Queensland

Parliamentary Debates
[Hansard]

Legislative Assembly

THURSDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 1989

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Mr SPEAKER (Hon. K. R. Lingard, Fassifern) read prayers and took the chair at 10 a.m.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

QUT Student Guild

From **Mr Beanland** (39 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will legislate for an inquiry to investigate the affairs and financial administration of the QUT Student Guild.

Coorparoo Police Station

From **Mr Gygar** (489 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take action to maintain the Coorparoo Police Station and extend its service.

Port Livistona Resort, South Stradbroke Island

From **Mr Comben** (2 665 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take action to request Cabinet to withdraw endorsement of the proposed Port Livistona resort and marina complex on South Stradbroke Island and proclaim the area an environmental park.

State High School, Kuranda

From **Mr Braddy** (380 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take urgent steps to arrange for the construction of a high school at Kuranda.

Kingston Area Toxic Waste

From **Mr Goss** (838 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will take action to conduct a complete scientific and medical testing on toxic waste in the Kingston area and ensure removal of the waste to a permanent waste storage and disposal centre.

Queensland Housing Commission Houses, Marsden

From **Mr Goss** (429 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will ensure a change of policy to allow low-rental QHC housing to be spread over a greater area at Marsden so as not to disadvantage other home-owners and the good reputation of the neighbourhood.

Cigarette-advertising

From **Mr Newton** (22 signatories) praying that the Parliament of Queensland will legislate to ban cigarette-advertising and provide alternative funding for sporting and cultural activities.

Petitions received.

PAPER

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed—

Report—

Treasurer's Annual Statement 1988-89.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Courier-Mail Report on Stepping-down of Mr G. Crooke, QC

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts) (10.03 a.m.), by leave: I rise today to draw to the attention of members a most blatant example of corruption of journalism, which is evident in the treatment on the front page of today's *Courier-Mail* of a singularly normal and expected event, namely, the pending retirement of Gary Crooke, QC, from the commission of inquiry.

Recently, Mr Crooke wrote to me confirming his originally stated intention to step down from that post at the end of last month but offering to stay until the end of September. His private commitments made that move imperative, and that was always his intention. Indeed, when he was appointed earlier this year to take over from Mr Fitzgerald, QC, Mr Crooke had hoped to end his own participation at the end of August. That was never concealed from anybody.

Last night, that intention was carefully explained by Mr Crooke to the *Courier-Mail* reporter and editor. It was explained also that the Government was at the short-list stage for the selection of the chairman of the criminal justice commission. In fact, one person on that short list was flown by the Government jet from a southern destination for consultations on Tuesday. The CJC chairman will eventually take over the role that is now being carried out by Mr Crooke.

There is no doubt that the inquiry will continue. It is ongoing and will be taken up by the commission when it is formed, but in the mean time it will continue its vital tasks. However, considering the treatment of that piece of news in today's *Courier-Mail*, readers could be forgiven for thinking that the commission is in a state of collapse. I am sure that Mr Crooke would be the first to disagree. I understand that he will make a statement later in the day.

The headlines, which give precedence and credence to the Opposition Leader's claims that the resignation is a blow to reform, set the tone and the standard. They are an invitation to readers to believe a dishonest proposition. Quite frankly, in its treatment of the issue generally, the *Courier-Mail* is indulging in a form of 1980s McCarthyism. I do not level that charge lightly, because I am aware that some of the *Courier-Mail's* senior parliamentary journalists have a thoroughly professional approach and provide balanced reportage and commentary.

There is no doubt that, from an editorial point of view, that once-important newspaper has embarked on a mission—a vendetta—to get rid of me and this Government. Well, I have news for it. I will pursue a proper course of reform and will continue to manage the sound economy of this State. I will not succumb to manipulative pressures from the media and, in particular, the *Courier-Mail.*

The course of reform is set. It is being established by my Government in the interests of all Queenslanders. Despite the activities of the *Courier-Mail*, one of the elements that Queenslanders will continue to cherish is a free and unfettered media. It is a pity that the efforts of some staff members of the *Courier-Mail* result in some news events being presented in a corrupted format. I hope that such activities will lead to a form of industry indignation and even self-regulation.

Meanwhile, I pay tribute to Mr Crooke's dedicated and untiring efforts throughout the whole process of the Fitzgerald inquiry. After Mr Crooke has performed such a magnificent role for the people of Queensland, it is a pity that his departure at the end of this month has been tainted by the *Courier-Mail's* lust for an anti-Government headline.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Report on Random Testing of Standards in State Schools

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (10.07 a.m.), by leave: Earlier this year I asked the chief inspector of the Department of Education, Mr John Dwyer, to develop a system of random testing of standards in State schools. I asked for a first test to be carried out in July. I have now received a report of this test, which was seen more as a trial of the system to ensure that such a technique would be valid.

Two model proof-reading tasks were administered to Year 7 and Year 10 students respectively. This was done by 34 district inspectors throughout the State. They were asked to test 30 pupils in their district, half girls and half boys. This resulted in the testing of 1 020 Year 7 students and 1 014 Year 10 students, with all classes of schools included. In each of the two different texts submitted to students, 15 words were deliberately misspelled and five punctuation marks were missing.

Mr Dwyer reported that—

"While the results obtained on these texts cannot be regarded as standards of performance, they do indicate a need to strengthen children's spelling and punctuation proof-reading abilities.

Clearly, children need to be made aware of a range of spelling strategies. Teacher materials to support this are already available in a variety of departmental sources. There would be value in a brief document for teachers which brings this information together. This matter has been discussed with an officer from the Division of Curriculum Services.

These results are indicators of performance on spelling and punctuation proof-reading tasks. They highlight the need to help students broaden their range of spelling strategies. Such strategies should be taught and applied in functional ways."

Some points noted were that—

(a) Overall results were similar for both Years 7 and 10.

(b) Girls scored consistently higher than boys on both Year 7 and Year 10 tasks, with girls' results better than boys' by 11 to 12 per cent. Indeed, all words were corrected more successfully by girls than by boys.

(c) There was considerable variation in the success rates for individual words.

The most difficult word for Year 7 students was "marvellous", with an overall successful correction rate of 25 per cent. The best-handled word was "pretty", with an overall successful correction rate of 78 per cent.

The most difficult word for Year 10 students was "practise", with an overall successful correction rate of 16 per cent. The best-handled word was "entertainer", with an overall successful correction rate of 85 per cent.

(d) A comparison of the success rates for the two common words in both tasks, "entertainer/s" and "marvellous", shows that Year 10 students were more successful in correcting these words than were Year 7 students. The success rates were 85 per cent and 55 per cent respectively for "entertainer/s" and 44 per cent and 25 per cent respectively for "marvellous".

In punctuation, once again girls' results were better than boys'—by 6 per cent in Year 7, and 9 per cent in Year 10. For both Year 7 and Year 10, girls were more successful on all punctuation features.

Almost 6 out of 10 Year 7 pupils successfully added a missing full stop and followed it with a word starting with a capital letter. Over 7 out of 10 used quotation marks successfully and almost 6 out of 10 entered a question mark where this was needed.

Just over half of the Year 10 pupils identified a missing full stop and the necessary following capital letter. A similar number entered an apostrophe to show possession. Almost 7 out of 10 successfully added inverted commas around a song title.

It was also reported that the results obtained are indicators of performance in spelling and punctuation. It is stressed that these results do not measure standards of performance. The proof-reading tasks used were not standardised tests, nor were they previously field trialled. Hence, it is possible that factors such as the readability of the tests could have skewed the results.

It is also important to note that students are likely to perform less well on a proof-reading task than on a spelling-list task. There is a considerable body of research showing that children who correctly spell a word from a list often misspell that same word when it appears in a dictated passage or in their own writing. In a proof-reading task, the reader must first identify an error and then correct it. In many cases, students failed to note errors. Although this could indicate that they believed the word to be spelt correctly, and thus this could be regarded as a spelling error on their part, it could also have indicated that in reading for meaning the child glossed over the incorrect word.

As well as testing student performance on spelling and punctuation proof-reading, this exercise was designed to test the viability of the aide-memoire process, that is, the use of a structured task which allows field-based officers to collect a small sample of information and to report on it in a way that facilitates the aggregation of the data into a Statewide sample.

This exercise has demonstrated the viability of that process. It has been possible to detail a task, have information gathered and collated, and to report on it within a short period of time. However, the trial has also shown that some improvements can be made. For example—

(a) it will be possible to refine the randomisation of the sample; and

(b) a task such as the current one would be improved by some prior trialling of the test instrument to ensure that its readability level is appropriate and to eliminate inadequate or ambiguous items, for example, the use of the comma in these Year 10 tasks and the use of words which have accepted alternative spellings, such as "recognises" and "recognizes".

Further tests will be conducted with necessary changes to the system based on this experience.

Since becoming Minister, I have called several times for an increased emphasis on the basics in our schools. As Minister, I am aware that there is a perception among members of the public and in the business community that children are not competent enough in the basic skills of literacy and numeracy. In response to this, I have directed that increased emphasis be given to literacy and numeracy skills.

Recently, I asked the Director-General to circularise schools in a similar vein. This is part of a three-tiered approach I have undertaken in regard to accountability for education. The three initiatives are a school development plan for each school, an expanded and regionalised inspectorate within the Department of Education and State-wide sampling of standards.

School development plans involve members of the school community—the parents, teachers and students—in a plan for their school in all aspects: standards, curriculum, building programs, special programs and so on. The departmental inspectorate, under the chief inspector, can assess teaching and student performance as well as provide guidance and support.

The sampling program we have introduced is a preferable and more cost-effective option than universal testing or a return to external assessment. I firmly believe this multifaceted approach to emphasis on standards will ensure our schools meet the demands of the community.

I table the document prepared by the department.

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services on Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme

Mr PALASZCZUK (Archerfield) (10.14 a.m.): I rise on a matter of privilege. Yesterday in this House, the Minister for Water Resources, in a ministerial statement, referred to the Bundaberg irrigation scheme, a matter which is at present before the Public Works Committee. In his statement, the Minister made direct reference to this matter being before the Public Works Committee and then deliberately attempted to pre-empt the findings of that committee. That is a breach of Standing Order 136, which is headed, "No Reference to Proceedings of Committees until Reported". It states—

> "Reference shall not be made to any proceedings of a Committee of the Whole House, or of a Select Committee, until the same have been reported to the House."

Standing Order 206 states—

> "The evidence taken by a Select Committee, and documents presented to such Committee, which have not been reported to the House, shall not be published or referred to in the House."

Mr Speaker, I therefore request that you give consideration to the matter that I have raised, and rule accordingly.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, there is a subtlety in matters that are referred to parliamentary committees. I know that the Bundaberg irrigation scheme has been referred to the Public Works Committee. I know that the Public Works Committee is asking for advice. However, I do not believe that at present the Public Works Committee is considering that matter.

I have spoken to the Chairman of the Public Works Committee about that. I believe the only matter the committee is considering in detail is the Wolffdene dam. Honourable members would realise the subtlety of this matter. I do not think the House has any way of resolving the matter except by the Speaker's making a value judgment, which I made yesterday. Therefore, there is no point of privilege.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services on Bundaberg Irrigation Scheme

Mr ARDILL (Salisbury) (10.16 a.m.): Under Standing Order 115, I wish to raise the same matter as that raised by the honourable member for Archerfield. The Public Works Committee is considering that matter. It was mentioned at the last committee meeting, but was deferred awaiting further information from the Minister. The Minister is now making use of information provided by that committee to mount an attack in this House.

Mr McPHIE: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Both members will be seated. I have made a ruling. I have also spoken to the Chairman of the Public Works Committee. My ruling must stand. I will regard any other comment as a reflection on the Chair.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr COOPER (Roma) (10.17 a.m.), by leave: From time to time, some Opposition members generate phoney little controversies. With regard to ministerial expenses, they have given the matter more repeat performances than *MASH*.

Honourable members would recall that this matter was raised last November. I stated then, and have stated many times since then, that all expenses relating to ministerial duties were clearly documented and met the accounting requirements of the Auditor-General.

Mr Wells: It makes no difference. You are still culpable in terms of the Criminal Code.

Mr COOPER: I have all day. If the honourable member wants to stick around, I will stay.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Murrumba!

Mr R. J. Gibbs interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn both the honourable member for Murrumba and the honourable member for Wolston under Standing Order 123A.

Mr COOPER: Members will also recall my invitation to anyone wishing to view relevant records to come and do so.

Mr Mackenroth: You did not. You never did.

Mr COOPER: It is recorded in *Hansard*.

However, there was a decided lack of interest. No-one saw fit to avail himself of that opportunity. Obviously, the member for Chatsworth has a hidden agenda in raising the issue again.

I believe it is timely to remind Mr Mackenroth that his leader, Mr Goss, as well as a spokesman for Mr Goss, stated in the *Sun* on 22 November 1988 that, from the departmental expenditure report, no inference of misuse of expenses could be drawn. Nevertheless, Mr Mackenroth still chooses to disagree with his leader.

Although I have confidence in the ability of officers of the Auditor-General's Department, I considered it appropriate to obtain an independent assessment of the records to ensure that all the i's were dotted and all the t's were crossed. In March 1989 I engaged, at my own expense, the services of the internationally renowned accounting firm of Price Waterhouse to conduct a review of ministerial expenses incurred under the portfolio of Corrective Services and Administrative Services for the period 9 December 1987, when I took up that portfolio, to 31 January 1989. For personal taxation requirements, I proposed a similar examination be undertaken as an annual occurrence.

During the conduct of its review, Price Waterhouse had access to all relevant records of that department, including ministerial diaries. In particular, Price Waterhouse had access to detailed records relating to ministerial cash advances maintained by my personal staff.

Based on that review, the conclusions reached by Price Waterhouse are as follows—

1. That all ministerial expenses incurred by the department were accounted for in accordance with procedures existing in Government departments at that time, and were properly incurred as such.
2. That appropriate supporting documentation——

Mr Burns: You are a rip-off merchant. You've had your hand in the till, old fellow—right in.

Mr COOPER: I will keep repeating it. It does not bother me.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COOPER: The remainder of the conclusions were—

2. That appropriate supporting documentation existed for all items of ministerial expenditure, apart from a small number of items requiring further administrative action to comply with requirements of a formal nature.
3. That in relation to all ministerial cash advance expenditure incurred by me, appropriate ministerial diary entries and detailed records maintained by my personal staff provided appropriate verification. Price Waterhouse noted that for certain items of such expenditure, it is not possible, for practical reasons, for Ministers to provide direct documentary verification, such as receipts.

Mr Mackenroth: What! 500 bucks a week! Oh, come on!

Mr COOPER: I can understand why the honourable member is so worried.

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr COOPER: Do not worry. I have always been aware.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Roma.

Mr COOPER: The conclusions continue—

4. No criticism or fault could be found in the allocation of expenses between ministerial expenditure and departmental expenditure. However, it was considered appropriate for guide-lines to be established to ensure that personnel responsible for administering the allocation could be above criticism.

Honourable members would be aware that those guide-lines now exist.

From the foregoing, it is quite evident that the extraordinary but obvious intention of the ALP Opposition to discredit my reputation is one of complete and utter futility. Not only do members of the Opposition try to cast aspersions on me——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will make a personal explanation.

Mr COOPER: Not only do they try to cast aspersions on me and on the integrity of my staff, departmental personnel and staff of the Auditor-General, but they now challenge the credibility of Price Waterhouse. What a farce!

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. Leasehold Land Rental Assistance

Mr BEARD asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Works, Housing and Main Roads—

> "What steps, if any, are intended to be taken to ease the load of people who live on leasehold, rather than freehold land, in particular, those living on leases such as State Housing Perpetual Town Leases, who even on modest valuations set by the Valuer-General, have to pay annual land rentals in the order of $330, which unlike local authority rates, provide no services at all?"

Mr GUNN: I advise the honourable member that, on the grounds of hardship, lessees of State housing perpetual town leases may apply to the commission for relief from the liability to pay in full the annual rent for the second or subsequent rental period. The honourable member should be aware that the provisions for the freeholding of leasehold land offered by the commission are very generous indeed.

The purchase price is determined at the lessee's option by one of three authorities—

- the commission (no valuation costs);
- the Valuer-General (valuation costs payable by the lessee); or

- the Land Court (valuation costs payable by the lessee).

The price is based on present-day values, and the amount of land rent paid by the current lessee is deducted from the purchase price.

Loans are also provided, the terms of which are—

- 5 per cent deposit;
- 10-year term; and
- interest rate of 13.75 per cent.

2. Closure of Gulliver's Swimming-pool

Mr VEIVERS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Works, Housing and Main Roads—

"With reference to the closure of Gulliver's swimming and training pool in the Electorate of Southport—

(1) Will he consider the construction of a suitable pool in this area to benefit—to name just a few—St. Kevin's School, Benowa State High School, Benowa Primary School, and Keebra Park State High School, which schools have some 3 000 students?

(2) Will he note that these students are now being bussed to distant swimming and training facilities at great expense to their parents and citizens associations and also to the detriment of their studies?

(3) Is he in a position to alleviate this sad state of affairs?"

Mr GUNN: (1 to 3) Subsidy assistance is available to parents and citizens associations on a dollar-for-dollar basis for the construction of swimming-pools through the School Improvement Subsidy Scheme up to a maximum of $86,000 for primary schools and $101,000 for secondary schools.

I am sure that the honourable member will be very interested in the Budget Speech this afternoon. If he listens very carefully, there may be even better news for him.

3. Gold Coast Emergency Services Facilities

Mr VEIVERS asked the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Tourism—

"With reference to the upgrading of fire station facilities in the Southport/Main Beach area of the Gold Coast—

(1) Will he ensure that, if a new fire station is to be built in the Main Beach area, such a facility is located at the south-east end of the Gold Coast Highway bridge, taking in part of the existing boat ramp at this site?

(2) Will this facility be able to be extended to include an ambulance facility at a later stage?"

Mr BORBIDGE: (1) I am advised that the South Coast Fire Brigade Board is negotiating for the acquisition of a fire station site at the location identified by the honourable member. The site in question has a water frontage which could be desirable should a marine fire-fighting facility be required in the future. I shall be pleased to facilitate, as far as possible, the acquisition of the site.

(2) As the honourable member will appreciate, the question of the establishment of an ambulance facility on the site will be dependent on the total area available and its suitability for that purpose. I will, however, ask that in planning the siting of the fire station on the land every effort be made to allow for the construction of ambulance facilities should the need arise.

4. Queensland Housing Commission Assistance

Mr BURNS asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Public Works, Housing and Main Roads—

"(1) What are the home rental scheme funding details for 1989-90 and what proportion of this funding is being obtained from (a) Commonwealth advance, (b) internal or revolving funds, (c) State Government funds into the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreements Program, (d) Commonwealth grants for rental housing, giving details and (e) State Government funds outside the CSHA?

(2) What is the anticipated net increase in rental dwelling units held by the Queensland Housing Commission in 1989-90?

(3) What are the home loan scheme funding details for 1989-90 and what proportion of this funding is being obtained from (a) Commonwealth advances under the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreements, (b) internal or revolving funds, (c) State Government funds into the CSHA Program, (d) loans from State Treasury and (e) any other source, specifying the nature of that source?

(4) Will he provide the latest available breakdown of applications for Queensland Housing Commission rental accommodation at each regional centre, as well as Brisbane suburbs, throughout Queensland?

(5) What time delays are involved between an application for a housing loan and its finalisation?"

Mr GUNN: (1 to 3) I suggest in the first instance that the honourable member examine the State Budget papers to be released by the Honourable the Premier and Treasurer later today to obtain details of the Queensland Housing Commission's programs.

Mr Burns: I can't read it yet.

Mr GUNN: If the honourable member needs help from some of my officers, I will provide it.

(4) The amount of information that I have is considerable. I will table the document for the information of the honourable member.

Mr Burns: And have it incorporated in *Hansard*?

Mr GUNN: Yes, certainly.

(5) I advise that there are no waiting-lists for Queensland Housing Commission loans. The average waiting-time for the applicants' initial interviews is only two to three weeks. I seek leave to table this document and have it incorporated in *Hansard* .

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following document—

Queensland Housing Commission

Public Rental Applications

At 31 July, 1989

(Note: The recorded demand in each suburb does not represent the total number of applications as applicants can choose three suburbs if they wish.)

Albany Creek	42	Alexandra Hills	320
Acacia Ridge	472	Alderley	81
Algester	35	Albion	20
Annerley	278	Ascot	68
Aspley	3	Balmoral	62
Boondall	75	Brighton	39
Bracken Ridge	229	Bulimba	17
Clayfield	37	Camp Hill	34

Carina	35
Corinda	22
Chermside	755
East Brisbane	154
Everton Park	40
Greenslopes	118
Highgate Hill	64
Herston	40
Kedron	48
Mansfield	266
Mitchelton	131
Murarrie	106
New Farm	125
Northgate	162
Newstead	6
Paddington	25
South Brisbane	7
Sandgate	312
Stafford	676
Seven Hills	59
Tarragindi	9
Wacol	47
Woolloongabba	89
Windsor	55
West End	69
Zillmere	750
Bethania	86
Bellbird Park	38
Browns Plains	202
Capalaba	191
Cleveland	119
Deception Bay	329
Dinmore	24
Goodna	187
Greenbank	45
Kallangur	31
Loganholme	3
Marsden	384
Petrie	3
Redcliffe	1,100
Rochedale	162
Strathpine/Kallangur	511
Any Where South	137
Tarragindi/Ekibin	91
Thorneside	12
Victoria Point	4
Wellington Point	52
Yeronga/Salisbury	177
Coorparoo	193
Coopers Plains/Sunnybank	437
Dutton Park	164
Enoggera	477
Groverly	242
Hawthorne	24
Holland Park	723
Inala	518
Kangaroo Point	214
Mount Gravatt	789
Moorooka	118
Cannon Hill/Morningside	554
Norman Park	3
Nundah	160
Newmarket	153
Red Hill	85
Sherwood	23
Spring Hill	11
Stones Corner	69
Taringa	48
Tingalpa	57
Wavell Heights	30
Wilston	27
Wooloowin	97
Wynnum	709
Bundamba	216
Birkdale	271
Beenleigh	432
Camira	33
Carina/Camp Hill	349
Carole Park	174
Daisy Hill	81
Dunwich	1
Gailes	161
Ipswich	430
Kingston	541
Loganlea	348
Any Suburb North	112
Redbank	52
Redbank Plains	34
Riverview	133
Slacks Creek	176
Strathpine	51
Thornlands	40
Underwood	47
Woodridge	682
Waterford West	117

Queensland Housing Commission
"Country" Public Rental Applications
As at 31 July, 1989
(Major Centres—over 30 applications)

Atherton	58
Beaudesert	48
Bundaberg	338
Bribie Island	94
Caboolture	308
Cairns	952
Emerald	36
Gatton	50
Gladstone	151
Gold Coast	1,963
Landsborough	44
Mackay	260
Mareeba	74
Maryborough	178
Mt Isa	96
Nambour	102
Noosa	65
Rockhampton	202
Roma	36
Toowoomba	446

Goondiwindi	31	Townsville	917
Gympie	127	Warwick	41
Hervey Bay	157	Yeppoon	52
Innisfail	76	Sunshine Coast	719

5. Major Development Projects in Queensland

Mrs GAMIN asked the Minister for Industry, Small Business, Technology and Administrative Services—

> "What is the current status of major development projects and proposals detailed in a publication of his Department of the same name dated April, 1989, and any similar projects which have arisen since that time?"

Mr FRASER: This National Party majority Government and, to a lesser extent, the coalition Government which preceded it have presided over a period of profound economic growth in Queensland. This has brought Queensland from the status it held in 1957, that is, a failed experiment of 40 years of socialism——

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You don't believe this?

Mr FRASER: I believe it.

That growth has brought Queensland to the status it enjoys today as having the vanguard economy of the Australian Commonwealth. The projects to which the honourable member refers are no exception.

Mr R. J. Gibbs: You're in good buckle.

Mr FRASER: Yes, like an Australian Illawarra Shorthorn.

Regrettably, the whole of the Commonwealth is enduring the dying months of a Commonwealth Government that is hell-bent on proving a fallacy, even if it kills it—and it will—and businesses and businessmen and businesswomen everywhere. Therefore, in an economy with interest rates running at twice to four times those of our major trading partners, the success in this State of major projects such as those referred to by the honourable member can be attributable only to the natural drive of free enterprise developed in an environment resulting from the policy mix and administration of this National Party Government. Make no mistake about it.

In addition to creating that environment, through my Department of Industry Development this Government has significantly assisted the development of major projects. For example, I inform honourable members that ICI Australia Operations Pty Ltd has largely completed building an $80m complex on the department's Yarwun Crown industrial estate near Gladstone. A contract for the sale of a 50-hectare site was negotiated with ICI and executed earlier this year. Through my department, and in order to meet ICI's requirements and facilitate further industry establishment, the Government developed services, including storm-water drainage, sewerage, trade-waste connections, water reticulation, power facilities and access roads. The sum of $1.5m was contributed towards the cost of a water-treatment plant on the estate.

Mr Davis: How much?

Mr FRASER: $1.5m.

Likewise, the decision by Fisher and Paykel of New Zealand to establish its Australian white goods manufacturing plant at Cleveland is a vote of confidence in the administration of this Government. Construction of Stage 1 of this project, valued at $25m, is expected to commence in November or December on leased land purchased by the Department of Industry Development.

In conclusion, I point out that the profound development of Queensland's vanguard economy has continued in a no less profound way since the publication of *Major Development Projects and Proposals* some four months ago. There has not been, nor will

there ever be under any National Party Government, a paralysis of administration. Paralysis can be best observed in this House on your left, Mr Speaker. But for the tactically inept rantings of the honourable member for Logan, the Labor/Liberal coalition opposite could only be described as the silent minority. In my role as Minister for Industry I intend to inform the businesspeople of Queensland that Mr Goss has written to some 1 300 people telling them that his party has the experience to take over the Treasury benches. I ask Opposition members to look at my silent shadow opposite, the honourable Mr Geoff Smith, who attacked me in my local paper.

A Government member: Mr who?

Mr FRASER: Yes, "Mr who?" He questioned my business experience. Mr Smith's main claim to experience in Queensland is to tell people how to turn the lights out.

I lay upon the table of the House documents detailing major projects worth $458m completed in this State since April, $859m worth of projects which have changed significantly since April—members opposite must take note of this—and $4.49 billion worth of projects under study and committed that are new to this State since April. I seek leave to have the documents incorporated in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following documents—

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS IN QUEENSLAND

Ref. No.	Project	Location	Description/Status	Estimated Cost
1	APM Petrie Paper Mill Extensions	Petrie, near Brisbane	Wastepaper Recycling Plant—installed and commissioned	$17 million
3	Ammonia Plant Expansion—Stage II	Gibson Island, Brisbane	Upgrading of ammonia plant capacity	$2 million
11	Ethanol Distillery	Sarina	New distillary commissioned May—to be opened by the Hon. J. H. Randell, 13 September 1989	$25 million
18	Disraeli Gold Mine	near Charters Towers	Gold mine and treatment plant completed and in production	$20 million
20	Red Dome Gold Mine	near Chillagoe	Extensions completed to silver gold copper mine and treatment plants	$50 million
36	Rail Electrification—Stage IV	Gympie—Gladstone	Electricification and realignment of track completed. Passenger services opening	$344 million total project cost
			TOTAL COST	$458 million

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE APRIL 1989

Ref. No.	Project	Location	Description/Status	Estimated Cost
	1. *Projects Committed*			
2	ACI Softwood Sawmill	Gympie area	Sawmill site development commenced	$25 million
5	Boyne Smelter Upgrade	Gladstone	Upgrading of Metal Products Casting Shop almost complete	$7 million
12	Gas Processing Plant	Gladstone	Project withdrawn due to financial and market factors	—
13	ICI Chemical Complex	Gladstone	Construction of buildings and civil works largely complete	$80 million
14	Minproc Sodium Cyanide Plant	Gladstone	Civil works in progress	$50 million
17	Wallumbilla Granular Urea Plant	Wallumbilla	Financial arrangements in progress	$50 million
30	Central Queensland Neutral Gas Pipeline	Wallumbilla to Gladstone	Approximately three quarters of the 530 km pipeline is laid in accordance with the scheduled completion date of December 1989	$110 million
39	South Coast Natural Gas Pipeline	Brisbane to Southport	Pipeline installation almost completed	$7 million
			TOTAL COST	$329 million
	2. *Projects Under Study*			
43	Bagasse Pulp Mill	Innisfail	Engineering and Environmental Studies underway	$140 million
46	Queensland Magnesite Project	Rockhampton	Environmental and Engineering Studies completed	$140 million

Ref. No.	Project	Location	Description/Status	Estimated Cost
63	Rocky Point/ Agnes Waters Mineral Sands Deposit	Agnes Waters	Mineral Deposits Ltd is negotiating with the Government on infrastructure requirements	confidential
66	Bowen Basin Methane Gas Project	Broadmeadow	Field Evaluation proceeding	$100 million
68	Cape York Spaceport	Cape York	Australian Spaceport Group withdraws from study. Cape York Space Agency continuing feasibility studies	N/A
75	Mt Isa Natural Gas Pipeline	South West Queensland to Mt Isa	Discussions taking place between Government and MIM regarding gas transportation contracts	$150 million
			TOTAL COST	$530 million

6. Alleged Representations by Premier to Queensland Industry Development Corporation on Behalf of Behnfeld Corporation

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts—

"With reference to a report in 'The Courier-Mail' of 24 August on the collapse of the Australian Building Industries Group, formerly known as the Behnfeld Corporation, with estimated debts of at least $80 million and to statements reported in 'The Courier-Mail' on 8 August by former Queensland Industry Development Corporation Chairman, Mr Graham Tucker, regarding pressure applied by National Party Ministers in decisions relating to QIDC investments—

(1) Will he confirm whether he made personal representations on behalf of the Behnfeld Corporation to the QIDC for an equity investment?

(2) If not, did any other member of his then ministry make such a representation?"

Mr AHERN: (1 and 2) During September 1986 the corporation was approached by Wardleys Australia Limited to join in a syndicated loan for Australian Building Industries Group. The terms and conditions negotiated in association with the loan were not acceptable to all parties and subsequently the loan application did not proceed. Did Opposition members hear that? It did not proceed. Most of the scandal allegations that they make have no basis.

There is no record on file of personal representations by any member of Parliament on behalf of Behnfeld Corporation.

Mr Goss: The shredder has been working.

Mr AHERN: No. The honourable member, in his question, makes an implication against me and other people. There is no record and no recollection of it. What he says is just a farce.

The corporation's record of representations by members of Parliament and grower organisations is currently in the hands of the Public Accounts Committee.

7. Queensland Industry Development Corporation; Crongold Pty Ltd and Aquaculture Industries (Qld) Pty Ltd

Mr HAYWARD asked the Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts—

> "With reference to his response to a Question without notice regarding the conflict of interest involving Queensland Industry Development Corporation board members, Jim Brennan and Tom Maule, and their financial interest in the companies, Crongold Pty Ltd and Aquaculture Industries (Qld) Pty Ltd, during which he read a prepared statement in which Mr Brennan claimed he had declared his interest in Aquaculture to the board of the QIDC in August 1987 and that he personally took no part in decisions relating to any QIDC investment in Aquaculture—
>
> (1) Will he table a copy of the minutes of all meetings of the QIDC board and any meetings of the executive at which the following investment and loan decisions were discussed: (a) a $1m loan from the QIDC to Aquaculture Industries, (b) a $200,000 equity investment by the QIDC into Aquaculture Industries in August 1987, and (c) a $1m equity investment in Aquaculture through the QIDC's venture capital fund?
>
> (2) Does he believe it to be acceptable as a matter of principle for the QIDC to invest in a company in which a QIDC board member has a personal financial interest?"

Mr AHERN: (1 and 2) As the honourable member has indicated in his question, I have commented on this matter previously. I do not propose to table copies of minutes of the meetings of the QIDC to verify what I have previously said to the House.

On the issue of conflict of interest, I state that the chairman of the board has informed me there are established principles in place regarding declarations of interest by board members and that these principles were observed.

8. Federal Government's Environment Policy; Elanora Sewage-treatment Plant

Mr GATELY asked the Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts—

> "(1) Is he aware of the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke's policy release on the environment, announcing the expenditure of millions of dollars?
>
> (2) Will he give an unequivocal undertaking to request urgent financial assistance from the Federal Government for the provision of plant and equipment to update the Elanora sewerage treatment plant so as to produce sewerage effluent to a tertiary stage and to fully protect the environment and quality of water being pumped into the ocean at the Nerang River entrance?"

Mr AHERN: (1 and 2) I am fully aware of the Prime Minister's statement on the environment delivered to the nation in July 1989, which was intended to give an impression that the Commonwealth Government is proposing to solve the major environmental problems in Australia by allocating $320m for the purpose.

These funds are directed mainly to dealing with soil degradation issues and, as honourable members are aware, do nothing to assist local authorities and the tax-payers who face enormous costs associated with updating sewage-treatment plants. These costs are continuously escalating each year.

The States take every opportunity to seek funds such as these from the Federal Government, and Queensland will continue to press its demands for realistic funding and subsidies. I will approach the Prime Minister, as suggested by the honourable member. The proposal is a good one and worthy of support.

9. Minister for Land Management; Queensland Industry Development Corporation

Mr SMITH asked the Minister for Land Management—

"(1) Has he ever received a loan from the Queensland Industry Development Corporation?

(2) If so, what was the amount of the loan, what is its purpose and did he fail to disclose the loan on the pecuniary interests register because it is recorded under the name 'Dalgety Winchcombe'?

(3) Does he believe, as a matter of principle, that Ministers of the Crown should be granted loans from State financial institutions?"

Mr GLASSON: We do not need to be reminded of the depths to which the Opposition members will sink to try to discredit people, including Ministers. Again they have come a great gutser. The question is obviously an attempt to try to establish that there is another rort.

Opposition members: Another one?

Mr GLASSON: There has never been a rort.

The answer to the honourable member's question is—

(1) No, I have never received a loan from the QIDC. I received one from the Agricultural Bank of Queensland on 27 May 1985, at the then normal commercial rate of 13.5 per cent.

(2) Two loans totalling $70,000 were obtained for the purpose of rebuilding the manager's residence at Mount Arthur, which was destroyed by fire on 11 June 1984. One loan, for $20,000, was under the Agricultural Bank (Loans) Act 1959-81 and the second was for $50,000 under the Rural Housing Assistance Scheme.

Dalgety Winchcombe provides the working account for the Geanel Grazing Company. My son, who was involved in all arrangements for the loans, had the money transferred to Dalgety Winchcombe in order that the account could be reimbursed for the first instalment paid to the building contractor. The next three cheques were paid from the Commonwealth Trading Bank, Barcaldine, to which the money was transferred. The loans were fully repaid on 23 February 1988.

(3) Yes, as long as the normal guide-lines for loan approvals are followed. In other words, the question asks: is it proper for Ministers to obtain loans from Government instrumentalities? I have also had a loan from the Commonwealth Bank, which is a Government instrumentality. I do not expect Ministers of the Crown to be treated differently from anyone else seeking a loan.

I seek leave of the House to table documentation that will serve to confirm the information provided in my answer.

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the documents on the table.

10. Queensland Industry Defence Contracts

Mr McPHIE asked the Minister for Industry, Small Business, Technology and Administrative Services—

"(1) What success is his Defence Procurements and Offsets Branch having in assisting Queensland industry to secure defence contracts?

(2) Does he anticipate many openings in this regard for Queensland industry as sub-contractors with the recently announced Navy frigate construction programme?"

Mr FRASER: I thank the honourable member for the question because I know of his deep interest in the offset agreements in procurements in Queensland, and more particularly in his area of Toowoomba.

(1) The Defence, Procurement and Offsets Branch of the Department of Industry Development has established close and detailed contact with every known major source of defence business in Australia. These contacts cover all the major projects, such as the prime contractors for the Anzac ships and the submarines and hundreds of smaller defence equipment requirements. The branch's operations entail direct personal exchange of project details with Department of Defence personnel, and/or with the major contractors, and thereafter promotion of specific firms identified in Queensland as having the capability to undertake some, or all, of the work involved.

The branch has set up a database of detailed defence industry capability and has promoted this wherever a business opportunity is found. As a result, in the case of the Anzac ships contract recently announced, seven Queensland firms were included in the bid made by AMECON in Victoria, which won this contract, and they stand to win about $25m worth of business in the process. The matching of capability to defence business is working at all levels, and many smaller Queensland firms have been assisted in the complex procedures of tendering for defence work, with several such firms that have never tried this market before being awarded contracts.

Export business into defence markets overseas, which stands to benefit capable Queensland firms perhaps even more than some of the large Australian defence contracts, is also being vigorously promoted. Next month, seven Queensland firms will be assisted by the branch to exhibit at the COMDEF defence equipment exhibition in Washington, with direct promotion of products such as the Evans Deakin bomb-disposal robot, in which great interest is being shown by the United States navy at present. Other avenues of promotion of existing defence products from Queensland into the United Kingdom and Europe and exploration of possible joint-venture activities with firms in those countries are also being explored at present.

The Defence, Procurement and Offsets Branch publishes a monthly newsletter titled *Defence Notes*, which brings up-to-date defence business stories to Queensland industry.

Mr Austin: Do you know they employed John Halfpenny as a consultant?

Mr FRASER: I think that he would have been a ripper, Mr Leader.

Mr Milliner: He's not a leader.

Mr FRASER: He is the Leader of the House. The honourable member should watch his Fire Services shadow portfolio.

Last month, the first of a series of defence industry business seminars was held in Brisbane, with Dr Malcolm McIntosh, the top defence man in Canberra in control of defence procurement and logistics, as the main speaker. The branch has been in operation for only 18 months, but has been well received by industry for the direct facilitation that it promotes and for the response it makes to every opportunity that might be channelled towards the development or growth of existing defence industry skills in this State.

(2) There will be at least the seven subcontract opportunities already announced by the successful contractors for the Anzac ships. The branch is now in the process of following up with its established contacts at all levels in AMECON to ensure that during the fine-tuning process Queensland firms will have further opportunities to be involved in this large contract. That will take place over the next 18 months, as keener prices and more refined requirements are sought from subcontractors.

Not only is the potential for more Queensland industry involvement being followed up with AMECON, which will build the German-designed frigates, but also next week two of the branch staff will be in Germany to talk directly to the ship-designers, Blohm and Voss. They will discuss objectively opportunities for more involvement in the contract by Queensland firms. There will also be direct discussions with three of the major German subcontractors about the possibility of more work being done outside Germany on such items as the propulsion systems and electrical plant. There are thus many potential openings for Queensland firms to participate in the Anzac ships project.

11. Tourism

Mr McPHIE asked the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Tourism—

"Discounting the great boost Expo '88 gave to the State's tourism figures, how do current figures compare with those immediately before Expo, both in coastal and inland areas?"

Mr BORBIDGE: According to the latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics survey of tourist accommodation, even disregarding Expo 88, demand for commercial accommodation has continued to grow in Queensland. A comparison of the March quarter figures for 1987, 1988 and 1989 reveals that demand not only grew between 1987 and 1988 but also continued to grow between March 1988 and March 1989.

Figures for the March quarters of 1987, 1988 and 1989 were chosen as they are the most recent figures and are least affected by Expo 88; that is, with Expo 88 commencing on 30 April 1988, demand for commercial accommodation brought on by this event was mostly recorded during the June 1988 and September 1988 quarters. The 1989 March quarter figures are the first quarter figures to record post-Expo 88 accommodation demand.

At the State level, demand for commercial accommodation grew by 10.4 per cent between March 1987 and March 1988, and by a further 4.5 per cent between March 1988 and March 1989. A comparison of March 1988 and March 1989 regional data reveals that demand grew in all regions in Queensland except Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The decline in demand experienced in those two regions is attributed to, firstly, the unseasonally poor weather experienced during the March quarter 1989 and, secondly, the inflated demand for advance Expo accommodation in the March quarter 1988.

For the central coast, north coast and inland Queensland, demand for room-nights grew between March 1987, March 1988 and March 1989. In south-east Queensland, demand for room-nights grew between March 1987 and March 1988, but declined by 2 per cent between March 1988 and March 1989.

Occupancy rates, however, declined on average throughout the State between March 1988 and March 1989. This resulted because supply in accommodation stock over that period increased at a higher rate than accommodation demand increased. Tables have been prepared which illustrate these points fully.

I seek leave of the House to have these tables incorporated in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

Licensed Hotels, Motels with Facilities

Statistical Division	Demand—Room Nights				
	March 87	March 88	% Change	March 89	% Change
SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND					
Brisbane	239 158	277 177	15.90	255 103	−7.96
Remainder Moreton	32 364	26 488	−18.16	38 814	46.53
Gold Coast	354 774	394 552	11.21	379 728	−3.76
Sunshine Coast	64 707	75 351	16.45	83 582	10.92

Licensed Hotels, Motels with Facilities—*continued*

Statistical Division	Demand—Room Nights				
	March 87	March 88	% Change	March 89	% Change
CENTRAL COAST					
Wide Bay/Burnett	75 073	72 894	−2.90	82 715	13.47
Fitzroy	121 985	114 351	−6.26	119 402	4.42
Mackay	129 537	152 113	17.43	167 485	10.11
NORTH COAST					
Townsville City	64 283	73 794	14.80	89 623	21.45
Remainder North	16 546	17 301	4.56	20 415	18.00
Cairns City	119 776	142 261	18.77	155 123	9.04
Remainder Far North	60 915	74 222	21.85	83 272	12.19
INLAND					
Darling Downs	59 257	61 208	3.29	67 438	10.18
South West	16 424	14 911	−9.21	19 789	32.71
North West	17 212	17 769	3.24	18 011	1.36
Central West	5 567	6 774	21.68	9 148	35.05
TOTAL QUEENSLAND	1 377 578	1 521 166	10.42	1 589 648	4.50

Source Australian Bureau of Statistics—Tourist Accommodation.

Licensed Motels, Motels with Facilities

Statistical Division	Occupancy Rates				
	March 87	March 88	% Change	March 89	% Change
SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND					
Brisbane	54.3	61.9	14.00	52.3	−15.51
Remainder Moreton	49.2	43.5	−11.59	42.9	−1.38
Gold Coast	65.8	67	1.82	63.3	−5.52
Sunshine Coast	51.1	51.8	1.37	45.1	−12.93
CENTRAL COAST					
Wide Bay/Burnett	45.4	41.3	−9.03	44.9	8.72
Fitzroy	49	42.2	−13.88	44.3	4.98
Mackay	55.5	60.9	9.73	55.5	−8.87
NORTH COAST					
Townsville City	47.2	48	1.69	44	−8.33
Remainder North	35.3	34.6	−1.98	37.1	7.23
Cairns City	66.9	61.3	−8.37	58	−5.38
Remainder Far North	43.7	39.1	−10.53	36.8	−5.88
INLAND					
Darling Downs	43.9	44.2	.68	49.3	11.54
South West	49.2	42.5	−13.62	49.8	17.18
North West	37.3	38	1.88	37.5	−1.32
Central West	33.3	39	17.12	54.1	38.72
TOTAL QUEENSLAND	54.1	54.3	.37	51.1	−5.89

Source Australian Bureau of Statistics—Tourist Accommodation.

Licensed Hotels, Motels with Facilities

Statistical Division	Supply—Room Stock				
	March 87	March 88	% Change	March 89	% Change
SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND					
Brisbane	4 897	5 101	4.17	5 436	6.57
Remainder Moreton	731	689	−5.75	1 005	45.86
Gold Coast	6 055	6 495	7.27	6 970	7.31
Sunshine Coast	1 408	1 597	13.42	2 061	29.05

Licensed Hotels, Motels with Facilities—*continued*

Statistical Division	Supply—Room Stock				
	March 87	March 88	% Change	March 89	% Change
CENTRAL COAST					
Wide Bay/Burnett	1 838	1 948	5.98	2 049	5.18
Fitzroy	2 768	2 991	8.06	3 000	.30
Mackay	2 572	2 755	7.12	3 355	21.78
NORTH COAST					
Townsville City	1 513	1 916	26.64	2 268	18.37
Remainder North	530	549	3.58	611	11.29
Cairns City	2 123	2 595	22.23	2 973	14.57
Remainder Far North	1 547	2 087	34.91	2 514	20.46
INLAND					
Darling Downs	1 499	1 539	2.67	1 521	−1.17
South West	371	386	4.04	451	16.84
North West	513	514	.19	534	3.89
Central West	186	191	2.69	188	−1.57
TOTAL QUEENSLAND	28 551	31 353	9.81	34 986	11.59

Source Australian Bureau of Statistics—Tourist Accommodation.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Stepping-down of Mr G. Crooke, QC

Mr GOSS: In directing a question to the Premier, I refer to the resignation of Mr Gary Crooke, QC, as head of the ongoing Fitzgerald corruption commission, and in particular to the gap between that resignation and the criminal justice commission becoming operational. Given that the gap caused by Mr Crooke's resignation is clearly a set-back to the momentum of the reform process, I ask: will he advise the House when it is intended that the criminal justice commission legislation be introduced and the commission be fully functional? Will he give an assurance that this legislation will be definitely passed before Parliament rises prior to the forthcoming State election?

Mr AHERN: As the Leader of the Opposition knows, the legislation has not yet been produced. The recommended legislation has not been presented to me. There is no gap. As I indicated earlier today in my ministerial statement, there is no resignation. The gentleman who was carrying on that task in a transitional way indicated, as he always has, his desire to return to the private bar. In the circumstances, there will be no gap at all.

The Leader of the Opposition is making his own rules. As I indicated earlier in my ministerial statement, he is quite wrong.

Expo Authority Debt

Mr GOSS: I ask the Premier and Treasurer: will he now confirm to the House that the financial hang-over for Queensland tax-payers from last year's Expo totals $238m, the amount transferred from consolidated revenue to pay off the Expo Authority debt? Will he also confirm that that $238m transfer to pay off a debt for Expo, which Queensland tax-payers were told would not cost them a cent, has soaked up a large proportion of the greater than anticipated tax revenue for the 1988-89 financial year and that the $238m should have been available for spending in today's Budget on additional schools, hospital facilities and police stations?

Mr AHERN: The honourable Leader of the Opposition has revealed his total ignorance of economic matters. Members of the Labor Party were the very first people

on the Expo site to wave the flags when it was in progress, but they were knockers of Expo right from day one till the finish. Expo was the greatest event ever held in Queensland, and the Government is very proud of it.

I deal now with the costs associated with Expo. If the site had been sold at its full commercial potential, there would have been no cost to the tax-payers of this State. Because of the situation that arose during the course of Expo, there was a clear perception that the public wanted on the site a memorial to such a significant event. I said that there would be a cost associated with it. Brisbane City Hall has said that it is prepared to share the cost and the State Government has said that it is prepared to share the cost. When details of the site development are announced—and that will happen shortly—and when they are understood, Queenslanders will be very excited.

In referring to stamp duty revenues last year, the honourable member has revealed his ignorance of how accounting takes place in Queensland. During the coming Budget debate I expect him——

Mr Goss: You told them it wouldn't cost them a cent—"not a cent".

Mr AHERN: Did I say "not a cent"?

Mr Burns: The National Party did.

Mr AHERN: When the Expo redevelopment was renegotiated, I stated that there would be a cost, and a cost there has to be. When honourable members see that redevelopment plan, they will realise that it will be well worth it.

Airline Pilots Dispute; Crane-drivers Dispute

Mr STEPHAN: In directing a question to the Premier and Treasurer, I refer to the continuing pilots dispute and the loss of production caused by the crane-drivers dispute. Bearing in mind the speed with which Prime Minister Hawke became involved in the pilots dispute and the enormous loss caused by the crane-drivers' action, I ask: why have Hawke and his friend Mr Goss remained so silent on the crane-drivers dispute?

Mr AHERN: This crane-drivers dispute is a Federal dispute. They operate under a Federal award. Here we see a classic example of double standards on the part of the Labor Party, both Federal and State. There is one law for pilots and another for crane-drivers.

The crane-drivers dispute is now going national. It has the potential to cause the same damage to the Australian community as does the pilots dispute, but what action has been taken by the courageous Federal Government or its Labor colleagues in this State? None! There is one rule for pilots and another for crane-drivers. Pilots do not vote Labor, but crane-drivers do. It is as simple as that.

Has there been any effort to bring in the military to operate the cranes? No! Are there capable crane-drivers in the military? Yes! Why have they not been used? Because it is holy grail—sacred ground—in the Labor Party. The Federal Government and its Queensland colleagues—those apologists who support every action of the Australian Labor Party—are not prepared to take any action at all.

The duplicity of the Labor Party is now totally exposed. In this country there is one law for ALP unions and another for unions that do not vote Labor. Labor is totally transparent on this issue.

Pharmacists Dispute

Mr STEPHAN: In directing a question to the Premier and Treasurer, I point out that it is obvious that the growth industry in the Federal Government is disputes. I refer in particular to the dispute between the Federal Government and pharmacists and,

bearing in mind that several hundred pharmacies will close their doors today, I ask: what impact will the Federal Government's cuts in pharmacy remuneration have on Queenslanders?

Mr AHERN: It is clear that the Federal ALP Health Minister hates the pharmacists. On a number of occasions in the past he has conducted a vendetta against pharmacy in this country, and he is at it again. In many instances these small-businesspeople provide the only advice that is available in the outposts of medicine in some country areas of this vast nation. However, they are the areas that do not vote Labor, so they do not matter.

There is now a sustained campaign to try to put the pharmacists out of business. That is what is going on at the moment. The Federal Labor Government is running a political campaign.

I say good luck to the pharmacists, because they do an excellent job in this country, and they will be sadly missed when Labor closes them down.

Ministerial Cash Advances of Premier

Mr BURNS: I ask the Premier and Treasurer: did he as Minister for Industrial Development and/or Minister for Health and/or Premier for a time draw or have drawn on his behalf ministerial cash advances on what could be termed a regular basis? If so, did these advances involve amounts of $300 or more? What was the total amount of such advances, the number involved and over what period were they drawn from Government funds?

Has the Premier provided to the Special Prosecutor, Mr Drummond, full details of all such ministerial cash advances involving himself, together with an itemised breakdown of how they were spent? In addition, if this information is available for Mr Drummond, in the interests of accountability will the Premier take steps to see that it is also tabled in this Parliament before it adjourns today?

Mr Gately interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for Currumbin under Standing Order 123A.

Mr AHERN: From the questions that have been asked in this Chamber by the member for Caboolture and others, it is clear that a smear campaign based on innuendo is being conducted by the Labor Party against members on the Government side. It is nothing but a dirty, grubby smear campaign. It is gutter politics, nothing else.

Mr Burns: Did you put your hand in the till? "Yes" or "No"?

Mr AHERN: I am prepared to answer the question, but the innuendo remains. Yesterday, the honourable member for Caboolture asked whether I made representations on behalf of someone of whom I had never heard. However, the innuendo is there—"You or anyone else?" When we looked at the file, there was no-one. It is nothing other than the ALP getting down in the gutter again. I have never taken regular cash advances—never!

Mr Burns: You took some, though.

Mr AHERN: Yes, I have. The issue relating to all of those matters is now in the hands of the person who is making the relevant inquiry. The full documentation has been disclosed—the total amount of it. Complete statements have been given.

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Lytton!

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member under Standing Order 123A.

Mr Burns interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member for the second time under Standing Order 123A.

Mr Burns: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I now warn the honourable member for the third time. He will leave the Chamber.

Mr Burns: I said, "Thank you."

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warned the honourable member for the third time. The honourable member will now leave the Chamber.

Whereupon the honourable member for Lytton withdrew from the Chamber.

Queensland Teachers Union, Attitude to Voting System

Mr HYND: I ask the Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation: is he aware of the hypocritical statements of the executive of the Queensland Teachers Union, which openly supports the ALP, vigorously promoting the one vote, one value principle, despite the fact that moves to change its zonal system of voting were defeated as recently as a couple of years ago?

Mr LITTLEPROUD: Because of an article in last month's *Queensland Teachers Journal*, I was aware of the matter referred to by the honourable member. In a special article, the President of the Queensland Teachers Union, Mary Kelly, stated that she and her executive were very much in favour of the one vote, one value concept, yet she recognised that, because Queensland teachers are spread throughout the State, the union is organised into areas. A representative from each area attends meetings of the State council. The State council proposed that the number of teachers in each region should be exactly the same. The teachers themselves recognised that there was a huge disadvantage in that proposal, and they overwhelmingly voted in favour of dismissal of the one vote, one value concept. However, the Queensland Teachers Union executive proposed a system that the members of the union did not want themselves.

Queensland Treasury Corporation Guide-lines

Mr INNES: I direct a question to the Premier and Treasurer. On 8 November 1988 the Premier advised the House that guide-lines were being developed for the Queensland Treasury Corporation. He said, "We have been working on them for some time. I will arrange for these guide-lines to be tabled shortly." I ask: have those guide-lines been completed? Will he either table them today or circulate them today for the information of honourable members?

Mr AHERN: I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

Mr INNES: I do so accordingly.

Alleged Bias by *Courier-Mail*

Mr BOOTH: In directing a question to the Premier, I refer to the present extreme bias being displayed by the *Courier-Mail*, especially on page 4 under the guise of The Diary and Day by Day, which is now referred to as the "hate page". Does the Premier think that the general public will be influenced by that type of second-rate journalism, or does he believe that responsible Queenslanders will see through this very obvious bias, which could best be described as propaganda?

Mr AHERN: I am well aware of and daily receive complaint about that matter and others. I referred to it earlier in a ministerial statement. It is time that the trained journalists in this country exhibited some more professionalism than they do now.

Right Meat Campaign

Mr BOOTH: In directing a question to the Minister for Primary Industries, I refer to the Right Meat campaign being conducted by AUS Meat. I ask, firstly: in view of the high quality of country-killed meat in the past, can he give an assurance that this meat is still of the same high quality? Secondly, I ask: can he inform the House of the position regarding country-killed meat?

Mr HARPER: I have no hesitation in assuring the public of Queensland that the standard of country-killed meat, which was always high, is being maintained; indeed, it is being enhanced. Regular inspections of slaughterhouses are carried out by officers of my department.

As to the safe meat campaign—I invite the attention of honourable members to the fact that my department is presently developing what we are calling a Q-Safe program, which essentially will be a quality control program for domestic meatworks—particularly for country meatworks, which, the honourable member implied, are the subject of his concerns. For one reason or another, many of those country meatworks have not sought, or are not eligible, to take part in the Right Meat scheme.

Q-Safe will have principles similar to the Right Meat scheme. It will be a State program that we will encourage country butchers to adopt.

Proposed Criminal Justice Commission

Mr WELLS: In directing a question to the Minister for Justice, I refer to statements made in this House on Tuesday by the Minister for Finance, Mr Austin, attacking the Fitzgerald report and the concept of the proposed criminal justice commission. In particular, I refer to Mr Austin's reference to the powers of the CJC recommended in the Fitzgerald report and his claim that—

> "... it recommends that the policy making powers be taken away from the elected representatives of this Parliament ... I believe in the absolute right and privilege of this Parliament. The Fitzgerald report does not believe in that; it wants to take away that right."

I ask the Minister for Justice: does he share Mr Austin's views on both the Fitzgerald report and the CJC? Further, I ask: do Mr Austin's statements express the Government's view on the proposed CJC?

Mr FITZGERALD: The Government's position on the CJC will be determined and the honourable member will be advised in due course.

Electoral and Administrative Review Commission

Mr WELLS: I ask the Premier: will he give an indication as to when the legislation to establish the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission will be introduced and passed? In particular, will he give a guarantee that he will not close Parliament down until that legislation has been introduced and passed?

Mr AHERN: I have answered that question.

Daylight-saving

Mr ELLIOTT: I ask the Minister for Education: will he inform this House and the schools in my electorate of the steps that are being taken to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum during the daylight-saving trial?

Mr LITTLEPROUD: The honourable member would be aware that the daylight-saving trial that was carried out in the 1970s received widespread criticism from the parents of young children, especially those with children attending school.

When my Government agreed to go ahead with the trial, for which my colleague Mr Lester introduced legislation yesterday in this House, it was determined that the Government would attempt to minimise the disadvantage to those children who have to catch school buses at an early hour.

My department has circularised all State schools in Queensland instructing them to hold meetings if their school bus service is part and parcel of a network of bus services. All schools, including non-Government schools, that are connected into those bus services should meet to determine whether or not the disadvantage is such that they should make an application to the regional director for an exemption from the automatic adoption of daylight-saving. By doing that, I believe that the Government is putting the decision in the hands of people who best know their own individual situations. I hope that people living in nearby towns will have some sympathy for the people who live on the farms that are serviced by those towns. I trust that they will come up with an idea that is best for them.

Red Nose Day

Mr ELLIOTT: I ask the Minister for Finance: in his capacity as Minister for Finance and Leader of the House will he inform the House of what this Parliament can do to draw attention to red nose day?

Mr AUSTIN: I have got my red nose and I propose to wear it tomorrow. I hope that, tomorrow, all of my parliamentary colleagues will forget politics for a change and will get involved in and support a very worthy cause indeed.

I am sure that all of my colleagues are aware that red nose day is a promotion to raise funds for the Sudden Infant Death Research Foundation. Those funds are used for research into cot deaths. I hope that my colleagues and their families will buy red noses and will encourage schools in their electorates to buy red noses to support that worthwhile charity.

Virtually all of the money that is raised for that charity goes to research. Specific guide-lines are laid down for the administration of that money and very little of it can be used on administration; in fact, most of it is used on research.

I have to advise my colleagues and you, Mr Speaker, that for those who are not prepared to wear a red nose because they think that it is a little foolish or because they are too chicken to wear one, a badge known as a "chicken badge" is available for them. I believe that a chicken badge costs a little more than a red nose. Those people who do not want to wear a chicken badge can purchase red noses for their cars. If honourable members inspect my ministerial car they will find that it bears a red nose.

I take this opportunity to thank the Lord Mayor of Brisbane for her co-operation in this campaign. As honourable members would be aware, the Lord Mayor has approved the placing of red noses on some Brisbane City Council buses. I hope that next year she will elect to buy a red nose for each of the city council buses instead of just the ones on the city route.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for your co-operation in this matter and I urge all of my colleagues to support that very worthwhile cause tomorrow.

Appointment of Police Commissioner

Mr GYGAR: My first question is on notice to the Minister for Police. I refer the Minister to pages 132 and 133 of the Fitzgerald report in which Commissioner Fitzgerald recommends that "there should be appropriate consultations with 'Opposition Shadow Ministers' " before the appointment of any Commissioner of Police.

I ask: as the process of selecting a new Police Commissioner is apparently well advanced, when will the consultations that Mr Fitzgerald recommended take place between the Government, me and the honourable member for Chatsworth and what form will that consultation take?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Barambah.

Mr GYGAR: Mr Speaker, I asked that question without notice.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. The honourable member for Stafford definitely said "on notice".

Mr GYGAR: I apologise, Mr Speaker. I place my second question on notice to the very same Minister about the police drug and juvenile aid squads.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Does the member for Stafford want both questions on notice?

Mr GYGAR: Mr Speaker, I accept your ruling on the first question and I place my second question similarly on notice.

Proposed Inquiry into Queensland Police Force by R. L. Livingstone and Associates Pty Ltd

Mr MACKENROTH: I ask the Minister for Police: is the private consultancy firm R. L. Livingstone and Associates Pty Ltd to be hired by the Government to conduct yet another inquiry into the Queensland police force? Will that be the third such inquiry into the force in less than two years, following investigations by Tony Fitzgerald, QC, and Arthur Andersen and Co.?

Why is it necessary to conduct yet another inquiry after two previous inquiries? What is the estimated cost of this latest exercise and what are its terms of reference? How can the Government possibly justify the high cost of another expensive probe by private consultants when the findings of Arthur Andersen have not yet been released and the recommendations of Mr Fitzgerald are still not implemented?

Mr BORBIDGE: Since my appointment as Minister, no such proposal has been put before me for consideration. However, if the honourable member would like to place the question on notice, I will make sure he receives a detailed reply.

Mr MACKENROTH: I do so accordingly.

Alleged Police Misconduct on Thursday Island

Mr MACKENROTH: In directing a question to the Minister for Police, I refer to the controversy on Thursday Island regarding the police "pig pen" and the statements by Superintendent Pointing of Cairns.

A Government member: That's an unfortunate term to use.

Mr MACKENROTH: That is not my term; that is what it is referred to as.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member will continue with his question.

Mr MACKENROTH: I refer to statements by Superintendent Pointing of Cairns that the police have only broken the law "a little bit". I ask: if the police have broken the law "a little bit", what action does the Minister for Police intend to take?

Mr BORBIDGE: I can assure the honourable member that there will be a full and thorough investigation into the allegations about Thursday Island. I would also say that I consider——

Mr Casey: You are running out of QCs to do all these inquiries for you.

Mr BORBIDGE: Does the honourable member want to hear the answer or not?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister! I will discipline the House.

Mr BORBIDGE: I consider the comments attributed to Superintendent Pointing most inappropriate, and they will be the subject of certain discussions that will take place later today between the Acting Police Commissioner and myself.

Impact of Federal Government Monetary Policy on Small Business

Mr BURREKET: I ask the Minister for Industry, Small Business, Technology and Administrative Affairs: will he explain the impact of the current high interest rate policy of the Hawke/Keating Government on industry development in this State and state the Queensland Government's position on the use of tight monetary policy as a stimulant to domestic production.

Mr FRASER: High interest rates and the Federal Government's monetary policy are having disastrous effects on industry in Queensland, more particularly small business.

Mr Scott: Absolute nonsense.

Mr FRASER: It is not. The member for Cook would not have a clue. He would not know what a small-businessman is.

In Australia, small business accounts for 52 per cent of employment. I want to refer to an article that appeared in the *Canberra Times* on 2 September. My message to small business in Queensland is that if the ever Labor Party sat on the Treasury benches in this State, small businesspeople would have to hang by their fingernails. If Labor ever sits on the Treasury benches in Queensland, it will completely bankrupt small businesses.

Under the present policies of the Federal Government, the only way for a person to acquire a small business in Australia today is to buy a big business and allow the Federal Government's monetary policies to turn it into a small business. I challenge members opposite to object to that.

As at 19 August this year, the prime lending rates were as follows—

Australia	20.25 per cent
Spain	16.25 per cent
USA	10.5 per cent
Germany	8.5 per cent
Japan	4.88 per cent

Because of those lower interest rates in other countries, industry and small business in Queensland and Australia suffer a massive disadvantage when they export their products and also when they have to compete with imports. Because of the artificially controlled interest rates in Australia, our businesspeople are at a shocking disadvantage. Many members opposite would not know about that because they would not have a clue how to borrow money. That is the sum total of their business experience.

I now want to quote from the annual report of the Reserve Bank, which deals with the role of interest to control business in Australia. That report states—

> "The role which monetary policy should play in the overall policy setting has been the subject of considerable debate . . . "

all over the world. It continues—

> " . . . monetary policy will not produce the longer term structural benefits Australia is seeking. Beyond a point, it may even inhibit the structural change."

That is what it is doing in Australia today.

Recreational Activities on Koombooloomba Dam

Mr EATON: I ask the Minister for Mines and Energy: will he give favourable consideration to allowing recreational activities such as water-skiing on the water storage lake at Koombooloomba?

Mr TENNI: I will give the matter consideration. I would like to consider the matter before I say definitely, "Yes". I will consider it and I will give the honourable member a definite answer.

Cost of Photographs of Minister for Environment, Conservation and Forestry

Mr EATON: I ask the Minister for Environment, Conservation and Forestry: will he inform the House of the cost of having his photo produced, framed and distributed to the various Government departments throughout Queensland? How many photos were produced? Did the Government pay all costs? Was the cost $1,000 for 20 photos?

Mr MUNTZ: I am not aware of the actual cost of any publications or photographs that might have been distributed. If the honourable member would like to place the question on notice, I will inform him on the next day of sitting.

Mr EATON: I do so accordingly.

Labor Party Policy to Develop Western Queensland

Mr HOBBS: I ask the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Affairs: is he aware of the recent backflip of the Leader of the Opposition on matters pertaining to rural Queensland, in that he has suddenly found his long-lost desire to develop and expand western Queensland, in particular its TAFE facilities? Keeping in mind Labor's philosophy of reducing the number of parliamentary representatives from rural areas, reducing drought assistance, amalgamation of shires, reducing CSIRO funding, the abolition of the tax write-off for mains power connection, higher fuel taxes and so on, will he advise the House what impact Mr Goss' Labor Party policy will have on TAFE education in rural Queensland? Could his approach be described as being like that of a mangy wolf in sheep's clothing?

Mr LESTER: Anybody who read the press statement issued by Mr Goss would think that he is the great Messiah. Apparently he went lizard-racing in the south-west corner of the State. What he has done is shown that he has very little knowledge of what is going on in Charleville as far as TAFE expansion is concerned. A totally new TAFE building has almost been completed and will operate in conjunction with the Charleville State High School.

Some of the courses offered are carpentry and joinery, pottery, automotive mechanics, welding, metal-machining, computing and masonry. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned in his press statement the need for a tourism and hospitality course. I would like him to know that tourism and hospitality is yet another course that is very high on TAFE's agenda. If sufficient interest is shown in such a course, one will be run.

Obviously the Leader of the Opposition does not know that TAFE is acting in partnership with the Southern Downs TAFE College in conducting wool-classing courses. The course, which is very important, is about to commence. The college, in conjunction with the Education Department, is expanding the campus to make it a really up-market school.

The department's plans do not stop there. The college council will be made up of representatives from the local community, not of people from Brisbane. If there is a need for hostel accommodation in Charleville, obviously its provision will be considered favourably. Already TAFE has considered the provision of such a facility, but there did not appear to be sufficient numbers of people who wanted hostel accommodation. Why is that the case? The reason is that the department provides a subsidy to students who stay in private homes in western towns, which saves the tax-payers a lot of expense. It also provides a small income for those people who take in TAFE students. The department believes that, rather than building TAFE hostels, boarding students in private homes is the way to go. However, if at some time in the future a hostel is needed, obviously the matter will be given special attention.

TAFE intends to be totally flexible in its provision of courses in Charleville. Anyone can see that an enormous amount of work has been done. It cannot ever be said that not much work is being done in relation to TAFE courses in Charleville. The needs of the town of Charleville and the surrounding district have been responded to very well by my department.

Of course, the Leader of the Opposition did not state that the Labor Party is hell-bent on one vote, one value, which will remove eight National Party electorates from western Queensland and plonk them in the south-east corner of the State. That is what members of the ALP think of people who live in the country. They cannot deny that they want to take away National Party electorates and put them in the south-east corner of this State. They want to take away the political voice of people who live in the country. They are not interested in what the National Party is trying to do for country people.

What about the CSIRO? Three scientists who were engaged in wool research have been taken off that work. That move will directly affect Charleville. Why has the Federal ALP Government done that? It is being done because Mr Hawke put one of his mates in charge of the CSIRO. Mr Wran is running the CSIRO. He wants to knock Charleville, which is what he has done.

What about the taxation benefits that were paid in relation to scrub-clearing? The Federal ALP Government has phased them out, which certainly does not help people who live in the bush. What about the fuel subsidy that used to be paid when the conservative Government was in office? During that period, people were given some incentive to live in the bush. The Federal ALP Government has taken away the fuel subsidy, which indicates what it thinks of people who live in the bush.

What about road-funding? The Federal ALP Government has cut road-funding by 50 per cent in real terms over the last five years. That is what the ALP has done to people who live in the bush. The ALP does not care about country people. Members of the ALP Opposition cannot stand up and say what an ALP Government would do for the bush because they want to take away country representation in this Parliament and all that country people have managed to build up in the past.

What about kindergartens and pre-schools? Can honourable members remember when the Commonwealth Government used to join with the State Government in providing subsidised pre-school education? The Federal ALP Government has taken away that funding. The State Government has to provide all the funds for pre-school education, which indicates what the Federal Government thinks about ordinary people who live in the bush. It does not even want to help subsidise the education of young people.

What about taxation deductions for depreciated plant and equipment? Those types of benefits help people who live in the bush to establish their enterprises. The ALP has taken away those benefits—which is really going to help people who live in the bush!

What about the effect of high interest rates on people who live in country areas? People who want to expand their properties or purchase some equipment will pay, because of a Labor Party Government, up to 25 per cent in interest rates whereas the interest rate in Japan is 4.8 per cent.

What about the amalgamation of shires, which is the hidden agenda? The Labor Party wants to amalgamate the shires of Emerald, Belyando and Peak Downs, let alone what it wants to do in Murweh Shire and other shires. It wants to take away the political voice of country people. It wants to destroy the State Government and take away the political voice of people who live in rural districts.

Tourism Development

Mr HOBBS: In directing a question to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Tourism, again I refer to the Leader of the Opposition's triennial safari into western Queensland and his sudden and most urgent desire to promote tourism throughout the

region, and I ask: can he advise the House of the achievements of the Government in tourism and the effects of Labor policy on further tourism development?

Mr BORBIDGE: I believe that any honourable member who is interested in tourism would be well aware that Queensland continues to account for 53 per cent of all investment in major new tourism projects through Australia. Significantly, if capital cities are left out of the assessment, the figure rises to 77 per cent. This State is providing 77 per cent of all the investment in regional and provincial tourism throughout Australia. This phenomenal growth has been part of the reason that Queensland continues to lead Australia in job creation. The fact is that with only 16 per cent of Australia's population, Queensland has been able to generate 40 per cent of all new jobs. Tourism is very much in the forefront of job creation.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition and his spokesman have been wandering lost around western Queensland and have been saying that they will do all manner of things. They are taking credit for the cake that has already been baked.

Through the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation, the State Government funds three regional tourism authorities in western Queensland to the tune of $85,000 each per year. Last year an office was opened in Longreach. The manager of that office is actively pursuing development opportunities for the west.

Next week the new Matilda Highway tourism concept from Charleville to Karumba will be launched. It will incorporate attractions such as the Combo Waterhole, which is referred to in Banjo Paterson's *Waltzing Matilda.* The extensive marketing plans for this western Queensland route, both in Australia and overseas, are sure to attract thousands of visitors. My department will continue to play a very strong role in supporting inland tourism.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The time allotted for questions has now expired.

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts) (11.22 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

> "That leave be granted to bring in a Bill with respect to the authorization of an agreement to be entered into for and on behalf of the State of Queensland with others to amend the agreement made and subsequently amended pursuant to the Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968-1984."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Ahern, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts) (11.23 a.m.): I move—

> "That the Bill be now read a second time."

This Bill is being introduced as a matter of urgency to enable the transfer of a 10 per cent equity interest in the mines covered by the Central Queensland Coal Associates (CQCA) Agreement from Bell Resources, part of the Bond group, to the other CQCA joint venturers. The Bell Resources' interests are held through Bell Coal Pty Ltd and UB Minerals Inc. A similar transfer of interest is proposed in respect of the Blackwater mine, which is also owned by the CQCA joint venture, but which is not coverd by the CQCA Agreement. The CQCA joint venture owns the open-cut coal mines of Blackwater, Goonyella, Peak Downs, Saraji and Norwich Park, all in central Queensland, and the port of Hay Point.

A contract of sale has been signed between Bell Resources and all of the other CQCA joint venturers to purchase Bell's 10 per cent participating interest in the CQCA joint venture. This follows an earlier announcement by Bell Resources that it planned to sell its 10 per cent interest to China Steel Corporation, subject to other joint venturers not exercising their joint venture rights of first refusal. BHP-Utah Coal, Mitsubishi, AMP Society, QCT Resources and Pancontinental Mining are all taking the shares of the 10 per cent interest to which they are entitled, except that QCT Resources will take a higher interest in the Blackwater mine and BHP-Utah Coal a lower interest, which will result in their respective interests in all of the CQCA mines being the same.

Honourable members may recall that the restructuring of interests in the CQCA, Blackwater and Gregory mines in 1984 left the General Electric Company of America with an 8.5 per cent interest in these mining operations. Subsequent restructuring, including the current sale which is the subject of this Bill, will take Australian ownership in the CQCA and Blackwater mines to almost 87 per cent—Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd will hold 13.33 per cent—and in the Gregory mine to 100 per cent. Details of the various interests are complex and for the information of the honourable members I seek leave to have a table of the proposed interests in the CQCA mines incorporated in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following document—

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND COAL ASSOCIATES JOINT VENTURE

TRANSFER OF INTERESTS

CQCA Agreement

	Present Interests	To be acquired from Bell Coal & UB Minerals	Resultant Interests
BHP-Utah Coal Limited	31.00	4.47	35.47
Mitsubishi Development Pty. Ltd.	12.00	1.33	13.33
AMP Society	7.75	0.86	8.61
Umal Consolidated Limited	0.75	..	0.75
Pancontinental Mining Limited	3.00	..	3.00
Bell Coal Pty. Ltd.	5.00	..	..
Utah Queensland Coal Ltd.	8.50	..	8.50
UB Minerals, Inc.	5.00	..	..
Bowen Basin Minerals Pty. Ltd.	2.00	0.56	2.56
QCT Investment Pty. Ltd	12.00	..	12.00
QCT Mining Pty. Ltd.	13.00	2.78	15.78
	100.00%	10.00%	100.00%

Blackwater Mine

	Present Interests	To be acquired from Bell Coal & UB Minerals	Resultant Interests
BHP-Utah Coal Limited	35.00	0.47	35.47
Mitsubishi Development Pty. Ltd	12.00	1.33	13.33
AMP Society	7.75	0.86	8.61
Umal Consolidated Limited	..	0.75	0.75
Pancontinental Mining Limited	3.00	..	3.00
Bell Coal Pty. Ltd.	5.00	..	..
Utah Queensland Coal Ltd.	8.50	..	8.50
Bowen Basin Minerals Pty. Ltd.	2.00	0.56	2.56
UB Minerals, Inc.	5.00	..	..
QCT Investment Pty. Ltd	12.00	..	12.00
QCT Mining Pty. Ltd.	9.75	6.03	15.78
	100.00%	10.00%	100.00%

Mr AHERN: This Bill is required to give the Honourable the Premier of Queensland the necessary authority to enter into an agreement authorising the proposed transfer of interest and to give the executed agreement the force of law. The agreement is attached as a schedule to the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Vaughan, adjourned.

COAL AND OIL SHALE MINE WORKERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Mines and Energy) (11.26 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

> "That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to provide for the transfer of funds from The Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Fund to the Queensland Coal and Oil Shale Mining Industry Superannuation Fund and to amend the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Act 1941-1989 in a certain particular."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Tenni, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Mines and Energy) (11.27 a.m.): I move—

> "That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Fund is constituted under the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Act 1941-1989. The fund was set up to provide retirement, death and incapacity benefits to all coal mine workers in Queensland. Contributions are paid into the fund by both mine workers and mine-owners. The fund is administered by the Pensions Tribunal constituted under the above Act. It is invested in fixed interest Government securities and bank bills.

The Pensions Tribunal also administers, on a contract basis, the Queensland Coal and Oil Shale Mining Industry Superannuation fund for the mine-workers. This superannuation fund was established to provide the 3 per cent productivity case superannuation benefit. The trustees of the superannuation fund comprise three union representatives and three owners representatives.

It is proposed by the Commonwealth Government that all superannuation funds, including the pensions fund, comply with the Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner's guide-lines by 30 June 1992. Non-compliance would result in penalty tax rates of 49 per cent being applied to employer contributions and fund earnings. Major amendments to the current Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Act would be required to bring the pensions fund into compliance with the guide-lines. The superannuation fund already complies with the guide-lines. Also, recent amendments to Commonwealth income tax legislation require all superannuation funds, including the pensions fund, to pay 15 per cent tax on employer contributions and fund earnings from 1 July 1988. As pensions fund investments are limited to authorised trustee investments, this imposes a significant tax burden on the existing pensions fund. The tax liability of the pensions fund for 1988-89 is estimated to be $4.8m on assets of $160m.

The State Actuary, in his valuation of the pensions fund as at 30 June 1988, indicated that the recent amendments to the income tax legislation reduce the state of the fund from an actuarial surplus to an actuarial deficiency. The State Actuary's final recommendation was that the present fund be wound up, and the equitable share of each current member of the fund be transferred to the industry superannuation fund established to provide the 3 per cent productivity case superannuation benefit.

The transfer to the superannuation fund would provide the following benefits—

Conformity with the Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner's guidelines which would give mine workers full vesting and portability of fund benefits and age 55 retirement;

Avoidance of the need for a major review of the Act; and

Reduction of tax on fund earnings through a broadening of the available investment powers.

Meetings of coal mine workers throughout Queensland have given unanimous support for a change. The Queensland coal-owners have also agreed to the change.

The Bill requires the provisions of the previous Act to cease to exist upon proclamation except for the following provisions which industry and union representatives have requested be retained—

Compulsory maximum retirement age;

Contribution rates and ratios;

Current pensioners' entitlements; and

Definition of a mine worker.

The Bill provides for the transfer of moneys from the pensions fund to the superannuation fund to be based on the recommendation of the State Actuary. No member will be disadvantaged by the transfer. Those currently nearing retirement age will receive at least the same benefits as under the current scheme. Younger members will gain the advantages of full preservation and portability of benefits, age 55 retirement and higher after-tax returns for the fund.

Due to change in Commonwealth Government legislation, the Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Fund has had a significant tax burden placed upon it. The cost to the fund of the tax on fund earnings is estimated at $200,000 per month. It is therefore imperative that the interests of the Queensland coal mine workers be protected through the passage of this legislation.

Also, through the transfer of the obligations of the pensions fund legislation to the trustee of the Queensland Coal and Oil Shale Mining Industry Superannuation Fund, this Government is properly placing the responsibility for looking after the interests of the coal mine workers on the coal industry itself. It should be the responsibility of the industry and unions to look after the superannuation of the workers in their industry.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Vaughan, adjourned.

MINES REGULATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Mines and Energy) (11.32 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Mines Regulation Act 1964-1989 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Tenni, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Mines and Energy) (11.33 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Bill to amend the Mines Regulation Act 1964-1989 is part of the legislative process necessary to define clearly the role and areas of responsibility of the Department of Mines with regard to mine safety and health legislation as distinct from the role and responsibilities of the Department of Industrial Affairs.

The Mines Regulation Act 1964-1989 applies to all mines in Queensland, other than coal mines, and provides for the regulation and inspection of mines and the safety and health of persons employed in, on or about mines and of persons affected by the operations of mines. The provisions of the Act may be extended by Order in Council to quarries or other excavations; and provisions exist for exemptions from the Act to be made.

The amendments contained in this Bill are designed to delineate areas of responsibility between the Department of Mines and the Department of Industrial Affairs with respect to mines and thus eliminate any overlapping functions.

Prior to the drafting of the amendments, discussions took place between officers of both departments.

These discussions were aimed at defining more clearly areas to which the Mines Regulations Act should apply and those to which the recently introduced Workplace Health and Safety Act should apply.

The first amendment deals with the definition of the word "mine", which has been extended to include exploration and prospecting activities. These activities are truely a part of the mining process, and this amendment will ensure that mining safety and health legislation will now apply to these activities.

The amendments provide for the Act to be extended to places or premises which do not fall within the definition of "mine" but which are an integral part of a mining complex. One amendment will ensure that similar standards are maintained and will obviate the need for monitoring activities by another group of inspectors.

Downstream activities at quarries, such as the production of pre-coat, hot-mix or concrete products, are also covered by the amendments. The previous Act did not make it clear if these functions were subject to the provisions of the Act.

All references to the Construction Safety Act 1971-1987 have been deleted and construction work on mines formerly regulated by this Act will now be subject to the Mines Regulation Act 1964-1989. Administrative arrangements between the Departments of Mines and Industrial Affairs provide for exemptions to be made in cases where significant construction work is carried out on mines.

The amendments will require mine-managers to satisfy themselves that every person employed in, on or about the mine has been adequately trained and instructed for the work he is required to do. Previously the manager had only to ensure that every person in a position of authority was competent to perform his duties. There was no requirement for training and instruction generally.

All of the amendments I have outlined so far arose out of the recommendations of the Savage committee and are consistent with those recommendations.

Honourable members may be interested to know that the Department of Mines, in conjunction with the National Safety Council of Australia—Queensland Division, has developed guide-lines to promote the safe use of cyanide at mines.

The Department has also been carrying out audits to check on the safe use of cyanide. The amendments contained in this Bill will assist inspectors in their duties by making it necessary for any spill or discharge of a cyanide compound, under certain circumstances, to be reported forthwith to an inspector.

The Act will also be amended to include a definition of the term "serious bodily injury". No definition presently exists in the Act. However, obligations are placed on persons when an accident involving serious bodily injury occurs. The inclusion of a

definition will help to ensure accidents involving injuries so defined will be reported to an inspector of mines for investigation.

The remainder of the amendments proposed by the Bill are administrative only and do not affect the intent or purpose of the Act.

This Bill will eliminate overlaps between the Department of Mines and the Department of Industrial Affairs and will help to ensure the occupational safety and health of miners, and those associated with the mining process, in this State. The amendments will also improve the efficiency of the Government's role in monitoring the safety and health performance of the industry.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Vaughan, adjourned.

MINERAL RESOURCES BILL

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Mines and Energy) (11.38 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

> "That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to provide for the assessment, development and utilization of mineral resources to the maximum extent practicable consistent with sound economic and land use management."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Tenni, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Mines and Energy) (11.39 a.m.): I move—

> "That the Bill be now read a second time."

It is with a great deal of personal satisfaction that I introduce this Bill which, I believe, will provide the necessary legislative framework to enable both small and large-scale exploration and mining to sustain growth and development whilst at the same time having due regard for the rights and entitlements of other land-users and the community generally.

The Bill is the result of an exhaustive process of consultation commenced in May 1987, when the Government released a Green Paper to provide a basis for discussion and to encourage contributions from interested parties.

It has not been an easy process, as honourable members would appreciate, in an arena where there are competing land uses, one of which is mining. However, the Government was not prepared to throw in the towel and hope the problems would go away. Instead it has produced a piece of strong, progressive and, most importantly, balanced legislation covering the rights and obligations of explorers and miners and their relationship with those outside the industry.

In achieving this balance it has not been possible to meet all the demands of the mining industry or other land-users. However, some significant benefits have resulted to all parties.

It must be remembered that the current Mining Act, introduced in 1968, has required considerable amendment. Even so, it has been subject to judicial challenge as well as criticism in relation to ambiguity in its interpretation. Further, the current legislation is more a rationalisation of the 1898 Mining Act, which in itself was a consolidation of Queensland's early mining statutes, rather than the creation of a new and progressive system of mining administration.

The legislation now before the House introduces a totally new concept which relies on adopting a new approach to the definition of land and the authorities available for accessing such land for the purposes of prospecting, exploration and mining. The major issues which result from this approach and which form important components of the legislation relate to—

the definition and ownership of minerals;

availability of land and access thereto;

prospecting and exploration;

mining and development; and

compensation for affected land-owners.

Obviously, I could not hope to do justice to all the relevant aspects of such a major piece of legislation in the time available. Therefore, I propose to touch only briefly on each of these issues and table a complete summary of the provisions of the legislation.

As I have just indicated, the first major issue is the definition and ownership of minerals. Basically the definition of "mineral" is much the same as in the Mining Act 1968-1986, except that it now includes substances dissolved or suspended in water; rock mined in block or slab form for building purposes; hydrocarbons extracted from coal seams where such extraction is in association with the mining of that coal or facilitates the subsequent mining of the coal; and mineral oil or gas produced by "in situ" processes from coal or shale.

The Crown's property in minerals has been retained as per the current legislation, but an exclusive right has been provided to the Crown to grant permits, licences, claims and leases irrespective of ownership of minerals. However, the owners of land in those rare cases where the minerals are not the property of the Crown will receive the royalty. This brings other privately owned minerals in line with the situation currently existing in relation to privately owned coal.

The next issue is undoubtedly the most important and forms the basis of the new concept as it deals with the definition of and access to land which, to a large degree, governs activities associated with exploration and mining. The legislation contains sweeping changes to the existing system of land classification. With the exception of national parks and environmental parks, which are excluded from the operation of the proposed legislation, all land in Queensland is divided into only two categories—occupied land and unoccupied land.

Occupied land is all land, whether freehold, leasehold or reserve, including deeds of grant in trust for Aboriginal and Islander inhabitants of the State, for which there is an owner. The legislation defines "owner". Unoccupied land is vacant Crown land and land held under permissive occupancy pursuant to the Land Act.

Under the current legislation access to the various categories of land is by way of a number of differing authorities. The proposed legislation provides only two authorities for initially accessing land to prospect or explore. They are prospecting permits and exploration permits.

One of these two permits must be held by any person or company wishing to apply for a subsequent title, that is, a mining claim, mineral development licence or mining lease, and no person or company is entitled to be on or within land to prospect, explore or mine unless the appropriate authority pursuant to the proposed legislation has been obtained.

As a result of adopting this new concept in relation to land, it has not been necessary to retain a provision similar to section 97 of the current Act whereby the Minister for Mines can prevent the freeholding of Crown tenures on mining-fields. Therefore, it will be seen that this initiative provides a substantial gain for those persons wishing to freehold land in the mineralised regions of the State.

I now propose to address the issues of prospecting and exploration. Though these activities have led to the discovery of the State's mineral wealth, they have not been

defined in Queensland's mining legislation. This has now been rectified so that proper access authorities and controls can be introduced.

The prospecting permit is designed for the small-scale operator and intermittent fossicker, and for the latter, a family permit has been introduced to encourage tourists and others to participate on a family basis in a healthy outdoor activity. The use of metal-detectors has been provided for.

Prospecting permits do not create a priority and more than one can be granted over the same land at the discretion of a mining registrar. The holder is not entitled to stay at night on occupied land without either the consent of the owner or the specific consent of the mining registrar.

The mining registrar is required to notify the owners of occupied land of the grant of any prospecting permit in respect of that land. Additionally, the holder must give prior notice of entry to any owner of land included in the permit. A security deposit can be required by the mining registrar to be held against any damage that may be caused by the holder. However, it is important to note that the proposed legislation provides that all land on which dwellings, other buildings and workplaces are situated are not available unless the owner consents. Also protected are dams, bores, artesian wells and other artificial water storages as well as cemeteries and burial places.

The exploration permit is designed to accommodate the needs of larger-scale operators who would utilise drilling plant and other heavy equipment to locate mineral resources. As well as having the right to explore the holder has priority over others for consideration of applications for the grant of mining leases and mineral development licences over lands within the permit. The maximum term of an exploration permit, including any renewals thereof, unless the Minister in special circumstances otherwise approves, can not exceed five years. Terms granted for less than five years may be renewed.

Prior to entering any occupied land, the holder must give notice to the owner of that land at least seven clear days before entry unless a shorter period is acceptable to the owner or this requirement is dispensed with by the mining registrar in exceptional circumstances. The notice must include a description of the exploration proposed and must be given for each phase of the exploration program. Further, unless agreed by the owner, it must be renewed at least every three months with an updated outline of the program of work. The holder is required to rehabilitate the land, produce the permit, or an approved notification, on demand and report any discovery of minerals. To ensure compliance with the conditions of the permit and the legislation and to rectify any damage, the holder is required to lodge a security deposit prior to the grant of the permit.

The legislation provides for the owner of the land to report any suspected breach of the conditions of a prospecting permit or exploration permit or any other matters of concern to the mining registrar who is required to investigate the matter and advise the owner of any action taken.

With regard to the issue of actual mining and development tenures, it must be appreciated that the mining industry in Queensland still covers a broad spectrum from the small-scale fossicker and hand miner to the large multimillion-dollar operator employing thousands of people. Accordingly, it is necessary to provide tenures to cater for the needs of all sectors of this diverse industry.

To provide an avenue for small-scale operations, the proposed legislation retains the mining claim tenure as provided in the current legislation suitably amended to address the concerns of Government in relation to the past performance of the holders of this type of tenure, particularly in the areas of land-use management and environmental impact.

Mining claims may be granted over freehold land and reserve land as well as Crown land, but cannot be granted over dwellings, etc., as previously indicated. Further, they are restricted to prospecting and hand mining only—both of which are defined in the

legislation—unless the Governor in Council authorises the use of particular complementary equipment.

The other mining tenure provided in the proposed legislation is the mining lease. The basic provisions relating to mining leases as exist in the current legislation have been retained. However, those changes that have been made are most significant to the Government's thrusts to improve processing times, alleviate land-owner concerns and ensure adequate environmental protection.

The applicant at the time of application is required to specify an outline of the mining program proposed, details of any infrastructure requirements, proposals for protecting the environment and proposals for rehabilitation.

The owner of the land may require the miner to meet with him for a without-prejudice conference convened by the mining registrar to address any initial concerns the owner may have in relation to the application.

The proposed legislation incorporates a system whereby holders of mining leases are required, prior to commencement of operations on a lease, to submit to the Minister a plan of operations. This system will be used to ensure the operations for which the lease was granted are being carried out and a security deposit is required to be deposited prior to commencement of operations.

A major change in the conditioning of mining leases as contained in the proposed legislation is the ability to extend conditioning to protect the environment outside the boundaries of the lease.

A new initiative is the provision of a mineral development licence. The mining industry has for some time sought the introduction of a development or retention tenure to bridge the gap between the exploration stage of a project and the actual mining stage. The mineral development licence as proposed in the legislation will provide this intermediate tenure.

The proposed legislation provides that the Minister is authorised to grant the holder of an exploration permit a mineral development licence if he is satisfied that there exists to a high degree of definition on or in the land in respect of which the application is made a significant mineral occurrence of possible economic potential. The Minister may at any time direct the holder to apply for a mining lease. Failure to comply with a direction can lead to cancellation of the licence. A security deposit is required prior to grant and if the holder contravenes any provision of the proposed legislation or a condition of the licence, he can be penalised or his licence cancelled.

The final major issue relates to compensation for affected land-owners. As highlighted earlier in this summary, the proposed legislation does not distinguish between land held by an owner under lease from the Crown, freehold or as a reserve. Consequently, all are treated in the same way for compensation purposes. However, the compensation payable will obviously have a relationship to the type of land involved. The compensation provisions of the proposed legislation vary between those applied to the prospecting and exploration permits, the mineral development licences and the mining claims and mining leases.

With regard to prospecting permits and exploration permits, compensation is not payable in advance prior to the grant of these tenures. However, an owner of land may apply from time to time to the Wardens Court to determine compensation for damage caused by a person acting or purporting to act under the authority of a prospecting permit or exploration permit.

Similar provisions apply to mineral development licences. Additionally, an owner of land affected by the existence of a mineral development licence can utilise the agreement negotiated between rural organisations and the mining industry in respect of at-risk land-owners.

The basic principle of compensation to owners whose lands are included in mining claims and mining leases has been retained, including determination by the Wardens Court with right of appeal to the Land Court.

An important new initiative is that the terms of any agreement or determination form part of the conditions of a mining claim or mining lease. Therefore, failure to comply with the terms of compensation could lead to forfeiture of the lease.

The proposed legislation provides certain criteria upon which a Wardens Court shall settle the amount an owner of land is entitled to as compensation. Notwithstanding such criteria, on the submission of an owner that the status and use of certain lands is such that an enhanced value should be applied, then subject to the evidence provided, the Wardens Court, or the Land Court on appeal, may determine such compensation for those lands as it deems appropriate.

Further, it has been clarified that loss includes loss of profits calculated by comparing the usage of the land prior to the lodgement of the application and the usage that could be made of that land after grant of the tenure.

An owner whose land is included in a mining lease but has not been compensated because no surface is involved may agree with the miner or have the Wardens Court determine compensation if there is any damage caused to the surface of that land as the result of the operations by the holder.

As well as the major issues I have addressed, the proposed legislation contains provisions on matters such as the appointment of administrative, field and judicial officers necessary for its effective implementation, Wardens Courts which have been retained and their functions; as well as other matters such as royalty, other than royalty rates which will be prescribed by regulations; effects on town-planning schemes; and general provisions.

As I indicated earlier, I now lay upon the table of the House explanatory notes for the assistance of honourable members. I seek leave to have those notes incorporated in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following document—

INTRODUCTION

The Government, through the Department of Mines, has developed a three part strategy to improve service to the mining industry, improve miner/landholder relationships, encourage multiple land use and provide an acceptable climate for the acceleration of mining development whilst ensuring adequate protection for landholders' rights and the environment.

The three parts of the strategy are

- a number of strategically located district offices with Mining Registrars, field officers and other support staff under the control of the Department of Mines;
- a Statewide computerised mining tenures data base including both graphical and nongraphical data; and
- a complete review of the mining legislation and associated procedures. Each of these parts is integral to the success of this strategy and over the past eighteen months all three initiatives have been progressed simultaneously.

The point has now been reached where a draft Bill to provide for the assessment, development and utilisation of mineral resources to the maximum extent practicable with sound economic and land use management is available.

EXISTING LEGISLATION

The current Mining Act has been the mechanism for administering and encouraging the State's mining industry through the 1970's up to the present time. During this period this statute has been subjected to considerable amendment. However, even in its current reprint format, the Mining Act 1968-1986 has been subject to judicial challenge as well as criticism in relation to ambiguity in its interpretation.

Further, it must be appreciated that the current legislation is more a rationalisation of the 1898 Mining Act which in itself was a consolidation of Queensland's early mining statutes rather than the creation of a new and progressive system of mining administration. Significant expansion of the mining industry has occurred since the introduction of the current legislation, not only in terms of the intensity of exploration and development, but also in terms of technical advancement and financial investment required. There are also the pressures placed on the industry by the ever increasing interaction with other land users. This expansion, associated land use problems and the need to provide an attractive and secure investment climate have highlighted deficiencies in the Mining Act 1968-1986.

REVIEW PROCESS

There has been an exhaustive process of consultation in the preparation of this legislation.

In May, 1987 the Government released a Green Paper to provide a basis for discussion and to encourage contributions from interested parties. Over 200 submissions were received from major mining and rural organisations as well as conservation and legal bodies. Submissions were also received from Government Departments, Local Authorities and individuals both from inside and outside the mining industry.

After careful analysis of the contents of these submissions, instructions for the preparation of the new legislation were issued to the Parliamentary Counsel.

In December, 1988 the Government gave approval for senior officers of the Department of Mines to discuss in detail the draft legislation with major mining and rural organisations who had substantial input to the Green Paper as well as other Government Departments. A number of discussions took place and changes made to the draft legislation to address issues raised.

In April, 1989 the draft legislation was circulated for comment to those parties with whom discussions had taken place. Over fifty detailed submissions were received in response to the release of the draft. After careful examination of these submissions and subsequent discussions with the Queensland Chamber of Mines and the Queensland Producers' Federation, a final draft of the legislation was prepared.

LEGISLATIVE CONSTRUCTION

The legislation has been drafted so that, as much as possible, it details the requirements which normally apply in a given situation. However, provisions are included to allow discretion to be exercised in other circumstances.

It is constructed so that the provisions relating to each type of tenure available are substantially contained in the Part devoted to that tenure. This has tended to increase the size of the legislation as a number of sections are repeated in each Part. However, it is considered that the advantage of ease of interpretation outweighs the disadvantage of a voluminous document. General terms such as "mining tenement" have not been used and other terms such as "owner" and "holder" have been given an exclusive meaning for the purposes of the legislation.

CONCEPT OVERVIEW

The basic concept on which the proposed legislation has been formulated relies on adopting a totally new approach to the definition of "land" and the relevant authorities available for accessing such land for the purposes of prospecting, exploration and mining.

The major issues that result from this concept and which form important components of the legislation relate to

- the definition and ownership of minerals;
- availability of land and access thereto;
- prospecting and exploration;
- mining and development;
- compensation for affected landowners; and
- local authority town planning.

Other major Parts of the legislation address

- administration and judicial functions;
- royalty;
- general provisions; and
- transitional and savings provisions.

MAJOR ISSUES/COMPONENTS OF LEGISLATION

Definition and ownership of minerals

The definition of "mineral" is much the same as in the Mining Act 1968-1986, except

- substances dissolved or suspended in water within or upon the earth's crust are included;
- rock mined in block or slab form for building purposes has again been included;
- provision is made for hydrocarbons to be extracted from coal seams where such extraction is in association with the mining of that coal or facilitates the subsequent mining of the coal;
- provision is made for mineral oil or gas produced by "in situ" processes from coal or shale to be a mineral.

There has been no provision made to declare any other substances such as sand, gravel, etc. to be minerals. However, the legislation provides that the holder of a mining lease is entitled to utilise any sand, gravel or rock occurring in or on the lease for purposes associated with the mining operation. It cannot be sold or disposed of. The extraction and disposal of other materials such as sand, gravel or rock on mining leases is a matter requiring the necessary permit from the relevant authority as would be the case if the material was being extracted from other land. The Crown's property in minerals has been retained as per the current legislation. However, an exclusive right has been provided to the Crown to grant permits, licences, claims and leases irrespective of ownership of minerals. The owners of land where the minerals are not the property of the Crown (mineral freeholds/mineral selections) will no longer be able to mine the mineral or allow others to mine such minerals. Only the Crown will be able to grant the right to explore or mine for such minerals with the owner of the minerals receiving the royalty. This brings all privately owned minerals in line with privately owned coal.

Availability of land and access thereto

The activities associated with exploration and mining are governed to a large degree by access to land. Under the current legislation this is dependent on the designation of the land involved and there are three major categories defined

- Crown land accounting for approximately 73% of the State;
- Private land freehold or land in the process of being freeholded which relates to approximately 20% of the State; and
- Reserve land this represents approximately 7% of the State

However, Crown land is subdivided into occupied land and unoccupied land whilst private land is broken down into improved land and unimproved land. Reserve land is also divided into that which is available to exploration and mining and that which is not available such as National Parks and Environmental Parks. Deeds of Grant in Trust for the Benefit of Aboriginal or Islander Inhabitants of the State are also reserve land but are in a category of their own.

The draft Bill contains sweeping changes to the existing system of land classification. With the exception of National Parks and Environmental Parks, which are excluded from the operation of the proposed legislation, all land in Queensland is divided into only two categories

- occupied land accounting for approximately 95% of the State; and
- unoccupied land representing approximately 3% of the State.

The remaining 2% represents the National Parks and Environmental Parks.

Occupied land is all land whether freehold, leasehold or reserve, including Deeds of Grant in Trust for Aboriginal and Islander Inhabitants of the State, for which there is an owner. The legislation defines "owner". Unoccupied land is vacant Crown land and land held under permissive occupancy pursuant to the Land Act.

This was considered necessary because the face of Queensland, in the context of land tenures and land use, has changed dramatically over the years. There is much closer settlement and increased land use with the resultant restrictions on access to land by explorers and miners.

The current legislation prohibits the grant of mining leases over the surface of improved private land and any land within 45 metres to 135 metres laterally of such improved private land (depending on the determination of the Warden's Court) without the consent of the owner of that land. The definition of "improved private land" is quite extensive and includes any

garden, lawn, yard, nursery for trees, orchard, vineyard, cultivated field or improved pasture land.

This means that even though every Crown grant since the introduction of the Mining on Private Land Act in 1909 has contained

- a reservation of all minerals on or below the surface of the land comprised therein; and
- a reservation of the right of access for the purpose of searching for and working any mines in any part of the land,

the Government cannot grant a mining lease over such improved land to allow the mining of the Crown's minerals if the landowner will not agree. This is an anomalous situation which the proposed legislation addresses whilst at the same time protecting the dwellings and work places of all owners of freehold, leasehold and reserve lands.

This protection is provided by the following exclusion which applies in respect of any tenure granted pursuant to the proposed legislation. The holder of such tenure cannot exercise any of his entitlements upon the surface of land of an owner which is

(a) within 100 metres laterally of

(i) a dwelling house or other building of the owner (not of a temporary nature) on those lands principally used for accommodation of persons or used for the conduct of business; or

(ii) a building (not of a temporary nature) on those lands currently being used for community, sporting or recreational purposes or as a place of worship;

or

(b) within 50 metres laterally of

(i) a dam, bore or artesian well of that owner or other artificial water storage of that owner connected to a supply of water; or

(ii) a cemetery or burial place,

except with the written consent of the owner of the land.

For the purposes of this provision, a dwellinghouse or building means a fixed structure that is wholly or partly enclosed by walls and is roofed.

Under the current legislation access to Crown land is by way of possession of a miner's right. The holder of a miner's right is entitled to enter and cross Crown land for the purpose of marking out mining claims and mining leases and, with the consent of the landholder, hand mining. Once he has pegged out a mining claim he can hand mine without the landholder's consent.

Access to private land (freehold) requires a permit to enter issued by the Mining Warden. Once granted the holder may search for minerals, which includes drilling, costeaning, etc., on any private land even if improved.

The disturbance of the surface of reserve land (other than National Parks and Environmental Parks) is possible only with the consent of the Governor in Council, except where an Order in Council has been issued which permits the holder of a miner's right to enter a State Forest or part thereof.

For large scale exploration an authority to prospect can be issued over Crown, private or reserve land. However, the holder of the authority cannot enter private land without first obtaining a permit to enter. Further, he cannot disturb the surface of reserve land without the additional prior consent of the Governor in Council. In other words, two authorities are required to enter the one parcel of land.

The draft legislation provides only two mechanisms for initially accessing land (other than National Parks and Environmental Parks) to prospect or explore. They are

- prospecting permits which are a combination of the miner's right, permit to enter and (former) prospecting area; and
- exploration permits which are a combination of the authority to prospect and permit to enter.

One of these permits must be held by any person or company wishing to apply for a subsequent title, i.e. a mining claim, mineral development licence or mining lease and no person or company is entitled to be on or within land to prospect, explore or mine unless they have the appropriate authority pursuant to the proposed legislation.

As a result of adopting this new concept in relation to land, it has not been necessary to retain a provision similar to Section 97 of the Mining Act 1968-1986 whereby the Minister for Mines can prevent the freeholding of Crown tenures on Mining Fields. Therefore, it will be seen that this initiative provides a substantial gain for those persons wishing to freehold land in the mineralised regions of the State.

Provision has been made for the proposed legislation to apply to

- beds and banks of streams and watercourses;
- inundated land;
- land beneath internal waters of Queensland; and
- Commonwealth land and the sea bed and subsoil beneath internal waters and Territorial Sea of Australia where the Commonwealth has vested its rights to Queensland.

Further, it is important to note that the proposed legislation specifically states that interests or estates in land are not created by virtue of any grants pursuant thereto.

Prospecting and exploration

The terms "prospect" and "explore" have been defined for the first time in the proposed legislation.

"Prospect" means take action, not being that of hand mining (as defined), to determine the existence, quality and quantity of minerals on, in or under land by either or both of the following methods

(a) using metal detectors or other like hand held instruments; and

(b) sampling using only hand held implements.

To address concerns expressed by members of lapidary clubs it will be noted that the definition provides for the use of metal detectors, the use of which were not authorised by a miner's right under the Mining Act 1968-1986.

"Explore" means take action to determine the existence, quality and quantity of minerals on, in or under land or in the waters or sea above land by

(a) prospecting;

(b) using instruments, equipment and techniques appropriate to determine the existence of any mineral;

(c) extracting and removing from land for sampling and testing an amount of material, mineral or other substance in each case reasonably necessary to determine its mineral bearing capacity or its properties as an indication of mineralisation; and

(d) carrying on any other operation that the Minister in writing in the particular case approves.

As indicated earlier, there are two initial access permits provided in the proposed legislation. Details of these are as follows

Prospecting Permits

Prospecting permits can be issued to any company, natural person (who has attained the age of 18 years) or a family (which has been defined) for a term of three (3) months and are not transferable.

They entitle the holder to peg land and do all the other acts necessary to comply with the requirements of the proposed legislation.

The holder and any other person to whom the permit relates may prospect for minerals on land which is not the surface of a reserve but cannot hand mine without the consent of the owner of any occupied land. The term "hand mine" has been defined and specifically excludes the use of explosives which is not the case with the existing legislation. In relation to the surface of a reserve the holder cannot carry on any activity other than pegging without the owner's consent.

Prospecting permits do not create a priority and more than one can be granted over the same parcel or parcels of land at the discretion of the Mining Registrar.

The lands that can be granted in a prospecting permit must be contiguous and restricted to lands within one Mining District. The maximum area specified is 300 hectares unless

(i) the lands are unoccupied; or

(ii) they are the lands of one owner; or

(iii) the Mining Registrar considers special circumstances exist whereby the maximum area should be extended.

The restrictions outlined previously in relation to dwellings, etc. apply.

The holder is entitled to access land which is the subject of an exploration permit but cannot be granted a mining claim or a mining lease within the boundaries of such a permit unless the holder of the exploration permit consents.

The Mining Registrar is required to notify the owners of occupied land of the grant of any prospecting permit in respect of that land. Additionally, the holder must give prior notice of entry to any owner of land included in the permit.

Further, he is not entitled to stay at night on occupied land without the consent of the owner, unless the particular permit has been endorsed by the Mining Registrar authorising such camping. Any consent to stay at night may be conditioned and the holder must dispose of any refuse (including human waste) and rubbish in a safe and sanitary manner.

The holder is required to rehabilitate any land he disturbs and in this regard the Mining Registrar is authorised to require a security deposit prior to the grant of a permit. The Mining Registrar may utilise the security to rectify any damage and require the holder to deposit such further security as the Mining Registrar considers appropriate in the particular circumstances.

Notwithstanding the utilisation of any security deposit, the Crown or the owner of the land may recover from time to time in a Warden's Court the cost of rectifying any actual damage to the land or improvements thereon.

The holder is required to produce evidence of holding a prospecting permit at any time. Further, the legislation provides for the owner of the land to report any suspected breach of the conditions of the permit or other matter of concern to the Mining Registrar who is required to investigate the matter and advise the owner of any action taken.

The Mining Registrar is authorised to impose a penalty on a holder or cancel the permit if the holder contravenes any provision of the proposed legislation or a condition of his permit.

There is provision for a review of any decision of the Mining Registrar by the Minister.

Exploration Permits

The provisions of the proposed legislation relating to exploration permits are based broadly on the provisions in the current legislation relating to authorities to prospect. However, the proposed legislation contains detailed criteria which are not included in the current legislation in relation to authorities to prospect and exist only in Departmental policy documents.

The block and subblock system of identification of land which has been successfully utilised in respect of authorities to prospect has been enshrined in the proposed legislation. Further, the current policy of requiring annual reductions in the area of authorities to prospect has been included. The area of exploration permits is to be reduced by at least 50% each year commencing at the end of the second year unless the Minister otherwise determines.

Applications for exploration permits duly made in respect of the same subblocks for the same minerals lodged on the same day take priority as the Minister determines based on the merit of the applications.

The holder of an exploration permit is entitled to

- the right to explore (as defined); and
- priority to all others to consideration for grant of applications for mineral development licences or mining leases (mining claims are not available to holders of exploration permits).

The holder is also entitled to establish camps whilst exploration activities are carried out. However, he must dispose of any refuse (including human waste) and rubbish in a safe and sanitary manner.

Exploration permits will be granted in respect of either

- all minerals other than coal; or
- coal.

The Minister has been given a discretion in special circumstances to grant an exploration permit in respect of particular specified minerals.

Exploration permits can be granted over all land other than National Parks or Environmental Parks. However, access to reserve land can only be effected by obtaining the consent of the owner or alternatively the Governor in Council. Further, the holder is not entitled to be on

the surface of any lands of an owner which are within the specified distances of dwellings, etc. as outlined earlier.

The maximum term of an exploration permit (including any renewals thereof), unless the Minister in special circumstances otherwise approves, shall not exceed 5 years. Terms granted for less than 5 years may be renewed.

Prior to entering any occupied land, the holder must give notice to the owner of that land at least 7 clear days before entry unless

- a shorter period is acceptable to the owner; or
- this requirement is dispensed with by Mining Registrar in exceptional circumstances.

The notice must include a description of the exploration proposed and must be given for each phase of the exploration program and, unless agreed by the owner, must be renewed at least every three months with an updated outline of the program of work.

The holder is required to rehabilitate the land, produce the permit (or an approved notification) on demand and report any discovery of minerals. To ensure compliance with the conditions of the permit and the legislation and to rectify any damage, the holder is required to lodge a security deposit prior to the grant of the permit. Only one security is required whereas under the present legislation the holder is required to lodge two. The security is held for 6 months after the termination of the permit to cover any claims from owners in relation to damage caused.

Notwithstanding that a security deposit is taken an owner of land may apply to the Warden's Court to determine compensation for any damage caused by a person acting or purporting to act under the authority of an exploration permit. Any security already utilised in relation to such damage must be taken into account in such determination.

The legislation provides for the owner of the land to report any suspected breach of the conditions of the permit or any other matters of concern to the Mining Registrar who is required to investigate the matter and advise the owner of any action taken. Further, the Minister may cancel the permit or impose a penalty. However, in all cases other than nonpayment of rent or a penalty, a show cause notice must be issued.

The current procedures in relation to authorities to prospect have been retained in respect to the moratorium over lands released from exploration permits except that the period has been reduced from 3 months to 2 months and the provisions do not apply to lands released from exploration permits for coal.

Provision has been made for an exploration permit to be assigned but not during the initial twelve months of the term. An exploration permit cannot be mortgaged. However, provision has been made for the registration of caveats and the recording of agreements such as farmin agreements, option agreements, etc.

Mining and development

It must be appreciated that the mining industry in Queensland still covers a broad spectrum from the small scale fossicker and hand miner to the large multimillion dollar operations employing thousands of people. Accordingly, tenures must be provided to cater for the needs of all sectors of this diverse industry.

To provide an avenue for small scale operations, the proposed legislation retains the mining claim tenure as provided in the current legislation suitably amended to address the concerns of Government in relation to the past performance of the holders of this type of tenure, particularly in the areas of land use management and environmental impact.

The other "mining" tenure provided in the proposed legislation is the mining lease. The basic provisions relating to mining leases as exist in the current legislation have been retained. However, those changes that have been made are most significant to the Government's thrusts to improve processing times, alleviate landowner concerns and ensure adequate environmental protection.

A new initiative is the provision of a mineral development licence. The mining industry has for some time sought the introduction of a "development" or "retention" tenure to bridge the gap between the exploration stage of a project and the actual mining stage. The mineral development licence as proposed in the legislation will provide this intermediate tenure.

The detail of each of these tenures is as set out hereunder.

Mining Claims

A mining claim can only be granted to the holder of a prospecting permit over land to which his permit or permits apply. The maximum area is 1 hectare and a person is only entitled to hold an interest in two mining claims in the whole of the State. A mining claim cannot be granted for the mining of coal.

It is important to note that under the proposed legislation a mining claim may be granted over freehold land and reserve land as well as Crown land. Under the existing legislation a mining claim may only be granted over Crown land. It must be for whole of surface. However, it will not be able to be granted in respect of the lands of an owner which are within the prescribed distances of dwellings, etc. as previously indicated.

Whilst providing a much needed tenure for small scale operators and fossickers, the provision of multiple 1 hectare areas capable of being worked by heavy earthmoving machinery with minimal environmental control, as is presently the case, is considered inappropriate in the present climate. Accordingly, under the proposed legislation a mining claim is to be restricted to prospecting and hand mining only (both defined) unless the Governor in Council authorises the use of particular complementary equipment. The intention is that in no case will earthmoving equipment be authorised for mining. However, the Mining Registrar is empowered to approve the use of such machinery for purposes other than mining such as rehabilitation. Substantial penalties have been included to address cases where there is contravention of these provisions.

Provision has been made to allow conditions to be set to protect the environment and require effective rehabilitation. To ensure compliance with such conditions and other requirements of the legislation, a security deposit is required to be lodged prior to any grant of a mining claim. Provision has also been made to allow such security deposits to be transferred from one claim to another.

As stated earlier a mining claim is to be granted for the whole of the surface of the lands within its boundaries and must be rectangular in shape unless approved otherwise by the Mining Registrar. The initial term is to be a maximum of 5 years but is capable of being renewed.

Compensation must be agreed or determined prior to grant. If compensation is not agreed within 3 months of the decision that the mining claim is to be granted, it automatically goes to the Warden's Court for determination. Matters related to compensation in respect of mining claims and other tenures are more fully detailed under the heading "Compensation for affected landowners".

The application for a mining claim must be lodged personally with the Mining Registrar for the district in which the land is situated. This will enable the Mining Registrar to establish the bona fides of the applicant and resolve any difficulties with the application. A copy of the certificate of application indicating a date for the lodgement of objections is to be served on the owner of the land the subject of the application and the relevant Local Authority.

The owner may require the applicant to attend a compulsory "without prejudice" conference. This initiative is to allow an owner of land and a miner to meet for a "without prejudice" conference convened by the Mining Registrar to address any initial concerns the owner may have in relation to the application.

If no objections are lodged (and if reserve land, the consent of the owner is obtained), the Mining Registrar may grant the mining claim without the need for a hearing provided he is satisfied that all the requirements of the legislation have been complied with.

The legislation provides that mining claims may be assigned and there is also provision for mortgages to be registered. There is provision for the lodgement of caveats.

Mining Leases

As indicated earlier, the basic provisions relating to mining leases as exist in the current legislation have been retained in the proposed legislation. It is available in respect of all Crown, private or reserve land except that the surface area within the prescribed distances of dwellings, etc. as previously indicated is not available unless with the written consent of the owner.

However, there are a number of changes and the more significant are highlighted hereunder.

An applicant for a mining lease must hold at the date of application one or a combination of the following prerequisites in respect of land sought to be included in the mining lease

- prospecting permit or prospecting permits;
- exploration permit or exploration permits;
- mineral development licence or mineral development licences.

The prerequisite must have been granted in respect of the mineral initially sought to be mined under the mining lease. The only exceptions to this requirement are where a holder of a current mining lease seeks a further mining lease for the purposes of carrying anything through, over or under lands not comprised in his current lease, or where the holder of a current mining lease seeks additional surface area. The mining lease referred to in the former case has been introduced to replace the Licence to Carry Anything Across Alien Land which exists in the current legislation.

The application for the mining lease must be lodged personally with the Mining Registrar for the district in which the land (or the majority of the land) applied for is situated and the applicant is required to justify area and shape applied for as well as the term applied for. This justification is necessary as the proposed legislation in normal circumstances places no statutory limitations on the area, shape or term that may be granted.

However, the proposed legislation does restrict the area of individual applications for mining leases to 50 hectares and the aggregate area of mining leases available to an applicant in an area released from an exploration permit to 300 hectares during the 2 months "moratorium period".

Importantly, the application must be accompanied by a statement specifying

(a) the financial and technical resources of the applicant;

(b) an outline of the mining programme proposed and the method of its operation or any other use proposed for the land and the period within which operations shall commence after the Mining lease is granted;

(c) details of any infrastructure requirements that will or may be necessary to enable the mining programme to proceed;

(d) proposals for protecting the environment on, and in the vicinity of, the area of the proposed Lease during its term; and

(e) proposals for progressive and final rehabilitation of the land.

As with mining claims, the owner of land may require the miner to meet with him for a "without prejudice" conference convened by the Mining Registrar to address any initial concerns the owner may have in relation to the application. An owner who attends a conference retains the right to lodge an objection to the application even though the date for lodgement of objections may have passed provided the objection is lodged within 7 days of the conclusion of the conference.

To remove the anomaly that exists under the current legislation whereby an applicant for a mining lease cannot enter or be upon the ground applied for without the express permission of the Minister, the proposed legislation provides that the applicant for a mining lease during the application phase retains the same entitlements he had under the prerequisite that was held leading up to the time of application notwithstanding that the prerequisite may have terminated. However, the applicant for a Mining lease who wishes to carry on any activities on a Mining lease Application which were not authorised pursuant to the prerequisite that was held must seek the approval of the Minister to carry on such activities. The Minister, if he approves, may require a security deposit to be lodged and condition the approval.

Where objections are lodged or the Warden considers it appropriate to enable him to make a recommendation, the proposed legislation requires that he hold a public hearing.

The Warden, when making a recommendation to the Minister that an application for a mining lease be granted in whole or in part, shall take into account and consider whether

(a) the provisions of the Act have been complied with;

(b) the area of land applied for is mineralised or the other purposes for which the lease is sought are appropriate;

(c) if the land applied for is mineralised there will be an acceptable level of development and utilisation of the mineral resources within the area applied for;

(d) the land and the surface area of the land in respect of which the mining lease is sought is of an appropriate size and shape;

(e) the term sought is appropriate;

(f) the applicant has the necessary financial and technical capabilities to carry on mining operations under the proposed mining lease;

(g) the past performance of the applicant has been satisfactory;

(h) the operations to be carried on under the authority of the proposed mining lease will conform with sound land use management;

(i) there will be any adverse environmental effect caused by those operations and, if so, the extent thereof;

(j) the public right and interest will be prejudiced;

(k) any good reason has been shown for a refusal to grant the mining lease. Where the Warden recommends to the Minister that an application for the grant of a mining lease be rejected in whole or in part, he shall furnish the Minister with his reasons for that recommendation.

If after the closing date for objections, no objections have been lodged, the Warden may dispense with a hearing but still must address the prescribed criteria (as detailed above) in any recommendation to the Minister. The legislation further provides that the Minister, whether the Warden's Court has heard an application or the hearing has been dispensed with by the Warden, may remit the application to the Warden's Court for hearing or further hearing.

The proposed legislation incorporates a system whereby holders of mining leases are required prior to commencement of operations on a lease to submit to the Minister a plan of operations. This system will be used to ensure the operations for which the Lease was granted are being carried out and is in lieu of the present outdated system of labour and expenditure provisions. The plan can exist for a maximum of 5 years unless the Governor in Council determines otherwise. The plan of operations will form part of the conditions of the Lease.

Except in special circumstances approved by the Minister, all mining leases will be required to be surveyed prior to grant.

A security deposit is required to be deposited prior to commencement of operations on the lease for compliance with the provisions of the Act and the conditions of the lease. Such security deposit can be reviewed at any time any part is utilised or on submission of each further plan of operations. The proposed legislation allows bank guarantees or bonds to be accepted as well as other financial arrangements with a bank, insurance company or financial institution. The security can also be utilised to recover any penalties, royalty or other monies owing to the Crown.

A major change in the conditioning of mining leases as contained in the proposed legislation is the ability to extend conditioning to protect the environment outside the boundaries of the lease.

If the Minister considers a holder has contravened any provision of the legislation or the conditions of his Lease he can call upon the holder to show cause why a penalty should not be imposed or the Lease cancelled.

Rental on mining leases granted under the proposed legislation will be payable in advance on the basis of the rate per hectare per annum prescribed for that year of the term. It is important to note that this will mean that under the proposed legislation rental on leases granted or renewed after the commencement of the legislation will have their rental adjusted annually.

The basic principles of compensation to owners whose lands are included in Mining leases has been retained and these are addressed more fully under the heading "Compensation for affected landowners".

Mineral Development Licences

As indicated earlier, this is a totally new initiative and has no equivalent in the current legislation.

The proposed legislation provides that the Minister is authorised to grant the holder of an exploration permit a mineral development licence if he is satisfied that

- the applicant has complied with the provisions of the Act with respect to the application;
- there exists to a high degree of definition on or in the land in respect of which the application is made a significant mineral occurrence of possible economic potential;
- the area of land in respect of which the application is made is appropriate to the further investigation of that occurrence; and
- the financial and technical resources of the applicant and the development proposed is appropriate and acceptable to the Minister.

The licence can be granted in respect of all land other than National Parks or Environmental Parks but the provisions relating to any area within the prescribed distances of dwellings, etc.

as outlined earlier apply. The holder cannot enter the surface area of reserve land without the consent of the owner or alternatively the consent of the Governor in Council.

The licence area does not have to be marked out on the ground. However, within 21 days of the grant of the licence the holder is required to notify the owners of any occupied land in the prescribed form of such grant. Additionally, the holder must give notice of entry at least 7 clear days before any entry is made and the same provisions apply as in the case of exploration permits.

Without limiting the Minister's powers to authorise activities, the following activities may be carried out

- geological, geophysical and geochemical programmes and other works as are reasonably necessary to evaluate the potential for development of any mineral occurrence of possible economic potential occurring in or on land comprised in the mineral development licence;
- mining feasibility studies;
- metallurgical testing;
- environmental studies;
- marketing studies;
- engineering and design studies; and
- such other activities as the Minister thinks appropriate.

However, the legislation provides that the Minister may authorise the grant of a licence even though no activities are proposed to be undertaken during a specified period. This is to allow the holder to retain priority to mineral occurrences which may not be economical to develop at a particular time. An example is oil shale. The legislation provides that the maximum initial term is 5 years but the mineral development licence can be renewed. In exceptional circumstances the Minister may approve a longer term. Again oil shale is a good example.

The Minister may at any time direct the holder to apply for a mining lease. Failure to comply with a direction can lead to cancellation of the licence. The holder of a mineral development licence has priority for consideration for the grant of a Mining lease provided he complies with the requirements of the legislation. A security deposit is required prior to grant and is held for at least 6 months after expiry unless all owners of land the subject of the licence agree to its earlier release. The legislation allows conditions to be imposed which protect the environment outside the licence area and the holder must rehabilitate disturbed land unless an application for a mining lease is lodged over that land.

Provision has been made for a mineral development licence to be assigned and it may be mortgaged. Provision has also been made for the registration of caveats and the recording of agreements.

If the holder has contravened any provision of the proposed legislation or a condition of the Licence, the Minister, may impose a penalty or cancel the licence. In all cases other than nonpayment or rent or nonpayment of a penalty, a show cause notice must be issued.

Compensation for affected landowners

As highlighted earlier in this summary, the proposed legislation does not distinguish between land held by an owner under lease from the Crown, freehold or as a reserve. Consequently, all are treated in the same way for compensation purposes, however, the compensation payable will obviously have a relationship to the type of land involved.

The compensation provisions of the proposed legislation vary between those applied to the prospecting and exploration permits, the mineral development licences and the mining claims and mining leases. Details of the provisions as they relate to these tenures are set out hereunder.

Prospecting Permits and Exploration Permits

Under the provisions of the proposed legislation, compensation is not payable in advance prior to the grant of these tenures.

Provision is made that, notwithstanding a security deposit is taken to be used to rectify any damage caused to the land or any improvements thereon, an owner of land may apply from time to time to the Warden's Court to determine compensation for damage caused by a person acting or purporting to act under the authority of a prospecting permit or exploration permit. The Court must take into account any security already utilised in relation to that damage.

Mineral Development Licences

Similar provisions apply to those in relation to prospecting permits and exploration permits. Additionally, an owner of land affected by the existence of a mineral development licence can utilise the agreement negotiated between rural organisations and the mining industry in respect of "at risk" landowners. This agreement recognises that a landowner whose property is the subject of a mineral development licence falls within the category of an "at risk" landowner and is therefore subject to the agreement.

Mining Claims and Mining Leases

The basic principle of compensation to owners whose lands are included in mining claims and mining leases has been retained. However, the provisions have been worded to ensure that the compensation agreed upon or determined prior to grant is for the lands of an owner of which an area of surface has been taken up or to which a surface access applies.

If no agreement is reached or neither party has made an application for determination, the matter of compensation automatically goes to the Warden's Court 3 months after the determination of the mining claim or mining lease application.

In all cases where a determination is made by the Warden's Court, an appeal is available to either party to the Land Court. The Land Court's decision is final. These provisions are similar to those in the current legislation.

An important new initiative is that the terms of any agreement or determination form part of the conditions of a mining claim or mining lease.

The proposed legislation provides that upon an application made to it, a Warden's Court shall settle the amount an owner of land is entitled to as compensation for

(a) deprivation of possession of the surface of land of the owner;

(b) diminution of the value of the lands of the owner or any improvements thereon;

(c) diminution of the use made or which may be made of the lands of the owner or any improvements thereon;

(d) severance of any part of the land from other parts thereof or from other lands of the owner;

(e) any surface rights of access;

(f) all loss or expense that arises,

as a consequence of the grant or renewal of the mining claim or mining lease.

Notwithstanding the foregoing criteria, on the submission of an owner that the status and use of certain lands is such that an enhanced value should be applied, then subject to the evidence provided the Warden's Court may determine such compensation for those lands as it deems appropriate.

Further, it has been clarified that loss includes loss of profits calculated by comparing the usage of the land prior to the lodgement of the application and the usage that could be made of that land after grant of the tenure.

In assessing the amount of compensation payable

(a) where it is necessary for the owner of land to obtain replacement land of a similar nature and area or resettle himself or relocate his livestock and other chattels on other parts of his land or on the replacement land, all reasonable costs (including legal costs) incurred or likely to be incurred by the owner in obtaining replacement land, his resettlement and the relocation of his livestock or other chattels as at the date of the assessment shall be considered;

(b) no allowance shall be made for any minerals that are or may be on or under the surface of the land concerned.

The Warden's Court, in making a determination, may inform itself in such manner as it thinks fit.

In any case the Warden's Court may determine the amounts and times when payments aggregating the total compensation payable shall be payable. This is a new initiative not in the current legislation.

A new provision relates to compensation where no surface area is involved.

An owner whose land is included in a mining lease but has not been compensated because no surface is involved may agree with the miner or have the Warden's Court determine compensation if there is any damage caused to the surface of that land as the result of the

operations by the holder. A Warden's Court in determining compensation in these circumstances shall take into consideration the following

(a) diminution of the value of the lands of the owner or any improvements thereon;

(b) diminution of the use made or which may be made of the lands of the owner or any improvements thereon; and

(c) all loss or expense that arises;

as a consequence of the Mining Lease.

It is to be noted that this particular provision does not prevent or hinder the grant or renewal of a mining lease or the commencement or continuance of operations hereunder.

Local Authority town planning

Provision is made that the use of land under a mining claim, mining lease or mineral development licence is a permitted use under any town planning scheme. The current Act only relates to mining leases.

Further, provision has been made to prevent Town Plans from being amended (rezoning) where the land concerned is comprised in a mining claim, mineral development licence or mining lease without taking into account the views of the Minister for Mines.

The legislation also highlights that for the purposes of a town planning scheme the activities carried on under the authority of a prospecting permit or an exploration permit are not uses of land.

Administration and judicial functions

For the purposes of the administration of the Mining Act 1968-1986, the State is divided into 38 Mining Districts which are assigned to Wardens' Courts presided over by Wardens who, in the majority of cases, are also the Stipendiary Magistrate in the particular locality. Wardens' Offices are administered by the Department of Justice not the Department of Mines and the Mining Registrar is normally the Clerk of the Court.

As outlined in the Introduction of this summary, one part of the strategy to improve the service to the mining industry, improve miner/landholder relationships and ensure adequate protection for landholders' rights and the environment is the establishment of a number of strategically located District Offices with specialist Mining Registrars, Field Officers and other support staff under the control of the Department of Mines.

The first division of this part of the proposed legislation sets out in detail the duties, powers and responsibilities of these Mining Registrars and Field Officers as these are the people upon whom the Department will rely to achieve many of the objectives of the proposed legislation.

This initiative, particularly the introduction of field staff to give on the spot advice and assistance, has been strongly supported by all sections of the community.

These officers, particularly the Mining Registrars, will undertake the administrative duties currently the responsibility of the Mining Wardens. However, it will also enable a large part of the tenure processing function of the Department's Head Office to be shifted to these District Offices significantly reducing duplication and providing a more effective and efficient service at the local level.

The Green Paper proposed the abolition of the Warden's Court with all judicial matters being determined in the existing civil jurisdiction. However, following strong representations to retain the Warden's Court, the Government agreed to its retention.

The second division of this part of the proposed legislation sets out the scope of the Warden's authority and the establishment, jurisdiction and powers of the Warden's Court. Wardens continue to have power in their Courts to hear applications for.

Mining claims and mining leases, determine compensation and rule on any matters relating to prospecting, exploration and mining. Under the proposed legislation the Warden's Court has retained the power to grant equitable remedy and relief.

It is important to note, however, that the substantive jurisdiction of the Warden's Court is no longer exclusive as is the case under the existing legislation. This will allow parties to actions involving mining matters (other than application hearings and compensation determinations) to institute proceedings in any civil court of competent jurisdiction. In view of this, it has been necessary in the proposed legislation to provide for proceedings brought in one court to be remitted to another court.

Another new initiative provided in the proposed legislation is the power for the Warden to reserve a question of law for the opinion of the Supreme Court.

The third division of this part of the proposed legislation covers the provisions relating to appeals from the Warden's Court. As with the current Act appeal is to the District Court, other than in those cases where the determination consists of a recommendation upon which the Governor in Council or Minister may exercise a discretion or a direction to the Mining Registrar to reject or grant a mining claim.

Royalty

Whilst any person who mines mineral from any land is still required to pay royalty, the onus has been placed on the holders of mining claims and mining leases to ensure that returns are lodged and royalty is paid. Further, the proposed legislation requires that royalty returns have to be lodged and royalty paid when any assignment or surrender documents are lodged.

It has been made quite clear in the proposed legislation that the security deposit held in respect of any mining lease or mining claim can be utilised towards any unpaid royalty and the Minister may determine what constitutes one "mining operation" for the purposes of determining royalty payable. Provision has also been made for interest to be charged on outstanding royalty.

Increased powers have been provided to approved officers to examine accounts, books, etc. for the purpose of establishing the royalty payable. Confidentiality of information has also been provided for in the legislation.

Royalty rates will be detailed in the Regulations as is presently the case.

General provisions

Provision has been made in the proposed legislation to address a number of general matters the most important of which relate to

- priority of competing applications for different types of grant
- declaration by Order in Council of areas of the State where certain restrictions apply
- substantial compliance
- applicant or holder not to be punished for neglect or default of Mining Registrar
- creation of National Parks, Environmental Parks, etc. pursuant to other legislation
- owner of land not liable for injury suffered as a result of activities carried on under this legislation
- delegation of Minister's powers
- offences relating to unauthorised mining
- offences regarding land subject to mining claim or mining lease
- orders to remove persons or structures
- indemnity against liability
- evidentiary provisions
- regulationmaking powers

Transitional and savings provisions

These provisions have been drafted to address all those situations which will occur as a result of a substantial piece of legislation, in this case the Mining Act 1968-1986, being replaced in total by new legislation that contains major changes in a number of the basic concepts that have been in place since the turn of the century.

In the main these provisions are selfexplanatory. However, it is important to appreciate a number of the major implications.

Mining Claims

All claims with whole of surface currently in existence are to be deemed to be mining claims pursuant to the proposed legislation. They will be restricted to hand mining unless application for a mining lease in respect of the area involved is made within 3 months or such longer period as the Minister approves in a particular case.

A person holding claims at the commencement of the proposed legislation will be restricted to holding the number of claims that he holds at that date whilst those claims continue to subsist and no subsequent grants or assignments of mining claims will be permitted whilst he

continues to hold in excess of the number of mining claims prescribed in the proposed legislation.

Existing claims will continue in force for the term yet to run but where no term is specified, for a maximum period of 5 years from the commencement of the proposed legislation.

Where the holder of a claim makes an application for a mining lease in lieu of his claim, he will be required to remark the land as prescribed for mining leases and lodge his application in accordance with the proposed legislation. Provisions relating to posting, advertising, objection and hearing will not apply and if the Mining Registrar certifies that the applicant holds a claim, has complied with the Act and compensation arrangements are in place, the Minister shall recommend to the Governor in Council the grant of a mining lease. Contiguous claims may be the subject of one mining lease application.

Where an existing claim does not have whole of surface, the holder may upon lodgement of relevant compensation agreements, apply to have the whole of surface included in his claim or alternatively apply for a mining lease over the area of his claim.

Applications for claims made in compliance with the provisions of the current legislation will be progressed under the proposed legislation.

Mining Leases

All leases currently in existence are to be deemed to be mining leases pursuant to the proposed legislation and are to continue in force for the balance of the term for which they were granted.

Any such mining lease is to be subject to the provisions of and the conditions imposed under the proposed legislation except to the extent that any special covenants and conditions to which the lease was subject at the date of commencement of the proposed legislation are inconsistent with such legislation in which cases the special covenants and conditions shall apply. However, it must be noted that the proposed legislation also provides that the rate of rental applicable to an existing lease is to continue to apply until the renewal of that lease at which time the provisions of the proposed legislation will apply.

The holder of leases that are deemed to be mining leases will be required to submit a plan of operations within 3 months of the commencement of the proposed legislation or such longer period as the Minister in a particular case approves. Such plan will be in lieu of any labour or expenditure conditions to which the lease was subject pursuant to the current legislation.

It is important to note that any tenements granted pursuant to the provisions of any of the Agreement Acts relating to mining are also deemed to be mining leases pursuant to the proposed legislation and continue in force for the balance of their term. However, where there is inconsistency between the provisions of the relevant Agreement Act and the proposed legislation, the provisions of the Agreement Act prevail.

Applications for leases made in compliance with the provisions of the current legislation will be progressed under the proposed legislation.

Authorities to Prospect

All authorities to prospect in existence at the commencement of the proposed legislation are to be deemed to be exploration permits pursuant to the proposed legislation and are to continue for the balance of their term.

The terms and conditions to which the authority to prospect is subject will continue to apply except that the provisions of the proposed legislation relating to notification of entry and access to land shall apply.

Any application for an authority to prospect lodged at the commencement of the proposed legislation is to proceed pursuant to the proposed legislation as an application for an exploration permit but the priority as established pursuant to the current legislation will be retained.

Areas, licences, etc.

Residence areas, business areas and market garden areas will continue subject to the provisions of the legislation under which they were granted other than any requirement to hold a miner's right. These areas are now administered by the Land Administration Commission.

Machine areas, areas for stacking tailings, areas for erection of furnaces and drainage areas will terminate unless the holder makes application for a mining lease for purposes associated with mining within 3 months from the commencement of the legislation or such longer period

as the Minister in a particular case approves. The same provisions will apply as are to apply to mining claims to be converted to mining leases.

Miners' Commons will cease to exist as from the date of commencement of the proposed legislation.

Permits to enter current at the commencement of the proposed legislation. will continue subject to their existing rights, entitlements and responsibilities up to the expiry of their term.

Miners' rights current at the commencement of the proposed legislation will continue in force for the balance of their term but will be deemed to be prospecting permits. The holder will have all the rights and obligations of the holder of a prospecting permit but only in respect of Crown land as defined in the current legislation.

Licences to carry anything across alien land current at the commencement of the proposed legislation will be deemed to be mining leases pursuant to the proposed legislation.

Provisions have also been drafted to cover such matters as appeals from the Warden's Court commenced under the current legislation, applications for assessment of damage, existing caveats, royalty payments, the transfer of registers, records, security deposits, etc. and where substances have been lawfully mined but not under the authority of the current legislation.

Conclusion

The Queensland mining industry continues to make a significant contribution to the State's economy and the wellbeing of the people of Queensland.

Over the last twenty years major expansion of the mineral and energy resources sector has occurred. Indicators of the economic significance of this sector are

Foreign Export contribution

$4,500 million (58% of State total) (1986/87)

New Capital Expenditure

$600 million annually (21% of 1980/81 1987/88 State total)

Estimated Annual State Revenue Contribution	$1000 million (35% State raised revenue, 16% Total State revenue) (1987/88)

Maintaining sustained growth and development of the mining industry in the future will present significant administrative, operational and technological challenges.

The proposed legislation is an important factor in meeting these challenges.

Mr TENNI: I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Vaughan, adjourned.

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL QUEENSLAND BILL

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (11.56 a.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to provide for the establishment and incorporation of the University of Central Queensland at Rockhampton and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Littleproud, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (11.57 a.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

I present to the House a Bill to establish the University of Central Queensland. The Bill has the effect of discontinuing the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education—a college of advanced education established under the Education Act 1964-1989—and establishing initially the University College of Central Queensland and ultimately the University of Central Queensland.

Beginning in 1990, the Commonwealth Government's unified national system of higher education will involve competitive bidding by individual institutions for funds for enrolment growth and research initiatives. The concept "advanced education" and the definition of an advanced education course will no longer be used by the Commonwealth as criteria for funding.

The demise of advanced education as a distinct sector of higher education has necessitated a review of the status of all institutions currently established as colleges of advanced education under the Education Act 1964-1989. The larger, more diverse colleges aspire to university status and the continued viability of the smaller colleges is called into question. I envisage that each college of advanced education will ultimately be granted university status in its own right or be amalgamated with an existing university.

To assume university status, an institution must be able to demonstrate that it is able to maintain those standards of academic excellence that are recognised and respected throughout Australia. In safeguarding such standards, the Queensland Government, in co-operation with the chief executive officers of existing institutions of higher education, has adopted guide-lines for the establishment of new universities in Queensland.

These guide-lines require that an institution should be able to offer courses and award undergraduate degrees and post-graduate awards covering a broad range of intellectual inquiry; demonstrate a commitment to research; preserve, transmit and enrich learning through teaching and publications; objectively pursue knowledge in order to develop wisdom; and respond to the needs of those communities which are served by the institution.

A two-stage evaluation procedure has been established. Initially, an institution seeking university status provides a written submission for consideration. If this submission is accepted, a rigorous assessment of the institution is undertaken by an expert advisory committee appointed by the Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation. Following its examination, the committee reports on whether, in its opinion, the institution should be accorded university status.

Following application of this procedure, the Queensland Institute of Technology was the first of Queensland's colleges of advanced education to be granted university status under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988.

In July 1988, the Council of the Capricornia Institute of Advanced Education in Rockhampton made a preliminary submission seeking to establish a case for the institute to become a university serving the central Queensland region. In September last year, I announced that the initial submission from the council had established a prima facie case warranting further consideration. I therefore appointed an advisory committee to conduct the examination of matters pertinent to the application. The advisory committee comprised—

The Honourable Mr Justice Demack, Judge of the Supreme Court, Rockhampton (Chairman);

Dr P. B. Botsman, Special Adviser to the Minister for Education on post-compulsory education;

Dr C. K. Brennan, Under Secretary, Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training;

Professor R. S. Holmes, Dean of the Division of Science and Technology, Griffith University; and

Professor G. C. Kiel, Head of the Graduate School of Management, University of Queensland.

The advisory committee subsequently reported that the institute has the potential to become a university, provided that certain steps are taken. The report presents a profile of an institution which has maximised the opportunities available to it.

The institute was founded 21 years ago as an institution within the Department of Education, and has grown and matured under the direction of a council since June 1971. There are approximately 4 200 students enrolled, which amounts to some 2 700 equivalent full-time student units. The institute envisages a student load of 5 200 equivalent full-time student units by 1993.

In the absence of Commonwealth funding for research, the institute is to be commended for its enterprise and dedication in obtaining significant research funds from other sources. Such activity has provided a useful base from which the breadth of research required of a university can be developed. Optimum use has been made of both capital resources and personnel and a notable commitment to excellence of teaching has been fostered. The needs of the region have remained at the forefront of the institute's activities and planning and the institute is recognised as excelling in the provision of a wide range of external studies.

Necessary developments for the assumption of university status relate to planning, staffing, curriculum, research and resources. Accordingly, the approach endorsed by the Government to enable the institute to realise its potential to become a university involves a transition period during which the necessary development can be effected. For maximum benefit to be gained from the transition period, the institute shall be granted a greater degree of freedom and responsibility as the University College of Central Queensland from 1 January 1990 with its own governing council. For example, the university college will accredit its own courses and will interact with Commonwealth authorities in the same manner as universities.

To facilitate the developmental process, the University College of Central Queensland will be sponsored by the University of Queensland. During the period of the sponsorship, the University of Queensland will have a significant representation on the university college's council and be closely involved in the development of research capacity and post-graduate courses at the university college.

The university college's eligibility for university status will be assessed by a process of external review by a panel of eminent scholars. I expect that external review to be undertaken in the period July to December 1992. Subject to and following a favourable outcome of this review and agreement by the State and Commonwealth Governments, it is proposed that the University of Central Queensland be established from 1 January 1993 or from such later day appointed by the Governor in Council by proclamation.

The Bill is derived from the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988, which was compiled with great care to provide a model for State university legislation which accommodates contemporary developments. In particular, the Bill clearly provides for the University College of Central Queensland and, ultimately, the University of Central Queensland to enter into commercial enterprise for the benefit of the institution.

I commend the Bill to the House.

I now seek leave to have the remainder of my speech, comprising a clause-by-clause overview of the legislation, incorporated in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

Clauses 1 and 2 cite the short title of the Bill and provide for the commencement of the University College, and subsequently the commencement of the University.

Clause 3 provides for the repeal for that Part of the Act in respect of the University College on and from an appointed day. Clause 4 provides an interpretation of terms used in the Bill.

Clause 5 provides for the establishment and incorporation of the University while clause 6 provides for its functions and powers.

Clauses 7 to 15 establish the framework of the University.

Clauses 7 and 8 specify the establishment and constitution of the Council. Clause 9 provides for assumption of office of members of the Council. Clauses 10 and 11 provide for the constitution and functions of Convocation. Clauses 12 to 15 provide for the establishment and operation of the University of Central Queensland Student Association.

Clauses 16 to 33 detail generally, administative provisions relating to the operation of the Council. Clauses 34 to 42 provide for the powers, authorities and duties of Convocation, and detail generally administrative provisions relating to the operation of Convocation.

Clauses 43 to 45 provide for the making of regulations, Statutes and rules necessary for the carrying into effect of all or any of the various provisions of this Part of the Bill.

Clauses 46 to 49 provide for the establishment and operation of companies, joint ventures, and the like to exploit commercially any facility or resource of the University including study, research or knowledge, or the practical application thereof. Clause 49 provides specifically for accountability requirement in respect of any companies so formed and associated with the University.

Clauses 50 to 52 provide for the Council to prepare an annual report; for the publication of Proclamations, Orders in Council, regulations, and Statutes; and in all aspects of the University that no test of religion, politics, race or sex shall be administered.

Clauses 53 to 56 provide for the establishment of residential and other colleges within the University.

Clauses 57 to 66 provide generally for the operation of the University in respect of property, budget, investment, superannuation, and general finance and administrative provisions. Clause 57 specifies the University's financial year.

Clauses 67 to 71 provide for transitional and special arrangements for the discontinuation of the University College of Central Queensland and the establishment of the University of Central Queensland. The University College of Central Queensland and its Council shall cease to exist on the commencement of the University of Central Queensland.

Clauses 72 to 75 provide for transitional arrangements for the discontinuation of the University College of Central Queensland Student Association and the establishment of the University of Central Queensland Student Association.

Clause 76 provides for the first Council of the University. The first Council shall consist of those members of the Council of the University College of Central Queensland holding office immediately prior to the commencement of the University. It is the responsibility of the first Council to make all necessary Statutes and take all necessary steps to ensure that a Council is duly constituted pursuant to clause 8 from a day appointed by Proclamation.

Clause 77 provides for the first Vice-Chancellor of the University to be the person who immediately prior to the commencement of this Act held office as Vice-Chancellor of the University College. The period and conditions of appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor shall be as determined by the first Council by resolution in that behalf, and approved by the Governor in Council.

Clause 78 provides for the members of the first Council to elect, at their first meeting, a Chancellor and a Deputy Chancellor. The Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor elected by the first Council shall vacate their offices when the duly constituted Council assumes office.

Clause 79 provides for casual vacancies on the first Council.

Clauses 80 and 81 provide for transitional arrangements in respect of the enrolment of students and the granting of awards.

Clauses 82 and 83 provide for compliance with accounts and audit requirements and with annual reporting requirements in respect of the financial year of the Council of the University College ending 31 December of the year preceding the establishment of the University.

Clause 84 provides for savings of various approvals, authorities, directions, orders, and the like made under relevant sections of the Education Act 1964-1989.

Clause 85 provides for all Statutes and rules made by the Council of the University College to be the Statutes and rules of the University made by the Council.

Clause 86 provides for a reference in any other Act, by-law, regulation or other statutory instrument to the Council of the University College to be read as a reference to the Council of the University, and a reference to the University College to be read as a reference to the University.

Clause 87 allows a mechanism whereby any necessary transitional arrangement not covered by Division 5 of Part II (Transitional and Special Arrangements) can be addressed by subordinate legislation.

Clause 88 provides an interpretation of terms used in Part III of the Bill.

Clause 89 provides for the establishment and incorporation of the University College while clause 90 provides for its functions and powers.

Clauses 91 to 97 establish the framework of the University College.

Clauses 91 and 92 specify the establishment and constitution of the Council of the University College. Clause 93 provides for assumption of office of members of the Council of the University College. Clauses 94 to 97 provide for the establishment and operation of the University College of Central Queensland Student Association.

Clauses 98 to 115 detail generally, administrative provisions relating to the operation of the Council of the University College.

Clauses 116 to 118 provide for the making of regulations, Statutes, and rules necessary for the carrying into effect of all or any of the various provisions of this Part of the Bill.

Clauses 119 to 122 provide for the establishment and operation of companies, joint ventures, and the like to exploit commercially any facility or resource of the University College including study, research or knowledge, or the practical application thereof. Clause 122 provides specifically for accountability requirement in respect of any companies so formed and associated with the University College.

Clauses 123 to 125 provide for the Council of the University College to prepare an annual report; for the publication of Proclamations, Orders in Council, regulations, and Statutes; and in all aspects of the University College that no test of religion, politics, race or sex shall be administered.

Clauses 126 to 135 provide generally for the operation of the University College in respect of property, budget, investment, superannuation, and general finance and administrative provisions. Clause 126 specifies the University College's financial year.

Clauses 136 to 140 provide for transitional and special arrangements for the discontinuation of the Capricornia Institute of Technology and the establishment of the University College of Central Queensland. The Capricornia Institute of Technology and its Council shall cease to exist on the commencement of the University College of Central Queensland.

Clauses 141 to 144 provide for transitional arrangements for the discontinuation of the Capricornia Institute of Technology Student Union and the establishment of the University of Central Queensland Student Association.

Clause 145 provides for the first Council of the University College. The first Council shall consist of those members of the Council of the Capricornia Institute of Technology holding office immediately prior to the commencement of the University College. It is the responsibility of the first Council of the University College to make all necessary Statutes and take all necessary steps to ensure that a Council of the University College is duly constituted pursuant to clause 92 by a date appointed by Proclamation.

Clause 146 provides for the first Vice-Chancellor of the University College to be the person who immediately prior to the commencement of this Act held office as Director of the Institute. The period of appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor is limited to approximately six months. Conditions of appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor shall be as determined by the first Council of the University College by resolution in that behalf, and approved by the Governor in Council.

Clause 147 provides for the members of the first Council of the University College to elect, at their first meeting, a Chancellor and a Deputy Chancellor. The Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor elected by the first Council of the University College shall vacate their offices when the duly constituted Council of the University College assumes office.

Clause 148 provides for casual vacancies on the first Council of the University College.

Clauses 149 and 150 provide for transitional arrangements in respect of the enrolment of students and the granting of awards.

Clauses 151 and 152 provide for compliance with accounts and audit requirements and with annual reporting requirements in respect of the financial year of the Council of the Institute ending 31 December of the year preceding the commencement of the University College.

Clause 153 provides for savings of various approvals, authorities, directions, orders, and the like made under relevant sections of the Education Act 1964-1989.

Clause 154 provides for all by-laws made by the Council of the Institute under the Education Act 1964-1989 and all rules made by the Council of the Institute pursuant to those by-laws to be the Statutes and rules of the University College made by the Council of the University College.

Clause 155 provides for a reference in any other Act, by-law, regulation or other statutory instrument to the Council of the Institute to be read as a reference to the Council of the University College, and a reference to the Institute to be read as a reference to the University College.

Clause 156 allows a mechanism whereby any necessary transitional arrangement not covered by Division 5 of Part III (Transitional and Special Arrangements) can be addressed by subordinate legislation.

Debate, on motion of Mr Braddy, adjourned.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND BILL

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.04 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to provide for the establishment and incorporation of the University of Southern Queensland at Toowoomba and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Littleproud, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.05 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

I present to the House a Bill to establish the University of Southern Queensland. The Bill has the effect of discontinuing the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education—a college of advanced education established under the Education Act 1964-1989—and establishing initially the University College of Southern Queensland and, ultimately, the University of Southern Queensland.

Mr Speaker, because this speech is almost identical to the one that I made about the University of Central Queensland, would you permit me to table the speech and have it incorporated in *Hansard*?

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following document—

Over the past 20 years, many of the colleges of advanced education throughout Australia have matured and diversified to the extent that the distinctions inherent in the "binary system" of higher education, comprising advanced education and university education, have become diffused. For funding purposes, the Commonwealth Government has legislated to effect, from the beginning of 1990, a unified national system of higher education in which the concept "advanced education" is no longer relevant.

The Commonwealth has placed constraints on institutional membership of its new system and has developed criteria under which individual institutions will compete for funds for enrolment growth and research initiatives. In Queensland, as in other States, there is a need to introduce new legislative provisions which will accommodate the Commonwealth's operational requirements and which are appropriate to the status of the institutions currently designated as colleges of advanced education under the Education Act 1964-1989.

Within the Queensland advanced education system the larger, more diverse colleges warrant consideration for university status in their own right. Members will no doubt recall

that the Queensland Institute of Technology has already been granted university status under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988.

In introducing that Bill in November last year, I advised the House that guidelines for the establishment of new universities in Queensland had been developed by the State Government in consultation with chief executive officers of the State's higher education institutions. These guidelines have now been applied to an application for university status made by the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education.

Under the two-stage procedure adopted, a prima facie case was established by the Institute Council in written submission and a subsequent exhaustive evaluation of the Institute was undertaken by an expert Advisory Committee.

The Committee appointed comprised:—

Emeritus Professor F. J. Willett (Chairman);

Dr C. K. Brennan, Under Secretary, Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training;

Mr A. R. MacKee, Executive Officer, Board of Advanced Education;

Professor D. J. Nicklin, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Physical Sciences and Engineering), University of Queensland;

Dr R. L. Segall, Principal, South Australian College of Advanced Education.

In January this year, the Advisory Committee provided a comprehensive report on its deliberations. In summary, the Committee was of the view that the Institute could achieve university status following nurtured development over a period of time.

The Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education is an institution of moderate size with a student load of some 4,700 equivalent full-time student units and a reasonably diverse educational profile serving particularly the South Queensland region. It has a strong operation in external studies extending throughout Australia and Asia. In the latter respect, it has considered potential for further growth and has been designated by the Commonwealth Government as one of the two Distance Education Centres in this State.

There is little doubt of the Institute's viability as an independent higher education institution. However, during a transition period towards the assumption of full university status, there is a need for sponsored developments with respect to planning, staff, curriculum, research and resources.

The Bill makes provision for the Institute to become a free-standing automonous institution as the University College of Southern Queensland from 1 January 1990 with its own governing Council. The developmental processes will be enhanced by close association with an established university in the form of sponsorship by the University of Queensland.

During the period of the sponsorship, the University of Queensland will have a significant representation on the Council of the University College of Southern Queensland and will be closely involved in the expansion of research capacity and postgraduate courses.

An external review of the University College's capacity to assume full university status will be undertaken by a panel of eminent scholars in the period July to December 1992. Contingent on a favourable outcome of this review and agreement by the State and Commonwealth Governments, is is proposed that the University of Southern Queensland be established from 1 January 1993 or from such later day appointed by the Governor in Council by Proclamation.

The Bill is based on the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988 which was carefully compiled to preserve the best features of previous university legislation and to provide a model which accommodates contemporary developments.

For example, given the current tight Commonwealth funding arrangements, institutions of higher education are more and more being encouraged to seek funds from non-traditional sources. The Bill clearly provides for the University College of Southern Queensland and ultimately the University of Southern Queensland to enter into commercial enterprise.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Clauses 1 and 2 cite the short title of the Bill and provide for the commencement of the University College, and subsequently the commencement of the University.

Clause 3 provides for the repeal for that Part of the Act in respect of the University College on and from an appointed day. Clause 4 provides an interpretation of terms used in the Bill.

Clause 5 provides for the establishment and incorporation of the University while clause 6 provides for its functions and powers.

Clauses 7 to 15 establish the framework of the University.

Clauses 7 and 8 specify the establishment and constitution of the Council. Clause 9 provides for assumption of office of members of the Council. Clauses 10 and 11 provide for the constitution and functions of Convocation. Clauses 12 to 15 provide for the establishment and operation of the University of Southern Queensland Student Association.

Clauses 16 to 33 detail generally, administrative provisions relating to the operation of the Council. Clauses 34 to 42 provide for the powers, authorities and duties of Convocation, and detail generally administrative provisions relating to the operation of Convocation.

Clauses 43 to 45 provide for the making of regulations, Statutes and rules necessary for the carrying into effect of all or any of the various provisions of this Part of the Bill.

Clauses 46 to 49 provide for the establishment and operation of companies, joint ventures, and the like to exploit commercially any facility or resource of the University including study, research or knowledge, or the practical application thereof. Clause 49 provides specifically for accountability requirement in respect of any companies so formed and associated with the University.

Clauses 50 to 52 provide for the Council to prepare an annual report; for the publication of Proclamations, Orders in Council, regulations, and Statutes; and in all aspects of the University that no test of religion, politics, race or sex shall be administered.

Clauses 53 to 56 provide for the establishment of residential and other colleges within the University.

Clauses 57 to 66 provide generally for the operation of the University in respect of property, budget, investment, superannuation, and general finance and administrative provisions. Clause 57 specifies the University's financial year.

Clauses 67 to 71 provide for transitional and special arrangements for the discontinuation of the University College of Southern Queensland and the establishment of the University of Southern Queensland. The Universtity College of Southern Queensland and its Council shall cease to exist on the commencement of the University of Southern Queensland.

Clauses 72 to 75 provide for transitional arrangements for the discontinuation of the University College of Southern Queensland Student Association and the establishment of the University of Southern Queensland Student Association.

Clause 76 provides for the first Council of the University. The first Council shall consist of those members of the Council of the University College of Southern Queensland holding office immediately prior to the commencement of the University. It is the responsibility of the first Council to make all necessary Statutes and take all necessary steps to ensure that a Council is duly constituted pursuant to clause 8 from a day appointed by Proclamation.

Clause 77 provides for the first Vice-Chancellor of the University to be the person who immediately prior to the commencement of this Act held office as Vice-Chancellor of the University College. The period and conditions of appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor shall be as determined by the first Council by resolution in that behalf, and approved by the Governor in Council.

Clause 78 provides for the members of the first Council to elect, at their first meeting, a Chancellor and a Deputy Chancellor. The Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor elected by the first Council shall vacate their offices when the duly constituted Council assumes office.

Clause 79 provides for casual vacancies on the first Council.

Clauses 80 and 81 provide for transitional arrangements in respect of the enrolment of students and the granting of awards.

Clauses 82 and 83 provide for compliance with accounts and audit requirements and with annual reporting requirements in respect of the financial year of the Council of the University College ending 31 December of the year preceding the establishment of the University.

Clause 84 provides for savings of various approvals, authorities, directions, orders, and the like made under relevant sections of the Education Act 1964-1989.

Clause 85 provides for all Statutes and rules made by the Council of the University College to be the Statutes and rules of the University made by the Council.

Clause 86 provides for a reference in any other Act, by-law, regulation or other statutory instrument to the Council of the University College to be read as a reference to the Council

of the University, and a reference to the University College to be read as a reference to the University.

Clause 87 allows a mechanism whereby any necessary transitional arrangement not covered by Division 5 of Part II (Transitional and Special Arrangements) can be addressed by subordinate legislation.

Clause 88 provides an interpretation of terms used in Part III of the Bill.

Clause 89 provides for the establishment and incorporation of the University College while clause 90 provides for its functions and powers.

Clauses 91 to 97 establish the framework of the University College.

Clauses 91 and 92 specify the establishment and constitution of the Council of the University College. Clause 93 provides for assumption of office of members of the Council of the University College. Clauses 94 to 97 provide for the establishment and operation of the University College of Southern Queensland Student Association.

Clauses 98 to 115 detail generally, administrative provisions relating to the operation of the Council of the University College.

Clauses 116 to 118 provide for the making of regulations, Statutes, and rules necessary for the carrying into effect of all or any of the various provisions of this Part of the Bill.

Clauses 119 to 122 provide for the establishment and operation of companies, joint ventures, and the like to exploit commercially any facility or resource of the University College including study, research or knowledge, or the practical application thereof. Clause 122 provides specifically for accountability requirement in respect of any companies so formed and associated with the University College.

Clauses 123 to 125 provide for the Council of the University College to prepare an annual report; for the publication of Proclamations, Orders in Council, regulations, and Statutes; and in all aspects of the University College that no test of religion, politics, race or sex shall be administered.

Clauses 126 to 135 provide generally for the operation of the University College in respect of property, budget, investment, superannuation, and general finance and administrative provisions. Clause 126 specifies the University College's financial year.

Clauses 136 to 140 provide for transitional and special arrangements for the discontinuation of the Darling Downs Institute of Technology and the establishment of the University College of Southern Queensland. the Darling Downs Institute of Technology and its Council shall cease to exist on the commencement of the University College of Southern Queensland.

Clauses 141 to 144 provide for the transitional arrangements for the discontinuation of the Darling Downs Institute of Technology Student Union and the establishment of the University of Southen Queensland Student Association.

Clause 145 provides for the first Council of the University College. The first Council shall consist of those members of the Council of the Darling Downs Institute of Technology holding office immediately prior to the commencement of the University College. It is the responsibility of the first Council of the University College to make all necessary Statutes and take all necessary steps to ensure that a Council of the University College is duly constituted pursuant to clause 92 by a date appointed by Proclamation.

Clause 146 provides for the first Vice-Chancellor of the University College to be the person who immediately prior to the commencement of this Act held office as Director of the Institute. The period of appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor is limited to approximately six months. Conditions of appointment of the first Vice-Chancellor shall be as determined by the first Council of the University College by resolution in that behalf, and approved by the Governor in Council.

Clause 147 provides for the members of the first Council of the University College to elect, at their first meeting, a Chancellor and a Deputy Chancellor. The Chancellor and Deputy Chancellor elected by the first Council of the University College shall vacate their offices when the duly constituted Council of the University College assumes office.

Clause 148 provides for casual vacancies on the first Council of the University College.

Clauses 149 and 150 provide for transitional arrangements in repect of the enrolment of students and the granting of awards.

Clauses 151 and 152 provides for compliance with accounts and audit requirements and with annual reporting requirements in respect of the financial year of the Council of the

Institute ending 31 December of the year preceding the commencement of the University College.

Clause 153 provides for savings of various approvals, authorities, directions, orders, and the like made under relevant sections of the Education Act 1964-1989.

Clause 154 provides for all by-laws made by the Council of the Institute under the Education Act 1964-1989 and all rules made by the Council of the Institute pursuant to those by-laws to be the Statutes and rules of the University College made by the Council of the University College.

Clause 155 provides for a reference in any other Act, by-law, regulation or other statutory instrument to the Council of the Institute to be read as a reference to the Council of the University College, and a reference to the Institute to be read as a reference to the University College.

Clause 156 allows a mechanism whereby any transitional arrangement not covered by Division 5 of Part III (Transitional and Special Arrangements) can be addressed by subordinate legislation.

Debate, on motion of Mr Braddy, adjourned.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND AND QUEENSLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AMALGAMATION BILL

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.06 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amalgamate the Queensland Agricultural College with the University of Queensland and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Littleproud, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.07 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

I present to the House a Bill to amalgamate the Queensland Agricultural College with the University of Queensland. The Bill makes provision for the college to cease to be a college of advanced education under the Education Act 1964-1989 and for it to become part of the University of Queensland.

As a prerequisite of funding for enrolment growth and research, higher-education institutions throughout Australia must meet the criteria set by the Commonwealth Government for membership of its new unified national system of higher education. The Commonwealth envisages that there will be fewer and larger institutions with a wider range of educational offerings and better facilities.

The preferred position of the Queensland Government is that the Queensland Agricultural College should have remained an entity in its own right. The Queensland Agricultural College provides unique educational offerings and has earned an excellent reputation over many years of successful operation. It is a small, but very effective, institution dealing with a diverse range of educational offerings encompassing agricultural and food-processing sciences related to industry and community needs, as well as business-oriented courses relating to hospitality, tourism and rural enterprise. The Honourable John Dawkins has the view that unless an institution reaches a certain student load bench-mark, funding will be withheld. The Commonwealth Government is using its financial might to ensure that its will prevails over all other considerations.

The Queensland Government has protested long and hard over the entire unified national system, including the funding bench-marks; but, despite these vigorous protests,

Mr Dawkins is having his way through the control of funding. The Queensland Government is being required to make the most of a situation created by Mr Dawkins, a situation that I hope will not damage the Queensland Agricultural College's excellent reputation.

As a bench-mark, institutions are required to have a minimum student load of some 2 000 equivalent full-time student units. Moreover, higher bench-marks are required where institutions desire to participate in Commonwealth-funded research activities. Some 5 000 equivalent full-time student units are required for an institution to have a broad teaching profile with some specialised research activity and 8 000 such units are required for an institution to have a relatively comprehensive involvement in teaching and with the resources to undertake research across a significant proportion of its educational profile.

The Queensland Agricultural College does not meet the basic criterion for admittance to the unified national system. In 1989, it is funded by the Commonwealth for a student load of 1 560 equivalent full-time student units.

To be able to participate in the growth foreshadowed in higher education over the next few years, it is necessary for the Queensland Agricultural College to be amalgamated with another institution whereby the combined resources of the two institutions would meet the Commonwealth's specified criteria. Of the various options for consolidation which the Queensland Government has been forced to consider, amalgamation with the University of Queensland offers the greatest advantages.

Exhaustive consultation has been undertaken and as a result of the spirit of co-operation exhibited by the senate of the university and the council of the college, it is clear that the amalgamation can proceed on a basis which is satisfactory to both institutions and which will fulfil the operational requirements of the Commonwealth Government. I thank the chancellor and members of the university senate and the chairman and members of the college council for their efforts.

The establishment of the Queensland Agricultural College as a university college with its own advisory council will allow for consultation with the senate on the development, control and management of the Lawes campus. This will result in co-operative academic and administrative integration of the activities and functions of the Queensland Agricultural College with the University of Queensland.

It is envisaged that membership of the advisory council will include members of the senate, representatives of the college staff and students as well as representatives of major communities and industries served by the college. This will enable ongoing liaison with the West Moreton community and ensure that the college continues to meet the needs and interests of that local community.

It is hoped that the Queensland Agricultural College will maintain its distinctive identity and over time develop with the guidance of the University of Queensland into a national centre of excellence.

Provision is made in the Bill for the cessation of the college council and for the assumption by the university of necessary powers and responsibilities with respect to property previously vested in the college council, commitments entered into by the college council and other matters in connection with the operation of the college.

The Bill makes provision for the transfer of staff of the college to employment by the university. Arrangements are specified to ensure that the academic progress of students enrolled at the college is not impaired by the amalgamation, as are transfer provisions for the staff, assets and liabilities of the Queensland Agricultural College Union.

I now seek leave to have the remainder of my speech, comprising a clause-by-clause overview of the legislation, incorporated in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

Clauses 1 and 2 cite the short title of the Bill and provide for the amalgamation of the Queensland Agricultural College with the University of Queensland to commence on a day appointed by Proclamation. Clause 3 provides an interpretation of terms used in the Bill.

Clause 4 provides for the discontinuation of the College as an autonomous education institution, and for its amalgamation as part of the University of Queensland.

Clauses 5 to 8 provide for transitional and special arrangements for the discontinuation of the Council of the College and the amalgamation of the College with the University.

Clauses 9 to 11 provide for transitional and special arrangements for the discontinuation of the Union of the College and the vesting of the property etc. and employees of the Union in the University.

Clauses 12 and 13 provide for transitional arrangements in respect of the enrolment of students and the granting of awards.

Clauses 14 and 15 provide for compliance with accounts and audit requirements and with annual reporting requirements in respect of the financial year of the Council of the College ending 31 December 1989.

Clause 16 provides for savings of various approvals, authorities, directions, orders and the like made under the relevant sections of the Education Act 1964-1989.

Clause 17 provides for all by-laws made by the Council of the College under the Education Act 1964-1989 and all rules made by the Council pursuant to those by-laws to cease to have effect from the time of the amalgamation of the College with the University.

Clause 18 provides for a reference in any other Act, by-law, regulation or other statutory instrument to the Council of the College to be read as a reference to the Senate of the University and a reference to the College to be read as a reference to the University.

Clause 19 allows a mechanism whereby any necessary transitional arrangement not covered by this Act can be addressed by subordinate legislation.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Braddy, adjourned.

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY AND BRISBANE COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION (MOUNT GRAVATT CAMPUS) AMALGAMATION BILL

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.12 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to provide for the amalgamation of the Mount Gravatt Campus of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education and certain matters and things connected therewith with Griffith University and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Littleproud, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.13 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

I present to the House a Bill to amalgamate the Mount Gravatt campus of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education with the Griffith University. The Bill has the effect of removing the Mount Gravatt campus from the governance of the council of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education and making it a part of the Griffith University.

In July 1988, the Commonwealth Government's White Paper, *Higher Education—a Policy Statement*, paved the way for the formation of the unified national system of

higher education with specific criteria for admission and consequent access to funding for enrolment growth and research initiatives. The Commonwealth's view is that the existence of separate institutions on closely adjacent sites throughout Australia is largely an artefact of the previous binary system under which advanced education and university education co-existed.

This amalgamation is the desire of the Commonwealth alone. It was the preferred position of the Queensland Government that the Brisbane College of Advanced Education should have remained an entity in its own right, becoming a university in 1993 subject to a successful review of its mission in late 1992. However, the Honourable John Dawkins has used his financial might to ensure that his will prevails. Despite protests by the Queensland Government, despite the desires of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education to remain autonomous, and ignoring the considered opposition of several eminent academics throughout Australia, Mr Dawkins is having his way. I can only hope that his grand dream does not damage Queensland's tertiary sector. I have grave doubts and remain unconvinced that there are academic or financial benefits to be gained from Mr Dawkins' master plan.

The Commonwealth Government's stance with respect to the amalgamation of the Mount Gravatt campus of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education and the Griffith University is unequivocal.

Within this context, the council of the Griffith University and the council of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education have had extensive and amicable consultations in regard to the amalgamation of the Mount Gravatt campus. The spirit of these consultations by both councils will no doubt ensure that the obvious complexities of this amalgamation present no real problems. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the chancellor and members of the university council and the chairman and members of the college council for their efforts in paving the way for successful amalgamation.

The Brisbane College of Advanced Education currently operates from four campuses: Kelvin Grove, Kedron Park, Carseldine and Mount Gravatt close to the Griffith University.

The Mount Gravatt campus has two major organisational units, the School of Teacher Education and the School of Physical Education and Leisure Studies, with a total enrolment of about 2 100 equivalent full-time student units, mainly in teacher education. The Mount Gravatt campus School of Teacher Education and its staff, together with the Department of Industrial and Technology Education and its staff, will become the Division of Education in the university with the same status as existing divisions.

The Mount Gravatt campus School of Physical Education and Leisure Studies has already forged academic links with the university's Division of Australian Environmental Studies. The school will be readily incorporated into the academic divisional structure of the university.

Provision is made in the Bill for the transfer of staff of the Mount Gravatt campus of the Brisbane college to employment by the university, with preservation of salary and entitlements. Arrangements are specified also to protect the academic progress of students currently enrolled at the Mount Gravatt campus.

The Bill provides for the Minister to make a determination in the unlikely event of a question which is unable to be resolved in connection with the amalgamation. It should be noted that the legislation will require the Minister to have regard to the views of an advisory committee before making a determination on an unresolved question, and I anticipate that the membership of the advisory committee will be identical to that of the implementation committee already established by both councils to assist those councils in preparing for the amalgamation.

I now seek leave to have the remainder of my speech, comprising a clause-by-clause overview of the legislation, incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Clause 1 cites the short title as the Griffith University and Brisbane College of Advanced Education (Mount Gravatt Campus) Amalgamation Act 1989. Clause 2 covers the commencement of the Act which is anticipated to occur on 1 January 1990. Clause 3 provides necessary definitions in the Interpretation section.

Clause 4 is a machinery provision for the transfer of assets including real and personal property, rights and liabilities, in respect of Mount Gravatt Campus, from the Council of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education and vests those assets etc. in Griffith University.

Clause 5 is a transitional provision guaranteeing salary, wages, accrued rights, annual leave, sick and long service leave, and any similar entitlements for employees of the Council of the College in respect of the Mount Gravatt Campus.

Clause 6 ensures that superannuation arrangements and entitlements of former employees of the Council of Brisbane College of Advanced Education are unaffected by the passage of this Act.

In clause 7, subsection (1) is a transitional provision designed to provide continuity of enrolment and study for those students currently enrolled in advanced education courses offered at Mount Gravatt Campus. Subsection (2) requires the University to provide appropriate courses for such students. Subsection (3) is a transitional provision which guarantees students who have successfully completed courses of study at Mount Gravatt Campus of Brisbane College of Advanced Education credit for those courses.

Clause 8 provides for the savings of various approvals, authorities, directions, orders and the like made under relevant sections of the Education Act 1964-1989.

Clause 9 gives the Minister power to resolve any question which is unable to be resolved in respect of the amalgamation. The legislation requires the Minister to have regard to the views of an Advisory Committee before making a determination on an unresolved question. It is envisaged that the Advisory Committee will be identical to the Implementation Committee already established by both Councils of the relevant institutions to assist those Councils in the amalgamation.

Clause 10 is a machinery provision protecting the Crown in the event of a decision made by the Minister being disputed.

Clause 11 allows a mechanism whereby any necessary transitional arrangement not covered can be addressed by subordinate legislation.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Braddy, adjourned.

EDUCATION (BOARD OF ADVANCED EDUCATION DISSOLUTION) BILL

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.17 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to provide for the dissolution of the Board of Advanced Education and the continuation for the time being of advanced education provided by colleges of advanced education to amend the Education Act 1964-1989 and the James Cook University of North Queensland and Townsville College of Advanced Education Amalgamation Act 1981-1989 each in certain particulars and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Littleproud, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. B. G. LITTLEPROUD (Condamine—Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation) (12.18 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

I present to the House a Bill to dissolve the Board of Advanced Education. The Bill also includes provisions to allow for the continuation of the advanced education sector for the time being and for requisite amendments to the Education Act 1964-1989.

This Bill is part of a comprehensive and systematic review of legislation in my portfolio. In fact, the higher education sector is a significant focus of the review. Members may recall that in presenting the Queensland University of Technology Bill to the House in November last year, I referred to the wide-ranging and fundamental changes to this sector of education initiated by the Commonwealth Government.

Since 1965, the Australian higher education sector has comprised universities and colleges of advanced education; a division commonly known as the binary system. The essential differences between universities and colleges of advanced education occurred in provisions for research; in procedures for accreditation of courses; in the range and types of courses offered; and in levels of academic awards. With the passage of time, these distinctions have become less clear-cut.

Through its Employment, Education and Training Act 1988 and the associated Higher Education Funding Act 1988, the Commonwealth Government has eliminated the distinctions inherent in the binary system and has established a unified national system of higher education. The mechanisms instituted by the Commonwealth involve competitive bidding by institutions for funds for enrolment growth and research initiatives. Funding will be provided primarily on the basis of merit and performance.

The end of the binary system and its replacement by a unified national system, imposing new conditions on Commonwealth grants moneys, necessitates a review of the status of all the institutions currently designated as colleges of advanced education under the Education Act 1964-1989. The concept of advanced education and the definition of an advanced education course are no longer used by the Commonwealth as criteria for funding. There is a need to introduce new legislation which will accommodate the new arrangements, now and in the future, and to repeal legislation that is no longer appropriate to the changing scene.

The granting of university status to the Queensland Institute of Technology under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988 was the first step in the planned phased dismantling of the advanced education sector in this State which I propose be implemented through appropriate legislation. I envisage that each college of advanced education will ultimately be granted university status in its own right or be amalgamated with an existing university.

The activities of colleges of advanced education are currently subject to the powers and functions of the Board of Advanced Education, constituted and incorporated under the Education Act 1964-1989.

Many of the detailed co-ordinating and regulatory functions performed by the board are no longer required because advanced education as a discrete sector of higher education ceases to exist.

It is now appropriate for the Board of Advanced Education to be dissolved and the board itself has resolved accordingly. Similar initiatives have occurred or are occurring in other States in response to the integration of the higher education sector, with more autonomy being granted to institutions accepted into the Commonwealth unified national system of higher education. An Office of Higher Education has been established to provide me with advice on issues relating to the provision of higher education throughout the State as a whole, so that its needs are met adequately.

At the end of this year, the board will have served the State for over 19 years. Under its guidance, the colleges of advanced education have developed from the fledgling tertiary establishments they were in the late 1960s to the well-established, highly regarded education institutions that they are today.

It is through the board's foresight and an enlightened approach to the performance of its co-ordinating functions that more and more of the responsibilities associated with

college development and governance have been devolved to the councils of the colleges. Colleges have now reached a stage of maturity and gained sufficient expertise to be accorded an even greater level of independence.

I take this opportunity to record an expression of thanks to the present and past members of the board and to its staff. The majority of the current staff members of the board have given more than a decade of service. Provision is made in the Bill for the staff of the board to become officers of the public service with preservation of salary, leave and superannuation entitlements. Initially, the staff of the board will be deployed to the Office of Higher Education.

Transitional arrangements are prescribed by the Bill whereby I, as the responsible Minister, assume or continue to exercise necessary residual functions and powers with respect to the advanced education sector. These interim arrangements will continue until all remaining colleges of advanced education are covered in specific legislation that reflects decisions of the Government on their status, having regard to the operational requirements imposed by the Commonwealth Government under its unified national system of higher education.

I now seek leave to have the remainder of my speech, comprising a clause-by-clause overview of the legislation, incorporated in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

Clauses 1 and 2 cite the short title of the Bill and provide for the commencement of the various provisions. Clause 3 provides for the interpretation of certain terms used in the Bill.

Clause 4 makes provision for the dissolution of the Board of Advanced Education and for the Board's chairman and its members to go out of office. Clause 5 is a standard machinery provision.

Provision is made in clause 6 for the transfer of property, rights and liabilities, etc. from the Board to the Corporation of the Minister. Under clauses 7 and 8, the Minister shall comply with any outstanding accounting, audit and annual reporting requirements with respect to the operations of the Board. Clause 9 is a standard machinery provision.

Clauses 10 and 11 are standard transfer provisions, granting public servant status to staff of the Board and preserving their entitlements, including superannuation.

Interpretation of certain terms used in this Part of the Bill are provided in clause 12. In clause 13, necessary residual functions and powers with respect to advanced education are vested in the Minister.

Clause 14 gives the Minister a clear head of power to delegate his powers, authorities, functions or duties under the Bill, except for the power of delegation itself. Clauses 15 and 16 are standard provisions on reporting to Parliament and the making of regulations respectively.

In clause 17, provision is made for a mechanism (Order in Council) for addressing any matter to achieve the objects of this Bill. Clause 18 is a standard machinery provision.

Clauses 19 to 22 detail machinery provisions to remove references to the Board of Advanced Education from the Education Act 1964-1989. Through the provisions of clause 23, those functions and powers of college Councils which formerly involved the Board, such as co-operating with the Board, making awards designated by the Board and approval of budgets by the Board, would involve the Minister in substitution for the Board.

Clause 24 to 36 detail machinery provisions to remove references to the Board from the Education Act 1964-1989. Clause 37 incorporates the existing provisions of an Order in Council made under the Education Act 1964-1989 into that Act. The approval mechanism required for by-laws made by college Councils is clarified by clause 38 and reference to the Board of Advanced Education is removed.

Clause 39 is a machinery provision to remove reference to the Board from the Education Act 1964-1989. Clauses 40 to 42 detail machinery provisions to remove references to staff of the Board from the Education Act 1964-1989. Clause 43 is a machinery provision to remove reference to the Board from the Education Act 1964-1989.

Necessary residual functions and powers with respect to funds of college Councils are vested in the Minister by clause 44 which also removes references to the Board. The new section 62N of the Education Act 1964-1989 provided by clause 45 requires college Councils

to comply with accounting and audit provisions applicable to other State statutory authorities and references to the Board of Advanced Education are deleted.

Clauses 46 to 47 vest necessary residual functions with respect to college budgets in the Minister and references to the Board are removed. Clauses 48-57 detail machinery provisions to remove references to the Board from the Education Act 1964-1989.

Clause 58 identifies the Principal Act referred to in this Part of the Bill and cites the short title of that Act as amended by this Part of the Bill.

Provision is made in clause 59 for an amendment which is necessary as a consequence of residual functions of the Board of Advanced Education being vested in the Minister and of the cessation of the Board of Teacher Education under the provisions of the Education (Board of Teacher Registration) Act 1988. Clause 60 makes provision for an amendment which is necessary to delete reference to the Board of Advanced Education.

Mr LITTLEPROUD: I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Braddy, adjourned.

PARTNERSHIP (LIMITED LIABILITY) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. A. A. FITZGERALD (Lockyer—Minister for Justice) (12.23 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Partnership (Limited Liability) Act 1988 in certain particulars."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr FitzGerald, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. A. A. FITZGERALD (Lockyer—Minister for Justice) (12.24 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Partnership (Limited Liability) Act 1988 was assented to on 11 November 1988 and was proclaimed to commence on 15 May 1989. Between the time of introduction and proclamation of the Act it became apparent not only that the Act would be useful to smaller family business partnerships, but also that the limited partnership concept has the potential to facilitate the raising of venture capital for major projects with contributions by hundreds of limited partners.

A great deal of interest in and commendation for the legislation has been received, notwithstanding the shortcomings referred to in some of the criticisms of the Act. Since the introduction of the Queensland Act, the limited partnership concept is being examined with renewed interest by the Governments of at least two other States.

One of the major criticisms of the Act concerned the uncertainty as to what status a partner's liability may be at any given time. This uncertainty created an impediment as to the efficacy of the legislation so far as limited partnerships consisting of many limited partners was concerned.

Commercial law solicitors advised that a number of ventures worth several million dollars were on stand-by awaiting the proclamation of the Act, and that any delay in the proclamation of the Act may jeopardise the projects.

The views of the Law Reform Commission were sought with regard to the submissions and criticisms received in relation to section 9 of the Act. The Law Reform Commission agreed that—

(1) the legislation be proclaimed, notwithstanding its shortcomings;

(2) the legislation be amended in light of the criticisms and comments received from interested parties; and

(3) the amendments be made retrospective to the date of proclamation, namely 15 May 1989.

The main features of the proposed amendments are—

(a) to preserve the limited liability of limited partners where certain changes have occured and there has been a failure to notify those changes to the registrar;

(b) to expand the reference to corporate persons who may be either general or limited partners in a limited partnership;

(c) to impose an obligation upon general partners to notify the registrar of changes and to create penalties for failure to do so; and

(d) to remove the liability of limited partners for failure to give notice of the occurrence of events of which a limited partner may not be aware.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Prest, adjourned.

ELECTIONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Hon. A. A. FITZGERALD (Lockyer—Minister for Justice) (12.27 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amend the Elections Act 1983-1985 in a certain particular."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr FitzGerald, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. A. A. FITZGERALD (Lockyer—Minister for Justice) (12.28 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Honourable members will recall that the Elections Act was amended in 1985 to include a provision whereby copies of the electoral roll for a district, in an electronic form, may be made available to the member for that district and, at the discretion of the Attorney-General, to members of adjacent electoral districts. The limitation on the provision of information to members was intended to ensure that this material was able to be used by members, but was not made generally available in electronic format to persons who would have a commercial interest in possessing such material.

Whilst it is correct that computer technology has advanced to such an extent that optical character recognition devices can readily transform printed data to electronic form with a high degree of accuracy, nonetheless privacy constraints preclude the making available of electronic data to persons other than those who have a legitimate interest in using that data for the furtherance of the democratic process. A recent by-election has brought to light a deficiency in the provision which would preclude candidates from obtaining as of right access to electronic data.

Accordingly, it is considered desirable to amend the Elections Act to provide that where an application is made by a duly nominated candidate who submits with his application and payment a copy of the certificate of the returning officer provided to him pursuant to section 51 of the Act, such person will be entitled to receive the roll for the district for which he has nominated in electronic format. The effect of this amendment is to implement the policy of the Queensland Government that such electronic data is available to all bona fide candidates so as to ensure a level playing-field for all candidates in future elections.

A further provision will ensure that electronic data is available to local authorities in order to assist in administrative matters. The information will be available to local authorities to the extent that such data relates to the area of the authority.

Finally, the Bill also ensures that such information is also able to be provided in written form such as a computer print-out.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Prest, adjourned.

COTTON INDUSTRY DEREGULATION BILL

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.30 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to facilitate the establishment of a deregulated cotton industry and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

First Reading

Bill presented and, on motion of Mr Harper, read a first time.

Second Reading

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.31 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to incorporate my second-reading speech in *Hansard.*

Leave granted.

I present to the House a Bill to provide for the orderly transition of the cotton industry in Queensland from a regulated processing and marketing environment to a totally deregulated and fully commercial environment.

Early this year, cotton-growers in Queensland voted overwhelmingly in favour of a proposal developed by the Cotton Marketing Board to wind up the board and transfer the assets, liabilities and trading activities to a grower owned and controlled corporate structure.

This Bill is concerned with phased adjustment to new environments. The legislation is designed to provide short-term protection to the equity which growers will have in the new corporate structure.

It will also limit for a period the development of excess ginning capacity in the cotton industry which would increase ginning costs and reflect adversely on grower returns.

The legislation will run until 31 December 1992. This will provide an opportunity for the corporation to adjust to a totally deregulated environment.

It is important to note that the Cotton Marketing Board and the growers reached agreement on a proposal to restructure the board along corporate lines and to deregulate the marketing of cotton under the provisions of the Primary Producers' Organisation and Marketing Act.

One of the final steps in the deregulation process is to formally facilitate the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the board to the Queensland Cotton Corporation Ltd, and this is expected to occur in the near future.

The Queensland Cotton Corporation Ltd, which will be wholly owned by cotton-growers by way of a holding company, will take over the ginning functions of the board but, unlike the Cotton Marketing Board, will operate as a competitive marketer in the industry.

To ensure that this grower-owned entity has a period of adjustment in which to find its feet in a totally deregulated environment, this Bill provides that the Queensland Cotton

Corporation will have exclusive authority to establish, own or operate cotton gins in Queensland until December 1992, when the Act will expire.

Additional gins will only be able to be established during this period by the corporation or as authorised by the corporation.

Nothing in the proposed Bill will affect the continued operation of the cotton gin owned and operated by the Namoi Cotton Co-operative Ltd at Goondiwindi or the operation of the gin at Yamala currently being constructed by Dunavant Ginning (Queensland) Pty Ltd which will come on stream during the forthcoming season.

The Act will only apply to the area of Queensland south of the 22nd parallel of latitude which includes all of the current cotton growing areas. While substantial development of the cotton industry north of this parallel in the next three years may appear unlikely, there will be nothing in this legislation which would hinder any person investing in either cotton growing or processing facilities in the northern area of Queensland.

While the corporation will be granted exclusive ginning authorities under this legislation, it will also have obligations imposed on it. The corporation will be required to publicise its charges for all aspects of its ginning together with details of the various terms and conditions associated with the receipt of cotton for ginning.

A further obligation on the corporation is that growers may not be refused ginning contracts with the corporation in terms of the publicised charges and conditions of ginning. This will ensure that a grower is not denied ginning access by virtue of this legislation. He would of course need to accept the current publicised charges and conditions.

As I stated earlier, this legislation will expire on 31 December 1992. However, the Governor in Council may suspend the Act prior to this date on my recommendation as the Minister for Primary Industries. This could occur if I believed that current ginning facilities in the industry were inadequate or that it would be in the best interests of growers that persons other than the corporation were permitted to construct and operate cotton gins.

Prior to any suspension, the corporation would have an opportunity to make representations on the proposed suspension.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Casey, adjourned.

MACKAY AIRPORT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 6 September (see p. 508).

Mr SANTORO (Merthyr) (12.32 p.m.): The Liberal Party supports the legislation. During my maiden speech, I spoke of the decentralisation of political and economic power. It is good that this process is occurring in Mackay through the transfer of administrative power from Federal authorities to the Mackay Port Authority. It is also pleasing that the Labor Party in this place as well as federally supports this transfer and for once the Liberal Party congratulates the Labor Party on its supportive attitude. Unfortunately, it has taken up to five years for this process to occur and, because of that, maybe regrettably, Mackay has almost missed the boat.

The Mackay economy relies on five major economic activities: sugar-cane, coal, beef, grain and tourism.

Mr Casey: Leave it to me to say that.

Mr SANTORO: The honourable member for Mackay has had his opportunity and undoubtedly will say more at a later stage.

Whilst the upgrading of the Mackay Airport may assist in the servicing of the primary and extractive industries in the hinterland, it was really potentially the tourism industry that would benefit most from the local administration, control and upgrading of the Mackay Airport. I say "potentially" because the tourism industry is already well serviced by two other airports in the region at Proserpine and Hamilton Island. They give immediate and more efficient access to the islands and the other tourist destinations

along the coastal strip. It is because of this that the experience in Cairns cannot be related to what is happening in Mackay, as it often is.

Today, the Cairns Airport is regarded as a striking example of what good international airports are all about. Once the local port authority took control of the airport in Cairns, it did much to encourage the influx of tourists into that city, north Queensland and, indeed, all of Queensland. It was that influx of tourism that has given Cairns and the surrounding region the boost to make full use of that magnificent airport facility.

The Cairns Port Authority oversaw the upgrading of a sleepy airport into one of the better airports in the world. It achieved this through the local involvement of and input by the various local authorities represented on the Cairns Port Authority. They were able to be responsive to market forces, local demands and the visions of local people for the future of the local area. Local business acumen and local knowledge have obviously paid dividends. The projected figures for the arrival of overseas tourists in the year 2005 were achieved in 1987. The expectations of local business leaders are still very positive to the point that they expect the Cairns Airport to be the second largest in Australia within 25 years' time.

The circumstances that I have just described as existing in Cairns certainly do not exist in Mackay, and I suggest a circuit-breaker is needed. It is for this reason, perhaps, that the honourable member for Mackay should turn his attention to what appears in this morning's *Daily Mercury*. A $250m development proposed for Midge Point, which is 90 kilometres north of Mackay, has been put on hold. I suggest to the honourable member for Mackay and other honourable members that that is the sort of development needed to boost——

Mr Casey: That is 70 kilometres up the coast from Mackay.

Mr SANTORO: It is 80 kilometres, to be precise.

That is the sort of development that the Mackay Port Authority would want to be realised.

Mr Beanland interjected.

Mr SANTORO: The honourable member for Toowong is right when he says that the honourable member for Mackay is against development.

The members of the Mackay Port Authority should concern themselves with encouraging development and other activities that will help to realise the potential of the Mackay Airport.

Having said that, I should acknowledge that the Federal Government has provided to the Mackay Port Authority a grant of $9.3m to upgrade the airport. I am sure that that is appreciated by all residents, who will benefit from that grant. It is now up to the Mackay Port Authority to realise the potential, and the Liberal Party wishes it well.

Hon. D. McC. NEAL (Balonne—Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services) (12.37 p.m.), in reply: The honourable member for Bulimba generally supported the legislation, but he tried to use the vague connection between the objects of the Bill and the air pilots strike in an attempt to blame the State Government for some of the things that have happened as a result of the deficiencies in his Canberra colleagues' industrial policies. To some extent it is a pity that the Deputy Speaker rightly acted to prevent his continuing in that vein, because he was only going to get himself into deeper and deeper water. However, I do not want to offend by also being drawn into that topic.

The honourable member for Mackay raised what he suggested were deficiencies between the capital works provided for in the hand-over agreement between the Commonwealth Government and the Mackay Port Authority and what he saw were the long-term needs of the airport. It is all very well to want the ultimate in airport facilities as an immediate bonus to Mackay at the time of hand-over, but the honourable member is being a little unrealistic in asking any Government—particularly the ALP Government

in Canberra, which has been cutting back expenditure in all directions, especially where it can do so at the expense of State Governments and local authorities—to meet the cost of facilities that are not vitally needed at this stage and can only be seen as something that may become essential at some time in the future.

Surely the important thing is that, through the efforts of the Mackay Port Authority, backed by the local community, Mackay will obtain improved airport facilities to the tune of $9.3m. It will get a new terminal matching the attractive new terminal at Rockhampton and other improvements which will lift the standard of Mackay vastly beyond the decrepit state that tourists and other visitors now experience as their first taste of the district—a district which otherwise is a most attractive area for people to visit.

If the honourable member can convince his colleagues in Canberra to provide Mackay with a better deal, well and good, but he should not blame the Queensland Government if the Commonwealth Government has, in his opinion, driven too hard a bargain. When it came to the crunch, the Commonwealth representatives put their final offer to Mackay and said, "If you don't take it, and take it soon, there just won't be a take-over arrangement, and Mackay will sit where it is right now."

I am satisfied that the port authority has done its best and that Mackay will be much better off through this arrangement than it would have been if the port authority and the local people had just sat back as the honourable member would seem to have wanted them to do and let the existing airport continue to languish by comparison with other State centres which have taken up the running under the local banner.

A similar situation applies to the roadworks required to provide for the new terminal location. If the honourable member for Mackay would stop complaining and try to persuade his colleagues in Canberra to do for Mackay what they have done for Rockhampton, the road moneys could come from that source. It is no good taking the attitude that, if he cannot have everything, he will not take anything. If the local community eventually has to meet some of the cost of getting a vastly upgraded airport, that has to be. It would still be far better off than if the State Government and the port authority had wiped their hands of local ownership and forgone the Commonwealth funds that were available.

The honourable member should compare the position in Mackay and other centres where local ownership has occurred with what is happening in Brisbane under the Federal Airports Corporation. As soon as this legislation is passed and the port authority takes over the airport, which must occur within 16 days of the Bill receiving royal assent, the port authority will get in and get the work started. The honourable member should compare that position with what is happening in Brisbane, which needs a new international airport terminal badly. However, the Federal Airports Corporation insists on retaining control. The Commonwealth body had to be pressed into getting something moving, but it now appears to have been stymied by the Commonwealth Public Works Committee looking over its shoulder and wanting things done a different way. It is a case of too many cooks spoiling the broth. That cumbersome planning approach could well mean that Brisbane will have to do without a decent international terminal for much longer. I am sure that, if we could get local ownership of the Brisbane Airport, we would very soon get the facilities we need.

The honourable member for Mackay complained also about the provision in the Bill which exempts the portion of the airport used for public purposes from local authority rates. That provision merely clarifies what has virtually been the position under Commonwealth control and what has been accepted in practice at Cairns. The Harbours Act already exempts port authorities from the payment of rates on lands declared as harbour lands unless they are being used by private interests, but it is not entirely clear whether that exemption extends to airport land.

I have taken the opportunity to make the position clear. Because the amount of rates received by the council was only a nominal ex gratia figure while the Commonwealth had control of the airport, the council's position will not be adversely affected.

The honourable member for Merthyr spoke of the benefits to tourism and other matters and generally supported the Bill, for which I thank him.

Motion agreed to.

Committee

Hon. D. McC. Neal (Balonne—Minister for Water Resources and Maritime Services) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 16, as read, agreed to.

Clause 17—

Mr CASEY (12.43 p.m.): I waited to see if the Minister would make some form of commitment on behalf of the State Government towards meeting the cost of roadworks and drainage works at the Mackay Airport. He has not done that.

Because the Committee has other pressing business, I will not delay it by canvassing the matters that I raised yesterday. I merely repeat that a severe imposition is being placed on Mackay City, the people of which represent only one-quarter of the number of people in the service area of the airport. The people of Mackay must meet that cost.

I raise two points to illustrate that this proposal is different from the Cairns proposal or any other proposal. I refer to the fact that on this occasion the terminal will be moved from one side of the airport to the other. As a result of that change, a major reconstruction of the arterial roads leading to the airport, the service roads for the airport and, generally speaking, all of the urban roads in that area will be needed. That is a major change. Surely, if the Minister has an understanding of the proposal, he can get that into his head. I believe that he has driven round the area and has seen what the proposal is all about.

The second point I make is that ownership of the airport is to be transferred from the Commonwealth. It is to be transferred from Commonwealth ownership to State ownership. If anybody can explain to me the difference between the Federal Airports Corporation as a quango of the Federal Government and the Mackay Port Authority as a quango of the State Government, then I will go he, because there is no difference. They are the same. They are both quangos of a Government.

The State Government has in fact got the airport for nothing, plus $9.3m in the hand. The Minister talked about the negotiations that have taken place. Obviously, he has not been briefed properly on what has been happening over the years in relation to this proposal. If he had, he would have realised that the main negotiations were conducted by the Mackay Port Authority when it had some form of independence in relation to the selection of its members. It does not have that independence now. Virtually everything is done through the department. The Minister is talking about something that has happened only recently, and he has no knowledge of the history of the matter. He has about as much knowledge of it as the honourable member for Merthyr has.

The Opposition will oppose this clause. It is about time the Government started to help local authorities in Queensland instead of kicking the guts out of them.

Mr BEANLAND: Over a period of time there has been a lot of discussion about the payment of rates to local authorities throughout Queensland by not only State Government instrumentalities but also the Commonwealth Government. I ask the Minister: have any discussions taken place with the relevant local authorities, through the Local Government Association, in relation to this very important aspect? As I say, the matter has arisen many, many times.

In addition, it is worth noting that the Brisbane and Area Water Board pays rates as a State Government instrumentality. That board is set up as a quango by an Act of this Parliament. It pays rates to the various local authorities. Yet it is not proposed that the Mackay Port Authority should pay any rates at all on behalf of the Mackay Airport to the Mackay City Council.

When one reads through the various pieces of legislation, one finds that the position does vary. Nevertheless, there needs to be discussion with the various local authorities. There is no point in the Government's allowing rates to be paid to local authorities by itself, by various departments and by quangos if in fact the Government then turns round and takes the money back with the other hand.

There needs to be discussion across the board to try to resolve what has become quite a bitter dispute in some areas between the Federal and State Governments and local authorities.

Mr NEAL: In relation to the comments made by the member for Mackay—I remind him that my clear understanding is that the Rockhampton Airport has been taken over by the local authority in that area. The Federal Government did see fit to make a contribution to the cost of providing roadworks around that airport. I suggest that if the honourable member supports the take-over of the Mackay Airport by the Mackay Port Authority, he could do his constituents and the residents of that area a big favour by approaching the Federal Government to seek assistance in the provision of roads.

There is no question about it. The Mackay Port Authority and the Mackay City Council have had discussions with the Minister for Main Roads in relation to this matter. It certainly would not hurt one little bit if the member for Mackay were to get on to his Federal colleagues and get some funds out of them as well.

Question—That clause 17, as read, stand part of the clause—put; and the Committee divided—

AYES, 45		NOES, 36	
Ahern	Lester	Ardill	Schuntner
Alison	Littleproud	Beanland	Scott
Berghofer	McCauley	Beard	Sherlock
Booth	McKechnie	Braddy	Smith
Borbidge	McPhie	Campbell	Smyth
Burreket	Menzel	Casey	Underwood
Chapman	Muntz	Comben	Vaughan
Clauson	Neal	D'Arcy	Warburton
Cooper	Nelson	De Lacy	Warner
Elliott	Newton	Eaton	Wells
FitzGerald	Perrett	Gibbs, R. J.	
Fraser	Randell	Goss	
Gamin	Row	Gygar	
Gately	Sherrin	Hamill	
Gibbs, I. J.	Simpson	Hayward	
Gilmore	Slack	Innes	
Glasson	Stoneman	Knox	
Gunn	Tenni	Lee	
Harper	Veivers	Lickiss	
Harvey		McElligott	
Henderson		Mackenroth	
Hinton	*Tellers:*	McLean	*Tellers:*
Hobbs	Stephan	Palaszczuk	Davis
Katter	Hynd	Santoro	Milliner
PAIR:			
	Austin		Yewdale

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clauses 18 to 21, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Neal, by leave, read a third time.

COAL AND OIL SHALE MINE WORKERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL

Remaining Stages; Abridgement of Time

Hon. N. J. HARPER (Auburn—Minister for Primary Industries) (12.58 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That so much of the Standing Orders be suspended as would otherwise prevent the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers' Superannuation Bill from passing through all its stages at this day's sitting."

Motion agreed to.

Second Reading

Debate resumed (see p. 541).

Mr VAUGHAN (Nudgee) (12.59 p.m.): The Bill repeals the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Act 1941-1989 and establishes the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers' Superannuation Act. As the Minister has indicated, this legislation is necessary because of the Commonwealth Government's requirement that all superannuation funds, including the Coal Mine Workers Pensions Fund, comply with the Insurance and Superannuation Commissioner's guide-lines and recent amendments to Commonwealth income tax legislation.

Unless the legislation is enacted, the Coal Mine Workers Pensions Fund would be adversely affected. The Bill provides for the winding-up of the Coal Mine Workers Pensions Fund and the transfer of all funds to the industry superannuation fund established to provide for the 3 per cent productivity case superannuation benefit. However, because there are certain provisions in the Coal and Oil Shale Mine Workers (Pensions) Act which have to be preserved, the Bill provides for this.

As I am advised that the need for this legislation and all aspects of it have been fully explained to workers in the coal-mining industry, and that the coal-mining unions and the Queensland Coal Association agree, the Opposition supports the Bill.

Mr BEARD (Mount Isa—Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) (1 p.m.): I would have greatly appreciated the opportunity to take a couple of minutes to talk about superannuation in general and the iniquitous taxes imposed by the Government in Canberra on superannuation and people who plan for their future, but I appreciate the speed with which the Bill must pass through the House. I have had discussions with the parties involved in it. I take it as a model piece of legislation suitable to workers, employers and the Government. I support the Bill and commend the Minister for introducing it.

Hon. M. J. TENNI (Barron River—Minister for Mines and Energy) (1.01 p.m.), in reply: I thank both honourable members for their contributions.

Motion agreed to.

Committee

Clauses 1 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Bill reported, without amendment.

Third Reading

Bill, on motion of Mr Tenni, read a third time.

Sitting suspended from 1.02 to 2.30 p.m.

BUDGET DOCUMENTS

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts) (2.30 p.m.): Mr Speaker, I table the following documents and move that they be printed—

Estimates of Receipts and Expenditures 1989-90;

The Queensland Economy 1988-89;
The State Budget for 1989-90 in Program Format;
The State Capital Works Programs 1989-90.
Whereupon the documents were laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

ESTIMATES-IN-CHIEF, 1989-1990

Mr SPEAKER read a message from His Excellency the Governor forwarding the Estimates of the Probable Ways and Means and Expenditure of the Government of Queensland for the financial year ending 30 June 1990.

Estimates ordered to be referred to Committee of Supply.

SUPPLY

Opening of Committee—Financial Statement

Hon. M. J. AHERN (Landsborough—Premier and Treasurer and Minister for State Development and the Arts) (2.32 p.m.): I move—

"That there be granted to Her Majesty for the service of the year 1989-90, a sum not exceeding $974,000 to defray Expenditure—Office of the Governor."

Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to present the second Budget of the Ahern Government to the people of Queensland.

It is a Budget that builds on the new opportunities and hope promised last year. These are being fulfilled. The goods are being delivered. They will continue to be delivered by this Government to the people of Queensland.

It is a Budget that looks to the future not the past. It balances the need for fiscal restraint against the need to improve the quality of life for each and every Queenslander and to provide a solid foundation for economic growth and prosperity.

There will be no new or increased taxes for the people of Queensland in this Budget. There will be substantial increases in expenditure provisions in key areas. There will be:

- a new deal for education;
- priority for health and family welfare;
- implementation of the Fire Services Report;
- implementation of the Kennedy Prisons Report.

The Fitzgerald Report recommendations will be funded.

This Budget is a very positive statement about where Mike Ahern and his Government are taking the people of Queensland.

At the outset, I draw attention to the new program format in which the Budget is presented this year. It fulfils the commitment I made in my Budget Speech last year and represents another step in my progress towards achieving more open and accountable government in this State.

The Government's expenditures have never been presented in more detail or in a more informative way. As management by program and associated financial administration reforms are fully implemented, the Parliament and the people of Queensland will have the most accountable public administration in this country.

I turn now to the Budget proper and what I believe is the single most important initiative undertaken by this Government.

Education

Education must be of the very highest priority to any forward-thinking Government. It is absolutely fundamental to our future growth and prosperity.

Raising the standard cannot sensibly be achieved overnight.

Funds must be invested now to provide the solutions needed to give us the educational outcomes which address our longer term social and economic goals.

This State Budget for 1989-90 delivers those funds.

Recurrent resources available to the Education Department this year will increase by over 14 per cent to $1.433 billion which does not include, I might add, some $62 million being expended by the Transport Department on the transport of school children.

The foundation for our Education strategy, Mr. Chairman, is a new deal for teachers.

A major restructuring of the teaching service is proposed to provide real incentives to retain and attract the very best teachers for our children.

The Government is therefore proposing, as part of a total Teaching award restructure,

— significant increases in salaries payable to experienced teachers;

— extension of present salary scales to provide longer term career incentives;

— introduction of a 'Leading Teacher' classification for teachers with special skills and qualifications;

— a restructure of middle management and senior administrative positions in schools.

It is proposed that the new career structure be fully implemented for the start of the 1991 school year and it will be consistent with Wage Fixation principles.

It is not simply about giving teachers a pay rise. It is about major reform of the education delivery system.

The estimated annual cost of the proposal is $140 million.

The Government recognises that such a major and costly restructure of the teaching service is likely to have flow-on effects for the non-Government schools sector. To assist the non-Government school sector and the creche and kindergarten movement to cope with flow-on changes, present Government assistance will be increased accordingly.

Further, to enhance the quality of education in remote areas, the Government will introduce a package of incentives and benefits to encourage experienced teachers to serve in remote locations and to remain there for longer periods.

Full details of the new proposals are being made available to all schools today.

I seek leave to table and have incorporated in *Hansard* two papers, one titled *A New and Improved Career Structure for Teachers in Queensland State Schools* and the other titled *A Remote Area Incentives Scheme for Teachers in Queensland State Schools.*

Leave granted.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following documents—

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT PROPOSES

A NEW AND IMPROVED CAREER STRUCTURE FOR TEACHERS IN QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOLS

The centrepoint of the Queensland Government's economic strategy is to strive for quality and excellence.

A critical factor in facilitating the growth and diversification of the Queensland economy is the need to increase the skills and qualifications of the Queensland workforce.

The Queensland Government believes that if this need is to be met, the teaching force in State schools must comprise highly competent, expert and motivated teachers.

Teaching must be seen as a profession critical to Queensland's economic, cultural and social well being, and be seen to enjoy prestige and remuneration appropriate to that critical position.

The Queensland Government wants to attract graduates of the highest calibre to the teaching profession, and to retain the services of experienced, motivated teachers in the State's classrooms and schools.

To this end, the Queensland Government is proposing that the career paths and salaries for teachers in Queensland State schools be restructured to—

recognise the strategic importance of teaching as a profession;

encourage teachers to remain in the classroom;

encourage experienced teachers with particular expertise to share that expertise with other teachers;

offer a variety of career paths encompassing classroom teaching, specialist advisory and consultancy services, and school administration; and

acknowledge the range, magnitude and complexity of the administrative and managerial responsibilities now fulfilled by school administrators.

The Career Structure

Proposed by the Queensland Government

The key features of the new structure include:

a significant increase in salaries payable to experienced classroom teachers and school administrators;

a substantial extension of salary scales to provide career incentives for a much longer period of time;

the introduction of a "Leading Teacher" classification for teachers with special skills and qualifications;

a restructuring of the Subject Master classification to provide for a number of position levels and incorporating a scale for salary progression; and

a restructuring of senior administrative positions, involving the introduction of 9 categories of Principal and 2 categories of Deputy Principal, and changes to the position of Senior Mistress.

The present salary classifications and scales will be replaced by a series of seven salary bands, commencing with Band 1 and finishing with Band 7. Within each Band, there will be a number of levels.

The salaries of classroom teachers will be determined by Bands 1, 2, 3 and 4. Under the proposal, a three-year trained teacher will commence service on Band 1, Level 1, while a four-year trained teacher will commence on Band 2, Level 1.

Progression within and between bands will be dependent upon continuing competence as a teacher. Reviews of performance of all teachers will be conducted annually, by supervisory staff in schools. The review process will include adequate appeal mechanisms, to ensure that the rights of individual teachers are properly protected.

Progression from Band 2 to Band 3 will be dependent upon possession of a degree or an equivalent qualification and progression from Band 3 to Band 4 will be dependent upon successful participation in advanced teaching or in-service programs.

The salaries of teachers with additional professional responsibilities or engaged in specialist advisory and consultancy services (to be called "Leading Teachers" under the proposal) will be determined by Bands 3, 4 and 5. Leading Teachers will have special skills and expertise, and will be expected to assist other teachers to improve their teaching skills and techniques.

Leading Teachers will require a degree or an equivalent qualification to progress from Band 4 to Band 5.

A feature of the proposed structure is the use of common bands for both teaching and administrative positions. For example, Band 4 provides the remuneration levels for particular groups of classroom and leading teachers, and for certain administrative positions in schools. This "overlap" extends to other categories of position, as shown in the accompanying diagram.

Bands 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 will determine the salaries for administrative positions in schools. Under the proposal, schools would be placed in one of nine categories, determined on the basis of student enrolments, numbers of teachers, complexity and magnitude of responsibilities (both administrative and curriculum related) and the degree and nature of difficulties occasioned by factors such as the school's geographical location and the socio-economic status of its catchment area.

Generally, the smallest schools would be assigned to Categories 1 and 2, and the largest and most complex schools to Category 9. Size of school, however, will not be the only factor in deciding in which category a school will be placed.

The current evaluations of Principals' positions by personnel consultants, Cullen Egan and Dell, will be critical in determining the categories to be assigned to individual schools, and the placement of schools in particular categories will not be finalized until after the completion of those evaluations.

Similarly, the placement of new and existing administrative positions in Bands 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be dependent upon a range of criteria, and will be finalized after further Cullen Egan and Dell evaluations of benchmark positions. However, it is proposed to introduce three categories of Subject Master in high schools, and two categories of Deputy Principal in primary and high schools.

The new career structure will be implemented in a staged process, with due allowance for differences in teachers' qualifications and years of service, as well as the introduction of the new and enhanced categories of administrative positions in schools.

To accommodate the significant cost impact of this fundamental restructuring, it is proposed to implement the new career structure over two years with 50 percent of the salary adjustment to take effect from 1 January 1990 and the remaining 50 percent from 1 January 1991.

The proposed salary scales include an increase for structural efficiency provided for under the National Wage Case decision of 7 August 1989 which is designed to achieve award restructuring including measures to improve efficiency and provide staff with access to more varied, fulfilling and better paid jobs. Of course, the proposal will be submitted to the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commmission for deliberation and determination.

						Administrative Positions		
Band	Level	Salary F/Night $	Salary Annual $	Classroom Teachers	Leading Teachers	Primary	Secondary	Special
BAND 1	1	900	23490	3 YEAR ENTRY				
	2	935	24405					
	3	970	25320					
BAND 2	1	1000	26100	4 YEAR ENTRY				
	2	1045	27275					
	3	1090	28450					
	4	1135	29625					
	5	1180	30800					
	6	1225	31975					
	7	1270	33150					
	8	1315	34320	3 YEAR MAX				
BAND 3	1	1360	35500					
	2	1400	36540			Primary Co-ordinator	Subject Area Co-ordinator	Teacher-in-Charge
	3	1440	37585					
	4	1480	38630					
BAND 4	1	1600	41760					
	2	1630	42545			Principal Category 1 Primary School	Subject Master Category A	Teacher-in-Charge
	3	1660	43325	4 YEAR MAX	3 YEAR MAX	Asst. Principal Jun. Asst. Principal Sen.		
	4	1690	44110					
BAND 5	1	1730	45155					
	2	1755	45805			Principal Category 2 Primary School	Subject Master Category B	Senior Teacher-in-Charge
	3	1780	46460		4 YEAR MAX	Deputy Principal Category A		
	4	1805	47110					
BAND 6	1	1850	48285			Principal Category 3 Primary School	Subject Master Category C	Principal Category 3
	2	1890	49330			Deputy Principal Category B	Deputy Principal Category B	

	1	1940	50635	Principal Category 4		Deputy Principal Category C
	2	1980	51680			
	3	2030	52985	Principal Category 5		
	4	2070	54030			
B						
A	5	2120	55330	Principal Category 6		
N	6	2160	56375			
D						
	7	2210	57680	Principal Category 7		
7	8	2250	58725			
	9	2300	60030	Principal Category 8		
	10	2340	61075			
	11	2400	62640	Principal Category 9		

N.B. As well as using traditional numerical criteria for the categorisation of schools, it is proposed that there will be other criteria employed which will reflect the complexity and context of the school. Categorizations of schools and the levels of the related administrative positions will only be finalized after consideration of the outcomes of the Cullen Egan and Dell evaluations of the benchmark positions.

▬▬ Degree required for progression beyond these points.

Some Questions and Answers

Q. What is the status of the Queensland Government's proposed career structure?

A. The proposed career structure is a major component of the Queensland Government's proposal for the restructuring of the Teachers' Award—State.

Q. What will happen next with respect to the proposal?

A. A formal submission will be made to the Queensland Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Commission as soon as possible.

Q. How does a three-year trained teacher make the transition from Band 1 to Band 2?

A. It is automatic, subject of course to satisfactory performance as a teacher, as assessed by the appropriate supervisor and certified by your principal.

Q. I am presently a three-year trained classroom teacher with five years of service (classification 030005). Where would I be placed on the new salary scales?

A. On Band 2, Level 2.

Q. As a four-year trained teacher who has been on classification 040008 for five full years, what would my classification on the new salary scales be?

A. Band 4, Level 1.

Q. I am currently a four-year trained Subject Master. What would my position be on the new salary scales?

A. Your initial placement would be within Band 4. However, the final placement will be determined after the outcomes of the Cullen Egan and Dell evaluations of administrative positions in schools.

Q. Are there any restrictions to a classroom teacher moving from one level to another within a Band?

A. No, other than satisfactory performance as a teacher, as assessed by the appropriate supervisor and certified by your principal.

Q. How does a classroom teacher move from Band 2 to Band 3 to Band 4?

A. A degree (or its equivalent) is required for transition between Band 2 and Band 3.

Classroom teachers seeking to move to Band 4 will be required in future to participate successfully in advanced teaching or inservice programs provided by or for the Department of Education. In the transition phase, there will be automatic progression to Band 4 for experienced teachers, but there is an expectation that these teachers will also participate in such programs.

Q. Are there any other ways to move to Band 3?

A. Yes, by becoming a Leading Teacher. It would be possible, for example, for a three-year trained teacher to be appointed to Band 3 as a Leading Teacher, by meeting the qualifying criteria, not all of which are linked to formal (i.e. tertiary) qualifications. Again, teachers seeking to become Leading Teachers would be required to participate successfully in advanced teaching or inservice programs provided by or for the Department of Education.

Q. If as a three-year trained teacher I was appointed as a Leading Teacher, how far up the Bands could I go?

A. Subject to satisfactory performance, to the top of Band 4, as a Leading Teacher.

Q. Does this mean that four-year trained classroom teachers are automatically appointed to Band 4 as their initial Leading Teacher appointment?

A. No, not necessarily. For example, a four-year trained teacher on Band 2, Level 5 might be appointed as a Leading Teacher to one of the levels in Band 3. However, Leading Teachers require a degree (or its equivalent) to move from Band 4 to Band 5.

Q. Does this mean that only four-year trained teachers can become a Band 5 Leading Teacher?

A. Yes, but the Band 5 Leading Teacher will be one of a very small group of highly skilled teachers.

Q. Will appointment to a position of Leading Teacher be a permanent one?

A. The majority of Leading Teacher positions would be career appointments. However, the Department of Education will reserve some of the Leading Teacher positions for relatively short-term appointments, of say, up to three years. For example, appointments to positions similar to the current advisory teacher or consultant could be of this nature.

Q. There is some overlap of salary bands between classroom and Leading Teachers and between both of these and some administrative positions. Is this fair?

A. Yes, remuneration levels are a function of a wide range of criteria including experience, classroom teaching skill, management skill and responsibility, other specialist skills, complexity of task and so on.

A REMOTE AREA INCENTIVES SCHEME FOR TEACHERS IN QUEENSLAND STATE SCHOOLS

Introduction . . .

The Queensland Government's economic strategy, in its commitment to excellence, emphasizes the development of human resources and regional development. A quality education is essential to the strategy for Queensland growth.

Children in schools in remote country locations tend to be educationally disadvantaged because of:

a high staff turnover;

a lack of experienced staff;

a lack of continuity in teaching methods; and

the reduced morale of teachers.

The Queensland Government believes that the quality of education in remote locations will be enhanced if a greater degree of stability among school staff can be achieved.

To this end, the Queensland Government will introduce a Remote Area Incentives Scheme for teachers in Queensland State schools to:

encourage experienced teachers to serve in remote locations;

encourage teachers to remain longer in particular locations;

improve the career prospects of teachers wishing to continue to serve in country schools;

minimize the financial hardships associated with service in remote locations;

improve the access to major centres of population for personal and family services not available in remote locations; and

improve the morale and professional opportunities of teachers serving in remote locations.

Key elements of the Remote Area Incentives Scheme

The Remote Area Incentives Scheme will provide a range of benefits to teachers serving in designated remote locations.

The benefits will vary from location to location, and will be tailored to meet the particular personal needs of individual teachers and the specific characteristics, such as proximity to major centres and socio-economic composition, of each location.

The benefits will be designed to improve basic provisions (such as housing), to compensate for the additional costs incurred in remote locations, and to provide genuine attractions for teachers to serve in remote locations.

In addition to applying to designated remote locations, the Remote Area Incentives Scheme will also be directed to specific "priority" categories of teacher. Possible "priority" categories for inclusion in the Scheme could be teachers with ten or more years classroom experience, teachers with specific skills in areas such as mathematics, science and curriculum development, and teachers currently in remote schools who have demonstrated appropriate teaching skills and are valued members of the local community.

Benefits will be provided under the Scheme in a variety of ways. These will include various forms of additional remuneration, access to services, and use of material benefits. In some instances, teachers will be able to choose the form in which the benefit is provided or taken.

Some benefits provided under the Remote Area Incentives Scheme will increase in value the longer the period of continuous service in remote locations.

The Remote Area Incentives Scheme will be phased in over two years, with appropriate arrangements to cater for teachers already serving in remote locations and wishing to continue that service.

Examples of the types of benefit under consideration

The specific detail of benefits for which teachers might be eligible under the Remote Area Incentives Scheme has not yet been finalized. Further consideration has also to be given to the mix of benefits which might be provided at particular locations.

However, the following benefits are being considered for inclusion in the Scheme:

- provision of rent free accommodation in the most remote locations
- subsidy of rent for accommodation in certain remote locations
- refund of rental payments after continuous service in remote locations for specified periods of time
- provision of complete furniture kits for official residences in selected remote locations
- provision of Government vehicles, including four wheel drive vehicles where appropriate, in certain remote locations
- right of private use of Government vehicles in specified remote centres
- entitlement to additional air travel benefits, which may be accumulated or converted to other entitlements, to improve access to and from remote locations
- enhanced opportunities for participation in in-service and professional development activities
- salary loadings for teachers in specified remote locations
- adjustments to the classifications of schools in remote locations.

The benefits to be provided under the Remote Area Incentives Scheme will be additional to the leave arrangements, allowances and travel concessions already available to teachers in isolated areas.

Some Questions and Answers

Q. What is the status of the proposed Remote Area Incentives Scheme?

A. The Queensland Government has determined that it will introduce a Remote Area Incentives Scheme for teachers in Queensland State schools. Only the specific details of the benefits to be provided need to be finalized.

Q. When will those details be finalized and implementation of the Scheme begin?

A. As soon as possible. Funds have been provided in the 1989-90 State Budget for the introduction of the Scheme, and the Scheme will be fully implemented over two years.

Q. How will the "designated remote locations" to be included in the Scheme be determined?

A. On the basis of degree of remoteness, absence of convenient and economic access to normal personal and family services, and the socio-economic circumstances of each location.

Q. Will there be "categories" of remoteness, and will benefits be more substantial for the more remote locations?

A. Yes.

Q. How will the categories of remoteness be determined?

A. By drawing on the wealth of information already available on schools in remote locations. The possibility of incentives for teachers in remote locations has been under discussion and examination for a number of years, and comprehensive reports of working parties established by the Department of Education and the Queensland Teachers Union are available. The work previously done will be drawn upon.

Q. What would be possible examples of "the more remote" locations?

A. Centres such as Bedourie, Birdsville, Doomadgee and Kowanyama.

Q. What benefits might be available under the Scheme at a centre such as Birdsville?

A. Depending on the personal needs of the teachers, a typical package of benefits at Birdsville could include:

- rent free accommodation
- provision of a four wheel drive Government vehicle, with right of private use
- additional air travel benefits each year to Brisbane or Adelaide, and
- a salary loading

Other benefits could be substituted in lieu of some of those listed above.

Mr AHERN: Other major education enhancements are proposed.

- 600 additional teachers to cater for enrolment growth and special needs;
- a commitment now to provide a minimum of 600 additional teachers in the next Ahern Budget;
- 25,000 additional teacher relief days per year;
- an additional one million teacher aide hours in a full year;
- $20 million in a full year to provide additional administrative and clerical support in schools, with $10 million being provided in 1989-90;
- $5 million as part of the three year program to improve teacher amenities in schools;
- $9 million to fund additional places in our higher education institutions and to begin decentralised delivery of higher education courses;
- a further $5 million for the School Grant Scheme;
- $10 million as part of the three year $20 million program to enhance technology in schools;
- an additional $6.1 million has been provided for the school transport scheme to cater for cost increases and growth and to ease crowding.

The non-Government school sector will also benefit significantly from this Budget.

The real increase of 2 per cent in the per capita grants promised last year will be doubled to 4 per cent for 1989-90.

A special $1 million technology enhancement grant will be provided to the non-Government school sector.

Additional concessions will be introduced in the school transport area with a $3 per week reduction in the contributions required of parents of children attending non-State schools.

As from this year, the subsidy to creche and kindergartens will include an element for locality allowances, holiday leave loading and superannuation. The capital equipment grant for new kindergartens will increase from $2,000 to $5,000 forthwith.

The Government has also given priority to education in its capital works program for 1989-90.

Funds allocated for educational facilities total $93.8 million compared with $50.7 million expended in the previous financial year, an increase of 85 per cent.

The Government has also decided to rid the school grounds of this State of the dreaded "tin shed" demountable buildings. They have no place in a modern educational system. $40 million has been committed to this program over three years, with an estimated $13 million being spent in this financial year.

The buildings will be replaced by those of a modular design or with other permanent facilities, depending on current usage.

It might surprise Honourable Members on the opposite side of the House to learn that over 62 per cent of these buildings are in the electorates of Government Members, which puts paid to the myth of favouritism which gets peddled around by the Opposition.

Mr. Chairman, this is unashamedly an education priority Budget. It is the front page story and it is only fit and proper that it features right up-front in the presentation of the State Budget this year.

While education has been the key thrust of this year's Budget, other important areas have not been overlooked in what is a broad based drive by this Government to lift the quality of services available to the people of this State. Before turning to these areas, I propose to comment briefly on the state of the economy and also the broad strategic direction and objectives of the Budget.

Economic Background

It is easy to stand up in this House and say that the Australian economy is in a mess. It is stating the obvious. High interest rates, increasing inflation, and increasing foreign debt are burdens we are all having to carry.

Queensland is a part of the Australian economy and cannot be insulated from its problems.

However, I am an optimist and there are enough indicators around to suggest that the Queensland economy at least is in good shape—certainly better shape than its national counterpart.

There are excellent prospects for the future.

There has been substantial easing in drought conditions in most areas of the State and, with a possible further weakening of the Australian dollar, which appears inevitable, the outlook for rural industries is very promising.

The expected weaker Australian dollar should also benefit the mining industry which is facing its most buoyant market conditions for a number of years. Recent policy changes by the Government to encourage new mines and for existing mines to expand output, coupled with rail freight concessions already granted, will play a significant part in getting new mines off the ground in Queensland.

I have to say that the Government gets a little discouraged sometimes that the mining industry has not been as willing as it might to give due credit to the Government for the concessions that have been granted in the past and indeed in more recent times. The concessions have involved very large sums of money which now exceed $140 million per annum.

Our employment growth continues to be strong.

In the past twelve months, 90,300 new jobs were created in Queensland, 26.4 per cent of the national total.

Our population growth is also strong, with an expected growth of around 2.5 per cent in the coming year.

The estimated growth in Gross State Product, at 3 per cent in real terms, is expected to be above the national average.

The Treasury has prepared a separate paper, 'The Queensland Economy', which is included with the Budget documentation. Statistics of importance and relevance are highlighted in that document.

The State Budget for 1989-90

Strategy and Objectives:

The strength of the Government's financial position is the solid base upon which future prosperity can be built. It has come about because of responsible fiscal attitudes that have fully funded accruing liabilities such as workers' compensation, third party motor vehicle insurance and superannuation. There are no Work Care time bombs waiting to go off, as is happening in other States.

Debt levels are kept to the minimum, with recent Australian Bureau of Statistics data on public sector debt showing Queensland as having the lowest debt per capita.

It is this financial strength, the generally favourable outlook for our key rural and mining sectors and a perceived need to lift services, particularly in education, that have been dominant features of the Government's preparation for this year's Budget.

In detail, the Government has sought to—

- maintain the normal social capital works program in real terms, with the majority of the program funded from non-debt sources.
- provide, to the maximum extent, additional resources in areas such as
  - — education
  - — corrective services
  - — fire services
  - — child and family welfare
  - — health
  - — ambulances
  - — vocational training
  - — police
  - — environment and conservation
  - — tourism and industry development.
- ensure that debt servicing costs as a percentage of the Budget do not increase.
- keep the overall tax burden as low as possible by granting concessions where appropriate and not exposing the Queensland people to new or higher taxes.
- provide a more informative and accountable framework within which the Budget can be judged.

These objectives have been more than met.

Format:

With the very fundamental change that has taken place in Budget presentation this year, comparisons with the previous year's Budget papers will be difficult. However, I believe that it is a small price to pay for a quantum leap forward in style and sophistication of the Budget presentation.

The program hierarchy, methodology and structure are explained in some detail in the Budget papers, and I draw attention to this fact so that there is no misunderstanding as to comparisons people will be able to make.

In particular, I draw attention to the fact that the Consolidated Revenue Fund expenditure this year includes significant expenditure which had previously been processed through Trust Funds which are to be closed. Also, capital expenditure previously processed through the Loan Fund will be processed through the Consolidated Revenue Fund and shown against the appropriate program. Where relevant, proceeds of debt financing for capital works will be included as a receipt item in the Consolidated Revenue Fund for the first time.

Outlays:

Total outlays for the 1989-90 year are budgeted at $8,090.5 million. This represents an overall 10.3 per cent increase on last year's Budget on a comparable basis.

On the same basis, departmental operating budgets have been increased in overall terms by 11.7 per cent.

Estimated receipts for the 1989-90 year are $7,999.9 million. After allowing for net capital works financing receipts of $72.8 million and the accumulated surplus in the Consolidated Revenue Fund at 1 July 1989, the Fund surplus at 30 June 1990 is expected to be $501,000.

The Budget for 1989-90 is therefore balanced.

I turn now to special initiatives under the various policy areas of the Budget.

Law, Order and Public Safety:

— *Fire Services*

This year will see the start of a substantial upgrading program for urban and rural fire services. An interim State Fire Services Commission has been established and will have a budget of $98.0 million or 15.2 per cent more than the previous year.

The Commission's budget will allow for:

- progressive employment of 91 additional staff;
- additional equipment;
- enhanced staff training and support activities;
- $7 million in additional capital expenditure;
- a 30 per cent increase in funds for the rural fire service.

It is a major step forward in upgrading fire services in this State.

— *Prisons*

Implementation of the recommendations of the Kennedy Report on prison reform will continue.

The allocation to the Queensland Corrective Services Commission this year will be $98.7 million which is some $40.9 million higher than the comparable amount provided in the Budget for 1988-89.

- $26.0 million has been required to fund new correctional centres at Lotus Glen, Borallon and Wacol.
- $5.3 million has been set aside to convert the old security patients' hospital at Wacol to a 205 unit Moreton Correctional Facility.
- $1.0 million has been provided to improve security at correctional centres.

As already announced, the Government has taken the decision to close the Boggo Road male prison as soon as possible.

The present target closing time is January 1990 which is almost two years earlier than originally planned.

Timing arrangements associated with the closure will require the female prison facility to remain on the site for a period after December 1991. However, the Government believes that this is a small price to pay for ridding the community of an outdated and unsafe relic of days gone by.

$26 million has also been provided in the capital works program for further work on the new remand and assessment centre.

— *Police*

The Fitzgerald Report identified a number of areas where the quality of police services can be improved—and they will be.

Let there be no doubt that the Government stands ready to give police the priority necessary to raise the standard.

Decent, hard-working members of the Force should not have to suffer in the future because of the past actions of a few.

Last year's Budget committed us to 600 additional police officers over three years. This commitment will be honoured in full.

To provide 600 additional police in the short term is not an easy task given the need to maintain recruitment for replacement purposes. In 1988-89 because of this factor it was only possible to achieve a net increase in overall strength of around 100, with a target of 300 additional police for the coming financial year to overcome this shortfall.

It is not being realistic to expect that major increases speculated upon in the media could be achieved in the short term. The Government is not prepared to sacrifice quality simply to achieve quantity. We want the best standard of police force. The community expects it.

Priority has been given to regionalisation of the Transport Department to relieve police of duties that can be more aptly done by clerical staff. As a result, the equivalent of at least 50 police officers will be released throughout the State to do the job they are trained for.

In addition, the 1989-90 Budget provides for—

- $1 million for enhancement of drug squad operations;
- $3.1 million for audio/video recording of evidence;
- $4.7 million for general enhancement and for new equipment, including protective body armour.

$5 million has also been included for specific initiatives arising from the Fitzgerald Report, which will be allocated following assessment of priorities by the new Commissioner, when appointed.

— *Voluntary Organisations*

The Government is fully committed to support the dedicated work of voluntary organisations in the community who play a vital role in public safety. This Budget tangibly recognises that support by increasing the present endowment rate from 75c in the dollar to $ for $ as from this year.

In addition, a $ for $ capital endowment scheme will be introduced for the Volunteer Coast Guard and the Air Sea Rescue Services to provide for boat replacement. A maximum of $100,000 will be available per club over ten years for this purpose.

The change to the endowment arrangements will effectively increase the Government's annual financial support of these organisations by more than 40 per cent.

— *Justice*

The Government has decided to establish two pilot Community Justice Centres. The Centres are designed to provide a flexible and economical dispute settling process and if successful, will be expanded to further areas.

Employment, Training and Industry Development:

Funds available to the Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training in this Budget will increase by over 12 per cent to $216.3 million.

The allocation includes—

- $5 million for additional places in TAFE colleges;
- $6.8 million for the 'Commitment to Youth' program under the Government's 'Project Pay Packet' initiative;
- $5 million as a general enhancement of activities.

The Government proposes a $5.9 million accident prevention program this year to support the new Workplace Health and Safety legislation. The program will be funded from Workers' Compensation premium income in recognition of the benefits that will flow to employers as well as employees.

In last year's Budget, Mr. Chairman, major new initiatives were announced designed to encourage industry development in this State.

With the Government's State Economic Development Strategy acting as the blueprint, the State is now well placed to take full advantage of industry expansion opportunities as they emerge.

The Budget this year further encourages this process by providing—

- a further $15 million for venture capital, research and development projects;
- $3 million for enhancement of industry development programs, particularly in the area of technology;
- $850,000 for further regionalisation of the Small Business Development Corporation;
- $690,000 to establish an Office of International Business;
- $800,000 for specific Strategy initiatives, including establishment of a Chair of Quality at the Queensland University of Technology
- $2.8 million for the operations of the North Queensland Enterprise Zone Corporation.

I can also announce that negotiations are virtually concluded with the CSIRO, which will see a major Centre for Advanced Technologies established in Brisbane. The Centre would include the State's first super-computing facility.

I am also pleased to say that the Government has agreed to support, through the taking of office space and other support guarantees, a World Trade Centre for Brisbane. The provision of facilitative Government support will enable this project to become a reality in the near future.

The Government is concerned about tourism. It is our fastest growing industry and the Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation has been very successful in taking Queensland to the top of the major tourist destination ladder.

Let me say that the Corporation has been almost too successful. Our competitors, the other States of Australia, are all moving hard to regain the ground they have lost to Queensland over recent years.

The Government is not about to stand by and let that happen.

The Government's support for the Corporation will therefore be increased by 29 per cent this year to a total grant of $20.7 million.

In addition, the Budget provides for $7 million to be spent on subsidies for replenishment of Gold Coast beaches.

Primary Industries:

The $50 million Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme announced in last year's Budget has been a great success. It is helping primary producers lift their game at the right time.

An amount of $21.5 million has been provided in the Budget this year for further expenditure under the Scheme.

A total of $9.0 million has been provided in Treasury votes for payments to the Queensland Industry Development Corporation to enable funds to continue to be made available to primary producers at concessional interest rates.

As the present high market interest rates decline, the cost of this subsidy is also expected to decline.

$2 million has been provided to assist recreational fishing, to assist with costs of the Bribie Island Aquaculture Centre and for the fishing industry generally.

A special allocation of $1 million over 3 years has been provided towards the overall cost this year of implementation of the Government's recently announced Land Care Strategy.

Special mention must be made of the disgraceful withdrawal by the Commonwealth from the provision of drought relief assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief arrangements. It was done without consultation and, indeed, without compassion. The Commonwealth's action will cost the State this year an extra $15.4 million in drought aid.

Mr. Chairman, while the Commonwealth has recently offered to provide drought assistance under Part B of the Rural Adjustment Scheme, this will mean that the State will be required to fund at least 50 per cent of the cost.

It is another clear example of the Commonwealth off-loading its funding responsibilities to the States and to Queensland in particular.

Culture and Recreation:

Major new initiatives have already been announced in regard to advancement of the arts and culture in Queensland. I refer of course to Stage 5 of the Cultural Centre at a cost of almost $50 million. It will include, among other things, a State Film Centre.

An additional $1 million has been provided to enhance funding for the Arts generally. It includes provision for a Writer's Train to coincide with the International Year of the Reader in 1990.

The growth in demand for library services in local authority areas has placed great strain on the Public Libraries Service. An additional $1 million will be made available to enable subsidies and other assistance provided under the Service to be significantly enhanced.

I am pleased to announce that $400,000 has been provided in the Budget this year to establish a Sports Scholarship Scheme for international class athletes and sports persons. Further details on the Scheme will be provided by the Minister for Education, Youth, Sport and Recreation.

Environment and Conservation:

The Government is firm in its commitment to the issues of environment and conservation. The Government is now backing this up with an additional $1.5 million for expansion of the activities of the Department of Environment and Conservation, including recreation area management and wetlands investigations.

$180,000 has been provided to progress planning of Q-Zoo.

An amount of $720,000 has been provided for relocation of drains and rubbish dumps and other work in the Emerald area to overcome an environmental hazard.

The Government is proposing in this Budget a major increase in its commitment to tree planting, with estimated expenditure of $1.5 million over 3 years.

The Kingston toxic waste problem and the Collingwood Park landslip problem have created major environmental hazards. While the problems are not of the Government's making, it has had to step in to resolve them for the benefit of the community generally. The cost to the Government of the two projects in 1989-90 is expected to be $1.7 million.

Negotiations have been successfully concluded with the Commonwealth Government for the State to purchase the old Customs House building at a cost of $5 million. A further $7 million is expected to be spent on refurbishment.

Work has also started on restoration of the old Museum Building with expenditure of $740,000 provided for this year

An annual grant of $1 million has been approved for the State Heritage Program.

The Government has also committed to provide a total of $2.5 million over the next five years as the State's contribution to the completion of St. John's Cathedral.

Transport and Communication:

The major electrification program of the Railways operation is now largely complete and considerable benefits are starting to flow in terms of cost savings, improved performance and efficiency. Significantly, the gains have been achieved without sackings and mass retrenchments of staff that are now occurring in other States.

There is no doubt that the Queensland Railways is one of the most efficient railway operations in the world.

To maintain momentum towards an even more efficient operation, financing arrangements totalling $42 million will be put in place during the coming year to fund a shift to driver-only operation, and to relocate the Roma Street goods yard to Acacia Ridge. Relocation of the goods yard is a necessary prerequisite to sale of the Roma Street site and also duplication of the inner city tunnels to enhance the suburban network.

The Budget provides for an allocation of $2.9 million to the Transport Department to continue its regionalisation program. As I have already indicated, this program has considerable spin-off benefits to the Police Department in releasing police officers for more professionally-oriented work.

In response to wide public acceptance of the school crossing supervisor scheme, and demand for additional supervisors, an additional $500,000 has been provided to meet needs.

$500,000 has also been set aside in the Budget this year to establish a Baby Restraint Hire Scheme. The funds will be used to establish an initial stock of capsules.

An amount of $1 million has also been provided to maintain the highly successful RBT campaign in 1989-90.

Roads:

There will be no fuel tax imposed in this Budget despite the continued failure of the Commonwealth Government to hand back to road users a fair and equitable percentage of the taxes that it collects from them.

No objective road user is demanding that the whole of the taxes be returned. Surely, however, the community, not just the road user, has a right to expect sufficient funds to provide a safe, reasonable standard of road. It is totally inequitable to expect the

States to further "slug" the motorist to fund inadequacies in road funding when he has already paid by other means.

It is patently obvious that the highly decentralised population profile and the vast distances to be covered demand that effective and efficient transport links be provided. I urge the Commonwealth in the strongest possible terms to rethink its miserly approach to road funding.

Total resources available to the Main Roads Department this year will be $757.5 million, an increase of 14.8 per cent on the level of resources available in the previous year.

I have already announced that the State Government will be implementing a special State matching road grant program for local authorities.

An amount of $40 million will be available on a $ for $ basis over two years for specific road works projects which are of regional and economic development significance.

Guidelines for the program are presently being prepared by the Main Roads Department in consultation with Treasury.

Health:

The 1988-89 Budget provided for a significant improvement in health care services and this year's Budget continues the momentum of that improvement.

Apart from normal increments to allow for cost increases, major additional spending allocations include—

- $6.7 million to be made available from State sources to meet Commonwealth matching requirements under joint-funded programs, such as the Home and Community Care Program.

- $18.3 million towards costs associated with the 1988-89 Budget commitment to employ 1,300 additional staff over two years.

I am pleased to say here and now that my next Budget will commit to fund a further 700 staff in 1990-91, bringing to 2,000 the number of additional hospital staff provided in three years.

- $15 million has been allocated towards additional staffing costs associated with changed working conditions for resident medical officers. The change in conditions should provide employment for up to 300 additional medical staff.

- $15.9 million has been set aside to meet capital and recurrent costs in this year for the transfer of nurse education to colleges.

- $14.0 million has been allocated for costs associated with construction of the new Queensland Institute of Medical Research building at Herston.

The operations of the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service are to be significantly expanded. Additional expenditures of $2 million are proposed, of which the State share will be $1 million.

There are a number of smaller grants worthy of particular mention.

- $100,000 has been allocated to the Leukaemia Foundation as part of a $300,000, three year commitment.

- $275,000 has been set aside to establish a clinic to replace a facility operated by the Bush Nursing Association at Laura in North Queensland.

Having spent a short time in the Health portfolio, Mr. Chairman, I am very aware of the excellent work of the Queensland Ambulance Service. The grant for the Ambulance Service will increase this year by $5.2 million to allow for cost increases and to provide—

- $1 million as part of a $2 million, two year program to replace aged vehicles;

- $500,000 as an on-going depreciation provision against future vehicle replacement;
- $2.25 million towards expansion of services generally, including costs associated with coronary care services.

Social and Community Welfare and Housing:

Social problems are on the increase. There is a great need and Governments must respond. This Budget addresses these needs in a compassionate and planned way.

The additional 50 staff announced in last year's Budget and the 50 additional staff promised this year have been provided for the Department of Family Services.

Also, I commit the next Budget in 1990 to provision of a further 100 staff in the 1990-91 year.

All State matching requirements under Commonwealth joint-funded programs, such as the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program, have been provided for.

There will be a 10 per cent increase in allowances paid to foster parents.

An additional $500,000 has been allocated for new programs dealing with domestic violence.

$455,000 has been set aside to meet initial costs of implementation of the Government's recently announced Family Policy and Ageing Strategy.

The problems of youth are being addressed in the Budget with additional funding totalling $1.0 million being available for a pilot youth program in Fortitude Valley, implementation of the Burdekin Report and to meet commitments for additional child care places.

The Government has recently established an Information Referral and Retail Centre in the Logan area to assist people obtain quick access to the most appropriate Government service. The Government will be looking to establish other similar centres should the Logan project prove successful.

Housing, particularly welfare housing, has been a top priority for the Government.

Funding of $16 million will be available for the Housing Accommodation Assistance Scheme in 1989-90.

The Budget provides $23.1 million to fully qualify for Commonwealth funding under the new Commonwealth-State Housing arrangements. Under the arrangements, by 1992-93, the State will be contributing special additional funding of $64.9 million per annum for welfare rental housing.

While the overall increase in commitment of housing funds is welcome, I am disappointed that the Commonwealth has not allowed flexibility for at least some of these funds to be directed towards home ownership. Home ownership is the reasonable aspiration of every Queenslander.

Instead of furthering this objective, we have to be constrained by the welfare rental problems of Sydney and Melbourne and a Commonwealth Government that can't seem to see beyond these areas.

The recommendations of the Government's Housing Task Force are being implemented.

The Government has already announced that the pensioner electricity subsidy will increase by 33 per cent, from $6 to $8 per month, effective from October 1989. Given that the Government has already frozen electricity prices, the increase in this concession represents real benefits to the aged.

Across the broad spectrum of Government services, increases in subsidies and rates of assistance, expansion of service and other activities—too numerous to mention in a single speech—are being provided for, and will be announced by Ministers on an individual basis.

Receipts

I turn now to the revenue side of the Budget.

As I said at the outset, this Budget contains no new or increased taxation imposts for Queenslanders. However, the Government is proposing to introduce a differential stamp duty rate for foreigners purchasing property in Queensland.

The rate of duty payable for acquisition of property by foreigners will be a flat 5.5 per cent regardless of value.

The rate of 5.5 per cent is equivalent to the maximum rate of duty applying in New South Wales and less than the rate of 6 per cent currently applying in the Labor State of Victoria.

The Government has taken this step as one means of countering speculative foreign investment in real estate. At the same time, the surcharge is not considered sufficiently burdensome to discourage long term foreign investment. While the definition of "foreign" will generally follow that set out in the Foreign Land Ownership Register Act, a "51 per cent ownership" test will apply for corporations.

Major taxation concessions were provided in last year's Budget, including a commitment to increase the pay-roll tax exemption to $500,000 as from 1 July 1990. That commitment has now been brought forward by six months and the new $500,000 limit will apply from 1 January 1990.

Further concessions are provided for in this Budget.

- The present 1.05 hectare area restriction for principal place of residence exemption under the Land Tax Act will be abolished. However, the value of the concession is recovered for any parts of the property subdivided within 5 years.
- Purchase of land acquired for the first home will be exempt from stamp duty up to a value of $30,000, with a duty reduction of $150 for higher valued land.
- Concessional duty at the rate of 1 per cent will apply on blocks up to 0.5 hectares for a principal place of residence by refund when the home is built.
- Action will be taken to eliminate a number of minor stamp duties which yield little revenue but are a source of frustration to all concerned.

There will be a major rationalisation and standardisation of exemptions applying to religious, charitable and educational bodies under the Stamp Act, the Pay-roll Tax Act and the Land Tax Act. The Acts were riddled with inconsistencies in this area and, in future, these bodies will not have to satisfy different criteria under different pieces of legislation.

Major benefits will flow to a number of such bodies who are currently required to pay pay-roll tax, but who will no longer have to pay under the new arrangements.

The Minister for Finance will be providing further details in regard to this matter.

Budget Reform

The presentation of the 1989-90 State Budget in full program format has been a major undertaking. It has required a great commitment of time and energy by Treasury and Departmental officers to complete the task.

However, it is only the first step. The job will not be complete until the whole of the public sector has an outcomes focus and the achievement of those outcomes is being measured and tested by appropriate performance indicators.

Having now set the basic structure in place, Treasury will be working with Departments in the coming year to set up appropriate performance measures as well as further refining and streamlining the necessary accounting and administrative processes which support management by programs.

A Performance Evaluation Unit is being set up in Treasury for this purpose. Apart from working with Departments to set up program performance indicators, it will assist Departments to set up appropriate internal evaluation mechanisms. The Unit itself will undertake broader-based or, where appropriate, special evaluation tasks.

The Premier's Department, as part of its responsibility for the strategic directions of the Government, will review the broader, longer term goals and objectives of Departments as they are set out in Departmental Corporate Plans to ensure consistency of purpose and consistency with the Government's State Economic Development Strategy.

Budget and management reforms in the public sector, Mr. Chairman, are key prerequisites to achieving full and proper accountability in government. Governments must be prepared to be judged in respect of the services they provide. I am personally committed to this principle. I am no longer prepared to allow the sins of the past to divert my Government's attention from implementation of urgent reforms.

Conclusion:

Mr. Chairman, this Budget puts the future of this State fairly and squarely on the line.

It involves major changes in direction and, in some cases, the benefits will not be truly evident for some time to come.

It addresses the more immediate people needs for

- welfare
- housing
- fire services
- ambulance services
- health care
- police

and other essential services in a compassionate and responsible way. It puts reform high on the Government's agenda.

By whatever test, this 1989-90 Ahern Government Budget is the best that this State has seen. It will improve the quality of life of each and every Queenslander.

Progress reported.

PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE COMMISSION

Estimates, 1989-90

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Nicklin—Minister for Finance and Minister Assisting the Premier and Treasurer) (3.19 p.m.): I lay upon the table of the House the 1989-90 expenditure estimates with probable votes, subdivisions and subdivisional items and the probable ways and means of financing that expenditure as required under section 54 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. B. D. AUSTIN (Nicklin—Leader of the House) (3.20 p.m.): I move—

"That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until Tuesday, 26 September 1989."

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.20 p.m.