

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

and

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

AGRICULTURE

Question: The Committee asked what processes the agency has adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency.

Answer: Private sector involvement in the agency occurs by way of -

- (1) Contracting for services - these are formalised in contractual agreements developed in line with advice from Contract and Management Services and Crown Law advice.
- (2) Involvement of individuals in the partnership groups that assist Agriculture Western Australia to set strategic directions for its sources.

Accountability procedures are defined in contracts with private sector providers. The partnership groups are bound by terms of reference and the signing of memoranda of understanding which cover responsibilities for accountability.

Contracts are reviewed to ensure the services provided meet the standards set in contracts.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether the department allocates to the Minister's office staff over and above that which is provided by the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, and if so, how many staff were allocated and present in the Minister's office.

Answer: Two staff.

Question: The Committee asked what action had the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property were adequate to ensure the appropriate asset control.

Answer: A coordinator of capital assets has been appointed to establish an asset management system which will incorporate a comprehensive asset register. Policies and procedures have been developed in accord with legislative and regulatory requirements. Recording of all property - land, buildings, plant and equipment - has commenced.

Question: The Committee asked what financial planning had been undertaken by the agency to meet the expenditure requirements on research, protection and industry promotion.

Answer: Financial planning in the agency is an integral part of strategic planning. Five year strategic plans have been developed for each of the agency's 10 programs. These set out the main outcomes to be achieved in research and development, protection, industry and market development and sustainable rural development. Budget bids are then submitted by the programs to the agency's office of policy and planning which assesses the bids against a clearly defined and documented set of allocation criteria. These criteria relate to the agency's mission and objectives to achieve a profitable and internationally competitive agricultural sector. The recommendations of office of policy and planning are then considered by the agency's executive and chief executive officer. During this process, there

is close consultation with the industry and regional partnership groups and boards which are involved in developing the strategic plans and associated budget bids.

Financial planning in the agency is coordinated with the Government's budget cycle. Around 35 per cent of the agency's funds are sourced outside the consolidated fund; for example, from national research and development corporations, the Commonwealth and other revenue sources (such as plant breeding rights). These funds are essential for achieving agency objectives, and strategies are in place to increase funds from the above sources.

Question: Hon Kim Chance asked what the current status, value and control was of outstanding revenue and expenditure and debtor-creditor accounts.

Answer: Current status of creditor accounts: Account payments are virtually up to date. This function has been devolved to 42 sites, which has streamlined processing. The current maximum outstanding creditor payments at any site is four days which is well within the 30 day limit required.

Current status of revenue/debtors: Revenue from an accrual perspective is up to date, as all debtor invoices raised have been distributed and posted into the system.

Current value:	Creditors payments on hand	\$1 056 511
Current Value:	Outstanding debtors	\$3 429 845

A significant proportion, \$1.5m, relates to payments due under net appropriation arrangements (10 per cent of total debtors).

Control of creditor payments: All invoices are authorised for payment by an approved incurring officer with delegated authority to purchase goods and services and approved for payment by a separate certifying officer.

Control of revenue/debtors: Invoices are raised on clients for services by the project manager or delegated officer. All revenue received is banked within approved time limits. Debtors' recovery is managed by Corporate Services by issuing recovery letters and legal action is taken if debt is not paid within required time lines.

Question: The Committee asked what resource allocation the agency had committed to finding and implementing solutions to salinity and chemical contamination threats.

Answer:

Salinity expenditure -

In 1996-97 Agriculture Western Australia is spending approximately \$10.3m consolidated funds on management and control of dryland salinity. This includes -

\$1m internally reallocated as announced by the Minister for Primary Industry in March, 1996.

\$474 000 new funds under the salinity action plan (from \$1m available to four agencies).

In this year, about \$6.3m of commonwealth funds (primarily the national land care program) are targeted on salinity.

Note: Much of this expenditure has multiple benefits, salinity management and control being a main benefit. For instance, it is not possible to distinguish catchment management expenditure for salinity from, say, erosion control or farm forestry.

In 1997-98 Agriculture Western Australia's CF expenditure will be about \$11.2m, including -

\$591 000 new funds under the salinity action plan allocation (from an additional \$4m available to the four agencies).

\$300 000 new funds expanding the state revegetation scheme to \$800 000.

Specific expenditure items include -

Remnant vegetation protection scheme	\$900 000
State revegetation scheme	\$800 000
Rural towns rescue program	\$500 000
Regional enterprise scheme	\$250 000
"Revegetation on farms" development project (for medium and low rainfall zones)	\$225 000
Salt spread mapping, new contour data, monitoring revegetation	\$180 000
Further development of airborne geophysics	\$100 000
Land drainage best practice	\$ 90 000

The availability of commonwealth funds under the Natural Heritage Trust is still subject to negotiation.

Chemical residues -

Proposed budget for 1997-98 for chemical residues is \$230 000.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked what funds the department proposed to expend on public relations in the financial year 1997-98.

Answer: Agriculture Western Australia has a public affairs unit with an operational budget of \$284 000, which includes provision for publications such as the fortnightly in-house staff newsletter *Ag Brief* and the quarterly *Journal of Agriculture* as well as media and community awareness activities. In addition, \$68 500 is budgeted in 1997-98 for the establishment of displays at major shows and events during the year, such as Dowerin field days, the Royal Show, Mingenew field day, Newdegate, Wagin Woolarama etc.

A further \$120 000 is budgeted in 1997-98 to support producer information field days at Agriculture Western Australia's own research station field days. Both of these budgets are established to assist with the delivery of information to primary producers and agribusiness, rather than promoting corporate public relations.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many FTEs the department had allocated to the task of public/media relations, communications or whatever classification it is given with the department or agency, and whether any of those FTEs are journalists, and if so, how many are journalists.

Answer: Agriculture Western Australia employs a large number of staff involved in the communication of a wide range of information to primary producers and agribusiness. This is core business for the agency. The agency has a public affairs unit which comprises three FTEs - a public affairs manager, a media liaison officer and a community liaison officer. Two of these staff members have a journalist background. The prime role of this group is communicating technical information to clients.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether the department worked through a specific agency for advertising campaigns this year and intended to do the same next year. If so, he wanted to know which agency, how much had been spent through that agency on advertising, and the nature of the specific advertising campaigns in which the department was engaged.

Answer: Agriculture Western Australia is rarely, if ever, involved in "campaign" advertising. Most agency advertising is of a "non-campaign" nature aimed at providing information to primary producers and agribusiness.

Question: Hon Kim Chance asked what direct and indirect costs were involved in installing the new accounting system, including the consultants' fees and new and updated technology costs for both hardware and software.

Answer: Costs associated with the implementation of the Smartstream Financial Management Information System to date. These costs are over two financial years (1995-96 and 1996-97) -

Direct salaries and operating	\$ 323 879
Implementation consultancy costs	\$1 202 338
Hardware purchase (server, PC upgrades)	\$ 200 000
Maintenance contract	\$ 190 000

Question: Hon Kim Chance inquired about the current status, value and control of outstanding cash advances due from public officers employed in the Minister's office, including ministerial advances.

Answer: Current status - One outstanding cash advance of \$359, issued on 9 April 1997, is currently being processed for clearance.

Control - Cash advances are to be repaid within one month. Outstanding advances are pursued by the cashier and recovery officer.

Question: Hon Kim Chance wanted to know what was the current status of, and delay in, issuing accurate monthly statements to departmental clients, and also if it was accepted that the current system of issuing departmental statements of accounts is sufficient to ensure accuracy.

Answer: The agency has not issued debtor monthly statements for 1996-97 due to the delays in implementing the revenue module of the new financial system. Debtor invoices have continued to be issued, similar to previous years.

Yes. Financial management system provides the facility to generate debtor recovery letters - agency customised - and the agency intends to take advantage of this tool for debtor management. This will be introduced for the 1997-98 financial year. Debtor monthly statements will continue to be available on request.

Question: The Committee asked which processes had been introduced to ensure management control effectiveness as the consequence of the implementation of recent financial management systems and the devolution of accounting functions.

Answer: Management control processes which have been introduced with the implementation of the new financial system and devolution of accounting functions are -

Delegation of authority to approved incurring officers for the purchase of services.

Delegation of certifying responsibility for accounts payments to regional centres.

Ongoing training of incurring and certifying officers statewide.

System user manual on agency intranet site.

Full access to financial information on agency intranet site.

Restructure of administrative positions to accommodate accountability requirements.

Question: The Committee asked what processes the agency had undertaken to assist industry development of value adding strategies for agricultural products.

Answer: Industry and market development program partnership groups and program managers are charged with the responsibility of identifying value adding opportunities which will benefit Western Australian agricultural industries.

Question: With regard to the loans portfolio that RAFCOR has held for many years, Hon Kim Chance asked where the reserves were held and also where they were located in the budget papers.

Answer: The RAFCOR reserves are held in trust accounts at Treasury. They are not tabled in the budget papers as they are not an appropriation. They are, however, reported on in the annual financial report for RAFCOR and tabled in Parliament.

Question: The Committee asked about the financial impact on the agency of the service agreements with the Agriculture Protection Board and the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation for the operational management of these agencies.

Answer: The financial impacts to the agency are as defined in the budget papers, volume 1, page 113. Agriculture Protection Board and the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation appropriations are net appropriated to Agriculture Western Australia.

Question: The Committee asked about which risk management processes had been implemented to address the "risk" from exotic species and diseases.

Answer Western Australia has strict international and interstate quarantine barriers. The risk management strategies for the prevention of pests and diseases are continually under review.

Agriculture Western Australia established a risk analysis project under the industry resource protection program and in 1997-98 additional resources have been allocated to this project through the Government's quarantine and surveillance initiative. This will ensure increased protection for the State's agricultural industries as well as compliance with international standards for quarantine.

Recently, strengthened risk management procedures have been introduced for a number of weeds, insect pests, plant and animal diseases. These include Johnes's disease, footrot, papaya fruit fly, seed imports and fire blight.

Question: Hon John Halden asked whether the signing of a workplace agreement endorsed by the Government was seen as a compulsory prerequisite for employees participating in flexible remuneration packaging. As government policy quite clearly shows that it will be the case, Hon John Halden also asked why it is not so in Agriculture Western Australia.

Answer: Yes. Current government policy administered by the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations requires that salary packaging only be offered through workplace agreements. The agency's first enterprise agreement has provision for flexible salary packaging which predates the Government's introduction of this policy.

Question: Hon John Halden asked whether workplace agreements are used in Agriculture Western Australia and, if so, how many there are currently.

Answer: There are currently 13 individual workplace agreements registered. One is for an externally funded project and the remainder are for research station staff.

Question: Hon Murray Montgomery asked about the status of the footrot program over the past 12 months. In addition, he wanted to know how many flocks were quarantined, what the cost had been to the agency over the past 12 months for that program, where the agency saw this program going in the next 12 months and what costs would be associated with it.

Answer: Western Australian sheep producers first asked Agriculture Western Australia to undertake a footrot eradication campaign in 1949. Over the next 30 years a combination of regulatory powers and voluntary eradication activities were used to control the prevalence of footrot in the State. The statewide prevalence of flocks with virulent footrot was reduced over this time from an estimated 15 per cent to around one per cent in the early 1980s.

The prevalence of virulent footrot increased during the period 1984-86 following the introduction of large numbers of sheep from the Eastern States. These were thought to have introduced milder - intermediate - strains of virulent footrot. A further outbreak occurred in 1989 resulting in a peak of 293 properties (approximately three per cent) being in quarantine at May 1991. This was reduced to 186 properties in quarantine at 30 June 1993.

In 1993 the Minister for Primary Industry commissioned the Montgomery review of the Western Australian footrot eradication campaign. There were 10 terms of reference and the committee considered the eradication of virulent footrot from Western Australia feasible and made 28 recommendations for each of these in February 1994. The agency has implemented all of the 23 recommendations that relate to its area of responsibility. Funding for truck wash down facilities was not considered to be the responsibility of the footrot project.

The agency consults frequently with industry through the Footrot Eradication Campaign Advisory Committee. The terms of reference for this committee have been reviewed. Two members from the Agriculture Protection Board are now on this committee. The Chairman of the Board, Mrs Keryl Enright, now chairs this committee.

Funding for the footrot eradication campaign was increased following the Montgomery review and the initiation of the recommendations. In 1996-97 a budget of \$1.624m was allocated. In 1997-98 the budget is \$1.25m, a reduction of \$0.374m. The reduction is because there are far less properties in quarantine that need to be serviced. However, the budget reduction will not reduce funding for research and surveillance, the two most critical elements of the campaign at this stage.

The significant fall in the number of properties in quarantine since the end of 1994 is shown in the following table -

Date	Number of properties	Number of sheep/goats
December 1994	197	534 000
June 1995	153	510 000
December 1995	139	482 000
June 1996	89	271 000
December 1996	45	176 000
22 May 1997	34	165 000

The success rate for achieving eradication from infected farms was 65 per cent in 1995-96 and 63 per cent in 1996-97. This is a very significant increase from the figure of about 38 per cent in the two previous years.

The objective of the footrot eradication campaign in Western Australia is to eradicate protease thermostable (S) strains of *Dichelobacter nodosus* (virulent footrot) from sheep and goats. Infection with protease thermostable (S) strains of *Dichelobacter nodosus* is determined by the laboratory gelatin gel test on isolates from animals with clinical signs. The thermounstable (U) strains of *Dichelobacter nodosus* are not targeted for eradication.

One case of virulent footrot has been found in cattle, but this is not considered a major impediment to achieving eradication.

Eradication of the disease from infected flocks is by quarantine of properties and initiation of an agreed management plan. Two options are available to owners, a total destock of the area for 14 days, or a summer eradication program with a disease free inspection of all sheep the following spring.

Vaccination against footrot is not permitted in sheep or goats in Western Australia. Foot bathing is only recommended in the early spring transmission phase of the disease to limit production losses and on animal welfare grounds, and in special cases after the final eradication inspection in summer, provided all diseased sheep have been removed from the flock.

Many of the more severe strains of the organism causing virulent footrot appear to have been eradicated from Western Australia. Today, the disease expresses itself in various degrees of severity due to a predominance of the milder strains, and a variety of environmental and host factors. Clinical symptoms are used for a presumptive diagnosis of virulent footrot, but this must be confirmed by laboratory isolation of S strains of *Dichelobacter nodosus*.

Targeted district surveillance for the disease has been conducted in spring and early summer on 750 to 1 000 properties per year for the last five years. There has been a very significant reduction in new detections of virulent footrot from six per cent initially to 0.4 per cent in 1996. Ongoing targeted surveillance and effective tracing from quarantine properties are keys to the recent success in Western Australia.

Question: Hon Greg Smith asked, in relation to boards, industry groups, task forces, review committees and other miscellaneous groups, committees and councils which come under the Agriculture portfolio, what remuneration is made to each member. He also wanted to know if membership was restricted, what criteria were used to appoint members, and if travel and accommodation expenses were included in that remuneration or formed a separate cost.

Answer: Information is attached addressing the above questions in relation to the major boards, partnership groups, councils and committees relating to Agriculture Western Australia's program areas. However, as indicated at the time, there are other miscellaneous committees and groups within the Agriculture portfolio.

If Hon Greg Smith requires further specific information with respect to those which are funded through agency projects, the agency will endeavour to provide the information after the end of the current financial year.

INDUSTRY PROTECTION PROGRAM

Body	Remuneration	Membership restriction	Appointment criteria	Travel and accommodation expenses
Agriculture Practice (Disputes) Board	Chairman \$7 000 per annum, members \$3 700 per annum	Members have to come from selected groups (schedule 2 s1-2)	Chairman and members are selected by the Minister based on relative experience	Separate to sitting fees
Agriculture Protection Board	Chairman \$17 100 per annum, members \$6 800 (due for review on 30/6/97) s5(11)	Chief executive officer is appointed, five of 12 members are from the zone control authorities s5(2)	Minister appoints six members according to skill and experience and five others from zone control authority	Separate to sitting fees
Zone control authorities	No remuneration s18	Representatives from local government and producer groups s15 and s17	Nominated to be appointed	Only paid to members of pastoral ZCAs
Regional Advisory Committee	No remuneration s31A	Representatives from local government and producer groups s29	Nominated to be appointed	Only paid to members of pastoral ZCAs
Skeleton Weed Advisory Committee	No remuneration	No restrictions of appointment	Members are appointed by APB on their skills and experience	Members are paid a travel expense
State Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign Advisory Committee	No remuneration	Appointed according to expertise and as representatives of various bodies	Members are appointed by the Minister	Members are paid a travel expense
Footrot Eradication Campaign Advisory Committee	No remuneration	Appointed according to expertise and as representatives of various bodies	Committee of 12 selected by the APB on skill and experience	No travel expense or accommodation expense

INDUSTRY AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Body	Remuneration	Membership restriction	Appointment criteria	Travel and accommodation expenses
Industry partnership groups (8)	Members are paid a consultancy fee if their income is affected by attending partnership group meetings and activities. Chairperson \$300 a day and members \$200 a day	Restricted to 85 members in total selected over a broad range of appropriate industries	Appointed by the Minister, based on skills set out in advertisement for expressions of interest	Reimbursement for travel and accommodation separate from consultancy fee

SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Body	Remuneration	Membership restrictions	Appointment criteria	Travel/ accommodation expenses
RAFCOR	Chairman \$17 100 per annum. Members \$6 800 per annum except for Treasury representative who is not paid in addition to normal salary	As prescribed under sections 6(a), (b) and (c) of the Rural Adjustment and Finance Act 1993	As determined by Minister on advice from broad range of industry groups	Separate to sitting fees
Soil and Land Conservation Council	Chairman \$145 per day. Members \$108 per day	As prescribed under section 16 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945	As prescribed under section 9 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945	Separate to sitting fees
Sustainable Rural Development Steering Committee	Chairman \$300 per day. Members \$200 as a consultancy fee if their income is affected by their participation	Open to any person who is not an employee of AGWA and who believes they can contribute in light of their background and experience	Appointed by the Minister; according to relevant background and experience	Separate to sitting fees

Regional partnership groups	Chairman \$200 per day. Members \$150 as a consultancy fee if their income is affected by their participation	Open to any person who is not an employee of AGWA and who believes they can contribute in light of their background and experience	Appointed by the Minister, according to relevant background and experience	Separate to sitting fees
Groups working for local or industry interests (eg subcatchment groups, WA No Till Farmers Association) and local statutory groups (eg land conservation district committees)	None	Varies according to group, but prescribed under section 23 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act for LCDCs.	Varies according to group, but for LCDCs prescribed under section 23 of the Soil and Land Conservation Act and appointed by the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation	Not applicable

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked how much of Giblett block was interim listed. How many hectares would be available for logging this year?

Answer: All of Giblett block is on the interim list of the register of the National Estate. The State Government has voluntarily deferred logging from 2 230 hectares of the block until the completion of the Regional Forest Agreement for Western Australia. However, it is planned to harvest approximately 460 ha in 1997.

Question: Hon K.D.E. Travers asked what stage had planning reached on the Gngangara regional park and how much had been spent to this stage. How much was intended to be spent in the future?

Answer: Planning is in its early stages and CALM is in the process of establishing a Gngangara Park Consultative Committee with representatives from local and state government agencies to assist in the development of plans. Community responses to public advertisements have been analysed as a part of the preliminary planning. Minimal expenditure (\$100 000) has been incurred and CALM will secure funding sources for the development of the park in line with future planning decisions.

Question: Hon K.D.E. Travers asked, in relation to the wraparounds in community newspapers in November last year concerning the proposal for the Gngangara Regional Park, when was a decision taken to run the advertisements and by whom. Was it true that the wraparounds were originally booked to be one week prior to the week in which they were run? If so, why was the decision made to change the date on which the advertisements were run, and who made the decision?

Answer: The Executive Director took the decision to seek public comment on the Gngangara park proposal in about September 1996. Preparation of a public information document was then commenced; however, publication did not take place until finalisation of preliminary planning, preparation of maps and other material.

Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked, in relation to contractual agreements to supply timber, could the Minister outline those agreements. What percentage would be woodchips?

Answer: The Executive Director is empowered under section 88 of the Conservation and Land Management Act to enter into contracts of sale to sell forest produce (timber) to timber companies, provided the area from which the timber is to be harvested is covered by an approved Management Plan prepared in accordance with sections 54 to 60 of the CALM Act, and is in accordance with Ministerial Conditions imposed during the approval process of the

management plan. For timber from native forests, a total of 178 contracts are in force totalling 2 093 266 tonnes per annum. Of that total, 773 580 tonnes of low quality logs or approximately 37 per cent of the total is sold for conversion into woodchips.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what new national parks and/or nature reserves were created in the current financial year and what area did they cover.

Answer: No new national parks have been created. One new A class reserve for the purpose of 'national park' was created: Reserve 44698 of 843.1 hectares is proposed to be added to the Fitzgerald River National Park. Eight new nature reserves have been created as noted below:

Reserve No	Area (hectares)
9927	261.1
14300	95.1
14830	29.3
43282	473.4
44446	985.6
44622	4
44729	18
44838	1

The above were created during the period 1 July 1996 to 10 June 1997.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what national parks and/or nature reserves would be created in the next financial year and what area these parks would cover.

Answer: CALM continues to seek additions to the conservation estate of ecosystems which are poorly represented or unrepresented in the existing conservation reserve network. Additions to the reserve system are achieved by direct purchase of private or leasehold land, land exchanges and additions of crown land of high conservation value. The Commonwealth Government, through the Natural Heritage Trust, within the national reserve system program, provides dollar for dollar assistance for the direct cost of purchase of suitable areas for conservation. Once the land is acquired or becomes available the process of reservation can take sometime to effect given the need, in particular, to clear native title issues and mining prospectivity issues. The Native Title Act 1993 needs to be complied with and agreement reached with agencies such as the Departments of Minerals and Energy and Resources Development over mineral prospectivity matters. Given the many factors and clearances involved to achieve reservation, it is not possible to say how many national parks and nature reserves will be created in the next financial year. The Government is, however, committed to working towards the conservation of Australia's biodiversity via protection in the reserve system.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked whether it was proposed in any way to enhance the Beedelup National Park, and if so, how and when. The member indicated that the definition of "enhance" also covered the concept of expansion of its area.

Answer: There is no intention to expand the area of the park beyond that outlined in the Forest Management Plan 1994-2003. CALM intends continuing with the upgrade of visitor facilities, roading and car parking, with roadworks occurring next financial year.

Question: Hon Muriel Patterson asked whether, in relation to communication points in an area subject to fire, further consideration had been given so that in the event of a fire the control officers could easily access the face of the fire. Was more communication occurring between the volunteer bush fire brigades and CALM?

Answer: CALM uses a hierarchy of control points depending on the severity and scale of fires. At small, single agency, fires the incident management team is located at a safe, strategic and cleared site down-wind from anticipated fire development.

At large, complex and multi-agency fires the incident management team is normally located at a field control point in the vicinity of the fire. The choice of site depends on a number of factors but particularly the availability of functional control and command accommodation, robust and effective telephone and radio communications, resource marshalling areas and catering and re-fuelling facilities.

In some situations a forward control point close to the fire may be necessary. This point would be staffed by the operations officer of the incident management team and serve as a liaison and staging point for divisional commanders involved in fire suppression and Chief Bush Fire Control and Bush Fires Board Liaison Officers. In multiple fire situations regional coordination centres are required where police, representatives from the fire combat agencies and support groups such as the State Emergency Service and St John Ambulance are located. Their role is to coordinate the availability of fire suppression resources, manage community evacuations and liaise with the media. These centres are not involved with control and command functions of fire emergencies.

CALM uses and promotes VHF radio command systems during fire emergencies where they have been established. This means that fire personnel from all agencies and brigades transmit and receive all fire suppression communications on the same network channel. At very large fires, where radio transmissions are difficult or where there is considerable radio traffic, discrete communications cells are established using VHF Simplex systems. Here fire suppression commanders retain radio communications with both the Simplex cell and the overall command system.

These arrangements have the agreement of the fire fighting agencies and brigades and have been further enhanced by the adoption of the Radio BandPlan, the negotiation of shared VHF Radio Command and Operations arrangements and the development of protocols for the use of mobile phones at fires. CALM VHF radio communications at Albany and Esperance are available for fire prevention and suppression activities by all agencies and brigades and a 5 year costed plan for command enhancement will soon be completed.

During the restricted burning period the lighting of prescribed fires is approved by local government authorities by issuing permits under the provisions of the Bush Fires Act (1954). Farmers and CALM operate under the same permit system and have a long-standing agreement in the Albany area to exchange notifications with adjoining properties.

Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked whether, in relation to prescribed burning in the wilderness area of the Fitzgerald River National Park, the department was considering a second look at that proposal in order to meet community concerns about protecting wilderness values in that area.

Answer: In 1989 156 000 hectares of the Fitzgerald National Park was damaged by wildfire. A large proportion of the fire occurred within the central core area that was subsequently zoned as wilderness in the 1991 government approved management plan. The plan recommended the exclusion of fire management activities for at least five years in the wilderness zone of the park to allow the full expression of *Phytophthora cinnamomi* disease and natural rehabilitation of fire affected areas. The plan further recommended that a review of fire management provisions be undertaken in 1995. This was completed by the Fitzgerald National Park fire advisory group and proposed -

- (i) that fire damaged wilderness areas require fuel modification to enhance the restoration of regeneration, regrowth and the maintenance of flora and fauna biodiversity. This is proposed using scrub-rolling, slashing and aerial ignition prescribed burning aimed at maximising the development of fuel mosaics;
- (ii) that fire damaged areas outside the wilderness area receive no further treatment; and
- (iii) that the remainder of the Fitzgerald National Park not affected by the 1989 wildfire be fire managed according to the recommendations of the 1991 management plan.

In accordance with section 61 of the Conservation and Land Management Act (1984) the Fitzgerald National Park Management Plan has been re-opened for public comment with regard to the draft fire management proposals for the wilderness zone. The proposals and an analysis of public opinion will be considered by CALM and the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority and recommendations on fire management put to the Minister for the Environment.

Question: Hon Greg Smith asked for detail of the \$2m visitor centre in Karijini National Park.

Answer: The park visitor centre will incorporate facilities and space for the park manager, cultural/indigenous interpretation and tourism, commercial operators/bookings, environmental interpretation and public information.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what funds were appropriated in the 1997-98 budget for dieback research.

Answer: \$498 800. The Commonwealth is also contributing \$500 000.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked for information on the funds directed by CALM to the mapping and interpretation of dieback risk areas in regions or locations of greatest hazard in 1996-97. He asked also what funds would be available in 1997-98 for that purpose.

Answer: It is anticipated that approximately \$940 000 will be expended by CALM on mapping and interpretation of dieback risk areas in 1996-97. In 1997-98 a provisional budget of \$810 000 is proposed. Within the forest areas, the interpretation and mapping effort is directed towards areas where operations are planned. Outside the forest areas, the priority for interpretation and mapping is where dieback spread will have greatest impact on susceptible vegetation ecosystems.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what area had now been treated with foliant phosphonate, following extensive field trials reported to this committee last year and what was the cost of any such program.

Answer: In 1996-97, phosphonate treatment has been applied to 285 hectares in the South Coast Region and 6 ha in the South West Capes District. The estimated cost of the program in 1996-97 is \$137 300.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what funds were in the dieback research trust fund and how were they supplemented.

Answer: There are no funds in the dieback research trust fund. The fund was closed in 1994-95, and the closure was noted at page 60 of CALM's 1994-95 annual report. Funds of \$498 000 are provided in the budget for dieback research and the Commonwealth is also contributing \$500 000 for 1997-98.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what area of CALM managed land had been subject to large scale area colour photography supplemented by intensive ground survey during the last financial year.

Answer: As reported at page 20 of the 1995-96 CALM annual report, the area of CALM managed land mapped for the presence and predicted impact of dieback from large scale colour photography and intensive ground survey was 35 990 hectares.

Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer said in relation to the Yanchep Inn that he had heard that renovation works encountered a serious unforeseen problem with the safe management of asbestos in the structure of the building. Could the existence of this problem be confirmed?

Answer: No asbestos management problems were associated with the structure of the building. Asbestos lagging of pipes in an attached boiler room required special attention to remove the hazard.

Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked in relation to the Yanchep Inn, what was the progress on renovations. When was it anticipated they would be completed and when would the Yanchep Inn reopen for business?

Answer: The renovations undertaken by CALM have been completed and the Wanneroo City Council health inspectors have inspected the site. The inn will open for business as soon as the necessary approvals have been obtained.

Question: Hon Christine Sharp asked for details of the expenditure on the motor vehicle fleet for the previous financial year, this financial year and next financial year. Had there been any significant changes?

Answer:

1995-96	\$6 656 373
1996-97	\$7 507 700 estimated
1997-98	\$7 500 000 estimated

Prior to 1996-97, fleet costs did not include capital charges. There has been a reduction in interest expenditure by CALM due to retirement of debt on sale of fleet. Savings in interest have offset the capital charges.

Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked, in relation to the Yanchep Inn, had any CALM or other state money been expended on renovations. If so, how much? For what specific purposes was the money expended and what aspect of the lease agreement provided for such expenditure?

Answer: Considerable renovation of Yanchep has been completed under the supervision of the Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS). The overall cost is \$340 556. CAMS has contributed \$162 434 (\$19 946 of which is CAMS' management fee), towards upgrading of the kitchen, storerooms, cool room, and scullery, recarpeting of the bar areas, revinyling of bar areas, repainting and electrical upgrades. CAMS has contributed through the building damage management fund \$178 122, involving waterproofing of the building envelope, storm water removal, repairing internal areas affected by storm water damage and some structural repairs to damaged or deteriorating sections of the inn. The inn is not currently leased and is under CALM control.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many journalists were employed by CALM.

Answer: Two.

Question: Hon Giz Watson asked, given CALM's obligations to manage marine parks, what performance criteria did CALM use to assess maintenance of biodiversity in these areas.

Answer: The maintenance of marine biodiversity is considered within the context of ecosystem, community and species biodiversity. The criterion CALM uses for assessing whether ecosystem biodiversity is being maintained in marine parks is through determining the effectiveness of management (including direct monitoring of key biodiversity components). It is a function of the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority to monitor CALM's implementation of management plans for the reserves vested in the NPNCA. When marine park vesting is transferred to the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority, the MPRA will develop guidelines for monitoring, set performance criteria for evaluation and conduct periodic assessments of implementation of marine reserve management plans.

Question: Hon Giz Watson asked how CALM ensured turtles were not killed in trawling activities, particularly in the Shark Bay area.

Answer: Trawling is allowed, and does occur, in some areas of the Shark Bay Marine Park. It is understood that the capture of turtles in Shark Bay trawling operations is infrequent, and that a code of practice has been adopted by the trawling fleet to minimise harm to turtles. There is little evidence that these activities are having a significant impact on turtle populations. However, the Shark Bay Marine Reserves Management Plan recommended that further research be undertaken. CALM has commenced an annual turtle tagging program at the primary turtle nesting site in Shark Bay to provide long-term information on the population size. Trawling operators are assisting CALM by providing information on tagged turtles that are captured and released. At least one turtle is known to have returned to the nesting beach after being caught in trawling operations.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what funds had been allocated for management in the Yalgorup National Park.

Answer: The total figure spent annually at Yalgorup National Park is \$93 500. It includes salaries and wages and materials involved in weed control, recreation, maintenance, planning liaison and patrols.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what steps had been taken to secure the Lake Clifton thrombolites from contamination with nutrients and other pollution that was entering the ground water off the lake.

Answer: CALM has produced a management plan for Yalgorup National Park where the thrombolites are located. Many of the sources of impact on the thrombolites are outside the park boundaries and therefore out of CALM's immediate area of control. Although the plan relates predominantly to management of the national park, it does include actions and recommendations that extend beyond CALM estate where they assist management of the park. Most of the land to the east of Lake Clifton is privately owned and predominantly cleared, while there are areas of privately owned bushland to the west of Lake Clifton. The management plan includes actions to acquire enclaves and adjoining properties that have exceptional conservation or recreation values, management benefits or that could protect areas with these values within the park.

Proposals for new developments and changes of land use including actions that are likely to affect lake water quality or quantity, such as groundwater extraction, may be subject to an assessment by State Planning Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Water Authority of WA and Agriculture WA. Proposals to subdivide, through local government, particularly along the eastern shoreline of Lake Clifton, are unlikely to be supported unless the proponent is able to show that the subdivision will not result in an increase in nutrient input into Lake Clifton. Lake Clifton is covered in the Department of Environmental Protection's lakes EPP, and the Peel-Harvey Coastal Plain Catchment - Statement of Planning Policy No 2 (produced by the State Planning Commission, under

section 5AA of the Town Planning and Development Act 1928) covers areas to the west of Lake Clifton. Both of these documents relate to new developments and changes to land use.

CALM has inputs to planning decisions on the adjacent areas through the planning and assessment processes of these other agencies. In addition CALM has direct liaison with adjacent land owners relating to land management as outlined in the management plan for Yalgorup National Park. The management plan also encourages research into the hydrology of the Park and its surrounds, and monitoring of the impacts of catchment land-use practices on ground and surface waters to enable better scientifically based land-use management decisions. This monitoring is ongoing.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked whether the State, under the auspices of CALM, would acquire private holdings to enhance the area of the Yalgorup National Park and secure Lake Clifton.

Answer: CALM will seek to purchase or exchange when opportunities arise and funds are available, private property enclaves and properties adjoining the Yalgorup National Park that have exceptional conservation and recreation values, management benefits, or that could protect areas with these values within the park. This includes private lots near Lake Clifton. This action is prescribed in the Yalgorup National Park Management Plan 1995-2005 prepared by CALM.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what were the current entry fees for national parks. Were there any plans to increase these fees? Had any parks been placed on the entry fee list in the past 12 months?

Answer: No park has been placed on the entry fee list in the past 12 months. As a matter of course CALM examines the entry fee system to identify further improvements.

Visitor Fees: Daily visitor fee (\$5) for motor cars, wagons, utilities, inclusion of occupants to the following national parks: Yanchep, John Forrest, Serpentine, Walyunga, Kalbarri, Nambung, Avon Valley, Lesmurdie Falls, Gloucester, Warren, Beedelup, Stirling Range (Bluff Knoll), Porongurup, Stokes, Cape Le Grand, Cape Arid, Karijini, Cape Range, Millstream-Chichester, François Peron. Note: Any number of the above national parks can be visited in one day for the \$5 fee. There is no daily visitor fee applied at national parks not listed above (except Purnululu where a special fee applies - see below).

Daily visitor fee for motorcycles \$3 - for national parks listed above.

Daily visitor fee \$2 per person for buses or commercial tours at the national parks listed above. Any number of national parks can be visited on the same day for the \$2 fee except Yanchep and Nambung. If visiting these two national parks on the same day, the \$2 fee must be paid at both parks. Children under six are free.

Concession fee (\$3) for Seniors Card or aged pension card holder (being driver of the vehicle) at the national parks listed above. Concession fee (\$1) for seniors card or aged pension card holders on organised private (not commercial tour) outing in buses to the above national parks.

Waiver: Visitor fees for the above national parks can be waived for organised bus groups of disabled, infirm or formal education groups - who are not part of a commercial tour - provided that written approval has been received from park policy and tourism branch prior to visit.

Recreational fishing licence holders will not be required to pay a visitor fee where they are entering a national park for the purpose of their licence - licence to be shown on request.

Purnululu (Bungle Bungle) National Park: Combined camping and entry fee (adult \$11, school age child under 16 \$1) for up to seven nights, includes fuel for campfires. Also payable by day visitors. Note: Annual or four week entry pass holders are entitled to day entry at no additional cost. If they intend to camp they will need to pay the basic camping fee of \$5 per night for one to two persons, \$3 for each additional person and \$1 for each additional school age child under 16 - see camping fees below.

Monkey Mia Reserve:

Per day per adult	\$5
Per day per child under 16	\$2
Per day per family	\$10
Long term pass: per adult	\$8
per family	\$20

Extended Entry National Park Passes:

All parks annual pass - entry to any national park in Western Australia for the period of a year	\$35
Gold Star Pass - entry to any national park in WA for the period of a year plus one year's subscription to CALM's <i>Landscape</i> magazine	\$54
Four Week All Parks Pass - entry to any national park in WA for a four week period	\$15
Local Park Annual Pass - entry for one year to one national park only, or the following groups of local national parks: Walyunga and Avon Valley; Gloucester, Warren and Beedelup; Stirling Range and Porongurup; Stokes, Cape Le Grand and Cape Arid; and Karijini and Millstream-Chichester.	\$12

Question: Hon John Cowdell asked for information about the variance of visitation to those parks where a fee was now attached.

Answer: Visitation has not been affected for parks which already had fees applied, eg Yanchep, John Forrest. Where entry fees were introduced to additional parks, it was generally found that visitor numbers marginally declined in the first twelve months. However, as facilities became upgraded, eg Beedelup, by re-investing collection fees the visitor numbers generally returned to their pre-existing levels or increased.

Question: Hon J A Cowdell asked what programs had been run in the last 12 months on the basis of commonwealth recoups and what programs would be run on this basis in the next 12 months. The member agreed that the information on commonwealth funding could be provided over a period of years.

Answer: Commonwealth grants received are listed on page 37 of CALM's 1995/96 annual report, as follows:

1990/91	\$1.70 million
1991/92	\$2.25 million
1992/93	\$3.06 million
1993/94	\$3.98 million
1994/95	\$4.95 million
1995/96	\$4.80 million

Commonwealth funds have been allocated to CALM's three programs, as follows -

	1996/97 (to date)	1997/98 (estimate)
Nature Conservation	\$2 712 639	\$2 300 000
Management for Tourism and Recreation	\$ 727 034	\$ 300 000
Forest Resources Management	\$1 105 670	\$1 500 000

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked if it was true that wild dogs had wiped out the colonies of the hairy-nosed wombat on the South Australian side of the border in the Nullarbor National Park, and there was only one small colony north of Eucla.

Answer: This issue was the subject of a question on notice from Hon Mark Nevill on Thursday, 13 March 1997. The situation has not changed and thus the answer remains the same: CALM is not aware of reports suggesting significant impacts from dogs on hairy-nosed wombats in South Australia. CALM has contacted the South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, managers of the Nullarbor National Park, which has advised that they are not aware of any major threats to wombats from wild dogs or dingoes. CALM will also be contacting Mr Nevill's constituent to seek information on this issue.

Question: Hon K.D.E. Travers asked whether there was any chance of CALM making funds available to purchase the last remaining section of coastal banksia in the northern suburbs - that is, the block of land immediately to the north of Burns Beach - and adding it to the Neerabup National Park.

Answer: Perth's BushPlan brings a whole of Government approach to the conservation of regionally significant bushland in the Perth metropolitan area. Much of the Burns Beach area, to which the member refers, is subject to an existing System 6 recommendation. The ultimate mechanisms for protection of the area are under consideration.

Question: Hon K.D.E. Travers asked whether CALM had done any investigations into the likely impact the extension of the freeway and railway reserves will have on the integrity of the Neerabup National Park.

Answer: A decision was made on the alignment of the freeway and rail reserves in the mid 1970s. To accommodate the alignment there were amendments to the national park involving land exchanges. The intention has been that the freeway reserve will form the western boundary of the national park. In 1988 the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority agreed to the excision of the portion of the national park to the west of freeway reserve subject to additional replacement land of equal conservation value being added to the park. The planning for the freeway reserve and rail reserve has been at a strategic level rather than detailed project level. CALM has provided information and comment during a planning study and assessment of east/west road options through the national park. CALM has provided comment to Main Roads WA on a biological survey conducted by the Main Roads for the Romeo Road-Lancelin Road section of the proposed freeway.

Question: Hon K.D.E. Travers asked whether there had been any monitoring of the effects the concrete batching plant has had on the integrity of the Neerabup National Park.

Answer: CALM monitors compliance with conditions of the mining lease on an annual basis for the batching plant. No other monitoring is carried out.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked for the figure for litigation this financial year, and whether a breakdown of that expenditure could be provided.

Answer: Expenditure on litigation to date is \$203 592, of which \$132 398 relates to the forest resources management program.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked what was the expected return from leaseholders under the nature-based tourism program (an indication of progress over the years with returns from leaseholders).

Answer: **Lease revenue**

	1996/97	1997/98 Estimate
State forest, freehold and other	\$46 917	\$161 520
Remainder of conservation estate	\$330 857	\$409 687

Question: Hon Norm Kelly said that in relation to Giblett block Dr Shea mentioned that 460 hectares were to be logged this year. He asked whether the rate of logging of the block was expected to continue at the same level for a number of years, or was it expected to increase next year.

Answer: Until the Regional Forest Agreement with the Commonwealth is finalised and detailed harvesting plans prepared, it is not possible to give a definitive answer to this question.

Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked for an answer on the long term future of Pemberton Mill if logging continued.

Answer: Dr Shea undertook to send the member a copy of the management plan. That has been done.

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked, in relation to a wildlife licence issued which allowed for the Naretha blue bonnet parrot to be bred, what had been the outcome of the Naretha blue bonnet parrot breeding program. Was it a commercial licence or a licence to deal or to breed the birds in captivity?

Answer: A summary report on the Naretha bluebonnet breeding program is set out below. The program was a ground breaking partnership between CALM and private aviculturists that -

- increased the abundance of the bird in aviculture;
- provided us with valuable information on the genetic and conservation status of wild populations; and,
- increased protection of wild populations by satisfying the demand for the species in aviculture.

File Note: Naretha Bluebonnet Breeding Program, Summary report

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Legal Status

The Naretha Bluebonnet subspecies is not considered to be threatened in Western Australia, but is classified as 'Specially Protected Fauna' under the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950. This special status has arisen because the species has in the past been a target for illegal trapping operations which have resulted in the destruction of nest hollows. The species was also very poorly represented in private aviculture collections. At the establishment of this program only one Naretha Bluebonnet was held under licence by private aviculturists in Western Australia. A small inbred population of six of the parrots was also held at Perth Zoo (sourced from a single wild pair caught in 1977).

1.2 Program Objectives

The Naretha Bluebonnet breeding program was first proposed by a private aviculturist in July 1990. Following detailed discussions and correspondence, it was approved by the executive director in January 1991.

A major priority is given within Western Australia to threatened species conservation, including captive breeding programs for species such as the Numbat, Chuditch (or Western Quoll) and Western Swamp Tortoise, which are joint operations of CALM and the Perth Zoo. There is, however, clearly a limit to the number of programs that can be funded.

While private individuals have little capacity to assist in breeding programs for the above species, the better private aviculturists have a wealth of experience in bird breeding. It had been suggested that such people were ideally placed to assist with captive breeding programs, as they have the facilities and time to provide close care and monitoring of the birds at a level equivalent to, if not greater than, would be the situation for many Zoo or other government programs. This study provided an ideal opportunity to examine the abilities of aviculturists to contribute to such breeding programs.

The principal objectives of the program were therefore to:

- (a) gather information on the breeding, morphology, genetics and captive growth rates of Naretha Bluebonnets;
- (b) establish a stock, of known genetic source, of the species in captivity; and,
- (c) examine, through a trial, the contributions that private aviculturists could make in captive breeding programs for threatened species.

A subsidiary objective of this program was the hope that nest robbing pressures would be reduced if the species eventually became widely available in aviculture (and therefore of lower individual specimen value).

2.0 PROGRAM OPERATIONS

2.1 Organisation and structure of the program

A Naretha Bluebonnet committee was established by CALM to supervise the program. The committee comprised six private aviculturists selected by the program proponent, as well as the Perth Zoo and CALM.

In 1992 the committee was extended to include a further two private aviculturists.

CALM retained ownership of the original 40 bluebonnets, which were provided on loan to the member aviculturists. Member aviculturists paid all costs for the program including CALM's supervision of capture operations, DNA testing and husbandry costs. Member aviculturists were granted ownership of 50 per cent of the young bluebonnets

they bred where both parent birds were CALM birds and 75 per cent of the progeny where only one parent was a CALM bird. In cases where an uneven number of offspring had been raised the 'extra' offspring was provided to the aviculturist concerned.

2.2 Capture Operations

Capture operations were structured and monitored to ensure that there was no significant impact on wild populations. Only 40 birds were collected from the wild in the presence of a CALM wildlife officer in late January 1991. Each bird was leg banded and measured and transported to Perth in individual cages. Blood samples were taken from each bird for use in DNA 'fingerprinting' and future electrophoresis study.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Captures

Of the 40 Naretha Bluebonnets captured in 1971, 17 were female and 23 male. During the first year of the program only two of the wild taken narethas died (one male, one female). A further two narethas were put down (one male, one female) after being found to have chronic 'feather and beak' disease.

3.2 DNA Fingerprinting and Wild Population Status

Blood samples taken from each of the original birds were passed to Dr John Weatherall and Mr David Groth of Curtin University for DNA analysis. The analysis showed a very high degree of outbreeding in the bluebonnets, with only 16 per cent of band sharing between the 40 sampled. The high variation in DNA suggested that wild bluebonnets were functioning as a large population, with no signs of inbreeding depression. With only a 16 per cent band sharing, the DNA fingerprinting indicated a degree of outbreeding amongst bluebonnets similar to that measured for human populations.

The above DNA results provide considerable evidence that wild populations were not under any current threat of extinction.

The proven occurrence of 'feather and beak' disease in wild naretha populations was noteworthy and supported findings of the disease in wild populations of other psittacine species.

All first generation offspring were also DNA 'fingerprinted' to provide additional baseline fingerprint data and security over future trade in the species.

3.3 Breeding biology, morphology and growth

A paper giving details of breeding requirements, data and results is being prepared. The following table gives a summary of breeding results from the program.

Year	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94*	Total
Surviving Young	43	45	26	114

(*The program was closing in 1994 and there were also reportedly unfavourable weather conditions during the breeding season.)

Overall 114 Naretha Bluebonnets were bred in the program over three years from the original 17 pairs collected from the wild.

3.4 Captive Stocks

At the commencement of the program only one naretha was licensed in private collections, with a further six inbred birds at the Perth Zoo. After the conclusion of the program in 1994, this number had increased dramatically. As at 1996, over 200 Naretha Bluebonnets were known in captivity, an increase of over 2 700 per cent.

3.5 Contributions of Aviculturists

The NBB program ran for 3.5 years and involved eight private aviculturists. The program demonstrated clearly that good private aviculturists could be very successful in captive breeding programs. Those aviculturists with good skills and devotion to the program produced very good breeding records and results. As the program progressed towards its closure in 1994, the attention to record keeping detail declined somewhat as did the numbers of young produced. While it is not clear whether the numbers produced declined only because of poor weather during the 1993-94 breeding season, the decline in record keeping was almost certainly a result of the enthusiasm for the program declining towards its conclusion.

Overall the program demonstrated that, where aviculturists are highly motivated and adequately coordinated by CALM, they can be of considerable assistance in joint study programs for native birds.

During the program CALM disposed of 53 Naretha Bluebonnets by a tender process. These tenders returned over \$23 000 for CALM's use in native bird programs.

3.6 Incentives for an illegal harvest

Prior to the program commencing, narethas were virtually unobtainable through legal channels and estimated to be worth \$2 000 per pair. As a result of the program, the commercial value of Naretha Bluebonnets stabilised to around \$750 per pair by the end of 1996. This reduction in price, combined with the significant numbers of breeding pairs in captivity and the retention of the 'specially protected' wild status (max. \$10 000 fine for illegal taking), should have reduced the incentive to poach wild bluebonnets.

4.0 OVERVIEW

It is clear that the Naretha Bluebonnet breeding program was a resounding success. In just 3.5 years and at virtually no cost to CALM, narethas went from being poorly known in the wild and in aviculture, and a target of nest robbers, to demonstrating that the species was reasonably abundant in the wild and aviculture (with over 200 in collections by 1996), with reduced incentives for poaching.

CALM also collected considerable morphological breeding and keeping information on the species, which is suitable for publication, and established a trust account for future avian fauna programs with contributions of over \$23 000 from the sale of captured and bred Naretha Bluebonnets.

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked whether there was concern about handling bats in CALM as a result of viruses bats carry in Queensland.

Answer: The Executive Director, in a memo to all CALM managers, has directed that employees who come into routine direct contact with fruit bats or sick or injured bats of any species during the course of their duties, should consult their general practitioner to determine whether they should obtain vaccinations against this new virus. All staff and employees who are bitten or scratched by fruit bats or obviously sick bats of any species are to be directed that they should immediately consult their GP about receiving a course of vaccinations. Employees, determined from the guidelines above to be at potential risk of contracting the virus, are directed that they should consult their GP about the need for vaccinations. The costs of any expenses associated with GP consultations about vaccinations as well as the costs for any course of injections are met by CALM.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked where was the dam site which CALM sold to the Water and Rivers Commission in this financial year.

Answer: There has been no sale of a dam site to the Water and Rivers Commission (WRC) in this financial year. However the WRC did purchase six properties at the end of the last financial year (June 1996), which have potential for development as dam sites. The six properties are all in the Blackwood Valley and located on tributaries of the Blackwood River, as follows:

Balingup Brook	-	2 properties
Nannup Brook	-	2 properties
Ellis Creek	-	1 property
Gregory Brook	-	1 property

Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked about the level of Aboriginal employment in paid staff and volunteers in the department, particularly the tourism and recreation sections. He asked also for a breakdown of Aboriginal people in management positions.

Answer: Disclosure of race by employees for CALM's human resources information system is voluntary, however 32 Aboriginal employees have recorded this information. Four of these are in management positions. CALM does not record details of race for volunteers. Of the 3 307 registered volunteers, a number are known to be Aboriginal people.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked, in relation to a comment in a report "The WA wood and wood product industry is estimated by CALM to generate direct and indirect employment of 20 000 and to have an annual turnover of \$850m", whether that was a correct representation of any estimate made by CALM, and if so, had any update been made since that estimate was made.

Answer: The estimate of \$850m annual turnover was obtained from an industry survey conducted in 1990 at the time of the Resources Assessment Commission Forest and Timber Inquiry. The 1987 Timber Strategy estimated the direct employment in forest product industries as 9 079 and referred to an employment multiplier of 2.6 to give an estimated direct and indirect employment figure related to the forest industry as being in excess of 20 000. The most recent employment figures available to CALM from a number of sources indicate that 9 300 people are in direct employment. By using the type 2 multipliers from the Department of Commerce and Trade, it is estimated that the direct and indirect employment in the forest industries is over 21 000. The socioeconomic assessment being carried out during the Regional Forest Agreement process will provide an up to date estimate of the number of people employed in the forest based industries.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked what was the departments projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget. How did this compare with the current financial year's allocations?

Answer: CALM's Corporate Relations Division has primary responsibility for public relations/community awareness. Projected expenditure in 1997/98 is \$825 000. Expenditure for the current financial year is estimated to be a similar amount.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many FTEs within the department were involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations. Were any of these persons journalists, and if so, how many?

Answer: There are nine FTEs involved in communications, public relations/community awareness and media relations. Of those, two are journalists.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked for the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget. How does this compare with the current financial year's allocations?

Answer: Projected expenditure on advertising in 1997/98 is \$330 000 department-wide. It is estimated that a similar amount will be spent in the current financial year.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether there were any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in 1997-98. If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?

Answer: No specific new campaigns are planned, although ongoing campaigns such as Western Shield, trees on farms and CALM publications will continue.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether the management/organisation of those campaigns was to be outsourced. If so, to whom?

Answer: This question is not applicable to CALM as no specific new advertising campaigns are planned.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many officers from the department were located permanently within the Minister's office.

Answer: One officer has been seconded to the Minister's office.

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate information technology systems for its functions and needs. This question in particular seeks a response to the following issues -

- (i) *Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the year 2000 have been addressed?*
- (ii) *Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of information technology needs?*
- (iii) *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?*
- (iv) *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade information technology to address technological change?*
- (v) *Information technology training for employees?*

Answer:

- (i) CALM's Information Services Manager is a member of the WA Government's Information Policy Council's Year 2000 Date Change Group, which is developing a whole-of-government policy statement in relation to dealing with the year 2000 problem. There exists a working group within CALM chaired by a director which is responsible for dealing with the problems internally.
- (ii) CALM's outsourced information technology activities are based on formal agreements with suppliers, which incorporate service level agreements, and cost agreements. The agreements are established in conformity with the requirements of the relevant state government contracting regulations. Performance in relation to the agreed service levels is monitored continuously by CALM and reported monthly, as are costs. Service specifications within the agreements are subject to annual bilateral review.
- (iii) Access to Internet is available to all those employees within CALM for whom their manager considers it relevant to their work for the organisation. CALM has established its own secure Internet gateway for this purpose. Usage is governed by the department's Internet/Intranet access policy and guidelines.
- (iv) CALM's information technology infrastructure and facilities are being continually upgraded as resources permit. In particular, the mainframe computers in the data centre are in the process of being upgraded from Vax to Alpha, and the wide area network has been continuously modernised over the past two years. CALM is currently addressing the issue of the electronic dissemination of a wide spectrum of types of information, to supplant the older hard-copy methods.
- (v) Training courses have been conducted in-house in desktop packages (word processing, spreadsheet), electronic mail and Internet usage. Training has also been provided in more specialised areas of information technology, such as geographic information systems.

Question: What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?

Answer: The department appointed an assets coordinator in August 1995, who has implemented a system for automatically updating CALM's departmental asset register with all assets purchased through the accounts payable system. Six monthly stocktakes of all departmental assets are carried out by responsible cost centre staff. These stocktakes must be signed by the relevant managers. Both internal audit and the Office of the Auditor General carried out random audits to ensure controls are satisfactory.

Question: What action has the agency taken to ensure that the decentralisation of accounting and management functions to country areas has adequate support from the central agency office?

Answer: Leadership training courses are provided on a regular basis to a wide cross section of staff from country and metropolitan administrative units, and regular meetings of district and regional managers are held to discuss issues and agree strategies. The department maintains an accounting manual, user manuals and administrative instructions to provide guidance for management in country areas and for users of the financial systems. Financial systems training is provided to all new administrative staff, and visits to country areas are undertaken by staff of the department's financial systems section to provide supplementary training. The management audit branch issues checklists to all cost centres so that all cost centres are aware of control requirements. An annual administrative officers' seminar is held, as are quarterly meetings of CALM's financial systems user group.

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?

Answer: Private sector involvement in CALM's functions is primarily seen in the provision of timber harvesting and transport, construction and maintenance of forest roads, plantation planting, the undertaking of some scientific fauna, flora and ecosystem research, and associations with guided tours providers and facility operators on public lands. Accountability for private sector involvement is maintained through a variety of checks and balances that commences with competitive contract letting, monitoring of contractor performance, certification of invoices, regular reporting of financial results and monitoring of outcomes at a number of management levels, maintenance of an effective internal control structure over the purchasing, invoice recording and payment functions, and the conduct of annual financial audits and periodic performance audits by the Office of the Auditor General.

To reinforce internal control of the tendering and contract management function, CALM appointed a supply coordinator in February 1997 and is undergoing a quality assurance review by the State Supply Commission with the aim of increasing the level of supply.

EDUCATION

Question: Hon John Halden asked whether the department could provide details of the contract cost of the School Audit Program.

Answer: The estimated expenditure for the school audit program in 1996-97 is \$135 000.

Question: Hon John Halden asked about the cost of contracting out information and technology.

Answer: The Education Department is currently involved in contracting out of facilities management for its main frame and mid-range computing equipment as part of the business information processing agency consortium (BIPAC). Some supplementary information and technology support services for schools, district offices and central office have been acquired on a contractual basis until the BIPAC contract is fully operational. The final tender price of the BIPAC contract has not been determined for individual agencies within the consortium. The purchase of supplementary information and technology support services was provided from within existing resources.

Question: Hon John Halden asked about the cost of contracting out lawn mowing services.

Answer: The actual cost in 1995-96 of lawn maintenance services, provided by the then Department of Contract and Management Services (CAMS), was \$2 400 261. The estimated outturn for the current financial year is \$3.5m. The privatisation of the metropolitan area was completed on 1 July 1996. In order to satisfy the needs of schools, the new contracts have also expanded the scope of works beyond that provided by the then CAMS. These increases are:

- (1) one additional cut to ovals per annum;
- (2) seven additional cuts to building surrounds per annum;
- (3) six cuts to semi-cultivated areas per annum;
- (4) cutting of embankments (number of cuts varies); and
- (5) an annual aerating of building surrounds.

These increases are also progressively included in existing contracts as options fall due.

Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked what is the estimated date for the completion of the final stage of Clarkson High School.

Answer: The final stage of Clarkson High School has not yet been scheduled. Announcements about this project will be made when more demographic information from the district comes to hand in future years. The

implementation of the local area education planning framework may also impact on the timing of future developments for this project.

Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked when it is anticipated that Clarkson stage 2 will be completed.

Answer: Stage 2 of Clarkson High School is to be undertaken over two financial years, 1997-98 and 1998-99. It is anticipated that the project will be completed for the beginning of the 1999 school year.

Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked what is the best estimate on the commencement and completion dates for the Kinross High School.

Answer: No dates have been settled for the establishment of a new high school in the district of Kinross. The need for education facilities in this area will be subject to the Education Department's local area education planning framework which will help determine both the timing and the nature of the facilities and programs for secondary education in the area.

Question: Hon M.J. Criddle asked about the refurbishment of schools in the rural integration program.

Answer: It is planned to carry out refurbishments to schools in the Moora district during 1997-98, specifically at Wubin, Watheroo, Buntine and Cadoux. The estimated cost of the refurbishments at Wubin, Watheroo and Cadoux is \$26 000 for each of the three schools and approximately \$20 000 for Buntine. If sufficient funds are available from the \$100 000 allocated for 1997-98 after Wubin, Watheroo, Buntine and Cadoux have been refurbished, work will also be undertaken at Latham. A prioritised list for the refurbishment of the remaining schools with rural integration programs, based on information provided by district education offices, is currently being compiled. Binu will be included in that prioritised list. A further \$100 000 is available for the refurbishments of schools with rural integration programs in 1998-99.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked about the hourly unit cost of the school psychology service.

Answer: A unit has been taken as the salary cost of providing one psychologist for one hour. The information has been averaged from the salary costs of all school psychologists and does not include any contingency cost. The unit cost has been determined by assuming a 37.5 hour week and includes all leave entitlements. The unit cost therefore is \$23.33.

Question: Hon John Halden asked how many workplace agreements had been signed by the Education Department.

Answer: Two thousand eight hundred and twenty-four workplace agreements have been signed by the Education Department.

Question: Hon John Halden asked about employees with salary packages who are injured at work and whether they are entitled to only the cash component of their salary and not the non-cash component.

Answer: An employee who is injured at work and has a salary package agreement with the Education Department would not be disadvantaged. The department would continue to pay the cash component to the employee and the non-cash component to the bureau service, MacMillian Shakespeare, which administers payments to other parties in accordance with the agreement.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what staffing resources were provided to the Mt Barker education support unit in 1996.

Answer: The total resources were 1.0 FTE teacher, 0.25 FTE primary integration time and 1.3 FTE teacher aide time.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what staffing resources were provided to the Mt Barker education support unit in 1997.

Answer: Total resources, based on the February 1997 census information are 1.0 FTE teacher, 0.25 FTE integration time and 1.5 FTE teacher aide time - an increase of 0.20 FTE teacher aide time.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked whether the Mt Barker education support unit's student population changed between 1996 and 1997 and, if so, whether the level of disability increased or decreased.

Answer: In the July 1996 census the Mt Barker education support unit recorded 10 students, nine with a mild intellectual disability and one with a severe/multiple intellectual disability. The February 1997 census recorded 11 students, 10 with a mild intellectual disability and one student reclassified from severe/multiple to severe disability. Since this time, the unit has applied for additional teacher aide time for the equivalent of two additional students. This will be verified through the July 1997 census.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked for the reason for the 0.40 FTE increase in teacher aide time and who made the decision.

Answer: The Mt Barker education support unit has indicated that student numbers have risen to 13 students since the February 1997 census. Since education support teacher time is not readjusted until the July 1997 census, the Committee for Students with Disability (School Aged) allocated an additional 0.40 teacher aide time to the unit for additional support until 4 July 1997, at which time the overall teacher and teacher aide allocation will be reviewed based on the July 1997 census.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked about the total amount allocated to education support in WA in each of the budgets 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Answer: 1995-96: Data is not available, due to a previous cost allocation process;
 1996-97: \$67.26m;
 1997-98: \$70.08m.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked how many education support teachers were employed in 1995, 1996 and 1997.

<i>Answer:</i>	Teachers	Teachers Aides
1995	576 FTE	496 FTE
1996	604.82 FTE	530 FTE
1997	667.65 FTE	565 FTE

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked whether the Education Department has a policy of providing sufficient teacher aide time for education support students when they spend time integrated in other classrooms.

Answer: Teacher aide time is allocated to either support students with disabilities in education support facilities by formula or to individual students based on the level of disability demonstrated in an application for teacher aide time. In some circumstances, usually in country locations, students with intellectual disabilities are fully included in regular classrooms. Teacher and teacher aide time is therefore used for inclusion in these cases. The Policy and Guidelines for the Education for Students with Disabilities (1993) does not provide a statement regarding the guidelines for students integrated into other classrooms. No formal policy currently exists outlining the utilisation of teacher aide time specifically for integration purposes for students with disabilities. However, the department is currently developing a policy for the inclusion of students with intellectual disabilities into mainstream classes, for which teacher aide provision will be allocated according to need. Implementation of the policy should commence in 1998.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked about the rationale for the decrease in teacher aide time at the Mt Barker education support unit in 1996-97 and what the unit might expect for the second semester.

Answer: There has been no decrease in teacher aide time at the Mt Barker education support unit between 1996 and 1997. Over this period there has been a 0.20 FTE increase in teacher aide time. Should the unit experience an increase in student numbers from the February 1997 census of 11 students to 13 students, as it has suggested, it would attract an additional 0.70 FTE teacher time and 0.20 FTE teacher aide time.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked:

- (1) *How much money has been allocated in the budget to assess the extent to which drugs are a problem in schools?*
- (2) *How many class hours might a student spend in learning specifically about drugs?*

- (3) *How are resources being allocated to a drug education program when we do not understand the extent of the problem?*

Answer:

- (1) It is not core business for the Education Department to research drug use by young people. Schools and the Education Department assist other agencies to collect data on drug use by school age youth through participation in various state and national surveys. Government schools use school development plans to identify the educational needs of students, to plan and implement strategies using appropriate resources and to monitor outcomes for all students. The extent to which these school development plans allocate resources to assess the extent of drug use by students will vary according to the needs of the students in the different local communities. This data is not available centrally to the Education Department.
- (2) International and national research recommends that school drug education is most effective when taught as part of an ongoing health education program. Key health skills such as decision making, assertive communication, values clarification and goal setting together with specific drug education content are essential for effective school drug education. This research has been acknowledged by the Task Force on Drug Abuse in its recommendations for school drug education. Drug education objectives and content are a significant component of the department's health education K-10 syllabus. Surveys such as the 1993 National Heart Foundation survey of health and physical education estimate that on average primary schools spend 51 minutes per week and high schools 1.27 hours per week on formal health education instruction.
- (3) It is not core business for the Education Department to research drug use by young people. Schools and the Education Department assist other agencies to collect data on drug use by school age youth through participation in various state and national surveys. The Government's Task Force on Drug Abuse has done extensive research on the extent to which drugs are being used by young people and has made recommendations about what should be done to educate young people about the problems associated with drug use. The department, along with Catholic and independent schools in WA, is supporting the school drug education project (SDEP) to provide professional development, curriculum materials and policy advice to teachers of drug education. The work of the department and the SDEP is guided by contemporary research conducted by other agencies such as the WA Institute of Child Health Research, the Health Department of WA and the University of WA.

Question: The Committee asked what processes the agency had adopted to implement appropriate information technology systems for its functions and needs. This question in particular sought a response to the following issues, although it was not limited to these:

- (i) *Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the year 2000 have been addressed?*

Answer:

- (i) The Education Department has already checked that its major information systems are year 2000 compliant. A project plan to address other issues is currently being prepared for senior executive as it is recognised that the problem does not only include information and technology.
- (ii) *Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of Information Technology needs.*

Answer:

- (ii) The department has established a competitive tendering and contracting support group to assess all outsourcing proposals to ensure that they comply with government guidelines. The group will also assess whether the recommended decisions are congruent with the analysis of information on a business case and costing basis.
- (iii) *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency.*

Answer:

- (iii) Several initiatives have been undertaken to ensure appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency. These include:

The Internet in schools project, in which an allocation of funds has been made available to provide the opportunity for staff in all schools to access the Internet. In addition to Internet access a substantial portion of the budget of this project has been directed towards professional development. This will ensure that staff are aware of the opportunities and implications that the Internet presents and that a keen understanding is developed about how the resource may facilitate educational outcomes.

The Education Department's Internet node which has been established to provide appropriate access and other Internet related services to central office staff.

The common use contract for the provision of Internet services which enables schools to purchase access and other related services from a group of service providers that have undergone some scrutiny to ensure a level of skill, ability and level of quality in relation to the services they offer.

(iv) *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade information technology to address technological change.*

Answer:

(iv) Major projects involving the acquisition of computing equipment have used leasing to acquire sufficient equipment within a given time frame and to ensure continuing resources are available to meet needs of technological change/replacement.

(v) *Information technology training for employees.*

Answer:

(v) All major technology projects now involve a component of professional development for affected staff, such as EdNet, Internet in schools and MAZE demographics training.

In addition to the above issues specifically identified, the department has undertaken the following major initiatives -

- (1) The establishment of T2000, a department-wide technology strategic initiative which communicates a vision for the way technology will be used to enhance education in government schools.
- (2) The development of a technology architecture plan which identifies the technological structures which will support the department over the next three to five years.
- (3) Planning has commenced to address support requirements for technology in schools. The establishment of a centralised help desk has been completed. Contracts with private sector providers to assist schools with networking, information technology planning and other support are being provided.

Question: The Committee asked what action the agency had taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control.

Answer: The Education Department has in place computerised systems that provide control and which report all of its public property holdings on a physical and financial basis. These include the land management system, buildings facilities register, hardcat asset register, school MAZE asset register and a leasing information system.

Question: The Committee asked what processes have been adopted to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a new financial management information system.

Answer: The Education Department's new financial management information system, when fully implemented in September 1997, together with the implementation of full accrual based accounting procedures, will allow management effective control over its financial resources and assets (excluding school based assets). With the implementation of the human resource management information system (HRMIS) in 1998, management will have effective control over its entire resource base. The department will use these systems to develop regular management reports which will facilitate the continuous monitoring of departmental programs.

Question: The Committee asked what processes had the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in functions of the agency.

Answer: The department has established a quality control mechanism to ensure the probity of processes in developing proposals for competitive tendering and contracting. A group of senior officers, independent of line management of areas under review, is responsible for assessing proposals against the established criteria and standards for competitive tendering and contracting.

Question: The Committee asked what processes the agency had adopted to ensure appropriate accountability in the implementation of the new human resource/payroll system.

Answer: Implementation of the new human resource/payroll system will be accompanied with detailed policy and process guidelines which will clearly identify accountability for decision making with respect to personnel/payroll management. The new system will significantly enhance the extraction of information and more accurately monitor the appropriateness of decision making processes by EDWA. More importantly, it will be managed at the local level, with individual employees having access to and accountability for information pertaining to their employment.

Question: The Committee asked what processes the agency had adopted to provide for effective mechanisms for rewarding agency employees on the basis of "merit".

Answer: The Education Department of Western Australia has and is developing the following mechanisms to reward agency employees on the basis of merit -

- system-wide performance management;
- a new career structure for teachers;
- development of competencies for assessment and promotion; and
- merit promotion.

In addition the department is bound by public sector human resource standards and by equal employment opportunity law which seek to ensure merit forms the basis for human resource decision making.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked what the department's projected expenditure is on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget.

Answer: The communications and public relations branch of the Education Department is responsible for coordination of public relations and promotional events; the management of contact with the media; the preparation and production of department publications; coordination of department communications and management of print design and production. The projected operating expenditure of the branch in 1997-98 is \$477 000. This includes staff communications, in particular a fortnightly newspaper with a circulation of 29 000 and all associated printing costs.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how this compared to the current financial year's allocations.

Answer: The allocation for 1996-97 is \$477 000. Additionally, a major promotional exercise conducted during 1996 was the Pacific School Games. The expenditure on its marketing and promotion in 1996-97 was \$164 000 of which \$103 000 was donated in kind by the private sector and other agencies.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many FTEs within the department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations.

Answer: 10.5 FTE staff.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any of those persons are journalists, and if so how many.

Answer: Four are trained as journalists. One is the manager; two work as editor and reporter for the department's internal staff newspaper; and the fourth is media coordinator involved in daily liaison with the media.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked what is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget.

Answer: \$240 000.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how this compared to the current financial year's allocations.

Answer: Estimated expenditure for 1996-97 is \$240 000.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any new campaigns are to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year and if so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns, is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be out sourced, and to whom.

Answer: No advertising campaigns are planned.

Questions: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office.

Answer: No officers from the Education Department are located permanently within the Minister's office.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any allowance had been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation. If so, how does this compare with any allowance made in the previous year?

Answer: No allowance is made in the 1997-98 budget for lost productivity due to industrial action and nor was there in 1996-97.

FISHERIES

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) *What the department intended to expend on public relations in the 1997-98 budget.*
- (2) *If the expenditure represented an increased on the current year's allocation.*
- (3) *How many full time equivalents were involved in communication, public relations or media relations.*
- (4) *How many FTEs were journalists.*
- (5) *If the above is the case, whether the Minister could indicate the department's total expenditure on advertising for the coming financial year and draw a comparison between that year and the anticipated total cost of advertising to the end of the current financial year.*
- (6) *Whether new campaigns were to be launched by the department which would explain the change in the figures.*
- (7) *Whether the department employed an officer or officers on the ministerial staff.*
- (8) *If the Minister would also indicate which companies would be employed to wage that communication strategy with the community and the amount which would be provided to each of those entities.*

Answer:

- (1) The communication and public and media relations activities are primarily provided through the community awareness branch of the regional services division of the agency. The budget for community awareness which includes education, information, volunteer program and corporate program is \$960 000. Public relations is part of the other functions of community awareness but no specific budgeted allocation is made for this activity.
- (2) Yes. The 1996-97 budget was \$903 000 but the estimated actual expenditure is \$960 000. Of the \$960 000, the corporate program - which includes "Western Fisheries", the annual report, corporate displays and production of the strategic plan - is estimated to be \$283 000.

- (3)-(4) The community awareness branch currently consists of six FTEs of which two are journalists.
- (5) The department allocated \$199 700 for advertising during 1996-97 and actual expenditure to 26 May 1997 totalled \$125 000. The proposed allocation for 1997-98 of \$140 000 is broadly in line with the annualised actual expenditure for 1996-97. The advertising budget includes job vacancies notices, statutory notification of licence applications, etc.
- (6) New advertising campaigns will include possible Shark Bay recreational fishing rule changes and a low key launch of new corporate identification.
- (7) Two policy officers are employed on ministerial staff. Neither is engaged in community awareness/public relations.
- (8) The implementation of the communications strategy will be largely done by existing departmental staff. Some small contracts have and will be let on a competitive tendering basis to assist with such tasks as the development of the design style manual and independent assessment of shop front possibilities.

Question: Hon Kim Chance asked -

- (1) *Whether the five FTEs to which the Minister referred included staff engaged in the preparation of the Fisheries Department magazine.*
- (2) *If the Minister would indicate whether those persons engaged in that public relations activity full time or part time could be delineated from any other function.*

Answer:

- (1) Yes. "Western Fisheries" is produced by the department through four major contracts - editor; advertising; design and printing; and distribution. The CAB manages these contracts. One community awareness staff member spends some time preparing features for this magazine (.3 FTE).
- (2) Public relations is a function shared by all officers: Community awareness branch, front counter staff, customer focus officer, executive director and all Fisheries staff. There is no one FTE full or part time designated to public relations. There is one media liaison officer.

Question: Hon Bruce Donaldson asked what role the department's partnership arrangement with the South Metropolitan College of TAFE would play in the new era of aquaculture.

Answer:

The mariculture R & D facilities at the South Metropolitan College of TAFE's Fremantle Maritime Centre are seen as critical to the development of the mariculture industry in the temperate waters.

TAFE's research and development work with black bream and snapper have been important in developing skills and interest in the possibilities of mariculture development.

The Fisheries Department is currently in partnership with TAFE in the WA jewfish research project which is part funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation. The objective of this work is to develop reproduction and juvenile rearing systems that can be used by industry to produce 'fingerlings' for potentially commercial production.

Peter Rogers, the executive director of the Fisheries Department, met recently with Tony Tait, the managing director of the TAFE college, to discuss future collaboration arrangements between the two organisations. Officers of both agencies are now looking at options for future working arrangements.

Whilst discussions are at an early stage, the option of locating Fisheries Department research and development staff at the TAFE centre are being evaluated. A successful partnership between TAFE and the Fisheries Department is seen as very important to the development of mariculture in temperate Western Australia.

Question: Hon Giz Watson asked what budget allocations had been made and what action had been taken by the department to reduce by-catch, particularly of species listed as threatened or endangered under state and commonwealth legislation, and whether this would include the use of mandatory modified trawl nets with escape hatches.

Answer:

Desk top study into the effects of trawl fisheries:

The department has initiated a study into the effects of various trawl fisheries throughout the State. The research services division has collected a significant amount of information about the location and magnitude of trawl fisheries over a long period of time. This information will be brought together into a single report which will be available to the public and the fishing industry. The report will be completed by March 1998 and will, after discussions with interested parties, form the basis of future actions. The budget allocation for 1997-98 is \$20 000.

Other grant applications:

The department has made other applications for commonwealth funds through the national fisheries action program. Projects include -

- . an investigation into the effects of rock lobster pots on the corals of the Abrolhos Islands; and
- . the use of by-catch reduction devices in Shark Bay trawl gear.

Question: Hon Giz Watson asked, given the precarious status of a number of shark species, in particular school sharks, and noting that they are highly vulnerable as top order predators and also because of their long reproductive cycle, whether the department would move to have great white sharks, which are referred to at page 381, listed as fully protected under the Fish Resources Management Act. She asked also whether the department would move to have the practice known as finning of sharks prohibited in areas under Western Australia's fisheries management.

Answer:

Great white sharks:

The department supports a position put to the Minister for Fisheries by the Western Australian Demersal Gillnet and Demersal Longline Fishery Management Advisory Committee. This committee is the Minister's primary consultative mechanism for the joint authority southern demersal gillnet and demersal longline managed fishery and the recently declared west coast demersal gillnet and demersal longline interim managed fishery. The majority of white shark mortalities in Western Australia result from incidental catches from these two fisheries, which has not exceeded 15 per annum. Specifically, the MAC has advised the Minister that white sharks be listed as a commercially protected species under section 47 of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994. Such a listing would ban the trade in white shark products and remove the incentive for commercial fishermen to retain white sharks. To complement such a listing it is seen as necessary to develop a code of conduct for handling large sharks in recognition of the potential risk to human life. The MAC is awaiting information from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority with respect to a similar code of conduct that has been developed by the commonwealth consultative body Shark MAC.

Finning:

I believe this has been already answered, but I would only add that for those fisheries that target shark as the main component of their catch there would not be a requirement for operators to land shark trunks with fins attached. This would cause an unnecessary inefficiency on shark fishermen without a compliance benefit given that shark fishermen are targeting shark for their meat, oil, skins and jaws - teeth - in addition to fins. Therefore, the issue of waste is not relevant. Additionally, the MAC is considering an appropriate fin to carcass ratio. Once determined, this ratio will allow a fisheries inspector to determine if the dumping of bodies on vessels targeting shark is occurring.

The fisheries that target shark as the primary component of their catch are -

- (1) joint authority southern demersal gillnet and demersal longline managed fishery;
- (2) west coast demersal gillnet and demersal longline interim managed fishery;

- (3) joint authority northern shark fishery; and
- (4) Western Australian north coast shark fishery.

Question: Hon Giz Watson asked which methodology is used by the department to identify significant threats to important fish habitat areas and, in the light of this, why the Abrolhos Islands are regarded as a priority for a fish habitat protection area.

Answer: The department has established a program to prepare a fisheries environment management plan for each region in the State. This process will be used to identify threats to the aquatic environment. One mechanism to deal with threats to fish habitats will be the establishment of fish habitat protection areas. Staff of the fish and habitat protection program have prepared criteria for the selection of fish habitat protection areas based on section 115 of the Fish Resources Management Act 1994. The criteria are -

- (1) known areas of high habitat value for fish breeding, sheltering or feeding, with a particular emphasis upon areas which could be threatened by human activities which may require specialised management and monitoring;
- (2) areas of high activity by commercial and recreational fishers and divers where these activities may impact adversely on the aquatic environment and where it may be necessary to regulate to control activities including physical access or the construction of moorings jetties and other structures;
- (3) areas of high activity or potentially high activity by recreational and commercial fishers where these activities may result in resource sharing conflicts;
- (4) areas of value for public education and interpretation of issues associated with fish and their habitats or be of value for the appreciation and observation of fish; and
- (5) areas which may be a value for the culturing and breeding of fish and associated research.

These criteria will be submitted to the Minister for Fisheries for adoption as ministerial guidelines in accordance with section 246 of the Act. The state territorial waters adjoining the Abrolhos Islands meet all of these criteria.

In July 1988 the former Government established the Abrolhos Islands task force to advise it on the future management of the Abrolhos Islands and adjoining waters. In January 1989 the task force produced the Abrolhos Islands planning strategy. The strategy recommended the establishment of an aquatic reserve under section 30 of the Fisheries Act 1905 within the state territorial waters. It also suggested that a series of marine reserves be established. Fish habitat protection areas proclaimed under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 have replaced aquatic reserves under the former Act. Subsequently, the report of the marine reserves working party recommended the Abrolhos Islands and adjoining state waters be managed as a single ecosystem. The Abrolhos Islands are vested in the Minister for Fisheries, and the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 contains particular provisions enabling the management of the Abrolhos Islands. The Abrolhos system is a vital component of a number of important fishing industries and the Fisheries Department has a vital role in their ongoing management.

Question: Hon Simon O'Brien asked what sort of system the department had in place to ensure that there were controls over the recording of public property and accounting for same.

Answer: The department has maintained systems consistent with the requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

The Auditor General has in recent years identified and reported on non-compliance with the FAAA by the department and also commented that the data recorded on the assets system was not of a standard which could be used for accrual reporting purposes. As a consequence the department has commenced a process to identify its assets within the following categories -

- . Assets purchased with a value over \$2 000 will be included in the assets register and reported in the annual financial statements as an asset.

- . Assets purchased with a value between \$1 000 and \$2 000 will be recorded in a register of public property. These assets will be expensed and reported in the annual operating statements but not as a balance sheet asset.
- . Assets purchased with a value at less than \$1 000 will be expensed and will not be recorded in either register unless the risk of the asset being misappropriated is assessed as being high. The benefits of controlling these lower value items do not justify the costs of implementing controls over these assets.

Annual stocktakes will be performed to ensure the accuracy of the data on each register.

Question: Hon Kim Chance asked how was the Windy Harbour-Augusta situation resolved with the use of trust funds.

Answer: The Windy Harbour-Augusta adjustment was funded from the following sources -

Fisheries research and development fund	\$381 688
Fisheries adjustment schemes trust account	\$278 000

An amount of \$100 000 of the \$381 688 is to be recovered from the two remaining Windy Harbour-Augusta licensees.

Question: Hon Kim Chance commented that -

. . . there is a line item "other expenses" of \$5.58m. The least we can expect to see is a separate accounting of what the "other" components might be when the figure is so large.

Answer: The categories under which expenditure was reported was determined by Treasury. The expenditure included in the \$5.58m is disaggregated below -

OTHER EXPENDITURE AS SHOWN IN 1997-98 BUDGET STATEMENTS (\$'000s)

Operating plant & equipment:

Repairs - motor vehicles	74
Fuel & oils - motor vehicles	313
Licensing - motor vehicles	15
Leasing - motor vehicles	407
Repairs - other	95
Fuel & Oils - other	252
Licensing - other	31
Leasing - other	259

Administrative:

Postage & courier services	138
Printing & stationery	230
Books & publications	20
Entertainment expenses	30
Conference & seminars	67
Legal fees	257
Advertising	98
Fees & emoluments	190
Subscriptions & memberships	2
Audit fees	1
Fringe benefits tax	365
Airfares	400
Expenses for industry meetings	62
Other	135

Financial:

Interest	250
Insurance	141
FAS buy back payments (carryover)	<u>1 750</u>
TOTAL	5 582

Question: Hon Kim Chance asked whether it was correct that some Western Australian fin fish were being exported whole and processed overseas prior to being imported back into Western Australia. Hon Kim Chance stated that, because he had been approached by a Kalgoorlie based fish retailer who was unable to buy sized fillets from his wholesaler unless he took the imported product, he wanted to know if the department was aware of the practice and if it was a problem for the processing industry to not be able to supply wholesalers and retailers with sized fillets.

Answer: The department has discussed these questions with Hon Kim Chance and has been advised that his questions related to a Kalgoorlie wholesaler who was purchasing fish from Watsonia.

The consumption of fish in Western Australia is about twice the volume of the Western Australian catch. The best of this catch is exported overseas and to Eastern States markets where prices are higher. In addition, issues of transport, variable quality, mixed species catches and low and inconsistent volumes of single species catches exacerbate the difficulty for retailers and non-processor wholesalers trying to secure regular supplies of fresh local sized fillets. It is also true that much of the packaging - particularly canning for both human consumption and pet food - has moved offshore, particularly into Thailand, where labour rates are lower and economies of scale are greater. It is possible that some very small volume of exported fish may also be returned to Australia as processed frozen - sometimes crumbed - fillets. While it is possible to identify the processing point of imported fish, it is not always possible to identify where the fish ingredients were caught.

Frozen and filleted fish is generally perceived by consumers as of lesser quality and is therefore the area of the market where most import replacement occurs. Premium fish are regularly exported by air chilled or frozen whole and there is a growing trade in live exports.

Even whole fish is imported and frequently aquacultured fish from South East Asia, which is identical in appearance or species to locally caught fish - for example, barramundi - is sold under the same name as the locally caught product, usually without any explicit misrepresentation. It is also understood that much of the low priced sized frozen fillet used in fish and chip shops is sourced from high volume processors in Europe and sometimes North America that in turn source supplies from fisheries around the globe.

Many local Perth retailers and those in regional coastal centres overcome the supply problems by making ongoing arrangements to buy all or part of the catches at premium prices from individual local fishermen. This is obviously not as practical an alternative for retailers or wholesalers in Kalgoorlie. Nevertheless, it should be possible for the wholesaler concerned to arrange with fishermen or processors in Esperance to supply a size filleted fresh Western Australian catch. To secure ongoing supplies of fresh filleted catch the wholesaler will need to be prepared to meet the prices demanded, accept "catches of the day", make some commitment to taking a commercial volume, and accept that availability, volume and uniformity of fillet size may be affected by what is caught from day to day, which in turn will be affected by prevailing weather conditions.

The department understands that the Kalgoorlie wholesaler concerned is buying his supplies from Watsonia. While Watsonia is probably an appropriate source for uniform sized frozen fillets and is also able to provide a wide variety of products in addition to seafood, the Kalgoorlie wholesaler may find that if the supply of fresh Western Australian sized fish fillets is a priority for its customers, it might be more successful by sourcing some or all of its supplies directly from a Perth fish processor rather than a more general wholesaler like Watsonia. Another difficulty may be that, unlike national retailers such as Woolworths and Coles, the Kalgoorlie wholesaler may not handle sufficient quantity to be an attractive customer for any of the Perth based processors.

With growing demand for fish in Western Australia, improved opportunities for live fish exports and the industry looking at addressing the quality issues, which will make more of the locally caught fish of export quality, there is likely to be an increase in the volume of substitute imported fish products and more difficulties for local wholesalers and retailers in securing regular supplies of fresh local fillets. Increased local promotion of Western Australian fish could also increase demand and local prices. However, such marketing activities are also likely to decrease the supply of locally caught lower cost frozen and filleted fish.

Some local processors are also educating their overseas buyers to accept and market "catches of the day" and this will improve the export potential and export prices for the lower value and the mixed species catches that are now more often consumed locally. Most of any increased aquaculture production is also likely to be aimed at the more lucrative export market. With the changing balance in living standards between Australia and its Asian neighbours, Western Australia's growing reputation as a source for quality fish caught in a relatively pristine environment, falling stocks in wild fisheries around the world and a growing world demand for seafood, it is likely, as is already the case with western rock lobster, to be increasingly difficult for Western Australian consumers to be able to buy locally caught fish at low prices.

Question: Hon Murray Nixon asked, with reference to the second point on the page relating to the value of state fisheries production continuing to fall, if there had been a reduction in tonnage or a drop in value due to the relative change in currency between the yen and the Australian dollar.

Answer: The second point, relating to the value of the State's fish production continuing to fall in 1996-97 due in part to a weakening demand for western rock lobster, was based on the decline in the value of rock lobster production from \$300m in 1994-95 to \$232m in 1995-96. At the start of the 1996-97 season the demand for western rock lobster from Japan was weak in the early part of the season due to a fairly large inventory of frozen red A and B grade rock lobster in Japan. It was considered that this would soften demand which, against a backdrop of a predicted low catch year, would give rise to a decrease in overall value and a continuation of the decline in the value of the State's fishery production.

The rock lobster catch for the year is down as predicted: The catch to the end of April 1997 is down 1.3 per cent on the 1996 catch to April and down 12.6 per cent on the 10 year average catch, from 1987-96, to the end of April. In addition, prices have risen in the receiving countries due to a rise in the Australian dollar against the yen and the US dollar. This has caused some buyer resistance due to increased prices in the receiving countries, although all product is being sold. The net effect is that the final outcome for 1996-97 is likely to be a continuation of the decline in the value of the rock lobster catch - the principal contributor to the value of the state fishery production - although the recent depreciation of the Australian dollar may arrest this trend. However, the large rock lobster catch anticipated for the next few years from 1997-98 should see total values increase again provided that the value of the increased catch is not eroded by currency changes or a softening of prices due to increased volumes.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what steps had been taken by the agency to ensure that a full accrual accounting system and fixed asset system will be implemented by 30 June 1997.

Answer: The department is in the final stages of the implementation of an accrual capable financial management information system. The department is operating the systems payables, general ledger, accounts receivable and allocations modules. The purchasing module is currently being implemented and should be operational by 30 June 1997.

A process has been commenced to identify the department's fixed asset holdings. This data will be used to prepare financial reports as at 30 June 1997 and will form the basis of the input to the assets module of the financial management information system which will be operational early in the 1997-98 financial year.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what process the agency had adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency.

Answer: The Fisheries Department follows the competitive tendering principles for externally provided services. Such services are clearly identified in terms of outputs, outcomes and time frames. These requirements, along with specified selection criteria and performance measures, are incorporated into the tender or service documentation. The external service providers' performance is measured against these requirements.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what processes had been adopted to ensure that the introduction of cost recovery for pearling and western rock lobster, Exmouth Gulf prawn, Shark Bay scallop and abalone fisheries would lead to improved accountability and transparency of cost allocations flow back to industry groups.

Answer: The Fisheries Department is currently working through a consultative process with representatives of the ministerial advisory committee which involves industry nominees to give further clarity to the roles and responsibilities of the Minister, the ministerial advisory committees and the Fisheries Department, the relationship principles, the contextual framework for input by these committees into the annual strategic and budget planning processes of the agency and the format and content for reporting budgeted and actual cost data for each of the six

major cost recovered fisheries, including progress reporting within financial years. This information has been documented and provides further groundwork to build creative working relationships.

As part of its dedicated ongoing information sharing process, the Fisheries Department has been working with the MACs to provide -

- . a general understanding at an agency-wide level of the department's budget and the underlying methodology for cost allocation to agency programs and client groups; and
- . an explanation of the activity and cost data specific to each of the six major cost recovered fisheries.

This process enables the Fisheries Department, in consultation with the Minister's funding advisory committee, to identify outstanding issues and, where possible, to advance resolutions to these issues.

Preliminary 1997-98 cost data with comparative 1996-97 data specific to each of the major cost recovered fisheries were provided to MACs in December 1996. Consultation on revised 1997-98 cost data distributed in May 1997 - in the light of the current Budget Statements along with the supporting project/activity data - is being progressed through the established MAC processes.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what resources the agency had devoted to ensuring the sustainable management of fish resources for the future recreational and commercial fishing.

Answer: The department's programs are expressed through individual projects to address identified priorities. The following attachments outline all four programs to ensure the recreational and commercial budgets are placed in context -

- (1) Financial resources allocated by subprogram by the agency.
- (2) Financial resources allocated to subprogram by projects.

All figures are expressed in thousands of dollars.

These financial resources are direct allocations to the agency's external outputs. This allocation does not include the cost attribution of internal projects such as financial services, the asset management plan or program directorate.

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT DIRECT RESOURCE ALLOCATION BY SUBPROGRAM 1997-98

Fisheries resource management 24 648

Commercial	13 001
Recreational	4 544
Aquaculture and pearling	4 490
Fish habitat and protection	2 613

COMMERCIAL PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1997-98 BY PROJECT

Commercial strategic planning and administration

Project P124	Strategic and operational planning administration	72
Project P125	Legislation review	55
Project P126	Fisheries management review	51
		<hr/> 178

Commercial management services

Project P126	Western rock lobster	51
Project P127	Shark Bay prawn	13
Project P128	Exmouth Gulf prawn	13
Project P129	Shark Bay scallop	15

Project P130	Abalone zone 1	11
Project P131	Abalone zone 2	11
Project P132	Abalone zone 3	11
Project P133	Northern demersal scale fisheries	17
Project P134	Northern joint authority shark fisheries	10
Project P135	Pilbara trawl	36
Project P136	South shark	20
Project P137	West shark	13
Project P138	Kimberley prawn fisheries	4
Project P139	Small pelagics	25
Project P140	Minor commercial	<u>193</u>
		443

Commercial management advisory committee

Project P141	Rock lobster industry advisory committee	336
Project P142	Shark Bay prawn	37
Project P143	Exmouth Gulf prawn	14
Project P144	Shark Bay scallop	36
Project Abalone		32
Project P145	Northern demersal scale fisheries	20
Project P146	Joint authority and WA demersal gillnet and demersal longline fisheries	23
Project P147	Purse seine industry	33
Project P148	Other minor commercial	<u>10</u>
		541

Total commercial program division 1 162

Research Services

Project R101	Western rock lobster sustainability	798
Project R102	Western rock lobster fishery optimisation	267
Project R103	Other rock lobster fisheries sustainability	29
Project R104	West coast blue crab sustainability	20
Project R105	Shark Bay prawn sustainability	169
Project R106	Exmouth Gulf prawn sustainability	111
Project R107	Other prawn fisheries sustainability	53
Project R108	Zone 1 greenlip abalone sustainability	31
Project R109	Zone 2 greenlip abalone sustainability	37
Project R110	Zone 2 greenlip abalone biology and stock assessment	79
Project R111	Roe's abalone sustainability	13
Project R112	Roe's abalone biology essential contract - Smith Corporation and recreational fishing advisory committee	39
Project R113	Shark Bay scallop sustainability	44
Project R114	Other scallop fisheries sustainability	6
Project R115	Commercial south and lower west coastal estuarine fin fish sustainability	275
Project R116	Kimberley freshwater and estuarine fin fish sustainability	32
Project R117	Commercial south and lower west coast pelagic fin fish sustainability	194
Project R118	Commercial mid-west coast pelagic fin fish sustainability	218
Project R119	Kimberley commercial offshore fishery sustainability	355
Project R120	Pilbara commercial fin fish sustainability	336
Project R121	Mid west coast commercial fin fish sustainability	86
Project R123	Shark and demersal fin fish sustainability	349
Project R124	Commercial fisheries general database	<u>0</u>
		3 541

Regional Services

Project D149	Rock lobster compliance	1 943
Project D150	Abalone compliance	644
Project D151	Shark Bay scallops and prawns, Exmouth prawns	255
Project D152	Shark Bay snapper, pilchards	140
Project D153	Commercial other	<u>1 239</u>
		4 221

Corporate services/strategic planning

Project S521	Resource sharing	4 077
	Total of commercial program projects	13 001

**RECREATIONAL PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1997-98
BY PROJECTS****Recreational management**

Project P208	Fishery management services	78
Project P209	Program planning, management and evaluation	256
Project P210	Community consultation and advice - recreational fishing advisory committee and regional recreational fishing advisory committee	<u>303</u>
		637

Research

Project R201	Western rock lobster recreational fishery	30
Project R202	Recreational abalone fishery survey	95
Project R203	Recreational other shellfish surveys	0
Project R204	Recreational marine angling research	228
Project R205	Recreational - stock assessment of angling species	341
Project R206	Recreational marron fisheries	28
Project R207	Recreational freshwater angling sustainability	<u>170</u>
		892

Regional Services

Project D211	Compliance Gascoyne region recreation	601
Project D212	Compliance north region recreation	303
Project D213	Compliance metro region recreation	938
Project D214	Compliance mid west region recreation	450
Project D215	Compliance southern region recreation	<u>723</u>
		3 015

Total recreational program 4 544

**AQUACULTURE AND PEARLING PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1997-98
BY PROJECTS****Aquaculture management**

Project P309	Provision of policy advice	152
Project P310	Strategic and operational planning administration	63
Project P311	Aquaculture licensing and leasing approval process	54
Project P312	Aquaculture development	1 533
Project P313	Aquaculture development council	<u>80</u>
		1 882

Pearling management

Project P314	Provision of policy advice	81
Project P315	Strategic and operational planning	30
Project P316	Pearling licences and leasing	11
Project P317	Pearling industry advisory committee	64
Project P318	Pearling national competition policy	<u>23</u>
		209

Research services

Project R301	Pearl oyster sustainability	178
Project R302	Pearl oyster development	119
Project R303	Aquaculture marron development	63
Project R304	Aquaculture yabbie development	222
Project R305	Aquaculture production statistics	13
Project R306	Aquaculture research and development extension	145
Project R307	Mariculture development	19
Project R308	Freshwater fin fish aquaculture	<u>34</u>
		793

Regional services

Project D320	Pearling compliance	999
Project D321	Tropical aquaculture park	218
Project D322	North - aquaculture	139
Project D323	South - aquaculture	164
Project D324	Metro - aquaculture	182
Project D325	Mid west - aquaculture	<u>90</u>
		1 792

Total aquaculture and pearling program 4 490

**FISH HABITAT AND PROTECTION PROGRAM BUDGET 1997-98
BY PROJECTS****Fish and habitat protection management**

Project P405	Fish habitat and protection management services	179
Project P406	Translocation	75
Project P407	Abrolhos - management plan	20
Project P408	Abrolhos - monitoring "effects of fishing"	41
Project P409	Shark Bay - fish habitat and protection area management plan	35
Project P410	Fishcare Western Australia	100
Project P411	Marine reserve management advisory committee	35
Project P412	Fish environment and health committee	48
Project P418	Marine planning	<u>90</u>
		623

Research

Project R401	Abrolhos fish habitat	49
Project R402	Fisheries oceanography general	16
Project R403	South west freshwater native fish breeding	7
Project R404	Marine planning	<u>10</u>
		82

Regional services

Project D413	Fish habitat - Abrolhos Islands	291
Project D414	Fish habitat - marine park	121
Project D415	Fish habitat - other	254
Project	Abrolhos Islands management advisory committee	64
Project D416	Australian fishing zone compliance	894
Project D417	Corporate community awareness	284
		<u>1 908</u>
Total fish habitat and protection program		2 613

Question: Hon Bob Thomas inquired about action taken by the agency to ensure the development of fish stock enhancement programs for identified waters or stocks.

Answer:

Fish stocking projects:

The department has been or will be involved in the following fish stock enhancement projects -

- (1) Trial stocking of Swan River with 10 000 tagged juvenile black bream to test survival rates - 1995. Joint project with Fremantle TAFE.
- (2) Trial stocking of Swan River, Canning River and lower reaches of the Swan with 30 000 juvenile black bream to test survival rates and examine movement patterns between these areas - June 1997. Joint project with Fremantle TAFE.
- (3) Trial stocking of juvenile black bream in Hillarys and Mindarie marinas to test survival rates and potential for recreational 'put and take' fisheries in these semi-enclosed coastal developments - June 1997. Joint project with Fremantle TAFE.
- (4) Technical and professional support for a trial restocking of the Murray River - Peel-Harvey area - with black bream through the Peel Regional Recreational Fishing Advisory Committee. Joint project with Fremantle TAFE and local recreational fishing community.
- (5) Funding through Fishcare grants for a number of projects through Collie TAFE and Murdoch University to examine the feasibility of restocking native freshwater fish in areas where populations have been affected by human activity.
- (6) Funding for a series of fish aggregating devices near Rottnest to enhance boat and charter fishing for mahi mahi and game fish. Joint project with Fremantle TAFE and the Perth Gamefishing Club.
- (7) Trout fishery stocking program for identified public waters between Perth and Albany. A total of 500 000 fry planted in 1996.
- (8) Sale of fingerling trout from the Pemberton hatchery to commercial trout farmers and to provide recreational dam fishing opportunities.
- (9) Development of a fish translocation protocol with the Department of Environmental Protection to address the assessment of environmental risks associated with the importation into WA of non-endemic species.

Wild stock management projects

Management of wild fish stocks generally aims to protect breeding stocks and rebuild stocks in areas where overfishing is identified as a problem.

Management strategies to maintain or enhance fishing quality in the following wild stock recreational fisheries are currently in place or under development -

- (1) Preparation of a management plan for an enhanced recreational barramundi fishery in the lower Ord River.
- (2) Preparation of a management plan for black bream fishery in Lake Clifton.
- (3) New management measures to protect snapper spawning aggregations in Cockburn Sound - 1996.
- (4) New management measures to protect snapper spawning aggregations in the inner gulfs of Shark Bay, and rebuild breeding stocks - 1997.
- (5) Ongoing management arrangements for marron, rock lobster, abalone and recreational fin fish.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas inquired about what programs had been developed to protect fish habitats through a focus on aquatic environmental management and if such programs had a component of education for both recreational and commercial fishing.

Answer:

Fisheries environmental management plans

The fish and habitat protection program has initiated a program to prepare fisheries environmental management plans for each region of the State including the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne, mid west coast and south coast. They will cover all waters in the regions to the limit of the exclusive economic zone. One plan will be prepared each year for five years after which there will be a review process. Preparation of the plans will involve a public comment process and the plans will be public documents.

Work has commenced on the Gascoyne plan and it is anticipated the draft will be completed by the end of 1997. The plan will bring together all the environmental management controls currently in place as a result of fishery management plans, fishing closures and any protection afforded by marine reserves. The process will be used to identify any gaps or weaknesses. The outcome of this process will feed into the preparation of new fishery management plans, which will contain a specific environmental management component.

Draft management plan for the Abrolhos Islands system

Work is under way on the preparation of the above mentioned plan and the draft will be completed by the end of July. The process to date has included a thorough public consultation process.

The plan is in two parts. The first deals with land management issues and general topics including tourism and the management of important heritage sites and waste management. The second deals directly with the aquatic environment.

The plan contains an education plan aimed at all user groups. It will also deal with the issues of closed areas and other restrictions on fishing.

Management plan for the protection of native fish in the south west of WA

This plan is being developed with Murdoch University. Generally it deals with issues of environmental change and its impact on native fish populations. However, it will focus on the impact of exotic species and information about this matter will be directed at recreational fishers.

Translocation of aquatic organisms

This department has been working to inform the general public about the dangers of the uncontrolled translocation of aquatic organisms into and within the State. This work has involved a number of media releases with a particular emphasis on various carp species which provide a useful model to illustrate the issue.

The department is also working with the Environmental Protection Authority and has almost reached agreement on the wording of a memorandum of understanding which will form the basis of a formal process for managing translocation in WA. When the memorandum of understanding is in place there will be an extensive public campaign targeted at the aquarium industry.

The department has also received a small - \$5 000 - national fisheries action program grant which will enable it to work with the WA branch of the Marine Conservation Society to monitor New Zealand green mussels recently found in Cockburn Sound and use this model to emphasise the requirement to carefully manage the introduction of new species.

Effects of purse seine netting on the sea birds of the Abrolhos Islands System

The department has applied for Commonwealth Fisheries Research and Development Corporation funding to undertake a three year study into the possible effects of purse seine fishing on sea bird populations. This work will be undertaken in conjunction with Murdoch University. Informal advice from the Commonwealth is the project that will be approved.

History of fishing in south western estuaries and Ningaloo Marine Park

This is a study funded by the national fisheries action program and this department. The work will be undertaken by the Edith Cowan University and the Department of Conservation and Land Management. It will contain significant liaison with the recreational and commercial fishing industry and will provide base data to assist in the management of these activities.

Desk top study into the effects of trawl fisheries

The department has initiated a study into the effects of various trawl fisheries throughout the State. The research services division has collected a significant amount of information about the location and magnitude of trawl fisheries over a long period of time. This information will be brought together into a single report which will be available to the public and the fishing industry and will form the basis for further action. The report will be completed by March 1998.

Other grant applications

The department has made other applications for commonwealth funds through the national fisheries action program. Projects include -

- . an investigation into the effects of rock lobster pots on the corals of the Abrolhos Islands, and
- . the use of by-catch reduction devices in Shark Bay trawl gear.

HEALTH

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked whether there was any money in the current budget for a new gas fired boiler in Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital laundry and, if not, why not.

Answer: Funding for the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital boilers has been requested by the Northern Goldfields Health Service from the Health Department's 1997-98 capital minor works program. Submissions for funding in this program are currently being considered.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any allowance had been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation and, if so, how it compared to any allowance made in the previous year.

Answer: The Health Department does not allow a provision in its budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation.

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked whether advice could be given to the Committee of the amounts paid in each year either under state or through federal programs to radiologists in country hospitals over the past three years for each year.

Answer: The Health Department has been unable to compile the information in the time required to respond to the honourable member. The Health Department will provide this information directly to the honourable member as soon as it can be compiled.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens provided the following questions -

- (1) *What is the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (2) *How does this compare to the current financial year's allocations?*
- (3) *How many FTEs within your department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?*
- (4) *Are any of those persons journalists, and if so, how many?*
- (5) *What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (6) *How does this compare to the current financial year's allocations?*
- (7) *Are there any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year?*
- (8) *If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?*
- (9) *Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be outsourced?*
- (10) *If so, to whom?*
- (11) *How many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office?*

Answer:

- (1)-(2) The Health Department has not finalised a budget for public relations/community awareness for the 1997-98 financial year. It is envisaged however that expenditure on health promotions will be similar in 1997-98 to that of the current financial year. That expenditure is expected to be in the order of \$6.349m.
- (3) There are 61 FTEs allocated to the health promotions branch which is dedicated to raising community awareness to the means of prevention of illness and injury. There are three FTEs in the executive services branch involved in communications, public relations and media relations.
- (4) Yes. Two.
- (5)-(6) The Health Department has not finalised a budget for advertising for the 1997-98 financial year. As stated previously, it is envisaged however that expenditure on health promotions, which includes an advertising component, will be similar in 1997-98 to that of the current financial year. Outside expenditure on health promotions, the Health Department's only significant advertising costs in 1997-98, relate to the advertising of vacant positions. It is estimated that approximately \$104 670 has been spent by the Health Department in this regard in this financial year.
- (7) No new campaigns have been finalised at this time. However, as new and more effective health promotions campaigns are developed, these will be implemented within the budget set for that function.
- (8) As they have not been developed yet it is not possible to project costs, other than to assure the member that these campaigns will be provided from within the budget set for health promotions.

(9)-(10) As the campaigns have not yet been developed it is not possible to answer the question. Where the management/organisation of a campaign is outsourced, this will be done in strict accordance with State Supply Commission policies and procedures.

(11) One.

Question: Hon John Halden asked how many workplace agreements had been signed in the Health Department to date.

Answer: A total of 124.

Question: Hon John Halden asked what benefits had accrued to Health Department employees by virtue of flexible remuneration packaging and fringe benefits tax exemptions? As the department did not pay fringe benefits tax on remuneration packages, has the department been able to quantify the savings it made from such salary packaging?

Answer:

- (1) Health Department employees have the option of salary packaging motor vehicles by way of novated leases; and contributions to private superannuation funds or to government employees superannuation schemes.
- (2) The negotiation of workplace agreements operates in a devolved mode from the Health Department itself. It is not centralised and as a result, we are unable to quantify the FBT savings from salary packaging in Western Australian hospitals. Workplace agreements negotiated on an individual basis would necessitate our checking each and every one to ascertain savings. The time and cost involved to check every hospital workplace agreement is at present prohibitive but we are working on quantifying the savings.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked how many beds would be on the site of the Armadale-Kelmscott Hospital after the redevelopment.

Answer: The number of beds will be determined following consideration of the results of the study being carried out into the needs of the south eastern corridor. These considerations, when combined with contemporary methods of service delivery, may result in a small increase or decrease in the number of beds at the site. As stated to the Committee, services will not be reduced at the current site. Additional services may, however, be developed elsewhere in the corridor.

Question: Are any statistics kept on the number of poisoning instances?

Answer: Organochlorine termiticides were withdrawn from use nationally, excluding the Northern Territory, from 30 June 1995. The two approved termiticides for barrier treatments of new and existing buildings are chlorpyrifos and bifenthrin. Active infestations of termites can be treated with arsenic trioxide and permethrin powders. Since 30 June 1995, 27 incidents involving chlorpyrifos and nine incidents involving bifenthrin have been investigated by the pesticide safety section of the environmental health service. Most incidents relate to a residual smell following treatment. The department has had no notification of any poisoning associated with any of these cases.

Question: Hon Jim Scott asked whether the Western Australian Health Department could provide equivalent figures for 1996 indicating the vaccinated and non-vaccinated rates for babies who contracted measles and whooping cough in Western Australia.

Answer: There were 32 cases of measles notified in Western Australia in 1996. Of these, 16 - 50 per cent - had a previous history of immunisation against measles, 13 - 40.6 per cent - had no history of immunisation and three were unknown. As stated at the hearing, there are no equivalent data for whooping cough.

Question: Hon Murray Nixon asked whether the survey to assess community attitudes to gun ownership and control had come up with any worthwhile results.

Answer: A complete report of the survey is appended for the information of the Committee. [Held by Committee office.]

HOMESWEST

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked -

- (1) *What is the title, name, code, and number of the bank account Homeswest drew commonwealth-states housing agreement funds from in 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1996-97, 1996-97?*
- (2) *Who audits these accounts?*
- (3) *Did Homeswest draw funds direct from WA government bank account BSB code 096006 account number 624981?*
- (4) *Under the Housing Assistance Act 1989 by which the Commonwealth distributes \$1b of commonwealth-state housing agreement funds, WA is required under section 38(3) to publish an audited statement on the operation in each year of the rental capital account.*
 - (a) *Who audits this statement?*
 - (b) *When and where was this statement published for the years 1991 to 96?*
 - (c) *Did this statement include the same information supplied to the commonwealth Housing Minister under section 38 (2) of the Act?*
 - (d) *Please provide copies of these audited statements on the operation of the rental capital account for 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.*
- (5) *Is the Minister aware that under section 34 of the Housing Assistance Act, WA will have to repay to the Commonwealth any moneys that WA has failed to ensure were applied for the purposes of and in the manner provided for by this agreement?*
- (6) *Is the Minister aware that under section 35 of the Housing Assistance Act WA will have to repay to the Commonwealth on request if it failed, for any reason, to meet the requirements for the provision by WA of matching funds in accordance with part VI or part XII?*

Answer:

- (1) WA government bank account
Bank State Branch CODE 096006 Account Number 624981.
- (2) Office of the Auditor General.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)

(a)	1991-92	Bird Cameron Partners Chartered Accountants
	1992-93	Bird Cameron Partners Chartered Accountants
	1993-94	Bird Cameron Partners Chartered Accountants
	1994-95	Bird Cameron Partners Chartered Accountants
	1995-96	Coopers & Lybrand Chartered Accountants
(b)	1991-92	Government Gazette, WA August 13, 1993
	1992-93*	Government Gazette, WA April 26, 1994
	1993-94	Government Gazette, WA April 21, 1995
	1994-95	Government Gazette, WA July 16, 1996
	1995-96	Government Gazette, WA May 9, 1997

*1992-93 - The Government Gazette publishers misprinted one figure in the subtotal of committed funds under the expenditure of RCA funds heading. The Commonwealth has the certified statement which has the correct audited figure of \$2 833 547.

- (c) Yes.
- (d) Copies are available in the *Government Gazette* as in 4(b) above.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Yes.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) *How many Keystart loans are currently more than 60 days in arrears?*
- (2) *How many Keystart loans were made in 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1996-97?*
- (3) *What percentage of Keystart loans involve the granting of rebates to purchasers?*
- (4) *In how many of the Keystart mortgages foreclosed in 1995-96 and 1996-97 -*
 - (a) *did the mortgagee sale of the property not cover the outstanding loans on the property; or*
 - (b) *were the proceeds of the mortgagee sale less than the Keystart valuation of the property at purchase?*
- (5) *Referring to Stanton Partners who manage the Keystart program -*
 - (a) *when were Stanton Partners appointed to manage Keystart; and*
 - (b) *what is the formula or method by which its remuneration is determined?*

Answer:

- (1) As at 30 April 1997, 479 Keystart loans were more than 60 days in arrears. This represents 4.15 per cent of the total number of loans compared to 4.13 per cent as at 30 June 1996. In view of past experience and with the addition of a new safety net policy, it is expected that only a minority of these borrowers are likely to result in a forced mortgagee sale.
- (2) The following Keystart loans were approved -

Financial Year	Number Approved
1992-93	3 214
1993-94	2 824
1994-95	2 083
1995-96	2 916
1 July 1996 to 30 April 1997	2 674
- (3) Keystart does not grant any rebates to purchasers. However, from time to time vendors and land developers provide assistance. Keystart does not keep these statistics.
- (4)
 - (a) 1995-96 92 mortgagee sales did not cover the outstanding loans.
1996-97 113 mortgagee sales did not cover the outstanding loans.
 - (b) 1995-96 59 mortgagee sales where the proceeds were less than the valuation of the property at purchase.
1996-97 83 mortgagee sales where the proceeds were less than the valuation of the property at purchase.

This is in keeping with the depressed property market in general at that time.

- (5) IF&I Securities Pty Ltd and Stanton Partners jointly manage the scheme. The scheme manager was appointed on 8 March 1995 on a tender basis being the lowest price tendered. The scheme manager fee

is based on a sliding scale which decreases as the volume increases. The average fee is currently 0.135 per cent per annum of scheme funds under management. Since taking over the scheme the scheme manager has doubled the number of staff in running the scheme in order to improve its efficiency.

Question: Hon E.R.J. Dermer asked what increase was expected in the stock available for rental in the Joondalup zone.

Answer: The Joondalup zone consists of the suburbs of Joondalup, Beldon, Craigie, Kallaroo, Heathridge, Hillarys, Padbury and Mullaloo. The Homeswest building program for this zone for 1997-98 consists of a total of 25 units of accommodation, dependent upon negotiating a land exchange with WALA. Consideration will also be given to further acquisitions for this zone through spot purchase of properties, subject to high acquisition costs in the areas involved.

There are currently 75 applicants with a listing date for assistance dating back to the years 1987 to 1992. Given the shortage of available accommodation in the Joondalup zone, Homeswest has been active in making offers in nearby zones to these applicants. Such an historic listing date and applicants waiting for long periods are unacceptable to Homeswest and every effort is being made to house these people. This year Homeswest introduced a policy of offering accommodation in neighbouring zones in an attempt to reduce waiting times. Homeswest has made 74 offers of accommodation which have been declined this calendar year, with applicants preferring to wait for accommodation in their zone of choice regardless of the wait.

Question: Hon Derrick Tomlinson asked whether Homeswest could provide detailed costings on some of the projects in the Kwinana redevelopment program.

Answer: Detailed costings are provided for the following projects.

1.	Orelia (Elmslie Street) - 9 town houses	
		\$
	Book value based on historical cost	62 037
plus	Upgrade costs	270 000
plus	Sale costs (Commission, Settlement, Advertising and Management fees)	74 420
plus	Capitalised infrastructure costs	<u>29 709</u>
	Total cost	436 166
	Property Sales Realisation	570 000
	Profit -	133 834
	Profit percentage sales = 23%	
	Average cost plus refurbishment value per property =	48 462
	Average sale price per property =	63 333
2.	Orelia (Pengilly Street and Gilmore Avenue) - 36 units	
		\$
	Book value based on historical cost	229 297
plus	Upgrade costs	1 080 000
plus	Sale costs	295 200
plus	Capitalised infrastructure costs	<u>118 836</u>
	Total cost	1 723 333
	Property Sales Realisation	2 250 000
	Profit -	526 667
	Profit percentage of sales = 23%	
	Average cost plus refurbishment value per property =	47 870
	Average sale price per property =	62 500

3.	Medina (Ridley Green) Stage 8 - 12 houses		
	Book value based on historical cost		102 330
plus	Upgrade costs		323 412
plus	Sale costs		94 401
plus	Capitalised infrastructure costs		<u>39 612</u>
	Total cost		559 755
	Property Sales Realisation		707 000
	Profit -		147 245
	Profit percentage of sales = 20%		
	Average cost plus refurbishment value per property =		46 646
	Average sale price per property =		58 916
4.	Orelia (Woodley Way) - 12 town houses		
	Book value based on historical cost		154 560
plus	Upgrade costs		392 452
plus	Sale costs		95 110
plus	Capitalised infrastructure costs		<u>39 612</u>
	Total cost		681 734
	Property Sales Realisation		840 000
	Profit -		158 266
	Profit percentage of sales = 18%		
	Average cost plus refurbishment value per property =		56 811
	Average sale price per property =		70 000
5.	The increase in average sale price from Medina Stage 1 to Stage 9 is 21 per cent - ie. average sale price at Stage 1 was \$46 535 and stage 9 is \$59 266.		

JUSTICE

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate information technology systems for its functions and needs? This question in particular seeks the Minister's response to the following issues, although is not limited to these -

- (i) *Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the year 2000 have been addressed?*
- (ii) *Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of information technology needs?*
- (iii) *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?*
- (iv) *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade information technology to address technological change?*
- (v) *Information technology training for employees?*

Answer: The ministry has a strategic information plan which describes its information management intentions for the five year period commencing 1995-96. This is underpinned by a number of other planning documents including

program-specific information plans. These provide the framework to accomplish ministry information ends and the business case to secure the necessary funding.

- (i) The ministry has addressed the year 2000 problem through two mechanisms -
 - (a) It has been recognised for some time that certain key operational systems were not year 2000 compliant to the extent that their potential dysfunction could only be rectified by replacement and/or version upgrade. Funding has been secured to ensure their replacement before 2000. These systems include the ministry's financial management, prisoner management and births/deaths and marriages registration - Registrar General's Office.
 - (b) In regard to other systems the ministry has allocated \$400 000 of its 1997-98 capital budget to a year 2000 project. As the first part of this project an RFP is shortly to be issued to secure external expertise to conduct a year 2000 audit. This will fully delineate the extent of the ministry's remaining year 2000 difficulties.
- (ii) The ministry has an internally staffed information services directorate which includes IT staff. Its current development and support agendas require internal IT staff to be supplemented by contract staff - mostly on a 'body shop' basis although the project management of some projects is also outsourced. Over the past two years this supplementation has run at between 40 and 50 per cent of the internal staff resource. This resource is recruited via a panel contract or RFP. The ministry's contracts branch, in combination with CAMS, vets the tender process as to accountability. The ministry has not, to date, outsourced a complete IT function. However, its intention - by the first quarter of 1998 - is to 'test' its internal platform support function against the market to establish its contestability.
- (iii) For security reasons the ministry has provided Internet access to a number of its head office staff via a physically separate network. However, demand is increasing and a review is currently being carried out to establish the extent to which Internet and its related technologies can be spread further afield.
- (iv) As part of the information planning framework mentioned above, the ministry has just completed an infrastructure plan which maps technology directions for the next three to five years. This has a number of funding implications which will be raised in the next budget round.
- (v) The ministry's human resource directorate has devoted considerable effort over the past 18 months to development of a holistic approach to training, particularly in the offender management area.

Question: What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?

Answer: All public property valued at \$1 000 or more is recorded through the ministry's general ledger and downloaded onto the ministry's asset register. Annual stocktakes of all assets are undertaken. IT assets to a value in excess of \$1 000 are, on purchase, recorded on the ministry's automated asset register. This is reconciled via an annual stocktake. The process has been subject to recent review by the Office of the Auditor General. All land and property utilised by the Ministry of Justice is gazetted for a specific purpose by the Department of Land Administration. The ministry has established details of each property it utilises and is currently embarking on a review of all properties to ensure the accuracy of these records.

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to ensure adequate accountability for the administration of the fines enforcement registry?

Answer: The fines enforcement registry's key business system is, for the purposes of the Treasurer's Instructions, regarded as a 'financial' system. As such, it has been and is subject to continuing audit by the Office of the Auditor General. A recent audit carried out by the OAG found that "the results of the audit were generally satisfactory and controls were found to be effective".

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?

Answer: In general terms where the ministry requires the expertise of the private sector a detailed brief of requirements is established and suitably qualified providers are then invited to tender. Selection is based on merit and value for money. The following specific processes have been adopted -

- The completion of procurement plans for significant procurements or those that are of a complex or sensitive nature. The procurement plan sets out the total procurement process and provides for details on procurement options and how the contract is to be managed, including expected outcomes etc. Procurement plans are then forwarded to the State Supply Commission for consideration and approval.
- Program areas are required to produce a 'Statement of Requirements' for the particular goods or services to be procured which clearly define the requirements, the expected outcomes, contract management standards to be applied, the manner and method of payments etc.
- Written quotations or requests for tender, requests for proposals, expressions of interest are called for goods and services. All are covered by the State Supply Commission general provisions for the supply of goods and/or services.
- Compliance with State Supply Commission policies and procedures.
- Involvement of the State Supply Commission and the Department of Contract and Management Services in the procurement process on an 'as required' basis.
- Seeking advice from the Crown Solicitor's Office on contractual matters on an 'as required' basis.
- Training of ministry officers in procurement including competitive tendering and contracting, simple procurement, contracting for consultancy services, the purchasing environment etc.
- The ministry is one of the leading agencies in regard to responding to procurement training offered across government through the State Supply Commission.
- When contracts are awarded by the ministry 'letters of engagement' are issued which reflect the contractual requirements.
- Members of quotation/tender evaluation committees are required to sign a statement regarding them having no conflict of interest with the matter before them, and a confidentiality agreement to ensure information on the evaluation process is not provided to a third party.
- Contract managers are appointed for all contracts issued in order to -
 - ensure that goods/services are delivered;
 - progress reports/final reports required are acceptable prior to payment being made;
 - issues are identified and resolved at the earliest opportunity;
 - expected outcomes are achieved;
 - skill transfer takes place where required;
 - the general requirements of the contract are met; and
 - to liaise with the contractor/s as required.
- Contracts are reviewed during their validity period particularly if a new contract is to be called, or an option to extend the existing contract is available.
- Members of the contracts and services branch participate on various State Supply Commission working groups and Department of Contract and Management Services steering committees/evaluation committees.

Question: What processes has the agency followed to ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators?

Answer: To ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators for the Ministry of Justice a presentation by the Office of the Auditor General was organised for program managers to clarify the performance indicator requirements arising from the previous audit opinion.

The presentation was followed by a series of meetings with each program area to discuss the specific reporting requirements. A consultant and an auditor from the Office of the Auditor General attended each of the meetings to provide advice on the appropriateness of performance indicators and to assist in their further development. These meetings also ensured that performance indicators were relevant to Treasury's output based management requirements and strategic plans for program areas.

Having reached agreement with the representatives from the Office of the Auditor General on the relevance of the performance indicators, the ministry is now working to ensure that an appropriate description is provided for each indicator to explain its relevance. Following this a formal endorsement of the performance indicator's relevance will be sought from the Office of the Auditor General prior to an audit of the ministry's performance.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any allowance had been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation. If so, how did this compare to any allowance made in the previous years.

Answer: No.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) What is the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (2) How does this compare to the current financial year's allocation?*
- (3) How many FTEs within the Minister's department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?*
- (4) Are any of those persons journalists, and if so, how many?*
- (5) What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (6) How does this compare with the current financial year's allocation?*
- (7) Are there any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year?*
- (8) If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?*
- (9) Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be outsourced?*
- (10) If so, to whom?*
- (11) How many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office?*

Answer:

- (1)* Approximately \$470 000. Due to the announcement to terminate the current commonwealth/state funding agreement at 30 June 1997 without a new agreement being in place, Legal Aid has not had a 1997-98 budget approved at this time.
- (2)* Estimated for 1996-97 - \$516 000.
- (3)* 10.8 FTEs.

- (4) 3.5 FTEs.
- (5) The allocation of advertising funds for 1997-98 is yet to be finalised by ministry programs.
- (6) It is anticipated that the 1997-98 budget allocation should be in the vicinity of the 1996-97 allocation of approximately \$340 000.
- (7) Yes, Law Society quality practice standards - Legal Aid program.
- (8) \$6 400.
- (9) No.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) One.

Question:

- (1) *How many contracts have been in operation or have been awarded for veterinary services in prisons and juvenile detention centres since 1 June 1996?*
- (2) *Who has been awarded this or these contracts?*
- (3) *What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?*
- (4) *What -*
 - (a) *savings; or*
 - (b) *additional costs,**have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by government?*
- (5) *What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by government?*

Answer:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Murdoch University and Baldivis Veterinary Hospital.
- (3) \$5 364 and \$3 852 respectively.
- (4) (a) Minor savings have been achieved due to the 'one stop' shop nature of the services.
(b) Nil.
- (5) Contracts that are awarded require goods and/or services to be delivered within defined time frames, at specific locations, at agreed prices, for specific purposes, and where necessary reports on contract outcomes are requested by contract completion date. A contract manager is normally defined and this person is responsible for monitoring the contractor's performance/standard of goods delivered and for incurring costs associated with contract performance.

Question:

- (1) *How many contracts have been in operation or have been awarded for air charter services in prisons and juvenile detention centres since 1 June 1996?*
- (2) *Who has been awarded this or these contracts?*

- (3) *What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?*
- (4) *What -*
- (a) *savings; or*
(b) *additional costs,*
- have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by government?*
- (5) *What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by government?*

Answer:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Great Western Aviation and Skippers Aviation.
- (3) \$60 816 and \$72 540 respectively.
- (4) (a) Not applicable - new service.
(b) Not applicable.
- (5) Contracts that are awarded require goods and/or services to be delivered within defined time frames, at specific locations, at agreed prices, for specific purposes, and where necessary reports on contract outcomes are requested by contract completion date. A contract manager is normally defined and this person is responsible for monitoring the contractor's performance/standard of goods delivered and for incurring costs associated with contract performance.

Question:

- (1) *How many contracts have been in operation or have been awarded for waste collection in prisons and juvenile detention centres since 1 June 1996?*
- (2) *Who has been awarded this or these contracts?*
- (3) *What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?*
- (4) *What -*
- (a) *savings; or*
(b) *additional costs,*
- have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by government?*
- (5) *What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by government?*

Answer:

- (1) Two.
- (2) Volich Waste Contractors and South West Waste Disposals.
- (3) \$5 838 and \$16 577 respectively.
- (4) (a) Although specific costings have not been undertaken, apparent savings have been identified in prison officer time, reduced fuel and running costs of the prison tip truck, elimination of tip fees and reduced risk of prisoners manually handling full rubbish bins into the rear of a tip truck.

(b) Nil.

- (5) Contracts that are awarded require goods and/or services to be delivered within defined time frames, at specific locations, at agreed prices, for specific purposes, and where necessary reports on contract outcomes are requested by contract completion date. A contract manager is normally defined and this person is responsible for monitoring the contractor's performance/standard of goods delivered and for incurring costs associated with contract performance.

Question:

- (1) *How many contracts have been in operation or have been awarded for the provision of sessional tutors/clerical services in prisons and juvenile detention centres since 1 June 1996?*
- (2) *Who has been awarded this or these contracts?*
- (3) *What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?*
- (4) *What -*
- (a) *savings; or*
(b) *additional costs,*
- have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by government?*
- (5) *What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by government?*

Answer:

- (1) Numerous private contractors - teachers and tutors - work in each of the prisons and juvenile justice detention centres across the State on contracts ranging from one day to one term - 10 weeks. Note: Since 1 June 1996 numerous contracts have been awarded and details of these are not readily available. I am not prepared to direct the considerable resources to obtain this information.
- (2) Mainly teachers and tutors, and in some cases specialist services - for example, St John Ambulance - are accessed.
- (3) The contracts range from \$100 to \$5 000 - see (1).
- (4) (a) Not applicable - contract teacher/tutors have been engaged for the past 15 to 20 years.
(b) Not applicable.
- (5) Contracts that are awarded require goods and/or services to be delivered within defined time frames, at specific locations, at agreed prices, for specific purposes, and where necessary reports on contract outcomes are requested by contract completion date. A contract manager is normally defined and this person is responsible for monitoring the contractor's performance/standard of goods delivered and for incurring costs associated with contract performance.

Question:

- (1) *How many contracts have been in operation or have been awarded for the delivery of performance management system in prisons and juvenile detention centres since 1 June 1996?*
- (2) *Who has been awarded this or these contracts?*
- (3) *What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?*
- (4) *What -*

- (a) *savings; or*
- (b) *additional costs,*

have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by government?

- (5) *What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by government?*

Answer:

- (1) Two.
- (2) TAFE International WA and Aragon and Associates.
- (3) \$43 910 and \$18 000 respectively.
- (4)
 - (a) TAFE International WA: These services were not previously provided in-house. The project was for a finite time with set funds and as the skills were not readily available within the public sector the most efficient option was to contract out the project.

Aragon and Associates: These services were not previously provided in-house. Conduct of training in this manner enables access to services which can be specifically targeted to Ministry of Justice requirements thus facilitating earlier completion of the performance management system.
 - (b) Not applicable.
- (5) Contracts that are awarded require goods and/or services to be delivered within defined time frames, at specific locations, at agreed prices, for specific purposes, and where necessary reports on contract outcomes are requested by contract completion date. A contract manager is normally defined and this person is responsible for monitoring the contractor's performance/standard of goods delivered and for incurring costs associated with contract performance.

Question:

- (1) *How many contracts have been in operation or have been awarded for Fleet Management in prisons and juvenile detention centres since 1 June 1996?*
- (2) *Who has been awarded this or these contracts?*
- (3) *What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?*
- (4) *What -*
 - (a) *savings; or*
 - (b) *additional costs,*

have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by government?

- (5) *What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by government?*

Answer:

- (1) Two - whole of government.
- (2) Leaseplan Australia Pty Ltd and Matrix Finance Group.
- (3) Leaseplan Australia Pty Ltd - approximate average \$42 000 per month
Matrix Finance Group - approximate average \$25 500 per month.

- (4) (a) Whole of government saving approximately \$10m per annum.
- (b) Nil.
- (5) Contracts that are awarded require goods and/or services to be delivered within defined time frames, at specific locations, at agreed prices, for specific purposes, and where necessary reports on contract outcomes are requested by contract completion date. A contract manager is normally defined and this person is responsible for monitoring the contractor's performance/standard of goods delivered and for incurring costs associated with contract performance.

Question: Hon Ken Travers asked whether the Minister could provide details of contracts awarded for the provision of addiction behaviour training in prisons and juvenile detention centres and details of what mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private service provision contractors.

Answer: The Ministry of Justice currently has six such contracts. The names of the contractors and the value of the contracts are as follows -

Michael Collins	\$8 775
Cecilia Byass	\$13 000
Michael Collins	\$6 600
Kaye Cook	\$31 686
Jamie Robson	\$31 200
Cecilia Byass	\$16 000

Contracts require services to be delivered within defined time frames, at specific locations, at agreed prices, for specific purposes and, where necessary, reports on contract outcomes are requested upon contract completion. A contract manager is normally appointed and made responsible for monitoring contract performance and the standard of service delivered.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths: I refer to the advertising campaign which commenced in November, or thereabouts, of last year as a result of the so-called three strikes legislation under the caption "burglary means gaol". How much was budgeted for that campaign and when was the campaign approved? In what Legislative Assembly seats were billboards placed and what was the cost of advertising which took place between 14 November and 14 December 1996?

Answer: The campaign was originally approved on or about 23 October 1996. The budget for the campaign was \$60 000 with possible expansion to \$90 000. The selection of sites was in no way related to particular Assembly seats. It was targeted at maximum exposure for least expenditure with a particular emphasis on young people. The location of billboards are as follows -

City Trade Tower
 89 Flinders Street, Yokine
 Ice World, Mirrabooka
 Mt Lawley Subway
 Whatley Crescent/Garrett Road, Bayswater
 Great Eastern Highway, Midland
 179 Lord Street
 Albany Highway, Gosnells
 Philmore Street, Fremantle
 Shenton Park Subway
 45 Rockingham Road, Rockingham

It is impossible to allocate the cost of advertising for the period between 14 November and 14 December 1996 because some of that advertising was for a longer period and remains on billboards to this day.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked for the respective figures for prisoners on remand in the category of average muster and juvenile offenders managed in custody.

Answer: The component of remand prisoners within the average daily adult muster is 302 for 1996-97 and is expected to be in the order of 310 for 1997-98. For juveniles in custody the expected total number on remand in 1996-97 is 2 070. The latest raised projection for 1997-98 is similar.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked for the FTE allocation relating to dot point 6 on page 501, dealing with regional domestic violence strategies.

Answer: Community corrections centres throughout the State are working with other agencies towards the development of regional domestic violence strategies, but no FTEs have been specifically allocated for this purpose. The associated staffing and other costs are being met from within existing budget resources.

LAND ADMINISTRATION

Question: The Chairman asked what action had been taken to ensure that appropriate valuations of undeveloped crown land are obtained for external reporting purposes.

Answer: All crown land is recorded in the Government property register and the Valuer General provides annual valuations for reporting purposes. The Department of Land Administration is amending its systems to enable the separate reporting of valuations provided for undeveloped crown land.

Question: Hon Mark Nevill quoted from a letter he had received, as follows -

As you are well aware in searching for land details there are often different avenues that need to be taken and as your system seems to have no fuzzy logic at all, one small deviation from your precise identity or description automatically charges the customer even if no record is found or useable.

Is that a valid criticism and should a more flexible system be in place?

Answer: DOLA's mainframe computer based customer remote search systems provide on-line searching for certificates of title and ownership details. Basic information required to successfully search DOLA's databases includes owner name or street address or land identifier or certificate of title number. This information must be entered accurately, as is the case for many computer based systems.

The CRS system supports over 500 sites, with each site having many users. DOLA provides training for users, on-line help functions and a practice manual. Very few complaints have been received. However, there is ongoing liaison with the conveyancing community on ways to improve the system. CRS is being redeveloped into a new computer environment to deliver more user functionality and flexibility. There will however still be a requirement for users to correctly describe either the land location or owner.

The letter referred to was responded to and a copy of this response was faxed to the honourable member.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked the following questions -

- (1) *What is the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (2) *How does this compare to the current financial year's allocations?*
- (3) *How many FTEs within your department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?*
- (4) *Are any of those persons journalists and if so, how many?*
- (5) *What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (6) *How does this compare to the current financial year's allocation?*

- (7) *Are there any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year?*
- (8) *If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?*
- (9) *Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be outsourced?*
- (10) *If so, to whom?*
- (11) *How many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office?*

Answer:

- (1) \$213 500.
- (2) \$533 757. \$487 333 of this amount was allocated as supplementary funding to provide community awareness of amendments to strata title legislation.
- (3) 7.
- (4) No/nil.
- (5) \$518 700.
- (6) \$597 385.
- (7) There may be a requirement for community awareness to be provided in respect to further strata title amendments and introduction of the new Land Administration Act.
- (8) \$25 000.
- (9) No.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) One departmental officer is employed full time in the Minister's office.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any allowance had been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation; and if so, how this compared to any allowance made in the previous year.

Answer: No.

Question: The Committee asked what process the agency had adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency.

Answer: Contracts with the private sector contain compliance provisions requiring service providers to meet government accountability requirements. These requirements are set out in relevant documentation and Statutes provided to agencies by Government. Further provisions are also included in contracts which refer to respective liabilities, intellectual property rights, service delivery standards and compliance statements in respect to relevant state and federal laws where they apply.

Question: Hon Murray Nixon asked, in relation to the contract awarded to WA Newspapers for the publishing and distribution of the metropolitan street directory, what was the base figure on which the savings of \$200 000 was made.

Answer: The base figure on which the saving of \$200 000 was made is \$431 440. Printing costs included in the \$431 440 amounted to \$346 500 which would no longer be incurred by the department under the provisions of the contract. An amount of \$146 500 was assigned to the continued production of tourist and other mapping products leaving a balance of \$200 000, which was identified as productivity savings.

Question: Hon Murray Nixon, referring to page 569 of the Budget Statements under "Government Capital", asked what the allocation of \$56.7m for Westrail constituted.

Answer: Westrail has advised that the \$56.7m represents the expected proceeds for the sale of railway reserve land during 1997-98. This land consists of areas surplus to Westrail's operation requirements throughout Westrail's network, but mainly in Kewdale, Forrestfield and Robb Jetty. DOLA does not charge Westrail with administrative or conveyancing costs when selling land on its behalf.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked whether the Aboriginal groups which lodged the native title claims on the south coast amended the claims to remove them from farming land and put them exclusively on vacant crown land such as parks and reserves.

Answer: Maps illustrating the complexity of detail and the number of individual claims are held by Committee office.

POLICE

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked: Reference is made under the heading to "participation in the drafting of the Telecommunications (Interception) Western Australia Act 1996". When we debated the matter in the House in 1996 I asked the Attorney General about the envisaged proclamation date and he said it was a matter of regulations being drafted and approved by the federal Attorney General. Have the regulations been drafted? Have they been approved by the federal Attorney General? If not, why not? When will the Act be proclaimed? How many FTEs have been allocated to that function? Could I have a breakdown of sworn and unsworn FTEs? What is the budget allocation for the unit?

Answer: The Telecommunications (Interception) Western Australia Act 1996 and accompanying regulations were proclaimed in December to come into effect on 25 December 1996. There are 16 sworn FTEs and two unsworn FTEs that have been allocated to the Telecommunications Interception Unit. The 1996-97 financial allocation to the TIU for the implementation of an interception capability was \$1.189m capital and \$149 000 recurrent. Portfolio budget allocations for the 1997-98 financial year are now in the process of being finalised.

Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked what budgetary allocation had been provided in the budget to cover the new restraining orders legislation.

Answer: With the proclamation of the Restraining Orders Bill, it is recognised that police personnel, both sworn and unsworn, will need to be fully informed and trained in the requirements of the new legislation. In anticipating the need for education in this area, considerable literature has already been disseminated to all district officers and training officers throughout the State. The officer in charge, community services command, who is also responsible for the affairs of the police family unit, has already communicated with the officer in charge, training branch, on issues relating to the need for training arising from this new legislation.

Training branch will have carriage of all training matters relating to the new legislation. Preparations in this area have commenced. No specific budget allocation will be required to facilitate the introduction of this new legislation as all training will be absorbed into the existing training curriculums of each district. Police officers employed in courts throughout the State will also receive further training relevant to this new legislation from Ministry of Justice personnel. The Ministry of Justice is currently creating a training manual which will address the requirements of the new Act.

Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked whether the Police Service had research data to quickly identify the 100 black spots.

Answer: Below is a document titled "Top 100 Road Traffic Crash Intersections for the 5 Years Ending December 31, 1996". It lists the top 100 road intersections ranked by the number of crashes for a five year period ending 31 December 1996. Ranking 1 represents the intersection with the most road crashes.

Top 100 Crash Intersections for the 5 Year Ending 31/12/1996

METHODOLOGY

Blackspot is not a clearly defined term within the Western Australia Police Service or Main Roads WA. Blackspot is a generic term for a road segment with a high incidence of crashes. Based on this generic definition the list below has been prepared. The following qualifications are necessary -

- Only intersections have been considered, whereas multanova speed detection cameras are also placed on road segments.
- This list only contains metropolitan intersections.
- The police camera section work off a list of speed related crashes by road segments.
- The police camera section listing process is currently being redesigned by the Research and Development Unit of the State Traffic Coordination Unit within the Traffic and Operations Support Portfolio of the WAPS. This is being conducted as a matter of urgency and the technological solution should allow more flexible lists to be produced. This is expected to be available for testing within three weeks.

Table 1: Road Crash Frequency Ranking from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1996

Ran k	Road 1	Road 2	Road 3	MRWA Division
1	Adelaide Tce	Causeway	Causeway to Hay St	Perth (C)
2	Albany Hwy	Nicholson Rd	Nicholson Rd-North End	Gosnells (C)
3	Brearley Ave	GEH off South Bound	Great Eastern Hwy	Belmont (C)
3	Wellington St	William St		Perth (C)
5	Beaufort St	Beaufort St	Walcott St	Stirling (C)
6	GEH off North Bound	GEH on North Bound	Great Eastern Hwy	Belmont (C)
7	Leach Hwy	Welshpool Rd		Canning (C)
8	Morley Dr	Wanneroo Rd		Stirling (C)
8	Marmion Ave	Whitfords Ave		Wanneroo (C)
10	Great Eastern Hwy	Roe Hwy		Mundaring
11	High St	High St	Stirling Hwy	Fremantle (C)
12	Aberthnethy Rd	Leach Hwy		Belmont (C)
12	Beach Rd North Cway	Mirraboooka Ave	Mirraboooka Ave	Wanneroo (C)
14	Balcatta Rd	Erindale Rd		Stirling (C)
15	Alexander Dr	Morley Dr		Stirling (C)
16	St George's Tce	William St		Perth (C)
16	Balcatta Rd	Wanneroo Rd		Stirling (C)
18	Collier Rd	Tonkin Hwy		Bayswater (C)
18	Kewdale Rd	Tonkin Hwy		Belmont (C)

20	Ocean Reef Rd	Wanneroo Rd		Wanneroo (C)
21	Alexander Dr	Reid Hwy		Stirling (C)
22	Hayman Rd	Hayman Rd	Kent St	South Perth (C)
23	Aberdeen St	Aberdeen St	Loftus Street	Perth (C)
24	Barrack St	Riverside Dr	Riverside Dr off South Bound	Perth (C)
25	Karrinyup Rd	Karrinyup Rd	Marmion Ave	Stirling (C)
26	Leach Hwy	Manning Rd		Canning (C)
26	Leach Hwy	Orrong Rd		Canning (C)
26	Tonkin Hwy	Welshpool Rd	Welshpool Rd	Kalamunda
29	Berrigan Dr	Kwinana Freeway		Cockburn (C)
29	Canning Hwy	Stirling Hwy		E.Fremantle (T)
29	Hay St	Plain St		Perth (C)
32	Alexander Dr	Beach Rd	Beach Rd	Swan
32	Oats St	Shepperton Rd		Victoria Park
32	Beach Rd	Beach Rd North Cway	Wanneroo Rd	Wanneroo (C)
35	Mirrabooka Ave	Reid Hwy		Stirling (C)
35	Charles St	Charles St off North Bound	Charles St on South Bound	Vincent (T)
37	Garratt Rd	Guildford Rd		Bayswater (C)
37	Canning Hwy	Canning Hwy off South Bound	H13-Manning Rd South Bound	South Perth (C)
37	Cornwall St	Great Eastern Hwy		Victoria Park
40	Burslem Dr	Spencer Rd	Warton Rd	Gosnells (C)
40	Marangaroo Dr	Wanneroo Rd		Wanneroo (C)
42	Kalamunda Rd	Roe Hwy		Kalamunda
42	Beaufort St	Central Ave		Stirling (C)
42	Brady St	Main St	Scarborough Beach Rd	Stirling (C)
45	Roberts Rd	Thomas St	Wellington St	Perth (C)
45	Hutton St	Hutton St off North Bound	Hutton St on North Bound	Stirling (C)
47	Camboon Rd	Morley Dr	Wellington Rd	Bayswater (C)
47	Hutton St	Main St	Royal St	Stirling (C)
49	Leach Hwy	Tonkin Hwy		Belmont (C)
49	Patterson Rd	Patterson Rd		Rockingham

49	Loftus St	Vincent St		Vincent (T)
52	Leach Hwy	Stock Rd	Stock Rd	Melville (C)
52	Canning Hwy	Douglas Ave		South Perth (C)
52	Charles St	Green St	Walcott St	Stirling (C)
55	Hepburn Ave	Marmion Ave		Wanneroo (C)
56	Broadway	Hampden Rd	Stirling Hwy	Subiaco (C)
57	Cambridge St	Loftus Street	Sutherland St	Perth (C)
58	Abernethy Rd	Great Eastern Hwy		Belmont (C)
58	Albany Hwy	Kelvin Rd	Olga Rd	Gosnells (C)
60	Nicholson Rd	Yale Rd		Gosnells (C)
60	Scarborough Beach Rd	West Coast Hwy		Stirling (C)
60	Lloyd St	Morrison Rd		Swan
60	Hepburn Ave	Wanneroo Rd		Wanneroo (C)
64	Albany Hwy	Shepperton Rd	Welshpool Rd	Canning (C)
64	Karel Ave	South St		Melville (C)
64	Cockman Rd	Erindale Rd	Warwick Rd	Wanneroo (C)
64	Marangaroo Dr	Templeton Cr		Wanneroo (C)
68	Belgravia St	Great Eastern Hwy	Stoneham St	Belmont (C)
68	Aberdeen St	Stamford St	Vincent St	Cambridge (T)
68	Centaurus St	Read St	Simpson Ave	Rockingham
68	Amelia St	Wanneroo Rd		Stirling (C)
68	Main St	Morley Dr		Stirling (C)
73	Morley Dr	Morley Dr	Tonkin Hwy	Bayswater (C)
73	Murdoch Dr	South St		Melville (C)
75	Plain St	Waterloo Cr	Wellington St	Perth (C)
76	Leach Hwy	North Lake Rd		Melville (C)
76	Roe St	William St		Perth (C)
76	Prindiville Dr	Wanneroo Rd		Wanneroo (C)
79	Barrack St	Beaufort St	Wellington St	Perth (C)
79	Berwick St	Canning Hwy		Victoria Park
81	Phoenix Rd	Stock Rd		Cockburn (C)
81	Flinders La	Patterson Rd	Read St	Rockingham
81	Charles St	Vincent St		Vincent (T)
84	Crimea St	Morley Dr		Bayswater (C)

84	Kelvin Rd	Tonkin Hwy		Gosnells (C)
84	North Lake Rd	South St		Melville (C)
84	Beaufort St	Newcastle St		Perth (C)
84	Morrison Rd	Roe Hwy		Swan
84	Warwick off South Bound	Warwick on South Bound	Warwick Rd	Wanneroo (C)
90	Hayman Rd	Lawson St West Cway	Marquis St	Canning (C)
90	Hale Rd	Tonkin Hwy		Kalamunda
90	Harborne St	Powis St		Stirling (C)
93	Norfolk St	Parry St	South Tce	Fremantle (C)
93	Liege St	Scarborough Beach Rd		Stirling (C)
95	Beechboro Rd North	Benara Rd		Bayswater (C)
95	Karel Ave	Leach Hwy		Canning (C)
95	Nicholson Rd	Nicholson Rd-North End	Ranford Rd	Gosnells (C)
95	James St West	Lake St		Perth (C)
95	Off GEH to Albany Hwy	Shepperton Rd		Victoria Park
95	Joondalup Dr	Ocean Reef Rd		Wanneroo (C)

Notes:

- Source: Segment of Main Roads Western Australia Internet site Intersection Ranking list.
- The MRWA list has been reordered by ranking.
- Where the same ranking is depicted, this is due to equal numbers of crashes.

Question: Hon Derrick Tomlinson asked whether there were 16 police officers dedicated to policing the Liquor Licensing Act in the Perth metropolitan area and what work they had carried out in the past 12 months.

Answer: No. There are 14 police officers who hold the position of District Alcohol and Drug Advisers within the Metropolitan Police Region. Two are attached to each district with the exception of Cannington which has four to cater for the casino and the various racing codes. At the discretion of their district officer they are not primarily assigned to the enforcement of the Liquor Licensing Act; this is now the responsibility of all police officers within the region. They advise and assist their respective district officers and all other police officers in regard to policy and strategies concerning the policing of the Liquor Licensing Act. The positions of District Alcohol and Drug Adviser came into being on 25 November 1996 with the abolishment of the Liquor and Gaming Branch. These positions were not all filled until January 1997 due to the normal selection and transfer procedures. The duties of District Alcohol and Drug Adviser include -

- Provision of advice to district officer in regard to policy and strategies in the policing/enforcement of the Liquor Licensing Act.
- Provision of advice and training to all other police staff within their district in regard to the policing/enforcement of the Liquor Licensing Act.
- Liaison with the Liquor Licensing Division, Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor in regard to applications and administration matters under the provisions of the Liquor Licensing Act.
- Formation of alcohol accords in conjunction with local government, licensed venue operators, members of the community and the Police Service.

- Development of district strategies with an emphasis on proactive harm reduction involving the abuse of alcohol and other drugs in relation to law enforcement.

The majority of the work completed by the District Alcohol and Drug Advisers would have involved the formation, implementation, maintenance and evaluation of their respective alcohol accords.

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked whether the need for a permanent police presence in the Balgo area, south of Halls Creek, had been reviewed by the Police Service, and what is the thinking on that issue or need at the moment.

Answer: The issue of what is an appropriate policing service for Balgo has been raised and reviewed numerous times and is currently being reviewed by Commander John Standing, the Regional Police Commander for the Northern Police Region. Every endeavour is made to ensure that all communities within Western Australia receive the appropriate level of service according to their needs, based on factors including population, permanence of population, demographics, business and industry trends and the social issues that impact on community safety and security needs.

In light of an assessment of these issues, it is not considered feasible, nor necessary, to provide a permanent police presence at Balgo. A permanent police presence at Balgo will not solve the problems, it may address some of the outcomes, but not the causal issues. All government agencies need to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations at Balgo in a coordinated multi-agency approach, so the police do not have to fill the void in services which currently exist. There are many reasons for the lack of services being provided by government agencies, not the least being the remoteness of Balgo coupled with a lack of available staffing being cited. In addition, the administrative infrastructure in the Balgo community appears to be inadequate, as advice received indicates that it does not meet the normal structure required by ATSIC. For example, the community is presently being administered from Perth with the local Balgo administration office not having had an occupant for the last 18 months, the bookkeeper is based in Kununurra and there is no recreation officer.

The WA Police Service is offering the best service of any government agency to the Balgo community. Staffing levels at Halls Creek Police Station have been increased by three constables and one Aboriginal police liaison officer since January 1995, in order to upgrade patrols to weekly and fortnightly patrols, weather permitting. However, an exceptionally heavy wet season has limited police presence at the police post in the past few months. The WA Police Service considers the most cost effective and efficient service delivery model to be the provision of regular, properly equipped mobile patrols to Balgo, backed up by an effective Aboriginal warden scheme that is actively supported by both the WA Police Service and the Aboriginal communities, coupled with a commitment from other government agencies to provide the necessary social, health and other services.

Question: Hon Mark Nevill asked whether improved resources had been allocated to the Police and Citizens Youth Clubs.

Answer: The Federation of Western Australian Police and Citizens Youth Clubs (Inc) is an incorporated body separate from the Police Service. It is a self-funded non-profit tax exempt organisation. The Western Australia Police Service supports the Federation of Police and Citizens Youth Clubs by providing sworn and unsworn officers as managers in the 27 clubs throughout the State at Police Service expense. Each club, since the implementation of regionalisation, has also benefited from the involvement of the local district superintendent and his senior personnel.

The Western Australia Police Service continues to actively support this proven youth orientated program and will continue to do so in the future. The work and commitment of the various club managers throughout the State is both recognised and appreciated by the community they serve.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked what were the budget allocations for this year and the next financial year for compensation payments to sworn officers and former sworn officers who are medically unfit as a result of service.

Answer: The Western Australia Police Service based on claim history, has not found it necessary to have an annual budget allocation for compensation payments to sworn officers or former sworn officers who are discharged medically unfit as the result of service. It does provide a death cover through workers' compensation and further provides a generous sick leave scheme for all sworn members, for both work and non-work related injury or illness. This is presently 168 paid sick leave days per year and may be extended, subject to review and conditions. Additionally, extensive and professional welfare services are available through the Western Australia Police Service's health and welfare branch.

The Western Australia Police Service will continue to finance the hospital, medical and pharmaceutical expenses arising from work and non-work related injury or illness for sworn members while they remain a member of the Western Australia Police Service.

Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked whether there had been any marked shift in response time relating to those reallocations.

Answer: Operational detail contained in the existing system is insufficient to provide a comprehensive and valid analysis. This type of information will be an outcome sought in the ESCADCOM project.

Question: Hon Bruce Donaldson asked whether the accident statistics detailed the number of stolen vehicle accidents that result in the death of the driver or some other person. If so, are those statistics separated into those vehicles that were not being pursued by the police and those that were.

Answer: The WA Police Service database of fatal and critical injury crashes includes information on stolen vehicles and those incidents involving pursuits by the police. Statistics for the years 1994 to 1996 are outlined below.

Number of Fatal Road Traffic Crashes Involving a Stolen Vehicle (1994 - 1996)

Year	Involved Police Pursuit	No Police Pursuit Vehicle	Total
1994	2	1	3
1995	1	2	3
1996	1	2	3

Question: Hon Bruce Donaldson asked: The speed limit was raised from 90 kmh to 100 kmh on the Mitchell and Kwinana Freeways. Is it true that there has been no increase in fatalities or major accidents on those freeways compared to the number when the previous speed limits were in place.

Answer: False. The speed limit was raised to 100 kmh on sections of the Mitchell and Kwinana Freeways on 18 March 1994. The Kwinana Freeway has been extended twice since this date. An analysis of crash statistics was undertaken for the length of freeways as they were for the three years prior to the change in speed limit. Fatalities rose from three to five in the three years before and after the speed change. Road crashes resulting in a person being hospitalised rose from 82 to 84.

Question: Hon Murray Montgomery asked how much will be spent on communications in the next financial year and what will the figure be by the end of this financial year.

Answer:

Communications		Projected 1996-97 \$'000
Recurrent		
Communications		2 494
Radio Support Unit		<u>792</u>
Total Recurrent		<u>3 286</u>
Capital		
Telephone System Replacement Program		105
Communications Branch Equipment Upgrades		66
New Radio Sites		100
Radio Site Upgrades due to Regionalisation		50
Hand Held Radio Replacements		166
Additional Radio Equipment - Districts/Crime		<u>113</u>
Total Capital		<u>600</u>

Notes: The recurrent figures do not include centralised costs such as salaries etc.
Portfolio budget allocations for the 1997-98 financial year are now in the process of being finalised.

Question: Hon Ken Travers asked -

- (1) *In relation to the Clarkson and Bunbury Police Stations - what is the status of both these police stations?*
- (2) *How much money to date has been spent on a feasibility study for a new police station in both those areas?*
- (3) *How much money has been allocated in this year's budget for a feasibility study for both the Clarkson and Bunbury Police Stations?*
- (4) *When is it expected that work will start on both these police stations?*

Answer:

- (1) Bunbury is a replacement station and a feasibility study will be conducted as to the suitability of the existing and alternative sites. Clarkson is a new station. Once a potential site has been identified a site feasibility will be conducted to confirm suitability.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) An allocation of \$150 000 has been provided in the 1997-98 budget for feasibility studies on various police complexes. Bunbury and Clarkson are included in this overall allocation.
- (4) It is proposed that design development and construction will commence for both Bunbury and Clarkson in 1998-99.

Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked: Page 747 refers to the Murdoch Police Station, which I believe is due to be completed in June 1998. Is that to be a 24 hour police station, and what will then be the status of the Brentwood, Palmyra and Hilton stations?

Answer: The Murdoch Police Station will be a 24 hour facility. A plan for the Fremantle Police District is currently being prepared by the district superintendent in which the policing requirements for the future will be outlined.

This plan is designed to enhance current policing methodology with the formation of a large district support group to give highly mobile support to stations within the district. The plan is also subject to the strategic asset management plan which is currently being devised by the Police Service. The plan will be comprehensive and ensure that the community obtains the best policing service with the predicted available resources. The major issues taken into account will be future urban growth, socioeconomic factors and industry growth - major consideration for emergency management planning.

Question: Hon Cheryl Davenport asked -

- (1) *How close is the relationship between the Police Service and the Labour Relations Building and Construction Industry Task Force?*
- (2) *Does the task force staff share accommodation of premises with the police?*
- (3) *If so, where is it and who pays for that accommodation and the ancillary services?*
- (4) *What proportion of police officers' time is spent on duties relating to the operations of the task force and at what cost?*
- (5) *Is there a plan for an evaluation of that program?*

Answer:

- (1) No working relationship currently exists between the Building and Construction Industry Task Force and the Western Australia Police Service. However, in May 1996, the then Fraud Squad formed a memorandum of understanding with the Building and Construction Industry Task Force, part of which was the supply of accommodation and office equipment at vacant offices on Level 10, 2 Havelock Street, West Perth. The MOU is still in existence but is presently inactive.

- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No Police Service time or costs relate to the operation of the task force.
- (5) Not applicable.

Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked whether there had been any education programs relating to cyclists in the city area.

Answer: There have been no specific education programs aimed at cyclists within the Central Business District. However, the bicycle section of Traffic and Operations Support is holding talks with the West Australian Courier Association investigating methods of self-regulation of the bicycle courier industry. One of the options being considered is the registration of couriers. Bicycle section has an ongoing strategy of enforcement of traffic laws on cyclists within the Central Business District.

Question: Hon Norm Kelly asked whether any consideration had been given to increasing penalties for cyclists.

Answer: Amendments anticipated to apply from 1 July 1997 will result in increased infringement penalties for all offences including penalties for cyclists.

Question: Hon John Cowdell asked -

- (1) *What specific operations have been conducted with respect to the current anti-third wave industrial relations campaign?*
- (2) *What has been the cost of police operations?*

Answer:

- (1) No specific operations instigated. The situation is monitored on an ongoing daily basis and appropriate action taken when necessary. To date all has been of a non-violent nature and police continue to maintain a low key approach.
- (2) Other than normal police salaries, overtime and meal costs of approximately \$3 125 have been incurred.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked what was the last known clearance rate for damage caused by graffiti and what was the clearance rate for that category of offence in the previous period.

<i>Answer:</i>	July 1995 - April 1996	28.8 per cent
	July 1996 - April 1997	22.7 per cent

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked how many FTEs, sworn and unsworn, were budgeted for in the forthcoming financial year for activities under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act and how many were budgeted for this current year.

Answer: At this stage no additional FTEs are budgeted for in the forthcoming financial year for activities under the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act. Two additional sworn FTEs were provided to the Commercial Agents Squad in 1996 to carry out the functions performed in that squad. Activities relating to the Security and Related Activities (Control) Act were absorbed within existing FTE allocations which included the above two officers. However, four sworn officers have been seconded to the squad to assist with the processing of licence applications during the transitional period. This will be reviewed at the end of September 1997.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked -

- (a) *How much is anticipated to be paid to Forensic Behavioural Investigative Services International Pty Ltd in this year's budget?*

- (b) *What is budgeted to be paid to that firm for contracts that have currency for the forthcoming financial year?*
- (c) *What specific projects are involved in each case?*
- (d) *Which of those projects involve the firm having access to police files?*
- (e) *What, if any, tendering process for the work was undertaken?*

Answer:

- (a) To date the 1996-97 payments to FBIS Pty Ltd on direct behalf of the Police Service are \$61 821.80. In addition, \$46 147.25 has been paid to FBIS by the Police Service and recouped from the private Secure Community Foundation Trust. The trust has been established by concerned citizens to assist in the Macro investigation. To ensure proper accountability, it was necessary to have such expenditure paid first by the Police Service and then recouped from the trust to maintain full police control over the Macro investigations. Given that moneys are fully reimbursed there is a cost neutral effect on the Police Service and Government.
- (b) As mentioned in the previous answer there is no contract between WAPS and FBIS. Costs for 1997-98 are dependent on the need for specialist assistance.
- (c)-(d) Not applicable.
- (e) Exemption for the engagement of services by FBIS has been granted by the State Supply Commission but all referrals for the services of FBIS must have the approval of the deputy commissioner.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked: What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate information technology systems for its functions and needs? Has the agency ensured that -

- (1) *Any problems associated with the year 2000 have been addressed.*
- (2) *Proper accountability for the ongoing outsourcing of information technology needs.*
- (3) *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency.*
- (4) *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade information technology to address technological change.*
- (5) *Information technology training for employees.*

Answer: The WA Police Service commenced in September 1996 a whole of agency review of the information needs and requirements to establish an information and communications technology information plan. The information plan has outlined the need to both re-engineer its information systems and the associated business processes linked to these systems as part of a four year process. The project has significant capital and ongoing costs associated with the products to be delivered and the revised business case of costings is currently being finalised.

- (1) Year 2000: An initial high level review of the year date 2000 impact has been conducted. Since 1993, information systems have been progressively upgraded to meet year 2000 compliance. It is proposed to continue this process linked to the outcomes of the information plan being developed for the agency. To ensure that all systems have been considered a formal request for quotation is to be issued to engage the services of an external consultant to review the agency information systems and make recommendations as to the potential impacts.
- (2) Outsourcing: Where information technology needs have been identified requests for equipment and services are obtained in accordance with existing panel contract arrangements and state supply guidelines. Increasingly, contract development of application systems is occurring utilising external resources.
- (3) Access to the Internet: Access to the Internet is centrally managed via user identification and password. Only authorised access is permitted and approvals have been devolved to regional and portfolio levels of responsibility. The access for users is auditable.

- (4) Upgrade and replacement to equipment: Funding is available within the agency to purchase or replace existing equipment based upon identified need. The agency continues to pursue the replacement of existing mainframe based terminals with personal computers where appropriate and the impact of new technologies is constantly being evaluated.
- (5) Information Technology Training: Training is provided through a specialised area coordinated through the Police Academy. In conjunction with the district training officers located in the regions and system owners, training is delivered on a range of in-house information systems and commercially available computer packages. Where necessary this training is further supplemented by external service providers.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what action had the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property were adequate to ensure the appropriate asset control.

Answer: The Financial Administration and Audit Act requires the Police Service to establish and maintain a register of public property. This register must contain accurate details on controlled public property and be verified at least once a year. The Police Service formal register of public property is comprised of three systems -

The Asset Management System which contains records on all physical resources controlled by the Police Service, with the exception of land and building and fleet assets.

The Fleetrak System which contains records on fleet resources.

The Land and Building Register which contains records on land and building resources.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what processes had the agency adopted to implement a new financial management system, replacing GAS in 1997-98.

Answer: A project team has been established to implement a new records management information system. Assessment and provision of a new financial management system will be encompassed within the RMIS. The RMIS is scheduled to commence early in 1998. In the interim the Treasury government accounting system will be transferred to and be used by the Police Service.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what process had the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency.

Answer: Under section 21 of the State Supply Commission Act the Western Australia Police Service is a partially devolved agency with autonomous purchasing of goods and services to \$50 000 per item. To ensure compliance with the deed of devolution granted by the commission, requests for private sector services with a value of up to \$5 000 require verbal quotations from three potential suppliers where possible. For services up to \$50 000, formal written quotations are sought. Where the value of the private sector services is expected to be in excess of \$50 000, public tenders are called and require approval of the State Supply Commission.

As additional information, to ensure maximum accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the Western Australia Police Service the following processes have been adopted -

1. All supply/purchasing activities undertaken by the Western Australia Police Service are reported in the annual supply report which requires a statement of compliance from the commissioner as the chief executive officer.
2. The Western Australia Police Service supports the "Buying Wisely" policy as published by the State Supply Commission in September 1996. This includes issues of integrity - probity and ethics; accountability; disclosure of buying outcomes; and grievance mechanisms.
3. A training program has been developed to increase the level of procurement competency of staff within the Western Australia Police Service. The range of courses includes "Contracting for Consultancy Services".

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked the following questions regarding the national quarterly survey "Community Satisfaction with Police Services" -

- (i) Which agency undertook the survey?

- (ii) *What was the total number of respondents from Western Australia?*
- (iii) *What number of respondents were from the metropolitan area?*
- (iv) *What was the methodology adopted in the survey?*
- (v) *What were the specific questions asked?*

Answer:

- (i) The Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- (ii) The quarterly sample for Western Australia is approximately 375. An annual sample of 1 500.
- (iii) Approximately 73.3 per cent of respondents were from the metropolitan area.
- (iv) From the first quarter of 1996, Australian police jurisdictions have funded a series of questions under the topic "Community Satisfaction with Police Services" through the ABS Population Survey Monitor.

The Population Survey Monitor is a quarterly household survey of approximately 3 000 households conducted throughout Australia. The PSM is designed to meet the needs of government agencies and non-profit organisations for family household data. It is a user-funded survey where clients pay to have the topic of their choice included. Questions for each client's topic can be asked of a randomly selected person aged 18 years or over or of a particular person within the selected household.

The survey covers rural and urban areas across all States and Territories of Australia, except sparsely settled areas. All persons living in non-private dwellings are excluded. All usual residents in private households are included within the scope of the PSM.

The selected sample is generally sufficient to provide quarterly data for Australia and annual data for the States and Territories at an acceptable level of accuracy and reliability after allowing for sample loss. Sample loss can occur due to factors such as vacant dwellings inadvertently selected in the sample, non-contacts, persons out of scope etc.

Information is obtained in the PSM by personal interviews with adult members of selected households. Interviewers for the PSM are obtained from a trained panel who have extensive experience in conducting household surveys.

- (v) Photocopies of relevant pages from the population survey monitor questionnaire - Section J: Community Satisfaction with Police Services are held by Committee office.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked: What processes has the agency adopted to ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators with regard to satisfaction with services provided by the Police Service, community perceptions of contact with the police, ratio of sworn police officers to population, and influencing safer driver behaviour?

Answer: Throughout 1996-97 the Western Australia Police Service has continued to work with the Office of Auditor General to establish an agreed set of relevant and appropriate key performance indicators for the 1997 annual report. The Western Australia Police Service is committed to the continued development of its performance indicators with the objective of increasing their relevance and appropriateness to users, particularly Parliament.

The Western Australia Police Service is also participating actively with other jurisdictions for the development of national performance indicators which will enable comparisons of performance between police services in different States and Territories.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked whether the Delta program had involved issues of devolution and regionalisation and if the resourcing and accountability of those regions was being addressed.

Answer: Regionalisation of the Western Australia Police Service under the Delta program began on 1 March 1996 with the establishment of 15 districts in four regions. There are six districts in the metropolitan region and nine districts in the three non-metropolitan regions.

The 1996-97 Budget Statements for the Police Service included allocation of resources on a regional basis. Within regions there has been an ongoing process of devolution of resources, functions and accountability from central portfolios. The 1997-98 Budget Statements also contain estimates of the financial allocation, and FTE allocation to regions and to specialist portfolios.

The accountability of regions is being addressed in a number of ways, including inclusion of appropriate information in the agency's annual report and the development of regional and district business plans. Business plans for all regions and districts were in place by July 1996. Senior commissioned officers at regional and district level are also being held accountable for local performance by the linking of individual performance management to the outcomes of business planning at the regional and district level.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked what processes the agency adopted to ensure the effective management of the State Community Policing Crime Prevention Council and its actions.

Answer: The State Crime Prevention Strategy is managed by the Western Australia Police Service Community Services Command. The strategy is closely linked to the State Community Policing Crime Prevention Council of Western Australia (Inc) and its 22 affiliated committees throughout the State. The Western Australia Police Service has allocated sufficient human, physical and financial resources to ensure the effective ongoing management of the strategy. A review of the strategy will be undertaken towards the end of the 1997-98 financial year with a view to assessing the future needs of this major crime prevention program.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked: In the formation of strategic partnerships with commerce, industry and community groups to address issues relating to crimes against property, what processes has the agency adopted to ensure the effective development of these partnerships?

Answer: Effective partnerships are developed and maintained by -

- regular meetings and ongoing liaison;
- the provision of seminars and lectures to interest groups;
- the publication of information relevant to specific issues;
- cooperative agreement, contract or memorandum of understanding;
- liaison with national task forces or representative bodies as appropriate; and
- the preparation of submissions to State Government recommending strategies to address the incidence of crimes against property.

The Western Australia Police Service undertakes a leadership and participating role on numerous community based committees.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked:

(1) *How are the operations of the Macro Task Force affecting resourcing in other police operational areas?*

(2) *Have these impacts been considered in the 1997-98 estimates?*

(3) *Is there sufficient funding for the ongoing operations of the Macro Task Force?*

Answer:

- (1) The Macro Task Force has a current staffing level of 80 members - sworn and unsworn - who are seconded from a broad range of metropolitan districts, centralised crime squads and administrative areas. The diverse range of areas that staff are drawn from allows for a wide range of skills and lateral thinking while lessening the impact of staff shortages from any one area.
- (2) Operations of the Macro Task Force will be appropriately considered when Police Service 1997-98 portfolio allocations are determined.

- (3) On known information yes; however, any significant escalation of the current operations would necessitate a review of funding.

Question: Hon Bob Thomas asked: What processes has the agency adopted to ensure that controls over the information system providing data for the effectiveness indicators on offences reported and detected and offence clearance rates are adequate?

Answer: Control totals have been added to the offence information system via online reporting functions giving details of number of offence reports submitted, inquired into and cleared.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked when did the current sponsorship for the police helicopter expire.

Answer: The contract with Cape Bouvard expired on 31 March 1997.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked what were the current maintenance costs for the police helicopter.

Answer: The 1996-97 expenditure to 31 May 1997 was \$313 102.

Question: Hon Nick Griffiths asked whether the Minister could provide particulars on sponsorship to the department from a number of sources, other than the police helicopter.

Answer: Details of significant sponsorship - amount over \$10 000 - and from 1 July 1996 to 3 June 1997 are listed -

Description	Value
SGIO for Neighbourhood Watch program	\$115 000
Channel 10 for Neighbourhood Watch program	\$250 000
SGIO insurance for leased vehicles	\$25 000
Community Policing Crime Prevention Council Lotteries Commission Grant for 22 Nimrod Computers	\$66 000
Western Mining Company, 1 Toyota personnel carrier	\$40 000

Question: Hon Muriel Patterson asked: In relation to the level of crime in the Willagee area -

- (1) *What have been the crime levels in the Willagee area over the past five years?*
- (2) *What are the statistics for the incidence of various types of criminal offences, such as breaking and entering into residential properties or small business, armed robbery etc?*
- (3) *What have been the policing levels in the Willagee area over the past five years?*
- (4) *What are the statistics for the number of police patrols in the commercial area during periods of daylight and night time over the past five years?*
- (5) *Has there been any difference in the levels of patrols in the commercial and residential areas of Willagee?*
- (6) *What are the -*
 - (i) *response times for the commercial areas of Willagee;*
 - (ii) *are they comparable with other commercial areas in metropolitan Perth; and*
 - (iii) *are they in line with agency policy?*

Answer:

- (1)-(2) This information is not readily available and requires a computer program to be written to extract it. Not available within the time frame given.
- (3) Willagee is policed by the Palmyra Police Station which has a staff of 13 sworn officers and one customer service officer. This is supported by the Fremantle detectives and the district support group.
- (4)-(5) Not available.
- (6) (i)-(ii) Not available.
- (iii) Response times are dependent on available resources and are prioritised. They are in line with agency policy and district policing philosophies.

PREMIER AND CABINET

Question: The Committee asked -

- (1) *What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate information technology systems for its functions and needs? This question in particular seeks the Minister's response to the following issues, although is not limited to these.*
 - (i) *Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the year 2000 been addressed?*
 - (ii) *Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of information technology needs?*
 - (iii) *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?*
 - (iv) *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade information technology to address technological change?*
 - (v) *Information technology training for employees?*
- (2) *What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure for the appropriate asset control?*
- (3) *What processes has the agency adopted to ensure adequate accountability for the administration of ministerial and parliamentary entitlements of the Western Australian Parliament?*
- (4) *What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?*
- (5) *What processes has the agency followed to ensure the development of satisfactory performance indicators?*
- (6) *What initiatives has the agency pursued in assisting in the coordination of risk management practices by agencies?*

Answer:

- (1) The objective of the ministry's information technology branch is to ensure the provision of a coordinated approach to the planning, purchase, implementation and support of information technology and telecommunications for the ministry and its client organisations. Services provided in support of either corporate or client objectives include -

- . strategic planning including input into whole of government policy where appropriate;
- . IT consultancy and planning;
- . system acquisitions consistent with State Supply Commission requirements - panel contracts, quotations, tenders;
- . system development, management and support;
- . network planning, management and support;
- . user support - help desk and on-site;
- . user training;
- . security;
- . contract management;
- . voice and data communications;
- . IT administrative related services as required by the ministry or Government; and
- . research into new products and technologies.

These services are provided by a combination of in-house and contracted service providers.

Since 1989 strategies have been reviewed on an ongoing basis by the ministry's information technology steering committee and the ministerial office systems management committee.

As part of the long term strategy the ministry has moved from a proprietary system to an open systems environment involving comprehensive local area and wide area networks supporting about 700 users.

The ministry also provides information technology services to members of Parliament electorate offices which include supply of basic hardware, software, user support and IT management services. Management and support of these systems have been contracted out. It is expected that the current facilities will be upgraded in the current financial year including the provision of access to the Internet.

With regard to the specific issues raised -

- (i) The ministry is addressing the millennium year issue at two levels -

- . On a whole of government basis:

Cabinet has been brief on the year 2000 problem.

The Premier has written to all CEOs about the issue.

The management of the risk will be a consideration in CEO performance agreements.

A report of progress against an agency specific year 2000 risk management plan is to be a mandatory item in the annual report of every agency.

The public sector management office will continue to assist agencies by raising awareness of the problem.

Appointed an officer at SES level to coordinate year 2000 activity.

The information policy council has an Internet page on the matter.

- . At the departmental level the ministry has initiated an internal year 2000 project:

The problem is seen as a strategic risk management issue and is being looked at from a business process perspective. Units of the ministry will be encouraged to look at their essential suppliers of goods, services, facilities and information to ensure adequacy, accuracy and timeliness of supply.

Consideration is being given to the whole business process chain internal and external to the ministry. However, it is recognised that the major risk area for the ministry, at a departmental level, is likely to be the IT environment. In that regard inventories of hardware and software and their dependencies are being prepared to facilitate testing, problem identification and resolution.

The project is being driven at senior management level.

- (ii) Outsourcing contracts are let through the State Supply Commission's tender process and are approved by the commission. Generally the contracts are for fixed periods with

options; for example, two years with two one year options, exercisable at the sole discretion of the Supply Commission. Inadequate performance could result in the options not being exercised. In addition, the standard terms and conditions of contract provide for termination under certain circumstances.

The engagement of the private sector to provide information technology support is managed by the ministry's IT branch. The IT branch structure is based on its retention of strategic management, policy, planning and purchasing as well as the contract management function. Contractor performance is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis.

- (iii) Internet access is being provided to ministry staff as a key component of an internal intranet service that is currently being developed and installed. The intranet is an internal service aimed at improving productivity by providing employees with access to the information they need to do their jobs.

Acceptable use policies have been established governing the access of unacceptable materials and defining legitimate uses of the Internet in the workplace - all staff have been informed of these policies.

A commitment has also been made to provide Internet access to systems in parliamentary electorate offices.

- (iv) As indicated above, IT standards are kept under continual review and are determined by the ministry's information technology steering committee and the ministerial office systems management committee. The ministry's current IT program calls for continuous review of systems vis a vis the marketplace and the replacement of standard IT facilities - including electorate office IT facilities - as required, but at least on a triennial basis.

The funding allocation for the program is \$200 000 from capital which is supplemented by funding from the various output groups within the recurrent vote.

- (v) IT training is available to every employee in the ministry and ministerial offices at a level and of a type suitable to their individual requirements.

Face to face/classroom IT training is contracted to Mirage Technology. Consultants from Mirage approach all branches within the ministry and ministerial offices to either offer courses from within their schedule or design courses to specific requirements. These courses are also advertised on the ministry's intranet. This contract is managed by the IT branch.

To supplement the above the ministry has recently purchased computer based training packages from standard ministry facilities. The computer based self-paced learning packages for use either at work or at home are to be networked to all relevant users. Training on custom developed software is generally provided by the contractor as a component of the contract.

With regard to electorate office personnel, IT training is conducted on an as required basis; generally on replacement of systems. Training is included in the Consultech contract; however, is provided only with ministry approval.

- (2) The Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet has developed an asset register in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Asset management is integrated with an accrual accounting system used for reporting purposes and is subject to audit scrutiny.
- (3) The administration of these entitlements is subject to the normal checks and balances required by the Financial Administration and Audit Act. In addition, as well as being covered under the general audit of the ministry conducted by the Office of the Auditor General, such matters are subject to a specific audit program undertaken by the ministry's internal auditor.

Details of all overseas and interstate travel undertaken by Ministers and members using the imprest system for members of Parliament travel are included in the quarterly reports tabled in Parliament. Some entitlements, particularly the imprest system for members of Parliament travel, as well as being subject to internal and state audit requirements, are open to scrutiny by the Australian Taxation Office.

From 1 July 1997, the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet will become fully responsible for the administration of ministerial office budgets. The action to draw together divergent funding sources under one controlling body will further enhance accountability measures. Discussions have been held with Parliament House staff with a view to the development of closer cooperation and information sharing in relation to such matters.

- (4) Contracts are let in accordance with State Supply Commission's policies and guidelines and the Public Sector Management Office's CTC framework and guidelines.

In most cases the contracts are for fixed periods with options; eg - two years with two one year options - exercisable at the sole discretion of the State Supply Commission. Inadequate performance could result in the options not being exercised. In addition the standard terms and conditions of contract provide for termination under certain circumstances.

The ministry works on the basis that contracting does not imply less effort in managing on the part of the ministry, only a different emphasis. That is, managers remain fully responsible for and in control of the effectiveness of the services delivered. Contracting does not entail devolution or abrogation of responsibility.

The engagement of the private sector to provide services for internal ministry functions is managed by the relevant branch. Contracts let on behalf of the ministry which provide for a whole of government service are generally managed by the Department of Contract and Management Services. In either case the ministry retains the strategic management, planning, policy and purchasing functions.

Contractor performance is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis, either by internal processes or for whole of government services through CAMS contracted auditors. The overall process is monitored by the ministry's manager, contract and services. He ensures that the contracts are in accordance with competitive tendering and contracting guidelines and adhere to relevant State Supply Commission policies.

An internal CTC manual is currently being prepared and will be made available to ministry staff on the intranet when approved.

- (5) Since the 1995-96 financial year, the ministry has devoted considerable resources to the preparation of suitable key indicators of performance. The ministry has accepted an offer of assistance from the Office of the Auditor General and is currently progressing the development of these performance indicators. In consultation with the OAG, the ministry has reviewed its outcomes and outputs and identified measures of effectiveness and efficiency.

The new indicators being developed will be significantly altered from the 1996-97 indicators and it is anticipated that these will be assessed as satisfactory in assessing the performance of the ministry and will result in an unqualified audit opinion for the 1996-97 year.

- (6) The agency has undertaken extensive surveys of risk management issues with the intent of minimising exposures. The agency has designated a senior manager as coordinator to oversee the risk management issues.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any allowance had been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation and, if so, how did this compare to any allowance made in the previous year.

Answer: No.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked for details of expenditure and FTEs in respect of public relations/community awareness and advertising.

Answer:

- (1) Under the output based management system, expenditure is not specifically budgeted at the agency level. Any such expenditure would be at the relevant key output level. From time to time, some of the ministry's cost centres have allowed for expenditure on public relations/community awareness. For example, in 1997-98, the Centenary of Federation has budgeted an amount of \$100 000 for this purpose, while the policy office has budgeted an amount of \$150 000 for the production of budget brochures.

- (2) Centenary of Federation \$ 10 000
Policy Office 150 000

- (3) The number of FTEs within the ministry involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations are as follows -

Sub-Program	1996-97 1997-98	
	Est Actual	Estimate
Communications	21	22
Premier's support	2	2
Support to Ministers and Leader of the Opposition (includes media secretary for Leader of the Opposition)	16	16
TOTAL	39	40

- (4) The total number of journalists is 20 20
(including media secretary for Leader of the Opposition)

- (5) Under the output based management system, expenditure is not specifically budgeted at the agency level. Any such expenditure would be at the relevant key output level. From time to time, some of the ministry's cost centres have allowed for expenditure on advertising. For example, in 1997-98, the Centenary of Federation has budgeted an amount of \$80 000 for this purpose, while the Policy Office has budgeted an amount of \$10 000.

- (6) Centenary of Federation \$10 000
Policy Office \$10 000

- (7) Yes - promotion of Constitutional Centre.

- (8) Approximately \$186 000.

- (9) Yes.

- (10) Impressions Public Relations.

- (11) The Minister's office comprises 10 public servants, 10 contract employees and one officer employed under the Ministerial Chauffeur's Agreement.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked what were the names of the 11 agencies in the BIPAC Consortium?

<i>Answer:</i> Education Department*	Homeswest
Department of Minerals and Energy	Totalisator Agency Board
MetroBus*	Valuer General's Office*
State Revenue Department*	Electoral Commission*
Westrail*	Treasury Department*
Department of Contract and Management Services	

* (Serviced through Dept of Contract and Management Services which operates the Government Computer Bureau)

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how many jobs would be lost.

Answer: The jobs of 95 people are affected by this project. The contractor will offer jobs to all of those people but not all may choose to transfer. It is expected about 85 will be employed in delivering the services to BIPAC. Those who do not transfer will be redeployed in the public sector. In general, staff such as these who have clerical skills and familiarity or technical expertise with computers can be placed in other productive work in the public sector.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how the Government would guarantee protection of the privacy of an individual.

Answer: The terms in the contract which relate to data protection can be summarised as follows: The provision of computing services through this contract does not absolve agencies from responsibility for protection of privacy and confidentiality, etc, under the Public Sector Management Act and other relevant Acts. The contract makes provision for the relevant government officers, including the Auditor General, to have access to the contractor's books, records and equipment.

The contract to be established between the successful contractor and the State Government will provide comprehensive protection for the privacy of information held within computer systems to be supported and delivered by the contractor. These provisions are modelled on the "Outsourcing and Privacy Guidelines" produced by the Commonwealth Privacy Commissioner and in summary provide that -

- . the Contractor shall not, without the prior written approval of the Customer, make public or disclose to any person any confidential information. Confidential information in this context is fully defined to include information relating to government business and to clients of or suppliers to the public sector agencies which are party to this contract; and

the Contractor will arrange for its employees, agents and sub-contractors to execute a Deed of Confidentiality.

The contractor will be required to agree, and to ensure their employees and sub-contractors comply, not to disclose personal information without the written authority of the customer except for the purposes of fulfilling its obligations under this contract. The contractor shall immediately notify the customer where it becomes aware that a disclosure of personal information may be required by law. The contractor will also agree not to transfer personal information outside Western Australia, or allow parties outside Western Australia to have access to it, without the prior approval of the customer.

The ownership of data held in information systems which are the subject of this contract will be retained by the Government. The contractor is not permitted to cause any lien or encumbrance of a third party to be placed on such data.

In the event of the contractor failing, the contract requires all information to be returned to the Government in a machine readable form.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked, because the department is considering the introduction of a new computer dispatch system, which will allow better coordination between emergency services and more efficient use of resources, what information could be made available by the Minister on that system.

Answer: The project for emergency services call-taking and dispatch system and related communications services is coordinated by the Public Sector Management Office at the request of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, under the direction of a steering committee comprising senior executives from Police and the emergency services agencies including the St John Ambulance Association. A review of these agencies has been completed. Independent expert consultants were employed to undertake the review and recommend a strategy. The agencies continue to work together to produce detailed specifications for a request for tenders for the following systems -

- . Emergency call-taking and dispatch system.
- . Metropolitan mobile radio for police and emergency vehicles, including some mobile data capability.
- . Assistance to identify options for better country radio coverage for emergency services and police.

The six year strategy approved by Government addresses the need for replacement of police systems in the short term, but with technology which will serve the needs of fire and ambulance services as those systems become due for replacement in three to four years.

The cost effectiveness of all options tendered will be established when detailed bids are analysed

Question: Hon Greg Smith asked what savings had been made through the contracting process.

Answer: The public sector in Western Australia has traditionally been a very large purchaser of goods, services and capital works on a contract basis.

The introduction of competitive tendering and contracting in the past few years has resulted in the progressive testing of additional services which were being carried out by public sector employees rather than purchased from the private or not-for-profit sectors. Where that market testing has resulted in change and the establishment of contracts with these non-government service providers, savings have consistently occurred across different types of public sector agency, in a wide range of service categories, and over a sustained period of time. The extent of savings achieved has varied, quite markedly in some cases. However, three consecutive independent surveys conducted by Professor Simon Domberger of the University of Sydney's Graduate School of Business have shown that, where adequate and accurate information relating to contracts let for services previously carried out "in-house" exists, savings have averaged 20 per cent in 1993-94, 24 per cent in 1994-95 and 22.5 per cent in 1995-96.

The latter figure is one of several indicators of the success of contracting that is contained in the third survey report, which will be published within the next week or two. As in previous years, the report also demonstrates that the quality of services is not adversely affected by contracting.

These outcomes reflect experience elsewhere in Australia and overseas, where similar independent studies have consistently found that contracting does result in savings to governments at all levels and across many different service categories. Further, the Federal Government's Industry Commission, now part of the Productivity Commission, undertook a major study of contracting across Australia and found that savings ranged between 10 per cent and 30 per cent in the majority of contracts let.

The Auditor General in Western Australia has also conducted detailed examinations of several contracts in operation in the public sector. Findings from those analyses have confirmed the delivery of real savings through competitive tendering and contracting, and through the competition effects generated through even the threat of competition.

While the total value of savings achieved through contracting across the public sector since 1993 has not been determined, the consistent trend for savings to average between 20 per cent and 24 per cent indicates that savings are indeed substantial. For example, when those figures are applied across the full value of contracts reported during the 1995-96 survey period - c.\$870m - it is likely that those services would have cost around \$1.1b if they had not been contracted.

The savings achieved in any one year are, of course, cumulative over time. To this should be added savings related to contracts reported in previous years and the services progressively being shifted from a public sector to a private sector delivery base, as thorough tender evaluation processes indicate this to be the best value-for-money option, while retaining service quality and standards.

Question: Hon John Cowdell asked whether the Government had any positive initiatives in hand to ensure that young people are provided with opportunities for employment in the public sector.

Answer: The Public Sector Management Office coordinates or promotes a range of employment initiatives which target youth employment and which address Aboriginal and disability employment.

The programs for Aboriginal employment are supported by funding from the Commonwealth Government and are aimed at regional employment, traineeships, cadetships and specialist promotional positions in some key Aboriginal service deliver agencies.

Disability employment programs are operating in concert with a number of non-government agencies which specialise in supporting disabled people. The PSMO acts as a broker between the agencies and government departments and identifies suitable candidates for vacancies within the government departments. The program also facilitates work experience placements for people with disabilities.

A new program is being developed with the Education Department to extend the department's INSTEP program to provide for employment for years 11 and 12 students for two days per week for two years. At the end of the period the student will be able to achieve year 12 qualifications and a public sector traineeship accreditation.

The PSMO has developed a highly regarded traineeship program which provides on the job training as well as targeted developed courses. Trainees are employed in base entry positions and are skilled over the traineeship period in a number of work areas, for example, finance and human resource management.

The sector also operates graduate development programs which provide employment opportunities for graduates. The programs can be departmental specific or can apply across departments under PSMO coordination.

Question: The age profile shows that slightly over two per cent of the public sector are aged 60 years plus. Hon John Cowdell asked whether the Federal Government's initiatives alter that, or whether it would continue to decline.

Answer: The age profile shows that the total of males and females aged 60-plus is over four per cent of the public sector. The proportion in this age group is increasing and is likely to continue increasing until most of the "baby boom" generation retires.

It is this office's understanding that the Commonwealth Government is introducing, or has introduced, a number of policy initiatives which may result in an increase in the retirement age of the work force. For example, three current commonwealth policy initiatives are -

Superannuation:

The Commonwealth Government has decided to proceed with the phased introduction of the preservation age from 55 to 60 years. By 2025 the preservation age for benefits will be 60 years for anyone born after 30 June 1960. For a person born before 1 July 1960 the preservation age will remain 55 years. A schedule applies. Individuals will be able to gain early access to benefits where the benefit is taken as a lifetime pension or annuity.

Increase in pensionable age for women:

The Commonwealth Government has introduced a schedule to increase the pensionable age for women from 60 years to 65 years. Women born on 1 January 1949 and later will have a pensionable age of 60 years; the schedule starts with women born between 1 July 1935 and 31 December 1936 and the pensionable age of these women increases to 60 years and six months. The schedule increases in 18 month tranches with the pensionable age increasing six months from each tranche.

New asset/income test:

From 20 September 1997, superannuation is to be included in the asset and income test for pension eligibility. This change may reduce the pension eligibility and therefore increase the retirement age.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked why the media monitoring unit's system of double asterisking of the opponents of the Government led to the production of transcripts of what they had to say, but made no similar transcripts available of what was said by the Ministers, government members or friendly agents of the Government.

Answer: Transcripts are typed of interviews from radio news and talkback programs which are considered to be of interest to government Ministers and which may require a government response. These may include interviews with the Opposition spokesmen, federal and state government members, unionists, industry spokesmen, talkback callers or even Ministers themselves, if they are discussing issues which are of relevance to other Ministers. If a radio news item carries an interview with an opposition spokesman immediately followed by an interview with a government spokesman, then often both interviews are transcribed. However, transcripts are generally not typed of interviews with Ministers as, firstly, Ministers should be aware of what they have said, and, secondly, often this material/information is contained within a media statement, which is already available.

Upon the request of a Minister's office some radio news and talkback stories, which do not have a double asterisk next to them at the time of the production of the news summary, may be transcribed.

A single asterisk merely indicates that the person monitoring the program was unsure of the correct spelling of the person, company, product or location name and has spelt the word phonetically.

The monitoring unit's system of transcribing radio programs has remained unchanged for the last eight years.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens inquired about the tasks of the 7.5 FTEs attached to the Government Media Office.

Answer: The 7.5 FTEs include the director of the GMO and the support staff.

Support staff duties include the coordination of administrative functions of the Government Media Office and the provision of direct executive and administrative support to the director and deputy director of the GMO. Staff also coordinate the processing and release of all government media statements, both to the media and on the Internet. These duties often extend after hours and into weekends and public holidays. Other duties include preparations for media conferences at the GMO, receptionist work, typing, photocopying, facsimile operations, some shared duties with media monitoring, filing and normal office duties.

PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOUR RELATIONS

Question: The Chairman asked for an estimate of the amount of funds allocated in the budget to investigate complaints of legislation breaches.

Answer: The department does not provide an allocation at the commencement of the financial year specifically for this purpose. To date in 1996-97 the department estimates it has spent \$207 269 on alleged breaches of legislation.

Question: The Chairman asked for a copy of the prosecution policy to be provided.

Answer: A copy is held by Committee office.

Question: The Chairman asked how many people with legal qualifications were employed by the department.

Answer: Four officers have legal qualifications.

Question: The Chairman asked for information on how many matters were referred to the department's solicitors for legal advice on whether there was sufficient evidence to prosecute.

Answer: The department advises that in the current financial year six matters have been referred to the department's solicitors.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked for details on the agreement between the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations and the then Building Management Authority about the duties of the officer seconded to the building and construction industry task force.

Answer: An officer from the department's fair workplaces division was seconded in 1995 to the building industry task force. It is not customary for a department to reach an agreement or understanding on the duties an officer is to perform in the seconded position. In this case, no such agreement was reached.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked for information to be made available to the Committee on the detail of the calculation in relation to the average period of five months to close a file and the number of files which have remained open for an extended time.

Answer: In the month of April 1997, a total of 64 files were closed. The average life of these files was 155 days or approximately five months. In the current financial year 78 per cent of matters received were concluded in two months. There are 26 files which have been open for over six months.

Question: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked what processes the agency had adopted to implement appropriate information technology systems for its functions and needs. This question in particular sought a response to the following issues, although was not limited to these -

- (1) *Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the year 2000 have been addressed?*
- (2) *Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of information technology needs.*
- (3) *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency.*
- (4) *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade information technology to address technological change.*
- (5) *Information technology training for employees.*

Answer: An information technology strategic plan is in place and is currently being reviewed. Annual information technology operational plans are developed detailing ongoing information technology services and specific planned projects identified as essential requirements to meet the anticipated business needs of the organisation. The plans receive the endorsement of the DOPLAR information technology and telecommunications subcommittee and final approval by the DOPLAR corporate executive board.

- (1) A year 2000 date issue action plan has been developed and analysis of potential exposure is currently being undertaken. A preliminary investigation completed in August 1996 revealed our exposure is minor. However, the action plan for addressing this issue is progressing.
- (2) A business case is prepared for information technology projects being considered for outsourcing and endorsement is required by the DOPLAR information technology and telecommunications subcommittee and the corporate executive board.

Project plans are prepared and user committees manage the projects with regular reporting to the above mentioned committees. The information technology manager takes responsibility for ensuring outsourced projects and all IT contracts are managed to ensure proper accountability.

- (3) All staff have access to the Internet on their DOPLAR personal computers and an acceptable use policy has been developed and implemented. DOPLAR has developed its world wide web home page and a permanent position is being created to continue its ongoing development and coordination.
- (4) The department has an ongoing information technology replacement and upgrade program in place including capital works estimates up to the year 2000-01. The plans are re-evaluated annually and amended as required to meet technological change.
- (5) Information technology training for employees has priority and an ongoing project for IT training is included in IT operational plans every year. This ensures staff needs are addressed and training is coordinated to meet individual and operational requirements.

Question: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked what action had been taken by the agency to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure appropriate asset control.

Answer: Details of public property and assets are recorded on a spreadsheet application which is audited annually by both internal and external auditors. The new financial management information system will automatically record these details. The new system will be operational in the 1997-98 financial year. Current departmental practices and the new financial management system will ensure adequate recording and controls of public property and assets.

Question: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked what action the agency had taken to ensure that appropriate valuations over land and buildings are obtained for external reporting purposes.

Answer: Not applicable. The agency owns no land or buildings.

Question: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked what processes had been adopted by the agency to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency.

Answer: All private sector involvement in the provision of goods and services to the agency is done in compliance with State Supply Commission policy through established contracts or the quotation process. There are internal departmental policies and processes which ensure compliance including the purchasing procedures manual and the fact that all employees letting contracts are aware of legislative requirements and purchasing guidelines in compliance with the State Supply Commission policy. This ensures appropriate accountability in all private sector involvement.

Question: The Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations asked what processes had been adopted to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a new financial management information system.

Answer: The FMIS project team has adopted the following steps to ensure effectiveness of the new financial management information system -

- . Scaled implementation with roll out to non-core users planned on a gradual basis after appropriate training has been conducted.
- . Monthly accrual reporting will be implemented to supplement cash based reporting.
- . Internal audit is overseeing the implementation of the new financial management information system and this will ensure compliance with Treasury Instruction 601.
- . System operations evaluation report to corporate executive board by December 1997.
- . Performance agreements of executive directors include standards on budgetary performance.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) *Has any allowance had been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation?*
- (2) *If so, how does it compare to any allowance made in the previous year?*

Answer:

- (1) No allowance has been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation.
- (2) Not applicable.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) *What is the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (2) *How does this compare to the current financial year's allocation?*

Answer:

- (1) Approximately \$370 000 has been allocated in 1997-98 to publications, advertising and other public awareness, within the fair workplaces program.
- (2) The 1996-97 allocation was the same.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) *How many FTEs with the department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?*
- (2) *Are any of those persons journalists, and if so, how many?*

Answer:

- (1) Two FTEs.
- (2) One person is a qualified journalist.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) *What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget?*
- (2) *How does this compare to the current financial year's allocation?*

Answer:

- (1) A precise figure has not been determined. However, approximately \$200 000 is the estimate for advertising in the fair workplaces program. An additional estimated amount of \$15 000 is anticipated for spending in advertising staff vacancies and DOPLAR training courses in the 1997-98 financial year. This results in the anticipated total advertising projected expenditure for the department of \$215 000.
- (2) Approximately \$270 000 has been spent on advertising up to 31 May 1997. It is anticipated that a total of \$300 000 will be spent on advertising by 30 June 1997.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked -

- (1) *Are any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year?*
- (2) *If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?*
- (3) *Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be outsourced?*
- (4) *If so, to whom?*

Answer:

- (1) The campaign to raise awareness about the provisions of the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act will continue in 1997-98.
- (2) Final figures are yet to be determined for 1997-98.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many officers from each department or agency were located permanently within the Minister's office.

Answer: There are no officers from this agency located permanently within the Minister's office.

TOURISM

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked to be provided with the number of competitors and private sector sponsorship for the World Mining and Energy Games.

Answer: The organisers of the World Mining and Energy Games advised EventsCorp that there were 929 competitors and supporters. Private sector sponsorships totalled \$200 000.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether he could be provided with the provision in the standard events contract relating to the distribution of profit in the event of a surplus.

Answer: The following are the draft provisions from a standard contract that are usually incorporated into contracts with event organisers -

- 10.1 WATC and XYZ hereby agree that any surplus of income over expenditure as determined by the audited accounts in Clause 6(g), remaining at the conclusion of the Event and following the payment of all debts and obligations and after making provision for all contingent liabilities shall be distributed by (party keeping financial records) out of the Event Account to WATC and XYZ in the following shares:
- (a) WATC ___ % of the surplus, up to a maximum of \$; and
 - (b) XYZ ___% of the surplus, or the remainder (whichever is the greater amount).
- 10.2 WATC hereby agrees that the amount received as its share of profits as described in Clause 10.1, will be held by it, but shall make provision to expend this sum in meeting jointly - approved costs and bidding for an international event of the same discipline to be held in Western Australia, or such other purpose as mutually agreed upon.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked, in relation to the staging of Aerobica, how much of their own money the organisations contributed to the staging of the events.

Answer: The Australian Gymnastic Federation was responsible for the initial cash flow of the event. The management of Aerobica advise that the Australian Gymnastic Federation estimates it will be required to fund the event to an estimated \$60 000.

The Committee lodged the following 11 questions, for which answers have been given.

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate Information Technology systems for its functions and needs? This question in particular sought a response to the following issues, although is not limited to these -

- . *Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the year 2000 have been addressed?*
- . *Proper accountability for ongoing out sourcing of Information Technology needs?*
- . *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?*
- . *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade Information Technology to address technology change?*
- . *Information Technology training for employees?*

Answer: The WATC recently produced its IT strategic plan to cover the period 1996-2000 to support the commission's corporate plan. It addresses technological changes and emerging technologies. The WATC currently uses a range of information systems to support its business. A major project to be undertaken in 1997-98 will be to make WA tourism product information available for distribution via the Internet.

In relation to the year 2000 date change the commission has recognised the potential threat the above problem poses to organisations. Awareness raising sessions have been conducted to educate staff of the potential dangers that will be experienced as a result of the year 2000 date change. The commission's IT manager is represented on the public sector wide year 2000 date change group convened by the information policy council. During 1996-97 the commission's accounting system has been moved from a "legacy based" platform to use the Sun accounting system which is year 2000 compliant. The commission's operating system is also year 2000 compliant. We will continue to study and monitor the potential impact that this serious threat will have on the operators of the commission.

There is a detailed contract with our major outsourced IT service provider (DBR) which articulates accountability requirements in relation to the provision of service.

Most employees have access to Internet e-mail with browser access provided to employees on a needs basis.

The WATC commissioned an IT strategic plan to cover the period 1996-2000. This plan, developed for the commission by Australian Technology Resources, addresses in a structured manner the basis on which the commission will respond to IT technological change.

The IT awareness across staff in the commission is generally high. All staff have access to office software systems. On a needs basis as identified in performance appraisals and planning interviews staff are provided with information technology training.

Question: What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure appropriate asset control?

Answer: The WATC maintains a fixed asset register which is a primary record of the commission's public property. Annual stocktakes are performed of assets against the fixed asset register. In addition the commission has an internal audit function which as part of its brief will conduct periodic audits of internal controls in the recording of the assets.

Question: What action has the agency taken to ensure that appropriate valuation over land and buildings is obtained for external reporting purposes?

Answer: The land and buildings owned or vested in the commission have been valued by the Valuer General. This valuation has been reflected in the commission's audited financial statements and published in the annual report.

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?

Answer: Many of the functions of the WATC involve to some extent the tourism industry or other sections of the private sector. These functions range from the production of TV commercials, undertaking tourism related research, the provision of what could be described as grants to regional tourism associations, to the outsourcing of payroll processing functions.

Whenever the commission involves the private sector in its operations it strives to ensure that good business practices underpin the business relationship. The practices vary depending on the size and nature of the function performed. Accountability mechanisms are usually specified in the contract which covers the business or function involved. Thus a contract with a regional tourism association may, based on Crown Law advice, include a requirement for the provision of financial statements to the commission at the conclusion of the grant period. The contract may contain other such performance related accountability mechanisms.

Question: In terms of economic benefits, how is Western Australia disadvantaged by the lack of a dedicated convention and exhibition centre?

Answer: The 1994 feasibility study undertaken by external research consultants Pannell Kerr Forster Consulting P/L into the viability of a dedicated convention and exhibition centre for Perth estimated that the facility would generate potential benefits of \$90.2m in the first year increasing consistently to \$171.6m by year eight of operation. These figures do not take into account the capital cost of the facility of up to \$200m.

Question:

- (1) *Event tourism continues to be a large component of the operating budget - \$7.083m in 1997-98. Page 943 states that event tourism will attract \$21.6m visitor expenditure in 1997-98. How is this figure arrived at?*
- (2) *Have you canvassed the views of the tourism industry in relation to the benefits of events staged in 1996-97?*

Answer:

- (1) By estimate of the number of people expected to arrive at the event - competitors and spectators - the estimated expenditure multiplied by the estimated length of their stay. These estimates are obtained via studies into the event including independent research studies where appropriate.

- (2) Yes. All WATC marketing strategies are developed in consultation with the industry via industry advisory boards. In addition the final strategy is determined by the WATC Board of Commissioners who are industry representatives.

In addition to this process for 1996-97 and 1997-98 the WATC's marketing strategies and cooperative opportunities have been circulated to the industry for its comment prior to the WATC commissioners' endorsement of the plan.

The industry is also very involved in the events which are staged, particularly we include tour operators, hotels and transport providers. EventsCorp also has a specialist event product coordinator whose role is to consult and work with the travel industry on event product, and to ensure the industry achieves maximum benefit from events.

Question: How much promotion has been undertaken in each of the priority markets identified on page 975? How is the effectiveness of promotional activities in priority markets determined?

Answer: The budgeted marketing expenditure, not including salaries and administration, for 1996-97 for the priority market is -

SE Asia	\$1 824 000
New Zealand	\$ 100 000
Japan	\$ 285 000
UK/Europe	\$ 568 500

As well as the above budgets there was an allocation of \$945 000 in the head office budget for "cross market" activities which include, but are not limited to, major trade shows, collateral production, increased product distribution, strategic alliances and industry education. The majority of funds for the Asian market will not be expended this year as the media placement - television and print for Singapore and Jakarta - has been held over to the next financial year. The campaign commences in Singapore on 8 July for 10 weeks and in Jakarta for 10 weeks from 10 July, due to requests from the industry partners that the campaign would best be conducted in July. The effectiveness of promotional activities of the WATC are measured by the following performance indicators and reported in the annual report -

- . The extent to which campaigns and promotional activities improve the level of consumer awareness of WA as an attractive tourist destination.
- . The extent to which the commission's activities improve the level of awareness of WA as an attractive tourist destination.
- . The extent to which visitor expenditure is generated from incremental tactical initiatives.

Surveys are conducted into the above performance measures primarily by independent groups to determine the performance level.

Question: Pages 946 and 947 talk about the coordination, fostering, and promotion of tourism development as major achievements in 1996-97. How much investment in the development of tourist infrastructure occurred in 1996-97? How adequate is the current level of tourist infrastructure in meeting any expansion in tourists to WA?

Answer: The WATC does not keep complete records on total investment in tourism in WA. This is a costly research exercise and the information is difficult to capture.

The WATC does, via the tourism development register, monitor accommodation development in WA. There was \$148.7m of accommodation projects completed in the calendar year. This equates to an additional estimated 1 781 lettable accommodation units throughout the State. Through WATC's various planning documents, investment opportunities around the State for private and public investments have been identified.

Question:

How many bids in 1995-96 and so far in 1996-97 for events and conventions have been unsuccessful?

How much was spent on these unsuccessful bids in 1995-96 and 1996-97?

How many of these event bids were won by other States?

Answer:

In 1995-96, 10 unsuccessful convention bids were undertaken representing 6 800 delegates. The expenditure on these bids totalled \$11 100.

To date in 1996-97, 14 convention bids have been unsuccessful, representing a total of 7 100 delegates. Direct expenditure on these bids totalled \$18 900.

Of the total convention bids, 18 were for national conventions that were lost to other States and of the six international bids, five were lost to other countries and one to another Australian State.

Currently the convention bid success rate is 73 per cent and business worth in excess of \$30m has been won this financial year.

In relation to "events" the answers to the questions are: None; not applicable; and not applicable.

Question: How is the feasibility of bringing events to Western Australia determined? What are the criteria for going after an event? Are post-event studies conducted of the level of success of these events; that is, comparison of expected to actual economic benefits realised?

Answer: EventsCorp analyses the event to ascertain whether it will satisfy the criteria that has been established by comprehensive analysis of the requirements of the Western Australian Tourism Commission. The five primary criteria are -

Economic impact: The estimated economic impact for an event incorporates the estimated number of participants, their estimated length of stay during the event and the estimated daily expenditure. Where possible, previous events are analysed to obtain some indication of the potential participation. Where an event has not been held before, discussions with the proposer and any other sources are accessed to make an educated estimate of the potential of the event.

Media impact: The ability to generate images of Western Australian tourism destinations to international television viewers is an important method of creating an awareness of Western Australia and its tourism icons in the international market. For example, the Heineken Classic is broadcast to over 200 million potential viewers in Europe and Asia, incorporating Western Australia's priority tourism markets.

By using events, the WATC leverages the cost of the event into substantial financial benefits by achieving access to free to air, cable and satellite channels for the WATC tourism postcards. These video postcards consist of 15 second video images of some of Western Australia's finest tourism locations. EventsCorp endeavours to incorporate these postcards into international broadcasts of events with which it is associated. An event which achieves international television coverage and is able to incorporate the postcards into the broadcast will receive serious consideration within this criterion.

Event frequency: EventsCorp is endeavouring to develop a calendar of regular events which will ensure savings are made on the bidding and the marketing costs associated with one off events. An event which will be staged on a regular basis in Western Australia will receive a favourable assessment within this criterion.

Private sector investment: The percentage of the event revenue being provided by the non-government sector is an important consideration when analysing events. The greater the percentage being provided by the private sector, the more favourable the assessment.

Tourism activity: The tourism calendar consists of high, shoulder and low periods. An event which will be staged in the low season when there is more capacity within the tourism industry, is more attractive than an event which is positioned to be staged in the high season.

It may be that when this analysis is applied to a prospective event, it falls short of the qualifying requirement. It may, however, indicate that with careful development of the event, it will justify an involvement. In this situation, an analysis of the final vision of the event is analysed. Should such an analysis reveal the potential for the event to qualify when fully developed, further evaluation of the investment required to reach the final vision of the event and the ensuing returns to the State will be undertaken.

Other criteria such as the potential to develop the sport or cultural activity associated with the event, the potential to have a positive effect on the corporate sector and the potential for the event to increase the status of the State are considered. There is less emphasis placed on these criteria but it may play a role in the final decision.

The criteria are weighted in the form of a table which will indicate to EventsCorp whether the event is worthy of further analysis. During the event the event is researched to verify the performance of the event to the estimated achievements. Where possible these studies are undertaken by independent research companies. At the conclusion of each event, a complete assessment is undertaken on the event's performance against set targets when the event was secured. This performance assessment is presented to the EventsCorp Board and in turn the WATC Board of Commissioners.

Question: How are the risks of events not being successful in terms of economic benefits managed? Are contracts drawn up for all events? Are critical success factors determined?

Answer:

- (a) Within EventsCorp's event management process, as soon as an event is secured, an event manager is appointed as the responsible executive to ensure the objectives of the event and terms and conditions of the contract are achieved. In this way, EventsCorp monitors and provides advice on the ongoing management of events and delivery of the organisation's obligation to EventsCorp. Where needed, EventsCorp will secure expert assistance in this monitoring process as required. In addition, EventsCorp, in most events, incorporates into the contract the requirement that an EventsCorp representative sits on the organising, marketing and finance committees, depending on the event's management structure.

Another standard term of EventsCorp contracts is that regular management and financial reports are provided by the organisers. These reports are assessed by the responsible executive and presented to the EventsCorp Board, whose minutes in turn are presented to the WATC Board of Commissioners for approval. In most instances, these reports are required to be audited by the organisers and are provided quarterly along with a copy of the monthly minutes of the organising body.

- (b) EventsCorp has developed, over the past three years, a standard set of terms and conditions in consultation with the Crown Solicitor's Office which forms the basis of a standard contract. Where possible, heads of agreement will be agreed before presentation of the proposal. Following approval, the contract will then be developed in association with the Crown Solicitor's Office. Where the level of funding does not justify the development of a full contract, a letter of agreement is executed.
- (c) The feasibility will estimate the amount of economic impact, media impact and potential for a regular event to be developed. These parameters will form the critical success factors upon which the success of the event will be judged.

Hon Tom Stephens asked the following questions -

Question: What was the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget?

Answer: The WATC is essentially a marketing organisation whose endorsed mission is to "Accelerate the sustainable growth of the tourism industry for the longer term social and economic benefit of the State". To achieve the mission the commission has adopted two programs. These are -

- (i) promotion of Western Australia as a tourist destination; and
- (ii) tourism development for Western Australia.

It is assumed that the question is directed at the amount of expenditure on promoting the commission's activities, not its expenditure in promoting Western Australia as per its program statements. The projected expenditure on corporate communications for 1997-98 is \$427 000. This includes staff and administration.

Question: How did this compare to the current financial year's allocation?

Answer: The budgeted expenditure on corporate communications for 1996-97 is \$420 000.

Question: How many FTEs within the department were involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?

Answer: Four FTEs.

Question: Are any of those persons journalists, and if so, how many?

Answer: Currently none of the incumbents is a graded journalist.

Question: What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget?

Answer: The budget estimate for Brand WA advertising in 1997-98 is \$2.42m. The figures include production and other associated costs.

Question: How does this compare to the current financial year's allocations?

Answer: \$3.79m is projected to be expended on the Brand WA advertising in 1996-97. The reason for the variance with the following year is that in 1996-97 considerable research and production costs were incurred for the total Brand campaign which is expected to be utilised over a three year period.

Question: Are there any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year?

Answer: The principal campaign to be undertaken in 1997-98 is the Brand WA campaign in the UK and Asian priority markets. In addition, there will be specific marketing campaigns developed depending on industry feedback and directions, the strategic needs and opportunities that will present themselves during the course of the financial year.

Question: If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?

Answer: The projected cost of the Brand WA campaign in 1997-98 is estimated to be \$2.42m. The cost of other specific marketing campaigns will be determined by industry contributions and the nature of the campaign.

Question: Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be outsourced?

Answer: It is anticipated that the management of the campaigns will be undertaken within the marketing divisions of the commission. The development of the initiatives and delivery of the campaign will be outsourced to an advertising agency. Other specialist skills will also be outsourced.

Question: If so, to whom?

Answer: The advertising agency will be Marketforce which has successfully tendered for this role. Other specialist skills will be secured as needed.

Question: How many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office?

Answer: One officer has been seconded and is located permanently with the Minister's office.

Question: Has any allowance been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation?

Answer: No.

Question: If so, how does this compare to any allowance made in the previous year?

Answer: Not applicable.

Hon Tom Stephens asked the following questions -

(1) What is the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget?

The 1997-98 budget is still being finalised.

- (2) *How does this compare with the current financial year's allocations?*

\$166 200.

- (3) *How many FTEs within the Minister's department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?*

1.5.

- (4) *Are any of those persons journalists, and if so, how many?*

No.

- (5) *What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget?*

The 1997-98 budget is still being finalised.

- (6) *How does this compare with the financial year's allocations?*

\$15 000.

- (7) *Are there any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year?*

The 1997-98 budget is still being finalised.

- (8) *If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?*

The 1997-98 budget is still being finalised.

- (9) *Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be outsourced?*

No.

- (10) *If so, to whom?*

Not applicable.

- (11) *How many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office?*

None.

TRAINING

Question: Hon J.A.Cowdell asked what the overseas student intake into WA colleges is this financial year, and whether the more recent federal visa requirements on Chinese students adversely affected our share of the market or colleges in this State.

Answer: TAFE International student enrolments for the 1996-97 financial year:

July-December 1996 - 747 students enrolled

January-June 1997 - 1 019 students enrolled

The existing Federal Government visa requirements for students from China who wish to study in the Australian TAFE system has affected TAFE market share as students are granted Australian student visas only for secondary

level and post-graduate level study in Australia and not for TAFE level studies. This constraint is being examined under the current federal review of the student visa immigration requirements for all countries, including China.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich referred to page 953 of the Budget Statements and a reduction of 1 778 FTEs in the training budget and asked why those FTEs had been shed given that major reports on state training needs such as the Worley report indicate that Western Australia is experiencing skills shortages, particularly in the resources development area. She also asked whether these people have gone from secure public sector employment conditions onto workplace contracts?

Answer: The reduction in FTE numbers to 430 reflects the introduction of the Vocational Education and Training Act 1996. TAFE college staff are now employed by the governing council and will no longer be reflected in departmental FTE figures. As at 6 June 1997, 894 employees in the Department of Training and TAFE colleges have conditions of employment contained within a workplace agreement.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how much money had been allocated to plant operator training in the 1997-98 budget, and how this compared to the amount of funding allocated in the previous year. How does the Government propose to overcome severe skills shortages in the semi-skilled occupations?

Answer: Historically, the delivery of training for plant operators has been provided by private training providers on a fee-for-service arrangement. Whilst this has been highlighted as a skill shortage area, the department believes that currently this area is well serviced by private companies. Due to the nature of the skills required, the delivery of plant operator courses is very capital intensive. The cost of purchasing the necessary machinery and equipment would have significant funding implications in other skill shortages areas which the department is currently involved in funding.

Since 1994, the State Government has been active in the identification and implementation of strategies to address the potential for major skill shortages that arise as a result of surges in the State's resources sector and accelerated growth in the economy.

The network of 14 industry training councils (ITCs) provides advice to the State Training Board on industry skill training needs through the preparation of industry training plans. Following initial advice from the ITCs indicating potential skill shortages in a number of areas, provision for significant increases in delivery in the building and construction, metals and engineering and mining areas were made in the 1996 and 1997 state training profiles. Additionally, the department has commissioned a number of research projects to further quantify future skill requirements and to identify strategies for preventing or minimising future skill shortages. This research included -

the trade skill shortage project (1995) undertaken in the Department of Employment, Education and Youth Affairs (DEETYA);

the minerals industry skill shortages project (1996) undertaken in conjunction with the Chamber of Minerals and Energy;

Skill Requirements of Western Australia Major Resource Development Projects - Design and Construction Phase 1996-2000 (The Worley Report), jointly commissioned with the Department of Resources Development; and

an update of the Worley Report in 1997 to reflect changed developers' intentions.

These projects, which were tabled at State Training Board meetings, confirmed existing and emergent skill shortages across a number of trade, technical and semi-skilled occupational groups and examined possible strategies for addressing them. It should be noted that skill shortages areas do not necessarily coincide with high employment growth areas.

To date, the State Government, on the advice of the State Training Board, has initiated through the Department of Training a wide range of skill supply initiatives including progressive increases in annual training delivery in skills shortages areas for both entry level and skills upgrading. Between 1995 and 1997, it is projected that publicly funded delivery, excluding traineeships, in building and construction will increase by nearly 60 per cent, engineering and mining by nearly 200 per cent, hospitality and tourism by nearly 90 per cent and community services by nearly 25 per cent.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich said it was stated in the report that 6 000 additional people must be trained in the mining sector alone and, even accounting for the fact that there will be a Commonwealth Government shortfall, one would expect Treasury to top up the amount needed.

Answer: As Mr Hill stated at the Committee meeting, there has been a shift in focus. Skill shortages in the mining sector were highlighted very early as a priority area and represent a clear demonstration of the department's responsiveness to industry needs. From 1995 to 1996 there was an increase in delivery of 22 per cent in the engineering and mining sector with a further increase of 28 per cent forecast for 1997. A significant part of this delivery has been the success of the department's commitment towards the development of the training market through its tendered delivery program.

Question: Hon Simon O'Brien noted on page 969 under completed works that the Rockingham TAFE campus will have new buildings and/or additions to the value of \$1.54m this financial year. He asked what that is for and whether it is for things like child care training.

Answer: The new facilities provided at Rockingham TAFE campus have been specifically designed for the delivery of child care related courses. In 1996, the South Metropolitan College of TAFE planned to deliver over 37 400 student curriculum hours (SCH), and for 1997 the planned delivery in Rockingham is 36 200 SCH in child care training, which represents a modest reduction of 3.4 per cent. The department will shortly commence negotiations with colleges for delivery in 1998. At this stage no reductions in the provision of child care related courses are envisaged for 1998 in the Rockingham area.

Question: Hon J.A. Cowdell asked whether the department monitors the cost effectiveness of the overseas ventures of individual colleges and the earnings that are generated to the TAFE sector and whether details of these ventures are available. He noted that various evaluations are conducted, and said that it appeared this area should be subject to some evaluation.

Answer: TAFE International WA undertakes risk assessments of all project activities. Should these proceed to viable commercial activity involving ventures offshore, the Vocational Education and Training Act ensures that mechanisms for contractual and financial issues are provided for, to ensure the arrangements being entered into are appropriate. All activities are costed on a full commercial basis with no cross-subsidisation. The international activities of the department are fully self-funded with no government funds provided for the costs of running its operations. As such, TAFE International carefully assesses its involvement in all commercial activity, and proceeds only when it is seen to be commercially viable to do so.

Individual colleges are not permitted to enter into overseas joint ventures. The power to do so is vested in the Minister so that such opportunities are coordinated centrally to ensure proper considerations are taken into account.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich said that she believed TAFE funding is being increasingly directed to non-teaching areas as opposed to the provision of courses and lecturers, and asked what percentage of the TAFE budget is allocated to non-teaching areas as opposed to direct expenditure on course provision, including the cost of lecturing staff, and how that compared with the previous year.

Answer: In 1997 the department has moved to calendar year funding for colleges and the information outlined below reflects that.

In the financial year 1995-96, the direct funding of non-teaching staffing costs comprised 26.1 per cent of the funds allocated to TAFE colleges through the funding model. In the first half of the 1996-97 financial year, this figure declined to 23.6 per cent with a further drop to 20.4 per cent in the 1997 calendar year.

The direct funding on course provision, including the cost of lecturing staff, has seen an increase from 56.9 per cent of the funds allocated to TAFE colleges through the funding model in the 1995-96 financial year, to 60.1 per cent in 1997.

Former independent colleges have been funded on an historical basis rather than through the funding model and as such a specific breakdown of the individual components is unavailable.

Question: The Chairman asked what steps the department is taking to ensure proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of information technology needs.

Answer: The department is currently in the first year of a three year contract with ComsWest for the provision of information technology facilities management and support services. Whilst the head agreement and schedule costs are administered by CAMS, the department has included special conditions to ensure ongoing value for money which include a requirement to review the contract not later than three months prior to the anniversary of the commencement date. Additionally, contract performance is directly measurable and reported against agreed service levels.

Question: The Chairman asked what policies the department had for appropriate access to the Internet for employees.

Answer: The department has provided access to all employees and has implemented an Internet usage agreement which must be signed before access is granted. Appropriate access is agreed between the employee and line management. All usage is monitored and regular utilisation reports are available. Any identified breaches are managed according to human resource performance management guidelines.

Question: The Chairman asked what is departmental policy on the continuing need to replace and upgrade information technology and how it addresses technological change.

Answer: The department has implemented a core operating environment. This baseline provides base functionality using agreed software products within a common and consistent framework to all employees. Licensing requirements have been identified and where appropriate maintenance agreements have been purchased which will insure against obsolescence. There is an agreed baseline for hardware which is purchased with a minimum of three years on site warranty. Similarly, both data communications infrastructure and systems servers have been tendered. This has ensured that the department has purchased the most recent technology which represents value for money. Outsourcing of operational support has ensured that the department has access to personnel with appropriate skills without the department continually trying to maintain relevance of skills within the changing technology world. The department is currently negotiating with a WA company for the piloting of recently announced network computers based on Java technology. This will at minimal, if any, cost, provide the department with knowledge on which to accurately assess the benefits, cost, functionality and support of implementing this new technology.

Question: The Chairman asked what process the agency had adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency.

Answer: The outsourcing of information technology for the department is the major area in which there is private sector involvement (other than private sector involvement in the delivery of training services which was discussed at the Committee meeting). As previously stated, the department is currently in the first year of a three year contract with ComsWest for the provision of information technology facilities management and support services. Whilst the head agreement and schedule costs are administered by CAMS, the department has included special conditions to ensure ongoing value for money which include a requirement to review the contract not later than three months prior to the anniversary of the commencement date. Additionally, contract performance is directly measurable and reported against agreed service levels.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked how much funding had been allocated in the 1997-98 budget to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for expenditure on training including Skill Centre funding.

Answer: In 1997, \$598 530 was allocated to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry under priority skills enhancement tender funding, and \$50 000 to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Skills Centre under user choice. As training related tenders have not yet been called for 1998, the precise amount that will be allocated in 1997-98 cannot be determined.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked what the department's projected expenditure is on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget.

Answer:

Department of Training - \$200 000

Autonomous colleges - \$518 000 (calendar year funding). It should be noted that the funding allocation for the autonomous colleges includes revenue generated through commercial training activities, which it has not been possible to extricate from consolidated funds. Public relations and community awareness activities include coverage of commercial training.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how that compares with the current financial year's allocations.

Answer:

Department of Training - \$210 000

Autonomous colleges - overall, no changes are expected.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many FTEs within the department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations.

Answer:

Department of Training - 5

Autonomous colleges - 16.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any of those persons are journalists, and if so how many.

Answer:

Department of Training - 1

Autonomous colleges - nil.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked what the department's projected expenditure is on advertising in the 1997-98 budget.

Answer:

Department of Training - \$527 000

Autonomous colleges - \$1.14m.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how that compares with the current financial year's allocations.

Answer:

Department of Training - \$550 000

Autonomous colleges - overall, no changes are expected.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any new campaigns are to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year.

Answer:

Department of Training - a campaign to increase awareness of new apprenticeships will be implemented.

Autonomous colleges - in general terms course advertising will continue, with a changed focus upon different program areas in different colleges.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked what is the projected cost of those campaigns.

Answer:

Department of Training - the cost will depend upon the availability of specific commonwealth funding, and the tender process for the creative elements of the campaign.

Autonomous colleges - not applicable.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether the management/organisation of those campaigns is to be outsourced.

Answer:

Department of Training - yes.

Autonomous colleges - not applicable.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked to whom they would be outsourced.

Answer: Department of Training - to the successful tenderer.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked how many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office.

Answer:

Department of Training - nil

Autonomous colleges - nil

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked whether any allowance has been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation.

Answer: No.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked if so, how that compared with any allowance made in the previous year.

Answer: Not applicable.

TRANSPORT

Question: The Chairman asked for an update regarding the provision of passing lanes on the highway from Kojonup to Albany.

Answer: \$1.566m has been provided for the construction of four passing lanes between Kojonup and Albany in 1997-98, with two more to be constructed in 1999-2000. In 1996-97 passing lanes on Albany Highway in the Wandering, Boddington and Williams Shires were constructed at a cost of \$1.162m.

Question: The Minister for Transport offered to provide Hon Ken Travers with the following information -

- (1)
 - (a) *The number of missed trips by Transperth buses as the sole operator prior to transfer to the Department of Transport, or the last year of that arrangement;*
 - (b) *the number of breakdowns for the same period; and*
 - (c) *the number of mechanical and serviceability faults for that period.*
- (2) *A comparison of this information with the incidence of these matters for current bus operators.*
- (3) *The number of accidents involving buses for each year since 1993.*

Answer:

- (1)
 - (a) MetroBus, as the sole operator prior to the transfer of Transperth coordination to the Department of Transport, consistently reported that scheduled services either cancelled or more than 10 minutes late were approximately one service in every 200. On an annual basis this would equate to the cancellation or late running of approximately 11 500 scheduled services per annum.
 - (b) The Department of Transport records indicate a breakdown rate for the government operator, MetroBus, of one bus in every 8 000 to 9 000 service kilometres.
 - (c) The number of mechanical and serviceability faults experienced by the government bus operator, MetroBus, was in the order of 2 300 to 3 100 per month.

- (2) Since the transfer of coordinating responsibility for the Transperth system to the Department of Transport, and the introduction of private sector bus operators, the following is apparent -

The cancellation of scheduled services for the period from 13 January 1997 to the end of February 1997, was 1 041 cancelled trips, which attracted financial penalties imposed by the Department of Transport. Of these 1 041 cancelled trips, 1 016 were cancelled by MetroBus, the government operator, with only 25 trips being cancelled by the three private bus operators. Transport's records indicate that the private sector bus operators have significantly reduced the incidence of scheduled Transperth services being cancelled.

The breakdown rate for the government operator, MetroBus, was approximately one bus in every 8 000 to 9 000 service kilometres, or around 400 buses monthly.

The private sector operators by contrast have reduced the breakdown incidence to as low as one bus in every 27 000 service kilometres. Since the Department of Transport undertook responsibility for coordination of the Transperth system, and the ownership of the Transperth bus fleet, the incidence of breakdowns has shown a continued improvement.

Though the department is not yet in possession of final statistics, the number of mechanical and serviceability faults experienced by the private sector bus operators is also reducing significantly below that experienced by the government bus operator.

- (2) During the period 1992-93 through 1995-96 the government bus operator was experiencing an average of 2 500 insurable incidents per year, including the write-off of two articulated buses. For the financial year ending 30 June 1997, the Department of Transport projects that 121 insurable incidents only will have been incurred.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked, in relation to the closure of three licensing centres -

- (a) *how many public servants lost their jobs;*
- (b) *how many employment contracts were not renewed; and*
- (c) *how many employment contracts were not renewed in country areas.*

Answer:

- (a) No permanent public servants lost their positions.
- (b) Nineteen monthly contracts were not renewed in December 1996; however, this decision was unrelated to the closure of the licensing centres in the following March.
- (c) There was no change to employment contracts in the country area. All contractors are employed on monthly renewable contracts.

Question: Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich asked, in relation to the third point on page 990 -

- (a) *how much will be saved as a consequence of authorising vehicle dealers to conduct limited licensing transactions;*
- (b) *what is meant by "authorised to conduct limited licensing transactions on their premises";*
- (c) *can some vehicle dealers check vehicles for safety, licence them and then sell them to the public;*
- (d) *how does the public benefit from this initiative; and*
- (e) *is community safety put at risk because the initiative may compromise vehicle safety?*

Answer:

- (a) It is anticipated that, upon full implementation, the workload for in excess of seven contract FTE staff members will be released from Transport Licensing branch offices in the 12 month period commencing

1 July 1997 at an estimated saving of \$168 000. Under the contract of agreement, participating dealers currently pay an initial fee of \$250 to join the scheme, plus a commission fee of \$1.50 for each monetary transaction they process. These fees are designed to recoup the establishment costs of the scheme, and the ongoing costs for the dealers network support unit provided to support and audit the dealer activities.

- (b)-(c) Currently only approved new car dealers may register and issue plates to new and used vehicles on behalf of their customers where the vehicle is certified to comply with the Australian Design Rules. Vehicles which do not conform to the types approved by FORS, cannot be registered by the dealer without examination by the Department of Transport or its agents authorised for that purpose. Dealers may transfer the ownership for vehicles acquired by them, or sold by them in the course of their business. Dealers may renew the registration for vehicles that they own, or have recently sold.
- (d) Benefits to the public are realised through -
 - Participating dealer agents being able to provide clients with a complete 'drive away' service at any time during their dealer trading hours, and
 - Reduced dealer transactions through transport licensing centres enables those centres to provide an improved service to the general public.
- (e) Vehicle safety issues are not compromised by the scheme, as participating dealer agents are only able to register vehicles not requiring examination by the Department of Transport - 'factory new' and approved by FORS. Other vehicles requiring examination - including 'passenger' class vehicles - cannot be registered through the dealer network registration scheme.

Question: Hon Kim Chance asked whether a comparison had been done between the Northern Territory and similar areas of Western Australia regarding the relationship between speed limits and the levels of accidents and fatalities.

Answer: No direct comparisons have been undertaken to date. However, comparative information will be gathered in the near future and details will be released as soon as these are available.

Question: Hon Giz Watson asked what has been allocated for expenditure on the Bridgetown bypass for 1997-98.

Answer: It is proposed that \$255 000 will be spent on preconstruction works for the bypass in 1997-98, with the bulk of the construction being undertaken in 1998-99 where \$2.113m has been provided.

TREASURY

Question: What processes has the agency adopted to implement appropriate information technology systems for its functions and needs?

Answer: In the past 12 months, and in parallel with a strategic planning exercise, Treasury has conducted an information technology planning study with the specific aim of identifying areas and functions which would benefit from the use or enhanced use of technology.

The methodology used entailed the identification of Treasury's business processes, from which the business information needs were determined and specific information technology systems were derived. Reviews of the plans are conducted on an ongoing basis.

Question: This question in particular seeks the Minister's response to the following issues, although is not limited to these -

- (i) *Has the agency ensured that any problems associated with the year 2000 have been addressed?*

Answer:

In information technology terms the year 2000 is likely to have minimal, if any, impact on Treasury. A real problem existed within the government accounting system which made extensive use of the two digit date. GAS, however, is being phased out by all agencies and is scheduled to be decommissioned early in the 1997-98 financial year. All new development and packaged software is required to be year 2000 compliant.

In relation to hardware, Treasury internal systems will operate totally in a LAN/PC environment. In 1995, Treasury adopted a three year replacement policy for personal computers and year 2000 compliancy is a mandatory requirement of all acquisitions.

(ii) *Proper accountability for ongoing outsourcing of information technology needs?*

Over the past two years, Treasury has restructured and reduced its information technology staff by 20 positions. Treasury policy is to outsource system development whenever this is cost-effective or the requirement cannot be met by internal resources. Accountability is maintained through assessment of outcomes against the project specification.

(iii) *Appropriate access to the Internet for employees of the agency?*

Treasury has implemented an internal Intranet and secure access to the Internet. All staff have access to a personal computer which itself has the capability to allow Internet e-mail facilities. Currently some 25 staff have desktop access to the Internet itself and facilities are being upgraded to allow such access to all staff who can usefully benefit from such a service.

(iv) *Continuing need to replace and/or upgrade information technology to address technological change?*

As stated in the first paragraph above, Treasury's strategic planning and IT planning exercises are of an ongoing nature and are reviewed and updated on a periodic basis.

(v) *Information technology training for employees?*

Treasury's recently implemented employee development system has, as a major component, the identification of training and development needs of all employees. Appropriate information technology training is an integral part of this system. Treasury's policy is to outsource basic training in the use of proprietary products while maintaining in-house expertise to resolve day to day problems. Appropriate staff training is an integral part of the implementation process of all new developments.

(2) *What action has the agency taken to ensure that the controls over the recording of public property are adequate to ensure the appropriate asset control?*

The function of asset management is provided to Treasury, through a bureau service, by the Office of State Administration - a division of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet.

OSA also undertakes Treasury's purchasing function, raising Treasury purchase orders against authorised requisitions receiving sheets. Sheets accompanying assets purchased are matched against the Treasury purchase order. At the time of matching, those assets with a value of \$1 000 or more, or a useful life of two years, are then allocated an asset number. Monthly reconciliations are undertaken between the assets purchased - Sun System - and asset register - HARDCAT - by OSA.

(3) *What role does the agency perform to ensure that appropriate valuations over land and buildings are obtained for external reporting purposes by itself and other agencies?*

Not applicable to Treasury as it does not own any land or buildings.

For other agencies, in February 1994 Treasury issued a document "Accrual Accounting for Government Departments - Notes on Implementation" which included a section on valuation of assets and covered land and buildings in the context of AAS29 only.

- (4) *What processes has the agency adopted to ensure appropriate accountability of private sector involvement in the functions of the agency?*

There are no departmental functions undertaken by the private sector. Private sector involvement is restricted to the provision of professional services including accounting and legal services associated with well defined tasks.

- (5) *What processes have been adopted to ensure management control effectiveness as a consequence of the implementation of a new financial management information system?*

The implementation of the new system is controlled by a steering committee chaired by the Assistant Under Treasurer (Financial Management). The role of the steering committee is to -

- review and approve the system objectives and functions;
- review and approve the project plan and monitor progress;
- resolve policy and procedural issues submitted by the project manager;
- review operational and system documentation; and
- approve "live" operation.

Internal audit is regularly advised of progress through the distribution of minutes of the steering committee and assists in reviewing -

- the project plan;
- the test plan;
- test results; and
- system and user documentation.

- (6) *How is the agency ensuring that agencies are implementing suitable financial management systems to replace GAS?*

Treasury, in consultation with agencies, initiated a tender selection process to identify accrual based financial management information systems that would meet agencies' accounting and reporting requirements.

As a result of this initiative, a panel contract of suitable systems was established in March 1995 from which agencies could select the system suitable for their individual requirements. This contract provided significant benefits to agencies as it removed the need for each agency to assess the products - each software package was reviewed by an evaluation team of Treasury and agency staff - and obtain a competitive price as each supplier was required to tender, through the State Supply Commission, in order to be selected for the panel contract.

During the system selection process, Treasury provided access to the system evaluation data and assisted agencies in the preliminary evaluation process of matching system capabilities with agency requirements.

Also, agencies are required to comply with the requirements of Treasurer's Instruction 601 "Development of Computerised Accounting and Financial Management Information Systems". The instruction provides advice and guidelines as well as prescribing the responsibilities of the accountable officer or authority for the procurement and implementation of financial systems. Treasury has assisted with testing of interfaces between GAS and agencies' financial systems, and provided feedback on the outcome of the tests.

- (7) *Has the agency evaluated the costs and benefits of moving from GAS to a system of each agency having responsibility for its own financial management?*

A major reason for agencies moving from GAS to their own financial system was the need for agencies to comply with the requirements of Treasurer's Instruction 1101A "Financial Reporting by Departments on an Accrual Basis".

GAS is a cash based system and therefore did not satisfy the agencies' primary system requirement of accrual based accounting and reporting. The replacement of GAS with individual agency systems also enhances agency accountability for their financial management arrangements. It was therefore not relevant

to conduct a cost/benefit analysis between GAS and agencies' systems because GAS does not have the functionality to satisfy the agencies' requirements.

Question: Hon Tom Stephens asked: Has any allowance been made in the 1997-98 budget for loss of productivity due to industrial disputation; and, if so, how does this compare to any allowance made in the previous year?

Answer: No.

Question: What is the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997-98 budget?

Answer: Nil.

Question: How does this compare with the current financial year's allocations?

Answer: Same.

Question: How many FTEs within the Minister's department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?

Answer: Nil.

Question: Are any of those persons journalists, and if so, how many?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question: What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 budget?

Answer: Nil.

Question: How does this compare with the current financial year's situation?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question: Are there any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997-98 financial year?

Answer: No.

Question: If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question: Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be outsourced?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question: If so, to whom?

Answer: Not applicable.

Question: How many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office?

Answer: Nil.

Question: Hon John Halden asked whether Treasury had any involvement in the Elle contract and whether the contract complied with Treasury guidelines?

Answer: Treasury had no involvement in the Elle contract. In relation to the guidelines, Treasury's role has been to produce costing guidelines for competitive tendering and contracting. The Elle contract did not involve the

competitive tendering and contracting of a government service and, accordingly, the Treasury guidelines do not apply.

Question: Hon John Halden asked whether the lowest bidder for the Joondalup health campus was the winner of the contract and how bottom line outcomes were determined in relation to the contract.

Answer: Bids were assessed on a total project basis and the successful tenderers were assessed as having the lowest cost. The total project assessment involved an assessment of the cost of the facility and operational components.

[More information on this question held by Committee office.]
