MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you. Mr. Howard in paragraph (a) 'the fact that Proportional Representation was rejected by a majority of the electors' - the word majority - my recollection of the thing was a mere majority, I think 62 people swayed that to make it a majority. Would it not be worded better by actually saying that - that it was rejected by a small majority.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: In reply to that I would say that if ever there is a referendum on anything and it goes 58% and 42% the other way, there is no question about where the majority was. That is what is known as a majority.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: As I understand it to change the Constitution in Australia you need two thirds of the votes. I did not think 62 people made up the other one third.

MR. HOWARD: There has got to be a majority.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate Honourable Members. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Personally I think Mr. Howard is flogging a dead horse. It is my belief that the community generally has probably accepted the method of voting and is basically satisfied with the result and representation which appears in the House. I do not in conscience support the motion but if it is the wish of others in the House then I will go along with it.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.
MR. QUINTAL: In my opinion the Minister has made up his mind regarding the voting system for Norfolk Island and as he has first and last say up until now, well he has first and last say, I cannot see him changing his mind especially as the system of voting was thought up by the Australian Government and not by us. Why the Minister should go against the wishes of the electors is beyond my understanding as I have always thought that it is a domestic affair and not an affair of the Australian Government. The Minister at that time, Mr. Ellicott, seemed to have some worries regarding minority groups. I wonder if at that time he had some thought of minority Government. I feel that if we are to have a form of self government in the next few years then surely we should have the right to have any voting system to suit ourselves. We should continue to strive for this.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Quintal. Is there any further debate Honourable Members.

MR. BROWN: I move that the question be put Mr. Acting Deputy President.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the question be put.

Question - put and agreed (Mr. Sanders abstaining)

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to (Mr. Sanders abstaining)

NAMING OF ROAD

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No.4. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy President, I move that the Executive
Member for Administration, Education and Health take the appropriate action to name as Driver Christian Road, that part of the road presently known as Cemetery Road, from the Paradise Hotel site to its intersection with Collins Head Road.

Mr. Deputy President if I could give some background to the reason why this request is sought. Charles Driver Christian was born on Pitcairn Island on 7 August 1831. On 18 July 1855 on Pitcairn he married Maria Lucy Christian. Driver and his wife Lucy, with other descendants, arrived on Norfolk Island from Pitcairn on the Morayshire on 8 June 1856. Records now show that he took up residence with his family at No.2 Quality Row, the duplex building closest to the Paradise Hotel. Records also show that on 14 September 1859 the then Governor of Norfolk Island Sir William Denison, made a grant of 50 acres to Charles Driver Christian. This original 50 acre grant bordered on the eastern top half of Rooty Hill Road to the cross-road where it joins Collins Head Road and then down Collins Head Road to where it joins Cemetery Road and then down the road just below where the Crest Apartments are situated. Therefore there are grounds on the historical aspects of renaming this road the Driver Christian Road as part of Driver's grant bordered on Cemetery Road. Driver Christian is best known to the present generation for his musical talents, when in company with the late Rev. G.H. Nobbs they composed the words and music of the hymn Gethsemane. He also composed the music to our beloved Pitcairn Anthem. Therefore Mr. President I feel that Driver Christian has left a mark in the history of Norfolk Island, not only in the past and now in the present, but for future generations to come, and I commend the motion.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I think it is a wonderful motion and I support it fully and I think there ought to be more such motions.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: I would like to support the motion, I think it is
a very good one. I would like to add that Driver Christian had relatives on the Island and one was Mr. Harvey Christian who was a wonderful pianist and he played for the early pictures in New Zealand for many years and then he came to Norfolk Island in his late years. We also had a person who had a terrific voice, one of the best voices ever on the Island, by the name of Carty Christian and he was related to Charles Driver Christian, so it is a pleasure for me to support the motion moved by Mr. Jackson.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Quintal. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, the perpetuation of the name of Driver Christian is one that I am sure all Members of this House will support, those who have a real active knowledgable history about Norfolk Island. Many things have been said about Charles Driver Christian which really illustrates the part that he has played in the society of Norfolk Island over some number of years and this does in fact pay tribute and makes a suitable recognition of his work in the Island and I certainly support the motion and if carried by this House would be delighted to take the appropriate action.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: If we are talking about historical recollections I will just add one other little one which some may have forgotten which is that Driver Christian was named after an American sea captain, who was the man who at great risk to himself without the permission of the owners of his ship, diverted from the voyage that he was on and took the Pitcairners back home to Pitcairn from Tahiti. They had had a terrible time in Tahiti, they did not know how they were going to get back and it was Captain Driver who carried them back and as they left him and he sailed off they said to him we will never forget you, we will write your name upon our walls, and one of the things they did was to name Driver Christian after him.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy Vice President I would like to congratulate Mr. Jackson upon his motion and upon the tribute he has
paid to the memory of Charles Driver Christian, and I fully support the motion. Thank you.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Miss Buffett. Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: Through you I would like to ask Mr. Jackson the name of Driver Christian's wife.

MR. JACKSON: Maria Lucy Christian.

MR. QUINTAL: I was wondering if you would like to include the name 'Lucy' in that road, and call it Lucy Driver Christian Road.

MR. JACKSON: I think I will leave the motion as it stands.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate Honourable Members. There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously.

GRANT OF CROWN LEASE TO MR. & MRS. G. PEDEL

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No.5. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. I move that the previous Government's decision to recommend the grant of a Crown lease to Mr. & Mrs. G.K. Pedel be pursued during the Minister's visit to the Island.

Mr. Acting Deputy President I put this proposal forward because the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment at the time, Mr. Ian Wilson, in answer to a letter sent by Mrs. Pedel on 18 May 1981 stated that he had noted that the Norfolk Island Government was prepared to offer Mr. & Mrs. Pedel reimbursement of certain costs incurred by them
on their Kingston portion 81f which had been declared a designated area subsequent to their commencement of building activities. Minister Wilson went on to say that he noted that the Norfolk Island Government hoped to arrange for another piece of land to be made available to the Pedels. His closing sentence of that letter stated and I quote, "I trust that the matter will be satisfactorily resolved."

Also in support of this motion I refer to a letter to Mr. & Mrs. G.K. Pedel from the then Acting Administrator Mr. T.F. Paterson, dated 15 May 1981. Although Mr. Paterson refused the Pedel's application to build on their own land, this refusal being recommended by the previous Assembly, Mr. Paterson told Mr. & Mrs. Pedel that the Norfolk Island Government would like an offer to be made to the Pedel's of a portion of Crown leasehold land. Mr. Paterson said he saw merit in such a proposal and said he expected to write to them with further information in due course. Matters continued to progress favourably and Mr. & Mrs. Pedel planned to return and start building again in October. The then Chief Minister of the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly acknowledged the Pedel's desire to return in October and expressed his endeavours to have the necessary procedures and approvals for leasehold portion 110a5 at Anson Bay completed by their return to Norfolk to live. Then in September and October it appeared that only incorrect answers through misunderstanding of questions on the leasehold application form and some incorrect spelling, were causing delays. This is now May 1982.

In view of all the indications of the previous Assembly, the comments by the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment and the then Acting Administrator, I propose that this Assembly endorse its support of the previous Government's decision to recommend the grant of Crown lease portion 110a5 at Anson Bay to Mr. & Mrs. Pedel and pursue the matter during the Minister's visit to the Island.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the motion be agreed. Any debate Honourable Members.

MR. QUINTAL: Yes, I would like to support the motion, and I would like to mention that in the early days of the Council the Council recommended that Mr. Gerald Allan be given freehold grant of the land
that he had lived on for over 50 years and farmed and cleared and looked after. He had lived on that property for over 50 years and it was thought that because of the long time that he had looked after the leasehold property that he should be entitled to be given the land as freehold land, and the Council moved this and the Minister of the day I think was Mr. Paul Hasluck, I am not sure but I think it was him, he wrote a letter and agreed to the conversion of the leasehold property to freehold, and that never eventuated, I do not know why but it never came to pass, and I thought it was sad for the Allans that they passed away without the land being converted into freehold property, and I would hate to see a situation like this go pass without the Pedel's getting a piece of land in return for the land up there which they took away - freehold property - or I suppose it was resumed, and I think the family should be complimented in holding that land as long as they have. When other Islanders have sold their properties these people have kept the land especially for their family and they did exactly that and it was taken away from them. I feel we should do anything within our power to support them getting this piece of land out at Anson Bay.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President.

MR. QUINTAL: I am sorry, I made one mistake. The Pedel's were stopped from building, the land has not been taken away.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Quintal. Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. I support the motion but I hope that we intend not only supporting Mr. & Mrs. Pedel in this way but that we will be giving support to all of those other persons who own land in the Kingston area and have been similarly effected and that we will be giving support to those residents of Norfolk Island, particularly younger residents who are wishing to build and who at this stage have no land on which to build. So although I
support the motion I hope that we will not be abandoning others who have similar problems.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Brown. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy Vice President I fully support the motion and I congratulate Miss Buffett for placing this motion on the notice paper so it can be brought to some finality. If ever a young Norfolk Island couple has been given the run around, well Mr. & Mrs. Pedel have copped their share. They made a request to build and was refused, this was after the land had been declared a designated area. They made a request prior to that to cut an entrance into their land and it was granted. They commenced preparing their site to build, but it is all history now what took place. I am aware that certain letters transpired between the Administrator and the Minister, and a promise made that an alternative site may be granted to them. They prepared to come home, taking into account that this promise would be honoured and after all this they find themselves with nowhere to go, nowhere to turn, it is a dead end. So therefore this will be one of the most important matters, I consider, that we will be talking to the Minister about because it has been agreed that all Members pursue this issue with the Minister, and I would request the Member responsible to have all relative papers there so that we can discuss it with the Minister, and therefore bring this to a conclusion, and I hope a satisfactory one on the Pedel's side.

Further Mr. Deputy Vice President, Mr. Brown stated that we may have to compensate everyone else in the Kingston area or any other designated area that may be desired. It has always been my opinion that the Pedel's commenced before the land was designated and therefore there should be concessions in that direction and considerations taken because of the commencement by the Pedel's.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: As I understand it the land in question, just up here, does not belong to Mr. Pedel. I believe that all the money that
was spent on putting the drive in, he has been compensated for, is that correct Mr. Brown.

MR. JACKSON: May I take a point of order so that we can clarify this situation. The point of order Mr. Deputy President is that there was reference at the last sitting of this House that the Pedel's do not own the land, now that is not true, and I am glad to hear that Mr. Brown corrected that statement here today. It may be confusing once again to hear Mr. Sanders infer that they do not own the land, when in fact I have the deeds here where they own the land in joint partnership with Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sim.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No point of order Mr. Jackson.

MR. SANDERS: If they own it in joint partnership, they do not own it, they own it as a party of persons. I believe that Mr. Pedel has been compensated. If he wishes to sell his half share then I would agree that he be considered for a leasehold section of land. If he is not prepared to sell his shareholding in it then I would suggest that he do the same as anybody else who wants a piece of land - go and buy it. I do not support the motion.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: Actually it is my belief that the land cannot be subdivided and the only persons who can buy the property would be the Sims in my opinion. I have been stopped from subdividing a three acre section off a sixteen acre freehold property which I applied for over a year ago.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Acting Deputy President I move that the question be now put.

MISS BUFFETT: Can I say something.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the question be now put.
Question - put

MR. BUFFETT: No, not if somebody else wants to say something.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Do you want a division Honourable Members.

The House voted -

AYES, 4
Mr. Howard  Mr. Buffett
Mr. Brown  Mrs. Gray
Mr. Christian-Bailey  Miss Buffett
Mr. Quintal  Mr. Jackson
(Mr. Sanders)

MR. SANDERS: We seem to be a little bit confused. What is the question please.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the question be put.

MR. QUINTAL: Yes there is a little bit of confusion.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The intention is that we now stop further talk and put the question on the motion.

MR. SANDERS: The question is on whether this House takes the matter to...

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: No, the question is, Mr. Sanders, that we stop the talking. The vote was ayes 4, noes 5, so the debate continues Honourable Members.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr. Deputy Vice President I wanted to, if possible, enlighten Mr. Sanders on the fact that the Pedel's have not been compensated for the land that they cannot build on, they have purely
been compensated for work that they had been authorised to go ahead and do by this Government and then told that they could not go ahead, that is the only compensation they have received. The property is an ideal example of family subdivision which is recommended in the Planning Bill or the proposed Planning Bill, whereby family subdivisions are secure, they can be granted for a long period of time so that they are not resold you see and this is a matter that has been taken up before and I feel that they have tried to honour everything that is held in ideal here.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President this matter, not only the Crown lease matter but the associated matter which has led to the Crown lease, of restriction in respect of the Pedel's application, was a most difficult one at the time that the matter came forward, it was a most difficult practical matter and it was a most difficult emotional matter which Members of the Assembly at that time needed to consider. It was considered at that time that it was a situation that would not occur again in that the proposal to build in fact there had been some measure of commencement and there would not be that situation recurring once the legislation had been reintroduced, and because of that situation it was decided, and it was decided I should say by all of the Members of the Assembly having their say in the matter, that there should be some recompense to Mr. & Mrs. Pedel for any expenditure that had been made up to that time, and also, because they had been refused an application to construct their home on that particular area, there should be an effort to try and find some alternative where they might construct their family home in Norfolk Island and that was considered again by all Members of the Assembly as to that course and the course was agreed that they should be supported in an application to the Minister - governmental support - in respect of a leasehold portion of land. That matter went to the Minister as I understand it some many months ago now and it went at that time with the support of the Norfolk Island Government and it went again with the background that I have endeavoured to point out, again let me state that it was extremely
difficult, that particular problem, both practically and emotionally, and it was thought that that was the most practical way of examining and solving that matter at that time, and so the Pedel's had that difficulty and hopefully the solution was one that was as well as one could be acceptable to the Pedel's and as well as one could be acceptable to the Norfolk Island Government at that time.

What we are really approaching now is another difficulty, and you might say it is a second unsuspected hurdle for Mr. & Mrs. Pedel, and I feel that we should support and try and get to some conclusion the matter in the environment that I have endeavoured to describe so that in fact Mr. & Mrs. Pedel are not prolonged in the difficulty, so in general terms the authorities in Norfolk Island can feel that they have tried to remedy a matter as best they can in the circumstances with some degree of promptness as best as they are able, I must acknowledge that it is not all in our area, everyone knows that this is a matter that is still a retained function and the Minister has the final say, but as best as we are able to try and bring the matter to some conclusion, and on that basis I of course would support the motion that is before the House so that it hopefully will come to some conclusion.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Buffett. Is there any further debate.

MR. QUINTAL: Yes I would like to say another few words Mr. Deputy Vice President, and that is in the early days when the early settlers first arrived on Norfolk Island, the settlers until quite recently, they thought so much of the historical buildings at Kingston, that the people started to knock them down and a person could buy a cartload of stones for about a shilling or two shillings a load, and here we are worrying about somebody putting up a building that was going to be in keeping with the rest of the historical buildings, and I have often thought that it was a good thing that in the early days they did not have trucks to cart away the stones otherwise there would not have been any buildings left in the Kingston area, I would think that would be a fact, and I thought I would mention that.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate.

MR. QUINTAL: One person has a receipt for a shilling I think, to remove the stones from Gallows Gate. I think he still holds the receipt today.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Quintal. Is there any further debate Honourable Members. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I have not any wish to contravene the wishes of the last Assembly Mr. Acting Deputy President but I do not feel that I am in a position to express a vote at this stage, I have not enough of the facts in my possession, I believe the final decision does rest with the Minister and I shall regretfully abstain.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray. Is there any further debate. There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put

Motion agreed (Mr. Sanders opposing. Mrs. Gray and Mr. Christian-Bailey abstaining)

VARIATION OF IMMIGRATION POLICY

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No.6. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: I move that this House is of the opinion that the Government's existing immigration policy in relation to the establishment of new businesses and shops on the Island should be varied to permit and encourage the establishment of those businesses which bring health benefits to the Island's inhabitants, for example the business of an optical dispenser, optometrist, chiropractor, physiotherapist and veterinary surgeon, and requests the Executive Member responsible to take such action as may be necessary to implement this variation of
policy.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the motion be agreed. Any debate Honourable Members.

MISS BUFFETT: If I could speak to the motion Mr. Acting Deputy President, I beg your pardon, Mr. Deputy Vice President. Mr. Deputy Vice President I know that there is considerable community support to my proposal because over 100 locals have availed themselves of the services supplied by the new Norfolk Island Optical Shop. Tourists also enjoy the service. Increased population and visitors have necessitated other types of community and animal health professional services and I suggest variation to the existing system along the following lines, which the Draftsman could streamline where he thinks necessary: That clause B of the Government's present immigration and development policy announced in January 1981 be amended to read "No immigration permits will be granted for managers or employees of new businesses except where there is no currently registered or licensed resident professionally qualified to practice optical dispensing, optometry, chiropractory, physiotherapy, chiropody, and veterinary surgery and dispensing, and any similar professional health service considered by the Government as beneficial to the health and welfare of the community as a whole", and otherwise if the business is started locally it must be operated locally, other than for that provision. Thank you.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Miss Buffett. Is there any further debate Honourable Members. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Just a comment really Mr. Acting Deputy President. I would prefer that the matter be held in abeyance until the Executive Member has had an opportunity to clarify his thoughts on the matter. If Mr. Brown indicates that Miss Buffett's motion does not contravene planned legislation or policy now being formulated I would be prepared to support the motion.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Mr. Acting Deputy President I have spoken with Miss Buffett in relation to this matter earlier today and I have indicated to Miss Buffett that I would propose to move an amendment to her motion, and if it is to the convenience of the House I will do so now. I seek leave of the House to do so Mr. Acting Deputy President.

The amendment I would propose is that instead of Miss Buffett's motion the motion read, that this House recognises the desirability of considering variation of the Government's existing immigration policy in relation to the establishment of new shops and businesses on the Island to enable and perhaps encourage establishment of businesses which bring health benefits to the Island's inhabitants, for example physiotherapist and veterinary surgeon, and requests the Executive Member responsible to take such action as may be necessary to incorporate proposals for same in the immigration policy paper presently being prepared for the consideration of this House.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Brown. The question is that the amendment be agreed. Any further debate.

MR. JACKSON: Do Standing Orders require motions to be completely re-written or parts of it amended.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Standing Orders allow motions to be re-written but it does not require it Mr. Jackson, that is my understanding. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: If that amendment does not trouble Miss Buffett, it would ease some of my concern about her original motion. I support what I understand she is driving at but I am a little uncertain in my mind what the effect of the original resolution would do, it is nailed down so hard at the end, "requests the Executive Member responsible to take such action as may be necessary to implement", now whether that means if an optometrist comes along, let him in. I feel happier myself about the idea of endorsing the principle that Miss Buffett is putting here and seeing if it can be built into the immigration policy
that is supposed to be put before the House.

MR. BUFFETT: What again is this amendment. I might say Mr. Acting Deputy President that I think it is unfair to Members to just drop amendments on them at this time, I have expressed that view earlier at this sitting, because I think they deserve the compliment of being able to examine it and do their own research on it if they think it appropriate, so I did not get exactly what the amendment was, can I have my memory refreshed.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders. Mr. Buffett have you finished speaking to this.

MR. BUFFETT: At this time I have Mr. Acting Deputy President.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I agree with Mr. Brown's amendment but I feel we could bypass the whole shemozzle simply by making them public servants - they do not have to comply with any rules.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate Honourable Members. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Deputy President. With this motion would it be better for me to give notice of moving this motion at the next meeting, would you like me to defer the motion from this meeting and give notice of it for the next meeting, Mr. Deputy Vice President.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: We are now speaking to the amendment Miss Buffett.

MR. BROWN: I have no objection to consideration of the amendment being adjourned until the next meeting.

MR. JACKSON: I move that the amendment be adjourned.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the amendment be adjourned.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously.

MR. HOWARD: That adjourns the whole thing does it.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Until the next meeting yes.

AIRFARE INCREASES

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No.7. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you. Mr. Deputy Vice President I move that this House, dismayed at the ever increasing airfares, requests the Executive Member responsible to take such action as may be necessary to stabilise the cost of air transport to and from the mainland.

In speaking to the motion, since the commercial airlines started servicing Norfolk Island some 35 years ago Mr. Deputy Vice President, the phenomenon of periodical fare increases has been accepted and seldom questioned by residents who have lived here long enough to remember those early flying days of the fortnightly service. We have seen many changes and some improvements but over the last two or three years we have been forced to tolerate many airfare increases and the frequency of them has become alarming. The Norfolk Island family wishing to go over to Australia to go to the zoo and look at the bright lights for a change during their holidays are few and far between now as the saying goes. Families especially, but even Mr. & Mrs. ordinary citizen are facing longer periods between mainland visits because they are finding it increasingly difficult to afford such frequent visits as they previously enjoyed.

Also there is another point I wish to bring up. A lot of people here have families on the other side and they do not just go away for holidays, there are occasions when they have to go over, and it is an
expensive matter when you are not prepared and have not budgeted for a family group. A large proportion of the Island's present resident population are either married to residents or decided to live here and they particularly like to regularly visit their people on the other side, and as I mentioned before, sometimes they have to for compassionate reasons, and these people are good regular airline customers, many of them simply cannot afford journeys now.

The present Bounty Bowling Tournament, the one just over, suffered a cancellation of 16 teams of bowlers who withdrew from the present very popular Bounty Bowling Competition because of the increased airfares. Now they are equal to 64 actual people and that is only 64 of the people who did not come to Norfolk Island for the last fortnight because of the increased airfares. Many tourists who used to visit Norfolk every year have changed their destinations because they say the airfares have killed the Norfolk holiday. If they wanted to spend that much money they could now go much further afield with 8 days accommodation included at a lesser cost than the airfare along to here.

I gratefully acknowledge the generosity that East-West Airlines and indeed Qantas before them, have extended to various causes such as the school tour fares, sporting body representatives, the Far West Childrens Health Scheme, Rotary and the Tourist Bureau promotions, and others that I may not have thought to mention, however I think that the Executive Member responsible for air transport in and out of Norfolk should on behalf of this Government ask East-West Airlines to review their airfares charged to residents singly and group wise, by methods of certain introductions - firstly, is there a standby airfare offered by East-West - there is no standby airfare. This is probably the only route that East-West has without a standby airfare; tourist fares also to and from Norfolk Island - express the hope that the review will result in a manner favourable to the traveller.

Mr. Deputy Vice President if it is appropriate I wish to table the very pertinent letter I think all Members may have received, from the First Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce which came in the mail yesterday. In this letter the Chamber of Commerce suggests that we lobby the Federal Minister for Transport to obtain a fair deal for
Norfolk Island with regard to airfares on the basis of Norfolk Island's isolation and its total dependence on tourism for its livelihood. The letter reasonably asks us to work as a united body to halt future increases, work for future reductions - and I add for standby fare rates - and work towards the introduction of a second air service to and from Sydney in order that an alternative be provided and fair competition be allowed. If no other method can stabilise and reduce air travel costs to and from Sydney, than the introduction of a competitive service, I strongly recommend that the Executive Member responsible expedite such a move.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. I have here given to me by Mr. Ross Westwood an advertisement out of a Sydney newspaper of a couple of weeks ago and it says "Norfolk Island holiday from $475 for 8 days and 7 nights, accommodation and return flight". This would be just prior to the current airfare increase and it was when the fare was $460, so a local would be paying $460 return and a visitor would pay $475 including his accommodation. Mr. Westwood has estimated that the value for agents commission, accommodation etc would be no less than $120, I would estimate it to be about $140. Why should the local residents pay $460 instead of an estimated discounted fare by East-West of $340, there seems to be a huge discrepancy there. I would suggest that the Executive Member take the matter up and if he does not get any glory we should see if we can do anything about getting an alternate airline.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Further debate Honourable Members. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I certainly support the sentiments expressed by Miss Buffett and by the Chamber of Commerce, and by Mr. Sanders as well. I wonder whether East-West was called to appear before the recent Tribunal in Australia regarding airfares or did it willingly make submissions, can anyone answer that question, perhaps the Minister for Transport.
MR. BROWN: The enquiry presently taking place in Australia relates only to Ansett and TAA. A separate enquiry is expected to take place in relation to East-West Airlines but that is at some time in the future.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Perhaps the agents here can make further information available about these submissions. It must be accepted that all four airlines servicing Norfolk are facing difficulties. The only one which seems to be trying to keep things under control with some success apparently, is Norfolk Island Airlines, they are at least offering travel incentives to locals and others who may avail themselves of standby fares.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Deputy Vice President. I support the motion. I do believe that once again we are faced with a situation where monopoly control dominates the way of life on Norfolk Island. I have raised the issue of airfares in this House on numerous occasions. I have described it as extortionist.

I would like to see the motion with a bit more muscle in it. The motion says that this House is dismayed—certainly we are all dismayed, but what are we going to do about it. I do believe that at this crucial time with the decline in tourists, something more positive has to be done. I believe also that if the Minister was not arriving so soon I would move a motion that the Executive Member for air transport and another Member visit Canberra to put this case to the Department of Aviation and Mr. Hunt, and put it quite clearly that the Government of Norfolk Island and its people are dissatisfied with the treatment being dished out by East-West to the people of Norfolk Island. It was only on 24 April that a little piece appeared in the 'Telegraph' stating that East-West Airlines fares from Sydney to Armidale, Albury, Tamworth, Glen Innes and Inverell, have been slashed by 30%. Only in yesterday's 'Telegraph' there was an assessment of
TAAS, Ansett and East-West. Both TAA and Ansett passenger figures declined in the last quarter. TAA showed they carried 5.5% fewer passengers. Ansett fell behind by only 0.3%. But the most interesting part of this cutting out of yesterday's paper was this - "The biggest leap forward was made by the Tamworth based East-West Airlines with a 22.6% increase in passengers for the quarter". Now what are they trying to do to us. Are we complete suckers to all of these people. Excuse my phraseology but I am forced to use it.

I am impressed by a letter from Marcus Tilley and the stand he took in the letter that Mrs. Gray referred to. I was very proud to see a letter coming from that direction with a bit of beef in it, it stated that they are fed up with the situation.

Therefore I am pleased to hear that this motion has been placed on the table for discussion and I do believe when the Minister comes that we should certainly voice our opinion quite clearly. There are others that I would like to take on as well as the airlines - the shipping monopoly, the fuel monopoly, LP gas and all the others. I believe it has come to the stage that these monopoly controllers who are dictating terms to Norfolk should be declared the untouchables, but I hope that disappears in the near future.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Jackson. Further debate Honourable Members. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: There may be an opportunity for Mr. Jackson to take the matter up in person, I understand that the Minister for Aviation, Mr. Wallace Clive Fife, newly appointed Minister for Aviation, is due to arrive on the Island tonight. Perhaps the Executive Member responsible may take you along to plead your cause.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray. Mr. Brown.

MR. BROWN: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. I fully support the motion. I think the time has well and truly come when we have got to show what our colours are here and we have to stand on our own two feet and stick up for ourselves. I have already in fact
commenced discussions with the Chairman of Directors of East-West Airlines. To date I could not say that those discussions have been encouraging but if this House today passes the motion that is before it that will certainly be of great assistance to me in the discussions that I am taking, and I fully support it.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Brown. Is there any further debate Honourable Members.

There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously.

SUSPENSION OF HOUSE

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President I am of a mind to move an adjournment at this time. We are about half way through the paper. It is now ten minutes past five, it seems to me that we will have to come back another day anyhow, and it may be more efficient if we break at this time, or after one more motion, however Members feel, but I think we are approaching that time and I would be happy to move an adjournment at this time until 2 o'clock on Friday.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the House be suspended until 2 o'clock on Friday. Is there any further debate. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Just one point Mr. Buffett, is Friday clear.

MR. BUFFETT: There is a ministerial visit tomorrow Mr. Acting Deputy President, that is Thursday.

MR. SANDERS: I am sure somebody said downstairs....
MISS BUFFETT: There is an immigration meeting, but that is at 10 o'clock in the morning.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is there any further debate. There being no further debate the question is that the motion be agreed.

House suspended at 5.10 p.m. until Friday 14 May 1982 at 2 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING (2 p.m. 14 May 1982)

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members we resume the sitting from Wednesday.

At the commencement this afternoon may I first of all make mention that I have given approval to Mr. David Hiser who is a photographer with the National Geographic Society to take some photographs of this sitting during the early part of it, so during the first five or ten minutes of the sitting I hope you will not be inconvenienced if a photographer does take some shots which I might say we might look forward to seeing in the National Geographic Society's magazine at some early time and hopefully it may attract some good measure in our tourist industry.

Mr. Howard may I mention the additional matter of your own participation in this matter. I have mentioned that Mr. Hiser will be taking photographs for the National Geographic magazine, I would also mention with Mr. Howard's approval, that he has been commissioned to write the text of such an article.

Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Would it be considered disrespectful if when Mr. Christian-Bailey is in the Chair if we just called him Mr. Chairman, it seems to be causing quite a few people getting tongue tied by saying Acting Deputy President.
MR. PRESIDENT: I have no difficulty with that, I am not too sure how Mr. Christian-Bailey would respond.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: It seems sensible to me.

MR. SANDERS: I thought it would make it easier for all of us to address the Chair as Mr. Chairman.

MR. PRESIDENT: I would say however as the President of the Assembly that I would appreciate being addressed as Mr. President, that is only when I am in the Chair of course, I would not wish to pre-empt what Mr. Christian-Bailey would wish to do.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. President.

MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

MR. PRESIDENT: A message from the Administrator in respect of the Public Account Expenditure Bill (No.4) 1981-82.

Message No.56 - in accordance with the requirements of section 25 of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 the Administrator recommends the making of the attached Bill entitled 'An Act to Authorise Additional Expenditure from the Public Account of Norfolk Island for the Service of the Financial Year ending 30th June 1982'. Dated this 10th day of May 1982, and signed by the Administrator.

DECLARATION OF BILL AS URGENT

MR. PRESIDENT: I wish to inform the House that the Business Committee has met and declared in accordance with Standing Order 158 that the Public Account Expenditure Bill (No.4) of 1981-82 is an urgent Bill.
MR. PRESIDENT: I call upon Notice No.8, the Public Account Expenditure Bill (No.4) 1981-82. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you. I present a Bill for an Act to authorise additional expenditure from the Public Account of Norfolk Island for the service of the financial year ending 30th June 1982.

This supplementary Supply Bill to provide money required for the financing of the Administration between now and the end of June involves a total proposed amount of money of $332,900. The Schedule of the Bill is set out in accordance with the way the Administration accounts are set up and it may be more convenient in describing the Bill and what the main pieces of it are, if I group some of those various items into several different categories.

The largest single part of it is a further bill from New South Wales for teacher's salaries and administration in the Norfolk Island School, that amounts to $169,100. As you are well aware we have been receiving bills from New South Wales for teachers provided to us and for their oversight of those teachers, a long time after the teachers have done their work, it sometimes has got as long as a year and a half or I think even two years behind times. I think because of financial pressures in New South Wales, they are trying to mop up every single bit of available money they can and knowing that we owe them money for school teachers that they have been paying right along, they have now got caught right up to date. This bill when we pay it will bring us fully paid in our bills to New South Wales up to the end of December just ended. It will mean that in this particular year we will have paid for eighteen months of education in the school. This is not really an additional expense, it is not an unexpected expense, it perhaps falls on us a little earlier than it may have in the past pattern but there is no surprise in it and it is a perfectly proper and in order and expected thing.

The second largest general group of items are moneys needed to pay salaries for members of the Public Service between now and the end of June, I will come back to that one in a moment - that amount is $85,500.
The next largest grouping of expenses that are asked for in this Bill are $30,200 of various things, miscellaneous things, some of which are important. The resignation of Dr. King required us to recruit another medical officer and there were substantial costs involved in doing that. We have received word from East-West Airlines that they are charging us more for the carriage of our airmail from here to Australia than they have until now and that increase is part of this $30,200 of various miscellaneous items.

The next largest item in the group is an additional subsidy amount for the hospital on the Island. The amount is $24,500. As I see it, this is not an unexpected amount. Last year at budget time when the budget was being prepared, the Hospital Board said that they at best they could plan their year they were going to fall about $32,000 short for the year of the amount of revenue they were going to be able to bring in and they asked for a subsidy of that amount. In the end in an effort to hold costs down in the budget, the amount of subsidy assigned to them was only $7,500, really what they are asking for now is simply the difference between that and the deficit that it looks as though they are going to make which is the deficit they thought they would make for the year at the beginning of the year, so the financial administration side of the Island may have been hopeful and may have mislead itself that the subsidy would only need to be $7,500, as a matter of fact it looks as though the Board was right from the beginning and they now need $24,500 more.

The last item is an amount of $23,600 which was an over-run in the cost of printing a particular stamp during the year, a stamp showing the white breasted silvereye, and as the printing of that particular stamp issue progressed, it became evident that it was going to be more popular than had been guessed in the beginning, I think there was more design work done on it than had been anticipated and that particular stamp printing turned out to cost $23,600 more than had been budgeted for at the beginning of the year.

All of those items add up to $332,900. There are a couple of very minor items in the Schedule which could be omitted I think without any complications, they are not substantial. I think it is necessary that we enact this Bill today. I want to talk about a very concerning
aspect of the Bill and it has to do with Public Service wages and salaries.

When the budget for this financial year was being considered a year ago the then Chairman of the Public Service Board wrote to the Chief Minister having looked at the draft budgets, and in his letter he commented as follows, he said in his estimates the Accountant allowed about 9% for CPI adjustments - consumer price index adjustments. Recently a 3.6% increase was approved, it is expected there will be a further increase in December, that is December 1981 - last year, it is expected there will be a further increase in December but this will effect the budget for six months only. The Public Service Board, and this was their recommendation as we were preparing the budget for this year, recommends reduction in the amount provided by the Accountant in his preliminary estimates by about one third to approximately 6%, of which 3.6% has already been paid, in other words the Public Service Board's recommendation for the year as a whole was that the bill for wages in the Public Service should be estimated to rise by a total of about 6% over the previous year, somewhat less than the Accountant had estimated, he had estimated it might be 9%.

A day or two after the election in January of this year, the Members of the Assembly had decided on who would be the Executive Members. Mr. Brown and I were both new Executive Members and we went along to have a talk with the then Chief Administrative Officer to get caught up to date on certain aspects of what was going on on the Island, this was on the 5th of February of this year. Mr. Bains who was the Chief Administrative Officer at that time gave us a lot of helpful information. He told us two things that have to do with this subject of public moneys and with Public Service wages and salaries. He said first of all that his doctrine was that the Public Service Board must operate within the budget of funds made available by the Legislative Assembly. Secondly in answer to a question, he informed us that just a few days before the Public Service Board had given a rise of between 9 and 13% to clerical staff in the Administration following on an award that had been made to clerical workers in Australia. During February Members were given a copy of the Public Service Board's Report No.3 on the Scott Report and in the course of that Report it was for the first time put on paper that yes a 9 to 13% rise had been given to clerical workers, it was decided on in January and given
retrospective to some time in October of last year. Now in May we are faced with a need to enact a Bill to provide additional money to get through the end of the next two months. The money that was allocated by the Assembly just under a year ago is now all gone so far as wages and salaries go and $85,500 more is needed to pay Administration wages and salaries through the end of next month. We really do not have any realistic choice about that part of the Bill. There are people in the Public Service who are doing their work and doing it properly and who are entitled to be paid and we need to pay them. I find it very deeply concerning that we do not have any choice. I think it is a serious worry that the doctrine spelled out to Mr. Brown and me by Mr. Bains that in his view the Public Service Board had to operate within the budget that had been made available by the Legislative Assembly, has been overlooked in this case. The Assembly was not consulted, the Public Service Board did not know whether the Island could afford this rise or not, they simply granted it. I am sorry that it was done that way, I hope it will not be done that way in the future, I do not think we can possibly manage the Island’s finances if that continues to happen in the future. I have drawn this situation to the attention of the Chief Administrative Officer and I have asked for his urgent help in making such changes in the system as are necessary to see that the Assembly is not faced with this kind of a situation again. He has written to me saying that he will give it his urgent attention. I am sorry that we need to be faced with something of that size by surprise, I hope it will not happen again.

I believe that the Bill should be enacted. Thank you.

MR. PRESIDENT: Debate Honourable Members. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President I would like that we go through these items piece by piece so that apart from the fact that we may know where the money has gone, I feel sure that the public would be extremely interested to know where their money is being spent. It would appear to me...

MR. HOWARD: Mr. President could I interrupt. I have made an error in procedure I think, I believe I should have moved that the Bill be agreed to in principle. I am sorry I did not do that, I move it now. I am sorry Mr. Sanders to interrupt.
MR. PRESIDENT: The question before the House is that the Bill be agreed to in principle. Mr. Sanders any further participation. We will come to the detail stage in a moment if you wish to address that particular matter in specific terms.

MR. SANDERS: Yes Mr. President I will wait until the detail stage.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Are there any Members who would care to enter the debate in respect of the motion which is before the House that the Bill be agreed to in principle.

If there is no further participation I put the question that the Bill be agreed to in principle.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Is it the wish of the House to dispense with the detail stage or go through the detail stage.

MR. SANDERS: Go through the detail stage.

Detail Stage

MR. PRESIDENT: Then we examine the detail stage Honourable Members. Firstly we will go through the Bill item by item. The items to which I refer are the financial items. The first question that I put is that item 101/1/01 be agreed. Does each Member have their Bill so that they know exactly which item I am calling.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President are we allowed to debate this as we go.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is now open to debate Mr. Sanders. Item 101/1/01.
MR. SANDERS: Mr. President could I call on Mr. Howard to explain why we need this extra amount of money which I believe is $47,100 over supply. If allowances were made in the first place in the Supply Bill from the last Assembly that there be increases in salaries, how come do we need so much extra for the same increase.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I cannot answer the question in fine detail. A large part, perhaps all, of the answer I believe, is that the Public Service Board awarded a much larger increase in wages to clerical workers in the Public Service than the Public Service Board had thought it was going to in May of last year. It may help Mr. Sanders and other Members if I make some comparisons with what the total bill was for wages in each of these categories as we go along last year and what we now can see will be for this total year, that has not been able to be seen until now. By adding what was supplied at the beginning of this financial year to what is now asked for to get us through the end of the financial year we can get a total in each of these categories and can make a comparison with what the total in that category was for last year.

In item 101/1/01, salaries, wages and allowances, administrative, in 1980-81 the total amount spent was $464,482. This year the total will be $611,000 approximately. Now in drawing comparisons between these two be careful because there will have been 27 pay days this year and there were only 26 in last year, as there are in most years. Once in a while you hit a year where there are 27 pay days, this is one such year, so you need to reduce the 1981-82 amount by one twenty-seventh to get back down to a fair comparison. But that is the comparison in that particular category and it is close on a 30% increase as compared with what that category was in the last financial year.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President if the Public Service Board has granted all these increases in salaries without consideration of the Assembly, which I consider the height of bad manners, they are spending money without our permission or consent, would that not be illegal under the Public Moneys Ordinance.
MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: No it is not illegal at all. The system in my view has not yet been shaken down and smoothed out to run the way it ought to run, I think that is the problem. I am quite certain that nothing illegal has been done at all. The Public Service Board is given the authority to say what wages and salaries should be, they are not given the authority to vote the spending of public money.

MR. SANDERS: It would appear to me that if they need an extra $47,100 over and above what the supply was from the last Assembly, somebody has acted in a very very irresponsible manner. Are you suggesting to this Assembly Mr. Howard that the Public Service Board can just gaily spend the money whether we like it or not.

MR. HOWARD: The answer that I have to give to that is that the Public Service Board is a reasonably new institution on Norfolk Island, there never has been such a thing, and there are a lot of good and necessary reasons why there should be a Public Service Board, it does not simply deal with wages and salaries, it also handles and judges on questions of fairness in the conduct of the Public Service, it gives among other things, an opportunity that is obviously quite just and fair, for a member of the Public Service who feels he has been unfairly dealt with by a decision of the Chief Administrative Officer or some other superior of his, gives him an avenue of appeal where a Board can sit down and listen to his story and see if maybe he has been given an unfair deal, and if he has the Board can undo the decisions that have been made by the Chief Administrative Officer.

MR. SANDERS: I agree with you that we ought to have a Public Service Board and I agree that there should be one but I think this Assembly has to make it very plain and clear who controls the money - do we or do they.

MR. HOWARD: I think the answer to that so far as I am concerned must be that if we the Assembly are to balance the Island's budget, to see that Norfolk Island is self supporting, that we must have that
control, you cannot have two people writing cheques on the one cheque book, that is a sure way to go broke.

What I was trying to say was that the Public Service Board is a fairly new creation on Norfolk Island and I think we are now for the first time staring clearly in the face the fact that the Public Service Board has done what they thought was the right thing to do, they failed to take into account the Assembly's judgement of the Island's ability to pay, I think they should not have failed to do that but they did and it is a new enough kind of operation so that I do not think you can be unduly harsh for what has happened up until this point. I think we have got, as far as I am concerned, to make it clear that in future this cannot happen again, ever, ever.

MR. SANDERS: I feel that if we have exceeded our amounts of money that was allotted for these things by such a vast amount and taking into consideration that we are already $88,000 less on moneys that we assumed we were going to get, that if this is not rectified here and now today, by the end of next year we indeed are going to be broke. I would like to think if we have a new Public Service Board, OK we all make mistakes, surely we can do something to prevent this from happening again. This error that has obviously been made has been to excess and the increases are far more than the previous Chief Administrative Officer said they should be, would perhaps a reduction to bring it back to what it was supposed to be, be in order.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: The answer to that is you cannot do that. The plain fact is that the Assembly allocated a certain amount of money for wages and salaries to last for twelve months. The Assembly's budget, which is different from the Assembly's Supply Bill, had it in mind that there might be cost of living adjustments toward the end of this financial year that on the average looked as though they might be 24%, about. As it turns out the adjustment made by the Public Service Board was far greater than that, far greater than that. Nonetheless the money that was assigned to last the year is now gone, the cupboard
is empty and there are people who need to be paid and I think we have to provide the money to pay them. On the point you raised about $88,000 behind, I think from memory you are probably referring to the figure on the bottom line of the monthly indications of financial results for nine months through the end of March. It was the other way around, it was $88,000 up. I do not think that the Supply Bill that we are being asked to pass today is going to alter the financial outlook that I expressed on Wednesday, which is that if philatelic and other revenue keeps coming in at the rate it has been and if the Public Service continues to hold down expenses as they have been, I think we will break even for the year, and that includes the spending involved in this Supply Bill.

MR. SANDERS: Just one more question Mr. President. Mr. Howard if the Public Service Board is a brand new Board and they have managed to overspend in a short time $47,100, I am terribly pleased that they are brand new and they have not had a chance to practice.

MR. PRESIDENT: Any further participation in the debate on this item Honourable Members.

MR. HOWARD: Is it in order that there is a motion in the case of each of these items that it be approved - I would move that item 101/1/01 be approved.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that item 101/1/01 be approved.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 101/1/02 which is Post Office salaries, wages and allowances - $6,300. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I was just going to say that my argument in wages would include everything in wages, so perhaps rather than go through the same performance every time that the word wages comes up, could that be taken into consideration.
MR. PRESIDENT: Can I ask the House whether they wish to examine Division 101 as a total or do you wish to look at each particular Division and item.

MR. SANDERS: Not when it refers to wages Mr. President.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr. President can I ask a question here of Mr. Howard - with the increase, there has been a survey going on that was not budgeted for previously, there are more than just ordinary weekly wages involved.

MR. HOWARD: If I may answer, no. When an item for example says salaries, wages and allowances - administrative, that means salaries, wages, allowances and payments into the superannuation fund and that is all it means, it does not include any expenses of any other kind.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you. We are looking at 101/1/02, Post Office salaries, wages and allowances. Debate Honourable Members. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I gave a comparison with last year in the case of the previous figure, I will give the same kind of comparison on Post Office salaries.

Last financial year they totalled $67,839, this year it is estimated that they will total $75,000, not taking into account the extra pay day that is an increase of 10%, so I think it would be a bit less than 10% for the Post Office. That is the only comment that I would make and I would move that that item be approved.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further debate Honourable Members. The question is that the motion be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 101/1/03 - Philatelic salaries, wages and allowances. Mr. Howard.
MR. HOWARD: Again I will give a comparison for Philatelic - in 1980-81 wages and salaries in Philatelic were $98,898, this year they will be $146,500, not adjusting for the extra pay day that is an increase of 43%. I believe that that very largely reflects the substantial increase in our Philatelic revenue and the number of stamps we have been handling and the volume of that particular business I believe it has taken considerably more people to handle it, there have also been wage rises and I cannot separate between the two, I do not have the figures in front of me, but I move that that item be approved.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further debate Honourable Members.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 101/2/01 - Travelling and Subsistence, administrative expenses, $2,000. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I would clarify for Members that that particular item of $2,000 is a provision in the event that removal expenses need to be paid in respect of the removal of Mr. Bains' effects from the Island. As part of his contract when he came to us he was assured when he left the Island he would be allowed $2,000 removal expenses. He now holds an enter and remain permit on the Island and it is not clear whether he is going to be removing, that item will be paid only if he does as a matter of fact remove his goods and effects and it will not be paid otherwise. If the House wants not to pass that particular item, I do not know of any need to pass it at the moment, and it could be handled in a separate Supply Bill if it did become a necessity.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I was under the impression that the last Chief Administrative Officer received residency rights. If he received
residency rights why would he need the $2,000 removal expenses. I would imagine that he would be entitled to either one or the other, not both.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: That is something we have to let the lawyers tell us what the law is, we had a contract with the man, we have to honour that contract, and it is for the lawyers to advise us what the contract requires that we do one way or another.

MR. SANDERS: Could I suggest Mr. President that for the moment that one be deleted.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that that one be agreed.

MR. HOWARD: I have not yet moved that it be agreed Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: May I just clarify this Honourable Members, that I am taking each item individually and I am posing the question from the Chair as to whether it be agreed, I do not necessarily require a motion, and so when I call each item I am then seeking agreement or disagreement upon the matter, and so we are discussing this particular item at this time and at the end of that time we will vote as to whether it is agreed or not agreed. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I would be glad to say that as far as I am concerned if the House disagreed with the passing of that it would not do any serious harm that I am aware of.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: I would like to ask a question. If the Chief Administrative Officer had a contract signed to the effect that his goods would be removed, and did the Government pay to bring his goods over to Norfolk.
MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: The contract includes an allowance for moving household goods and effects to Norfolk Island and again another allowance for moving them back to the mainland when the man's tour of duty is over. It is a limited amount, a man cannot bring anything he likes, he can bring twice as much as we pay for if he likes but he pays the difference. We allocated $2,000 expenses each way.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further debate Honourable Members. The question is that it be agreed.

Question - put

The House voted -

AYES, 3
Mr. Buffett
Miss Buffett
Mr. Jackson

NOES, 6
Mr. Howard
Mr. Brown
Mr. Christian-Bailey
Mrs. Gray
Mr. Quintal
Mr. Sanders

Motion not agreed.

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 101/2/03, which is Postage, Cables and Telephone Services - $14,500. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I would point out that the bulk of that amount is the additional charges being made by East-West for carriage of airmail to Sydney. At this point I know of no choice but to go ahead and pay what they say they have to charge us although I have several weeks ago when this fact first became evident initiated an enquiry through the Chief Administrative Officer as to what our alternatives are, what other choices have we than having East-West carry our mail, for example I have asked him to enquire into the possibility of having our mail
carried to Brisbane. I have asked for an enquiry and some thought into the possibility of having New Zealand as our principal destination of overseas mail, and then onward from New Zealand to other places. That enquiry may produce something worthwhile, it may not, I do not know but I have asked for it to be looked at, in the meantime East-West is wanting to charge us that much more and I think we need to pay it.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President only one question to Mr. Howard please.

MR. PRESIDENT: Can I just make this clarification Mr. Sanders so that there is not confusion, I have no query with you raising a question in participating in debate, but it is not really question time to a particular Minister. I am interpreting it as your contribution to the debate.

MR. SANDERS: I was only trying to get information for myself, for the other Members and for anybody who was interested, on matters which I think are of interest and that is whether East-West did notify the Administration that they were going to increase these charges and when or did they just start charging without notifying anyone.

MR. HOWARD: I am happy to answer questions like that Mr. President, I proposed the Bill, I have recommended that we enact it, I think I should be expected to try to defend every part of it that I can.

From memory we learnt in March from East-West that they felt they had to increase the charge by a modest amount and that they proposed that the charge be retrospective to several weeks before that letter was received. Part of my enquiry to the Chief Administrative Officer was whether it was proper to think of being retrospective on something that was not really covered by contract, and I have yet to have an answer about that.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously
MR. PRESIDENT: Item 101/2/05 - Administrative Expenses, office cleaning, fuel, light and power, $2,000. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: By way of explanation I would like to say that the bulk of that is a result of the improvements that have been made in the Administration building, the New Military Barracks, part of which has been a very worthwhile and considerable upgrading of the lighting standard in the building. Those new lights cost more to run and that is essentially what this is.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further participation Honourable Members. The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 101/2/07 - Administrative Expenses, printing and distribution of stamps, $23,600. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: This is the particular stamp that I referred to earlier that cost more to design and print than was expected at the beginning of the year but which apparently turned out to be a very good seller.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINATAL: Could I ask the Executive Member one question. Is this likely to continue, the increase in the printing of stamps.

MR. HOWARD: That is a matter that really gets into the budget for next year. There must be a direct relationship, roughly a direct relationship between how much revenue we have in Philatelic and what our printing costs are. If our revenues is hoped to go on increasing I think we have to expect to lay out more in expenses to gain that revenue but as yet I cannot give any detail on what is budgeted for next year.
MR. PRESIDENT: Further participation Honourable Members. The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put

Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: We move to Division 102. 102/1/01 - Courts and Lands - salaries, wages and allowances, $3,700. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I offer a comparison between the two years as I have done in the other categories. In the last financial year the amount of salaries and payments in the nature of salary for Courts and Lands was $43,030, this year it will be $54,000. Not allowing for the extra pay day in the year that is about a 25% increase.

MR. SANDERS: $54,000 straight is it.

MR. HOWARD: The amounts we are asked to supply are round figures rather than cut to each cent and that is why these figures are round for the current year.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. Howard.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further participation Honourable Members. The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put

Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: We move to Division 105. 105/2/01 - Legislative Assembly expenses - travelling and subsistence, $600. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: This item was asked for in the Supply Bill on the understanding that there will be a trip needed to the mainland by the President and the Clerk to attend a Parliamentary President's and Clerk's Seminar, training session. The President has informed Mr.
Brown and me that he is unable to go on that trip and will not be going so this amount of money is not necessary and I think it need not be agreed to.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put
Motion not agreed

MR. PRESIDENT: We move to Division 201. 201/1/01 - Education - salaries, wages and allowances, $162,100. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I would like to make a general comment. I have described in detail in this and previous meetings the situation on payments for education wages and salaries. I wanted to make an additional point which is that in my view when we come to calculating the financial result for this current financial year our accounting rules will require that this be shown as an expense in this particular year and handled that way it will no doubt cause us to have a deficit for this year. I wanted to say that in my view the additional education expense that we will have had this year by having to pay for 18 months worth of education in one year, should partly be taken out of reserves from past years rather than being charged against this year. The fact is that in previous years we showed more profit than we really had because we simply had not had the bill from New South Wales and so this item in my mind is something that properly can come out of our reserve fund.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President I think this would hinge would it not Mr. Howard on what type of book-keeping you are going to keep. If it is under the system where everything that happens in one year happens then it is a bit hard to start retracting on what happened last year.
MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Yes you really should run a cash system or an accrual system, one or the other, on the other hand there are times when either of those systems can give you results that as a matter of fact are quite misleading and in those cases I think your accounts should have a notation showing what the more realistic fact is, never mind what the numbers say.

MR. SANDERS: I always assumed that if you look at accounts they were supposed to be accurate, not with a little note to say do not worry about this one.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: It ain't so.

MR. SANDERS: Do you think we could start a new system.

MR. PRESIDENT: Would you be kind enough to address the Chair Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Sorry Mr. President.

MR. PRESIDENT: Any further debate Honourable Members. The question is that the item be agreed.

Question – put

Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 201/2/04 – Administrative Expenses, Administrative costs – New South Wales Department of Education – $7,000. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Part of the same bill Mr. President really, that is the bill from New South Wales.
MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put

Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: We move to Division 202. 202/2/01 - Health, Administrative Expenses, travelling and subsistence - $8,000. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: The $8,000 is essentially the additional costs involved in recruiting a new Government Medical Officer, which were substantial. It of course includes the removal expenses and the bringing over of another man.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President could Mr. Howard please explain how if you are getting somebody over and removing them, that it could cost such a fantastic amount of money.

MR. HOWARD: I can get detail for Mr. Sanders, I do not think I have it in front of me. I have been given quite a lot of information by the Chief Administrative Officer and the Accountant.

The Chief Administrative Officer, based on information given to him by the Accountant, simply says that the expenditure is necessary as a result of the resignation of Dr. King. Some of the expenses involved that I can think of are the cost of advertising for a replacement, the cost of sending people from here over to the mainland to interview candidates for the job, the cost of returning the previous Government Medical Officer to the mainland, and the cost of moving the new man and his family here, and $8,000 does not seem to me to be all out of line for that bulk of expenses.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. Howard would it be possible if we could have a copy of where all that money went please.

MR. HOWARD: Yes of course I can get that.
MR. SANDERS: I think the other Assembly Members and the public would like to know.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further participation Honourable Members. The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 202/2/04 - Health, incidentals - $1,100. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I am sorry Mr. President I cannot give you detail on that. It is material needed by the hospital for health reasons, supplies for the hospital.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: If it is so incidental and nobody has a record of it, could I move Mr. President that we delete it.

MR. PRESIDENT: You may oppose the motion when it comes to the vote Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. President.

MR. HOWARD: I should say that I cannot oppose it, I have got the highest regard for our hospital, for the way it is run, and if they say they need another $1,100 for health incidentals I think we should give it to them. I will support it.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: I would also support that motion.
MR. PRESIDENT: Further debate. The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put

The House voted -

AYES, 8
Mr. Buffett
Mr. Howard
Mr. Brown
Mr. Christian-Bailey
Mrs. Gray
Mr. Quintal
Miss Buffett
Mr. Jackson

NOES, 1
Mr. Sanders

motion agreed

MR. PRESIDENT: Item 202/3/01 - Other Services, subsidy to the Norfolk Island Hospital Board - $24,500. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I spoke about this in my introductory remarks about the Bill. There is no point kidding ourselves by pretending that we can push somebody down simply by not giving them a subsidy that is going to be necessary. If it is going to be necessary I think we should face the fact from the beginning. I think this is a fact we probably should have faced a year ago, perhaps it persuaded the hospital to be a little bit more careful with their money than if we had given them the whole lot right at the beginning; I do not know, but it is what they thought they would be short at the beginning of the year.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. President. A question to Mr. Howard. Mr. Howard has the Hospital Board given you a balance sheet.
MR. HOWARD: In answer, no I do not have a recent one. I am not certain when the hospital accounts are prepared each year. They are prepared and are made public. Mr. President that is in your portfolio, do you know when those accounts are expected.

MR. PRESIDENT: The accounts Honourable Members are in fact provided to the Administration. I should say at this time that I do not recall there being a statutory requirement to supply the accounts, because they are a statutory body themselves, but it is my understanding that they do annually supply a balance sheet in respect of their activities and they usually support their estimates for each financial year with such a statement. I assume that at the end of this financial year they will do the same.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President it was not my intention to insinuate that there was anything dishonest. The purpose of the question was to ask for $24,500 here and the other $1,100 which was incidental, that makes it $25,600, if there was a balance sheet it may be that perhaps the management of the hospital have not collected the moneys that were due to them, and surely this would be classed as bad management rather than a necessity to get more money from Administration. I would temporarily oppose the motion up until such time as we saw a balance sheet.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further participation Honourable Members. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: My own view would not be to oppose it, I think Mr. Sanders raises a point that may well be valid and I would certainly appreciate it if the Executive Member responsible for health were to make enquiries and satisfy himself that all that can be done is being done to collect outstanding accounts. You have to have a bit of tenderness, you have to have a bit of realism in many cases but sometimes tenderness overcomes good business sense and maybe the hospital could be being tougher about collecting money that is owed to them, and I would be quite happy if the Executive Member would have a look at that.
MR. SANDERS: I would be pleased Mr. President if you would do that. I feel that having run a small business for quite some considerable time, that one of the big things that is very very difficult to do particularly if you are perturbed about public opinion, is being nasty about collecting money, and I have the feeling that the people at the hospital are terribly nice people and I do not think it is even in their nature to be nasty and I think that perhaps the lack of collecting their own debts is perhaps the cause of this.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Mr. President is there any indication that this sum has been requested as a result of bad debts. There seems to be no indication of that to me.

MR. HOWARD: I have no indication of any connections.

MISS BUFFETT: I do not think we should go along on that tone until we do know, this could be shortfalls in running expenses.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: Mr. President I used to be the Chairman of the Hospital Board at one time and debts were a problem when I was there to collect and I do not think it has changed very much up to now, I do not know, it might have changed but I very much doubt it, and some of the problems are that it is very difficult to collect some of the debts that were owing at the time, and I suppose it might still be the same today.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: A couple of years ago Mr. President when we had Members advising in the Assembly I had the role of advising on health and I recall at that time from memory that there were a lot of long
overdue debts outstanding and that the Hospital Board bit the bullet, got tough, sent out the bills, began ringing people up saying come on we have got to have the money, and they brought a great deal of it in. It is a disagreeable, unpleasant job to do, I think it is something that needs to be done once in a while.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I believe that we should get information on this before this amount is passed by this Assembly. I believe if it is truly needed we should pass it immediately but without anything to verify it one way or the other I would like to move that it be postponed until you yourself have looked into the matter.

MR. PRESIDENT: There is a motion before the House in respect of this that the question be agreed. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: In response to Mr. Sanders' comment I can only say that the Secretary of the Hospital Board has written to the Chief Administrative Officer saying that the money is in fact necessary and that the reduction this year of the hospital subsidy to $7,500 was unreasonable and worsens the problems of maintaining the necessary medical services. I really think they are only trying to maintain the necessary medical services and I believe that this money is necessary for them to do that.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. President it is my view after hearing from the Member responsible to support this motion because I realise the situation at the hospital, I do not think that bad debts have anything to do with it. Mr. Sanders may not be aware that recently the Administration took over sending out notes to people who owed the hospital money and I believe there was a great response. It is my intention as I have already indicated, to support this subsidy to the Norfolk Island Public Hospital.
MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: I also would like to support the motion because I think we are very fortunate to have such a good Hospital Board at present and if the money is necessary well it is necessary, so I would support the motion.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Christian-Bailey.

MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: I support the motion Mr. President. I feel that bad debts may be a contributing factor if not a large amount, a percentage of this, but there are a number of instances I know of where accounts have come into my establishment for tourists who have had to get medical attention and who have since left the Island, and I think a tightening up in that area could be justified.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President I was not aware that any large amounts of money could be handed out for anything, particularly as it is public money, without some verification that it was required. I would imagine that if anybody ever walked into the bank and said hi fellas can I have $25,000 without any backup, I do not think they would even waste time showing you where the door was.

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: The backup for this request comes first of all from the Secretary of the Hospital Board and I am sure he is acting with the knowledge and on the instructions of the Hospital Board itself. Their recommendation was to the Chief Administrative Officer who I am certain had the Accountant scrutinise the situation and who then wrote to me recommending that the request was justified and asking that we approve it. Thirdly the backup is that without having gone to the hospital and delved into their books it appears to me to be a justified expense. Maybe Mr. Sanders wants more backup than that but at least there is some backup.
MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the item be agreed.

Question - put
The House voted -

AYES, 8
Mr. Buffett
Mr. Howard
Mr. Brown
Mr. Christian-Bailey
Mrs. Gray
Mr. Quintal
Miss Buffett
Mr. Jackson

NOES, 1
Mr. Sanders

Motion agreed

MR. PRESIDENT: We move to Division 301. 301/2/01 - Repairs and Maintenance, administrative expenses, travelling and subsistence - $2,000. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Part of the Public Service Ordinance, that is the law of the Island, says that members of the Public Service get half of an airfare to the mainland every other year for themselves and their immediate family, including children under I think 16, if in fact they take such a trip. The original budget for Item 301/2/01 was based on an estimate by the Accountant and by I presume the Works Supervisor as to what proportion of people in the Works section would as a matter of fact ask for that benefit to be paid to them and would actually be taking such trips. It turns out that a number more than was guessed in the beginning did want to take such trips and applied for the benefit and are lawfully entitled to receive it, and that is what that money is for.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: Yes Mr. President it seems to me that $2,000 is
not a very large amount of money and with the increase in airfares by East-West of $520 return for one person, it seems to me there will be less travelling from now on.

MR. PRESIDENT: Further participation Honourable Members. The question is that the Item be agreed.

Question - put

The House voted -

AYES,  NOES,
Mr. Buffett  Mr. Sanders
Mr. Howard
Mr. Brown
Mr. Christian-Bailey
Mrs. Gray
Mr. Quintal
Miss Buffett
Mr. Jackson

Motion agreed

MR. HOWARD: Mr. President is it in order for me to move that the Bill as a whole be agreed to.

MR. PRESIDENT: The remainder of the Bill be agreed.

MR. HOWARD: Yes I would move that the remainder of the Bill be agreed.

MR. PRESIDENT: The question is that the remainder of the Bill be agreed.

MR. SANDERS: Sorry Mr. President, I was going to ask you what was the remainder.
MR. PRESIDENT: The remainder is all that except those Items that we have just dwelt upon individually.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously.

MR. PRESIDENT: Honourable Members I seek a motion that the Bill as amended be agreed to.

MR. HOWARD: I so move.

MR. PRESIDENT: Debate Honourable Members. The question is that the Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Question - put
Bill, as amended, agreed to unanimously

MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. Christian-Bailey, the Acting Deputy President, I would ask if you would be kind enough to take the Chair.

ROAD TRAFFIC BILL 1982

MR. CHAIRMAN: Notice No.9 standing in your name Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I present the Road Traffic Bill 1982. I move that the Bill be agreed to in principle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Bill be agreed to in principle. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Chairman the Bill that I present at this time, the Road Traffic Bill 1982, is a Bill in not exactly the same form but in amended form. It was earlier introduced in the final stages of the last Assembly. It is quite a lengthy Bill. It is a Bill which covers some 111 pages, and as the title of the Bill indicates it is one that
controls motor traffic and vehicular traffic upon the roads in Norfolk Island.

The Bill is proposed to replace a number of pieces of existing legislation. Those earlier pieces of legislation relate to the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1929, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1939, 1954, and the Motor Vehicle Ordinance of 1960, 1966, 1969, 1970, 1973 and various amendments to those pieces of legislation, and so you will see that it is a piece of legislation that is designed to update and to really replace those earlier pieces of legislation. As I have said, it is quite a lengthy Bill and I do not propose at this time Mr. Deputy President to try and draw conclusions from Honourable Members nor indeed from members of the public about the Bill. It does have some fairly complicated I would say, provisions which I would like Members to consider, and that is the purpose of course of introducing it now, allowing it to lie on the table for a period of time so that Members can read it, can digest it, can bring forward amendments if they so desire. I will also say Mr. Chairman that I do plan that once it is public, and that is from today, to also have discussions with instrumentalities such as the Police Force and with the Magistrates who need to administer such arrangements, to see if they have any comments that might reflect upon the practicalities of various measures that are proposed in this piece of legislation.

I think it would suffice for me at this time to just give you some idea of the clauses that are so contained within this piece of legislation. As I have said it does provide for the repeal of those earlier pieces of legislation, it also provides for authorities to be involved in the registration of motor vehicles, it provides for a Registrar and for a Deputy Registrar, it provides for the registration of motor vehicles themselves that there be number plates, provisions for transfer of registration of motor vehicles, for cancellation of registration, details that need to cover failure to renew registrations, and of course identification marks for dealers. It also provides for the registration of motor vehicles as hire vehicles and public hire vehicles. It covers provisions for persons to be licensed to drive motor vehicles, for learner's licenses, for driver's licenses, for medical examinations and restrictions where appropriate, provisions to refuse if that also is appropriate, and power to revoke licenses if that is also appropriate,
and various other provisions concerning licensing. It also provides for traffic signs in Norfolk Island which in some measure has caused us difficulties in the past, and it will stipulate quite clearly what action needs to be taken at various signs such as stop signs, give way signs, no parking signs etc. It also lists motoring offences such as reckless and dangerous driving, negligent and inconsiderate driving, driving under the influence of drink or drugs and also offences such as obtaining a license or driving while disqualified. It covers things such as speeding, false statements and withholding material information, forgery of documents and the like. It also covers matters which I think probably Members and maybe members of the community might find as contentious. There are matters that have been discussed in the past and they are brought forward now again for consideration, and that is the provision of things such as motor cyclists to wear safety helmets and motor cyclists to wear footwear, these matters also I should say are not matters that there is total commitment to but it is felt that they should be brought forward for public comment and for comment by Members of this House on whether these provisions are appropriate or not appropriate. It also makes provision for control of noise and smoke and various other associated things. It also provides in part for suspension and disqualification where those provisions might be necessary.

So you will see Mr. Chairman that the Bill does cover quite a range of road traffic arrangements, some of them have not been included in previous legislation, some matters that have been addressed before but have not been brought to fruition in legislation, and I commend consideration of those matters so that Members might formulate their thoughts and bring forward their thoughts so that the matter might be discussed again at a later time and then decided upon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Buffett. Is there any debate Honourable Members. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Buffett said that he would be having consultations on the Bill with the Police and with Magistrates, he did not say that further he would be having consultation, and I do not know that consultation is necessary directly, with the motor trade on
Norfolk Island, with hirers of vehicles, people who are in the practical business of dealing with those matters every day I think certainly will want to see the Bill, want to look at it, want to see how it effects their operations, see whether they can see things in it that ought to be changed that are not quite sensible and I wanted to ask Mr. Buffett if he can say at least whether copies of the Bill are going to be available readily to such people without difficulty, and if so how are they available and will they be charged for.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Chairman the procedure that this House has of introducing and tabling legislation and then allowing it to lie on the table of the House for at least a month between sittings is of course a purpose to achieve those things that Mr. Howard has just mentioned. Persons can enquire from the Clerk as to what the legislation is about and they can purchase copies. I say that I would be delighted if any member of the motor trade in Norfolk Island wishes to enquire from me personally as to what the provisions of the legislation contain and I would be happy to assist them to absorb what is here, I would be equally happy to have their thoughts, and as I have said that is the principal purpose in allowing legislation to lie on the table for a period of at least one month in most circumstances before the matter is progressed any further, but in short yes I would be very happy to have thoughts and suggestions if that is appropriate from people who are so involved in the motor trade in Norfolk Island, and they can achieve that by speaking to me either personally or on the telephone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Buffett. Further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I would also make myself available and my copy of the Bill if anybody wishes to have a look at it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I was simply going to raise the question that it