Legislative Assembly for the ACT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Annual and Financial Reports 2004-2005: Supplementary Information-Questions and Answers to Questions on Notice

FOLLOWING ARE ALL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAC 01(A) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Key achievements (p. 6):

One of the indicators the Board uses to assess achievements is the "Procurement planning process". Who approves a procurement unit? How is the procurement unit formulated?

The Treasurer - the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Procurement Board approves the establishment of an APU in accordance with the *Government Procurement (Approved Procurement Units) Guideline 2002.*
The Chief Executive of the relevant agency is responsible for the operation of the APU, which comprises staff of the agency with appropriate skills and expertise, operating as required on a part time basis.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 9 November 2005

PAC 01(B) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Underperformance, setback or problems (p. 7):

1. There are 26 "Procurement Circulars" and 14 "Toolkits" which need to be restructured and presented in a more user-friendly consolidated manner. What will be the cost of restructuring and presenting these documents in a more user-friendly consolidated manner?

2. What does the Board intend to do to clarify business processes as in the case of proposals to vary existing contracts rather than undertake a full procurement process?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Work will be undertaken internally using existing resources.

2. The Board recognises 'variations' as a procurement risk which agencies are now required to address at the Procurement Planning stage. For significant projects, the Board specifically requests that proponents advise on the likelihood of variations during the contract term and, where likely to occur, management controls and proposed treatments.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 9 November 2005

PAC 01(C) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Canberra Social Plan (p. 8):

1. The Board endorsed six funding plans in 2004-05, for the provision of community-based services through a wide range of NGOs. How many of these plans were one-year contract arrangements and how may were three-year contract arrangements?

2. Who were the individuals or groups who put forth these funding plans?

3. How did these plans continue "to demonstrate the commitment of the government to consistency in governance, management and accountability in the provision of community services across the Territory"?

The Treasurer – the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Duration of plans were as follows:

Less than 1 year	Up to 3 years	Up to 4 years
2	3	1

2. All plans were initiated by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

3. All plans followed the contemporary risk management template, utilised the standard Funding Agreement (contract), offered maximum contract duration based on risk assessment, and, where appropriate, were publicly advertised (4 instances).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 01(D) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, The Spatial Plan (p. 9):

How many times in 2004-2005 did the Board refer Territory entities to consult with ACTPLA?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Procurement Board formally requested that one entity consult with ACTPLA in 2004-2005. However, the Board liaised with ACTPLA on three occasions in respect of proposals before the Board.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 01(E) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Likely trends or changes in operating environment (p. 9):

1. If the APU structure, guidelines, policies and related training arrangements underpinning the Procurement Policy Framework require re-examination by the Board, what is the expected impact on staff involved in procurement activities?

2. The procedures of the Territory satisfied most of the procedural requirements of the US Free Trade Agreement and required only marginal change. Where exactly was change required and has this change been undertaken?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The impact on staff as a result of the re-examination of the Procurement Policy Framework is expected to be positive. Policies, procedures, systems and training will be streamlined to reflect an expected reduction in risk exposure due to the Government's decision to consolidate management of all procurement greater than $20,000 in the Department of Treasury.

2. The changes required to comply with the USAFTA are described in the Board's Procurement Circular no. 2005/01 entitled: 'Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement' (refer www.basis.act.gov.au). Changes, including specific tender periods and introduction of new financial thresholds, have all been implemented.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 9 November 2005

PAC 01(F) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Human Rights Act (p. 6):

1. Were there any training seminars held to address the framework of the *Human Rights Act 2004* and the responsibilities of public servants in working within this framework? If so, how many?

2. How much was spent in 2004-05 on these seminars?

3. What was attendance like at these seminars? Are they compulsory?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Government Procurement Board does not conduct training on the framework of the Human Rights Act 2004. The broad requirements of the Act were bought to the attention of the Board at its meeting in February 2005.

2. Nil expenditure by the Procurement Board.

3. The Department of Treasury, which resources the Board's Secretariat, provided in-house training. These sessions were free and while staff were encouraged to attend, attendance was not compulsory.

   Staff of the Board's Secretariat also attended an information session on the introduction of the Human Rights Act 2004 in the previous financial year (2003-04), also free of charge.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 01(G) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Women's Plan (p. 15):

1. The report states, "The ACT Office of Women is consulted each time a Board vacancy arises". Is this a statutory obligation of the Board?

2. How many other government departments, agencies or offices are consulted each time a Board vacancy arises? If none are, why is this the case?

3. Of the seven members of the Board, four are women. Does affirmative action have anything to do with this?

4. Does the Board have a policy of gender balance in its membership?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. No.

2. The number of government departments, agencies or offices consulted varies depending on whether the vacancy is for a public sector or private sector member and the nature of any skill or experience gap in the Board's composition arising from the vacancy.

3. Given the Board's responsibilities, the current Board membership represents the best available candidates.

4. The Board supports the implementation of Government policy.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 01(H) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Internal accountability structures and processes (p. 20):

1. Were any of the Board meetings in 2004-05, business or proposal, inquorate?

2. No sub-committees operated in 2004-05. Why is this the case? Were any sub-committees proposed/considered and rejected? If so, why?

3. How much money, if any, was spent in 2004-05 on legal advice through the ACT Government Solicitor's Office as part of the "resources available to members" of the Board?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. No.

2. No sub-committees were required during the year, as all business was able to be conducted during scheduled business or proposal meetings.

3. The ACT Government Solicitor's Office does not charge the Department of Treasury (or the Board) for legal advice.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 01(I) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Reports required by legislation (p. 26):

1. Why was the outcome of the single FOI request only partial access, and what was the exact timeframe (it says “31 to 45 days”)?

2. Is this a standard response and a standard response timeframe?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. The outcome was partial as Section 36 of the *Freedom of Information Act1989* applied (“Internal working documents”) and non relevant parts of some documents were withheld.

2. Yes, the Chair of the Board has only received one FOI request.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 01(J) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Capital Works Management (p. 29):

It says "The Government Procurement Board managed no capital works projects in 2003-04". Is this a misprint, or is this intentionally reported for the previous year?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The reference to '2003-04' is a misprint. It should read '2004-05'.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 16 November 2005

PAC 01(K) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Communications strategy for 2004-05 (p. 36):

1. Has the Survey referred to in "6.Establish a review cycle" been reviewed for 2004-05?

2. What was the outcome?

3. Have any areas been identified as requiring further attention?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Yes.

2. The survey provided agencies an opportunity to raise issues for the Board's attention.

3. A number of policy issues were identified for consideration by the Board. These matters will be included in the Board's review of the Procurement Policy Framework planned for 2005-06

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 16 November 2005

PAC 01(L) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Monitoring of procurement activity (p. 39):

1. On page 39, the report states that "The Government Procurement Board…'noted' eight proposals", yet says further down "the nine proposals noted". Were eight or nine proposals noted in 2004-05?

2. What sort of things will be looked at or considered in the review of issues of variations against existing contracts?

3. Note the formal cancellation of the APU in JACS. How is this working out? Has there been any significant change in the pressure on resources in CMD/Treasury as a result of this?

4. Table 13 on p. 45 provides a summary of commitment, by category. Why has there been a general drop in most categories during 2004-05 in comparison to previous years?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Nine proposals were 'noted' in 2004–05. Initially, it was proposed to report only eight proposals as 'noted'. The additional proposal, which related to an inter ACT Government agency agreement, was later added for transparency purposes. The total estimated consideration of the nine proposals should read $9.4 million (not $7.3M). This amendment will be noted in the 2005-06 Annual Report.

2. Procurement Circular no. 2004/08 'Contract Variations' (refer www.basis.act.gov.au) covers variations to existing contracts. Other issues identified for consideration in 2005–06 include:
   - Business case approval (justifying variation);
   - Review and, if necessary, update of related procurement Risk and Contract Management plans;
   - Contractor performance to date;
   - Action to improve management of variations.

3. No, there has not been a significant change on the pressure in Treasury as a result of the cancellation of the JACS APU. Procurement Solutions (Treasury), handled the bulk of JACS procurement proposals in the past, and with the consolidation of procurement into Treasury, continues to do so.

4. Table 13 on p. 45 reflects the percentage break-up of contract commitments, by category, for 2004–05. Variances between the two years reflect the changing nature of contract arrangements. The previous table (12) indicates a decline in the number and value of contract commitments reported to the Board over the past two years, which was possibly due to the significant number and value of multi year contracts let in 2003–04 due to the release of the Government's Community Sector Funding Policy (February 2004).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 16 November 2005

PAC 01(M) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Work plan for 2004-05 – Completion status (p. 48):

1. Goal/strategy 2.4 states one of the key deliverables as “Review of existing circulars” with a target of “8 per year”. It is listed as “partially met” with 3 circulars being updated. Why was this goal/strategy not fully met?

2. Goal/strategy 3.3 states one of the key deliverables as “APU Forum held” with a target date of October 2004. Why was this goal/strategy not met?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. The goal regarding the review of circulars was not met due to the various procurement reviews which commenced in 2004–05. The Board considered it advisable to not make unnecessary interim policy changes given the expected – and imminent - significant impact of the reviews, ie, the Government’s decision to consolidate procurement activities into Treasury.

2. It became unnecessary to hold a single meeting of APUs in 2004–05 due to the lack of major issues justifying a formal meeting and the high level of interaction with all APUs during the year.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 9 November 2005

PAC 01(N) Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Government Procurement Board Annual Report 2004-2005, Training report for 2004-05 – Completion status (p. 51):

Why was the completion rate so low, with only 86 competency units attained out of 453 attempted.

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The completion rate was low as officers undertaking training during 2004-05 did not complete related assessment tasks within the financial year.
Officers undertaking training have up to 6 months to complete assessment tasks (150 competency units, of the 453 attempted, were commenced during the second half of the financial year).
In recognition of low attainment rate, a number of programs were re-configured early in 2005 to comprise two training blocks (each two to three days), with officers being required to complete the assessment task during the period in between blocks. This approach has proved to be successful in improving attainment results, which should show improvement in 2005–06.
The Board was disappointed about the low level of attainment as reported in the Annual Report and is also taking up the matter with agencies.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 23 November 2005

PAC 02 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Exhibition Park in Canberra Annual Report:

1. Human Rights:
   On page 11 you state that EPIC adheres to Human Rights principles, and to that end all employees were provided with a copy of the Human Rights Act. Do you have any plans to provide training sessions to explain how the Human Rights Act might impact on EPIC's operations?

2. Assets:
   The value of the land on which EPIC is sited is included in the accounts as a Non-Current asset. Its present value is estimated at 4.3 million dollars. Why does EPIC include land values in its accounts when it does not hold a lease over the land, and as such could presumably never realise the land's value in monetary terms? [see page 60].

3. Environmental Authorisation Number:
   What was the rationale for shifting the Environmental Authorisation Number 0006 from EPIC to the Summernats organisers? [p.27]

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Currently EPIC does not provide any specific training on the *Human Rights Act 2004*. EPIC is reviewing whether its staff require specific training sessions that explain how the *Human Rights Act 2004* might impact on the venue's operations.

2. The statement at page 60 of the 2004-05 Annual Report refers to Section 72, Block 5 Lyneham. I am advised that this parcel of land is not covered by a lease as it is specified in Schedule 1 of the *National Exhibition Trust Act 1976* as being the land of the National Exhibition Centre. The provisions in the Act provide for future use of the land by, and benefits to, EPIC and hence it is recorded in the financial accounts as an asset.

3. In March 2005, the Working Group established to review Summernats recommended that "Consideration be given to amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1997* to enable enforcement action to be taken more effectively, including the issuing of an Environmental Authorisation to Summernats organisers, as well as to Exhibition Park In Canberra". The Government is reviewing the report recommendations.

   I have been advised that EPIC cannot transfer its Environmental Authorisation Number to another party. Thus, the statement on page 27 of the 2004-05 Annual

Report is incorrect. This error has been brought to the attention of EPIC management.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 16 November 2005

PAC 03 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the ACTTAB Annual Report

1. On page 21 of your Annual Report you state that "By any measure, the 2004-05 results are outstanding, highlighted by record sales and profitability." The primacy of financial performance is echoed throughout the report. Page 21 also states that ACTTAB "places significant importance on its responsibilities associated with the provisions of gambling services, the potential for some customers to exceed their limits in relation to gambling and the impact that this can have individually and on their families and friends". Can you outline what actions you took, and what successes you achieved in regards to the prevention or minimisation of problem gambling?

2. Page 21 of the Report lists various community organisations that receive funding from ACTTAB, as well as an extremely generous 5 year commitment to the Chief Minister's Department's 'celebrate-in-the-park' event. I can see no funding allocation to any organisation or institution that deals with problem gambling. Is this correct?

3. Would you please tell me, (or direct me to a web-site to find out) what 'purposes' have been approved by the Minister in writing, pursuant to s.44(g) of the Betting (ACTTAB Limited) Act 1964?

4. I am aware that a corrigendum is being prepared to cover ACTTAB's reporting responsibilities pursuant to the ACT Human Right Act. How do you see the ACT Human Rights Act impacting on ACTTAB's activities? Do you consider that section 11 of the ACT Human Rights Act (Protection of the family and children) may have an influence on ACTTAB's corporate culture, values or operations?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. ACTTAB conducts its operations within the parameters of the ACT's Gambling and Racing Control (Code of Practice) Regulations 2002, in relation to the provision of responsible gambling services. Measures employed include ensuring that:

   - appropriate training in the provision of responsible gambling services is provided to all ACTTAB staff;
   - literature and information concerning counselling and support services are on display and accessible by customers, including those utilising on-line services;
   - a gambling contact officer is available at all times; and
   - deed of exclusion procedures are in place, administered in accordance with the code and subsequently enforced.

Three exclusions were effected during the 2004-05 reporting year and one pre-existing exclusion was extended. ACTTAB also worked directly with one excluded person to assist that individual to seek the support of a gambling provider in another jurisdiction in limiting access to gambling services through that provider.

Additionally, responsible gambling alert messages are periodically distributed to all ACTTAB outlets addressing problem gambling matters. These have covered a range of issues including reminders to be vigilant for under-age gambling activities, changes to the Code of Practice, and the display of information and support material.

2. ACTTAB did not directly allocate funding to any organisation that deals with problem gambling during the reporting period. However, payment was made to Lifeline to conduct responsible gambling training of ACTTAB staff.

3. Projects approved under s44 of the Betting (ACTTAB Limited) Act 1964 in 2004/05 include (a) the Canberra Harness Racing Club: training track reconstruction, track improvements, purchase of Block 746 Gungahlin, mobile starting barrier, vehicle; and (b) the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club: Racing Tribunal hearings, Sky TV coverage of race meetings, starting boxes for race meetings.

4. The Human Rights Act 2004 provides further reinforcement for ACTTAB, it's agents and staff in relation to it's commitment to provide gambling services to its customers in a responsible manner.

   Section 11 (2) of the Human Rights Act 2004 will assist in strengthening our commitment to the protection of children, which is currently provided for by Section 53 of the Betting (ACTTAB Limited) Act 1964. Section 53 makes it illegal for persons under the age of 18 to bet with ACTTAB, and for ACTTAB to accept a bet from persons under the age of 18.

   In accordance with the ACTTAB Strategic Directions 2003-06, ACTTAB continues to build on its reputation of good corporate governance, ethical conduct, social responsibility, and the provision of responsible gambling services. This focus will remain a priority for ACTTAB, and future strategic planning will have full regard to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 2004.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 04 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Racing & Gaming

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission's Annual Report

1. Revenue - From the Corrigendum it appears that the ACT Government received in excess of $50m revenue (after deducting Government payments made to the Commission) from the Commission. Is this correct?

2. Research - On page 6 of the Annual Report it states that the Commission will review its relationship with the ANU Centre for Gambling research. To what end will it be reviewing the relationship?

3. The report goes on to say that the Commission will be considering undertaking a number of long-term studies, possibly with Australian Research Commission [ARC] grants. If the Commission fails to get an ARC grant, will it be pursuing alternative avenues of funding for these studies?

4. I understand that the Commission operates on an annual budget. Does this present the Commission with any difficulties undertaking and funding long-term studies into the effects of gambling?

5. Also on page 6, it states that the future of the ACT's interactive gambling legislation needs careful consideration, given that the Commonwealth's revue of its *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* has been completed with no change in the level of restriction forthcoming. Interactive gambling seems to pose a threat to Government gambling revenues and the capacity of Governments to limit the undesirable impacts of problem gambling. Would you agree? Do you anticipate that interactive gambling will need to be more closely regulated in the future? What areas do you consider will need closest scrutiny as this gambling format increases in availability and popularity?

6. Breaches - The Report states that 315 breaches of the *Gaming Machine Act* were identified relating to a failure to keep a machine access register. From the summary of disciplinary matters on page 11 it appears that no disciplinary action was taken in relation to any of these breaches. Is this correct? Presumably unauthorised access to the internal workings of gaming machines is a serious issue because it could mean potential fraud by the machine operators or their staff. Is this correct?

7. You report [pp.10-11] that the ACT Public Service Sports Club was found to have provided false information to the Commission, failed to record (and pay out) linked jackpot wins and failed to forfeit the proceeds of these unpaid wins. How much money was involved in these unpaid wins?

8. I commend your effectiveness in detecting these breaches, but presumably if you hadn't detected them the venue would have kept the money? Is this correct? To what degree are you confident that these detected breaches were the only breaches that could have occurred? This seems to be an extremely serious offence, and the penalty of $7,500 for each offence does not seem to be proportional to the degree of a) potential ill-gotten gain, and b) the illegality and gravity of the offence.

9. Are these penalties intended to provide a sufficient deterrent or punitive effect? If not, what is the rationale behind the sanctions regime? Presumably referral of serious fraud matters to the ACT DPP for criminal charges is an option. Is this correct? Are criminal charges ever considered as a response to serious gambling fraud? If not, why not?

10. Human Rights - You report (on page 26) that Commission staff has been briefed on the Human Rights Act, and that all staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Act. What do you anticipate will be the major impacts of the Human Rights Act on the Commission's operations?

11. Do you consider that section 11 of the ACT Human Rights Act (Protection of the Family and Children) may have an influence on ACTTAB's corporate culture, values or operations?

12. Report - Page 21 gives some details of a study which concluded that "current gambling support services in the ACT do not meet all the needs of people seeking help for their gambling problems, and that specifically, the particular needs of cultural groups and gender-specific needs of men and women are not being met." Do you agree with the findings of this report? Do you consider that the key recommendations of this report should be implemented as a matter of some urgency?

13. p.21 "The Minister for Racing and Gaming forwarded a copy of the report to the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, whose department is responsible for the funding and provisions(through Lifeline) of gambling counselling services in the ACT." Are you monitoring the performance of the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services in implementing the key recommendations of the report?

14. I assume you are aware that Clubcare is in the process of slashing their 2005-2006 funding for Lifeline by approximately 50%. Is your Agency considering any measures to compel or encourage Clubcare to continue their current levels of funding for gambling counselling?

15. Are you aware of any actions taken by the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services, to actually implement the key recommendations of this report?

16. Gambling Contact Officers - On page 79 it states that Gambling Contact Officers [GCO's] in each venue must contact and discuss potential gambling problems with people identified as possible problem gamblers. It also states that GCO's must record and maintain a register of problem gambling incidents. Does the Department monitor the registers of problem gambling incidents? How regularly does it monitor the registers? Q. How many reports of problem gambling incidents were recorded by GCO's in the reporting period?

17. Revenue - A 3.377 million dollar, or 3.6% decrease in gambling revenue is reported on page 38. This is attributed primarily to "the prohibition of gaming machine note acceptors ($50 and $100) since November 2004, and a general decline in purchasing Interstate lotteries tickets". Do you consider that this decrease in revenue represents a decline in the incidence of problem gambling? Please include any data (or a reference to sources of such data) that you have to support your opinion, either yes or no.

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Yes

2. The relationship is being examined in the context of the nature and extent of research projects to be undertaken and the overall workload of the Centre.

3. No, the Commission will undertake research projects, as funding is available.

4. No, but projects are only committed on an annual basis.

5. The Commonwealth legislation generally prohibits persons in Australia from engaging in interactive gaming. Control of overseas-based operations is beyond Australia's jurisdictional powers.

6. The Territory legislation, though over-ridden by the Commonwealth Act, effectively regulates ACT-based interactive wagering services and has implemented measures to limit the undesirable impacts of problem gambling. However, the Territory has no control over interstate or overseas-based interactive wagering service providers.

7. Yes, breaches were resolved without resorting to disciplinary action. Unauthorised access to the internal workings of a gaming machine is a serious matter and is dealt with by the Commission accordingly. Most machine access register breaches were of a technical or record keeping nature and not relevant to matters of fraud.

8. The Commission identified 112 amounts totalling $10,405.88 of unforfeited linked jackpot funds.

9. It is inappropriate to speculate on possible outcomes if the breaches were not detected. The Commission's thorough investigation of this matter revealed the 112 amounts mentioned above. Monetary penalties totalling $22,500 were imposed along with changes to club management practices. A number of senior personnel left the club.

10. Yes, along with other measures, such as a revision of management practices. Yes, referral of serious fraud matters to the ACT DPP for criminal charges is an option. Yes, criminal charges are considered as a response to serious gambling fraud.

11. The Commission takes into account the provisions of the Human Rights Act in the conduct of its operations, such as the exercise of its entry and seizure powers, the conduct of investigations, in requests for documents or information, and in the conduct of interviews with licensees or others.

12. This is a matter for ACTTAB and has been included in another question specifically directed to ACTTAB.

13. The findings of this report were generally supported and a copy of the report was forwarded to the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services requesting that his Department examine the feasibility of implementing the key findings of the report.

14. There has been some contact at officer level between the Commission and the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services but the overall response is a matter for that Department.

15. No. Clubcare is a voluntary program operated by the industry.

16. This is a matter for that Minister.

17. The Commission inspects registers of problem gambling incidents kept by gambling venue licensees under the requirements of the Code of Practice. Inspections are conducted during Code of Practice audits, which are undertaken at least once a year per gaming venue.

18. It is not a requirement for licensees to provide the Commission with the number of problem gambling incidents they have recorded. Therefore the Commission does not maintain a record of problem gambling incidents.

19. It is not possible to definitely say that a reduction in gambling expenditure/revenue automatically reflects, or is considered a proxy indicator for, a reduction in problem gambling. Indeed, the level of problem gambling can decline while overall gambling expenditure/revenue increases. The most recent data available (published in the report on the research project *The Use of ATMs in ACT Gaming Venues*, by Professor

Jan McMillen (Director ANU Centre for Gambling Research) indicates that the level of problem gambling in the ACT, at September 2004, was 1.5% of the overall population. This compares favourably to levels of 1.9% in 2001 (*Survey of the Nature and Extent of Gambling and Problem in the ACT*, Australian Institute for Gambling Research, University of Western Sydney) and 2.1% in 1999 (Australian Productivity Commission Report). This possible decline in problem gambling has occurred while gambling expenditure/revenue has generally increased since 1999.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date:14 November 2005

PAC 05 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Treasury Annual Report, Output EBT 1, Home Loan Portfolio:

Vol 1. Page 34.

1. What are the ACT Government's targets for the reduction of outstanding loans?

2. How does the 693 outstanding loans compare to these ACT Government targets?

3. How does the ACT Government manage a client who is late on repayments or unable to pay?

Vol 2. Page 106.

4. Are most of the Home Loan Portfolio's clients on a low income? If not, what is the breakdown of clients' incomes?

5. What is the level of interest rates charged to the Home Loan Portfolio's clients?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Vol 1. Page 34.

1. The Government has no specific targets for the reduction of loans. However, the rate of discharges is recorded and provided to management along with other information concerning the Home Loan Portfolio.

2. As already indicated, the Government has no specific targets for the reduction of loans.

3. If a client is late on his or her repayments, the ACT Revenue Office undertakes recovery action in accordance with existing debt recovery guidelines.

   The client is requested in writing to repay the outstanding amount, or contact the ACT Revenue Office in order to discuss alternative repayment arrangements.

   The Home Loan Portfolio provides financial advice through arrangements with Care Financial Services where appropriate to assist clients.

   Ultimately, if the client does not respond to the ACT Revenue Office's requests, the matter will be referred to the ACT Government Solicitor's Office for the commencement of legal action to recover the outstanding amount, which will end when:

- The amount of arrears is received; or

- The balance of the loan is written off because the cost of legal recovery exceeds the outstanding amount.

<u>Vol 2. Page 106.</u>

4. Home Loan Portfolio clients are not required to provide details of his or her income, except when applying for Deferred Assistance. Deferred Assistance is provided to clients experiencing financial difficulties and applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5. The current interest rate charged to the Home Loan Portfolio's clients is 7.32%.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 06 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Human Rights:

Safety Standards

1. In the 2005/06 Estimates Hearings we were notified that Canberra Stadium was expected to meet all safety standards in mid 2008. Is this still the target? If not, why not?

2. What safety standards does the stadium currently not meet?

Corporate Facilities

3. Are the stadium's corporate facilities mainly used during games time?

4. Is the stadium developing its hiring out of corporate facilities for non-games time?

Turf Management

5. How much will the complete turf replacement program cost?

6. Are there sustainable practices or innovations used with the turf?

Ecologically Sustainable Development

7. Will the stadium be able to achieve the No Waste by 2012 targets?

8. Can a copy of the Canberra Stadium Water Management Protocol be provided?

Mr QUINLAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. It is intended to complete the priority one tasks listed in the stadium's 10-year Strategic Plan in relation to safety by the completion of the 2007/08 financial year.

2. The stadium meets all necessary safety standards as a venue for major public gatherings and events.

3. Yes.

4. Yes, has done for the past five years and is under continual review as a business sub-section.

5. Approximately $95,000.

6. The previous surface lasted five years, which compares extremely favourably with other venues as a benchmark. The waste turf was used as compost for the garden

beds at the Australian National University and Mt Stromlo sites. The turf is the Motz system and is highly portable if required. It has a synthetic base and is hard wearing, providing increased longevity.

7. Yes.

8. Attached.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 21 November 2005

PAC 07 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Output 2.1, Sport and Recreation, Programs and Services:

Page 163

1. What impact has the increased demand for Sport and Recreation training had on funding?

2. What were the construction delays that cause 2 of 3 of the Lynham Hockey Centre redevelopment milestones not to be achieved?

3. Why was there an increase of around $300 000 from the original budget in the cost of Sport and Recreation programs and services?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. There was no financial impact as the additional courses were conducted on a full cost-recovery basis.

2. There was a delay in the commencement of construction by several months. The main cause was a decision by Hockey ACT to purchase a small parcel of adjacent land in order to extend the size of the proposed northern grandstand.

3. This $271,000 difference relates to Payroll Tax waivers for the Brumbies and Raiders as provided for in their respective Performance Agreements. Matching revenue is included in the Resources Received Free of Charge total itemised in page 108 of the Annual Report. The Output Cost shown on page 163 does not include revenue therefore this offset is not seen.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 08 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Ecologically Sustainable Development:

1. What main concerns or advice did the Department represent in the development of the ACT Greenhouse Strategy, Water Resources Strategy and the Sustainable Transport Plan?

2. When will the ACT Government Code of Practice that incorporates sustainability into Government decisions be ready? And who is working on it?

3. When will the Sustainability Innovation Fund come on line and how much will the funding be?

4. When will the sustainable procurement guidelines be complete and who is working on them?

5. When will the financial management guidelines for evaluating sustainability of activities and programs of Government agencies be available and who is working on them?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Department participated in the development of these strategies through an interactive process of policy development with other agencies. Accordingly, the ACT Greenhouse Strategy, Water Resources Strategy and the Sustainable Transport Plan represent a whole-of-government approach to these policy issues.

2. As part of its 2004 election platform the Government stated that subject to consultation with the community and sustainability experts, Labor will introduce new legislation – the *Sustainability Act* - based on the principles outlined in *People Place Prosperity*. The Act would, amongst other things, establish a sustainability Code of Practice to assist the incorporation of sustainability into the decisions, actions and operations of government agencies.

   Chief Minister's Department, Office of Sustainability is currently investigating sustainability legislation. As part of these investigations, the Office is also considering the Code of Practice.

3. The Government committed to establishing a Sustainability Innovation Fund as part of its commitment on a *Sustainability Act*. The Office of Sustainability is currently

progressing this work, in conjunction with work on sustainability legislation.

4. The Government's election commitment states that the proposed legislation should encompass sustainable procurement guidelines. The Office of Sustainability is progressing this issue in conjunction with work on sustainability legislation.

5. The Government's election commitment states that the proposed legislation should encompass financial management guidelines. The Office of Sustainability is progressing this issue in conjunction with work on sustainability legislation.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 09 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Chief Executive Review:

Page 8. Financial results. Business ACT

1. Why was there a one off payment of $10m to the Commercialisation Investment Fund?

2. Has any form of Cost-Benefit Analysis been conducted against any of the Department's programs? If so, which were they and can a copy please be provided?

Page 8. Financial results. Sport and Recreation ACT

3. Has the ACT Recreation study been completed?

4. Did it take into account nature conservation values?

Page 10. Outlook

5. Given the Department's brand is "Growing Canberra", what input has the Department had in the rate of population and economic growth debate for the ACT?

6. What are the key areas for the Department in the Spatial Plan? Has the Department been advocating for any certain outcomes in regard to Planning Reform.

7. What are the key areas for the Department in the Social Plan? Has the Department been advocating for any specific outcomes in regards to the Social Plan.

8. Is there any analysis of the impact the economic white paper will have on the social plan and the spatial plan?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As already noted in the Department of Economic Development's Annual Report 2004/05, the ACT Government has provided a repayable grant of $10 million to the Australian National University (ANU) for investment alongside private sector capital in the ANU MTAA Super Venture Capital Partnership (the Partnership).

   The Partnership is the first dedicated ACT based commercialisation fund for investment in pre-seed, seed and start-up venture capital, and is a joint venture between the ANU, the Motor Trades Association of Australia Superannuation Fund (MTAA Super) and the ACT Government.

The transaction involves MTAA Super investing $20 million, the ANU providing its intellectual property (IP) assets and the ACT Government grant of $10 million. This provides a total fund of $30 million for investment in pre-seed, seed and start-up venture capital.

The Government has established the commercialisation fund program with the aim of:

- increasing the skill level of the Canberra community for commercialisation; and
- increasing the total amount of funding available for early stage investment.

The Partnership is open to opportunities from all ACT based institutions.

2. The Department has not conducted any formal Cost Benefit Analysis' of its programs. However, the programs are regularly reviewed and assessed to ensure they are meeting the Government's objectives and current best practice. For example, as a result of a review of the operations of the Knowledge Fund, applicants are now required to undergo a one-day commercialisation course, which raises issues that applicants need to consider to successfully commercialise.

3. No.

4. The aim of the Recreation Strategy is to provide a framework for the future planning and provision of physical recreation facilities and services in the ACT. This framework will reflect the values and requirements of the Canberra Plan and the other relevant Plans and policy guidelines. Nature conservation values will be reflected in the Recreation Strategy to the extent they are included in such documentation.

5. The *Economic White Paper*, the Government's economic blueprint and guiding document for the Department, has informed and shaped the public debate on population and economic growth since it's release in 2003. In further seeking to publicise and stimulate public debate on these issues, the Department sponsored, with the Canberra Business Council and the ANU's Faculty of Economics and Commerce, an 'ACT Symposium on Population and Economic Prosperity' in November last year, which brought together academics and community and business leaders to discuss and several significant issues on current and projected population growth rates and their impacts on economic growth in Canberra and the region. Demographic change, skills and future workforce issues are a policy development focus of the Department going forward.

6. The Government's Economic White Paper provides the basis for the Department's policy position on planning issues. The Economic White Paper and Spatial Plan both link through the overarching Canberra Plan.

The Economic White Paper addresses employment and economic growth for the ACT, outlining an economic and industry policy framework to achieve sustainable development. The Spatial Plan complements the Economic White Paper by facilitating the development of a city environment that supports the achievement of the community's economic objectives.

A range of opportunities are identified in the Economic White Paper for economic and industry growth for Canberra. These include building our competitive advantages in research by fostering clustering of key industries; recognising the high quality infrastructure in place, and galvanising a supporting planning system to:

- Realise the potential of Civic;
- Develop in key nodes along corridors;
- Create a sustainable transport system; and
- Retain and attract the best range of skilled people to the ACT.

The Economic White Paper more broadly states the need for the ACT planning system to be highly efficient and to support business and economic development outcomes.

Section 4 of the Spatial Plan contains goals for creating and maintaining a healthy community, including the provision of appropriate space for recreational activities across Canberra. The Department of Economic Development does not have lead agency responsibility for planning reform.

7. The Department's (and Government's) approach to business and economic development is articulated in the Economic White Paper. The Economic White Paper interlinks to the Social Plan's goals of *Economic Opportunity For All Canberrans* and *Lead Australia In Education, Training and Lifelong Learning*. A range of Economic White Paper Actions also support these goals.

   Realisation of the Government's various goals and outcomes - brought together under the Canberra Plan - is a whole-of-government responsibility.

   Sport and recreation activities are included in the Canberra Social Plan in Priorities to achieve a safe, strong, cohesive community (Priority 3) and to improve health and wellbeing (Priority 4), and in the Flagship Commitment to care for the Territory's children and young people. A range of programs and services has been tailored to help achieve those goals, such as the Activity Ageing and Kids at Play programs. The department has not been advocating any specific outcomes in regard to the Social Plan.

8. No. The three plans intersect through the overarching Canberra Plan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 15 November 2005

PAC 10 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Australian International Hotel School Annual Report:

Page 1. Acquisition

1. Why were all of the proposals for acquisition unacceptable to the ACT Government?

2. How was the current potential owner identified?

3. Who are they?

4. How much are they buying it from the ACT Government for?

5. What impact has this had on the student numbers and are they expected to recover?

6. What impact will this have on the courses offered?

Page 2. ACT Government subsidy

7. By how much did the ACT Government subsidise the Hotel under the Cornell loan?

8. When must this loan be repaid by?

9. Will interest be charged? Is yes, what level of interest?

Page 6. Student Residence

10. Noting that student residence were 53% occupied, and some surplus was offered to ANU students – is there any plan of renting out the student residency surplus to a greater degree?

Page 25. Sustainability and Environment

11. Noting that the Hotel was selected in 1994 for the Cleaner Production Demonstration Project, but this was not fully implemented due to a lack for funds, where did most of the funds come from for the recommendations that did get implemented?

12. Is the Hotel's participation in this project over, or is it something that will be pursued again in the future?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

<u>Page 1. Acquisition</u>

1. The Government did not receive any proposals under the Request for Proposals process that satisfied all of the Government's stated objectives outlined below:
    - The AIHS, at the very least, must not require any further subsidy beyond 2006-07 from the ACT Budget.
    - Current students must have the opportunity to complete their studies.
    - The heritage status of the building must be maintained.
    - Obligations to staff must be honoured.

2. After completion of the Request for Proposals process, the Government received several unsolicited proposals including a revised offer from the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School. The revised offer submitted by the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School was more favourable than any other offer. The Government subsequently agreed to enter into exclusive negotiations with the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School.

3. The Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School, which is a member of the ORION Group of schools, has been operating the Blue Mountains Hotel School in Leura, NSW for nearly 15 years, and the Pacific International Hotel Management School in New Plymouth, New Zealand for ten years. The members of the ORION Group of schools include the:
    - Pacific International Hotel Management School in New Zealand;
    - Academie Lake Constance located in Switzerland;
    - Blue Mountains Hotel School based in Australia;
    - China Tourism Management Institute in Tianjin, China; and
    - Suzhou Tourism Schools, near Shanghai, China.

4. The Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School has paid a sum for the goods and chattels of the Australian International Hotel School and will pay the ACT rent for an initial period of ten years with an option to extend for ten more years.

5. As part of a larger and more diverse group of schools the future prospects of the Australian International Hotel School remain positive. Students and staff have greeted the sale announcement favourably. The school has attracted record attendances at recent career weeks and has embarked on an extended marketing campaign in the Canberra region. It is too early to predict actual new enrolments for 2006, as these do not usually occur until sometime after Year 12 results are known. However, the school is anticipating a good enrolment result based on the number of requests for applications that have been received to date.

6. Under the terms of the sale, the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School is required to maintain the Bachelor of Business (Hotel Management) course to allow existing students to complete their degrees. It is a matter for the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School whether the range of courses available will be extended.

<u>Page 2. ACT Government subsidy</u>

7. The Government has provided subsidies for the broader operations of the Australian International Hotel School. No subsidies have been specifically linked to the Cornell loan.

8. Monies owed to the Cornell University by the Australian International Hotel School totalled US $150,000 in June 2005, and were to be repaid in three equal instalments by 31 July 2006. However, the Government decided to repay the amount in full on 24 June 2005.

9. No interest is to be charged as the monies have been repaid in full.

<u>Page 6. Student Residence</u>

10. Ownership of the Australian International Hotel School was transferred to the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School on 31 October 2005. The rental of student residences is now a matter for the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School.

<u>Page 25. Sustainability and Environment</u>

11. The funds utilised by the Australian International Hotel School for the Cleaner Production Demonstration Project were drawn from initial budget allocations used to operate the school.

12. This is a matter for the Blue Mountains International Hotel Management School.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 22 November 2005

PAC 11 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the ACT Insurance Authority Annual Report:

Page 4. Major issues

1. What have been the findings from the comparisons of progress in implementing risk management?

Page 5. Overview of Financial Results

2. Given liabilities appear to have gone up, as a result of better reporting, what impact will this have? (including on premiums)

3. How much are premiums expected to go up in the future?

4. Are rises in premiums charged to ACT Government agencies considered along with any budget cuts those agencies will face in a budget?

5. Will a rise in premiums be on top of the $23m the ACT Government was expecting to inject in 2005-06?

6. How much has the average increase in size of claims gone up? Is this rise in line with what is happening with insurance industry claims as a whole?

Page 6. Outlook for the coming year

7. ACTIA is assisting agencies in their risk management. Have all agencies been cooperative?

8. Are there any agencies of concern? If so, which are they?

Page 7. Placement of Authority's insurance

9. Is it known why there has been such an increase in medical malpractice claims?

10. Is there anything being done by the ACT Government as a result?

Page 7. Manage insurance claims

11. What is being done to manage the increasingly lengthy period between claims and settlement?

12. Is this lengthy period causing a backlog?

Page 15. Internal audit

13. What were the identified significant areas of operational risk that came out of the internal audit?

<u>Page 51. Performance measures</u>

14. Why was there such a dramatic increase in the number of regular meetings with agencies?

15. Why was the target so low in comparison?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

<u>Page 4. Major issues</u>

1. Agencies are showing steady improvement against most criteria however business continuity has been targeted as an area of weakness and further training is being provided.

<u>Page 5. Overview of Financial Results</u>

2. Increased liabilities will lead to a corresponding increase in premiums. This increase is necessary to fund the liabilities arising from the incidents revealed by the improved reporting.

3. Premiums are driven by three factors:
   i. The number and severity of claims,
   ii. The level of awards made by the courts, and
   iii. Reinsurance costs.

   It is anticipated that the number of claims will continue to grow but at a rate far below that experienced in the last two years. Court awards are difficult to predict however again we are not expecting a repeat of the huge increases seen during 2005. Reinsurance costs are globally driven and our premiums may refect such factors as the storm damage in the United States. That said, minor increases are anticipated in all classes except medical malpractice where the claims profile will lead to a significant increase.

   Premiums charged to agencies in future years are expected to increase in line with the user charges estimates published in the 2005-06 Budget papers (Budget Paper No. 4, page 450, refers).

4. Premium increases are advised to agencies early in the Budget cycle to enable these costs to be considered along with other Budget imperatives.

5. Premium rises will be on top of the $23m capital injection. It should be noted that the $23m was made up of two components, firstly, $15m to offset increased liabilities from late reported claims and secondly $8m in lieu of a corresponding increase in medical malpractice premiums for the year 2005/06.

6. Our claims are spread across many classes of insurance however the class which drives our results is medical malpractice. In 2005 we have seen the benchmark for a

bad birth claim increase from $5m to $10m. In this regard the ACT courts are handing down awards well in excess of any other jurisdiction.

Page 6. Outlook for the coming year

7. All agencies have been cooperative.

8. There are no agencies of concern, however, the aim is to achieve continuous improvement in risk management practices

Page 7. Placement of Authority's insurance

9. There has not been an increase in medical malpractice claims above that which could be attributed to an increased number of procedures. What has occurred is that better reporting has brought incidents which are likely to give rise to a claim to our attention at an earlier time.

10. The Department of Health has done much to improve reporting and they are also working to improve their risk management processes which are already of a high standard.

Page 7. Manage insurance claims

11. The recent amendments to the Civil Wrongs Act will restrict the period in which a plaintiff is able to bring an action. There are still safeguards in the case of minors but the periods will be much shorter and less exposed to delay.

12. The lengthy periods do not cause backlogs but they do have a direct influence on the size of an award. The longer any case takes from the date of the incident until the time of ultimate settlement, the more it is likely to cost.

Page 15. Internal audit

13. The areas of significant risk were identified by ACTIA as part of its own risk management procedures. The internal audit program has been designed to allow a review of these risks over a three year period.

14. The Authority has two areas which are exposed to operational risk. Firstly, the actual claims handling process where claims are entered onto the claims management system and then managed through to final settlement and closure. This is a manual system and procedures need to be reviewed to ensure best practice and financial outcome. The second area is that of financial management. The Authority handles significant transactions relative to its size and there are practical issues in implementing procedures which do not allow any one individual to process a transaction without a second verification from another staff member. There is a dual sign-off regime in place for all manual transactions and a similar process for our system based banking.

Page 51. Performance measures

15. The increase in the number of meetings is a combination of requests from agencies to better understand their reporting obligations, and an additional staff member in the risk management area has resulted in a greater capacity to conduct regular meetings.

16. As per 14 above.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 9 November 2005

PAC 12 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Treasury Annual Report, Human Rights reporting:

1. What impact has the Human Rights Act had on the Department – besides Human rights compatibility statements for Bills?

2. What level of training has been provided to the Department's staff?

3. How are staff assisted with meeting Human Rights compatibility statements when drafting legislation and regulations?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. In addition to the assessment of bills for compatibility, those elements of revenue legislation relating to inspectorate powers have been reviewed as part of a whole of government exercise conducted by JACS. Other elements of legislation administered by the department will be reviewed this financial year.

2. Several staff attended the "Human Rights Act 2004 – Training for Public Officials" held by JACS. Treasury also held in-house training on legislation, which included a presentation by, and discussion with, staff from Parliamentary Counsel's Office on the Human Rights Act. Treasury's guidelines for developing legislation include mention of the need to liaise with the Human Rights Unit of JACS for compatibility with the Act.

3. Treasury is reliant on the advice and assistance of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and the Human Rights Unit of JACS when drafting legislation and regulations. Staff are encouraged to engage with the Human Rights Unit at an early stage of the drafting process.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 9 November 2005

PAC 13 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Treasury Annual Report, Output 1.4, Procurement Support Services:

Page 26. Capital Works

1. Will the Auditor General be reviewing the ACT Government capital works program?

2. If so, when will this take place?

Page 26. Prison

3. It states that significant progress has been made on the Prison Project. Can you please describe what progress this is?

4. Is the ACT Government on target?

5. Is the Prisons health plan the only plan not yet finalised? What other plans have and have not been finalised?

Page 27. Sustainable Infrastructure Fund

6. Was all of the $2.3 million allocated to the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund spent in 2004-05? If not, why not?

7. Until what financial year does the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund have ACT Government funding allocated?

8. Is the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund a one-off initiative or has new money been dedicated with every financial year?

9. What are the guidelines for using this funding?

10. Were all ACT Government milestones for this Fund met in 2004-05? If some were not met, what were they and why were they not met?

Page 29. Surplus Cash

11. How much surplus ACT Government cash was invested during 2004/05?

12. How much is the answer to question (1) as a proportion of all ACT Government 2004-05 surplus cash?

13. Can a list of all the ACT Government surplus cash investments please be provided? (ie. How much was invested in what companies and/or projects)

14. Are there any ethical investment guidelines that the ACT Government must follow when investing these funded? Is yes, can they please be provided?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Page 26. Capital Works

1. The Department of Treasury is not aware of the Auditor-General's intentions in this regard. The Department is aware that the Auditor-General is finalising a performance report on Government Procurement. The Department understands that a significant number of capital works projects were examined as part of that audit.

2. See the response to question 1 above.

Page 26. Prison

3. As at 3 November 2005, the Final Sketch Plan documentation has been received from the design consultants and work under the Early Site Works package is underway. It is intended to go to the market before Christmas 2005 for the tender for the Bulk Earth Works package and also for the Expression of Interest process for the main construction tender.

4. The Prison Project is on target.

5. These matters are outside the scope of ACT Procurement Solutions' involvement in the Prison Project and are the responsibility of ACT Health and ACT Corrective Services respectively.

Page 27. Sustainable Infrastructure Fund

6. This question was answered during the Annual Reports Hearings of the Public Accounts Committee on 26 October 2005 (refer draft Hansard, p 14-15).

7. The Fund supports the inclusion of enhanced sustainability elements in a range of public infrastructure and facilities. Because of the nature of these other projects, some of the monies allocated from the Fund during 2005-06 may not be fully expended until 2006-07.

8. Funding for the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund was provided as part of the 2004-05 Budget. No new money was allocated in the 2005-06 Budget.

9. A copy of the guidelines is at *Attachment A*.

10. There were no specific milestones which could be measured in relation to 2004-05.

Page 29. Surplus Cash

11. The average amount of ACT Government cash invested during 2004-05 was $869m.

12. Where reference is made to surplus cash, this means cash not 'immediately' required. It does not mean surplus to all appropriated expenditure requirements in the literal sense and therefore available to be allocated to new initiatives or programs.

13. ACT Government cash was invested in two investment funds: a) cash enhanced fund (average balance $653m); and b) domestic fixed interest fund (average balance $216m). These funds are managed, under contract, by specialist external funds managers.

    a) Cash enhanced fund is designed to provide at-call liquidity. This facility is intended for investment of working funds, currently unspent, and likely to be called upon within six months. The portfolio generally holds in the order of 100 to 150 investments. These include: cash deposits; bank bills; floating rate notes; and government and corporate fixed interest bonds.

    b) Domestic fixed interest fund is designed for investment of funds likely to be called upon in twelve to twenty-four months. The construction of the portfolio is focused on a longer-term investment horizon. The portfolio generally holds in the order of 150 to 200 investments. These comprise fixed interest bonds issued by Government, semi-government and corporates.

14. The funds are invested in accordance with legislative and financial probity requirements. There are no specific investment guidelines for broader ethical investment strategies.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 9 November 2005

ATTACHMENT A

Sustainable Infrastructure Fund

Background

The ACT Government announced the Sustainable Infrastructure Fund in the 2004/2005 Budget to provide practical assistance for the implementation of the Government's sustainability policy, *People, Place, Prosperity (2003)*. This program provides the capacity to supplement existing capital works project allocations to enhance the environmental performance and sustainability of ACT Government infrastructure and public facilities.

Objectives

The program will enable ACT agencies to implement leading edge sustainability measures in conjunction with existing capital works projects and undertake smaller demonstration and testbed activities. Activities which may be supported by the fund will primarily focus on innovative demonstration projects and provide a demonstration effect for agencies and the broader community. Overtime, the activities which are supported by the Fund will be expected to encourage the wider adoption of sustainability measures in building and construction activities in the public and private sectors, including in the residential construction sector. Such activities will be aimed at improving the environmental performance of public facilities and infrastructure through:

- increasing energy efficiency;
- conserving and/or reusing water;
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- exploring the use of alternative energy sources;
- exploring the use of materials and design elements to deliver cost effective enhancements.

Where possible, the projects supported will demonstrate and trial innovative approaches to improving the sustainability of infrastructure and public facilities. Lessons learned from projects supported by the Fund will help inform future bids for capital works funding and remove the need for a discrete fund in the later years of the Budget Forward estimates period and beyond.

The Fund may help ensure that sustainability elements are retained in capital works projects where tendered prises for individual projects exceed budget allocations. This will be dependent on sufficient monies remaining in the Fund for allocation for this purpose. Monies from the Fund will only be applied to meet the cost of sustainability elements and not to supplement general funding shortfalls.

The Fund is not available for normal maintenance purposes. It is also not available to support standard practices and well understood activities such as insulation using standard materials or other activities which are necessary to comply with existing building standards and other regulatory requirements. Such activities should be incorporated in normal budget bids or funded from on-going running costs and maintenance budgets.

Projects which demonstrate the application of approaches or technologies which currently are not generally utilised in the ACT region may be considered for funding. Projects may focus on achieving enhanced sustainability outcomes over the whole life of the underlying facility or during the construction phase.

Program Administration

The Fund is administered by ACT Procurement Solutions. Applications may be made by individual agencies or officers of Procurement Solutions on behalf of agencies.

Decisions on allocation of funds will be made by the Director, Procurement Solutions, following assessment by Branch officers. Where funds are sought to retain sustainability elements in a project where the tendered price exceeds project budget allocations, decisions on allocating funds will be made by the Director, Procurement Solutions in consultation with the Chief Executive of Treasury and the relevant agency Chief Executive.

The Funds will not be allocated in discrete rounds. In allocating funds, priority will be given to projects delivered through Procurement Solutions to ensure that the full costs and impacts of the initiative are accurately measured and identified for demonstration purposes and to help inform future capital works funding allocations for similar activities.

Application

Agencies intending to seek support from the Fund are encourages to discuss their intended application with officers of Procurement Solutions prior to lodgement of the application. Proposals seeking funding under this project will be required to:

- Demonstrate that the project is leading edge or innovative; and
- Outline how the proposed activity will lead to substantial environmental or other sustainability benefits; and
- Identify how the proposed project will demonstrate enhanced sustainability outcomes.

Applications should include:

- full details of the proposed project and any plans or drawings that have been developed;
- details of benchmark or other criteria in the following areas (where relevant) in support of the application:
  - energy use and efficiency;
  - water conservation and re-use;
  - material use and recycling;

- improving the indoor environment;
- waste minimisation;
- space efficient design and orientation
- reduction of emissions;
- anticipated payback timeframe.

- details of the method by which the sustainability of the approach will be measured and demonstrated following completion of the associated construction activities.

Project Examples and further information on Sustainable Infrastructure

Sustainable Building and Construction, Implementing Green Building in WA
www.sustainability.dpc.wa.gov.au/docs/sustainablebuildingconstruction.pdf

Emissions Reduction Incentive Program (ERIP) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiatives, funded by Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO)
www.greenhouse.gov.au/government/operations.html

University of Technology, Sydney http://www.sustainability.uts.edu.au/research/sinfra/

The Centre for Sustainable Design, Faculty of Engineering, Physical Science and Architecture, http://www.csdesign.epsa.uq.edu.au/index.php?dir=110

Applications are to be submitted to:

The Director
Procurement Solutions
3rd Floor, Dame Pattie Menzies House, North
16 Challis Street
DICKSON ACT 2602

OR

The Director
Procurement Solutions
PO Box 818
DICKSON ACT 2602

ATTACHMENT A

For further information contact:

Robyn Hardy
Manager
Policy Unit
Procurement Solutions

Phone: 6207 5876

PAC 14 DR Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Output 1.1, Business ACT:

Page 169. Specific grants

1. What did "Something Ventured" provide in order to receive $521 629?

2. $118 800 was awarded to Dynjab Technologies for new electronic passports. Australian Privacy Foundation has cited problems with these passports. What is the ACT Government doing to ensure this grant does meet privacy concerns about the product?

3. How much funding was granted to Canberra Business Council over 2004/05 in total? What was this funding provided for?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Something Ventured Pty Ltd was contracted to provide the following services:
   - the Canberra Business Advisory Service;
   - an online interactive business training website;
   - the Small Business Employment Ready program.

2. Dynjab Technologies
   The Federal Government has responsibility for the issuing of passports and is responsible for any privacy issues related to passports. The ACT Government has funded Dynjab, a Canberra company, who are developing technology that will assist in the security of the next generation of electronic passports.

3. A total of $210,909 (excl GST) was paid to Canberra Business Council in the 2004/05 financial year.

Canberra-Beijing Consortium	$50,000
Secretariat of Exporters Network	$55,000
Sponsorship of Environment Forum	$909
Sponsorship Focus on Business	$100,000
Sponsorship CBC Networking Event	$5,000

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 15 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Business ACT:

Page 158. Funding rollover

1. Why was $3.054m rolled over?

2. Why was $2.83m of the Knowledge Fund rolled over?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1 & 2 Funding allocated under the Government's business programs is based on the successful completion of milestones and in many cases the projects funded have milestones that run over the end of a financial year. Allocated funding not acquitted in a financial year is rolled over into the next financial year.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 16 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Economic White paper actions:

1. Why were actions 16, 18, 32 and 36 not funded in 2004-05?

   Action 16: Accelerate uptake of e-commerce
   Action 18: Customised business training initiative
   Action 32: Strengthening schools and industry links
   Action 36: Employment opportunities for mature aged workers

2. When will their funding come on line?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The implementation of Economic White Paper 47 Actions is being managed on a case by case basis and according to priorities and funding issues at those times. Actions 16, 18, 32 and 36 were examined through the 2004/05 Budget process but were not supported, in favour of other initiatives and spending priorities.

2. It is not possible to say when, or if, these Actions will be funded. They will be considered through future budget process cycles but against the merits of other proposals and the overall priorities of the Government at the time.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 17 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, City West Precinct Committee:

1. Who is the Minister responsible for the City West Precinct development, that will answer all questions on this matter?

2. What engagement has the ACT Government had with community groups about the City West Precinct development, apart from community attendance at the inaugural meeting?

3. Given the Assembly's Planning Committee recommended that a community sector representative be included on the City West Precinct Committee, why has there been no apparent action on this to date?

4. Has the ACT Government been utilising Clause 6.2 of the Deed, and inviting members of the community to attend and observe Committee meetings?

5. What advancements have been made on community organisations request for co-location in Civic West?

6. Can the minutes of the City West Precinct Committee meetings be made available?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Chief Minister is responsible for oversighting implementation of the ANU City West Precinct Agreement.

2. The ACT Planning and Land Authority consulted with member groups of the ROCKS (Residents of Childers and Kingsley Streets) community group during preparation of the City West Master Plan (CWMP). Since completion of the CWMP in May 2004, Chief Minister's Department CMD) has been responsible for on-going consultation with community groups. CMD has consulted the Conservation Council, Canberra Dance Theatre, AIDS Action Council, Pensioners' Club and Civic Early Childcare Centre in preparing advice for the Chief Minister on how the Territory can meet the obligation set out in the ANU City West Integration Precinct to make arrangements to provide suitable accommodation for exiting occupants of the ANU Precinct.

3. The Committee has equal representation from the two signatories to the Precinct deed (the Territory and the ANU), and an independent Chairman, which provides a strong representative basis for the Committee.

4. The ANU Precinct Committee has determined that the matters it is dealing with involve commercial in confidence considerations that preclude the attendance of members of the community. This may change over time and there may be occasions when the Precinct Committee considers members of the public should be invited for particular items of business.

5. Collocation of some community organisations might be an outcome of the discussions with the ANU about its development proposals but it is too early to say as yet. It should be noted that some existing occupants have specific requirements that may not suit collocation and this will be taken into account by both the government and the ANU. As recommended in the City West Master Plan, the following new objective for City West 'Commercial A' land use policy has been included in the Territory Plan: "g) to make provision for community facilities in the City West Precinct, west of Marcus Clarke Street and north of University Avenue".

6. Given the commercial nature of much of the discussion in the Precinct Committee, the Committee has agreed that releasing the minutes verbatim could compromise the ANU's legitimate requirements for commercial confidentiality. However, the Secretariat, within the Chief Minister's Department, can provide information on particular decisions to interested parties.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 18 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Human Rights:

1. What impact has the Human Rights Act had on the Department – besides Human rights compatibility statements for Bills?

2. What level of training has been provided to the Departments' staff?

3. How are staff assisted with meeting Human Rights compatibility statements when drafting legislation and regulations?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Specifically, as identified on page 41 of the Department's Annual Report, the Human Rights Act seeks inter alia to provide an avenue for small business owners and operators to deal with any grievances they have with Government agencies or other small businesses. The officers of the Office of the Small Business Commissioner deal with any such cases in a fair and transparent manner, respecting the rights of the individual while adhering to the principle of freedom of expression.

2. At this stage, no direct training has been provided to the Department's staff.

3. Assistance can be sought from the Cabinet Handbook or from the Cabinet Office as required.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 19 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Output 2.1, Sport and Recreation:

1. What is being done to assist sports clubs in lowering their seasonal fees? As this can be seen to be a form of social exclusion as the costs can be prohibitively high.

2. Is there a cost-benefits analysis of the Lyneham Hockey Centre redevelopment available?

3. How much will the new Dedicated Performance Analysis Unit cost ACT Government? When and how was this funding appropriated?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As noted in the Annual Report, grants totalling $2,409,385 were provided to a wide range of local sport and recreation organisations including $1.25m in direct operational assistance to 59 peak bodies. A further $94,350 was provided to 23 organisations through the Women's Grant Program. This funding and additional assistance such as Club Development Sunday and the Thanks program increase participation in activities and enable organisations to operate cost effectively.

2. A cost benefit analysis for the project was prepared during the 2003/004 Budget process, however it is an Executive document and, as such, is not available.

3. The ACT Academy of Sport Dedicated Performance Analysis Unit comprises a range of computer hardware and software that assists coaches in their assessment of athlete performance. The equipment cost $28,451 and was purchased in June 2005, in preparation for delivery in July / August 2005.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan MLA
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 20 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Output 1.1, Business ACT:

Page 14. Trade Delegations

1. In regards to the trade delegations that involved Canberra businessmen – who paid for the flights and accommodation for these businessmen?

2. If the ACT Government paid, how much did the costs for travel come to for these businessmen?

Page 14. Advertising

3. How much funding was spent advertising the student accommodation, as mentioned at the bottom of page 14? Is this not ANU's responsibility?

Page 17. Policy Development

4. What major points did the Department put forward in regards to the range of free trade agreements recently or currently under negotiation?

5. What major concerns did the ACT have about the agreements?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The financial model to support Canberra businesses participate on trade missions varies depending on whether the mission is facilitated by Austrade or if it is a mission facilitated primarily by the ACT Government.

   For Austrade facilitated missions, the ACT Government subsidises company participation by bearing the cost of Austrade's service fee, which ranged between $3,500 to $6,000 per company for the delegations in 2004/05. The service fee relates to Austrade's mission coordination, business matching services, in-country transfers and organised functions and events. For Austrade facilitated missions, company representatives bear all costs relating to travel and accommodation.

   For missions facilitated primarily by the ACT Government funding is provided as per the guidelines of the ACT Export Growth Program under the Market Entry Facilitation Component: http://www.business.act.gov.au/services/startingyourbusiness/exportgrowthprogram.html.

Reimbursement can be sought by companies on a dollar for dollar basis for registration fees and booth costs associated with trade missions, fairs or conferences; 50% of economy air travel, up to a maximum of $5,000 for up to two employees of the applicant business. Reimbursement cannot be sought for accommodation, meals or any other travel allowances.

2. For the five delegations listed in the Annual Report, the ACT Government provided travel subsidies in the order of $54,000 to the 35 companies that participated.

3. $7,358 excl GST was spent on advertising in relation to student accommodation. The advertising was generic in nature, advising students coming to Canberra to contact their education institution in relation to their accommodation needs. The advertising did not relate to any specific institution and, therefore, was not the responsibility of any specific institution.

4. The Chief Minister's Department has portfolio responsibility for articulating the ACT Government's position on formal government treaties such as Free Trade Agreements. This is a whole of government function and the Department's input to this process is an internal working matter.

5. During the 2004-05 financial year, there were four free trade agreements under negotiation; United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, China, and NZ and ASEAN. All these agreements only commenced negotiations during that year. The ACT Government raised no major concerns with them.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan MLA
Date: 14 November 2005

PAC 21 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Treasury Annual Report, Output EBT 1, Superannuation Unit, p 32. Superannuation:

1. What amount of Funds did the Superannuation Unit invest in 2004-05?

2. Can a list of all the ACT Government Superannuation investments please be provided? (i.e. How much was invested in what companies and/or projects)

3. Are there any ethical investment guidelines that the ACT Government must follow when investing these funded? Is yes, can they please be provided?

4. What impact will the closure of the Defined Benefit Scheme to ACT Government public servants have on the ACT Government funding of super?

The Treasurer - the answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As per the 2004-05 Annual Report (Volume 2) pg191, total funds under management at year end was approximately $1.471 billion. The breakdown of these funds is approximately $178.4 million invested in cash, $201.5 million invested in Australian and international fixed interest securities (Government, semi-government and corporate), $968.6 million invested in Australian and international equity securities (listed companies), and $123.1 million in domestic property (office, retail and industrial).

2. The Superannuation Unit utilises four contracted external specialist domestic equity managers and three contracted external specialist international equity managers. These seven managers invest in over 2,500 individual company holdings. Most stocks are not directly held by the Territory, and are instead held in pooled investments managed by specialist fund managers. The specialist fund managers do not publish their individual stock holdings as this information could be used by rival fund managers, to the detriment of the investment returns.

Equity Fund Managers	*Funds Under Management*
Vanguard	$397.1m
WestAM	$135.1m
Perpetual	$129.7m
Renaissance	$48.0m
Wellington	$152.1m
Bernstein	$102.6m
Wilshire	$4.0m

3. The funds are invested in accordance with legislative and financial probity requirements – there are no specific investment guidelines for broader ethical investment strategies. Investments are made in accordance with the risk/return objectives developed with the assistance of the Finance and Investment Advisory Board, and consistent with the guidelines established under the Financial Management Act.

4. The PSS defined benefit scheme closed to new full time ACT employees on 1 July 2005. From that date new permanent ACT employees access the PSS Accumulation Scheme, which is a fully funded scheme. The Government is currently considering future funding options and its funding strategy will be contained within the 2006-07 Budget papers.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr Ted Quinlan
Treasurer
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 22 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Treasury Annual Report, Output EBT 1, Central Financing Unit:

<u>Page 29. Surplus Cash</u>

1. How much surplus ACT Government cash was invested during 2004/05?

2. How much is the answer to question (1) as a proportion of all ACT Government 2004-05 surplus cash?

3. Can a list of all the ACT Government surplus cash investments please be provided? (ie. How much was invested in what companies and/or projects)?

4. Are there any ethical investment guidelines that the ACT Government must follow when investing these funded? Is yes, can they please be provided?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

<u>Page 29. Surplus Cash</u>

1. The average amount of ACT Government cash invested during 2004-05 was $869m.

2. Where reference is made to surplus cash, this means cash not 'immediately' required. It does not mean surplus to all appropriated expenditure requirements in the literal sense and therefore available to be allocated to new initiatives or programs.

3. ACT Government cash was invested in two investment funds: a) cash enhanced fund (average balance $653m); and b) domestic fixed interest fund (average balance $216m). These funds are managed, under contract, by specialist external funds managers.

   a) <u>Cash enhanced fund</u> is designed to provide at-call liquidity. This facility is intended for investment of working funds, currently unspent, and likely to be called upon within six months. The portfolio generally holds in the order of 100 to 150 investments. These include: cash deposits; bank bills; floating rate notes; and government and corporate fixed interest bonds.

   b) <u>Domestic fixed interest fund</u> is designed for investment of funds likely to be called upon in twelve to twenty-four months. The construction of the portfolio is focused on a longer-term investment horizon. The portfolio generally holds in the order of 150 to 200 investments. These comprise fixed interest bonds issued by Government, semi-government and corporates.

4. The funds are invested in accordance with legislative and financial probity requirements. There are no specific investment guidelines for broader ethical investment strategies.

5. This answers to the above questions were also provided in the answer to Question on Notice No. 13.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr Ted Quinlan
Treasurer
Date: 1 December 2005

PAC 23 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Treasury Annual Report, Output 1.1 Economic Management:

Page 13, Economic Analysis

1. What major economic analysis did the Department conduct during 2004-05?

2. Can these analyses be made available?

3. Were the analysis conducted by the Department's Staff, or were they contracted out?

4. Who were they contracted out to?

5. How much were these contractors paid for their analysis?

6. What is the professional background of the people these projects were contracted out to?

Page 13. National Competition Policy reform

7. Can a copy of the ACT Government's submission to the National Competition Policy reform be made available?

Page 14. Cross border service provision to non-ACT residents

8. When will the whole of government review of cross border service provision to non-ACT residents be completed?

9. When will the whole of government review of cross border service provision to non-ACT residents be made publicly available?

Page 14 Regulation Impact Statements

10. Under what conditions must a Regulation Impact Statement be prepared?

11. Are they only provided to Cabinet or are they made public like the Commonwealth does?

Page 15. Macroeconomic forecasting

12. Who is the ACT Government working with to revise and improve the macroeconomic forecasting model?

Page 17. Microeconomic reform

13. What microeconomic reform is COAG looking to pursue in 2006?

14. Who is the ACT Government working with to revise and improve the macroeconomic forecasting model?

Page 17. Microeconomic reform

15. What microeconomic reform is COAG looking to pursue in 2006?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Page 13, Economic Analysis

1. The Department of Treasury conducted a number of major economic analyses including:
    - work relating to the credit rating review including presentations to Standard and Poor's, and Moody's;
    - forecasting economic parameters;
    - forecasting revenue estimates;
    - conducted analysis on Summernats and the World Rally Championship;
    - conducted analysis on planning system reform;
    - updated ACT Greenhouse Gas estimates for the Office of Sustainability;
    - produced the ACT Government's submission to the Productivity Commission Review of National Competition Policy reforms;
    - contributed to the report "Assistance to Major Projects" prepared by Heads of Treasuries Working Group on Major Project Analysis; and
    - monitored and reported on the state of the ACT economy.

2. Our economic and revenue outlooks are contained within the Budget papers and in our mid year review. As for the other analyses, these are largely working documents or policy advice to Cabinet and are not in a format that can be readily released to the public.

3. Treasury officers conducted all of these analyses.

4. Not applicable.

5. Not applicable

6. Not applicable

Page 13. National Competition Policy reform

7. The ACT Government's submission to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry, Review of National Competition Policy Arrangements, is available from the Productivity Commission's website at: http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiry/ncp/subs/sublist.html.

Page 14. Cross border service provision to non-ACT residents

8. A whole of government review of cross border service provision to non-ACT residents is being conducted jointly by Treasury and the Chief Minister's Department (CMD) as lead agencies.

   While the bulk of the analysis has been completed, certain parts of the review are yet to be finalised. It is not yet known when the report will be completed.

9. Once the review has been finalised, the Government will consider its options.

Page 14 Regulation Impact Statements

10. The ACT Government Cabinet Handbook requires that, where any new or amended law or government direction is proposed, a Regulatory Impact Statement must be completed.

    In the case of changes to regulations, Part 5.2 of the *Legislation Act 2001* requires the preparation of Regulatory Impact Statements, however these are not circulated to Cabinet, or assessed by Treasury.

11. Regulatory Impact Statements relating to a proposed new law, amended law, or government direction form part of a Cabinet Submission. Therefore, these Regulatory Impact Statements are subject to Cabinet-in-Confidence conventions and are not ordinarily publicly available. The public release of these Regulatory Impact Statements is at the discretion of Cabinet.

    When required by the *Legislation Act 2001,* Regulatory Impact Statements relating to regulations are tabled in the Legislative Assembly together with the regulation. These are available to the public on the ACT Legislation Register website.

Page 15. Macroeconomic forecasting

12. The Economics Branch and Revenue Management Branch, in Treasury, are working together on the macroeconomics forecasts.

Page 17. Microeconomic reform

13. The focus of the COAG National Competition Policy Working Group is the areas of energy, transport, infrastructure and business regulation. The aim is to establish well functioning, competitive, national markets that facilitate private investment and raise productivity, consistent with the essential thrust of NCP.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr Ted Quinlan
Treasurer
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 24 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Treasury Annual Report, Output 1.2, Financial Management, Vol 2, page 99, Social Plan:

Why was the Social Plan Evaluation Framework ($0.2m) rolled over?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

A draft evaluation framework was developed during 2004-05 by Treasury for use within ACT Government. Further work, including consultation with Departments, will need to be undertaken before it is considered for formal release within Government.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr Ted Quinlan
Treasurer
Date: 9 November 2005

PAC 25 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to EPIC Water Savings:

asked for a copy of the paper that shows "that it would save EPIC some money in water consumption, which is about over $100,000 at this stage." (Refer page 31 of Public Accounts Committee Annual Report Estimates Hearing Hansard, 26 October 2005):

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The management of EPIC has confirmed that the original response to the Member's question was the result of a misunderstanding of the question and that no such paper exists. Water usage at EPIC is determined by two factors:

- the number of events held and their consequent usage; and
- the amount of water required to prepare and present the venue in a safe and appropriate aesthetically pleasing condition.

EPIC's current usage is around 66,000kl per year with the venue committed to water saving and adherence to restrictions. Usage prior to the drought was in the order of 100,000kl. At the current rates for water usage, savings from using grey water would be in the order of $40,000 per annum.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr Ted Quinlan
Treasurer
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 26 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the ACT Government Fleet:

What percentage of our fleet of 3,400 vehicles is designated gas vehicles?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

At 30 June 2005, there were 70 LPG vehicles, which is 2.1% of the fleet.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr Ted Quinlan
Treasurer
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 27 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Treasurer

Dr Foskey asked the Treasurer upon notice:

Did the government reach its target for the number of home buyer concessions? Obviously, you did and you have answered that. Has the same thing happened to the first home owners grant of applications going up? Did you reach your target?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

There were 1,779 number of First Home Owner Grant (FHOG) applications processed in 2004-05, compared to the target of 1,200 applications for 2004-05 Budget (refer to page 101 of ACT Treasury Annual report 2004-05, volume 2).

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Mr Ted Quinlan
Treasurer
Date: 8 November 2005

PAC 28 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Minister for Women

Mrs Burke asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to annual report from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 90:

1. Following on from the Forum conducted on Indigenous Family Violence, how is the Government progressing with the formulation of the Indigenous Family Violence Policy Framework?

2. When will the Indigenous Family Violence Policy Framework be available?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. A draft outline for an Indigenous Family Violence Policy Framework is currently being developed in consultation with relevant government agencies, service providers and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities.

2. This is yet to be determined.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 29 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

Ngunnawal women's circle

1. Noting the last Estimates Committee was told that the Office for Women provides secretarial support to the Ngunnawal women's circle. Does this still occur?
2. Who are members of the Ngunnawal women's circle?
3. How were these members selected?
4. What was the outcome of the Office's review of the Ngunnawal women's circle?
5. How was the community engaged in this review?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Yes.
2. The Indigenous Women's Circle is an informal group with flexible membership.
3. Members are self selected.
4. A review of the Indigenous Women's Circle has not occurred.
5. N/A

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 30 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

Expenditure, page 123, vol 2:

Looking at the 2004-05 expenditure of the Output 1.2, Community Affairs is shows that there was an initial target of $4,675,000, and amended target of $2,981,000, and a final result of $3,269,000.

Noting that the Office of Women is only part of this Branch, were any of the budgetary changes due to the Office of Women, and if so what were they?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The budgetary changes were not due to the Office for Women.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 31 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

Staffing:

Why has there been a reduction in the Office of Women's staffing from 4.6 to 3?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Community Affairs Group is currently undergoing an organisational review. As part of the interim arrangements in place and staff turnover, the Office for Women currently has 3 staff. In addition, the Director of the Community Affairs Group oversees the Office for Women.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 32 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

<u>ACT Women's Grants Program, page 32</u>:

1. Do any of the grants allocated under the ACT Women's Grants Program provide for advocacy and or proposing policy work? If not, why not?

2. What are the main non-government organisations doing advocacy work that the ACT Government collaborates with?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Yes. Grants were allocated to community organisations that provide advocacy services, to assist them to build their capacity to provide services to the community.

2. The ACT Government collaborates with non-government organisations doing advocacy work on different issues as required, although the main collaborative links are with peak community organisations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 18 November 2005

PAC 33 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Industrial Relations

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

<u>Work place child-care feasibility study</u>

1. What is the cost involved in the recommended outcomes?

2. When is the ACT Government expected to respond to the report?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The recommendations provided in the report have varying costs associated with them.

2. The ACT Government is currently considering the recommendations in the report. To assist with the consideration of some of the recommendations, additional legal advice was sought just prior to the report being finalised. This advice has not yet been received and is being followed up. When the advice is received, the Government will be in a position to respond to the report.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Industrial Relations
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 18November 2005

PAC 34 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

Elder abuse

What level of usage has the pilot telephone service dedicated to elder abuse had?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

This issue does not fall within my portfolio as it relates to Chief Minister's Department reporting responsibilities under the ACT Women's Plan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 18 November 2005

PAC 35 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Prevention Policy

Page 90 refers to CMD issuing a Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Prevention Policy. Can you provide some advice on the main sorts of bullying the ACT Women [sic] are seen to be encountering in the:

- Private workplace?
- Public workplace?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I am not able to provide advice in relation to full range of issues raised in this question as it goes well beyond scope of the Chief Minister's Annual Report.

The Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Prevention Policy is a Departmental policy. Statistics are not available that relate directly to this policy.

The Office of Industrial Relations within the Chief Minister's Department maintains a database of incidents reported to ACTPS employers under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989*. This data records incidents related to "repetitive assault and/or threatened assault by a work colleague or colleagues or repetitive verbal harassment, threats, and abuse from a work colleague or colleagues". A search of the available data, shows that there have been no reported incidents of this nature from within the Chief Minister's Department.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 18 November 2005

PAC 36 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

Non-traditional occupations:

1. How does the government intend to improve gender diversity in relation to recruiting women in non-traditional occupations?

2. How is the government measuring this improvement?

3. What achievements have been made to date?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT Women's Plan identifies areas for action relating to employment, training and development under the objectives of representation and recognition, and economic security and opportunities. The ACT Public Service Equity and Diversity Framework provides the structure for agency equity and diversity planning.

2. The ACT Public Service Equity and Diversity Framework includes a maturity model to assist agencies to measure their progress including the effectiveness of Human Resource strategies to support the development of a diverse workforce.

3. ACT Government agencies report on their contribution to the ACT Women's Plan and the effectiveness of their workplace diversity strategies through their annual reports. Both these areas have specific reporting requirements detailed in the Annual Report Directions.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 37 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Women

Dr Deb Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

<u>ACT Women's Plan, page 32:</u>

1. How much funding is behind the Women's Action Plan objectives?

2. How much of this is what could be described as new or existing funding?

3. Is any document available that outlines the cost of each action and can this please be provided?

4. Is the Office for Women, or the respective Department for each action, responsible for bidding through the budget process?

5. How often will progress reports against the Women's Action Plan be delivered?

6. Can a copy of any of the completed reviews of the Action Plan be provided?

7. How often did the interdepartmental committee meet in 2004-05 to discuss the Women's Plan?

8. What agencies are represented on the interdepartmental committee?

9. For how long has the Women's Plan been in effect and since when have agencies started reporting against it?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. There is currently no information held specifically on the amount of funding behind the 2004/05 Women's Action Plan objectives. The actions under each objective are resourced by the relevant ACT Government agency.

2. N/A.

3. There is no document available that outlines the cost of each action.

4. The ACT Government agency that has identified each action is responsible for bidding through the budget process.

5. ACT Government agencies are required to report on their progress against the Action Plans in their annual reports.

6. No. A review of the 2004/05 Action Plan is yet to occur.

7. The Interdepartmental Committee met four times during 2004/05 to discuss the ACT Women's Plan.

8. The following agencies were represented on the Interdepartmental Committee during 2004/05:
   - Chief Minister's Department;
   - Disability, Housing and Community Services;
   - Urban Services;
   - ACT Health;
   - Justice and Community Safety;
   - Treasury; and
   - Department of Education and Training.

9. The ACT Women's Plan was launched in September 2004. ACT Government agencies commenced reporting against the Plan in 2004/05 through the 2004/05 Women's Action Plan.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

DEB FOSKEY MLA: To ask the Minister for Women

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report, ACT Women's Plan, page 32:

Annual Reports:

1. Does the Office of Women assist ACT Government agencies in reporting against the Women's Plan in their annual reports?

2. Does the Office of Women address the adequacy of ACT Government agencies reporting against the Women's Plan in their annual reports?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Yes. The Office for Women has developed a template to assist ACT Government agencies with their reporting requirements against the ACT Women's Plan in their annual reports.

2. 2004/05 is the first year that agencies have been required to report against the ACT Women's Plan. It is anticipated that the Office for Women will address the adequacy of agency reporting in the future.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 39 Mrs Jacqui BURKE Chief Minister

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to the annual report of from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 91:

1. As part of the funding from the $1 million made available in 2004-2005 for the first Community Inclusion Fund, how much funding did
   - Karinya House of Mothers and
   - Babies and Mums at Home in the Community

   receive?

2. How successful have these programs been and what forms of support have they provided to new mothers.

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1.
   a) The Karinya House for Mothers and Babies Project is funded for three years to the amount of $254,781. In 2004/05 an amount of $42,464 was provided, as reported in the Corrigendum to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report of 2004/05 provided on 24 November 2005.

   b) The Mums at Home in the Community Project is funded for three years to the amount of $110,302. In 2004/05 an amount of $18,166 was provided, as reported in the Corrigendum to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report of 2004/05 provided on 24 November 2005.

2. Both projects commenced operation in March 2005 and have provided reports on a quarterly basis to their Government partners (the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services; ACT Health, and the Chief Minister's Department). The Karinya House for Mothers and Babies Project is providing approximately 700 hours of caseworker / outreach and midwifery support to between 60 and 70 clients each quarter. The Mums at Home on the Community Project is providing weekly development sessions attended by between 20 to 30 mothers who are increasingly taking an active role in the management of the Group.

   The Karinya House for Mothers and Babies Project provides accommodation and outreach services for young disadvantaged and homeless women who are pregnant or parenting. Specifically, funding assists with medium-term supported accommodation at Karinya's sister house, Erin House, as well as providing outreach services. The project is partnered by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services.

The Mums at Home in the Community Project provides early intervention and community-based support for mothers at home in the Tuggeranong area through strengthening social networks, friendships and peer support. It is based upon the work of the Majura Women's Group which currently meets in Downer and is being carried out in partnership with ACT Health.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 40 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Chief Minister

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to annual report from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 90:

1. What were the outcomes of the surveying conducted on elder abuse and the levels of such abuse in the ACT community; are the results available;

2. What forms of public information campaigns will the government be considering adopting in order to raise the awareness of elder abuse and subsequently encourage people to report cases and seek out support services.

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The outcomes of the benchmarking study on elder abuse showed that there was a general level of awareness of elder abuse in our community; the term elder abuse is resisted by the community and would be better accepted if the term was mistreatment; the vast majority of people tended to say that they would be inclined to report it but, only in cases that were severe or extreme. The report of the Artcraft Benchmarking Study is available at the following website www.ageing.act.gov.au/elderabuse.

2. The ACT Office for Ageing has developed the ACT Elder Abuse Policy Framework comprising of the ACT Elder Abuse Policy Framework- *assisting ACT Government agencies in developing policy and service responses*; Dealing with Abuse of Clients and their Carers - *A Training Kit*; and the Information and Education Resource - *An information package to assist older people and their families* and supports a number of actions relating to policy development, protocols, training and community information. It is anticipated that the Policy Framework will be released in early 2006.

   Preceding the release of the Policy Framework a major media campaign on elder abuse will be launched. Consideration will be given to both print and electronic media sources in this campaign.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 41 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Minister for Women

Mrs Burke asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to annual report from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 89:

1. How have you gauged the success of the Women's Grants Program, which saw 21 projects share in $100,000 of funding in the 2004/05 round?

2. What is the core focus in determining the successful recipients of this grants program?

3. Do you anticipate there will be an increase in the number of applicants for the next funding round?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. An evaluation of the success of the ACT Women's Grants Program will be conducted as part of the acquittal process for the 2004/05 funding round.

2. Assessment criteria for each funding category are used to assess grant applications and are available from: **www.women.act.gov.au/actwomensgrantspackage.html**

3. There was strong interest in the 2004/05 funding round and it is expected that the 2005/06 funding round will attract a similar level of interest.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 18 November 2005

PAC 41 Part 1 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Minister for Women

Mrs Burke asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the annual report from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 89:

1. What reforms of data are intended to be collected by government in relation to gender that will assist government agencies to better target the needs of women;

2. When will the draft Information Development Plan be available?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Office for Women will conduct a scoping exercise of gender analysis tools to better inform policy and program development. The forms of data to be collected will be determined as part of this exercise.

2. The development of the Plan does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

Approved for circulation to the Standing committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher MLA
Date: 18 November 2005

PAC 42 Part 2 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Chief Minister

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to the annual report of from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 89:

When will the draft Information Development Plan be available?

MR JON STANHOPE: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

The ACT Regional Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Chief Minister’s Department are currently developing a draft Information Development Plan (IDP) for consideration by the Government. It is intended that the IDP will be finalised in the first half of 2006.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 43 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Minister for Women

Mrs Burke asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the annual report from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 89:

1. How effective have the quarterly meetings been that were convened to discuss the monitoring of workplace bullying, training of harassment officers and strategies to improve gender diversity when recruiting women to non-tradition occupations?

2. What improvements has government made in these areas that specifically target equity and diversity?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Public Sector Management within the Chief Minister's Department has coordinated meetings of equity and diversity representatives from each ACT Government agency during 2004/05. The focus of these meetings has been the development of the Equity and Diversity Manager's Toolkit, which was launched by the Commissioner for Public Administration in September this year.

   Strategies to address recruitment and retention of women in the ACT Public Service are discussed broadly within the Equity and Diversity Network. Reporting on issues of gender equity is also contained within the Commissioner for Public Administration's State of the Service report.

2. Ongoing assessment of gender diversity issues in the workplace will be monitored through the ACT Women's Plan Annual Action Plans.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 44 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Minister for Women

Mrs Burke asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to annual report from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 89:

What kinds of programs did the government assist the YWCA run that allowed women who participated to build upon skills and confidence in relation to leadership roles?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Office for Women collaborated with the YWCA to develop a series of workshops to explore the roles and responsibilities of board members in the areas of governance and finance.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Women
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 17 November 2005

PAC 45 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Chief Minister

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to annual report from the Chief Minister's Department, Volume 1 page 90:

1. How effective was the pilot telephone service dedicated to elder abuse;

2. Will it become a permanent service; if so, what forms of education programs and resources (both financial and physical) will be dedicated to the program.

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The ACT Office for Ageing is currently reviewing the Elder Abuse Prevention Information Line determining its effectiveness and efficiency in meeting desired outcomes. It is anticipated that a report on the review will be provided to the Government in early 2006.

2. The ACT Government allocated $411,000 in the 2003/04 budget over four years to provide for a single contact telephone number to report instances of elder abuse as well as to provide an information and education resource concerning elder abuse prevention and redress/intervention and to support a widespread education program about elder abuse for professionals and a broader based community education campaign. These services will continue to be provided during that time.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 46 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Treasurer

Mr Smyth asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to the Consolidated Annual Financial Statements for 2004-05 and the accompanying Management Discussion and Analysis (MDA):

1. In the Overview of Financial Performance (MDA, p 9), what is meant by the phrase "periods of reduced financial capability"

2. In Note 2 (l), current assets are defined as 'those which are not expected to be held for greater than 12 months' and yet, in Note 19, there are assets described as being 'Non-Current At Call:
    a) given this categorisation of assets, how can some assets be both non-current and at call;
    b) if there are any such assets, what are they and why aren't they classified as current assets.

3. In Note 12, what caused the amount spent on 'Consultant Fees, Contractor Payments and Professional Services' for 2003-04 to be increased by $36 million to $153 million from the amount of $117 million recorded in the Statements for 2003-04.

4. In Note 14,
    a) why is there a provision of $19 million [actually represented as (19)] in 2004-05 for the carrying value of TransACT, when a provision of $34 million was made in the previous year to reduce the carrying value in TransACT to zero (refer to Note 14, 2003-04 Financial Year);
    b) why is 19 enclosed in brackets if it is an expense.

5. In Note 22,
    a) what is the purpose of providing a nominal value of $1,000 to the various heritage and community assets listed in this Note;
    b) why is it not possible to place an actual value on such assets as Acton Jetty, Rose Cottage and Tuggeranong Schoolhouse.

6. With reference to the comment in Note 28 about the superannuation liability for former employees of Totalcare Industries Limited:
    a) what is the latest estimate of this liability;
    b) when will this liability be finalised.

7. In Note 38, what is the status of the guarantee for Gold Creek Country Club Pty Ltd, given that the ACT Government has now sold this entity.

8. In Note 46, the analysis of weighted average effective interest rates shows that the rate received for Cash at Bank, at 5.18 per cent, was higher than the rate received for

Investments, at 4.97 per cent; in 2002-03 and 2003-04, however, the position was reversed:

a) why is the rate for Cash at Bank in 2004-05 higher than that for Investments;
b) what action is being taken to redress this performance;
c) is it correct to assume that the financial amounts shown in the two tables of Financial Instruments are in millions of dollars.

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The statement, 'during periods of reduced financial capability', refers to periods in which a deficit operating result is reported.

   The Government's current financial strategy as presented in the 2005-06 Budget Papers is to maintain a balanced budget over the economic cycle. This strategy recognises that there will be fluctuations in the Territory's operating result from year-to-year. Therefore, the Territory's operating result for the economic cycle should be considered rather than looking at the 2004-05 result in isolation. The aggregate result for the Territory from 2002-03 to 2005-06 is an operating surplus of $215 million.
   During periods of reduced capacity, prior year surpluses enable the Government to maintain a high level of service provision to the community while servicing existing and future liabilities. The build-up of cash and investments resulting from prior year surplus results also provides capacity to absorb deficit operating results without affecting the net worth of the Territory. This position has been affirmed by the credit rating agency Standards & Poor's who noted in their latest press release – "as a result of the strong balance sheet and the government's commitment to fiscal goals, the ACT could absorb a fairly severe weakening in its financial profile without threatening its 'AAA' rating".

2. The following explanation relates to both part (a) and part (b) of the question. The amounts in question relate to financial assets of the Superannuation Provision Account (SPA). The SPA represents approximately $1.471 billion of the Territory's total investment assets. All of the financial assets of the SPA are currently classified as non-current assets. This is due to the long term nature of the investment funds and the associated long term nature of the superannuation liabilities.

   A portion of the SPA's investment portfolio assets are invested in the money market (cash), which are generally financial securities which mature within a 12 month time-frame. Although the funds are available at call (Non-Current At Call), they make up part of the long term strategic asset allocation of the investment portfolio and are not required within the next twelve month period for the extinguishment of any short term superannuation liabilities. As a result, these investments are rolled continuously and re-invested.

3. Adjustments may be made to the comparative year figures where an accounting treatment has changed since the comparative year. The change facilitates better comparison of the current year results. All adjustments to comparative year figures are disclosed in Note 2 d) of the financial statements. The $36 million increase reflects a transfer of expenses from cost of goods sold to supplies and services (primarily contractors and professional services), following the change in classification of expenses incurred by the ex-Totalcare business units merged with the Department of Urban Services.

4. From 2003-04 the Territory's interest in TransACT Communications Pty Ltd (TransACT) has been accounted for using the equity method. The equity method involves recognising the movement in the post-acquisition equity in TransACT in the accounts of the Territory as either a revenue or an expense from the joint venture entity (ref Note 2 v).

   In 2003-04, a provision (liability) and an equal expense were raised to reduce the carrying value of the investment in TransACT to nil. This recognised the difficulty of determining the recoverable amount of the investment in TransACT as there is no active or liquid market for this investment.

   In 2004-05 the actual movement in the post-acquisition equity of TransACT was recognised as an expense - 'share of losses in associate (TransACT)'. The provision was then reduced in recognition that some of the loss has crystallised and been brought to account. This ensured that the expense was not recognised twice, as the TransACT investment was already reduced to nil.

5.

a) Heritage and cultural assets can be difficult to measure due to their nature. For transparency and accountability it is important that heritage and community assets be reflected in the relevant agencies' financial statements. As a result these assets are valued at a nominal value of $1,000.

Treasury is currently in the process of reviewing this policy in light of the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP) / Government Financial Statistics (GFS) harmonisation project. The harmonisation project requires all assets, including heritage and community assets, to be measured at fair value where possible. Where a fair value cannot be determined, it is proposed these assets be disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

b) It is difficult to place a value on assets such as Acton Jetty, Rose Cottage and Tuggeranong School due to the nature of these assets. These assets generally do not have a known cost due to their age and fair value is hard to measure as there is no market for these assets and they do not generate a cash inflow. Further, because of their iconic status and their intrinsic heritage value, reproduction cost is not necessarily a good basis for measurement.

6.

a) The latest estimate is that contained in the Department of Treasury 2004-05 Annual Report - Volume Two, namely, $17.28 million.

b) The liability will be finalised when the totality of Totalcare's superannuation obligations have been established and each entitlement arising from that process has been identified and settled. This is a complicated matter and ascribing a finalisation date would not be appropriate at this time.

7. The guarantee will terminate when the sale of Gold Country Club Pty Ltd (GCCC Pty Ltd) is finalised in May 2006. Under the terms of the sale contracts, the Land Development Agency retains the responsibility for the Club assets and the operations of GCCC Pty Ltd up until the settlement date (which is 30 May 2006 at the latest). Therefore, the guarantee will remain in operation until that time, so that the Directors of GCCC Pty Ltd can continue to allow the Club to trade.

8. In response to part a) and part b), the Note 46 financial instruments disclosure highlights, amongst other things, the effective interest rate exposures for different maturity buckets of all financial instruments held by the ACT as at 30 June 2005, whether domestic or international, for interest rate risk management disclosure purposes. The Note 46 disclosure does not outline the total effective investment return achieved on the interest-bearing securities or the SPA investment portfolio for the financial year. Cash investments returned approximately 5.9%, whilst Australian fixed interest investments returned approximately 7.8% and the international fixed interest investments returned 12.1% for the 2005 financial year. The total weighted interest rate exposure for investments outlined in Note 46 is lower than the weighted average effective cash interest rate due to two main reasons:

- the generally lower international interest rates, as compared to Australian interest rates, and the inverted interest rate yield curve domestically (longer dated interest rates being lower than shorter term rates) bringing the calculated investment weighted average effective interest rate exposure down; and
- the majority (75%) of the SPA investment portfolio being invested in non-interest bearing investments (equities etc) resulting in a zero interest rate exposure weighting.

c) Yes, the financial amounts shown in the two tables are in millions of dollars.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 25 November 2006

PAC 47 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Minister for Economic Development

Mr Smyth asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report for 2004-05 from the Small Business Commissioner:

1. The Commissioner comments that he is able to '(inject) a small business perspective into policy deliberations and (act) as a central contact point for information about small firms":
   a) what did this work actually involve;
   b) why couldn't the existing bureaucracy perform these two roles?

2. Has the Commissioner been able to achieve any reduction in the impact of regulation on small businesses in the ACT?

3. Has the Commissioner been able to change any policies in favour of small businesses in the ACT?

4. The Commissioner notes that 18 business complaints have been dealt with:
   a) what is meant by the Commissioner's comment that "all enquiries have been finalised to the extent possible …";
   b) if any of these complaints remain to be completely resolved, what action is now being taken to achieve this outcome;
   c) who is taking this action?

5. The Commissioner notes that he received 10 business to business matters:
   a) why are professional mediation services likely to be required for some of these matters;
   b) if this higher level mediation expertise is required, why could this not be arranged by the bureaucracy;
   c) what arrangements will be made to pay for any professional mediation services?

6. The Commissioner notes that he received 8 business to government matters: what were the outcomes of these matters and is any action remaining to be completed on any of these matters?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1.

a) The work of the Small Business Commissioner covers a wide variety of activities designed to inject a small business perspective into policy deliberations. The Commissioner commenced duties on 1st March 2005. For the approximately sixteen weeks between this date and 30 June 2005 (the period covered by the 2004-5 Annual Report), relevant activities included meetings with ACT government CEOs, Ministers, a briefing to Cabinet, media statements, ACT business organisations, public servants and individual firms. Work also commenced on the development of small business service charters, and on a discussion paper exploring mediation options for local small firms.

b) The SBC is a specialist agency whose duties are spelt out in the Small Business Commissioner Act 2004. Any decision to have similar work undertaken by other agencies of ACT government would be a decision made by respective Ministers and chief executives.

2. In the four months of initial operation from 1 March to 30 June 2005, discussions were held with many of the organisations and persons referred to in answer 1(a) regarding small business policy and the need to reduce regulation. The ultimate impact of these activities is not always directly measurable, nor always reported back to the SBC.

3. See response to question (2) above.

4.

a) Handling of business complaints are subject to the provisions of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2004, which does not provide the Commissioner with the ability to legally enforce a lasting determination on complainants. Accordingly, complaints have been finalised to the extent possible by law by the staff of the Commissioner's office.

b) See response to question 4 a)

c) See response to question 4 a).

5.

a) In October 2005, the Small Business Commissioner issued a discussion paper on the proposed use of mediation, which spells out the rationale for the use of mediation, different mechanisms by which this can be delivered, and ways in which it could be funded. Public comment was sought on the paper, and the Commissioner is currently in negotiations to determine the final structure of such a service.

b) This type of mediation service for small business issues is currently not being provided by the ACT bureaucracy.

c) Payment of professional mediation services is one of the issues referred to in answer 5(a) that is still being negotiated.

6. Handling of business complaints are subject to the provisions of the Small Business Commissioner Act 2004, which does not provide the ability to enforce a lasting determination on complainants. Accordingly, complaints have been finalised to the extent possible by law by the staff of the Commissioner's office.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 13 January 2006

PAC 48 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Minister for Economic Development

Mr Smyth asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report for 2004-05 from the Department of Economic Development:

1. What was the outcome of the restructure of BusinessACT that was undertaken in May 2005?

2. What issues that existed prior to the restructure have now been resolved following this restructure?

3. What benefits have been realised so far from this restructure?

4. While BusinessACT was part of the Chief Minister's Department $21,818 were spent on a consultancy to prepare a business plan for BusinessACT (refer P167):
   a) were the outcomes from this consultancy utilised in the recent restructure of BusinessACT
   b) if not, what benefits were derived from this consultancy;
   c) is it possible to obtain a copy of this business plan; if so, from where is it available?

5. What is the nature of the 'policy and administrative support' that is being provided by the ACT Government to the ANU/MTAA Super Venture Capital Partnership (refer p22)?

6. What features have been built in to the governance structures for this Venture Capital Partnership to ensure that there are no conflicts of interest in the role of the ANU as joint manager of the fund and as a potential provider of deal flows for the fund?

7. The ACT Government has provided advice (refer answer to Estimates 2003-04 Question on Notice) that there are no upper or lower limits on the quantum of capital that can be invested in each opportunity identified by the fund, although the Government noted that:
   a) have any limits been set on the maximum proportion of capital that the fund may contribute to a single investment;
   b) if so, what are these limits;
   c) if not, why have no limits been set;
   d) what is the current status of the fund with respect to investing in potential projects?

8. With respect to the establishment of the ACT office in the USA during 2004-05:
   a) what is the estimated full year cost of this venture;
   b) how has this joint venture with CEA Technologies worked to date;
   c) what benefits have been realised already from this venture?

9. With respect to ACTBIS/ACTBIF:
   a) when does the agreement relating to Impulse Airlines expire;
   b) what is the status of the discussions with Qantas;
   c) when is an outcome from these discussions anticipated?

10. What is the status of the negotiations with CEA Technologies about the project being contemplated by that company?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The key outcome of the restructure process was the pre-existing BusinessACT being effectively separated into two Branches: (1) a Business and Economic Policy Branch that focuses on policy development issues plus management of the Department's interests in key infrastructure projects, and (2) the BusinessACT Branch which focuses on business program delivery, key institution relationships and related sector development activities.

2. The restructure focused primarily on providing additional resource support for long-term policy development, particularly on matters such as infrastructure investment and renewal strategies, demography and workforce availability, and leveraging private sector investment. This is in addition to the general business policy and policy coordination work already undertaken within the Branch.

3. The restructuring process commenced in May 2005 and was officially signed off internally in late July 2005. Staff resources started moving internally from around mid August 2005 with revised work programs coming together from around this time. In addition, the new policy development work is being channelled through the *Canberra Partnership Board*, the Government's key business advisory body.

   There has not been sufficient time to properly assess the benefits of the new structure. Staffing limitations across the Department have also constrained progress.

4.
   a) Yes. This work was considered in the development of the new agency structure.

   b) Not applicable.

c) No. This consultancy immediately pre-dated the establishment of the Department of Economic Development in November 2004 and is therefore not fully relevant to the issues and circumstances applying in the 2005 restructure. Accordingly, it was not finalised and is not available for public release.

5. The policy and administrative support being provided to the ANU MTAA Super Venture Capital Partnership by the Territory centres on assisting the Partnership in its commercialisation activities by facilitating connections between the Partnership's fund manager, ANU Connect, with ACT commercialisation stakeholders and the Territory's business links with overseas commercialisation and investment agencies, such as Larta, UCSD Connect and Global Connect.

6. A new and separate company, ANU Connect Pty Ltd, has been formed to make investment decisions and manage the investments of the Partnership. ANU Connect is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ANU MTAA Super Venture Partnership and has a separate and independent board of directors. Investment decisions are made by an independent Investment Committee, who analyse all investments and make their own recommendations to the board of ANU Connect. This governance structure ensures that the ANU is not exposed to issues of conflict of interest.

   Additionally, in the Deed Agreement (signed on 30 June 2004) between the ANU and the Territory regarding the ANU MTAA Super Venture Capital Partnership, the ANU has undertaken that no conflict of interest exists or is likely to arise in its conduct of the project. If, during the term of the agreement, a conflict of interest arises or risk of conflict of interest arises, the ANU will notify the Territory immediately in writing of that conflict or risk and will comply with the requirement of the Territory to eliminate or otherwise deal with that conflict or risk of conflict.

7.

   a) Yes. See 7 b).

   b) Current guidelines provide that the Partnership will invest up to $500,000 per project in pre-seed, seed and start-up capital.

   c) Given response to b), not applicable.

   d) The Partnership expects to make its first investments in the first half of 2006.

8.

   a) The estimated full year cost to the Department of Economic Development for this venture is $120,000.

b) CEA Technologies has established an office in Washington DC which is able to provide on the ground assistance to ACT companies trying to enter the USA market. The office provides support facilities and services to ACT companies in the form of free transient office space, receptionist services, and in market services provided through CEA's Business Development Manager. The Business Development Manager works in collaboration with GWI, Austrade, Research Institutes and CEA's strong US Defence networks to facilitate introductions, networks and business matching.

c) Since opening for business in August 2005 the ACT Industry Office has had two Canberra companies utilise the services with a further four informal enquiries about potential use in the new year. Two ACT companies, Compucat and Tower Software, have established a permanent presence in the Office with CEA Technologies and another ACT company is currently negotiating a permanent presence in the Office.

   The Washington Office is working collaboratively with the Greater Washington Initiative (GWI), Austrade and the Australian Embassy in order to gain the most benefit and exposure for Canberra companies visiting the US. For example they have developed a 2006 ACT Industry Office Events Program to provide an 'anchor' for ACT companies when planning their US market penetration.

9.

a) A Deed Poll of Release and Termination relating to the Regional Aviation Loan Agreement between Jetstar Airways Pty Limited (formerly Impulse Regional Airlines Pty Limited) and the Territory was signed on 15 July 2005.

b) An Aviation Development Agreement between Qantas Airways Limited and the Territory was signed 15 July 2005. Under a milestone framework, the Agreement provides for a $1.75 million marketing initiative to be undertaken by Qantas, and for a suitable use to be established for the hangar constructed at Canberra International Airport. The hangar has been outfitted by Qantas Defence Services (QDS) to accommodate C-130 Hercules heavy maintenance operations undertaken for the Australian Defence Force. The first C-130 was inducted on 9 December 2005.

c) Refer to (9) (b).

10. The Government has made an offer of a Financial Assistance package, through the ACT Business Incentive Fund, to CEA Technologies Pty Limited. The offer was accepted by CEA subject to successful lease negotiations, and with an appropriate timeframe in which to complete relevant business arrangements prior to final acceptance. Drafting of Agreements is currently underway.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 13 January 2006

PAC 49 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Minister for Economic Development

Mr Smyth asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Annual Report for 2004-05 from Australian Capital Tourism Corporation (ACTC):

1. What is the nature of the relationship between ACTC and Tourism Australia

2. In relation to the promotion of Australia and various states and territories at an Expo Japan recently:
   a) what input did ACTC have into the way ACT was presented in the promotion of this Expo;
   b) what understanding does Tourism Australia have of Canberra as a capital city

3. Given the objectives of ACTC (refer page 4) what role does the Corporation have to promote Canberra as a capital city of Australia

4. What evidence exists for ACTC to make the comment of "the unwillingness of consumers to take their annual leave given the basis of statement, what expectations are there that this unwillingness might change

5.
   a) What has been the reception to the federal politicians promotions that were undertaken during 2004-05;
   b) were any negative responses received:
   c) what evaluation has been made of these promotions;
   d) will these promotions be ongoing

6. What relationship exists between the new events unit that has been established within ACTC and the Special Events Unit that operates within the Chief Minister's Department and how are any overlap issues resolved

7.
   a) What is the basis for the apparent finding by Ernst and Young that Floriade in 2004 "achieved $13,885 million direct (sic) direct expenditure in the ACT"
   b) has the veracity of this outcome been checked

8. What is the current status of the consideration of the permanent site of Floriade

9. In Note 32 to the financial statements
   a) what is the nature of 'other commitments', valued at $6 million, that are payable within one year;

b) what is the nature of other commitments valued at $5.1 million that are payable within five years;
c) why are these commitments not recognised as liabilities when they have been contracted at reporting date.

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Tourism Australia is the Federal Government statutory authority responsible for international and domestic tourism marketing as well as the delivery of research and forecasts for the sector. As such the relationship between Australian Capital Tourism (ACTC) and Tourism Australia (TA) is, and needs to be cohesive.

   The multi-layered relationship at CEO and officer levels consists of ACTC representation at forums conducted by TA as well as at Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT), marketing and research forums.

   Specific activities undertaken with TA include:

   Participation in Destination Australia Marketing Alliance (DAMA) meetings, trade missions to India, New Zealand and South East Asia and workshops for Aussie Specialist agents from overseas.

   ACTC also participates at Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE), the largest trade expo of Australian tourism product held annually and attended by product planners from major wholesalers and agencies from both Eastern and Western hemispheres.

   In Singapore and Malaysia, where the Corporation has 'in-market' representation, ACTC works cohesively with TA and the other state tourism organisations (within the TA office) to provide tactical support to TA branding campaigns. ACTC is also represented in the Canberra module of TA's Aussie Specialist online training program which operates throughout Asia and in New Zealand. ACTC is also offered the opportunity to host familiarisations by overseas agents who have graduated from the Aussie Specialist program. In 2005, ACTC hosted Indian and Thai agents and in 2006 Indian, Chinese and New Zealand agents will be hosted.

   The Corporation also has access to all research undertaken by TA, briefings on proposed campaigns and annual operating plans for overseas markets.

   Domestic marketing is undertaken through the *See Australia* arm of TA which outlines the marketing and promotional direction. ACTC participates in regular meetings regarding potential advertising and tactical opportunities. (Please refer to Question 4 concerning further activity involving TA).

2. We assume Mr Smyth is referring to the World Exposition 2005 held in Aichi, Japan earlier this year, and as such, I will respond on the Aichi situation.

The World Exposition 2005 was held in Aichi from 25 March to 25 September. Australia's Pavilion showcased the nation's unique lifestyle. The primary objective at the expo was to increase awareness of Australia as an exciting travel destination highlighting eco-tourism, adventure and sports tourism targeting students and seniors.

No direct selling was to be undertaken at the Expo. The call to action for visitors to the Pavilion was to visit Tourism Australia's website **www.australia.jp**. The website is tailored for the Japanese market and features general information about Australia, and information that is state and territory specific.

a) The expo presented Australia as a desirable destination. Japan is not a key target market for ACTC and therefore no direct input was provided in terms of the presentation at the promotion. ACTC's direct participation in any activity is decided based on our key target markets.
b) Tourism Australia has been briefed on ACTC's brand positioning. It promotes a number of aspects of Canberra, including its role of capital of Australia in its communications and on its global consumer site.

3. The Corporation aims to increase economic return from domestic and international visitation. To achieve this it needs to highlight the point of difference Canberra has as a destination. In this regard ACTC researched and developed a brand positioning that highlights Canberra's role as the capital city of Australia and a destination that every Australian must visit to experience the Australian story.

   The elements communicated through *the Australian story* is that no matter who we are and where we have come from, the best place to see our true reflection as Australians is in the nation's capital, Canberra. The brand campaign is underpinned by tactical marketing campaigns, an international marketing strategy undertaken in target markets, attracting new events and enhancing existing events and a community program whereby we are promoting the community to act as ambassadors for Canberra.

4. The comment about unwillingness of consumers to take their annual leave is based on research as follows:
   88 million days of unused leave in Australia (AC Nielsen 2005)
   30% of Australian took no leave (A C Neilson 2005)
   56% of Australian took only part of their leave in (Woolcott 2005)

   Tourism Australia will launch a new campaign in early 2006 with the aim of encouraging more Australians to travel domestically. Unwillingness of consumers to take their annual leave affects travel within Australia and consequently disadvantages the domestic travel market. A contributing factor in the current job market is thought to be the changing nature of the employment environment and a trend toward accumulation of leave to provide a financial buffer should the need arise. As the Honourable Member is well aware, the recently enacted industrial relations legislation may exacerbate the current situation by further affecting people who wish to take annual leave.

5. ACTC considers federal politicians to be key influencers and a powerful network of potential advocates capable of assisting to dispel the negative perceptions about the national capital that exist within Australia. Several programs therefore were undertaken in 2004-05 to increase federal politicians' awareness of the experiences and activities Canberra and the region has to offer.

a) No formal evaluation of the politician's activity has been undertaken however anecdotal feedback suggests a positive reception by federal politicians on the promotions undertaken in 2004-2005. Communication and support has been actively championed by Senators Lundy and Humphries.

b) No negative responses were received

c) No formal evaluations have been undertaken so far

d) The promotions will be ongoing in 2006

6. The events unit established within ACTC focuses on tourism events as opposed to the Special Events Unit within the Chief Minister's Department which has carriage of developing community events and festivals.

   A tourism event is defined as an event which primarily targets tourists and where success is largely based on economic return for the host economy. The ACTC's events unit manages Floriade, the Subaru Rally of Canberra, the Brindabella Mountains Challenge, and the Events Assistance Program which supports externally-run events to increase the number of visitors coming to Canberra. In addition, the unit is chartered with building new tourism (visitor) events and exhibitions to address low visitation periods and leveraging and marketing existing events more effectively.

   The CMD Special Events Unit will feature a range of large and small events designed to interpret, reflect and explore Canberra's characteristics and lifestyle through the performing and visual arts, lifestysle events, indigenous events and youth events. Examples are the Multicultural Festival and Celebrate Canberra.

   In view of the distinctly different focus of the two units there is no overlap. ACTC and the Special Events Unit work cooperatively with each other and ACTC provides marketing and promotional assistance to some programs run by the Special Events Unit.

7.

a) The basis for the findings by Ernst and Young on Floriade 2004 is research conducted on site. The direct expenditure captures the direct spending increase in the ACT that is attributable to the staging of the event and involves the spending of all visitors who specifically come to the ACT, or extend their stay to attend Floriade. When assessing the impact on the ACT economy, expenditure by ACT residents is excluded from the assessment. This treatment is based on the assumption that people attending the event who reside within the ACT are most likely using funds already committed to recreational activities within the territory, and thus no additional benefit is accrued to the ACT. That is, spending simply switches from alternative goods and services.

The direct expenditure of visitors is derived from:

- The number of visitors attracted to the ACT because of the event;
- The duration of stay of these visitors; and
- The level of spending of these visitors during their stay

b) Ernst and Young is a highly reputable firm experienced in event evaluation. Their conclusions are not influenced by ACTC

8. The question of a permanent site is still an issue that is being considered by Government and discussions will continue on this issue with a view to a resolution. Commonwealth Park is the preferred option for a permanent site

9.

a) The attached list gives an outline of the nature of the 'other commitments' valued at $6 million, that are payable within one year

b) The attached list gives an outline of the nature of the 'other commitments' valued at $5.1 million, that are payable within five years.

c) Commitments are not liabilities but are intentions to create liabilities. A commitment is a potential obligation that may become a liability if and when performance under existing contracts, agreements or legislation occurs. Commitments are usually evidenced by agreements e.g. a contract. A commitment will generally become a liability when the intention to sacrifice future economic benefit becomes a present obligation e.g. when an agency has received the goods or service or asset and is obliged to pay for it. The following is an extract (Paragraph 59) from Statement of Accounting Concepts 4 (SAC 4) which outlines the difference between a commitment and a liability.

It is important to distinguish between present obligations and future commitments to ensure that too wide a definition of liabilities is not adopted. The mere intention to sacrifice economic benefits in the future is not sufficient to give rise to a liability. For example, the management *of an entity may decide to acquire assets in the future. Such a decision does not, of itself, create a present obligation. A liability would normally only arise when the entity had acquired the assets and was obliged to pay for them. Further, the formal adoption of a budget, the passing of appropriation legislation or the establishment of a grant programme by a government do not, of themselves, create present obligations for the government. Only on the subsequent placing of orders or approval of grant applications does a present obligation arise*

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Tourism
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 13 January 2006

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TOURISM CORPORATION
EXTRACT FROM NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR CONSOLIDATION PACK
30-Jun-05

Other Commitments

Nature of Commitment	Party Involved	Less than 1 year $'000	Later than 1 yr but less than 5 yrs $'000
Other Commitments			
Event PR	Morris Walker	77.0	38.5
National Capital Tourism Education Program	National Capital Authority	200.0	400.0
Advertising Agency	Leap Agency	1,500.0	0.0
Security/Traffic Management Floriade	Sydney Night Patrol & Inquiry Co P/L	127.0	127.0
Funding	Australian Science Festival	270.6	270.6
Kanga Cup Funding	ACT Soccer Federation Inc	66.0	66.0
Funding	Canberra Convention Bureau	795.0	2,385.0
Hoeckers & Fitout Floriade	Pages Hire Centre (NSW) P/L	100.0	100.0
Printing Services Panel	Various	1,000.0	1,000.0
Horticultural Maintenance Floriade	CityScape Services	950.0	0.0
Provision of Plants Floriade	Yarralumla Nursery (Urban Serv)	109.3	218.7
Landscape Design Services Floriade	Landscapealign	66.0	132.0
Consumer Research	Roy Morgan Research	110.2	55.0
Miscellaneous Contract <$100k	Various Contractors	608.4	333.7
Sub Total		5,979.5	5,126.5

PAC 50 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Minister for Industrial Relations

Mrs Burke asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Chief Minister's Department Annual Report:

1. What results have arisen from the work place child-care feasibility study?

2. What cost benefits will there be to employers and employees through any provision of 'on-site' child care facilities?

3. What role would government take in the provision of any facilities that would assist families to gain access to childcare?

Minister Gallagher - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The report prepared as a part of the work-based childcare feasibility study contains a range of recommendations that are currently being considered.

2. The cost benefits for employees through the provision of work-based childcare vary, depending on each individual family's financial arrangements and their current childcare arrangements.

3. The ACT Government has an active role in assisting families gain access to childcare. The Territory is the Crown Lessee of 47 blocks of land on which early childhood centres have been established. The premises are located across Canberra and are sub-let by the Territory to non-government organisations for the express purpose of operating a childcare centre.

   The ACT Government provides funding to nine non-government organisations to assist with the provision of early childhood places on a permanent part-time, casual and emergency basis.

   The ACT Government is also responsible for licensing children's services under the *Children and Young People Act 1999*.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Industrial Relations
Ms Katy Gallagher MLA
Date: 18 November 2005

PAC 51 Mr Bill STEFANIAK MLA Minister for Economic Development

Mr Stefaniak asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Chief Executive Review:

Page 50
ACTTAB has five senior executives. Could you provide me, on notice, with details on exactly what each of those positions does?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

a)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE/MANAGING DIRECTOR

ORGANISATION POSITION
- Reports through the Chairman to the Board.
- Chief Executive/Managing Director.
- Member of the ACTTAB Board (subject to specific personal appointment).
- Directly responsible for the planning, management and operations of the Company.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- To advise the Board on all matters relating to the day to day operations and future development of ACTTAB.
- To develop, maintain and motivate a quality team of management professionals responsible for specific parts of the business.
- To maximise profitability and ensure sustainable returns to stakeholders (ACT Government and the ACT racing industry), including the long term sustainability of the business.
- To ensure that the provision of all business activities or functions are in accordance with the relevant legislation and regulations.
- To control the preparation of the Company's Annual Budget for Board approval.
- To be responsible for the control and direction of all financial, accounting and administrative activities required by the Board, the Shareholders, the Government and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.
- To report comprehensively to the Board on the operation and performance of the Company.
- To ensure a high level of compliance by all management staff on matters relating to corporate governance.

- To establish and maintain an effective working relationship with the ACT Government, racing industry bodies, strategic business partners, and other stakeholders.
- To oversee the creation and implementation of ACTTAB's Annual Business Plan, Five-Year Strategic Plan and Statement of Corporate Intent.
- To ensure that ACTTAB's Annual Accounts and Report are prepared and approved by the Board for submission to Government in the required timeframe.
- To be responsible for the achievement of unqualified audit reports.
- To set direction and drive the planning and co-ordination of marketing activities for the Company.
- To oversee any special projects being conducted at the direction of the Board.
- To manage the liaison processes between ACTTAB, the Shareholders and the relevant Government agencies and departments.
- To implement the process of ACTTAB's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.
- To ensure the implementation of ACTTAB's responsibilities under the Occupational Health & Safety and Equal Employment Opportunities Acts.
- To ensure the implementation of corporate policies and procedures required by the Discrimination Act.
- Co-ordinate the preparation of strategic advice on financial and budget matters for the Board.
- To exercise approved delegations with care and responsibility.
- To provide reports to the Board as and when required.

b)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

<u>ORGANISATION POSITION</u>

Direct, control and administer the financial activities of ACTTAB. Prepare appropriate financial assessments, accounting records and other information to allow the Board and senior management to make informed business decisions and thereby improve ACTTAB's performance and profitability.

<u>FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</u>

- Establish and direct ACTTAB's financial administrative activities and operational procedures.
- Contribute to the overall leadership of ACTTAB and plan its financial operations.
- Direct and review the analysis and interpretation of statistical and accounting information for use in management decision making.
- Review and analyse operating results in relation to cost, budgets and operating policies; consolidate capital asset, maintenance and operating budgets.
- Direct the development of short and longer term financial policies, objectives and plans, and lead the implementation of agreed financial plans.

- Co-ordinate and prepare all corporate and financial reports as required by the Board, shareholders, Government and the ASC.
- Evaluate capital expenditure proposals and ensure they comply with budgets and approval systems.
- Maintain a regular review of income and expenditure to ensure cash flow is adequate to meet future business needs.
- Direct the preparation of required regular reports of liquidity, profit and loss, debtors/creditors, sales and capital expenditure including the preparation of related management information material.
- Interpret operating results as they affect the financial position of the corporation and make recommendations for cost reduction and profit improvement.
- Supervise maintenance of the Company chart of accounts; assign new classifications and cost codes as may be necessary; ensure correct and accurate accounting classification of all expenditures and documents.
- Service ACTTAB's Audit Committee and direct its internal audit function.
- Direct all procedures necessary for the audit of ACTTAB’s operations by the Auditor General.
- Direct and control general accounting functions to optimise the utilisation of accounting staff.
- Control the selection and training of finance staff, establish lines of control and delegate responsibilities to subordinate staff.
- Ensure activities comply with relevant Acts, Regulations, Codes, legal demands and professional and ethical standards.

c)

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

ORGANISATION POSITION:

Plan, direct and control ACTTAB's information and business support systems and co-ordinate the effective design, implementation and operation of IT systems and applications.

FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plan and formulate Information Systems policy to meet the current and future needs of ACTTAB.
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of emerging technologies and their potential commercial application to ACTTAB's business.
- Contribute to the overall leadership of ACTTAB.
- Plan, develop and direct the introduction and operation of IT systems, and their development, maintenance and operating priorities.
- Plan, recommend and co-ordinate all investigations, feasibility studies and surveys of proposed and existing IT and machine applications to achieve systems efficiencies and business objectives.

- Direct the selection, installation and use of computing equipment and software.
- Direct maintenance work and quality control to ensure the efficient and timely operation of ACTTAB's information systems.
- Control the security of information systems.
- Monitor and regularly report on IT operations and develop improvements.
- Make policy decisions, and accept responsibility for operations, performance of staff, achievement of objectives and adherence to budgets.
- Control the selection, development and training of IT professionals and other staff, and monitor their performance.
- Control the allocation of staffing within IT locations.
- Ensure activities comply with relevant Acts, Regulations, Codes, legal demands and professional and ethical standards.

d)

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

<u>ORGANISATION POSITION</u>

Plan, direct and control ACTTAB's operational activities to achieve business goals and profit targets.

<u>FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</u>

- Direct ACTTAB's operations (Branches, On-Course, Account Betting, VIPs, Agency and Sub-Agency outlets and control Centre) to ensure the current and future plans of ACTTAB are met.
- Contribute to the overall leadership of ACTTAB.
- Establish operational objectives, policies and programs within the context of the overall ACTTAB business plan and determine standards, and set targets.
- Provide periodic reports to the Chief Executive and the Board on operational issues and results.
- Develop procedures, processes and controls to ensure operations are conducted in an efficient and economic manner consistent with ACTTAB's standards, in particular focusing on improving services to customers.
- Oversee and direct the activities of Branches, On-Course, Agency and Sub-Agency outlets in the achievement of business objectives and standards.
- Oversee and direct the activities of Raceday Control and Racelist services to ensure all objectives and standards are met.
- Oversee and direct the activities of Account Betting and VIP services to enhance customer service and business performance.
- Oversee the preparation of Branch, Agency, etc. operations' business forecasts, budgets and reports on aspects of profitability, capital expenditure and operation performance where appropriate.
- Lead group business planning and oversee monitoring of competitor activities and performance in preparing future plans and strategies.

- Develop and review marketing plans and opportunities to promote the organisation's products and services.
- Monitor revenue and expenditure in all operational areas, to ensure attainment of profit objectives, consistent with ACTTAB standards.
- Direct and supervise the opening of new operations, including staffing, equipment, licences, signage, etc.
- Provide overall direction and management of Branch and operational staff to ensure the Company's operating policies and procedures are maintained and to review the performance of those areas of responsibility.
- Direct the development and implementation of standards of performance and training for Agents, Agency staff and sub-agency outlet operators.
- Select, or approve the selection and training of staff. Establish lines of control and delegate responsibilities to subordinate staff.
- Ensure activities comply with relevant Acts, Regulations, Codes, legal demands and professional and ethical standards.

e)

GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

<u>ORGANISATION POSITION</u>

Lead, co-ordinate and develop overall Corporate policy, systems development and measurement (monitoring and reporting) to drive business performance and conformance within Corporate governance requirements.

<u>FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</u>

- Lead and develop appropriate strategies, policies and procedures to support ACTTAB's business - including:
- Strategic and Business Planning
- Strategic HR (eg, Performance Management / Succession Planning)
- Operational IR/HR (eg, EBAs, recruitment policy and procedures, employment agreements, personnel administration)
- OH&S
- Government Relations
- Head Office facilities and general services
- Procurement and contracting for major supplies.
- Contribute to the overall leadership of ACTTAB.
- Maintain an up-to-date knowledge of emerging business/societal/etc issues and their potential impact and/or commercial application to ACTTAB's business and/or leadership.
- Develop and establish the necessary procedures and measurement processes and controls to ensure effective monitoring and regular reporting of all Corporate Governance matters to achieve and maintain compliance.

- Lead, oversee, direct and/or co-ordinate key Corporate and business projects, as defined, from time to time.
- Assist the Chief Executive and senior management in defining and implementing corporate strategy, policies and procedures.
- Ensure the Chief Executive and senior management are informed of political and economic factors which may influence or impact business strategy.
- Negotiate the sale of product developments not exploited by the Company or purchase licences/agencies for new products developed by other organisations.
- Review and evaluate proposals for major capital expenditure and/or major investments to ensure conformity with corporate plans and justification on economic grounds.
- Maintain necessary contact and relationships with key customers, industry associations and Government representatives.
- Select, or approve the selection and training of (subordinate and project) staff. Establish lines of control and delegate responsibilities to subordinate staff.
- Ensure activities comply with relevant Acts, Regulations, Codes, legal demands and professional and ethical standards.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 21 November 2005

PAC 52 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Racing and Gaming

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the ACTTAB Annual Report:

> On page 28 of your Annual Report you state that ACTTAB continues to apply appropriate management practices that are consistent with the practices of ecologically sustainable development. Could you please explain what management practices you were referring to as ecologically sustainable?

Minister Quinlan: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> In terms of the Corporation's day to day operations, the management practices referred to include practical energy conservation as well as the recycling of paper, cardboard and printer cartridges. As a major consumer of these products, ACTTAB is committed to reducing energy consumption and employing recycling practices .
>
> Consideration has also been given to ecologically sustainable development in the planning of the relocation of the ACTTAB Head Office to Gungahlin. ACTTAB has placed an obligation on the developer to provide an energy efficient tenancy, with a number of inclusions such as double glazing, external shading panels, a low energy mechanical system, energy efficient lighting, insulation (perimeter and internal walls, and roof), and incorporation of control strategies for energy cycles.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Racing and Gaming
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 21 November 2005

PAC 53 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Small and Micro Business Advisory Council:

Page 17
Can I have a list of all the new appointments to the small and Micro Business Advisory Council.

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The list of new appointments to the Small and Micro Business Advisory Council is as follows:

Dr Michael Schaper (Chair)	ACT Small Business Commissioner
Mr Jonathan Brake	Momentum:tmc
Mr Paul Coker	Canberra Business Advisory Service
Ms Anne Croft	Om Shanti College
Ms Barbara Knackstedt	Business Network International ACT/NSW Tablelands
Mr John Malkovich	SOS Recruitment
Ms Lisa Materano	Blended Leaning International
Ms Anna Pino	National Eyecare Management Organisation
Mr Ezio Senatore	Senatore Brennan Rashid Chartered Accountants
Dr Ann Villiers	Mental Nutrition

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 23 November 2005

PAC 54 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Business ACT:

> Provide a copy of information from the Australian Education International about where we are getting our overseas students from.

Mr QUINLAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> The information from the Australian Education International about where we are getting our overseas students from is attached.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 21 November 2005

PAC 55 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Minister for Economic Development

Dr Foskey asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Department of Economic Development Annual Report, Business ACT:

1. Provide a list of Government activities and programs which can assist people on lower incomes into business.

2. Provide a copy of the programs information booklet from BusinessACT.

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1.
- Canberra Business Advisory Service
- Accelerating Business Innovation Program
- Business Seminars
- Indigenous Business Support
- ACT Business Licence Information Service
- Office of the Small Business Commissioner
- Business Entry Point
- Buyers and Sellers Information Service

2. A copy of the Tools for Business Growth booklet has been provided.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Economic Development and Business
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 21 November 2005

PAC 56 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Minister for Industrial Relations

Mr Mulcahy asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the ACT Construction Industry Long Service Leave Board Annual Report

"I have a couple of questions, Minister, on pages 21 to 24. It says there that the board budgeted a $0.874 million surplus but that the board reported an operating deficit of $1.29 million due to the actuarial liability for long service leave being recalculated from $2.5 million to $5 million. I wonder if you could advise the committee what the reasons were for the doubling of the long service leave actuarial liability?…

…What is the basis for the assumption that the actuarial liability will stabilise at the new level?" (from page 7 Public Accounts Hansard 8/11/05)

Minister Gallagher – The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Committee of the Registrar's response to this question is:

"The major drivers of the level of the Scheme's actuarial liability are:

- *The level of wages in the building and construction industry, and*
- *The number of employees and contractors registered in the Scheme.*

The industry experienced buoyant conditions in the ACT over 2004/2005 and the result was:

- *The average wage for payments made in 2004/2005 was 9.4% more than that for 2003/2004, an increase which was considerably higher than anticipated, and*

- *The number of registered members in the Scheme increased over the year by 19% on a full-time equivalent basis.*

These factors contributed to the increase in the actuarial liability of $ 5.016 million over the year. The Board had budgeted for a $2.5m increase

Buoyant industry conditions may also lead to employees deferring taking leave, which will further contribute to an increase in the Scheme's liabilities.

It is expected that the industry will continue to experience high rates of activity over the next few years and hence that the above factors are likely to recur. While it is not possible to predict the extent of change in these factors, we expect some moderation from the 2004/2005 levels. The *budgeted change in the actuarial liability for 2005/2006 is therefore $3.5 million which is less than the observed figure for 2004/2005 but $1.2 million more than occurred in 2003/2004.*

The Actuary has supported this figure."

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Industrial Relations
Ms Katy Gallagher
Date: 25 November 2005

PAC 57 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Chief Minister

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to Page 66, volume 1 of the annual Report 2004-05:

1. It is noted that a heritage trail will be constructed on Red Hill to promote tourism and heritage awareness. If this is the case, can you clarify why it was indicated in an answer to QoN 585 that no such work is being undertaken on a heritage walk and the Department of Urban Services and the Red Hill Regenerators Park Care Group are unable to clarify that work was being undertaken to construct the trail; and

2. What forms of consultation was required with the traditional Ngunnawal land owners in the development of the heritage trails in the ACT.

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Red Hill is a site on the third of three heritage trails to be marketed as *Canberra Tracks*. These are self-drive travel routes that provide strong storylines connecting different sites and provide a quality experience for visitors and Canberrans. The first heritage trail is referred to as Ngunnawal Country, the second is The Limestone Plain (pre 1911) and the third is Looking at Canberra (post 1911).

   There is no heritage *walk* proposed for Red Hill. This has been confirmed by the manager of Canberra Nature Parks, East District, Daniel Iglesias. Interpretive signs, as part of *Canberra Tracks*, will be installed at the first lay-by on Red Hill Drive and again at the larger lookout.

2. Consultation has taken place with the three Recognised Aboriginal Organisations (RAOs) in relation to the first heritage trail, which explores the Aboriginal heritage of the ACT. This has consisted of meeting with Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation, the Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation and the Interim Namadgi Advisory Board & Ngunnawal Local Aboriginal Land Council

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 9December 2005

PAC 58 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Chief Minister

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to Page 34, Volume 1 of the Annual Report 2004/05:

> What work has commenced on reviewing the operations of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council; What role does the Chief Minister expect this Council will play if an elected body is installed in the ACT?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs engaged the services of a consultant early in February 2005 to start work with the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC) on an Action Plan.
>
> The consultant continued this work with the Council over a two day meeting in August 2005 involving both members and alternates. A draft charter was developed from this process and this has been circulated to the broader Ngunnawal community for input and comment.
>
> It is envisaged that any future elected Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander body would acknowledge the role of the UNEC in the provision of advice to the Chief Minister on cultural and heritage issues of particular relevance to Ngunnawal people.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 9December 2005

PAC 59 Mrs Jacqui BURKE MLA Chief Minister

Mrs Burke asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to Page 34, Volume 1 of the Annual Report 2004/05:

> The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Consultative Council has released its Strategic Plan 2004-07 that identifies key goals that will advance the status of Indigenous people in the ACT. Why does the ACT then require another body, particularly an elected council, if the ATSI Community Consultative Council is effectively advising the Chief Minister?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> Following the abolition of ATSIC and its Regional Councils, the ACT Government's response has been to commence a process of community consultation to see what new form of representative arrangements would best meet the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait people of the ACT in the post-ATSIC era.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 9 December 2005

PAC 60 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Chief Minister

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Public Service Commissioner and other senior employees:

1. why does the Commissioner not prepare a separate financial report;

2. why does the CMD Annual Report not separate out the Commissioner's financials if that is where she is required to report;

3. is a separate financial report prepared for this Commissioner, if so can this report be provided to the committee;

4. in any event, what costs are incurred by the ACT taxpayer in paying for these arrangements for the Commissioner:
   - travel
   - accommodation
   - car hire and associated costs
   - other expenses
   - any expenses incurred by her spouse

5. how many senior executives, including the Commissioner for Public Administration and other statutory appointments, live outside of the ACT [that is, they live in Sydney, Melbourne or an equivalent distance away from Canberra]

6. why does this person/do these people commute to Canberra rather than live here when performing such significant work;

7. what costs are incurred by the ACT taxpayer in paying for these arrangements for:
   - travel
   - accommodation
   - car hire and associated costs
   - other expenses
   - any expenses incurred by spouses

8. will the Commissioner publish a State of the Service report for 2005-06; if such a report is not to be published, what are the reasons for discontinuing this report.

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As the Commissioner's Annual Report makes clear, the Commissioner had no separate staffing or administrative budget during the reporting period. Staffing and administrative resources necessary to support the Commissioner were provided and funded by the Chief Minister's Department.

2. See response to question 1 above.

3. See response to question 1 above.

4. Where the Commissioner is required to travel on official business then the costs of travel, accommodation and related costs are an administrative cost funded by the Chief Minister's Department. There are no spouse expenses in relation to the current Commissioner. On appointment the Commissioner was entitled to certain relocation assistance payments in accordance with the relevant Determination of the ACT Remuneration Tribunal in line with other Statutory Office Holders and Executives appointed from interstate.

5. Advice from ACTPS Departments and Agencies indicates that there are no Executives or other Statutory Appointees living interstate.

6. See response to question 5 above.

7. See response to question 5 above.

8. The State of the Service Report is one of the ways in which the Commissioner currently meets her responsibilities, under section 20(1)(a) of the Public Sector Management Act, to advise the Chief Minister on the management of the service as a whole. There is no statutory requirement to produce a State of the Service Report and the form and content may vary, depending on issues and resources. The Report has been produced annually since 2001. The Commissioner is planning to publish a State of the Service Report for 2005-06.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 12 December 2005

PAC 61 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Chief Minister

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

Brendan Smyth MLA : To ask the Chief Minister– in relation to ACT Public Sector Annual Reports:

This year there have been a number of annual reports that have either been reissued or had corrigenda issued:

- the annual report for **ACT Policing** was reissued with "Revised" stamped on the cover – but there was no indication of what changes had been in the reissued version
- the annual report from **ESA** was revised and reprinted – and the major, but not all, changes were indicated
- the annual report for the **Community and Health Services Complaints Commissioner** was reissued in a different format – again, there was no indication of what changes, if any, had been made to it
- the annual report for the **ACT Gambling and Racing Commission** reissued 17 pages of its annual report – again, there was no indication of what changes had been made to this part of that report
- a corrigendum was issued for the annual report for **ACTTAB Limited**
- on 23 November, there was a corrigendum for the **Chief Minister's Department** annual report
- on 24 November 2005, the annual report from **Totalcare** was finally issued two months late
- on 28 November (that is, the day before the actual hearing), **ACT Health** issued a corrigendum relating to a most serious omission from their A/R

1. why were three annual reports reissued in their entirety;

2. what costs were incurred by the ACT taxpayers in funding this apparent waste

3. were there any changes identified in the **ACT Policing** annual report; if not, why not;

4. were there any changes identified in the **Complaints Commissioner** annual report; if not, why not;

5. what changes were made to the annual report from the **ACT Gambling and Racing Commission;**

6. why did you permit the annual report from the **Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services** to be issued when it comprises three volumes and 987 pages - does this not contradict the requirement in the annual report directions that, amongst other requirements, an annual report should "[follow] the principles of good design and communication to produce a report that is informative, attractive and easy to read"

7. why was the annual report from **Totalcare** issued so late;

8. why did **ACT Health** not read the Annual Reports Direction and not include a detailed analysis of staff;

THIS QUESTION WAS REDIRECTED TO THE RELEVANT MINISTERS

PAC 61(parts 1(i), 2(i), 3) Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Minister for Police and Emergency Services

In relation to ACT Public Sector Annual Reports.

This year there have been a number of annual reports that have either been reissued or had corrigenda issued:

The annual report for ACT Policing was reissued with "Revised" stamped on the cover – but there was no indication of what changes had been in the reissued version.

1. (i) Why were three annual reports reissued in their entirety;

2. (i) What costs were incurred by the ACT taxpayers in funding this apparent waste;

3. Were there any changes identified in the ACT Policing annual report; if not, why not.

Minister Hargreaves - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. (i) The ACT Policing Annual Report was not reissued. An initial print of 40 copies was produced to meet the deadline for submission to the Speaker. A number of minor errors were identified after this date and prior to the final print run. These errors were corrected prior to the final print process and the initially distributed copies were replaced with the final edited copy.

2. (i)The total cost of printing and distributing the 2004-2005 ACT Policing Annual Report was $15 950;

3. Changes to the ACT Policing Annual Report included alteration of details on page 44 regarding the results of a post-mortem and the addition of various headings on pages 20, 21 and 133. The opportunity was also taken to correct a small number of typographical errors. These changes were not identified because, as stated above, the small number of initially distributed copies were replaced with the final edited version.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for Police and Emergency Services
John Hargreaves
Date: 31 January 2006

PAC 61 (parts 1(ii), 2(ii), 8) Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Minister for Health

In relation to the 2004-05 ACT Health Annual Report:

On 28 November (that is , the day before the actual hearing), ACT Health issued a corrigendum relating to a most serious omission from their Annual Report.

1.(ii) Why were there three annual reports reissued in their entirety;

2. (ii) What costs were incurred by the ACT taxpayers in funding this apparent waste

8. Why did ACT Health not read the Annual Reports Direction and not include a detailed analysis of staff;

Minister Corbell - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1.(ii) ACT Health issued a corrigendum relating to an omission from the ACT Health 2004-05 Annual Report. However,
Of the three Annual Reports reissued only one related to my portfolio – the Annual Report of the Community and Health Services Complaints Commissioner The reason why this report was tabled in a different format to that distributed out of session was that it was being published at the time copies were required for out of session distribution. The Commissioner arranged for 50 copies of the annual report to be printed and distributed. Subsequently, the Commissioner made some small editorial changes in the final proof process. The published annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

2.(ii) The costs incurred were:
$11,609 (layout and editing - $7,418 and publishing - $4,191) for the cost of preparing the 2004-05 annual report and;
fifty printed copies for the purposes of distribution out of session were produced at a cost of $579.70.

8. ACT Health did read the Annual Reports Direction. The table outlining ACT Health's staffing profile was inadvertently omitted from the printed version of the ACT Health 2004/05 Annual Report. This omission was rectified in the corrigendum issued on 28 November, thus complying with the Annual Report Directions. The annual report for which ACT Health is responsible did not have to be reissued and, therefore, no additional costs were incurred.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Disability

By the Minister for Health
Mr Simon Corbell
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 61(part 4) Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Minister for Health

Mr Smyth asked the Minister upon notice:

In relation to the 2004-05 ACT Health Annual Report:

> The annual report for the Community and Health Services Complaints Commissioner was reissued in a different format – again , there was no indication of what changes, if any, had been made to it
>
> Were there any changes identified in the Complaints Commissioner annual report; if not, why not?

Minister Corbell - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> The annual report for 2004-05 was being published at the time copies were required for out of session distribution to the Legislative Assembly at the end of September 2005. The Commissioner arranged for 50 copies of the annual report to be printed. These copies were made available on 23 September 2005 for out of session distribution.
>
> Subsequently, the Commissioner made some small editorial changes to the annual report in the final proof process for publishing. No amendments were made to the Commissioner's account of the operations of the office, apart from the most minor editing. The published annual report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.
>
> The Commissioner did not know of the requirement that the published copies of the annual report tabled in October be exactly the same as the printed copies of the annual report distributed out of session, or for the latter to be marked 'Revised'.
>
> In producing the annual report, the Commissioner followed the Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2004-2005. The guidance provided on the provisions relating to out of session tabling of annual reports made no mention of the above requirement. Although an e-mail was received by the Commissioner's office on 7 September 2005 about annual report distribution out of session and tabling arrangements, the requirements were not otherwise brought to the attention of the Commissioner.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Disability

By the Minister for Health
Mr Simon Corbell
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 61 (part 6) Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Minister for Disability, Housing & Community Services

6. Why did you permit the Annual Report of the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services to be issued when it comprises three volumes and 987 pages – does this not contradict the requirement of the Annual Report directions that, amongst other requirements, an Annual Report should 'follow the principles of good design and communication to produce a report that is informative, attractive and easy to read."

Minister Hargreaves - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

6. The 2004-05 Annual Report for the Department, which includes three volumes, details the third year of the Department's operations. As I stated during the Standing Committee Hearing on the Annual Report, "this Department's particular Annual Report is the easiest one to read and the most beautifully presented. It has been done with a great deal of professionalism and I believe it details quite specifically what the Department has done both internally and in partnership with the community. It is probably the most complete and easy to read Annual Report provided to the Assembly out of all those I have seen, including reports of my other Departments."

You would be aware that the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services had four new areas incorporated into its structure in November 2004. These were: Multicultural Affairs and Community Development, Vardon Report Implementation Team, and the Office for Children, Youth and Family Support and Child and Family Centres. The addition of these sections into the Department has increased the content volume of the Annual Report for 2004-05, in particular its implementation of Government Commitments.

The accessibility of the Report is a major concern for the Department and its clients. Therefore you will notice that the font size and binding is different to other Annual Reports to allow those with disabilities including sight impairments the opportunity to pursue the report with reduced difficulty.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Disability

By the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services
Mr John Hargreaves
Date: 10 January 2006

PAC 61(part 7) Mr Brendan Smyth MLA Treasurer

In relation to the ACT Public Sector Annual Reports:

7. Why was the annual report from **Totalcare** issued so late?

Minister Quinlan - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

7. This matter is covered in my 1 December 2005 response to a Question from Mr Mulcahy.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 20 December 2005

PAC 62 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Chief Minister

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Office of Special Adviser, Council of Australian Governments and Intergovernmental Relations (OSA):

1. How much was spent on the OSA between 1 July 2004 and 30 April 2005;

2. Did the OSA exist as at 1 July 2004;

3. What activities were undertaken by this Office from and after 1 July 2004;

4. What benefit was received by ACT taxpayers as a result of these activities,

5. Why is there no report on these activities in this Annual Report;

6. How can this Annual Report be ‘an honest and accurate account’ (from the CEO transmittal) when this information is missing;

7. Why is there no reference to the activities of the OSA in the section on inter-governmental processes;

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. $253,511.

2. Yes.

3. As indicated in last year’s report, after coordination of the National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management, Mr Tonkin remained on secondment working on national security issues. This continued after 1 July 2004.

4. These were matters of wider national interest as well as to the ACT community given our position and role as the nation’s capital.

5. There was no legal requirement to report.

6. It is not practicable to report all activities in the department. Activities material to the operations of the department are reported.

7. See above.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 9 December 2005

PAC 63 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Chief Minister

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to the annual report of the Chief Minister's department and the Community Inclusion Fund:

1. What is the ongoing cost of the Board in sitting fees; salaries; admin; other costs;

2. What funds have been dispersed so far by the Board from the Fund;

3. Where are the details of these grants in the Annual Report;

4. If they are the grants listed on pp176-77 why are these grants not referenced as having been made by the Community Inclusion Board;

5. What is the process for assessment and evaluation of the use of these grants;

6. What are the outcomes from the grants so far;

7. Why is the value of the grant for Canberra City, Uniting Church in Australia/Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services shows as $49,937 in the original version of the annual report and yet the value is shown as $30,000 in the corrigendum to this annual report.

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:

1. The ongoing costs of the Community Inclusion Board for 2005/06 are:

Board Remuneration:	$106,000
Secretariat Salaries:	$262,000
Admin:	$22,000
Community Inclusion Projects & Research:	$273,500

This includes the 2004/05 roll-over of $97,500 for projects and research.

2. A total of $597,780 was provided to Community Inclusion Fund recipients in the 2004-05 financial year. As of 30 November 2005 a further $424,004 has been paid since the start of the 2005-06 financial year. The total value of the 2004 Round grants over 3 years is $3,245,233.

3. Details of Community Inclusion Fund grants are provided on pp. 176-177 of the 2004-05 Annual Report. A corrigendum provided on 24 November 2005 adjusted the incorrect figures provided in the published report.

4. The Community Inclusion Board is not referenced because the Board's role is limited to providing advice on applications made to the Fund. The Fund and individual Deeds of Grant are administered by the Chief Minister's Department.

5. The assessment of Community Inclusion Fund applications includes an initial assessment against eligibility criteria; a more detailed assessment against published selection criteria by officers from the Chief Minister's Department in collaboration with staff from other ACT Government agencies with relevant expertise; and referral of the results of this process to the Community Inclusion Board in order that the Board may provide advice to me. Projects are being evaluated on an ongoing basis, with Fund recipients providing quarterly reports against those scheduled activities and performance measures stipulated within their Deeds of Grant.

6. The 15 projects funded in the 2004 Round are all progressing well and developing their activities in accordance with their project plans. They are providing positive outcomes for their target groups which include the frail aged, homeless, young people at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system, socially isolated mothers, refugees and migrants, Indigenous youth, children with a disability, students at risk of not completing their secondary education and sufferers of chronic fatigue.

7. The total figure shown in the published 2004-05 Annual Report incorrectly included an amount for an invoice which was not processed in the 2004-05 financial year.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 3 December 2005

PAC 64 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Auditor-General

Mr Mulcahy asked the Auditor-General upon notice:

"In view of the very detailed and prescriptive nature of the Annual Report Directions,

1. What are your views on the desirability of simplifying the Directions whilst providing accurate and useful information to the public on what services are provided, why they are provided, their quality and how efficiently they are delivered?

2. If you were asked to rewrite the Annual Report Directions, what are the main changes you would make?"

Auditor-General - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Auditor-General's Office conducted a performance audit on 'Effectiveness of Annual Reporting' in 2003 (Report No. 1 of 2003), which included recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of annual reports as a key accountability document in the public sector. Many of the issues raised in this Report have since been addressed through amendments to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*, the *Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions*, and administrative practices.

   The Office has not recently reviewed the effectiveness of the Annual Reports Directions (the Directions) and, given the short timeframe, is not in the position to provide comprehensive advice.

   We offer the following observations based on the Office's experience in reporting under the Directions, a brief examination of the Annual Reports Directions for 2004-05, and review of several reports prepared under the Directions.

   - The Directions are comprehensive with sufficient detail in most parts to guide agencies in the preparation of their annual reports. The Directions prescribe a structure for annual reports that seeks to apply consistency in public accountability and statutory reporting requirements across the public sector.

   - To assist agencies in meeting their reporting obligations, the Directions include relevant contact details for each reporting requirement.

- Section 3.1 of the Directions clearly communicates the characteristics of an effective annual report. The characteristics highlighted are sound. They are, for example, consistent with better practice principles articulated by the NSW Audit Office in *Reporting Performance: A guide to preparing performance information for annual reports*.[1]

- A recurring theme in the Directions is the need for the agency to explain its performance in a way that enables the reader to understand the agency, and the performance of the agency in meeting its operational and financial goals. The Directions clearly state that reports are intended to 'provide information about the achievements, issues, performance, outlook and financial position of the agency at the end of each reporting year'.[2]

- The Directions provide adequate scope for agencies to clearly and succinctly explain the positive and negative aspects of their performance. For example, the directions state that 'Significant achievements against the organisational objectives or key result areas should be highlighted, as well as areas of underperformance. The focus must be on the achievement of key objectives and performance rather than a description of activities'.[3]

- Although the Directions are ostensibly about reporting on the 'core' activities of the agency ('an effective annual report will provide a clear picture of the agency's purpose, priorities, outputs and achievements'[4]) there are many additional reporting requirements included, such as statutory reporting obligations and reporting on ACT PS wide priorities and issues.

- Arguably, this creates some confusion of purpose, and adds complexity to the Directions and the annual reports. Agencies with limited resources, especially small agencies, may need to reduce attention to reporting on their delivery of core functions to comply with other reporting requirements.

- Further, there is a risk that the inclusion of many reporting obligations results in the annual report becoming cluttered with information that is relevant to 'the maximum number of users', but may not be directly relevant to the Legislative Assembly or its Committees in assessing an agency's performance in relation to the key services it provides.

---

[1] NSW Audit Office, November 2000. Available from: http://www.audit.nsw.gov.au/publications/better_practice/better_practice.htm
[2] Chief Minister's Annual Report Directions 2004-2005, p3
[3] Op cit, p26
[4] Op cit, p8

2. To achieve the key purposes of annual reporting, the Annual Reports Directions should make a clear distinction between reporting about the performance of agencies in relation to services provided, and reporting against statutory obligations, and public sector priorities and policies.

- Consideration could be given to whether an agency's annual report is the most effective means of providing information/data that seems to be for further analysis by other Government departments (e.g. ACT Women's Plan, Commissioner for the Environment Reporting, Ecologically Sustainable Development, Strategic Bushfire Management).

- To simplify the annual reports, it may be appropriate for the reporting against certain statutory obligations, and public sector priorities and policies to occur through some other reporting mechanism (such as reporting directly to the 'lead agency', for inclusion in a central report by that lead agency). For example:

  - The Office of Sustainability (CMD) can collect and report on agency information on Sustainability and Environment (Section C 2.7 of the current 'Report Template'),

  - The Office of Multicultural Affairs (DHCS) can report on agency implementation of the Multicultural framework (Section B5 of the current 'Report Template'),

  - ACT Human Right Office can report on agency implementation of the Human Rights Act (Section B2 of the current 'Report Template'), and

  - ACT Office for Women can report on agency implementation of the ACT Women's Plan (Section B7 of the current 'Report Template').

- Alternatively, such information could be located in the annual report in a separate section or appendix.

- There is some potential for the information to be better organised to reduce duplication. For example, the Chief Executive review contains reporting of the agency performance and financial results. Some of this information is also reported in key strategic achievements and the agency financial results and analysis of financial performance.

- Any gaps in reporting should be addressed. This would include:

  - revising the Annual Reports Act and Directions to ensure that a report was prepared for any agency that existed during the reporting year, including where an administrative unit is abolished, or the appointment of a Chief Executive is ended, during the course of a reporting year; and

- ensuring that appropriate reports (at the minimum, the audited financial statements) are presented in the Legislative Assembly where the Territory has a 'controlling interest' in an entity (as defined in the Auditor-General's Act). There is presently no requirement for the audited financial statements of the several entities audited by the Office to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, including the ActewAGL Joint Venture, TransACT Communications Pty Limited, ECOWISE Environmental Pty Limited CIT Solutions Pty Limited and the Canberra Business Development Fund.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the ACT Auditor-General
Ms Tu Pham
Date: 9 December 2005

PAC 65 Mr Richard MULCAHY The Speaker

Mr Mulcahy asked the Speaker upon notice:

1. Please advise the names of all individuals working in the Legislative Assembly who hold credit cards with direct charging back to the Legislative Assembly or the ACT Government?

2. How much has each cardholder spent on their card during the financial year ended 30 June 2005?

3. What is the total value of credit card charges incurred in relation to the provision of hospitality?

The Speaker – The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The table below shows:

1. The names of all Legislative Assembly Secretariat staff[5] who hold credit cards with direct charging back to the Legislative Assembly;
2. How much each cardholder spent on their card during the financial year ended 30 June 2005;
3. Where those amounts include expenses relating to the provision of hospitality, the amount of those expenses

Officer's Name	Amount spent during 2004-05 financial year	Amount of any hospitality included in total
Judy Munday	$26,111.34	$1,981.59
Barry Schilg	$18,075.83	$974.16
Shirley Platt	$4,075.62	
Tom Duncan	$4,979.47	$130.50
Ian Duckworth	$301.20	

[5] There are no credit cards issued by the Secretariat to non-Executive MLAs or to their staff. The answer to this question does not deal with Executive MLAs or their staff, details of which would need to be obtained from the Chief Minister's Department

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Speaker
Mr Wayne Berry
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 66 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Treasurer

Mr Mulcahy asked the Treasurer upon notice:

In relation to Totalcare's Annual Report:

> Totalcare is listed as a controlled entity of the ACT government. I am aware of all the changes there. It is on page 24. Why is there no annual report for that entity for 2004-05? In the same vein, there is an annual report from Rhodium Asset Solutions from 1 January. But for the period 1 July 2004 to 31 December 2004 there is no report on that commercial leasing business, which is valued at about $10 million in terms of annual turnover. Can you help us understand why those reports aren't there?

The Treasurer - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> In response to the Member's question, I can confirm that Totalcare Industries Limited prepared an Annual Report for the 2004-05 financial year and provided that report to the Government.
>
> As the Committee has been previously advised, Totalcare has divested itself of all its business divisions. It remains a corporate shell that is no longer engaged in commercial activity. Totalcare was removed from the schedule of companies to which the *Territory Owned Corporations Act 1990* applies on 12 January 2005. As part of that process, the fleet division was transferred to Rhodium Asset Solutions Limited, effective 31 December 2004. Totalcare ceased commercial operations from the date of transfer. Further, I understand that neither Treasury nor my office received advice from the Committee that Totalcare was on the Committee's agenda. The Annual Report was not tabled due to an oversight and as a consequence of the administrative changes. This will be rectified at the earliest opportunity.
>
> I am happy to provide the Committee with copies of the Totalcare 2004-05 Annual Report and I am also happy to make Ms Deborah Clark (Chief Executive Officer of Rhodium, formerly head of Totalcare's fleet division) and a member of the Totalcare Board available should the Committee have any questions concerning the operations of the Totalcare fleet division up to the date of transfer on 31 December 2004.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Treasurer
Mr Ted Quinlan
Date: 1 December 2005

PAC 67 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Chief Minister

Dr Foskey asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to the Animal Welfare Authority (AWA):

1. As the AWA appoints people as inspectors or authorised officers, does the Government consider that it should help fund inspectors from the RSPCA at the same rate as Government inspectors?

2. If not, why not?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Government indirectly funds the RSPCA inspectors through a Community Service Funding Agreement. The Agreement is for three years from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2008. The Agreement provides $186,459.90 for the 2005-06 year and a similar level of funding will be provided annually for the remainder of the agreement.

   The funding is provided to allow the RSPCA to undertake the following:
   - provision of facilities and resources to accept stray and surrendered companion and domestic animals, and provision of care for sick and injured animals;
   - enforcement of provisions of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 and provision of public education in the care of animals; and
   - undertaking specialised care for the rehabilitation of orphaned, sick and injured native wildlife.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 68 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Chief Minister

Dr Foskey asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to ACTEW profit:

1. Has ACTEW considered investing a proportion of its $71.2m profit into improved energy efficiency options for low income (private and public) tenants?

2. What was the outcome of this consideration?

3. Why did ACTEW and the Minister believe this outcome was the most appropriate one?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. ACTEW Corp Ltd is a corporation wholly owned by the ACT Government. 100% of ACTEW's net profits are returned to the ACT Government as the sole shareholder.

2. N/A

3. N/A

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for the Environment
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 69 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Chief Minister

Dr Foskey asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to Greenhouse Gas reduction policies.

1. Has the government established a loan scheme, as recommended by the Commissioner for the Environment, to facilitate house owners increasing the energy efficiency of their properties, and installing solar hot water heating?

2. What incentives are being offered to landlords of rental houses to increase their water and energy efficiency?

3. Has the government introduced an energy efficiency and water use rating system for commercial buildings?

4. Has the government developed a program to retrofit current public housing to four star energy ratings in the short term, aiming for five star in the medium term?

5. Is there a dedicated person within Environment ACT to drive the implementation of government targets and timelines for government agency reduction of greenhouse gas emissions?

6. Although the Sustainable Transport Plan has targets for shifts in transport modes, has the government introduced annual targets specifically for greenhouse emissions form transport overall in the ACT?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The Government ran the Solar Hot Water Rebate Scheme from May 2003 to May 2005. Over 1,200 solar hot water rebates were provided to ACT residents. This scheme was reviewed and was shown not to be cost-effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

2. The ACT Energy Wise Program began in December 2004 and provides subsidised home energy audits to existing homeowners at a cost to them of $30 (free to concession holders) to identify priority areas for energy efficiency improvement. A refund on the cost of the audit and $500 rebate if the total cost of the eligible energy efficiency improvements undertaken is over $2000 is available.

3. Landlords are able to access the ACT Energy Wise and the Water Tune Ups in the same way as other house owners.

4. The Government is committed to introducing energy and water efficiency requirements for all new commercial and multi storey residential buildings. The Australian Building Codes Board has announced that from 1 May 2006 the Building Code of Australia (BCA) will include energy performance measures for commercial buildings (Classes 5-9). The ACT Government will adopt the measures at the time they are introduced to the BCA. The Government will also continue to investigate the appropriate regulation of the Green Building Council's Greenstar sustainability tool for commercial buildings, which includes criteria for both energy and water efficiency, however, no specific measure has been introduced by the Government.

5. In the 2005/2006 Budget $1 million has been set aside to upgrade selected public housing properties with the aim of increasing energy and water efficiency. The intention is to target high need properties and properties to be retained in the long term. Improving the energy efficiency of properties will lead to a reduction in demand on non-renewable resources and pressure on infrastructure.

6. The Office of Sustainability monitors and reports to the government on greenhouse gas emissions for government agencies.

7. The Government has not introduced annual targets for greenhouse emissions as monitoring this is difficult and emissions reporting has a lag period of about 2 years. There is an overall estimated greenhouse gas saving from the Sustainable Transport Plan of about 14% by 2026.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Minister for the Environment
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 70 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Chief Minister

Dr Foskey asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

In relation to energy reduction:

> The annual report (page 134) refers to the use of recycled paper to reduce the quantity of virgin paper used. Is this 'recycled' paper post-consumer paper, or merely offcuts from the pulp-mill floor, commonly and mistakenly called 'recycled'?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Chief Minister's Department uses various types of recycled paper. The department sources this range of paper from Corporate Express. Corporate Express has partnered with Australian Paper to produce their range of paper. Australian Paper:

- Uses wood fibres from sustainable fibre sources; sawmill residue, plantation fibre, imported pulp and waste paper or other recycled material; and
- Complies with the stringent requirements of International Quality Management Systems:
- ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management
- ISO 14001:1996 Environmental Management.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 71 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Chief Minister

Dr Foskey asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

1. Did the Minister for the Environment consult with the Commissioner for the Environment, or his Environment Department, regarding plans for the Arboretum?

2. If yes, what scope did the consultation involve and what advice did the Commissioner for the Environment provide?

3. Noting there is an "Ecological" focus on rare and endangered tree species, will these species be endemic species to the ACT region?

4. Will expert advice about these endemic species be available to the public or myself?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Environment ACT has been consulted on a range of issues relating to the Canberra International Arboretum and Gardens (CIAG) such as tree selection, land management and preparations for planting. To my knowledge the Commissioner has not requested information on the project.

2. See answer to question 1 above.

3. The proposed focus of the 100 Forests element of the new Arboretum and Gardens is on the conservation of threatened species of trees. True to the vision in Walter Burley Griffin's original plan and in the winning design, the trees will be gathered from around the world and will include Australian trees. A summary of the criteria for the tree selection follows:
   - Focus on tree species that are 'threatened' in the wild. Trees will be selected from lists of 'threatened species' formally defined in the categories of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and conservation dependent based on the IUCN Red List (international), *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Australia) and/or expert advice. In addition, some species may be accepted because they are significant or iconic.
   - Trees must have the potential to perform well on the CIAG site, in the context of specific irrigation provisions, and as predicted through current knowledge and modern approaches to climate matching together with expert advice and local experience.

- There must be a demonstrated reasonable prospect of obtaining suitable planting stock of the chosen species.
- Each of the 'Forests' is required to be interesting and attractive to the public and provide a rewarding experience. The cumulative overall list of species (noting that not all need to be selected at the outset, and that the list will evolve) should have a wide international geographic representation and include broadleaved and conifers, evergreen and deciduous, with special features such as tree form, bark, foliage, blossom and perfume.
- All proposed seedlots or plants must be characterised by credible scientific data (including botanical identity, genetic background and provenance (place or origin)).
- Any plant formally identified under the *Pest Plant and Animal Act 2005* as a declared pest plant in the ACT cannot be planted.

On this basis it is not planned or expected that only trees threatened and endemic to the ACT region will be included.

4. At the recent Arboretum Open Day information on the first sixteen trees being considered for selection was available in folders. This information has also been placed on the website (http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/nonurban/) for consideration and comment. As the selection process is completed, (it should be noted the processes include checks with the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and Environment ACT) and the name of a tree species can be confirmed, this will also be placed on a relevant list on the website.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 75 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA The Speaker

Mr Mulcahy asked the Speaker upon notice:

> Could details be provided of the problems being encountered with reporting functionality of the Secretariat's new financial management system that was implemented in July 2005?

The Speaker – The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> The Secretariat implemented a new financial management system from July 2005, following an evaluation of various alternatives. The system chosen was Microsoft Great Plains (MGP) which is supported in the ACT by the local firm Acumen Alliance (through its Acumen Business Solutions arm).
>
> The implementation of MGP has been successful, although the level of financial reporting functionality that was offered as part of Acumen's system proposal has not yet been achieved.
>
> A software issue was identified during implementation relating to the integration of a new module within the system. This issue prevents the ability for additional reporting information used by the Secretariat to be reported upon in the desired fashion. This does not affect the ability of MGP to produce standard financial reports.
>
> To meet the Secretariat's requirements for the production of financial and management reports in the form required by the Secretariat, Acumen has developed an interim solution that provides the required reports. Acumen has acknowledged that this is an interim solution, pending resolution of the software problem by Microsoft, to whom the issue has been formally reported. It is not possible to say at this time when the required software fix will be released, but the issue is not confined to the Assembly Secretariat and, in fact, affects all MGP clients who require the same level of financial reporting functionality as the Secretariat.
>
> Acumen has acknowledged that the Secretariat is not required to meet the cost of addressing this issue, including the costs associated with developing the interim solution.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By The Speaker
Mr Wayne Berry
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 76 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA The Speaker

Mr Mulcahy asked the Speaker upon notice:

> Without identifying individual MLAs, could details be provided of the extent to which non-Executive MLAs expend the Discretionary Office Allocation available to them each financial year?

The Speaker – The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> Information on the usage of Discretionary Office Allocation (DOA) is summarised below for the following periods:

2001-02

- 3 MLAs spent 100% of their DOA, with a further MLA spending 97%
- the remaining 9 MLAs spent between 61% and 83% and carried unspent DOA into the following period
- 5 MLAs spent less than 75%
- the average percentage of DOA spent was 82%

2002-03

- 2 MLAs spent 100% of their DOA, with a further 2 MLAs spending 99% and 96% respectively
- the remaining 10 MLAs (there were 14 during the year) spent between 41% and 92% and carried unspent DOA into the following period
- 7 MLAs spent less than 75%
- 2 of those 7 spent less than 50%
- the average percentage of DOA spent was 75%

2003-04

- 3 MLAs spent 100% of their DOA, with a further 2 MLAs spending 99%
- the remaining 8 MLAs spent between 25% and 94% and carried unspent DOA into the following period
- 5 MLAs spent less than 75%
- 3 of those 5 spent less than 50%
- the average percentage of DOA spent was 75%

2004-05 – usage for the 5th Assembly (4 months)

- 3 MLAs spent 100% of their DOA, with a further 2 MLAs spending 99% and 97% respectively
- the remaining 7 MLAs spent between 18% and 83%
- 6 MLAs spent less than 75%
- 4 of those 6 spent less than 50%
- the average percentage of DOA spent was 68%

2004-05 – usage for the 6th Assembly (8 months)

- 3 MLAs spent 100% of their DOA, with a further 3 MLAs spending 99%, 97% and 96% respectively
- the remaining 6 MLAs spent between 19% and 94% and carried unspent DOA into the following period
- 4 MLAs spent less than 75%
- 2 of those 4 spent less than 50%
- the average percentage of DOA spent was 79%

2005-06

Current year data is more difficult to interpret as it is only part way through the year and over or under pro-rata expenditure may not necessarily reflect the MLAs intended use over the year. Nevertheless, the broad data indicates that:

- 4 MLAs are over pro-rata in their expenditure (ranging from 123% to 153%); and
- 8 MLAs are under pro-rata in their expenditure (ranging from 14% to 70%)

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By The Speaker
Mr Wayne Berry
Date: 14 December 2005

PAC 77 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

> In terms of external recruitment - and I mean external to the ACT Public Sector – what percentage of your staff in the last year or, if you record on a fiscal year basis, in the last fiscal year come from outside recruitment or advertising as opposed to either transferring between departments or being internally promoted?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> For the 2004/05 fiscal year 38% of permanent vacancies were filled from applicants external to the ACT Public Sector.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 78 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

> Can you give the Committee an indication of how many public relations staff are employed across Government?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> 32.8 staff members

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 79 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

> Can you give the Committee an indication of what it is now costing to run the Communication Unit?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> As a result of organisational changes within the Chief Minister's Department and the Administrative Arrangement Orders of November 2004 a separate Executive Support Branch including the Communications Unit was established in December 2004.
>
> The branch has responsibility for coordinating departmental and whole-of-government communications, ministerial support and coordination (including honours and awards), and running festivals and events such as the *Nara Candle Ceremony*, *Christmas in the City*, *New Year in the City* as well as the 60th Anniversary Event for the end of World War Two in the Pacific.
>
> In 2005-06 the budgeted discretionary cost of the Executive Support Branch, which includes the Communication Unit, is $2.4m.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 11 December 2005

PAC 80 Mr Brendan SMYTH MLA Chief Minister

Mr Smyth asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

> …..is it possible to get the position numbers for each of the executive positions as identified by the commissioner?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> Details of the executive positions and full-time statutory offices are at Attachments A and B respectively.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister Jon Stanhope MLA

Date:

ATTACHMENT A

Position Number	Agency/Title
	Auditor-General's Office
E212	Director
E213	Director
	Chief Minister’s Department
E900	Chief Executive
E184	Chief Executive Officer
E254	Executive Director
E381	Executive Director
E357	Executive Director
E356	Executive Director
E409	Executive Director
E140	Executive Director
E382	Director
E384	Director
E360	Director
E398	Director
E255	Chief Executive Officer
E287	Director
E393	Director
E141	Director
E317	Director
E309	Director
E236	Director
E371	Director
E256	Director
E217	Director
E383	Director
	Disability, Housing and Community Services
E906	Chief Executive
E268	Deputy Chief Executive
E269	Executive Director
E386	Executive Director
E270	Executive Director
E215	Executive Director
E280	Director
E397	Director
E395	Director
E271	Director
E315	Director

Position Number	Agency/Title
E389	Director
E390	Director
E266	Director
E408	Director
E347	Director
E272	Director
E139	Director
	Economic Development
E907	Chief Executive
E410	Chief Executive Officer
E275	Chief Executive Officer
E103	Director
E174	Director
E385	Director
E399	Director
E380	General Manager
	Education and Training
E904	Chief Executive
E160	Executive Director
E107	Executive Director
E388	Executive Director
E228	General Manager
E222	Director
E192	Chief Information Officer
E246	Director
E307	Director
E221	Director
E196	Director
E074	Director
E220	Director
E281	Director
E225	Director
	Emergency Services Authority
E349	Chief Officer
E348	Chief Officer
E353	Commander
E352	Director
E351	Director
E350	Chief Officer
E373	Deputy Chief Officer
E354	Deputy Chief Officer

Position Number	Agency/Title
	ACT Health
E903	Chief Executive
E283	Deputy Chief Executive
E311	General Manager
E177	Deputy General Manager
E012	Executive Director
E370	Executive Director
E295	General Manager
E207	Executive Director
E374	Executive Director
E277	General Manager
E298	Chief Nurse
E320	Executive Director
E288	Chief Information Officer
E179	Executive Director
E290	Director
E284	Director
E239	Director
E181	Director
E335	Director
	Justice and Community Safety
E902	Chief Executive
E400	Deputy Chief Executive
E109	Executive Director
E232	Director
E057	Parliamentary Counsel
E054	Chief Solicitor
E377	Public Trustee
E105	Courts Administrator
E055	Deputy Chief Solicitor
E126	Deputy Parliamentary Counsel
E127	Deputy Parliamentary Counsel
E244	Director
E233	Deputy Director
E264	Registrar
E346	Registrar-General
E304	Senior Director
E061	Registrar
	Land Development Agency
E367	Chief Finance Officer
E336	General Manager

Position Number	Agency/Title
E334	General Manager
E333	General Manager
	Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
E297	Deputy Director
E065	Assistant Director
E064	Assistant Director
	Planning and Land Authority
E326	Executive Director
E245	Director
E340	Director
E339	Director
E372	Project Director
	Treasury
E901	Chief Executive
E392	Executive Director
E391	Executive Director
E369	Executive Director
E249	General Manager
E396	Chief Executive Officer
E411	Director
E010	Director
E147	Director
E321	Director
E359	Director
E301	Director
E257	Director
E259	General Manager
E328	Director
	Urban Services
E905	Chief Executive
E387	Deputy Chief Executive
E368	Executive Director
E210	Executive Director
E238	Executive Director
E293	Executive Director
E276	Director
E039	Director
E218	Director
E169	Director
E319	Director
E394	Director

Position Number	Agency/Title
E202	Director

ATTACHMENT B

FULL-TIME STATUTORY OFFICE HOLDERS AT 30 JUNE 2005

Title	Office	Authority
Director	Public Prosecutions	Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1990
Auditor-General	ACT Auditor-General's Office	Auditor-General Act 1996
President	Administrative Appeals Tribunal	Administrative Appeals Tribunal Act 1989
Chief Planning Executive	Planning and Land Authority	Planning and Land Act 2002
Chief Executive Officer	Land Development Agency	Planning and Land Act 2002
Commissioner	Emergency Services Authority	Emergencies Act 2004
Chief Executive	Canberra Institute of Technology	Canberra Institute of Technology Act 1987
Chief Executive Officer	Legal Aid Commission	Legal Aid Act 1977
Electoral Commissioner	Electoral Office	Electoral Act 1992
Clerk	Legislative Assembly	Pubic Sector Management Act 1994
Discrimination Commissioner	ACT Human Rights Office	Discrimination Act 1991
Commissioner	Community and Health Services Complaints	Community & Health Services Complaints Act 1993
Commissioner	Occupational Health & Safety	Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989
Small Business Commissioner	Office of the Small Business Commissioner	Small Business Commissioner Act 2004
Assistant Executive Officer	Legal Aid Commission	Legal Aid Act 1977
Community Advocate *	Office of the Community Advocate	Community Advocate Act 1991

* Note the Community Advocate position was vacant on 30 June 2005.

PAC 81 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

1. Of the two main activities listed, what was the cost of providing secretariat support to the ACT Heritage Council and task force; and

2. What was the cost of managing heritage assets [during the period 4 November 2004 to 30 June 2005]?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. The direct costs incurred in relation to the ACT Heritage Council and Taskforce during the period 4 November 2004 and 30 June 2005 were $11,511. Staff costs involved in providing secretariat support in this period are estimated to have been $30,000.

2. The cost of managing the 7 heritage assets under the control of Arts, Heritage and Environment during the period 4 November 2004 to 30 June 2005 was $101,894 including depreciation of $29,806.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date 15 December 2005

PAC 82 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

> How many people are employed in Heritage?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> There are 10.6 Full Time Equivalent staff employed in the Heritage Unit, within Arts, Heritage and Environment in the Chief Minister's Department.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 83 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

1. What was the rate of complaints made to ActewAGL about pole replacements in 2004-05?

2. What was the number of sewer breaks and chokes in 2004-05?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. ACTEW has advised that it has been making an increased effort on pole replacement in recent years. This has been a significant factor in an increase in complaints about electricity network operations.

   Pole replacements require electricity outages and more often than not involve entry to private land. There is a risk of damage to property on private land as ActewAGL staff or contractors use the necessary equipment for the task of removing heavy wooden poles, cutting off the residual base, hole boring for a new pole and installing the new pole, usually (in backyards) a metal pole in several pieces assembled on site.

   Complaints are not tracked under the heading Pole Replacements. However an increased rate of pole replacements is likely to give rise to increased complaints in the categories Damage to Property, Entry to land, No/inadequate notice of outage, Noise/unsightly, Site restoration.

   In 2003-04, 655 poles were replaced. In 2004-05, 1147 poles were replaced. Complaint numbers were as follows:

Category of complaint	**2003-2004**	**2004-2005**
Damage to property	53	49
Entry to land	15	22
No / inadequate notice of work	35	21
Noise / unsightly	26	26
Outage notice nil / too short	144	251
Site restoration	21	24
Timing of work	13	84
	307	**477**

2. Reticulation sewer mains breaks and chokes per 1000 properties:

2003/04	**2004/05**
23.3	28.5

Data has been supplied to WSAA (Water Services Association of Australia) and the ICRC (Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission) and their reports are yet to be finalised and published.

In 2003-2004, there were 23.3 breaks and chokes per 1,000 properties on ACTEW Corporation's sewerage network. In 2004-2005 this figure rose to 28.5 breaks and chokes per 1,000 properties.

The most frequent cause of sewer chokes is tree root penetration into sewers. The number of chokes in 2004-2005 was high compared to other sewerage service providers around Australia due to the tree density in Canberra's suburban areas and drought impacts. ACTEW Corporation has advised that root intrusions causing sewer chokes increase during dry periods as roots seek out water. Other causes of sewer chokes include:

- the nature of Canberra's soils;
- sewers located in verges and backyards where there is typically high tree planting; and
- aging over time of the water supply network.

Given that the ACT's three-year drought was declared over on 28 October 2005, the incidence of future sewer breaks and chokes may decrease. However, the incidence of breaks and chokes has been at a similar level for the past six years.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 84 Dr Deb FOSKEY MLA Chief Minister

Dr Foskey asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

> Why isn't Canberra subsidising water and energy efficient modifications/appliances to the same degree as Queanbeyan City Council?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Queanbeyan faces a totally different set of infrastructure constraints to the ACT. In particular, the Queanbeyan sewage treatment works are under stress and there is an imperative on Queanbeyan to restrict the amount of pressure on their system by limiting the quantity of water used.

Notwithstanding the difference between Canberra and Queanbeyan, the ACT Government currently provides the following wide range of subsidised water and energy efficiency programs to ACT residents to reduce per capita mains water use:

- Indoor water tune-up – Participants receive a home visit by a plumber who provides and installs a water-efficient showerhead, two flow regulators, a toilet cistern weight (for suitable single flush toilets), fixes leaking spindle tap and toilet outlet cistern washers, and provides advice on how to save water around the home. The cost to participants is $30.

- Dual flush toilet rebate – $100 rebate for the replacement of a single flush toilet suite with a dual flush toilet suite is available to participants in the Indoor Water Tune-up.

- Outdoor Water Tune-up – Participants receive a home visit from a horticulturist who provides a garden analysis and expect advice about how to save water in the garden.

- Rebate for water-efficient products for the garden – a $50 rebate on the purchase of selected products for improving water-efficiency in the garden is available to Outdoor Water Tune-up participants.

- Rebate for water-efficient showerhead – $20 rebate on the purchase of a water-efficient 3A showerhead from ACT Magnet Mart stores. (Maximum of two rebates per household).

- Rebates for a rainwater tank with internal plumbing connection – a rebate for the installation of a rainwater tank with plumbing to connect the tank for use inside the home (e.g. for clothes washing or toilet flushing).

Total storage capacity	Rebate
2,000-3,999 litres	$350
4,000-8,999 litres	$500
9,000 litres or greater	$600

- ACT Energy Wise home energy audit and rebate program – participants receive a home energy audit and are eligible for a $500 rebate when they spend at least $2,000 on the actions recommended in the audit.
- Home Energy Advice Team – a telephone advisory service, providing free, independent, expert advice on how to improve home energy efficiency.

Queanbeyan City Council provides the following subsidies:

- Waterwise home tune-up – Participants receive a water audit, a free water-efficient showerhead, replacement of two leaking tap washers and installation of two flow regulators, and a thermostat adjustment.

- Dual flush toilet – Waterwise home tune-up participants are entitled to free supply and installation of a 6 litre/3 litre dual flush toilet to replace a single flush toilet or a less water-efficient dual flush toilet.

- Rainwater tank rebates:

Total storage capacity	Rebate
2,000-3,999 litres	$150
4,000-8,999 litres	$300
9,000 litres or greater	$500

- Washing machine rebate – $200 rebate for the purchase of a new 4A or 5A rated front loading washing machine.

- Subsidised trigger hoses – Tap timers can be purchased from the Council for $10.

The ACT programs are not the same as the Queanbeyan programs due to different population sizes and infrastructure requirements. Limited sewage treatment capability being addressed through the Queanbeyan programs is not a major issue for the ACT.

A range of programs was considered before selecting the current suite of programs as the best mix of programs to address reduction in indoor and outdoor main water use for the ACT.

The ACT programs are heavily subsidised and provide exceptional value for money to ACT residents.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 85 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

> What was the outcome of recent discussion in the Commonwealth /State Ministerial Forum where the national Electricity Regulator was raised?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

> The Australian Energy Regulator (AER) Chairman Mr Steve Edwell presented his work plan to the Ministerial Council. The AER is the independent economic regulator of the national electricity market. The AER is recognised as having a significant and important work load ahead of it as it takes over from the State and Territory based independent regulators for much of their work in the respective jurisdictions.
>
> The MCE acknowledged the work plans and the importance of the AER's task and encouraged Mr Edwell and his organisation to be as open as appropriate in discussing issues with the member jurisdiction to the MCE.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005

PAC 86 Mr Richard MULCAHY MLA Chief Minister

Mr Mulcahy asked the Chief Minister upon notice:

What was the cost of the Public Art Program completed in 2004-05?

Chief Minister - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The expenditure on the Public Art Program projects in 2004-05 was $67,000.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

By the Chief Minister
Mr Jon Stanhope
Date: 15 December 2005