere between our own system and that of the Commonwealth Teaching Service. An officer of the department is currently down south recruiting. Every effort is being made to bring staff numbers up to establishment level and I would assume this will be done over the next couple of weeks. I am assured by the department and by the principals of the schools involved that, at this stage, it poses no problem whatsoever for the delivery of programs in their schools. The staff have got behind their principals in every case and, as a result of the dedication and the preparedness of teachers to put themselves out, no student will be disadvantaged.

1247 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

The honourable minister will be aware that the Gove District Hospital is the only hospital in the Territory not equipped with a swimming pool for the use of the staff. Considering the isolation of Gove, I would be grateful to learn when this unsatisfactory situation will be rectified.

ANSWER

The honourable member has raised this question several times in the House. I am happy to tell him that money has been made available to the Department of Transport and Works for the construction of a swimming pool at the Gove Hospital. I am sure that the staff and the honourable member will be ultimately satisfied with the result.

1248 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that his department is currently considering a proposal by air charter operators for the use of the Sattler airstrip and, if so, when will a decision on this matter be taken?

ANSWER

There are a couple of applications for use of the Sattler airstrip by charter and flying club operators. I believe that the answer to the question should properly come from the Minister for Lands and Housing. I understand that there will be a negative response from the federal Department of Transport in respect of the applications.

1249 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

When will he announce the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

After an assessment of a number of applications received for the use of all or part of the site and buildings, Cabinet has decided that approximately one third of the area, including the improvements, will be granted to the Greek community of northern Australia for a very interesting proposal which it has to upgrade the facilities for various purposes. The balance of the site will be vested in the Housing Commission which will draw up a proposal for development and submit it to me for approval. The Housing Commission proposal will be aimed towards looking at aged persons' accommodation. At the moment, there are some studies underway to ascertain the specific needs in that field. I hope that, within a few months, a plan can be drawn up for that portion of the land. The land to be given to the Greek community will also include a soccer field at the rear of the building towards Nightcliff Road. Together with open space which will be incorporated in the Housing Commission development, this should satisfy the honourable member's desire that at least part of the area should be kept as open space. That is a concept that I also support.

1250 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Have steps been taken to place a medical officer on Groote Eylandt where there is no such officer?

ANSWER

The department lost its medical officer at Groote Eylandt in the latter part of last year and has had a great deal of difficulty recruiting somebody to go to such a remote place. In the recent days, the department has been fortunate to recruit the services of a husband and wife team who are due to take up their duties at Groote soon. I believe the problem has been overcome for the present. We are trying to set in train a process whereby we can plan ahead and allocate doctors to particular areas for a certain period and then plan to replace them at the end of that time. One of the difficulties we have had with places such as Gove and Tennant Creek is that doctors say they will come for 2 or 3 years and, at the end of a 12-month period, they pack their bags and go. It is very difficult to recruit people at short notice for those areas.

1251 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it a fact that money was allocated this financial year for the Community College of Central Australia to conduct a course in hospitality and tourism and, if so, will he advise when this particular course will commence? Is it a fact that it has been proposed that Gillen House in Alice Springs may be used as a hostel for migrants?

ANSWER

In answer to the last part of the question first, the answer is no. That is the first that I have ever heard of it and I would think it is probably just another figment of the inventive mind of the honourable member for MacDonnell. Gillen House is proposed by the government to be used as a school of tourism and catering. It is not true to say

that specific funds were allocated to the Community College of Central Australia last year for the purpose of establishing that school. Funds were made available to recruit a person who would act as head of that school and develop a course. Contrary to what the honourable member for MacDonnell may think and may utter in his press statements, you cannot pluck a complete curriculum program out of the air. We had to employ someone who had to obtain an understanding of Territory tourism. He has been generously funded to travel around Australia to examine equivalent schools around this country in order that he may develop his course. We have heard the accusation that the government is delaying the program. That is utterly untrue. It would not have been possible to commence such a course at the beginning of this year even if we owned the premises in which to conduct it. After protracted negotiations with the Baptist Trust, the government assumed responsibility for Gillen House on 1 January. Quite obviously, if this is to be done at all, it must be done well. Contrary to what the opposition believes, this government does not believe in blundering into things with knee-jerk proposals. It believes in working things out in detail and doing things properly the first time round. I hope to see the school of hospitality and catering to commence not later than the beginning of the next financial year. I believe we are now reaching a stage where we may be able to introduce short courses well before that time.

1252 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What progress has been made towards the establishment of a Northern Territory teaching service?

ANSWER

The policy of the government since self-government has been to establish a Northern Territory teaching service. The example I gave in an answer to a question from the honourable member for Arnhem highlights the necessity of having our own teaching service. In answering his question, I may have done my department a disservice by putting the breakdown in communications the wrong way round. In fact, there was no lack of diligence on the part of the department here. The problem occurred by having an employer responsible to another government over 1500 miles away. I have been working with the draftsmen now for over 3 weeks on a detailed preparation of a bill. I have had a detailed discussion and a preliminary discussion with the Northern Territory Teacher's Federation and will be having another one this week. I would like to put on record my appreciation of the cooperation and help that the federation executive has given in this exercise. I expect to talk to the draftsmen about the preparation of a final bill today. Of course, the bill must then go back for various discussions by people who are interested before it is tabled here. I anticipate giving notice of a Northern Territory Teaching Service Bill on the second last day of this sittings and presenting it on the last day.

1253 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When can we expect a sealed access road to the Alice Springs powerhouse?

ANSWER

Treasury and NTEC have been talking to each other about the need for this road and I understand that NTEC will seek money for that very purpose.

1254 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

What particular expertise is enjoyed by the 3 persons recently appointed as Inspectors of Cruelty under the Cruelty to Animals Act? I refer to the 3 persons who are inspectors of the Corporation of the City of Darwin also.

ANSWER

The honourable member will be aware that some of the questions that are coming to me this morning relate to the discharge of my functions which have been carried out by my colleague, the Treasurer, in my absence on my well-publicised visit to Manila where I enjoyed observing certain elections being held. I am told it is a dictatorship. To get to the question, 11 people were nominated by the Corporation of the City of Darwin for appointment as SPCA inspectors. The quality we look for in appointing these people is a high degree of responsibility. We should not expect a high degree of expertise in animal husbandry from all our inspectors. I understand that, under the act, policemen are appointed as inspectors. In the final analysis, 3 people will be appointed but I am not certain whether those appointments have been made.

1255 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has there been an increase over the last 3 years in the number of prison inmates requiring psychiatric treatment? If so, why?

ANSWER

There has been an increase in the number of inmates who require psychiatric care. Unfortunately, there are no accurate statistics to help me make a proper assessment of the situation. Generally speaking, it is considered that drug addiction has played a major role in the increase of people requiring psychiatric care in prisons.

1256 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he confirm in the House that he is opposed to a redistribution of electorates despite the fact that 6 out of the 19 seats are outside the 20% tolerance? If so, would he outline his reasons to the House?

ANSWER

I certainly cannot confirm to this House that I am opposed to a redistribution. I would very much like to see a redistribution take place in the Northern Territory before the next Legislative Assembly election. If, as is bruited in the common press, the honourable the Leader of the Opposition has a bill which he proposes to introduce into this House during this sittings to provide - contrary to his insistence when we passed the Electoral Bill - that we can appoint a delegate of the Chief Electoral Officer from one of the redistribution commissioners, then, if that legislation is appropriate, the government will certainly accept it.

At a recent press conference, I stated several reasons why - for example, logistics - a redistribution could not be held before the next election. To order a redistribution at this stage, as the opposition seems to want us to do, would be to perpetrate the first gerrymander in the history of Northern Territory politics because we would exclude the

Aboriginal voters who are to be compulsorily enrolled. There are teams going out to fulfil this task but I am told by the Electoral Office that they will not have fulfilled it until early May. If those people are ignored and the rolls are taken as they are now, then we will indeed be establishing a gerrymander. The government is not setting itself up to establish a gerrymander. We have inherited a situation whereby the Chief Electoral Officer, as I have said in the press, is unavailable to us to serve on the committee at the present time because of his Commonwealth commitments.

Apart from the fact that the Aboriginal people will not be on the rolls until early May, the reasons are that there are various steps set out in the Electoral Act which have to be taken once a redistribution is ordered. Those steps, if taken at breakneck speed, would take at least 100 days to complete. In my view, it would be impossible in all the circumstances to complete a redistribution until almost a week before the Assembly elections are due. It is really humanly impossible for many of the steps to be taken in the time that was allocated for them according to the briefing notes that I received. For instance, 2 days were allotted for the electoral redistribution commissioner to consider submissions and redraw the boundaries. As I recall on the occasion of the last redistribution, it took them many weeks to carry out that task. The government is not opposed to a redistribution. Indeed, it would like to see one. The practicalities of the situation make it such that it is unlikely that one will be able to be carried out.

1257 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise the results of the investigations of the Darwin waste water treatment plant which were carried out by the water division of his department in association with Binnie International (Aust) Pty Ltd and which were scheduled for completion in January of this year?

ANSWER

I have not got an up-to-date brief in front of me on that question. I will seek the information and provide it to the honourable member later in this sittings.

1258 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could he advise the House of the current state of the program to carry out rehabilitation work at Rum Jungle?

ANSWER

Because of the heavy involvement of the Commonwealth government in this particular project, the fact that the Northern Territory government acts as an agent for the Commonwealth in the rehabilitation project and the fact that I do not have the information at my fingertips. I will seek a written reply for the honourable member to bring him up to date.

1259 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has his department conducted an investigation into a proposal to allow free travel on buses to persons in receipt of unemployment benefits and, if so, what was the result of the investigation?

ANSWER

Yes, the department has been looking at the question of various persons travelling on buses at concessional rates. A submission is being prepared for me at this present time so that I can take the matter up further with the Minister for Community Development. Further progress will be reported in due course.

1260 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the total value of transactions conducted through the Real Property Office during 1979?

ANSWER

The Real Property Office is where land sales, transfers and leases are registered in the Northern Territory under our Torrens title system. Last year, there was an increase of almost 1,000 in the actual number of dealings. I do not have those figures immediately in front of me but my recollection is that the number of dealings went from 7,000 to 8,000. The increase in the actual value of all the transfers of property was quite startling. The figures for 1978 throughout the Territory gave a total of about \$43m and the total for 1979 was \$68,130,000, an increase of roughly 50%.

1261 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise whether he has had discussions with other Attorneys-General regarding the regulation of the security industry and the uniformity of such regulation throughout Australia?

ANSWER

I have had discussions with other Attorneys-General regarding a uniform companies and security scheme being brought into operation throughout Australia. There are still difficulties between the states. A commission has been appointed which is trying to set the scheme up at present. The Northern Territory is looking at various alternatives. One of our problems is that the states will not admit the Territory as a voting member on the committee of management. In those circumstances, we do not feel that it is entirely wise to be bound by decisions in which we have little or no say. In all probability, I expect that the legislation to be introduced in the Northern Territory will be substantially similar to that being introduced elsewhere. In any event, I can assure all honourable members that a close scrutiny is being kept of developments throughout the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory will have legislation that will hold its own.

1262 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Public Service Commissioner received position papers from other state and Commonwealth public services on permanent part-time employment in the public service? If so, what action is the government taking on part-time positions in the career structure of the public service?

ANSWER

I cannot tell the honourable Leader of the Opposition whether the Public Service Commissioner has received position papers from the public

service boards and commissions outside the Northern Territory. I was not specifically aware that the Public Service Commissioner had sought these documents. Naturally, the Public Service Commissioner keeps me informed broadly on what is happening within his area. It has been my endeavour to interfere in the Public Service Commissioner's business as little as possible. Apparently, the Leader of the Opposition expects me to go through the Public Service Commissioner's mail. I can say that the Public Service Commissioner, at my direction, is considering the introduction in the Northern Territory of permanent part-time employment. I have stated that publicly a couple of times. The Public Service Commissioner has told me that there are problems concerning this. It is an objective that he would like to achieve and he is working towards that end. I do not believe that hastening into permanent part-time employment would be the answer. I think that we must look at all the problems and see that they are sorted out beforehand.

1263 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

Is it a fact that last month he approved in principle the purchase of the Sportarama building in Alice Springs for use by the Community College of Central Australia? If so, will he also undertake to advise the council of the community college of the approval to purchase?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any of the buildings and the transactions to which the honourable member refers. Certainly, nothing on the matter has passed across my desk.

1274 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER.

What are the guidelines followed in assessing the credentials of a company wishing to sell workers' compensation policies in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I ask him to place that question on notice because it involves quite a deal of research. I do not have to hand the full details of the criteria that are applied in assessing the suitability of insurance companies to carry on business in the Northern Territory. I would prefer to provide a completely detailed answer.

1275 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What facilities are there at the new Casuarina Hospital for psychiatric patients? I refer to the number of beds intended to be available and rehabilitative facilities.

ANSWER

The Campbell Southwell report which was brought down just before Christmas has been accepted in principle by the government. The recommendations that Campbell and Southwell made relating to retaining services in the Darwin Hospital, particularly geriatric and psychiatric services, were that it would be in the best interests of the Territory or the people that we should not try to include everybody in the new Casuarina Hospital until new facilities are built for these particular branches of medicine on the Casuarina site. There is an interdepartmental committee working at the moment to see how these things can be put into practice. The fifth floor of the Casuarina Hospital, which is proposed to be the ward for the psychiatric patients, is currently designed to hold about 64 beds and 28 bassinets. It has to be remodelled rather extensively to cater for psychiatric patients. The issue of rehabilitation has not been examined at this stage. When the matter is finally resolved, I will advise the honourable member of the results.

1276 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the Electricity Commission the power to check electricity meters within the boundaries of caravan parks where those meters have been installed by the park management?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the commission does have that power. However, I will obtain a verification in writing for the honourable member.

1277 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The East Arm slipway is one of the only safe boat ramps for people in the local area. Could the minister tell us whether access will be provided to the East Arm slipway for the general public? If the answer is no, could he say what action the Northern Territory government is able to take to ensure that this facility is open for public use?

ANSWER

I have been trying to get the East Arm slipway opened up for the public unsuccessfully for some years now. The area is covered by a quarantine declaration under a federal act that prohibits other persons, particularly the general public, going into the area at all. I have been writing letters to the federal Minister for Health and over the last year I also engaged the assistance of my colleague, the Minister for Health in the Northern Territory, to write as well trying to encourage the Commonwealth to amend the quarantine boundaries so that they can be retracted to an area covering the quarantine facilities there yet still provide access to the very substantial ramp which is a very valuable facility in a part of the harbour that at present has no public access at all.

We have been unsuccessful. However, we have received advice that the Commonwealth in its acquisitions of the Northern Territory which it had to complete prior to 1 July 1979 did leave most of the East Arm area in the hands of the Northern Territory. Whilst the land belongs to the Northern Territory, the quarantine declaration still prohibits public entry. I understand that the Health Department in the Northern Territory has received recent advice from the federal Health officials that, as a result of new quarantine facilities being arranged at Fairfield in New South Wales, there is a proposal to vacate East Arm completely. The East Arm area has been proposed in the past for a future powerhouse site and also an industrial area and port. Without question, the quarantine facilities will have to be relocated elsewhere eventually. I will now enlist the aid of the Chief Minister, the biggest gun we have in the Northern Territory, to try to prevail upon the federal Minister for Health to see his way clear to amend this quarantine boundary. There is no reason whatsoever in any arguments that have been put forward by the federal government in the past that the boundary should cover the area that it does at the present time. The facilities at East Arm are completely fenced from the public. The federal Department of Health has taken a completely unrealistic attitude. I hope that, in the next few months, we will be able to resolve the matter.

1278 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he received the report on the future use of the Fannie Bay Gaol site and, if so, what are the recommendations and does the government intend to act on them?

ANSWER

We have received an initial report. Until such time as an evaluation is made and I can report to Cabinet, no further consideration will be made.

1279 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the importance of obtaining necessary business qualifications from the court, why has the Real Estate Institute course been discontinued at the Darwin Community College this year?

ANSWER

I think the honourable member was referring to the Land and Business

Agents course which the Darwin Community College does conduct. It has not been terminated at all. I do not know where that information came from. It is quite inaccurate. The Darwin Community College advertised in about November last year for second year enrolments. They had about 40 in first year. In the first response to the advertisement for second year enrolments, there were about 4. Quite clearly the Darwin Community College cannot run a viable course of that nature with just 4 students.

Although viewed with mixed feelings by some, the legislation requires qualifications to be gained to practise as a real estate agent or a business agent. As a result of that, members of the Real Estate Institute promptly went around and rustled up some interest in the course. I understand that there are about 16 for the second year course and it will be commencing forthwith. There has never been a termination; it is just that the second year never got off the ground until it was pointed out to people who were interested in this area that they should continue.

The government will be making available to the Darwin Community College the additional sum of \$10,000 to prepare the course as an external course so that people outside of Darwin can participate and so that the documentation and curriculum developed by the external course will also be available to the Community College of Central Australia. As such, it will form a core of the curriculum for that college.

1280 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What was the cattle turnoff in Alice Springs district last year? What is the rate of national increase? Does the government have plans to cope with the gross overstocking of properties if the extraordinary run of good seasons finishes this year and taking into consideration that one pocket of land in the district has already been declared a drought area?

ANSWER

The figures requested do not readily spring to mind. I think the Territory turnoff was about 400,000 cattle last year. I cannot answer the exact regional turnoff question. I think the turnoff figures can be expected to accelerate somewhat because of the dry conditions and the better transportation systems that will be available during 1980. I do not believe that the honourable member is correct in his statement that there is a declared drought area in Central Australia. I understand that some properties have suffered very dry periods and I will be looking at those properties this weekend to enable the government to decide just what its position should be in respect of its drought policy.

1281 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is there any further information available as to the future of Palmerston House situated in Myilly Terrace?

ANSWER

No decision has been made to proceed with any development of Palmerston House. As I told the member when he first asked me this

question late last year, it is being used by the Department of Community Development to store office equipment and furniture. It would be a very expensive process to rehabilitate Palmerston House. Until such time as a decision is made on its future, I cannot give the honourable member any further information.

1282 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Would the minister provide this House with more details about the type of aircraft, particularly light aircraft, to be used by the new Northern Territory airline? Is he aware that the people of western Queensland rejected proposals to replace domestic carriers with a new service using the smaller planes likely to be used in the Northern Territory? What steps is the government taking to ensure that air travellers in the Territory do not receive an inferior service in terms of inflight service and facilities under the new airline?

ANSWER

I will provide the information during the course of the sittings.

1283 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What facilities are provided at Berrimah Gaol for women? I refer to sport and recreation facilities, work areas, work undertaken, work release and also further education. Would he also advise in what ways do these differ from facilities available to men at the Berrimah Gaol?

Mr SPEAKER: I direct that the question be placed on notice.

1284 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the proposed stock feed legislation. Has a submission gone to Cabinet for legislation to be prepared and, if not, when will that submission be before Cabinet?

ANSWER

It has not gone before the Cabinet. I have been somewhat remiss in not having the information at this time. I will endeavour to obtain the information for her at a later time.

1285 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the minister advise when serviced land will be made available in Katherine for residential purposes?

ANSWER

There has been a shortage of land in Katherine. The government has moved as expeditiously as it could to ensure that land is turned off from the area known as the Transport and Works depot as soon as possible. A proposal has been drawn up which includes somewhere between 20 and 30 residential allotments. These can be turned out fairly quickly with a small amount of roadworks being installed. I understand that this is well advanced and they are proposing to go to tender on the road concerned very shortly. The longer-term needs of Katherine certainly will not be met by 20 or 30 blocks and we are proposing to go

again to tender this financial year for Katherine east residential subdivision, an area just out of Katherine which jumps a flood plain. That will be the future major expansion of Katherine. Across the road from that is the Katherine east industrial subdivision which will go to tender in May this year. I would hope that towards the latter half of this year residential lots will be turned off for sale in Katherine itself and, not long after that, land will be turned off just out of Katherine but in more substantial quantities.

1286 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Alice Springs Basketball Association has made an application for land in the Sadadeen area for a basketball stadium. Could he tell me when the lease is likely to issue?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that question. I am not aware of every single application that is made to the government for land. There are many of them every month and I am not familiar with this particular application. I would really have no idea when a lease will issue and, indeed, if a lease will issue. Of course, the government does not accede to every request for land and, in some cases, it is felt that a more appropriate course would be for certain sporting organisations - I am not saying that this applies here - to amalgamate their applications with other similar groups to get the best use of facilities, land and club houses and to make a more successful and viable operation for all.

1287 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it intended that the new Territory airline will take over the Aerial Medical Service?

ANSWER

The future function and administration of the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service is one that is currently under review. TAA have been servicing the NTAMS organisation for some time and part of the proposal with East West Airlines was that they be given an opportunity to carry on that work. East West Airlines are negotiating with the department on what is required and a decision will be taken in due course. It is more a question of economics than of principle. We are quite happy for East West Airlines to be involved.

1288 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he inform me of any proposed maintenance program to upgrade the public service houses in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

After an unfortunately long period of agitation from the honourable member for Nhulunbuy, the government has all the specifications and inspections necessary to decide on a course of action in relation to public service houses in Nhulunbuy which were originally built by the mining company. These houses have quite a number of faults which have not been attended to. The faults stretch back quite a number of years. Recently, the Housing Commission completed its assessment of the situation and, in respect of 69 houses, has undertaken to have faulty windows and mechanisms replaced, which have been a source of considerable

frustration to tenants, insect screens fixed and kitchen and bathroom modifications made. I believe the situation is really quite serious in some situations. The hot water systems will also be replaced in the dwellings and painting carried out to bring them up to a comparable standard with other government buildings in the Territory.

1289 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the reply he gave yesterday regarding the future use of Carpentaria College. Would he table in this Assembly the "interesting proposal" which the Greek community has to upgrade the facilities for various purposes? I refer to the improvements on the site and the one-third of the site which has been granted to the Greek community. I ask him to make public the details of those proposals.

ANSWER

I think the appropriate minister to handle this matter would be the Minister for Community Development. I am not trying to dodge the issue but it is more his role now that it has reached the stage of land allocation. I am sure the minister will undertake to provide details.

1290 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Would the minister table in this Assembly the "interesting proposal" which the Greek community has to upgrade the facilities for various purposes? I refer to the improvements on the site and the one-third of the site which has been granted to the Greek community. I ask him to make public the details of those proposals.

ANSWER

Yes.

1291 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Will he undertake to examine a rental subsidy scheme for low-income earners in private rental accommodation who are awaiting Housing Commission accommodation?

ANSWER

I noted with some interest in the press over the last couple of weeks that the honourable member mentioned that the government should subsidise some persons in the private sector for their rental accommodation. We would need to approach this with great caution because it could be enormously expensive and may do little more, in some circumstances, than drive up rents by the amount of government subsidies. The government has a very extensive program this year in providing accommodation for the public. Indeed, on a percentage basis, the Northern Territory would have more houses built by its Housing Commission than any other state in Australia. I believe the closest state to us would have something like 5% of its housing stock built by the government whereas the Northern Territory would have something in the vicinity of 31%, that is including government houses as well. We could hardly be accused of not seeking to put much of the government's resources into housing the public in the Northern Territory.

In answer to the honourable member's question, the matter of government subsidy to the private accommodation market is a question which is

being looked at by federal housing officials at this stage and no doubt will be the subject of some discussion at a forthcoming Housing Ministers Conference. At this stage, the Northern Territory government is not contemplating such a scheme.

1292 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he advise what action, if any, his department will be taking to rehabilitate the road side and other areas through the foothills north of Alice Springs which were damaged by the reconstruction of that road?

ANSWER

The department is well aware of the problems caused by construction as far as it affects the environment. Indeed, it has spent in excess of \$100,000 on repairs to some of the areas that have been damaged. At present, it is in consultation with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission Soil Conservation Unit. We will be looking at further regeneration and rehabilitation in due course.

1293 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he tell the House what support the Northern Territory government has given to Darwin's solar village?

ANSWER

I will need to obtain that information for the honourable member. I am aware that the solar village has sought support from many government agencies in the Northern Territory. I am aware that they wrote to the Mines Division and we offered them support of a technical nature. I will provide the information at a later date.

1294 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise whether there has been further development since the introduction of the Aboriginal worker health program in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

As honourable members will know, the health worker training program has been under way for some years. It has recently been expanded to Gove and we are looking at setting up a health worker training base from the hospital in Katherine. I am sure that would be music to your ears, Mr Speaker. One of the most recent developments which has come about is that there are so many young Aboriginal people who have reached high levels of proficiency in their respective training courses that the department is now introducing a senior health worker trainee so that people can become proficient and are able to take over the functions and administration of their health centres in remote areas. These duties can be handed over. There will be somebody with local responsibilities to hand them to and the normal lines of management can be maintained.

1295 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to the very long, large open drain on Playford Street and part of Douglas Street in my electorate, which I am sure the minister is aware of. The drain is the responsibility of the Corporation of the

City of Darwin but that body is unwilling or unable to enclose the drain. Will he undertake to have money allocated in the next budget for this work to be done in the interests of the residents and also of the Darwin Racing Club?

ANSWER

I am indeed very happy to have the experts in the Department of Transport and Works discuss the matter with the council. As the honourable member indicated, it is a council responsibility. However, we have assisted the council on many projects over the last 2 years and, if we can get this sort of work onto a program, we will.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

1296 Mr STEELE (Transport and Works): Mr Speaker, I would like to reply fully to a question that was asked of me yesterday by the honourable member for Alice Springs. I inadvertently misled the House with the reply I gave the member. The question referred to matters of registration, renewal notices and so on. The misleading reply to the question was in respect of the registration labels. The department has been 3 steps in front of me and they have produced a brand new label without the typing that was required under the old system. This might go a long way towards expediting efficient services to the public.

1306 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the Chief Minister agree with his recent statement that the government should go its full term and, if not, will he end speculations forthwith and name the date of the next Legislative Assembly elections?

ANSWER

The government has done nothing which could cause speculation about the date of the next elections. I have said on several occasions that the elections are due by 13 August. I see no reason for elections to be called earlier. Speculation by journalists in the dead of night, which I would suggest is what caused this morning's radio reports, is not for the government to account to the people for. I have said many times to journalists and to this House that I cannot see any reason for early elections at the present time. To make a firmer commitment than that is impossible.

1307 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I understand that proposals to have a new caravan park set aside in the Brinkin subdivision have not been included in the current plan that is on display for that area. In view of the urgent need for additional accommodation in this field, could the minister please tell me what areas are being considered for the additional provision for a caravan park in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

The subject of the availability of caravan parks in Darwin is of some interest to me. I am concerned that the Planning Authority chose not to exhibit a government proposal that land at Brinkin be included in the current re-zoning of the area for a caravan park within reasonable proximity of the foreshore. The Corporation of the City of Darwin is proposing to go ahead with their scheme of establishing a fairly large park on the Tracy Village site as a result of an agreement that they have with the federal government of a limited-term tenure over the area. They are proposing a tourist park as distinct from one that houses long-term caravan dwellers. I believe that we need to plan further areas in Darwin for caravan parks. While arguments may be put at the moment that there are sufficient parks around to meet the immediate needs, I believe that we should take opportunities now to exhibit further sites for caravan parks even if they are not released. A proposal by a private developer to have a caravan park at Coconut Grove is to go on display shortly and members will see notices in the near future in that regard.

1308 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

What steps has the government taken to have cricket test matches televised in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government has and is continuing to do all in its power to try to have the cricket test matches and all other major sporting events televised in the Territory. Indeed, with the cooperation of the federal Minister for Post and Telegraphs, Mr Tony Staley, the government was successful in persuading the Australian Broadcasting

Commission to avail itself of the offer of the exclusive rights that Channel 0 had for the Melbourne Cup last November. We saw the Melbourne Cup in the Territory even though people outside the metropolitan area of Brisbane in Queensland did not at the time. We have made numerous representations to both the ABC and the Commonwealth minister about sporting broadcasts and major sporting events generally. As far as cricket is concerned, the problem is the agreement entered into by the Cricket Board of Control with the Packer group of companies, and that agreement gives Channel 9 the exclusive rights to televise test cricket for 3 years. The Territory government made submissions to the Trade Practices Commission in an endeavour to upset the agreement at least to the extent that it excluded the right of the ABC to televise test cricket. The Trade Practices Commission took the view that the agreement did not contravene the Trade Practices Act. Honourable members may not be aware that the ABC sought an interim injunction just before Christmas to restrain the Australian Cricket Board of Control and the Packer group from giving effect to the agreement. The ABC failed in that attempt. The substantive hearing of the ABC's action against the Australian Cricket Board and the Packer group is presently being heard in the Federal Court in Sydney. The Northern Territory sought on Tuesday to intervene in the action to put the Territory's point of view. In the event, our application to intervene was refused but all parties have been left in no doubt as to just how upset the Territory is at being excluded from televised broadcasts of test cricket and other major sporting events.

1309 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is mining reserve No 352 at Kangaroo Flats between Finnis River Station Road and Waugite Road a mining reserve belonging to the Department of Defence because it is a firing range or because it is an area populated by kangaroos?

ANSWER

The reserve was declared in 1972 by the Mines Branch to preclude any exploration activity over an area which the army had set aside as a small arms firing range. To my knowledge, that is the only activity that the reserve has ever been declared for. I am unaware of any information which suggests that the area is heavily populated with wallabies and it would seem to me that, if the area is being used as a small arms firing range by the army, then it is most unlikely that fauna of any description would be in the area because they would be frightened away by the discharging of the guns.

1310 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Some time ago in the Assembly, he made a statement about the desirability of the introduction of updated consumer credit legislation in the Northern Territory. New South Wales is now proceeding to do this. Can he advise the House what steps are being taken to introduce such legislation as soon as possible here?

ANSWER

Consumer credit legislation is a fairly vexed question. It is a topic that has been before the Australian Attorneys-General at their conferences ever since I have been representing the Territory at those conferences. One must appreciate that, for the Northern Territory to retain lines of credit and links with the financial mainstream of

of Australian life, we cannot, unlike New South Wales, go it alone on consumer credit legislation. For that reason, we have been very anxious to see the uniform consumer credit legislation which was prepared by the Victorian Parliamentary Draftsman. I understand the bills were introduced in the Victorian parliament in 1979 and received some widespread measure of approval from the other states of the Commonwealth. Indeed, at one stage during the meetings of Attorneys-General, it appeared to me that there was general agreement on the nature of the consumer credit legislation - and I am speaking off the top of my head but I am fairly certain that all that I am saying is correct - and that was why the bills were introduced in Victoria so that they could be debated there. I myself received many submissions from financial institutions that were concerned with different aspects of the Victorian legislation. Once the various problems had been worked out, the legislation was to be introduced in all other Australian state parliaments.

I must say that the implementation of the complex legislation would have been quite a burden to the Northern Territory and would have resulted in the appointment of a considerable number of additional officers. There were commissions to be set up and I did forewarn the Attorneys-General that the actual implementation of the legislation might have to take place on an abbreviated scale in the Northern Territory which did not have quite the same demands as the 3 eastern states principally concerned. Indeed, I think Western Australia was concerned at the burden of administration of the legislation. There is, at present, a conference of Attorneys-General taking place in Hobart which I have been unable to attend but my officers are attending. I gave instructions to the officers on the various items on the agenda but my recollection is that, at the very best, there was just some vague report on the present status of the consumer credit legislation. I certainly agree with the concept of the legislation and, when I am next able to attend a standing committee meeting of Attorneys-General, I will raise the question again.

The Northern Territory has not just stuck to the course of looking at only the uniform legislation as it was prepared. We have undertaken a review of South Australian legislation and, no doubt, if New South Wales legislation has been introduced, we will also have a look at that. The possible advantages to the Northern Territory of going it alone could be outweighed by the disadvantages of various companies ceasing to do business in the Northern Territory. We could therefore be cutting off our nose to spite our face. That is the delicate balance that the government has to strike in this matter.

1311 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can he explain how the Centralian Advocate of today's date was able to outline details of his mini-budget prior to its presentation to this House?

ANSWER

I have no information before me on what the Centralian Advocate may have printed for public release. It is customary, before money bills are introduced into parliaments, for the press to be given briefings on the matter so that they can prepare information for publication. It is my information that the Centralian Advocate has not been released as yet and I see no breach of confidence.

1312 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

I will produce a copy of the Centralian Advocate for the Treasurer and I ask him, now that he has admitted that if it is released prior to presentation it would be a breach of convention, can he explain again? I can give him the paper.

ANSWER

I suggest the Leader of the Opposition seeks the explanation, as I will, from the Centralian Advocate.

1313 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he inform me what sites are being considered for the use of a marina in the Darwin area and when is it likely that tenders will be called for the establishment of such a marina?

ANSWER

There are several sites under examination by consultants appointed by the Department of Transport and Works. These sites have been narrowed down in order of priority. The main priority site at this stage is Vestey's Beach, followed closely by Mindil Beach and Frances Bay. This does not mean that a marina will be built on any one of those sites. The government has decided to proceed further with a feasibility study into the first site mentioned to give us a clearer understanding of whether we should go to tender or whether we should call for expressions of interest into building a marina on that site.

1314 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

What steps were taken by him or his officers to ensure the security of the mini-budget prior to its presentation to this House?

ANSWER

The matter of briefing to the press is one that is done on a regular basis as far as embargoes are concerned. In this situation we have not taken the steps of physically locking people into a room, particularly in the situation of the Centralian Advocate which is printed a day or two before its actual release. This is because it is an Alice Springs paper but is printed in Darwin. I believe that we have taken every reasonable step to ensure confidentiality although I will certainly look into the matter further.

1315 Ms D'ROZARIO to the MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why is it no longer the practice of the fire brigade to automatically attend at road accidents?

ANSWER

I do not have that information with me but I will let the honourable member know when I have that information.

1316 Mr BALLANTYNE to the MINISTER for HEALTH

My question relates to the question asked yesterday regarding Aboriginal health workers. Are Aboriginal health workers being involved in

programs to improve dental health?

ANSWER

In the middle of last year, the department launched its first prophylactic dental training program amongst Aboriginal health workers. The success the department has had in training Aboriginals at clinics in remote areas has been encouraging and the department has sought to extend this to dental health care. To that end, a clinic has been established in the Darwin Hospital for training Aboriginal people. The program is to be extended to other centres as soon as training equipment can be purchased. I am sure that the program will benefit the Aboriginal people as much as the Aboriginal health worker training program has.

1317 Mrs O'NEIL to the MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The sum of \$4.1m is being rumoured as the amount to be spent on a marina at Vestey's Beach. Can the minister advise the origin of that sum and, if not, what amount will be spent on studies for a marina?

ANSWER

I am not able to confirm an amount for the financing of a marina at any one site. Neither am I able to establish the exact amount that will be paid to consultants to determine the site. As information comes to hand, I am quite happy to keep the honourable member informed. The major site for consideration has been confirmed as being in her electorate. I am quite happy to liaise with her over the matter.

1318 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that, because of the very high enrolments at both Kormilda and Dhupuma Colleges this year, Aboriginal students are being turned away from those institutions?

ANSWER

I have no knowledge of the last part of the question. I understood that enrolments were quite good this year and I find it very pleasing to have it confirmed by the honourable member for Arnhem. I will certainly look into his allegation and provide a response later on in the sittings.

1319 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Corporation of the City of Darwin be running an appeal for the victims of the Goldsworthy cyclone disaster?

ANSWER

I am informed by the Director-General of the Chief Minister's Department that the Deputy Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Darwin, Alderman Cec Black, has agreed that the corporation would sponsor such an appeal. I believe that Darwin's reputation is on the line in this matter. I would hope that all service clubs, all media outlets and all the citizens of Darwin get right behind this appeal. I certainly invite all members representing Darwin electorates to support the Corporation of the City of Darwin in the sponsorship of this appeal.

1320 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What research is being done into cattle reproduction in the Northern Territory? What is the staffing and what are the future plans for the Berrimah nutrition laboratory? What is to be done about mimosa and hyptis control or eradication in the Top End?

ANSWER

In respect of weeds, I indicated yesterday that I would update the statement that I had circulated in November and that I would endeavour to make that statement next week. As regards the organisation of various units of administration in the Primary Industries Division, I am not able to provide any information at all.

1321 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Who has control over Thoraks Reserve at Berrimah, the Department of Defence or the Northern Territory government? If it is the Northern Territory government, does this reserve come under the control of the Minister for Community Development or the Minister for Industrial Development?

ANSWER

The area known as Thoraks Reserve was one of the many areas throughout the Northern Territory that was acquired by the Commonwealth shortly after Territory self-government and, at present, it is held in fee simple by the Commonwealth government.

1322 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware of a proposal by the Darwin Golf Club to develop its present site in McMillans Road as a housing estate? If he is so aware, has the club approached the government for any assistance to undertake this project?

ANSWER

The Darwin Golf Club has approached the government with a proposal to alleviate a number of problems that it has. We have had talks with them on a couple of occasions and have examined proposals put to us. I hope to be in a position within a week or so to make an announcement on the subject.

1323 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to the investigation by the Liquor Commission into under-age drinking. The commission noted that the response from Alice Springs High School to the questionnaire was very poor. Has the minister investigated this report?

ANSWER

I have asked for an informal report on the matter to try to get the message across to all schools that participation by schools in these sort of surveys and programs undertaken by the government and its instrumentalities is bordering on the essential. I am quite sure the honourable member for Arnhem, in his capacity as shadow minister, would also like it known that the response from schools generally was

tremendously good throughout the Northern Territory. I am unaware why this happened in Alice Springs. It may have been a late delivery of papers. I will certainly inquire without wishing to be overbearing about it. It is a matter largely for schools and, as a minister, I would not seek to interfere in that sort of thing, other than to encourage all schools to participate in these inquiries. I do not think I would necessarily bring it back to the House in a public manner but certainly I will try to find out the reason for the honourable member so that he may let his colleagues know.

1324 Mr VALE to TREASURER

What proposals, if any, does the Territory Insurance Office have to open an office in Katherine?

ANSWER

At present, it is not proposed to open an office of the Territory Insurance Office in either Katherine or Tennant Creek as yet. The situation has been constantly monitored and kept under review. It is a matter which will be determined by the level of business in the towns. The TIO has a facility where it can use agents in these towns to sell insurance and indeed conduct other necessary procedures in the insurance industry. Officers of the Territory Insurance Office visit Katherine and Tennant Creek and other Territory centres on a regular basis keeping an eye on the levels of business. At present, I cannot give a specific date when any office might be opened up by the Territory Insurance Office.

1325 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

What is the present situation regarding any relief to be offered to the people who were disaffected by the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance Company?

ANSWER

In anticipation of this question from the honourable member for Nightcliff, I discussed the matter with the Solicitor-General. As I said in the House last year, the Northern Territory Cabinet had made a decision on relief to victims of the Northumberland collapse. On the day after we made our decision, a letter was received from the Minister for Finance outlining a Commonwealth proposal. The Solicitor-General and I have been in correspondence with the Federal Minister for Home Affairs since then and we are awaiting a reply from him. Subject to my taking the matter to Cabinet again in the fairly near future, it looks very likely that the Northern Territory proposal will be reactivated.

1327 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister heard the call from the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service and the Alice Springs Lawyers' Association for an inquiry into police actions against Aboriginals in the Centre? Will he accede to this request and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I heard the call from the Alice Springs Lawyers' Association on the ABC news at 6.15 this morning. Aside from that, I have not heard anything from that association. I have not received any formal communication from them and I would have thought, in dealing with a body of professional men, men of my own profession, that they would have had the courtesy to at least communicate to me the contents of any press statement that they might have made, if not in advance of making it, certainly contemporaneously with making it. Be that as it may, I received a telex last week from the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. That legal aid service was good enough to publish its telex widely and I do not think I need read out that telex. The nub of the telex is that the service wants a public inquiry into allegations of police brutality in the Centre, particularly Alice Springs. I might mention that the Alice Springs Lawyers' Association which has a substantial body of Legal Aid lawyers in its membership. The nub of what I heard on the news this morning was support by that association for the call by the Aboriginal Legal Aid Service for a public inquiry.

In answer to the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question, I will read a telex that I have sent to Mr Howard in answer to his reported call for a public inquiry:

Dear Mr Howard; I refer to a report on the ABC News attributed to you which indicates that your association is seeking an inquiry into allegations of police brutality in the southern part of the Northern Territory. I would have thought that, if you are calling for such an inquiry, at least you would have communicated with me. As I have not heard from you, I shall have to rely on a secondhand report from the press. Because of the avenues already available to people said to be aggrieved by police misconduct, I do not agree that any public inquiry is necessary. As you are aware, the present system of complaints against the police can be dealt with in 3 ways:

- (1) in the first instance, the complaint to the commissioner is investigated by a commissioned officer within the police force;*
- (2) in each case the Ombudsman is advised of the complaint by the commissioner and the complainant can request the Ombudsman to investigate the matter if he is not satisfied that adequate action has been taken by the commissioner; and*
- (3) the complainant can take either criminal or civil proceedings against the officer concerned.*

As I understand it, complaints against the police are exhaustively

investigated within the police force and the following procedure takes place:

- (a) investigation by a commissioned officer with oversighting by the inspectorate;
- (b) in special circumstances, the complaint against the police is investigated in its entirety by the inspectorate;
- (c) all investigations of complaints against the police are reviewed by the Ombudsman at his discretion irrespective of whether the matter is independently reported to the Ombudsman by the complainant; and
- (d) in appropriate cases, substantial complaints against the police are pursued either by charging members before a criminal court or through the internal disciplinary machine.

You will be aware that, since self-government, there have been a number of policemen prosecuted before the magistrate's court in Alice Springs. In each case, the prosecution was handled by the Department of Law which briefed experienced counsel from the private profession to conduct the case for the Crown. In all but one case, the defendant was acquitted.

I am advised that, for the period 1 July 1978 to 30 June 1979, 132 complaints were lodged with the NT police, all of which were investigated and passed on to the Ombudsman as a matter of course. In each case, so I am informed, the complainant was advised in writing of his right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman. In fact, in the same period, only 7 complainants requested the Ombudsman to investigate their respective complaints. Of these complaints, 5 were found by him not to have been sustained, 1 not involving assault was sustained and 1 complaint of assault at Nhulunbuy is still under investigation.

For the period 1 July 1979 to 1 January 1980, there were 94 complaints against police all of which came under the notice of the Ombudsman. I am informed that in only 1 case has the complainant asked the Ombudsman to make further investigations into the matter and this involved an alleged assault at Katherine upon a European man. No decision has yet been made in this matter.

In view of the invitation to people, said to be aggrieved by police misconduct, to have their complaints dealt with by the Ombudsman and in view of the small number of requests made of the Ombudsman who has wide-ranging inquisitorial powers, I am unable to understand why a public inquiry is necessary.

Those are the facts of the matter, Mr Speaker. There has not been a complaint to the police by the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service since September of last year and, as far as I am aware, there has not been a complaint to the Ombudsman by the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service in the same period. If the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service is inferring that the police, the Ombudsman and the courts are all in collusion to defeat all of their complaints, then I can only say that those persons in the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service responsible for the slanders

on the good name of the Police Force of the Northern Territory are one-eyed zealots. It is certainly not the intention of this government, whilst there are the most advanced avenues available in Australia for complaints against the police to be investigated, determined and tried independently, to order a public inquiry when those avenues are not demonstrably being availed of.

1328 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will he be reporting to the Assembly this week on the deliberations and recommendations of the alcohol conference which was held last Friday and Saturday in Darwin?

ANSWER

I had not intended to do so at this stage because the department has not yet furnished me with the report. However, if interest is indicated by the honourable members, I will move to have that matter brought forward as a matter of urgency. However, I do not particularly think that it is a thing that we should rush into and debate this week because it happened last week. It would be more prudent to have the report circulated to honourable members and perhaps raise the matter at the April sittings.

1329 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The area of land in the Smith Street Mall which was previously occupied by the Tourist Bureau has been in a messy state for a number of years now. What use is planned for that particular block?

ANSWER

I too am concerned at the continuing delay on deciding the future of this block. The block is somewhat unique in that it does not have any rear access at all to West Lane. This makes it particularly difficult to plan a development that can be serviced properly. We have had the Territory Insurance Office and the Department of Lands and Housing confer on the most appropriate use of this particular site, bearing in mind the government's desire to have the Northern Territory Tourist Commission's office in a very prominent place. That has been the proposed site for the new office of the Territory Insurance Commission. We have not yet determined on a suitable size of development for the particular block or how the funding arrangements would prevail between the possible Territory Insurance Office involvement, the Tourist Commission and the Northern Territory government. However, I am pressing the officers concerned and hope to have a resolution within a couple of weeks at the outside.

1330 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister advise when legislation to enable the registration of physiotherapists, which has been under preparation for some time, will be ready to be introduced into the Assembly?

ANSWER

The legislation is in the drafting pipeline along with about 49 other bills from the Health Department. As soon as draftsmen have completed their job, it will be brought forward to the House. I cannot give the honourable member a fixed time as to when it will be dealt with.

1331 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister advise the tender target date for the new sealed section of the Mainoru road?

ANSWER

The sealing of this road is part of the government's on-going, all-weather access proposals. This year, we will seal the road to Bamyili settlement. I think you are familiar, Sir, with the jump-ups that extend further out to Mainoru. These will be included in the program. The tender target date is around April of this year and the cost of the contract will be in the vicinity of \$1.75m.

1332 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Following the government's request to the Prime Minister and the Minister for National Development last year, has the Territory received increased allocations of avgas and diesel fuel for this year and, if so, by how much have the allocations been increased?

ANSWER

I would ask him to put the question on notice.

1333 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the works, suspended since the cyclone, on the Dripstone Community Health Centre proceed?

ANSWER

The contract has been let. Honourable members from the northern suburbs would probably be aware that clearing has already begun on the block and half of the demountables have been removed. It is anticipated that the work will be completed close to Christmas.

1334 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will he table in this House, as promised last Wednesday, details of the proposal put forward and accepted by the Northern Territory government by the Greek community for the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

Hopefully, on Thursday morning.

1335 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the Territory government considering a reduction in licensing fees for the sale of low-alcohol beer?

ANSWER

Honourable members would be aware that this issue was raised in a public forum recently. A candidate from one of the parties put the proposition forward as something that should be investigated and perhaps introduced into the Northern Territory. Personally, I think the proposal has a lot of merit. We have done a bit of homework on

it. In the Northern Territory, the liquor licence fee is \$7 per 100 or 7% of the value of liquor sold. This amounts to about 90c a carton or a couple of cents a can. However, the federal excise is something totally different altogether. I knew the federal government did very well out of excise on alcohol but it does even better than I thought it did. Their current rate of excise is levied at the very meagre level of 52c per litre which is equivalent to \$4.60 per carton. It would appear that, with the 2 taxes that are imposed on drinkers through these particular avenues, the Northern Territory's slice of the cake is very small indeed. In fact, there would not be a great saving to the consumer at all if we did away totally with the levy of a licence fee on all light beer products. I think the proposal has so much merit that I asked that the item be listed on the agenda for the Health Minister's Conference to be held in May. Not only does this have an effect on the government's coffers but there is also a great deal of expenditure made in the area of health that could be avoided if people were not consuming the very high amount of alcohol they are at the moment. I have also asked my colleagues who are involved with the federal excise people to have the matter raised at their interstate and federal ministerial meetings so that the matter can be reviewed by state and federal government at both the Health and Treasury levels.

1336 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the government's intention to oppose the Aboriginal land claim over Willowra?

ANSWER

I would imagine that our people would be assessing the claim books and other evidence that is submitted by the persons put forward as traditional owners to establish the degree of attachment with the land necessary to maintain their claim. I would imagine that our attitude would be determined accordingly. We would be still under the obligation imposed under section 50 of the act to put forward any relevant information in relation to the various factors set out in that section. I certainly would not construe that as being opposition to the claim.

1337 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

Is the government planning any more quarter-acre subdivisions in the rural area for the use of government personnel in service sections of the public service?

ANSWER

To my knowledge, the developments to which the honourable member refers are not in fact formal subdivisions. The government owns a number of 320-acre parcels of land in the rural area near Darwin and, on these parcels, they have constructed a number of houses for housing prison officers and the like. I do not think the land has been subdivided. If the honourable member is asking whether this type of development will continue, I would suspect that it will. The government will have to supply some accommodation for service people who are going to move into the rural areas near Darwin such as firemen, nurses, school teachers and the like. It obviously is quite impractical for the government to consider building a residence on five acres, in those situations, as is the normal style of living for rural Darwin. However, the land is available and there is no reason at all why we should not have a reasonably close settlement where the government is

providing accommodation for its public servants.

1338 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Will he table the Davis Report into the racing industry during the present sittings?

ANSWER

The answer is no. The report the honourable member refers to is the report commissioned by government to government and it will not be tabled.

1339 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many of the gazetted fisheries officers are in the field on enforcement work under the Fisheries Act?

ANSWER

There are several categories of people authorised under the Fish and Fisheries Act to act as fisheries officers. The total is 18. There is 1 executive. There are 10 enforcement people: 1 senior enforcement person, 2 skippers of the patrol boats, 1 at Borroloola, 2 at Groote Eylandt and 4 at Darwin. In addition to these, there are several limited-tenure people in Darwin who travel out with the patrols but who are not gazetted as fisheries officers; 3 extension people who are mainly involved with Aboriginal fishing training; 3 foreign fishing liaison men who check foreign fishing vessels; 1 licensing man who is on 1 year's leave of absence; the Western Australian fisheries officers who are authorised to act in Northern Territory waters and vice versa; skippers of Navy patrol boats; all wildlife rangers; and all Northern Territory police officers.

1340 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

If the Australian railway is not to be used anymore, could the Australian railway commissioners be asked to sell the line or to lease it in small lots to primary producers for fencing or to other local people for other uses?

ANSWER

I am not responsible for the Australian National Railway. I understand that direct approaches can be made and that ANR would be quite happy to sell small lots of railway line. It is unlikely that they would cut up the main line at this stage but I suggest the honourable member refer her inquirer to the Commonwealth Railways direct.

1341 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it government policy not to disclose turnoffs from individual stations to interested members of the public?

ANSWER

I do not know for sure that we would want to inhibit the information process for people in the position of the honourable member. If he either wrote to me or put a question on notice, I will try to answer him.

1342 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Notwithstanding the rights of police officers, customs agents, skippers of Navy patrol boats, how many gazetted fisheries officers who are employed in the Fisheries Division field of enforcement are working in the field on enforcement?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, 10.

1343 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As the Queensland government has recently issued exploration permits within the Gulf of Carpentaria, could the minister advise the House what is the present situation with the allocation of permits within the Northern Territory section of the Gulf of Carpentaria?

ANSWER

Recently, there was an agreement between the federal government and the governments of Queensland and the Northern Territory to open up the Gulf of Carpentaria to oil exploration as quickly as possible. The Queenslanders have been in a better position than ourselves and in fact been able to let their areas for exploration at this stage. We are currently assessing applications that we have received from quite a few companies over 4 areas. These will be assessed by the federal Department of National Resources and also by the Bureau of Mineral Resources as well as our own Mines Department personnel and a recommendation will be brought forward in the next 2 or 3 weeks as to who should be the successful applicants for the areas.

1344 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to the possible bus service in Alice Springs. When will he call for submissions from the Alice Springs people?

ANSWER

It has been recognised for some time that the residents of Alice Springs will need a service. It is a matter of definition and the extent of that service that we are concerned with at present. Submissions are being called and I will have consultants and senior officers in Alice Springs on 25 April for that express purpose. They will be able to talk to the honourable member's constituents.

1345 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Could he indicate the reason why the going rate per kilometre for school bus services in Darwin is just over \$1 yet, in Alice Springs, it is between \$3 and \$4 per kilometre travelled? In fact, I think it is \$4 per kilometre travelled.

ANSWER

I do not have any detailed information to supply to the honourable member except that it may have something to do with the fact that there is one tenderer in Alice Springs.

1346 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the present price of petrol and the estimates of its future price, what steps are the government taking to accommodate the expected increased demand for public transport?

ANSWER

The honourable member is well aware of one major step that has already been processed through this parliament and that has accelerated greatly the usage of public transport in this city. There are many other measures that the government will wish to undertake and I would like to talk about it some other time. Perhaps the honourable member could place the balance of the question on notice.

1347 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware of problems with the child-minding provisions of the Child Welfare Ordinance in that children of different ages in the same family have to attend different child-minding centres in Darwin? Will he have this matter investigated to overcome this inconvenience to those families concerned?

ANSWER

I am aware of the problem. However, we have recently debated the report on the welfare needs of the Northern Territory. It was one of the recommendations of that report that the legislation dealing with children be attended to. It is the intention of the government to analyse and evaluate those recommendations and presumably amend the legislation. I have given an undertaking to the people who are operating child-care centres that before the new regulations are brought into being, they will be given an opportunity to provide some input. At the moment, child-care centres are registered for looking after up to 28 children between 8.30 am until 3.00 pm. They are running into problems after 3.00 pm because children are being placed into these centres after leaving school. This is affecting the numbers. The regulations governing this matter have not been enforced since the cyclone but officers of my department have begun recently to enforce these regulations. This is why the concern has now arisen. The centres may have 28 children but also receive an extra 2 or 3 children in the afternoon. Consequently, the centre must put on another staff member because there must be 1 adult employee for every 8 children. However, the matter is under investigation and, as soon as regulations come to hand later on this year, they will be circulated to the family day-care centres for their consideration.

1348 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Will any assistance be given to the Northern Territory Riders and Drivers Association to shift the Speedway from its present location? When is it likely that the Speedway will be shifted to Hidden Valley?

ANSWER

Assistance has already been paid to the Northern Territory Riders and Drivers Association. Last year, \$150,000 was given to them when negotiations were finalised on the Hidden Valley lease and the number of sporting organisations involved in that particular lease. I under-

stand that the Riders and Drivers Association has negotiated with the city council for one more season's use of Bagot Park Speedway on the understanding that they will concurrently develop facilities at Hidden Valley. I am not completely familiar with all those details but that is the situation as I understand it. Certainly, they have been paid the amount of compensation that the government agreed to.

1349 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he indicate a clear date by which the Speedway will cease to operate on its present site in McMillans Road? Its operation there is causing stress and concern to people who are subdividing land in the area.

ANSWER

I ask her to place the question on notice.

1350 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the number of music teachers in the Territory been increased this year? Is he initiating a program whereby we will have more teachers placed in most of the schools in the Territory?

ANSWER

I am at a loss to know what the honourable member means by "this year". If he is referring to this financial year, the answer is yes. I understand the number is about 10. If he is referring to this academic year, the answer would be no because members would realise there is nothing expressly relating to music teachers in the revised estimates or the Appropriation Bill No 2. The government is anxious that all forms of specialist teachers be provided in sufficient numbers to develop the necessary programs. However, difficulty is foreseen in providing specialist music teachers because of certain attitudes of the Australian Teachers Federation and the Northern Territory Teachers Federation. For reasons which I think have some validity, they subscribe to the industrial principle that, for a person to be a member of the teaching service, he must also be a teacher.

The problem is that some of the very best music teachers available to us are people who hold degrees in music but who do not have 3 years' teacher training. Until these industrial issues are overcome, the number of people available to us who are not only qualified teachers but also qualified music teachers is somewhat limited. This is a matter for discussions with the unions. As honourable members are aware, our own Northern Territory Teaching Service will be introduced during the course of this sittings. I hope that the commissioner of that service, the permanent head of the department and the federation would have regard to the nature of the needs of the Northern Territory. While it may be easy in the larger cities to obtain teachers who are qualified as teachers and in music, we find it very difficult to find people with both sets of qualifications. While I can understand the philosophy of requiring people who are in classrooms to have teaching qualifications, I think the other side of the coin has to be looked at as well.

1353 Mr VALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can the minister supply any further information pertaining to the apparently poor response to the Liquor Commission's questionnaire from the Alice Springs High School?

ANSWER

I understand that the questionnaires were delivered to the Alice Springs High School and that a response of between 90% and 95% was obtained from the students. In accordance with instructions from an officer of the Liquor Commission, those responses were delivered to the Handyman Building office of the commission in Alice Springs. In addition to that, there were a number of late responses from students and those were mailed to the headquarters of the Liquor Commission. I understand that it must have been those mailed responses which were in fact referred to in the Liquor Commissioner's report. My department is completely unaware of the whereabouts of the hundred of other responses which were provided. Quite clearly, the students of Alice Springs High School responded magnificently to the questionnaires and anything I might have said the other day which would have cast any doubt on their efforts is withdrawn. If I remember rightly, I did not say anything. Certainly, the truth of the matter appears to be that a large bundle of responses went astray somewhere between Alice Springs and Darwin.

1354 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the uranium mining booklet which was produced by the Northern Territory government been distributed to the public and, if so, to whom and in what numbers?

ANSWER

I would ask him to put his questions on notice.

1355 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he tell me if the Williamson report will be presented to the Legislative Assembly and debated?

ANSWER

It is not proposed to table the Williamson report. It has been distributed to interested parties, some 49 people in all, and the report is providing us with a good base for consultation with the various parties concerned. At this stage, the fire-fighters have presented their views and priorities and they agree with the majority of the recommendations. The officers federation and Chief Fire Officer have arranged meetings for this week. Copies of the Fire Brigade Acts from New South Wales and Victoria have been received and those from other states have been sought so our proposed legislation will incorporate all the latest features. I will provide the honourable member with further information at a later time.

1356 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What progress has been made in granting subdivision leases to private developers for the development of residential subdivisions in the electorate of Sanderson?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will be making a statement on the matter raised by the member for Sanderson in the House tomorrow morning. It would be more appropriate to answer that question then.

1357 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The minister has been talking for some time about providing a library facility for the Darwin area. When will a library be provided to service the city area?

ANSWER

At the moment, the Department of Community Development, through the Department of the Transport and Works, is negotiating to secure premises in the new Paspalis Centrepoint project in Smith Street. If those negotiations are successful, I would imagine that a new library in Darwin will be provided when Centrepoint opens. I believe the opening date is 17 October this year.

1358 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I appreciate that there have been press releases on this subject. Can he inform me when the Sadadeen subdivision will be commenced?

ANSWER

I do not have that information to hand. At present, I am aware that a senior officer of the Lands Department will be travelling to Alice Springs within the next few days to assess the situation in Alice Springs. We propose to move towards private subdivisions in Alice Springs at the earliest possible date.

1359 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Eusey. It concerns the closure of the Roper Bar Road to heavy traffic. What is the government's intention in relation to this road?

ANSWER

It is fairly common practice to close roads such as this in times of heavy rainfall. Nevertheless, the department is planning to seal the road from Roper Valley to Ngukurr but, unfortunately, this may take another couple of years for the planning process. It is on the program for 1982-83.

1360 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has there yet been any settlement regarding the disputes concerning the Collia tin mine and what are the latest developments in this matter?

ANSWER

I fear to say too much because I understand the matter is sub judice. For that reason, I ask that the question be placed on notice.

1361 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Did the government in fact make huge profits on the sale of residential land at the recent auction as reported in the newspaper yesterday?

ANSWER

It is not true to suggest that the Territory government is profiteering at the expense of buyers of residential land. The fact is that the development of fully serviced land is a significant cost to government and has been a drain on Territory governments for a very long time. The provision of roads, stormwater drains, electricity and water services is not cheap, particularly in the Northern Territory where we suffer the cost disabilities which result from isolation. Information that has been supplied to me of a comparative analysis between a recent auction and the one before it was that the average price, including unpaid balances which is the difference between the bid and the reserve price, of \$10,794 for the most recent auction compares with \$12,642 average price for the auction prior to October last year. In the unrestricted section of the auction last weekend when some 50 R1 sites were sold, including 7 what might be classed as prestige sites in Darwin, the average price paid was \$15,800 which

compares with the average price of \$15,600 paid for R1 sites sold at the unrestricted auction in October. The most recent auction did not produce any particularly unusual trends in the sale of R1 sites and, indeed, the cost of servicing land in the Territory at the present time, by the government anyway, is something in the vicinity of \$12,000 per block and that is excluding external services such as head-works for water, sewerage etc. Therefore, it is untrue to say that the government is reaping huge profits from the sale of land as was implied in yesterday's N T News.

1362 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the grant-in-aid for \$150,000 which was mentioned in the Auditor-General's report. Last week, the minister was unable to tell us who that grant went to. Can he now inform the Assembly who received that money?

ANSWER

The Motor Drivers and Riders Association, which represents the Bagot Park Speedway, received the \$150,000. That amount was part of a \$201,000 grant. The balance of \$51,000 went to other organisations which are related to motor sports and which are moving to Hidden Valley.

1363 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will money be allocated in the 1980-81 financial year for the redevelopment of Dhupuma Residential College?

ANSWER

In the lead up to any budget, no minister can commit Cabinet to expenditure in the month of February. Nonetheless, my department is very much aware of the urgent need to take steps to overcome serious accommodation problems which exist at Dhupuma College both in the residential sense and in class facilities. The problems are compounded by the fact that the government has inherited a very old facility which was formerly a tracking station. The principal problem is the supply of electricity. Subject to advice from my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, and the Electricity Commission, it would be most appropriate to install mains electricity to that school prior to relocating it or upgrading it. The taxpayers' bill for maintaining the powerstation in its present form and with the transport costs of diesel fuel is enormous. That is one problem that needs to be overcome and I understand the cost could be around \$300,000. Stage 1 of any development project at Dhupuma College would cost over \$2¹/₂m.

The staff at Dhupuma College would probably be among the most dedicated of our educational institutions in the Northern Territory. It is very rare for a minister to name officers in parliament but I think that the principal, Neil Barry, would not mind if I named him here for the enormous effort he puts into Dhupuma College.

The accommodation facilities out there are pitiful, particularly for people who are asked to behave in a professional manner and who are trained as such. The department is letting a tender in February for 2 new demountables for that area. Hopefully, they will be on site and occupied by the end of April.

The general question of upgrading the facility, Mr Speaker, is one for Cabinet in its general budgetary considerations. Certainly, when you are talking about that sort of money and that sort of recurrent cost and bearing in mind the efforts put in by the staff out there, I point out that we could probably send all of those students to Geelong Grammar in Melbourne for the price of educating each of them at Dhupuma College. In consideration of the enormous amounts of money required to run that institution, we have to think beyond just primary training or preparatory training for the Nhulunbuy Area School. The principal, Neil Barry, has put propositions to us relating to short courses in technical training. In fact, he is already doing this of his own motion. During periods when primary students are not occupying the residential facilities, the government is closely examining the possibility of using these as an East Arnhem TAFE training school for the purpose of assisting community councils in employing their own people in a range of functions from motor mechanics to routine house maintenance. In other words, in any consideration of the development of Dhupuma College, we must ensure that the overall program maximises the benefits from the taxpayer's dollar.

1364 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to table in this House tomorrow details of the interesting proposals by the Greek community for the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

Yes.

1365 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps will be taken to do away with a large pond of black, evil-smelling water which is part of the Humpty Doo dump?

ANSWER

The short answer is that very little can be done. However, the chief Health Inspector states that the water does not pose any health problem. Other experts are of the opinion that it is probably better to keep all that water in the hole where it is now than have it polluting the environment. The problem will be monitored and I will be kept informed.

1366 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps is the government taking to ensure that the proposed new civil terminal at Darwin Airport is near the Stuart Highway and not near the populous northern suburbs.

ANSWER

I can only say that I admire the honourable member's spirit in this matter and that she is so concerned for her electorate in that there might be some additional noise created by siting the new terminal on the McMillans Road side of the airport. This matter is the subject of a joint working party of Defence, federal Department of Transport officials and Northern Territory government officials. I believe there

is some consensus as to where a future terminal might be sited and that it is somewhere between the corner of Bagot Road and McMillans Road Rapid Creek. I do not think it is a matter of agreeing with what the honourable member suggests. However, there will be further discussions on this matter at a later time.

1367 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to recent publicity concerning alleged cruelty to wild horses in Central Australia. Can the minister advise the House what action, if any, the government proposes to take on this matter?

ANSWER

It is true that there is a feral animal problem in Central Australia, mainly wild horses. There has been some publicity of late about horses dying in transit to Victoria and horses being put down at railway yards in Central Australia. It is not an easy problem to cope with. The proposition being floated is that the horses might be transported to

Alice Springs to be killed for pet food. The government is looking at a proposal, through the Territory Development Corporation, to support a mobile killing facility. We hope that this might alleviate the problem. The dry conditions make an early decision on this very important to us and I will have further information later.

1368 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has V.B. Perkins yet signed a lease agreement with the Northern Territory Port Authority and, if not, can the minister supply me with an answer to question number 201 which has been on the notice paper since 21 November 1978? The question reads: "What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority?"

ANSWER

It certainly has been a considerable time since the honourable gentleman asked his question. It is with some pride, I suppose, that we can now say that the matter is closer to resolution. For some time, we have wrestled with the problem of leases in the Port Authority area. We have a vehicle for the administration of land in the Northern Territory through the Department of Lands and Housing. The whole question of tenure has been returned to that minister and his department. There will be no leases issued by the Port Authority but I understand that the tenants on the foreshore of Frances Bay will soon be given leases under normal town area leasing conditions.

1369 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What are the plans for the remaining vacant blocks in Nhulunbuy which are owned by the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

The provision of government housing in Nhulunbuy has been a contentious point. For the first time, in the 1978-79 financial year, the Housing Commission commenced a program of constructing Housing Commission houses there. The area is the subject of a mining lease. The commission currently has 13 more blocks in Nhulunbuy to be used and plans are well advanced for the construction of 11 duplex units and two 3-bedroom houses. The duplex units will provide a mix of 14 single-bedroom and eight 2-bedroom units which will be available for the housing of public servants and the general public when they are completed. Tenders for this new capital works program in Nhulunbuy are due to be called during March this year.

1370 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The minister has told us this morning that the cheque for \$150,000 referred to in the Auditor-General's Report was part of the total of \$201,000 that went to the Darwin Motor Sports Complex. Can he advise the details of the cheque for \$250,000 referred to in the Auditor-General's Report of last year?

ANSWER

My understanding is that that \$250,000 was payment to the Corporation of Alice Springs for the additional infrastructure that they were building at their civic centre. The additional infrastructure

relates to the library.

1371 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who made the decision to erect the 100 kilometre signs on the Stuart Highway and the Arnhem Highway at Howard Springs and Humpty Doo? How far does the limit extend down the Arnhem Highway as there are no speed limit signs as there are on the Stuart Highway?

ANSWER

The Department of Transport and Works has the responsibility for signs on the major highways and, although the speed restriction signs were authorised for the 10 kilometre peg, I understand they were not constructed and the 100 kilometre signs go right down the Arnhem Highway. I will advise the honourable member further after the results of the department's investigation.

1372 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he yet received a report from his officers concerning the need for the protection of jenny crabs in the Northern Territory and could he also advise what research is being undertaken in this area?

ANSWER

The question of jenny crabs was under consideration by the department. I have the feeling that a submission will come forward from a new group which has some interest in fishing. We will consider the matter further at that time.

1373 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What approach is the government taking towards allowing government and privately-owned vacant blocks in the city area to be used for short-term parking purposes whilst alternate car parking facilities are being provided?

ANSWER

An approach was made to me on behalf of business houses in the Central Business District in Darwin to see whether some solution could be found for the short-term parking problems whilst the long-term ones were being dealt with. I undertook to that organisation to provide vacant government land in the Central Business District in Darwin for car parking for the Darwin City Council until such time as the government required the land. I also undertook that, in regard to privately-owned land in the Central Business District which was undeveloped, any owner of land who undertook to either use the area for car parking himself or offered it to some other organisation could do so until development was warranted. I undertook that no default notices would apply to such land. I am not sure what has been followed through by the city council. The Department of Lands and Housing was instructed to advise them of this stance and private owners have been approached to ascertain their attitude towards using their land for this purpose.

1374 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is being done to alleviate the problems of power generation in the township of Elliott?

ANSWER

As honourable members know, there was an extraordinary failure of power at Elliott recently. One of the generators blew up and that is not so extraordinary when one considers the treatment that such machinery gets from the people who are supposed to look after it. However, in this case the machinery was salvaged from the cyclone and taken to Elliott at a time when it was needed. It served a very useful purpose but, unfortunately, to overcome load problems, they tried to couple the switch board, which was designed to take only 1 engine at a time, to take both engines simultaneously. It did not work and, consequently, the 2 engines and the switch board blew up and left the town without power. There was difficulty in reorganising generators of a satisfactory size to continue to supply power to the community. NTEC took a portable generator down and hooked it into the system. In the long term, the ultimate aim is to provide, at a cost of about \$170,000, 2 semi-transportable generators on site of 200 KVA size. They should provide ample power for the town. The wiring system in the town will be upgraded so that the fluctuations will no longer occur. The upgrading will also enable the Aborigines at Anthony's Camp to be put onto the town reticulation system so that they too can have power. At this stage, the wiring is so poor at the southern end of Elliott that there is no way that an additional connection could be made without restricting power to everybody in the town.

One cause of the problem in the first place was the general improvement in the living and working conditions in the town. Many people who did not previously own air-conditioners have now installed them. Many of those who had evaporative conditioners which use a small amount of power have transferred over to refrigerated air-conditioning units which use quite a bit of power. The problem has now been solved and will be fixed permanently in the next 12 months.

1375 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following the remarks I made in the adjournment debate last night, can he advise when he will be making a decision on whether special benefits will be extended to those pensioners who are not presently eligible under his pensioner scheme? I refer of course to those in receipt of social security special benefits.

ANSWER

I was approached several months ago by some ladies who represented the Timorese Association with a request that the government provide concessions for their people. I requested my department to prepare a paper on how it could be done. Officers of my department have advised me that it would be very difficult to implement a scheme which will enable me to provide assistance to the ethnic groups in that area. Until such time as we can come up with a workable plan that will assist us in providing those concessions, I am unable to give the honourable member an answer one way or another. It is felt that, unless we can have a scheme which will protect the taxpayer's money and which is not open to abuse, it will be very difficult for us to make such plans.

1376 CHIEF MINISTER to Mr PERKINS (MacDonnell)

Mr Speaker, I have a question that I wish to put under Standing Order 91 to the honourable member for MacDonnell who has sponsored amendment schedule No 164 in respect of the Liquor Bill Serial 374. My question

relates particularly to a proposed amendment 164.2 which sets out a new clause which proposes to provide an appeal from decisions of the commission to the Supreme Court. I would ask the honourable member for MacDonnell the reason for his apparent dissatisfaction with the operations of the commission which caused him to put forward this amendment.

ANSWER

I ask the Chief Minister to place his question on notice.

1383 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I would remind him of the publicity given early last year to the NTEC application to the minister for a gas exploration licence in the Boneparte Gulf. Can he tell the House whether he approved NTEC's application and, if so, what exploration results have so far been achieved?

ANSWER

The area for which NTEC made an application involves 2 or 3 other companies. I stand to be corrected here, but I am also of the view that one of the land councils also placed an application for the same area. The events took place some time ago and I think it best that the question be placed on notice. I will have chapter and verse about the incident put on paper for the honourable member so that he is aware of the facts.

1384 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES

Rural consumers beyond the McMinn's substation are not happy about the frequency and length of power failures. What is being done to improve this situation?

ANSWER

NTEC have commenced a program of upgrading the McMinn's substation and the reticulation of the whole area. I am quite confident that the people in that area will get a great deal of satisfaction from the new arrangements made by NTEC.

1385 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer him to the question I asked without notice on Thursday 22 November 1979: is it his intention to institute any form of inquiry into the handling of the dog problem in Darwin by the corporation prior to the passage of the Dog Bill as requested by 1,695 people of Darwin? What were the results of his considerations?

ANSWER

After taking into consideration the petitioners' request, the government strengthened the Dog Bill by inserting a clause which will make it illegal for anybody to entice a dog from somebody's property - penalty \$200. I thought it more appropriate to introduce the Dog Bill. At the meeting that was held by the SPCA at Darwin High School, a motion was passed that a welfare inquiry be set up. I received correspondence from Dr Jan Hill requesting that this particular instrument be implemented. The animal welfare inquiry will relate to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ordinance and I am now waiting for a decision from the Chief Minister to see whether that particular inquiry will be set up.

In relation to the request of the petition that a full scale inquiry be implemented to investigate that problem, I have not made up my mind yet.

1386 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister advise the House of any proposals the government has to set up a bus service in the township of Katherine?

ANSWER

There is a general upsurge of interest in bus services in communities such as Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy. We are receiving many representations. I indicated to the member for Alice Springs that submissions would be invited from the public as to the requirements for or the extent of a bus service for that city. I have asked the consultants to continue their studies in the 3 other main centres. Until those studies are completed, obviously I could not give a definite answer that there would be a bus service established in any 1 of them. I will be asking the consultants to look also at the taxi services in those cities and I should have a report in the next couple of months.

1387 Ms D'ROZARIO to THE TREASURER

Is the construction of the casino at Mindil Beach behind schedule and, if so, what is the cause of the delay?

ANSWER

As honourable members will know from advertisements in the newspapers the company which has the licence to conduct casinos in the Northern Territory, Federal Pacific Hotels, has been calling tenders to build the casino at Mindil Beach. These close on the last day of this month. The projected time scale for completion of the program is delayed and has been extended by some 5 months. About mid-1982 is the projected completion date. I will be able to make a more definitive announcement on this when the tenders have been received and evaluated by the company. The reason for the delay in going to tender has been that the site at Mindil Beach has required much preparatory work, including the sinking of many hundreds of concrete piles into the ground to establish a firm foundation. This work has been completed and the design work has been completed.

1388 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The Northern Territory government provides assistance to certain Northern Territory families who send their children to approved schools in Queensland. Has any consideration been given to extending the subsidy to parents who wish to send their children to schools in other states.

ANSWER

The approved schools to which the honourable member refers are private schools in Queensland which receive a direct subsidy from the Queensland government in respect of Queensland children who attend them. The decision was taken some time before the transfer of the education function to the Northern Territory to subsidise parents in the Northern Territory who send their children to those schools so that those children will not be disadvantaged in comparison with their peers. New South Wales recently introduced a similar scheme so I have recently approved an extension of the policy to include parents who send their children to private schools in New South Wales. These are mainly people from isolated areas who have no alternative but to send their children south for secondary education in particular. I understand that some of the other states, including Victoria and South Australia, are contemplating a similar subsidy to private schools in respect of boarding students. That policy of the Northern Territory would then flow on to those schools if that happened.

1389 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that, since the Nelson Building was handed over to the Department of the Chief Minister about 5 weeks ago, no effective adjustments have been made to the air-conditioning in that building in spite of the barrage of complaints? I might add that you start to feel like a stunned goanna on a hot road after a day in the place.

ANSWER

I do realise there is some sort of a menagerie enclosed in the building but I did not know there were any goannas over there. I do not know the position with the air-conditioning. I know that I suffer in the Chan Building especially over the long hours I while away on the weekends. No doubt, that problem should be rectified as soon as possible. I will advise the department of it.

1390 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When can we expect the Director of Community Development to establish a system for the provision of car stickers to handicapped drivers as I was advised by letter on 10 January 1980?

ANSWER

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

1391 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What arrangements have been made for General Danby, who is the Secretary for the British Columbia Commission of Inquiry into Uranium Mining and whose itinerary is being arranged by the honourable minister, to meet members of the committee of this House set up to inquire into the effects of uranium mining in Kakadu National Park?

ANSWER

I had the good fortune to meet General Danby in Canada recently. He advised me of his impending trip to Australia and I extended to him an invitation on behalf of the Northern Territory government to come to the Northern Territory to meet my colleagues, members of the Assembly, mining companies, the Northern Land Council and any other parties that had an interest in the uranium scene in the Territory.

I am aware that the honourable gentleman's arrangements are in train. I cannot tell the honourable member whether there is a specific time set aside for General Danby to meet the House committee which is looking into the environmental aspects of the uranium province. I am quite prepared to speak to the organisers to see that a meeting is accommodated. I would point out that the General is on a rather limited time schedule. We have extended to him an invitation to have a look at all the mines and any other areas that he feels are of interest such as the Rum Jungle area. We are prepared to provide departmental support, advice and people to show him around. If anybody would like to accompany him on the tour, I have no objections and I am sure the General would be quite pleased to have them along as company.

1392 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister advise the House whether or not the Northern Territory Police Force will use tracker dogs in their search and rescue operations?

ANSWER

Yes, the use of dogs is being considered in a number of areas by the police force. The commissioner is looking at various recommendations on the subject.

1393 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can he advise the House of any progress which has taken place on the taking over by the Northern Territory government of those hostels now owned by the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services and which were formerly known as the Commonwealth Hostels Ltd?

ANSWER

The honourable Leader of the Opposition is wrong. The hostels now belong to the Northern Territory government. The government has entered into an arrangement with the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services to administer the hostels on behalf of the government for a period of 12 months while the government re-assesses their future use. The government will be administering the hostel through the Housing Commission and will be using organisations like the Commonwealth Catering Service to operate the hostels. At the expiration of the current agreement with those people, the hostels will be offered to all parties which are interested in operating them.

1394 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Following on from a letter dated 10 August 1979 and remarks passed by the minister recently, has he made a final assessment of the situation regarding the proposed sand-mining by ABM at Howard Springs?

ANSWER

The application by ABM to mine in Howard Springs has not been rejected outright. We have told the company that we are not prepared to grant the lease that they have applied for but, rather than slam the door in their face, we asked them to negotiate with the department on other areas that they might find suitable.

1395 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Are the operations of Darwin Home Locators, a real estate rental business, registered under the Land and Business Agents Act? If not, what action needs to be taken to ensure that the operations of this business are covered by the provisions of that act?

ANSWER

I am not able to give the honourable member an answer to her question. There are several thousand registered business names in the Northern Territory and, unfortunately, I am not able to carry an index regarding the registration or non-registration of these firms around with me. I suggest that the honourable member may even be able to satisfy herself quickly by attending at the Registrar-General's office and paying 50c to find out whether the firm is registered or not.

1396 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Perhaps the Chief Minister misunderstood my question. I was not asking whether they were registered as a business name but registered under the Land and Business Agents Act for which he is responsible.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of whether it is registered under the Land and Business Agents Act. I will check the matter.

1397 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is he able to inform the House as to the progress of Territory Loan No 2?

ANSWER

I am pleased to announce that support for Territory Loan No 2 has been encouragingly strong. The information I have, which is as recent as last night, is that the loan has been subscribed to the tune of 80%. The loan does not close until the end of this month. It is a very attractive loan in normal commercial terms with interests as high as 10.9%. Having regard to the rate that subscriptions are flowing in, if any people would like to participate in this loan, they had better hurry. It is important to note that the demonstrated support for the Territory's first 2 loans is a sign of investor confidence in the future of the Northern Territory and something of which all honourable members should be proud.

1398 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the Fisheries Division of his department attempt to purchase lot 3430 Town of Darwin, the subject of a lease formerly held by Mr Carl Atkinson at Doctor's Gully and, if so, why did the transaction not proceed?

ANSWER

All purchases of government properties and lease accommodation are handled through the agency of the Department of Transport and Works. I would ask her to place the question on notice.

1399 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Are there any long-term plans for a continuing supply of sand, soil and gravel from the rural area to Darwin?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. The geological section of the Department of Mines and Energy is investigating an area south-east of Darwin on the Koolpinya Station. It has rather an attractive prospect from the point of view of supplying sand and gravel. It will take some time to define the area and the amount of material there. As soon as we have some definite details of what we are mining and how much of it there is, I will advise honourable members.

1400 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When does the Northern Territory government intend to arrange for a state-type allowance to supplement the Commonwealth allowance for the education of children in isolated areas to bring it into line with all other states?

ANSWER

I know the electorate of Victoria River is somewhat remote from communications but it seems to me the honourable member has not seen a paper for the last 6 months. It has already been done and, in fact, the Northern Territory allowance exceeds that available in most states by way of supplement to the Commonwealth grant.

1401 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has any consideration been given to the variations in conditions of sand, gravel and soil licences and materials carted from the rural area in view of the gross deterioration caused to our rural roads by the continual use by loaded trucks?

ANSWER

That question has 2 parts: one relates to the roads and the other to the variations in the licences. We do have quite a variation in the way we issue licences for sand and gravel and heavy metal extraction. That situation should be rectified with the passage of the Mining Bill which is now before the House. We will have a more orderly manner of handling these particular licences. So far as the transport of these particular commodities are concerned over the roads in the rural area, it is not the function of the Mines Department to have an investigation on the state of the roads before a particular licence is issued for extraction. That is a function of the Department of Transport and Works. We would be more than happy to cooperate with that department or to come to some solution about damage being done to roads because of the activities of sand miners.

1402 Mrs LAWRIE to the TREASURER

Have any moneys been received from the Territory Insurance Office for ploughing back into the home finance and building industry as consistently portrayed in their rather clever advertisements on television?

ANSWER

Money has been received in this regard. The Territory Insurance Office has contributed to at least the first Northern Territory loan raising. As the honourable member will know, the loans are going towards the provision of funds for home construction, electrical work and other work. I am not sure whether Territory Insurance Office has or has not invested in the second Northern Territory loan.

1403 Ms D'ROZARIO to the TREASURER

Is he yet in a position to table the terms of the Commonwealth and Northern Territory housing agreement in this House.

ANSWER

The agreement has not yet been signed by both parties. If I recall rightly, it has been signed by the Northern Territory and we are awaiting receipt of the signed copy from the Commonwealth government.

1404 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the first annual report of the Commissioner for Consumer Affairs be tabled in the Assembly.

ANSWER

The report is now with the printer. Hopefully, it will be tabled in the April sittings of this Assembly.

1405 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Following on requests made for consideration of a mobile library in the rural area dating back to the letter to the previous minister on 19 January 1979 and to the minister during that year, when can we expect some direct action?

ANSWER

I have made a request to my department to include in the 1980-81 appropriation funds provision for a mobile library service to the rural area. I am unable to give the honourable member any further information.

1406 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What arrangements, if any, have been made between the Territory and the federal government to allow the purchase of homes rented by Commonwealth employees who are keen to remain in the Territory?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has consistently lobbied the federal government to encourage that government to change its policy and allow Commonwealth public servants in the Northern Territory to purchase their houses. The Chief Minister has written to the relevant federal minister, Mr Groom, and in fact has received correspondence that they are actively pursuing a

review of their policy on this matter. We hope that they change the policy to allow Commonwealth public servants to settle and buy their homes in the Territory. Hopefully, we will receive some advice on the matter at an early date.

1407 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I wrote a letter to the Minister for Lands and Housing on 19 December regarding the status of roads in the Acacia Hills area. The minister said that he would pass this letter on to the Roads Division of the Transport and Works Department. When can I expect a reply?

ANSWER

I will find out when the honourable member can expect a reply and let her know.

1408 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will the minister have investigated the possibility of having lifts installed at the Hudson Fysh Housing Commission complex as has been done at the Kurringal complex which is also 4 storeys high.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will raise the matter with the Housing Commission on behalf of the honourable member.

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