SECOND NORFOLK ISLAND
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HANGARD

Tenth Sitting

(6 & 13 October 1982)
Executive Member for Administration, Education & Health
(The Honourable David Ernest Buffett)

Surface Transport
Roads, Footpaths & Bridges
Street Lighting
Water Supply
Electricity Supply
Drainage & Sewerage
Garbage & Trade Wastes
Primary Production
Slaughtering
Domestic Animals
Pounds
Pests & Noxious Weeds
Recreation Areas
Cemeteries
Forestry & Timber
Fire Prevention & Control
Quarrying
Prevention of Nuisances
Noxious Trades
Gases & Fuels

Firearms
Explosives
Places of Public Entertainment
Museums, Memorials & Libraries
Boarding Houses & Hotels (food & beverages)
Foodstuff & Beverages
Trading Hours
Markets & Street Stalls
Hawkers
Radio & Television
Telephone Services
Coastlines, Foreshores, Wharves
Lighterage
Registries & Rolls
Social Services
Education
Health
The Environment
Culture & Traditions

Executive Member for Planning, Tourism & Commerce
(William Winton Sanders)

Building Control
Advertising Hoardings
Tourism (including tourist accommodation)
Fishing
Immigration
Lane Use Planning & Subdivision
Air & Sea Transport (other than Lighterage)
Legislation Planning
Future Planning
Commerce

Executive Member for Finance
(Edward Davenport Howard)

Revenue Raising
Public Monies
Postal Services
Customs
Liaison with the Public Service Board
Retail Price Index
Bond Store and Future Commercial Undertakings of the Administration
MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President                                  — The Hon. David Ernest Buffett
Deputy President                          — Mr. William Winton Sanders
Acting Deputy President                   — Mr. Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey

Brown, John Terence
Buffett, Alice Inez
Buffett, The Hon. David Ernest
Christian-Bailey, Bernard Edwin
Gray, Chloe Barbara
Howard, Edward Davenport
Jackson, Gilbert Wallace
Quintal, Gregory Gilbert Francis
Sanders, William Winton
COMMITTEES

STANDING

Business Committee

Mr. President
Mr. W.W. Sanders
Mr. E.D. Howard

Standing Orders Committee

Mr. President
Mr. J.T. Brown
Mr. B.E. Christian-Bailey
Mr. G.W. Jackson

House Committee

Mr. President
Miss A.I. Buffett
Mrs. C.B. Gray

Commonwealth Legislation Standing Committee

Mr. W.W. Sanders
Mr. J.T. Brown
Mrs. C.B. Gray

SELECT

Headstone Jetty Select Committee

Mr. W.W. Sanders
Mrs. C.B. Gray
Mr. G.W. Jackson

Kentia Palm & Norfolk Island Pine Industry Select Committee

Mr. President
Miss A.I. Buffett
Mr. G.G.F. Quintal
TABLE OF CONTENTS

6 October 1982

Consoles
Leave of Absence - Mr. Brown

Pages 1127-1128

Notices:

Consideration of Report of the Select Committee
Inquiring into Tourism
Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill 1982

Page 1128

Questions Without Notice:

Carriage of Mail
Closure of Peter's Highway
Improved Air Services
Telephone Services
Shipping Services

Pages 1129-1130

Answers to Questions on Notice:

Commonwealth Legislation
Tourist Bureau Funds

Pages 1131-1132

Papers:

N.T. Government Tourist Bureau Auditor's Report
Tourist Figures
Sydney/Norfolk Freight Rates
Financial Indications

Pages 1133-1134

Statements:

Remuneration Tribunal Determination
Nankee Kestrel
Appointment to Immigration Board
Operation of Heron Aircraft during airport closure
Kingston & Arthur's Vale Historic Area
Public Service Board
Timing of Possible General Election
Transfer of Funds - Post Office Boxes and Fire
Fighting Equipment
Mail Sorting

Pages 1134-1139

Messages from the Administrator

Notices:

Appointment to Business Committee
Appointment to House Committee
Exemption from Customs Duty - Equipment for airport
upgrading
Exemption from Customs Duty - Equipment for Anzac
cable project
Committee to Investigate Headstone Jetty
Committee to Investigate Commonwealth Legislation
Referendum on Voting System
Fuels Bill 1982
Electricity (Supply) Bill 1982
Electricity (Wiring) Bill 1982
Medical Practitioners Registration Bill 1982
Slaughtering (Amendment) Bill 1982
Community Service Orders Bill 1982
Lighterage (Amendment) Bill 1982

Pages 1140-1144

Orders of the Day:
Road Traffic (Minimum Driving Age) Bill 1982
Suspension of House

Pages 1144-1152

Pages 1153-1154

Pages 1155

Pages 1155-1157

Pages 1157-1159

Pages 1159-1160

Pages 1160

Pages 1161-1162

Pages 1162

Pages 1162

Pages 1163-1166

Pages 1166-1171

Pages 1172-1180

Pages 1181-1185

Pages 1185-1188

Pages 1189-1194

Pages 1194-1202

Pages 1203-1205

Pages 1206-1211

Pages 1211-1216

Pages 1217-1223

Pages 1223-1230

Page 1231

Pages 1231-1232
13 October 1982

Resumption of Sitting
Visit by 36th Battalion

Paper:
  Exemption from Customs Duty

Statement:
  Airport Upgrading

Orders of the Day (Cont'd):
  N.I. Government Tourist Bureau (Amendment) Bill 1982
  N.I. Public Hospital (Audit, etc) Bill 1982 &
  N.I. Public Hospital (Amendment) Bill 1982
  Public Works (Garbage Disposal, Sewerage & Water
  Supply) Levy Bill 1982
  Building (Amendment) Bill 1982

Next Sitting Day
Adjournment
Adjournment Debate

Page 1233
Page 1233
Page 1233
Pages 1233-1234
Pages 1234-1241
Pages 1241-1251
Page 1252
Pages 1252-1253
Page 1253
Page 1253
Pages 1253-1261
NORFOLK ISLAND
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HANSARD

1982

Wednesday 6 October 1982

The Assembly met at 2 p.m. The President (Hon. D.E. Buffett) took the Chair and read the Prayer.
CONDOLENCE

MR. SANDERS: Mr. President. It is with regret this House records the passing of Charlotte (Girlie) Christian at her home on 4 September this year aged 87 years. Girlie was the fourth child of eight children born to Reuben Christian and his wife Anna (nee Wallen). Girlie never married. She spent most of her life on Norfolk, apart from a short time in New Zealand. For many years she conducted her very popular guest house on the site opposite her present home, known as Ivy House. Unfortunately Ivy House was destroyed by fire many years ago and she has lived on the opposite side of the road in her small cottage ever since. She was a great horsewoman and did a great deal of sewing and handwork, a lot of it for the Church bazaars. She loved music and played the piano and got much pleasure from her pianolo. To Girlie's sisters Edie Randall and Dorothy Bailey and other relatives and many friends, this House extends its sincere sympathies.

It is with regret that this House records the passing of Donald Seton Reynolds Snr., who died at his home in Gosford, New South Wales on 30 September aged 65 years. Don first came to Norfolk over 40 years ago and farmed here. He married Violet Christian and they moved to Australia in 1950. They had a family of three boys and four girls. Violet died in Australia in 1960 and her ashes were interred in the Kingston cemetery. It was Don's wish that his ashes be interred beside those of his wife. Don saw service in New Guinea after the war and was a member of the stockbroking firm of J.B. Were in Sydney. Since 1960 Don has visited Norfolk Island many times, sometimes staying and working for long periods. He returned in 1974 but bad health made it necessary for him to return to Australia. He was a very popular person, always so pleasant, with a great sense of humour. To his children, Naomi, Patricia, Seton, Timothy, Donald, Penelope and Francis and his 15 grandchildren and other relatives and many friends, this House extends sincere sympathies.

It is with regret that this House records the passing of Olga Legge (nee Robinson) on 2 October, aged 77 years. Olga was the fourth child of eight children born to Enoch Cogcroft Robinson and his wife Jemima (nee
Quintal). Olga was a teacher at the Norfolk Island School for many years. She married Paul Legge in 1941 and they moved to live in Australia. They had one son William. To her son William, her sisters Girlie, here on Norfolk, and Audrey in New Zealand, and brother Graham in New Zealand, and other relatives and many friends, this House extends sincere sympathies.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Honourable Members as a mark of respect I wonder if you would rise in your places in silence assenting to the motion of condolence.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE – MR. BROWN

MR. BUFFETT: Firstly Honourable Members if I might convey to you that Mr. John Brown telephoned from Brisbane this morning to say that he was unable because of load restrictions to obtain a seat on yesterdays aircraft back to the Island. He does ask that his apology for todays Assembly meeting be tendered and asks that leave be granted for his absence.

Is leave granted. Leave is granted. Thank you Honourable Members.

NOTICES

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ENQUIRING INTO TOURISM

MR. PRESIDENT: Notices, Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Yes, Mr. President I give notice that I intend to move a motion at the next sitting of this House for this House to consider the Select Committee's Report on Tourism.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Mr. Howard.
MR. HOWARD: Thank you Mr. President, I would like to give notice that at the next meeting I intend to introduce the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill that I had hoped to be introducing today. It is the Bill that specifies how the suggested new cumulative voting system would work. Later in the day the Assembly will be considering a resolution to ask the Administrator to hold a referendum to learn whether the electors support this suggested new system, and until that referendum has been requested it would be a discourtesy to the electors to start a legislative process which looks as if we are assuming what the electors are going to say in the referendum. Secondly consultations are still going on with the Department of Home Affairs about the wording of the Bill and there are aspects of it on which we don't have clear answers yet. The Administrator's office has asked for these as a matter of urgency and they will probably be in hand by the end of this week. So the Bill won't be brought today but I wanted to give notice that it would be brought at the next meeting.

MR. PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CARRIAGE OF MAIL


MR. CHRISTIAN-BAILEY: Thank you Mr. President. I have a question that I would like to direct to Mr. Howard, Executive Member for Finance. Can Mr. Howard inform the House what progress has been made between the Norfolk Island Government and Norfolk Island Airlines for the carriage of overseas mail via Brisbane.

MR. HOWARD: Yes. Since it was last discussed in the Assembly, the Administration has got formally in contact with Norfolk Island Airlines and asked them to put a specific proposal. Norfolk Island Airlines has done so. I spoke with the Revenue Manager about 8 days ago. He said
that there were one or two aspects of the proposal that gave him some concern that he wanted to discuss with me. He is at the moment not on the Island. He, accompanied by Mrs. Pam Hattersley, is over in Brisbane at the Anpec Stamp Exhibition doing their best to promote the sale of Norfolk Island stamps. He won't be back until after the airport formally reopens again. It was a matter that I think he wanted to raise with me before he got away but time just did not allow it. I would expect as soon as he gets back it will be one of the first things we will be dealing with, but it is being progressed.

CLOSURE OF PETER'S HIGHWAY

MR. QUINTAL: I wish to ask the Executive Member for Administration, Education and Health when the road at Peter's Highway is closed to the public to extend the airstrip, when will it be closed, how long will it be closed for, and will the Executive Member seek permission from the D.C.A. to allow persons to go through the airstrip area in cases of emergencies such as fire and other emergency cases.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President the matter of the Ferny Lane Road in the area where the airport is being extended is a question that has been raised with me by both the Department of Transport and Construction and also the contractor who is working upon the major construction work at the airport. I have indicated at this time that before a decision can be made in respect of closure of the road, it is necessary to know from the contractors and from the Department, the period of time that they anticipate that it would need to be closed for the particular construction purpose. Both the contractor and the Department have advised me that they are working upon this and will advise me of the time-frame and when that period should commence. When that is known to me I am in a better position to advise the House on those questions. I am not able to respond with a time-frame at this time. Part of the consideration in the closure of the road would be as to what detriment it might have to the local community, and I would need to ensure that negotiations with the people concerned do in fact
minimise any inconvenience to the community.

IMPROVED AIR SERVICES

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Questions without notice Honourable Members. Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Yes I would like to address a question to the Executive Member responsible for Planning, Tourism and Commerce. He will be aware that I have asked this question in the House of the former Executive Member responsible, John Brown, what progress discussions with Qantas, Air New Zealand, East-West, NIA, Avdev, and Airlines of N.S.W. with a view to obtaining the best possible service for Norfolk Island. I would particularly like to add to that question this time round, or ask whether an answer has been received from the Aviation Minister asking, and I quote - "could you confirm urgently whether the route has in fact been allocated to East-West Airlines for the period after completion of the upgrading". That was a letter from our Executive Member dated 2 September 1982, I ask has a reply been received.

MR. SANDERS: Mrs. Gray with reference to the last part of your question - has East-West been granted the run - as of yesterday there has still been no reply. In answer to the other part of your question, my source of getting that information has not been available because it is away but I am prepared to take it on notice for the next meeting.

MRS. GRAY: In the circumstances Mr. Acting Deputy President I will accept that as an answer for the time being.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray. Further questions Honourable Members. Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President, I direct one question to Mr. Sanders leaving from the last answer he gave. To ask Mr. Sanders if he is not in actual fact as Executive Member in direct contact with the Minister for Air yourself or are you working through
another Member of this Assembly.

MR. SANDERS: On matters that were in the pipeline when I took over John Brown's portfolio, he has still been finalising some matters. The question on East-West was on my request from John Nicholson and I phoned him late yesterday afternoon and he informed me that information is still not forthcoming.

TELEPHONE SERVICES

MRS. GRAY: A question to Mr. Buffett if I may, Mr. Acting Deputy President. I wonder whether action has been taken re telephones to Anson Bay and other areas in which there were some difficulties a little time ago.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, yes action has been taken and is in the process of being pursued to remedy some of the difficulties that we find in the Anson Bay area as far as telephones are concerned. As Honourable Members may be aware we do have by courtesy of O.T.C. a number of lines that really belong to that organisation and they have kindly let us have them for some time, but because of their own installations in that area we will need to relinquish use of those towards the end of this year, and of course some of the people in the area are utilising those lines on a regular telephone service basis. Some of them also, in fact, are on medical situations. And so we have been active in upgrading the service so that those people will not be inconvenienced and in fact anyone else in the area who may have a need may have a better chance of being so connected. That is in progress already. As you may or may not know there is a line that goes to Anson Bay from the Exchange area that goes through the Mission Road area and there has been some work to in fact relocate the Mission Road people so that those lines can in fact continue on to the Anson Bay area and may be better utilised in that area, and those people in the Mission Road area would be allocated in another line arrangement. And that is in progress at this time, so work is in process to remedy the situation as far as the Anson Bay area is concerned.
SHIPPING SERVICES

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

MRS. GRAY: Yes I'm sorry Mr. Acting Deputy President I am not sure whether this question will be in order. There was a Member assisting the Executive Member responsible for sea transport - Mr. Jackson - I don't know whether he would be prepared to take this question on board. I wondered if there was any more to report other than what appeared in the edition of the Norfolk Islander of 18th September, on the new shipping organisation.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Acting Deputy President, Mr. Sanders is now the Minister for shipping and I do believe it is his responsibility to answer any questions directed to a private Member.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders would you care to answer it.

MR. SANDERS: I know of none at this stage.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATION

MR. SANDERS: I have one Mr. Chairman standing in my name from Mrs. Gray to ask the Executive Member for Planning, Tourism & Commerce - In view of the Executive Member's well known distaste of any form of discrimination, will he please confirm that he will take all action necessary to see that any Commonwealth legislation outlawing discrimination on the basis of sex is extended to Norfolk Island in the same way that legislation outlawing racial discrimination has been extended, and will he at the next sitting of the Assembly state exactly what action he took. Will he also confirm that in future any question of whether Commonwealth legislation should extend to Norfolk Island will be brought before all the Legislative Assembly Members for decision and not simply decided by three Members of the Executive Committee
without consultation with the other Members.
Mr. Chairman, with reference to the first part of the question -
There is at present no Commonwealth legislation in force relating to
discrimination on the basis of sex. There is before the Senate a
Private Member's Bill introduced by Senator Ryan which deals with the
subject matter. There is no present indication as to when or even if
that Bill will be passed by the Senate nor as to whether it will be
passed by the House of Representatives. There is no certainty that the
Bill will become law in its present form nor indeed whether the
Australian Government as a matter of policy seeks to extend the Bill to
Norfolk Island.
As to the second part of Mrs. Gray's question she will see upon the
notice paper a notice in my name which deals with the very matter she
raises, I think it is Notice No. 5.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Sanders. Answers to
questions on notice. Mr. Buffett there is a question standing in your
name.

MR. BUFFETT: It is not for answer at this stage Mr. Acting Deputy
President.

TOURIST BUREAU FUNDS

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: I have another one standing in my name Mr. Chairman, it
is from Miss Buffett, and it is - How much of the $80,000 allocated to
tourism promotion in this financial year has so far been supplied to
the Tourist Bureau; what purpose was it used for; what proposals has
the Executive Member received from the Bureau in respect of tourist
promotion that would require expenditure of the allocated amount.
Mr. Chairman I have quite a lengthy answer here.
At this stage no funds have been supplied to the Tourist Bureau from
the $80,000 promotional allocation, however funds totalling $30,000
have been drawn from the allocation of $30,000 for the running of the
Visitors Information Centre office. A substantial part of the $30,000
drawn at this stage has been spent on promotional activities. The
Visitors Information Centre will need to be reimbursed for this amount
from the promotional fund when money is drawn from this fund. I have here a financial statement for promotional activities for the period 1 July to 30 September showing a total spent on promotional activities of $29,214.35 and an income of $2,126, giving a net promotional expenditure of $27,088.35. A further $20,000 has been committed but not paid and some of that expenditure will generate income to the Bureau. Formally I have not received any proposals at this time, however Members are aware of a number of matters currently under consideration by the Tourist Bureau. Firstly the Board is investigating the appointment of a local person on a part time basis to assist with the enormous amount of work being placed on the Board by current activities. The cost of this is unknown at this stage but this person will be involved in the promotional side of the Board's activities and such payment will come from the promotional allocation. Secondly the Board is considering the appointment of a Director of Tourism. The job specification, salary details, terms and conditions of employment and so on, have yet to be determined. Once these are determined advertisements will be placed and interviews conducted leading hopefully to an appointment. Again the Director's role will be concerned with promotion and his expenses will come from the promotional allocation. Thirdly the Board has considered advertising proposals from three advertising agents. The concept of one of these submitted by Coudrey Daily has been adopted and some work has commenced in bringing part of this to fruition. The proposal is basically in four parts aimed at the Australian and New Zealand holiday markets. Part one is the production of high quality covering all aspects of Norfolk Island. This booklet will be used by travel agents to sell Norfolk Island holidays; by consumers to assist in the selection of Norfolk Island as their holiday destination; and hopefully by schools as an educational aid on the history of Norfolk Island. Investigations and costings are underway now and the Tourist Board should be discussing this at their meeting next Tuesday. Part two is an advertising campaign to travel agents to create a better awareness of Norfolk Island and to ensure that they are not only aware of the booklet but that they use it to sell from and distribute it to people enquiring about holiday destinations. Part three is an advertising campaign aimed at the consumer using major magazines in Australia and New Zealand to advertise Norfolk Island as an ideal holiday destination and encourage
people to write in for a copy of the booklet. The slogan used for the entire campaign and suitable for use on brochures, pamphlets, letterheads etc for a very long period, is "Norfolk Island - No Better Place for a Holiday". Part four is the support material for this campaign known in the industry as the point of sale material. This includes the production of posters, educational wall charts, video tapes, dispenser unit for the booklet, as well as some saleable items using the advertising theme such as window stickers, bumper stickers, t-shirts, cloth badges and so on. The initial figure for the entire promotional campaign is approximately $270,000, however this will be sought not only from the Tourist Bureau but also from the airlines, accommodation houses, traders, hire car and tour operators, restaurants, travel wholesalers in Australia and New Zealand and so on. Of course the total cost of the campaign can be increased or decreased as final limitations dictate.

Whilst I realise in some areas my answers are perhaps a little vague, I would like to point out that the Tourist Bureau has become an extremely busy body over the last three or four months and a lot of the work started then is just coming to a head, therefore it is not possible to give definite answers right now. It should also be appreciated that prior to this year the Norfolk Island Government Tourist Bureau has not had to deal with special promotional grants or allocations of money and a re-organisation of the Bureau's accounting system has been necessary. This has been undertaken by Mr. Norm de Chastel, Manager of the Commonwealth Trading Bank and a member of the Board and I am most grateful to him for the work he has done in this regard. A final accounting procedure will be discussed on Tuesday at the Board meeting. Interest shown by Members of this Assembly in matters of tourism is appreciated as tourist numbers continue to decline the importance of tourism to the economy of Norfolk Island becomes more and more apparent. As Executive Member responsible I will undertake to keep all Members informed of progress in this area.

Miss Buffett would you like me to read out what the money was spent on.

MISS BUFFETT: If it is not lengthy Mr. Sanders, if you wish.

MR. SANDERS: On the matters of expenditure, from 1 July to 30 September - Proportion of salaries, wages - $3070.67; proportion of electricity $43.92; proportion of cables, phones, postage $1, 031.28; photocopying
$224.77; accounting/secretarial $592.90; agents educational visits $297.04; trade giveaways, books etc $94.20; the Norfolk Island brochure $732.34; general information material $455.55; Island resident survey $2,324.70; visitors departure survey $483; reprint Select Committee's Report $395; New Zealand Herald promotions $2,821.44; New Zealand/Darling Downs promotions $5,859.50; agents manual printing and postage $3,470.30; Mascot Airport display $323.55; Talkabout 83 seminar in Sydney $425; Australian marketing services $4,357.81 and the New Zealand marketing services $2,511.38 - making a total of $29,214.35. To offset this there has been an income contribution in the Darling Downs of $1,126; a general donation from the Accommodation Proprietors of $1,000 - making a total in donations of $2,126, making the net promotional expenditure as $27,088.35.

There has also been one other additional cost which was $150 auditing fee by Mrs. Kathy O'Sullivan. It will be very interesting to see who is going to pay for it seeing as it was a request by Miss Buffett that the Assembly have the audit done. Perhaps Mr. Howard could explain to Miss Buffett who is going to pay the $150.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Mr. Acting Deputy President, I would like to note the reply. In other words no other discussion may take place.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You can ask supplementary questions.

MRS. GRAY: I will try. In the budget debate it was clearly stated that head of expenditure No.7 did not include any promotional costs, that they would be stated separately and there were stated under heading Head of Expenditure No.8. My question really is directed to the Executive Member for Finance as well as the Executive Member responsible for Tourism - do they find the present situation as outlined by Mr. Sanders, satisfactory.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I have just heard what Mr. Sanders has to say for the first time and going through my head has been the question do I find that
satisfactory, I think I will need to talk with him and look at those figures and think before I can give a sensible answer. I'm not challenging what he says mind you, but how it fits into those heads of expenditure is something that I would need to talk with Mr. Sanders about.

MRS. GRAY: That is the area which concerns me. If the gentlemen are prepared to take it on notice I would be pleased to have their joint reply perhaps.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Perhaps Mr. Chairman I could ask a supplementary question, a direct question to the Minister for Finance on this particular question. In the budget allocation for funds to the Tourist Bureau I understood that the $80,000 from the Assembly was earmarked solely for promotional reasons. Mr. Sanders has just said that it has also been used for the running of the Bureau as well.

MR. SANDERS: May I correct that Mr. Chairman. At this stage the $80,000 has not been touched.

MR. JACKSON: But Mr. Sanders did say that they will draw up to $30,000 for this required amount to offset the promotional funding for this particular reason and also for the running of the Bureau. I am not looking at the situation in a facetious manner whatsoever but I would like to clear the point with the Minister for Finance, was this not the reason the $80,000 of public money was given to the Tourist Bureau, solely for promotional purposes.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Yes that was my intention in introducing that head of expenditure in the Bill, that over and above a bare-bones amount that was allocated to the Tourist Bureau which in addition to whatever it could earn for itself, was to pay for the Bureau's informational Burnt Pine operation. The $80,000 was for promotion matter. Now something that I need to sit down and talk with Mr. Sanders about is that it may
well be that some of the expenditures he was talking about have been allocated as having a certain promotional content apart from the normal operation of the Bureau. In cases like that I think you would perhaps conclude that yes those were promotional expenses and should come out of the $80,000 but I can't say without sitting down and looking at it.

MR. SANDERS: As I understand Mr. Chairman that was going to happen but at the moment it has not been completed, the amount has not been taken from the $80,000 as yet, and they have been running off the $30,000 that was for running the office up until Norm de Chastel has arrived at the system that they are going to have a meeting about next Tuesday. I would imagine that it would get corrected then.

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

PAPERS

NORFOLK ISLAND GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU AUDITOR'S REPORT

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are there any papers. Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to table the auditor's report from the Tourist Bureau which includes the $150 created by us for the audit.

TOURIST FIGURES

MR. SANDERS: I also table tourist figures for the month of September, and you will all notice that the decline in tourist numbers still continues.

INCREASE IN SYDNEY/NORFOLK FREIGHT RATES

MR. SANDERS: There is another one Mr. Chairman, a notice of increased freight rates to Norfolk Island starting from 1 October 1982. Would you like me to read the cable.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes please.

MR. SANDERS: "Last February we had presented the proposal for re-adjustment of freight rate between Sydney and Norfolk Island and Norfolk Island and Sydney based upon a 6% increase from April 1st 1982 and a 4.2% increase from October 1st 1982 which would, excluding future increases of operating expenses, give a total increase of less than 10.5% for this year excluding freight and stevedoring expenses. We therefore propose to apply the new rate from October 1st 1982, voyage 54 of the motor vessel Ille du Lumiere. We take this opportunity to mention our great worry concerning the important delays caused principally by bad weather etc in Norfolk which prevented normal unloading and has caused since June 1981 over 30 days lost for the ship. To better unloading operations and to ease dockers work on board we are pleased to inform that we have bought an elevator which will be systematically used for commercial operations of the motor vessel Ille du Lumiere. We assure you of our best co-operation and remain yours faithfully, M. Cordier, General Manager, C.C.C. Lines".

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

FINANCIAL INDICATIONS

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you. I would like to table the financial indications for the month of August - for the first two months of the financial year for inclusion in hansard. The result in the month of August was that expenses of the Administration were $2,000 more than we brought in in revenue during that month as near as can be to break even for that month. In comparison to a standard monthly target equalised throughout the year, and of course revenue and expense are not equal month to month throughout the year, they fluctuate, but in comparison to an evened out monthly target revenues in the month of August were 3% short of the total average amount we need in a month; expenditures were also 3% under the amount allocated on the average for spending in a month. For the first two months of the year, through the
FINANCIAL INDICATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE 
FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31/8/82.

FIGURES ARE IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>1</th>
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<td>Last month</td>
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<td>Comparison with previous year</td>
<td>Total year to date</td>
<td>*Revenue Supply proportion</td>
<td>Comparison</td>
<td>Total last year to date</td>
<td>Comparison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Postal and Philatelic</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>+53%</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>+15%</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>-23%</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>-24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquor Bond</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-52%</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>-36%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other revenue</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>-36%</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>-10%</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>-6%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>256</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>+14%</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>-16%</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>+2%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries (other than Education)</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>+8%</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>+1%</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>-18%</td>
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<td>Education estimated salaries</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>+3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Expenditure (other than Capital Expenditure)</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>+64%</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>-13%</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Expenditure</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>-73%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>-65%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>-65%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>158</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>+12%</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>533</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>-19%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CREDIT TO (or DEDUCTION from) REVENUE FUND</strong></td>
<td>-3</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>-47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>-171</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE *Revenue/Supply Proportion - is an arbitrary calculation 1/12 of estimated Revenue or Supplied Funds multiplied by number of months to date.

REMARKS:

end of August, we were running $47,000 more expenditure than we had in revenue, almost all of that occurred in July, the first month of the year. I think the restraint on spending that has been asked for from the Administration is showing good effects, I would rather see a plus than a minus but we are very close to breaking even and that is what we were hoping for.

I table that paper.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Are there any other papers Honourable Members. Mrs. Gray.
MRS. GRAY: Do I note that that paper be noted before I speak to it. Yes, please.

At I think the last occasion that Mr. Howard tabled this set of figures I explained then that I was having some difficulty relating them to the budget papers that we dealt with on 30th June. I have since done a lot more work on that comparison and I would like to express that I still have difficulty because there is showing on this financial indications sheet under the Revenue segment four headings and the last heading is 'All other revenue'. To the best of my ability that 'All other revenue' includes a considerable number of heads as they are expressed in the budget paper, and let say the same situation applies to both revenue and expenditure, in other words there is a category 'All other revenue', there is a category 'Other expenditure' in the expenditure section, they both contain a number of heads both of expenditure and - if they can be called heads - revenue, areas of revenue, I wonder whether it is possible for those to be broken down further in greater detail than they presently appear on this sheet.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Yes anything is possible. They can be broken down as fine as it is useful and worth the cost to break them down. In past years the pattern has been that once each three months during the year a reasonably detailed statement of revenue and expenditure has been prepared. This financial indications sheet was designed to give a quick superficial but significant view of how we are going at the moment. It was never intended to be a detailed presentation of financial matters to be examined with a fine tooth comb. I would be glad to talk with Mrs. Gray - Miss Buffett said that she would like more figures, I would be glad to talk with both of them and see what it is that they would like. I want to try as hard as we can not to ask for information that we really don't need to have because it costs money to get it out, it takes peoples time and clogs up the administrative works - if we don't really need it, if it is just a matter of curiosity I think we should restrain ourselves, but I would be glad to talk to them both and see what can be done.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Gray.
MRS. GRAY: A further question if I may. I think I understand you said there was a breakdown and a publication of sheets every three months.

MR. HOWARD: It is my understanding of what the pattern has been in past years.

MRS. GRAY: May I ask where they are published.

MR. HOWARD: They have been to the best of my understanding made available to the Executive Member for Finance. Bear in mind I think you will have seen one for nine months of the year of the financial year that ended in June. We are not yet three months into the new financial year so there has not been one since that nine months report. There was the nine months one then a year end report. In the past the pattern has been to go into that degree of detail every three months.

MRS. GRAY: Perhaps the Executive Member may be prepared to circulate that sheet when it is available if there isn't a great deal of additional cost involved.

MR. HOWARD: No, I would be delighted to do that. There may be a little bit - I am asking myself will there be a little bit of uncertainty. As you know the accounting firm of Hungerford is examining our accounting systems and the form of our statements. That will lead probably to some modifications in the way the 1981-82 full year statements are set out. I have distributed to all Members copies of the 1981-82 full year statements as prepared by the accounting staff, I think you may get a modified one of those before too long, now I would guess that yes there is going to be a first three months statement prepared as usual and if I get it I am happy to pass it on to you. No problem at all, it is just a matter of photocopying.

MRS. GRAY: I would be happy to do the photocopying for you. Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett do you have a question.
MISS BUFFETT: Mrs. Gray has really asked the question that I was about to ask thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President, I am satisfied with that, as long as we can have duplicates as the Finance Minister has explained. Thank you.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The question is that the paper be noted. Question - put Motion agreed to unanimously.

STATEMENTS

RENUMERATION TRIBUNAL DETERMINATION

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Statements by leave. Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. Firstly Mr. Acting Deputy President I would like to convey to the House details of a letter from the Administrator which I would like to read concerning the August 1982 review of the Remuneration Tribunal. I quote the letter Mr. Acting Deputy President:

"Attached for your information and that of your Assembly colleagues is an extract from the August 1982 review of the Remuneration Tribunal. You will note that the Tribunal recommends increases in the remuneration and entitlements of Members with effect from 1st October 1982 (other than travelling allowance in respect of office holders which took effect on 1st July 1982). I am informed that the Government has accepted the Tribunal's recommendations and an announcement to this effect was made by the Minister for Administrative Services on 10th August 1982. Yours sincerely, R.E. Trebilco, Administrator".

And there is an attachment Mr. Acting Deputy President which shows at the 1st July 1982 with the salaries and rates for Members and office holders remaining the same, except for travelling allowances, as was before that period of time, and as from 1st October 1982 an increase reflected for Members of approximately 7% and in respect of the President of the Assembly approximately 8%. That paper has been circulated to all
Members of the Assembly so they have a copy and the detail that relates thereto.

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

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Chairman I move that that statement be noted and in debating that, I am not certain of the procedure here, I would like leave to move if I can that the Assembly disapproves of the Determination that the Remuneration Tribunal has made.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Is leave granted. Leave is granted.

MR. HOWARD: Speaking to that motion Mr. Chairman, I spoke with the secretary of the Remuneration Tribunal, Mr. Paul O'Neill, shortly after we had received copies of the new Determination that the Tribunal has made for Members of the Assembly, and in my conversation with Mr. O'Neill he made two very clear points. One was that he said the Tribunal had not taken into account Norfolk Island economic conditions when it made its Determination concerning Members of the Assembly and the President. The Determination that they made was in line with mainland Determinations that they were making. Secondly he made it clear to me that an amendment to the Remuneration Tribunal Act in Australia was on the way through Parliament and that the Tribunal had made its Determination concerning our compensation on the understanding that the Legislative Assembly would have the authority to disapprove any rises and if we disapproved them then to continue with the same level of pay that had been recommended by the Assembly last February and that the Tribunal had determined was proper in June. As a Legislative Assembly we have asked the Administration of Norfolk Island, the people in the Public Service, for every possible restraint in spending. In fairness we can do nothing less than accept that full measure of restraint ourselves and I believe that the Assembly should disapprove of that Determination for rises.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President it has been expressed in this House on a couple of occasions by private Members and otherwise that
the workload, especially in respect of private Members, has increased quite considerably. There is a great demand upon those persons within the community and they are very rightly so meeting those demands and performing accordingly. I think, and in fact whilst the Minister was here, Miss Buffett raised this matter whilst we were having public consultations with the Minister. I think that that situation has got to be recognised in some way especially when it has been indicated that there may be an election in the offing and people need to be able to see that there should be some reasonable remuneration in respect of their position because as you will know if it is a demanding job it will mean that you will not be able to perform to a considerable degree in respect of whatever other job you may have. I think a responsible attitude on our part would in fact be to allow the increases that have been made in respect of private Members - now I want to make one point quite clear, in respect of the office holders, and then we are talking about the President and the Executive Members, it is my view that those persons should in fact not accept the increase but I think to reflect the situation that I earlier mentioned for private Members, because that workload has increased, I think that there should be acceptance on the part of that category of membership. I really think that it would be a responsible attitude on our part to try and recognise the work that is being put into the Assembly's duties by private Members and I would hope Members would consider that particular proposal.

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

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, I have spoken on this issue on many occasions in this Assembly. It has been my view that Assembly Members, especially non-Executive Members, should be adequately compensated for the work they perform and the duties they perform in representing the electorate. It has been stated on a number of occasions by Members of past Councils that their experience on the Assembly is far beyond what was demanded of them in the old Council days. I base my debate on the private Members especially because a new election could be in the offing. Many of our people would like to stand for the Legislative Assembly to represent their people but they would have to make two considerations first. The first question would be 'would I be able to afford it' or 'will I be able to get the time off from where I am employed'. If a family man or any person who has any commitments wishes
to stand for election to the Government of Norfolk Island they would be very much disadvantaged, and I am certain the second point - if they work as an employee for someone else, they would find it very difficult to take the time off necessary to attend the various meetings and committees that the present Members attend. I would not like to see the situation arise where we find ourselves here on Norfolk Island that only those with private means or income would be the only ones that could stand because they can afford it. I do not believe $60 a week is in excess and I believe that the Members should not be denied, they should not be denied the inflation rate, they should be kept up with the high cost of living. Mr. Buffett has indicated that the Executive Members should keep their wages down because in effect when you compare the difference between $200 a week for an Executive Member and $60 a week for a non-Executive Member, there is a large disparity. When I look at the circular from the Remuneration Tribunal for the allowance that is given to Executive Members as officers holders when they travel overseas, an allowance is given at the capital city rate of $110 a night - now that is more in a night of expenses than what non-Executive Members get in a week - 1½ times more. I've not heard anyone say anything about pegging that back. My main reason for raising this particular question is on the situation of those wishing to stand and represent their people, and I would not like it seen that only the wealthy would be able to come forward because of economic reasons and financial reasons and that some of the members of our community find themselves disadvantaged in not being able to stand because of the financial situation that is in the offing, and I consider that $60 a week is not an exorbitant wage for non-Executive Members.

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

MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. Mr. Jackson is grandstanding again.

MR. JACKSON: I take a point of order on that, point of order...

MRS. GRAY: Mr. Jackson what we are talking about is an additional 10 to 20 cents an hour, we are talking about $5 a week difference. When I stood for election to the Assembly I was told that it would involve some
20 to 40 hours a week, granted it is closer to 40 than 20, I was prepared for it, so were you. I have no objection to our salaries, meagre though they may be, remaining exactly as they are Mr. Acting Deputy President.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: I spoke not on behalf of the people who have outside financial interests, I think I made it quite clear that I was speaking on behalf of those people who do not have any other financial interests, which some Members around this table may have, I speak on their behalf. If some Members around this table are quite satisfied with their remuneration well that is their business, but may I add that there are others around this table who have expressed their concern of their financial difficulties in this situation. I am aware that a number of the Members around the table are quite satisfied with what is being paid at present, but the point I raised in the first place is that there are many people out in the community who would like to represent their people but if they find that they are to be disadvantaged by the financial return well there you are, we will not get a fair representation of those who wish to stand.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President, I will reiterate that vein of thought and my points bought up during the visit of Minister McVeigh. My concern is not for the present Assembly sitting here, each Member speaks on behalf of themself, I myself like every other Member around this table offered for candidacy in the full knowledge, especially the second time, what was required of me. I stress the point however that for particularly a family man employed other than of himself, a very valuable member of this community, wishing to stand to occupy a seat in the government of this Island - and this is Norfolk Island it is not just a tourist resort, it is Norfolk Island, the life of Norfolk Islanders are involved, they should be able to have the say, they are the ones that are being denied the right of dignified existence with an allowance as small as it is. Each Member around this table knows very well that it is not the meetings we attend but the
research that has to go into it. Each and every notice that comes on the paper, every matter that we deal with, quite often we don't even speak around the table of the research we have done, there has been quite often a lot of research to come up with one sentence but the background knowledge must be there. Also the meetings are called at various times of the day, the demand even for a non-family person is most time consuming. For a family person I still say and I have said before and I will say again, to be able to stand for candidacy for this Assembly and not expect Executive remuneration, a person cannot afford to have any other interests except their work which would be very much at risk and their family life would have to suffer. For self employed people yes it is alright because you can adjust your times but otherwise I see the situation denies the whole workforce of this population. Thank you.

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

MR. QUINTAL: Mr. Acting Deputy President, I do agree with Mr. Jackson that the workload of the Assembly is far more time consuming that the Advisory Council, I think we all realise this. It has proved itself, because in the days of the Council the meetings used to take sometimes 3, 4 or maybe 5 hours and there was probably just one committee meeting in between the main meetings. I did not realise that so much time had to be put in to the Assembly, I do feel though that we can get rid of quite a lot of red tape and cut the meetings down, at times. It has been mentioned that if too much money is paid out as remuneration then maybe we might get no-hoppers in the Assembly, I do not agree with this because I suppose most of us have been classed as no-hoppers who are in the Assembly today. The other thing is that I doubt whether the people would really vote for no-hoppers at all. The remuneration that has been mentioned of $250 a year, which is $5 a week, is not very much, it is mighty little and I don't think the increase is worthwhile bothering with at this stage, especially when we will have another election on our hands in the very near future, and quite a few of us might not be here after the new election. I do not agree to accept the $5 a week because it is neither here nor there, I would therefore like to disallow an increase at this stage.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Quintal. Further debate Honourable Members. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you. I would have to side with Mr. Buffett and Mr. Jackson and Miss Buffett if as a matter of fact decent dignity were being denied people, if it would make a significant difference in the quality of people who were willing to stand for the Assembly. The amount isn't exactly $5 a week more we are talking about, it is $4.97 a week more. Really, that is not going to make one bit of difference in anybody's ability to stand for the Assembly or not, and any protests on those grounds are just imagination. I want to say once again what I said in introducing the motion. As a Legislative Assembly all of us have asked the Administration for every possible restraint in spending, in fairness we can do nothing less than accept that full measure of restraint ourselves.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: With very much respect Mr. Acting Deputy President I say that the Administration are being paid for the work that they do and with very much respect I say that it is not too much to expect any one of those people or any other people in the community if they wish to stand for Assembly, to be reimbursed for the work they do because they are holding seats for those who cannot afford to hold them, and I cannot agree with Mr. Howard and neither would I have ever stated that a higher remuneration would draw either way a quality of people because self praise is never any recommendation and no-one can comment upon their worth in this Assembly. Thank you.

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

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President I don't really want to make too much of this matter, I don't think anybody's grandstanding nor exercising imagination in the matter, really it is a matter of people expressing what their views are on the matter and I think that is perfectly healthy. I should make it plain as I understand the matter that the disallowance proposal whilst it is an expression of opinion by this House, in fact it may not be effective as far as the legislation is framed at this time, or I should say as far as the timing of the
legislation in the Australian Parliament is concerned. There seems to be some doubt and I don't know whether it has been clarified at this moment, as to whether this Assembly can disallow on this occasion, because in fact the Determination was made before the disallowance provisions came into being, but be that as it may, that is how ever it will turn out. I do have a feeling that I think that the basic sum paid to Members other than Executive Members that is, should receive that. I should make it plain also for my part that whether this in fact is formally disallowed or not formally disallowed because of the intricacies of the legislation, I would wish to return to the public purse the difference in respect of my situation, because my situation is not one that needs to be addressed in the earlier terms that I have mentioned that I think applies to private Members, and I do support that private Members do need some adjustment whereas I think it is more appropriate in my particular circumstance to exercise restraint that we are seeking of other people. I have heard the opinions around the table and I think really if I do put this amendment that whilst its disapproval does not relate to the basic sum paid to Members, really as I see the voices around the table I don't think it would have carriage so I don't really want to waste people's time but I am prepared to move it if people wish to record a vote on the matter.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: It does not worry me one way or the other Mr. Acting Deputy President. I don't think it really matters whether it is recorded or not. I have said what I wanted to say and actually there are some persons here who could probably do with a bit more money, but the other thing I would like to mention is that a lot of persons gave up a lot of their time for free for many many years in the Council, but I do say that the Assembly is another matter, but the sum has become even less than I thought it was, it is now down to $4.97.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, I expressed my views and I made it quite clear that I was expressing the views of the people I am concerned with, and I am concerned about those in the community who face the situation
on the two points that I raised, whether they can afford it or whether they can get time off, and it is an issue, because I have been in employment, I have worked since I have been on the Assembly and I had to make up the time or forfeit money, and I am certain that if I did not work at the school where I was employed I would not have been able to get the time off. Therefore it is difficult and the reason I raised the points I did is in defence of those who find themselves in the situation where they cannot afford to stand, but I don't suppose it will make any difference and I would not care now that an election is coming up well perhaps the newly elected Members coming in may be able to battle it out, so therefore it is immaterial whether the question is put or not as far as I am concerned.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: As a Legislative Assembly we have asked the Public Service for every possible restraint in spending, in fairness we can do nothing less than accept that full measure of restraint ourselves and I ask that the question be put.

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

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

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

MR. HOWARD: A correction please Mr. Acting Deputy President, I think the word is disapproved.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Be disapproved.

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Any more statements. Mr. Buffett.
REMOVAL FROM PROTECTED LIST OF THE NANKEEN KESTREL

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President, I have had over some period of time and especially of late, had representations to me in respect of the Nankeen Kestrel or commonly known as the Sparrow Hawk in Norfolk Island. This is a bird that in fact you can see quite readily around the hills at Kingston here hovering around almost motionless even though in very strong winds. It has been reported to me that this particular predatory bird has been seen taking the endangered species the robin in Norfolk Island, also the thrush, and also white tern chicks during the seasonal arrangements, and it has been very strongly put to me that this bird which is at present, or up until now, been on the protected list, should be removed from the protected list so that it might not enjoy that protection where it feeds in fact upon those birds that are becoming quite rare in Norfolk Island and I wanted to announce that in fact I have taken that Executive action to remove that particular bird which is known as Falco Cenchroides in the terminology that one finds in this area, and the bird is no longer protected and I think that would be of interest to a number of people in the Island who have a concern for the endangered species.

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

MRS. GRAY: May I ask a question.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Yes Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Upon whose advice is this action being taken.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President the advice that has been given to me on a number of occasions comes from respected members who are very knowledgeable in the flora and fauna area, persons who do have official status in respect of bird banding activities for example, and we have called upon in the past to advise us, in fact at the Executive Committee meeting, our last meeting, I indicated that this would be the action taken if anybody wanted to make any comment to me and no comment has been
made adversely to me, and so in my capacity as Executive Member having responsibility in that area, that action has been taken.

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

MRS. GRAY: I sought to cast no aspersions Mr. Acting Deputy President, I thought that perhaps Dr. Peter Coyne as our National Parks and Wildlife person would have been involved, apparently not. Thank you.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: I would like to congratulate the persons who are concerned about this bird called Kestrel or whatever the botanical name is, I don't intend trying to put my tongue around the name. It was first brought to my notice that apart from killing terns it was killing starlings, and I noticed a lot of dead terns around my area and also the area around the back of Puss Anderson's, and he told me that it was a Kestrel that was killing all the birds. I also noticed that the Kestrel is pretty good at killing starlings, and although starlings might be a pest in some instances, it is a very valuable bird in other ways because the starling certainly kills and eats a lot of army worm and other bugs. There have been quite a lot of kestrels around the Island lately and it seems to me they have been breeding up quite rapidly and anyone who destroys them is doing a good thing for the Island, and I am very pleased that this action has been taken and I do hope in time that we will clean the Kestrel out the same as the bird that used to hang around here, the black one, the shag - that was another curse, and I must mention another bird that is protected and I would like to unprotect, and he is called the tala bird, and that bird does a lot of damage to the farms, although I have not shot one yet, but sometimes I feel like shooting them.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.
APPOINTMENT TO IMMIGRATION BOARD

MR. SANDERS: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wish to notify the Members that I have appointed Mrs. Gray in my place on the Immigration Review Board.

OPERATION OF HERON AIRCRAFT DURING AIRPORT UPGRADEING

MR. SANDERS: Secondly I wish to notify the Members that the Heron aircraft is operating during the airport closure period and that there are twelve return flights scheduled over this period which will be carrying passengers and mail.

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

KINGSTON & ARTHUR’S VALE HISTORIC AREA

MR. BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. I wish to advise the House upon some matters relating to the Kingston and Arthur’s Vale historic area in Norfolk Island.
Firstly I refer to the Plan of Management for the area, a Plan that was prepared by a working group which consisted of Dr. D.F. McMichael, Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs & Environment; Mr. A.D. Jones of the then Department of Housing & Construction; Mr. K.J. Walters also of that Department; Mr. Campbell of the N.C.D.C. and Dr. Kerr of the Australian Heritage Commission; and Mr. Syrette of the Department of Home Affairs & Environment. And that working group was assisted of course by the Secretary who was Mr. W.F. Huston of the Department of Home Affairs & Environment, and also assisted by many able experts in various fields including such people as Mr. R.J. Ratcliffe of the Department of Housing & Construction who is involved with the landscape management policy plan for the area; Mr. Allan M. Fox of the Australian National Parks & Wildlife Service who provided an interpretive plan; Mr. N.J. Flannigan and Dr. Bos of the Australian War Memorial and of course Miss Judy Birmingham and her researchers Martin Davis and Graham Wilson of the Department of Archaeology of the
University of Sydney. This Management Plan was tabled in this House on an earlier occasion and has now been published, or in fact was published, by the Australian Government Publishing Service in 1981. It continues to be on sale in Norfolk Island. The Report does set out the existing situation in the Kingston and Arthur's Vale area of Norfolk Island, it identifies, issues and presents a brief analysis of them. The Report then sets out policies and development programmes and guidelines for the area for both the Australian Government and the Norfolk Island Governments. The policy statements and recommendations contained within this Report have been examined by Members of the Legislative Assembly and there is now governmental endorsement of the following 23 policy statements and 4 recommendations. There are 10 pages of those, I don't know whether you want me to read those 10 pages or in fact table this document Mr. Acting Deputy President, I am happy to do either.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: If you would table the document.

MR. BUFFETT: I table that document which sets out those Mr. Acting Deputy President. I would like to elaborate to the House upon my attendance in this connection at the Interdepartmental Committee on 15 September 1982 in Canberra. The Interdepartmental Committee is a group which attends to the implementation of this Plan and allocates money for the restoration work in the Kingston area. The Committee comprises of representatives from similar groups to those that I have already described in respect of the working plan, such as Home Affairs & Environment, Transport & Construction, the Heritage Commission, the Department of Finance, and of course Norfolk Island. The meeting approved the current years programme of works which does include restoration of the Royal Engineers Office and restoration of the Royal Engineers Stables; the restoration of the building at the rear of the Offices Mess in the New Military Barracks - works is in progress in respect of that building Mr. Acting Deputy President; demolition of existing toilets and water tank in the rear of the New Military Barracks, and that will be relocated in that Barrack area; for the fire protection service, and of course this is also work that is in progress, one can see it coming down the hill from the water tank at the top; moneys for archaeological stabilisation; and also provision for
maintenance of restored buildings. The total expenditure for the year in respect of that allocation is $286,000. The meeting also endorsed the proposal to prepare a three to five year plan for the performance of restoration work in the area of Kingston so that a more clearly defined programme of works can be undertaken. Also at that meeting conversion of No.2/3 Quality Row, which is the duplex quite close to the Paradise Hotel, was also examined but at this time is not yet concluded. I thought Members might like to have some detail of that meetings activities and relate it to the Plan that I have just outlined to you, or the 23 policy statements and the 4 recommendations contained in that paper which I have just tabled.

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

MR. HOWARD: Can I ask a question of Mr. Buffett. Would it be useful from your point of view if the House were formally now to adopt a motion supporting those 23 things as the Legislative Assembly, would that do any good.

MR. BUFFETT: I would be very happy with that.

MR. HOWARD: I would be happy to move that the House endorse those 23 policies as tabled, and 4 recommendations.

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

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously.

PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Further statements by leave. Mr. Howard

MR. HOWARD: I seek leave to make a statement concerning the Public Service Board.

I make this statement Mr. Chairman on two grounds, first of all part of my portfolio is liaison between the Assembly and the Public Service
Board, secondly I was Chairman of the last Executive Committee meeting at which the Executive Committee considered a letter from the Chairman of the Public Service Board.

The relationship between the Assembly and the Public Service Board has not been entirely clear in everyone's minds. Through efforts by Mr. Trebilco who is Chairman of the Public Service Board, the relationship between us and the Public Service Board is gradually beginning to become clearer. In the latest exchange of correspondence between Mr. Trebilco and the Executive Committee the following points have come clear and I think they are important and of interest to the community.

In his letter to the Executive Committee the Chairman of the Public Service Board took me a bit to task in an entirely polite way for some of the implications of things that I said during the budget debate, things that sounded as though I thought the Assembly could tell the Public Service Board what determinations it ought to make about the pay of people in the Public Service. Mr. Trebilco has made the point in writing to the Executive Committee that the right to make determinations belongs to the Public Service Board alone, and the Executive Committee acknowledges that. In a formal letter I sent to him as Chairman following our Executive meeting on Monday I highlighted four different points of what now appears to be a gradually clearer and clearer understanding of our two different roles - the Assembly's and the Public Service Board's. First of all it is acknowledged that the Government has no power to direct the Board on how the Board determines pay rates. Secondly it has now become clear that when the Board determines pay rates its responsibility is to take a number of things into account and not to give priority or sole attention to any one of those things but to consider all of them. The things that the Board will take into account, as Mr. Trebilco said is required to take into account, will be first of all the forthcoming comparative wages survey; secondly the forthcoming retail price index when it becomes operative next year; next of all Government views and policies that may have a bearing on the economic situation; and lastly any other information which may be available. The next point that clarifies the relationship between the Assembly and the Public Service Board is that the Government, the Executive Committee, acting with the authority of the Assembly behind it, may take measures that will have the affect of disallowing determines after the Public Service Board has made them.
Now I want to make sure that is clearly understood. We don't have specifically the power to disallow any determination, the Assembly does have the power not to provide funds to meet the costs of a determination. If the Assembly were to withhold funds to meet the needs for a determination that the Board had made the Board would then be in a position where it would either not follow through with its latest determination or it would need to find other ways of finding the money within the moneys already provided, in other words to spread the same amount of money more widely. I have expressed to Mr. Trebilco the appreciation of the Executive Committee for what he is doing gradually to get better and better co-operation between the Assembly and the Public Service Board and I think the clarification of those points is a big step forward.

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

**TIMING OF POSSIBLE GENERAL ELECTION**

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Again arising out of the Executive Committee meeting on Monday, the Executive Committee discussed the timing of a possible general election if there is to be one, and following the meeting as Chairman I was directed to pass on to the Administrator what our views had been. I want to make it clear that we, the Executive Committee nor the Assembly, has authority to say when a new election should be, that is an authority that the Administrator has in which he has to act on the Minister's advice, but we are welcome to advise, and our view which we passed on to the Administrator after debating it on Monday was that if there is to be a referendum on the voting system, and there will be later in the meeting a proposal that we recommend such a referendum, that the Executive Committee did not feel that there was reasonable time to hold a referendum and then enacting legislation and then have the run up to an election, and hold a general election, anywhere near as early as the date that the Minister suggested when he was here which was the 17th of December. We have therefore put to the Administrator our view that if there is to be a general election
it should not be set for any earlier than the end of January next year. Since sending this letter I have spoken with the Administrator and he has told me that he independently had come to much the same view, and I report that as a matter of interest.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS -

POST OFFICE BOXES & FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you. By leave if I may, a statement on transfer of funds for two different things.
The Assembly did not allocate in the budget money to provide additional post office boxes at the post office. There are about 50 people who are waiting hoping to get post office boxes and they simply cannot, the boxes just do not exist. The Administration has looked into how inexpensively we can provide additional boxes and have put to me a proposal that they can as a matter of fact install three nests of boxes which would be a total of 45 boxes for a cost of about $400, now that is small enough so I have authorised them to go ahead and do it out of my advance to the Executive Member. So that work will be going ahead.

I also would like to advise that there has been a request for fire fighting equipment for use by the residents who protect us from fires, about $6,000 worth, including mostly equipment for the men who do that dangerous and important work - helmets, breathing masks, axes, boots and protective coats and coveralls and so forth. I am delighted to tell you that the Revenue Manager has told me he is able to save $6,000 over what he has been allocated for the printing of stamps, and I have authorised the transfer of the necessary money for the new fire fighting equipment out of stamp printing money and into fire fighting equipment.

So both of those good new things are in the course of being done and I would like to table that transfer of funds that I have made for the fire fighting equipment.

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

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: One more if I may Mr. Chairman. A resident wrote to me saying that under the normal air schedule mail comes in over the weekend, the post office opens at 9 o'clock on Monday morning, the mail is then sorted and it can take, it depends on how much mail there is, an hour or two. The next mail closing is ordinarily I think 3 o'clock that same afternoon and then there is not another mail closing until Wednesday or Thursday. The resident who wrote to me said that hour or two is not enough for business correspondence to people on Norfolk Island to be read, understood and replied to and got back in time to make the mail closing a couple of hours later. He asked could anything be done to fix that. I passed the question on to the Revenue Manager who looked into it. The Post Office people, the Postmaster, looked at it, and worked out that yes they would be able to sort the mail before the 9 o'clock opening on Monday morning so that when the Post Office opens on Monday morning at 9, the weekend mail already will have been sorted and will be there waiting in the boxes at 9. That will add just enough time so that people can give a quick answer to correspondence and get it back in the same days mail closing. They are doing that by switching the work hours around, they are trading a few hours of time that they normally would not work for time later on when they normally would work. It may sound like a small thing, I think it will be a genuine convenience for a number of business people. The main point that I wanted to make from it is that first of all it seemed to me a good example of participation by citizens of the Island in the government of the Island by making good suggestions, and secondly so far as the Public Service goes, the Post Office people's willingness to shift their hours around to provide something more for the community with no more cost to the community, is my idea of real public service.

MESSAGES FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have to report that I have received messages from the office of the Administrator as follows:
that His Excellency the Governor-General assented to the following proposed laws on the dates indicated: 9 September 1982 - the Customs (Amendment) Act 1982 and the Court of Petty Sessions (Amendment) Act 1982; 15 September 1982 the Companies (Local Companies) Act 1982.

NOTICES

APPOINTMENT TO THE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice of motion Honourable Members. Mr. Buffett a motion appearing in your name.

MR. BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. I move that consequent upon the resignation of John Terence Brown from the Business Committee, William Winton Sanders be appointed to the Business Committee. Mr. Acting Deputy President this reflects adjustments in the Executive posts.

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

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

APPOINTMENT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President whilst we are on Committees of this Assembly I wonder if I could seek your leave to move a motion without notice, without formal notice that is, although we have had the opportunity to advise Members of it.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Leave is granted Mr. Buffett.

MR. BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. I move that consequent on the resignation of Bernard Edwin Christian-Bailey from the House Committee, Chloe Gray be appointed to the House Committee.
EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY - EQUIPMENT FOR AIRPORT UPGRAADING

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: You have just informed us and the community officially, Mr. Chairman, that the Governor-General has assented to our new Customs law and it is now in effect. I am therefore able to recommend to the House formally exemptions from customs duties for the two major public works projects that are underway on the Island at the moment - the airport and the Anzac Cable operation.

My first motion concerns exemption from customs duty for everything associated with the upgrading of the airport, and I will read the motion and then I will read a standard set of conditions. The recommendation that I am putting to the House is that we recommend to the Administrator that the airport project as a project be exempted from customs duty. The motion reads: "That this House recommends to His Honour the Administrator that, acting in accordance with section 2B of the Customs Ordinance 1913 he exempts from duty imposed under section 2 of that Ordinance, goods imported into Norfolk Island for or in connection with the upgrading of the Norfolk Island Airport on condition" - and there follow three conditions (a), (b) and (c). (a) is that details of such goods and their dates of arrival on Norfolk Island be provided to the Collector of Customs in accordance with directions given by the Collector; and (b) that the goods shall not, except with the Executive Member's approval, be used otherwise than for or in connection with the upgrading of the Norfolk Island Airport; and (c) that on completion of the upgrading work the goods shall, if so required by the Executive Member, be exported from Norfolk Island unless the goods form part of the airport works or were otherwise consumed for the purposes of that work.

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

Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: I would like to refer particularly to section (c), although perhaps (b) comes in to it too, Mr. Howard has already said that it is a standard set of conditions - there appears no provision for either the writing off of equipment, in other words equipment which is no longer of
any value whatsoever, would the person importing be required to import it under those circumstances and also is there any provision for consideration of sale. I am thinking particularly of acquisition of goods by the Administration for example.

MR. HOWARD: The answer is that there are possibilities for doing such things but they are a bit complicated. The law does not allow a partial writing off of duty if a piece of machinery had it no it won't have to be exported, you can export it by tipping it over Headstone. On the other matter that you have raised, there are ways of doing what you are talking about and if it becomes useful to do that I will bring them before the House at the time for approval.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, I take it Mr. Howard that on the completion of the upgrading at the airport any equipment that was brought in and is not exported could be sold on the Island. Now if they are sold would full duty at the time of arrival be payable.

MR. HOWARD: That is a question that I would have to bring to the House. There is a particular case of a number of trucks having been brought into the Island. As the law stands, if you just take the law straight, at the end of the airport project those trucks having been brought in duty free either have to be sent off the Island or full duty at original import price has to be paid. It seems to me, and I am talking about only my own view at this point, this is something I would have to put to the Executive Committee and perhaps to the Assembly for endorsement, it seems to me that that may be unfair; it seems to me that it may be fair if some of that machinery is to stay on the Island and is needed on the Island, to expect that the equivalent of the duty on its value at that time be paid rather than on the original duty. Now this is only my own view, it is something that I would want to get advice and comment on from the other members of the Assembly, it was the thing I was alluding to when Mrs. Gray asked her question. There would be a way of doing it, for example suppose there were 7 trucks, suppose there is use on Norfolk Island for all of those 7 trucks even though they had been beaten up in the airport job, suppose it were in the Island's interest that those
trucks all stay on the Island, it might well be that you could charge full duty on 3 of them and no duty on the other 4 and that that would about equal the written down value of them. Now I don't mean to mention any numbers that have any sticking power at all, all I am talking about is a possible approach to dealing with that problem in terms of the law. So those are questions that have not been answered yet and we need to face them later on if they are asked.

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

MR. JACKSON: I take the point, because when Boral Gas set up their establishment in Ball Bay certain conditions were placed on the equipment that was brought in and an exemption was granted, and the conditions were not similar to the ones that have been presented in this motion form because the circumstances do not correspond with each other. The point that I was raising in connection with the upgrading of the airport is as you have said that there is certain equipment that I believe may not be leaving the Island and may be of some use to private businesses on the Island. You will decide, but I see here in (b) the goods shall not, except with the Executive Member's approval - now that is a very broad concept of what you can do, you can either force duty or exempt duty regardless of what happens to those vehicles. Now I would take it that under the Boral Gas situation I would say that was a precedent and that those conditions should exist under this situation.

MR. HOWARD: I won't decide, I will come to a conclusion myself if particular occasions of that kind arise and then I will look around to see whether the Members of the Assembly think that what I am recommending makes sense or not. I can assure you that it would be a very unwise person who would swing that kind of Executive authority quietly and in private to the benefit of anyone. That is hot power, that is big time stuff, that is something that the Assembly better have a think about.

MR. JACKSON: Don't be short-sighted when you look.

MR. HOWARD: I hadn't planned to.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Miss Buffett.

MISS BUFFETT: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President, I would just like to comment here that I would take Mr. Howard's point of the first suggestion that trucks or equipment if it were decided that they would be an asset to Norfolk Island and if private enterprise were able to buy them at all for the benefit of the Island that duty equivalent to the value of their used cost I would be inclined to agree with, but I would by no means agree to what would only be a manipulation of the law by saying right we pay duty on 3 but not 4, I think we had better legislate for one or the other.

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

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously.

EXEMPTION FROM CUSTOMS DUTY - EQUIPMENT FOR ANZCAN CABLE PROJECT

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No. 3. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Thank you. Now the one on the Anzcan Cable project Mr. Chairman, and the wording is exactly the same, I will not read out once again the three conditions if the Members will excuse me, I will simply move the motion in its principal part —"That this House recommends to His Honour the Administrator that, acting in accordance with section 2B of the Customs Ordinance 1913, he exempts from duty imposed under section 2 of that Ordinance goods imported into Norfolk Island for or in connection with the Anzcan Cable project on condition"— and then there are the three conditions that follow on the notice paper which are part of the motion.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mr. Howard. Debate Honourable Members. Mr. Quintal.

MR. QUINTAL: This is a straightforward motion and it is similar to the last one and I move that the question be put.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman, it concerns me that here we are recommending that all the imported materials in connection with the Anzcan Cable project be exempt from customs duty when on the notice paper to be dealt with today is a contentious issue such as the Public Works Levy which will be increased by 50%. I take the proposal of the recommendation of the motion that it recommends for exemption also the four private houses that are nearing completion for the staff who will operate the Anzcan Cable. I feel it is a bit rude to exempt these Houses when any residents on Norfolk Island who wishes to import material or precut timber to build their private homes will be subjected to the full import duty. It has been said that the project will improve the standard of reception of overseas calls in general, well I certainly agree with all that, however this project is not being funded solely by Australia. It is being funded by New Zealand, Fiji, Canada and England - all included on a share cost basis. Therefore Mr. Chairman this project is an international business venture, and may I add a very profitable one at that. It is quite different from the situation that exists concerning the upgrading of the Norfolk Island Airport where all the money, to the tune of $6.7 million, is being paid for out of Australian taxpayers money, and I draw Mr. Howard's attention to the points I have raised because with this recommended exemption Norfolk Island will lose between $200,000 to $300,000 in customs duty revenue, and I would say a tidy sum to forfeit in our present economic financial squeeze. So I request Mr. Howard to take note of the points that I have raised because of the international status of Anzcan and on the points of the four dwellings that are being imported and which are just about completed, when our own people if they were to import materials to build a precut home would be required to pay the full duty on the materials that they import.

MR. HOWARD: I would be glad to comment on that. There could be something to what Mr. Jackson says. If there is, the time for saying it was a year ago or whenever it was that the Assembly in principle agreed these two projects were to be customs duty free. The Assembly did take that position. Contracts were tendered for on the basis that it would be customs free. I am not putting this motion today because I think it is
a wonderful idea or an inspiration on my part, I am putting it today simply to carry through with a commitment that was given in principle that I think the Assembly now has to honour formally, and while there may be something to what he says, I think the time for thinking about those things is unfortunately long past.

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

MR. JACKSON: In view, Mr. Chairman, of what Mr. Howard has just said, I wonder at this stage with Mr. Howard saying that there is some merit in the situation concerning this case, that he would adjourn this particular motion while he investigates the particular sections that I have raised concerning those houses and perhaps concerning the international venture of this project, it is not one like the airport which is solely funded by the Commonwealth Government, but this project is being funded by New Zealand, Fiji, Canada and England and Australia which is what ANZCEN stands for. I am not wishing to make an issue out of this but I draw your attention to the unqualified situation of the unfair basis where residents of this Island when they import homes in here, and on every ship that comes in there is timber for homes, precut homes, and they have to pay the full customs duty, and I don't think it is fair when an international venture such as this can come to our Island and say well we will exempt you, and bearing in mind what Mr. Howard has stated in the remuneration debate, we have all got to pull our socks up, well here we are, there is quite a few hundred thousand dollars that could really boost our revenue. I do not at this stage intend perhaps voting against the motion, but I do believe that at this stage with what Mr. Howard has stated, perhaps the motion could be put off until the next meeting, what is the haste in pushing it through now, it could be adjourned while he investigates the points that I have raised.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Quintal I think has the call.

MR. QUINTAL: Mr. Chairman I do believe a commitment is a commitment and if the Legislative Assembly has committed themselves to a situation whereby they have agreed to allow all the materials or whatever it is into the Island, I do believe that commitment has to be honoured.
MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Mr. Quintal has expressed my sentiments almost exactly Mr. Acting Deputy President. I concede Mr. Jackson's points, however its a decision at the moment about whether we honour a judgement, a decision, taken by the First Legislative Assembly. I would like to hear more from Members who were also in that Assembly if that is possible. It is a difficult decision.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Much is being said now of a committal. I attended the main meeting with the Anzcan representatives and if there was a committal there well I am not aware of it. Mr. Buffett was the Chief Minister at the time, perhaps Mr. Buffett, or Mr. Howard may be, but I am not aware of any committal.

MRS. GRAY: I would particularly like to hear from Mr. Buffett.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Buffett would you care to comment.

MR. BUFFETT: Mr. Acting Deputy President it is not appropriate for me - I don't have responsibility for the portfolio to be pursuing the matter in an authoritative manner at this time.

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

MR. HOWARD: I am sorry that Mr. Buffett does not feel that he is in an authoritative position - he was Chief Minister at the time, I don't have notes of those meetings, my recollection is that it happened in what was called a Policy Committee meeting at which all of the Members were asked to endorse this principle, my recollection may be wrong. There is no question whatsoever that the Anzcan project has gone ahead in the firmly based belief that the Legislative Assembly was considering it to be a customs free project. What the source of that commitment is I can't cite chapter and verse right now but there is no question that such a commitment was made and I think Mr. Quintal put his finger on it, I do not think we could dream of saying we have had second thoughts so lets dishonour a commitment that is not on. If Mr. Jackson wants to vote
against it because he has had second thoughts, let him vote against it.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: I am not asking Mr. Howard anything of the sort, and how I vote is my business. I raised these issues for Mr. Howard's consideration, but Mr. Quintal and Mrs. Gray have raised the point, now I am taking up the point - is there evidence that we did give a committal. If there is no evidence well we will have to get that stricken off, that there is no committal. However I am aware that the project is well under way, it is just about completed, but it seems odd that we wait until the project is almost completed before a decision is made to exempt them from customs duty. Therefore the point that I am raising is that on principle the basis where homes are imported into the Island to staff the persons who are going to operate the Anzcan project, and I am not saying this against the company or even against the staff who will operate it, in no way am I raising anything against those people, but the situation on principle of what I am arguing is that homes are being imported for one section duty free where for the residents they have to pay the full brunt of duty on any materials imported for their homes, and that is the point in principle that I am raising that it is unfair to give exemption for one section of the community and then residents have to pay the full duty.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Sanders.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. Chairman, this is a very worthwhile project, this Anzcan project and I truly support the committal that I believe the First Assembly has entered into.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. Jackson wonders why it has been left so long to seek customs exemption. The fact is that the old customs law that we have had for a long time became ineffective in June when the new Customs Bill was introduced and there has not been the legal machinery to deal with an exemption. The Anzcan people and people associated with the airport have been put to a lot of trouble in the last several months because assent to our new Customs Bill was so slow in coming. It has finally come but
the Chairman has 15 minutes ago told us that the Governor-General has finally assented to it, this is the first time we have been able to move in a legal effective way to grant the exemption which it has been understood from the beginning would be granted. I am not pushing any particular barrow here, I am not arguing one thing or another. I have put my recommendation to the House, let the House say how it feels. If the House thinks it wants to do what I regard is going back on a commitment, that is the House's privilege. I am going to vote for the motion, but whatever the House wants.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Mr. Jackson.

MR. JACKSON: Mr. Chairman I drew to Mr. Howard's attention the situation that exists, now I brought this to the notice of the House, especially to Mr. Howard being the Minister for Finance and Minister for Customs, of this unfair situation. Now I do not wish to have the motion thrown out or even in any way to, as someone has said, to renege on a committal. I will vote for this project but the point that I raise is that for Mr. Howard to take on board any other project that comes to the Island and establishes themselves, not to exempt buildings when residents have to pay the full duty when they import their own building materials.

MR. HOWARD: Yes, I am with you. Lets look at the next such project that comes along and lets sift these things out when it first comes to us, and I think there is merit in what you are saying. I think it is too late on this one, but next time lets look a little more closely and talk while it is timely to talk.

MR. SANDERS: Mr. Chairman I move that the question be put.

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

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously

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

Question - put
Motion agreed to unanimously
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE HEADSTONE JETTY PROJECT

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Notice No. 4, Mrs. Gray.

MRS. GRAY: Thank you Mr. Acting Deputy President. I would like to move that this House aware that certain proposals have been submitted to Members in respect of the construction of a jetty at Headstone and being of the opinion that these proposals need urgent consideration before certain plant and machinery is removed from the Island, directs - (1) that there is, by this motion, formed a Committee consisting of the Executive Members respectively having responsibility for finance and sea transport, and Mr. Gilbert Jackson; and (2) that the Committee so formed shall investigate and consider the proposals put to Members and any other related proposals; and (3) that the Committee has power to send for persons, papers and records; and (4) because of the urgency of the matter the Committee shall report to the House at its next meeting.


MRS. GRAY: Thank you. Probably for the benefit of people listening to us more than anything else Mr. Acting Deputy President, it may be in order that I read some of the submission which has been made to us. Yes.

The proposal, submission, was addressed to Mr. Buffett as the President of the Assembly, and it is signed by Peter Woodward, Norm LeCren and Borry Evans - "Mr. G. Anderson interviewed me late in June on behalf of the Island Disaster Committee in respect to the availability of my boat and safety equipment should a calamity occur, such as an aircraft crashing into the sea and a sea rescue need be attempted. Owing to the difficulty of launching a boat on Norfolk Island, especially in the warmer months when the Island is at its busiest, the South-East Trade Wind often precludes the use of both the existing jetties, Cascade and Kingston. We cannot reason why Headstone landing rock, a natural rock jetty with deep water access which was used until the airstrip was completed during the Second World War, has not been renovated to something similar to Cascade jetty which would make a launching possible in a South-East wind. In endeavouring to research the Headstone site,
the only information we could find was mentioned in the 1923-24 Annual Report on Norfolk Island, stating the desirability of its upgrading. At an on-site inspection and discussion with other interested people, Mr. B. Evans, Mr. G. Bennett of Norfolk Island & Mr. R. Kempthorne of Kaipara Excavators Ltd, Mr. Kempthorne stated that, and he is an expert in this field, that he could not foresee any physical difficulty in the construction of a jetty similar in size to the jetty at Cascade, and further he offered the services of his company's professional surveyor to survey the site to prove that access by road to the landing rock was practical. The completed survey is attached allowing for a level area on the jetty. The access road is surveyed in a gentle gradient of only 1 in 8. We feel that urgent consideration should be given to the construction of this jetty as some of the heavy machinery currently on the Island being used in the airport upgrading could be utilised in its construction. The machinery is to be shipped away from the Island on completion of the airport”.

Just repeating - the signatures, Peter Woodward, Norm LeCren and Borry Evans. Part of their submission, or the words of the submission state - "several factors associated with the current airport upgrading have heightened public consciousness of the need for establishing the best possible facilities and organisation for coping with disaster situations in the Island including aircraft crashes on land or in the sea. It has been demonstrated that storm damage can render at least one jetty inoperative. The same jetty, Cascade, is located below a cliff-face from which rock falls recur with increasing frequency as the nearby quarry is operated. There is a clear need for easy access by vehicles and boats to the sea on the west side of Norfolk Island. In emergencies for air/sea rescue; for cargo handling, should the other landing places be made inoperative and ordinarily for cargo handling when weather prevents use of either Cascade or Kingston; for fishing boats when conditions do not allow Cascade or Kingston to be used; and for tourist recreation use additional to Cascade and Kingston. Study of the practicability of improving the Headstone landing place to make it accessible to vehicles and boats has been made with the voluntary assistance of local people engaged in quarry and earth moving and the contracting firm currently engaged in improving airfield runways. The study of plan and details which are attached concludes that a roadway of reasonable gradient could be made to the Headstone jetty without disturbing the historic monument which gives the locality its name, at a
guesstimate, I stress guesstimate, of about $250,000. The proposed works - the present road to the rubbish chute would be reconstructed and slightly realigned and extended around the point to provide a gentle gradient of 1 in 8 to the jetty. This would involve the removal of a large quantity of rock and earth from the cliff-face and hill above. The slope below the historic headstone would be sloped to a safe batter without disturbing the headstone itself. The jetty area itself would be levelled providing a working area for vehicles and equipment etc. The proposed road would be 9 metres wide with 1.2 metre shoulders each side and a central seal 6.6 metres wide. Then follows some specifications and plans attached.

In proposing that this Committee be formed, I would ask them to refer specifically to a report prepared in 1970 by Wilton & Bell Dobey & Partners of Sydney in response to a request from the Administrator and the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Commission. That report investigates the possibility of developing harbour facilities in Ball Bay and contains some detail about Cascade and Kingston. I would also like them to take into account the fact that the airstrip is being upgraded, that the provision for air cargo flights probably increases with the capability of the airstrip and specifically relating to cargo master and the use of a hercules freighter, of course discussions with Ray Kempthorne and the people who are signatories to this letter, and also some investigation of the possibility of potential of roll-on, roll-off and container shipping to Norfolk Island should be investigated. It is a lot to be handled in a short time Mr. Acting Deputy President but I do feel as the motion expresses, it is an urgent matter.

MR. ACTING DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Thank you Mrs. Gray. Debate. Mr. Howard.

MR. HOWARD: I have given notice of an amendment to the motion that I would like to propose, which is to eliminate the paragraph numbered (3) which proposes that this Committee that Mrs. Gray is recommending should have the power to send for persons, papers and records. What that means is the power to issue a subpoena to somebody and order them to come and give information. I think that such a Committee ought to talk to anybody that has anything worthwhile to say and anybody who wants to talk to the Committee, I certainly don't think the Committee