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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

GENERAL

Government administration in Victoria is of a tripartite nature, involving the activities of the Commonwealth Government, the Victorian Government, and a local government network of 211 municipalities. The role of the Commonwealth Government is discussed briefly in the following paragraph, followed by a comprehensive description of the administration of the Victorian Government's Departments of State and statutory bodies. An outline of the system of local government, which is described in more detail at the beginning of Chapter 6 of this *Year Book* is followed by a comprehensive treatment of planning activities in Victoria. The chapter concludes with a section dealing with public safety.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Since Federation, there have been considerable changes in the functions actually performed by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, because of various constitutional amendments and inter-governmental agreements affecting functions. The main fields of activity of the Commonwealth Government today are: foreign affairs and diplomatic representations; maintenance of the Armed Forces; customs and excise; posts and telegraphs; control of broadcasting and television; control of civil aviation; repatriation of ex-servicemen; immigration; industrial arbitration for national industries; control of coinage and currency; overseas trade promotion; employment service; age, invalid, widows, and various other pensions; national health benefits; Federal territories and overseas dependencies; census and statistics; meteorological service; Federal courts and police; control of banking; collection of sales and income taxes; housing assistance and defence service homes; scientific and industrial research; management of State and national debt; lighthouses and navigation; and Australian territorial sea and seabed. A more detailed treatment of this subject can be found in the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia, included on pages 7-24 of *Year Book Australia* (No. 62).

A comprehensive guide to the organisation and functions of the Commonwealth Government can be found in the annual *Commonwealth Government Directory*, which lists all Commonwealth Parliamentary departments, courts, tribunals, Ministers, and their departments. Each ministerial portfolio includes its enactments, Ministerial staff listing, and details of departmental establishments, role and functions, and the executive staff of its divisions, and branch offices or representatives throughout Australia and the world.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Victorian Public Service

The Victorian Public Service consists of those officers and employees who staff the ministerial departments as distinct from those employed in the teaching service, the police force, in local government, or in those statutory authorities which do not employ staff under the Public Service Act. The duty of the Victorian Public Service is to administer legislation, implement government policy, and provide policy advice to government.

There are approximately 27,000* permanent officers who are grouped in three Divisions; the First Division comprises officers exercising the more important administrative or professional functions, Second Division officers perform duties of an administrative or professional nature, and the Third Division comprises a wide range of positions, including clerical assistants, stenographers and typists, chauffeurs, tradesmen, and various inspectors.

Permanent heads are selected by the government of the day, mostly from within the Public Service. First Division officers are either promoted from within the Service or appointed from outside. Entry to the Second Division requires a professional qualification or the passing of a competitive entrance examination; there is also provision for the recruitment of graduates for administrative work. Appointment to the Third Division is based on acceptable educational and other qualifications. A cadetship scheme operates to complement recruitment in some areas.

Due to the career nature of the Service, the classification of officers within the Division provides for progression by salary increments in most positions. This progression is commensurate with increased knowledge and experience and subject to a satisfactory level of performance. Creation of new offices or the abolition of existing offices is by Order of the Governor in Council following recommendation by the Public Service Board. Before new offices are created Treasury must specify that the necessary funds are available.

About 5,900* persons are employed on a temporary basis and recruitment for permanent positions frequently comes from this group. Although legislation limits their employment to a maximum period of two years, the Public Service Board may renew these engagements in special circumstances. A further group of about 7,000* persons known as "exempt employees" are not subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act. These personnel are engaged in intermittent or casual work or employed under the provisions of Commonwealth Awards, State Wages Board Determinations, or at special rates determined by the Public Service Board.

Public Service Board

Functions

Under the *Public Service Act 1974*, the Public Service Board is charged with ensuring "that the public service is so organised and staffed as to be capable of performing its functions in the most efficient and economic manner . . ." and "to assist in promoting the effective efficient and economic management of operations of departments . . .".

The Board has other roles which include policy setting, award fixing, judicial, advisory, audit and review, and consulting. The Board must ensure that the best qualified persons available are appointed to the Public Service without patronage or discrimination. It controls the level and allocation of staff resources within the Service and assists organisations within the Service to maintain and improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

Composition

The members of the Public Service Board of Victoria are appointed under the provisions of the *Public Service Act 1974*. The Board consists of members appointed by the Governor in Council, one of whom is appointed Chairman. In addition to the Chairman and Government appointed member there are two elected members of the Board. One of the members appointed is an officer of the Public Service elected by officers of the Public Service (not being Mental Health officers); the other elected member of the Board is elected by Mental Health officers. When the Board is considering matters relating to the third division in the branches of the Health Commission of Victoria, the latter person acts as a member of the Board in lieu of the person elected to represent other Public Service officers.

Structure of the Board's Office

The two senior officers of the Board are the Principal Consultants. The office of the Board has eight divisions: Management Consultancy and Organisational Studies; Effectiveness Review; Human Resource Development; Computer and Systems; Industrial Relations; Policy, Staffing, Evaluation and Review; and Operations (the Operations

* At 31 October 1981.

Division has three branches—Organisation and Classification, Manpower Planning and Budgeting, and Personnel Services). (For the history of the Board see *Victorian Year Book* 1976, pages 146-9.)

Victorian Government Departments and Ministries

Brief descriptions of the functions and services of Victorian Government Departments and Ministries constituting the Public Service of Victoria are shown below, followed by a list of statutory authorities under the jurisdiction of the respective ministers.

These are instruments of ministerial action and legislative enactment is not required to establish, abolish, or reorganise a department although this is often the method used. Alternatively, section 21(3) of the *Public Service Act* 1974 can be used. It empowers the Governor in Council by order to abolish any department, alter the name of any department, or create a new department.

Department of Agriculture

Minister: Minister of Agriculture

Permanent Head: Director-General of Agriculture

The functions of the Department of Agriculture are to provide regulatory, research, diagnostic, extension, and education services in the fields of extensive livestock (sheep, cattle), intensive livestock (bees, pigs, poultry), field crops, horticultural crops, other primary industries, industry services, and community services; to discharge the statutory responsibilities imposed by the legislation administered directly by the Department under the Minister; and to administer agricultural and veterinary research institutes and diagnostic laboratories, agricultural colleges, and offices throughout Victoria.

The Department is organised along functional lines which include administration and corporate services; industry, extension, and education services; research and development services; and regulation and diagnostic services. A number of statutory bodies also come under the jurisdiction of the Minister. (For a history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1971, pages 105-8.)

Department of Community Welfare Services

Minister: Minister for Community Welfare Services

Permanent Head: Director-General of Community Welfare Services

The Department of Community Welfare Services provides for the social security and development of individuals, families, and communities. It also provides services which contribute to the social safety of the community and its members. This involves the protection of persons who are considered to be at risk, vulnerable, and dependent and the control of individuals and problems which constitute a threat to the safety of others. The Department actively fosters and encourages the development of community based services designed to protect and aid families.

The divisions of the Department are: Regional Services Division; Correctional Services Division; Family and Adolescent Services Division; Administrative Services Division; Community Welfare Training Institute; and Office of Research and Social Policy.

The Minister is also responsible for the following bodies: Adult Parole Board, Youth Parole Board, Child Development and Family Services Council, Correctional Services Council, Social Welfare Training Council, Seamans Welfare Advisory Council, and the Seamans Welfare Trust Committee.

Department of Crown Lands and Survey

Minister: Minister of Lands

Permanent Head: Secretary for Lands

The Department is responsible for the management and control of the uncommitted Crown lands of Victoria; the provision of Crown land reserves for recreational and other purposes, and the appointment of committees of management for such reserves; the co-ordination of all survey work in Victoria and the compilation of comprehensive maps; the disposal, in various forms of tenure, of Crown lands for agricultural, pastoral, residential, and industrial purposes and survey work in this connection; the purchase of land for the

Crown; and the destruction of vermin and noxious weeds. It also controls and maintains the Royal Botanic Gardens and the National Herbarium. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1968, pages 100-2.)

Education Department

Ministers: Minister of Education

Assistant Minister of Education

Permanent Head: Director-General of Education

The function of the Education Department is to ensure that children between the ages of 6 and 15 years receive suitable, efficient, and regular instruction in general subjects and to provide more specialised higher education for older students.

Much of the administration of the Department is decentralised into eleven Education Regions, each headed by a Regional Director of Education.

The teaching service provides the teachers for all State schools: the Department being responsible for general administration including the provision, maintenance, and equipment of school buildings, teachers' salaries, and transport of children to and from school. (For a brief history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1969, pages 107-10; for a detailed history see Volume 1 of the Department's 1973 publication *Vision and Realization: a centenary history of State education in Victoria*.)

Health Commission

Ministers: Minister of Health

Minister Assisting the Minister of Health

Permanent Head: Chairman of the Health Commission

Through the Health Commission, the Minister controls all health, hospital, and associated services administered directly or supported financially by the Victorian Government.

The advent of the Commission meant a re-organisation of Victoria's health services. Prior to December 1978, these services were provided by the Department of Health, the Mental Health Authority, the Commission of Public Health, and the Hospitals and Charities Commission. These organisations were dissolved and their functions assumed by the Commission operating through four "line" divisions: Hospitals, which is responsible for public general hospitals, private hospitals, and nursing homes, and charitable institutions and benevolent societies; Mental Health, which is responsible for psychiatric hospitals, psychiatric services, and alcohol and drug services; Mental Retardation, which is responsible for training centres and mental retardation services; and Public Health, which is responsible for public health, general health, school, and maternal and child health services. These divisions are supported by five "service" divisions: Building and Services, Finance, Management Services, Personnel, and Planning and Research.

Department of Labour and Industry

Minister: Minister of Labour and Industry

Permanent Head: Secretary for Labour and Industry

The Department of Labour and Industry was established under the *Labour and Industry Act* 1958. Through its various divisions, the Department is concerned with physical and non-physical conditions of employment and the enforcement of various legislation concerned primarily with safety of workers and the public. The Department provides administrative, regulatory inspection, and training services, and works in liaison with other Commonwealth and State labour departments.

The Department consists of four major divisions: Administration, Industrial Relations, Inspection Services, and Technical Services; two branches, i.e. Legal, and Research and Evaluation; and five offices of statutory bodies: Building Industry Long Service Leave Board, Hairdressers Registration Board, Liquor Control Commission, Motor Accidents Board, and the Workers Compensation Board. On 23 December 1980, the Industrial Training Commission was transferred from the Department of Labour and Industry and

became a direct responsibility of the Ministry of Employment and Training. (For the history of the Department of Labour and Industry, see *Victorian Year Book* 1975, pages 140-4.)

Law Department

Minister: Attorney-General

Permanent Head: Secretary to the Law Department

The Law Department is responsible for the provision of an effective and efficient legal system for the people of Victoria.

In the execution of its responsibilities, the Department administers the Acts within the jurisdiction of the Attorney-General and also, the following offices performing functions under those Acts: Crown Solicitor's Office, Parliamentary Counsel's Office, Office of the Public Trustee, Corporate Affairs Office, Registrar-General's Office, and Office of Titles.

In addition, a number of Committees and Boards come within the administration of the Attorney-General. These are: Appeal Costs Board, Companies Auditors Board, Crimes Compensation Tribunal, Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board, Law Reform Commissioner, Metropolitan Fair Rents Board, Legal Aid Commission, Motor Accidents Tribunal, Patriotic Funds Council, Raffles and Bingo Permits Board, Estate Agents Board, State Classification of Publications Board, and Victorian Taxation Board of Review.

The Department continually reviews legislation within the Attorney-General's responsibility and where necessary initiates the development of new or amended legislation.

It is also responsible for the provision of staff, facilities, and services to the Courts, for legal assistance to the Victorian Government in the drafting and interpreting of legislation, and for the management of Royal Commissions and Boards of Inquiry.

Local Government Department

Minister: Minister for Local Government

Permanent Head: Secretary for Local Government

The Local Government Department was established under the *Local Government Department Act* 1958. The head office of the Department has both administrative and functional responsibilities including a degree of superintendence over Victoria's 211 municipal councils in relation to the administration of the *Local Government Act* 1958 and other Acts relating to local government. The Department acts as the link between the local and State government.

The Department encompasses the Valuer-General's Office and the Weights and Measures Branch. The Valuer-General is responsible under the *Valuation of Land Act* 1960 for the co-ordination and standards of valuations made for rating purposes, including those for all municipal, water, sewerage, planning, and land tax authorities.

The Weights and Measures Branch is headed by the Superintendent of Weights and Measures, who administers weights and measures legislation, instructs inspectors in the performance of their duties, and generally supervises the local administration, the design of equipment, and the examination of weighing and measuring equipment.

The Minister is also responsible for a number of Boards and Committees including the Land Valuation Boards of Review, Building Regulations Committee and Referees, Local Government Advisory Board, Municipal Auditors Board, Building Qualifications Board, Municipal Clerks Board, Municipal Electrical Engineers Board, Municipal Engineers Board, Municipal Valuation Fees Committee, Valuers Qualification Board, Local Authorities Superannuation Board, and the Building and Development Control Administration Office. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1972, pages 103-5.)

Department of Minerals and Energy

Minister: Minister for Minerals and Energy

Permanent Head: Secretary for Minerals and Energy

The Department of Minerals and Energy was established by the *Minerals and Energy Act* 1976 which amalgamated the Mines Department and the Ministry of Fuel and Power.

The Minister for Minerals and Energy is responsible for the operation of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria. The Department is responsible for the formulation of energy policies for Victoria, particularly in respect to petroleum and brown coal and for the co-ordination of energy research in Victoria with the exception of brown coal which is carried out by the Victorian Brown Coal Council.

The Department is also responsible for carrying out geological surveys of the mineral, brown coal, stone, and groundwater resources of Victoria and the provision of information and services in these fields of activity.

The Department administers legislation relating to petroleum exploration and production, mining, quarrying, tunnelling and trenching, groundwater resources, gas regulation, explosives, liquefied gases and inflammable liquids, and the granting of permits and licences to own and use pipelines for the conveyance of gas, oil, L.P.G., and chemicals. (For the history of the Mines Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1970, pages 105-8.)

Department of the Premier

Minister: The Premier

Permanent Head: Secretary, Department of the Premier

The functions of the Department of the Premier derive from the task of serving the Premier as Chief Minister of the State and as Minister of the Department. The Department's functions essentially relate to policy development, policy implementation, and co-ordination of government activities. The Department provides support services for Cabinet; acts as a channel of communication between Commonwealth, State, and foreign governments; arranges Royal visits and special State ceremonial functions; provides support for various committees and task forces, including the State Co-ordination Council; undertakes special research and investigations; and conducts correspondence with the public on matters affecting the government and the Premier.

The Divisions of the Department are: Federal Affairs, General Services, Projects, Protocol, Research and Policy, Secretariat, Overseas Division, and Victoria's 150th Anniversary Celebrations. In addition, the various branches include: Audit Office, Office of the Agent-General, Office of the Executive Council and Office of the Governor, Office of the Public Service Board (for detailed information on the Board see pages of this Year Book), Office of Industrial Relations Co-ordination, Co-ordinator of Women's Affairs (incorporating Women's Advisory Service), Co-ordinator of State Laboratories, Office of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, Ministry for Federal Affairs, and Community Services Centre (incorporating Migrant Advisory and Interpreter Services Bureaux and the Government Information Office). (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book*, 1964 pages 81-4.)

Department of Property and Services

Minister: Minister for Property and Services

Permanent Head: Director-General of Property and Services

The Department was created by Order-in-Council on 16 May 1978. The functions of the Department are: to monitor and independently check all aspects of property dealings by government departments and government statutory authorities; to ensure that each real estate transaction involving large sums of money is in the public interest; to be responsible for the functions of the Government Printing Office, the Government Computing Service, and the Public Record Office; to collect and register statistical information; and to conduct elections of members of the Victorian Parliament and a number of government and semi-government bodies.

The following Divisions operate within the Department: Government Computing Service, Government Printing Office, Land Purchasing, Land Sales Monitoring and Research Division, Management Services Division, Office of the Government Statist and Actuary, Public Record Office, and the State Electoral Office.

Public Works Department

Minister: Minister of Public Works

Permanent Head: Director General of Public Works

The Department is Victoria's major building construction authority and provides advice to the Victorian Government in all matters relating to public works and the initiation of design, construction, management, and maintenance of works and buildings for Victorian Government departments, ministries, and agencies. It provides property management of all government buildings (excluding schools) in Victoria, and acquires property (purchase or leasing) for the State. It is also the Port Authority for thirteen Proclaimed Ports throughout Victoria including Port Phillip and Western Port.

The Divisions of the Departments are: Building, Ports and Harbors, Property and Services, and Administration.

The Building Division is the largest of the four Divisions. It is the major architectural and building organisation for Victoria responsible for the site works and design, construction, furnishing, and maintenance on behalf of client departments. Major service branches are the Principal Architect's Office, Consultant Engineering Services, and four Area Offices, namely, Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western.

The Ports and Harbors Division is responsible for planning, development, construction, maintenance, operations, and navigation in Victoria (excluding those local areas controlled by the Port of Melbourne Authority, and the Geelong and Portland Harbor Trusts). This Division is also responsible for foreshore protection along the Victorian coastline.

The Property and Services Division, is responsible for the purchase, acquisition, leasing, and rental of properties for Victorian Government departments in accordance with the policies of the State Accommodation Committee and under the direction of the Victorian Public Offices Corporation. The Division is also responsible for the security of government property, provides janitorial services, and manages the State Petrol Centre, the State Garage, canteens, cafeterias, a light transport fleet, as well as vehicle parking.

The Administration Division provides a wide variety of specialist, professional, administrative, and clerical support services to the Department. Control and responsibility for administrative standards throughout the Department is vested in the Director of Administration. Major service branches are the Accounts Branch, the Supply Branch, and the Personnel Branch. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1967, pages 98-100.)

State Forests Department

Minister: Minister of Forests

Permanent Head: Chairman, Forests Commission

The role of the Forests Commission is to be Victoria's forest authority, responsible for advising the Victorian Government on forestry and forest products matters, managing and protecting State forests, protecting national parks and other public land from fire, advancing forestry knowledge, and promoting the growing of trees on private land.

For the administration of its activities, the Commission is organised into two groups, central and field. The central administrative group comprises six divisions: Administration; Forestry, Education, and Research; Forest Management; Forest Protection; Forest Operations; and Economics and Marketing. The field group comprises seven territorial divisions: Central; Eastern; Northern; North-Eastern; Southern; South-Western; and Western. A total of 45 field districts are located within the seven territorial divisions. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1978, pages 152-4.)

Treasury

Minister: The Treasurer

Permanent Head: Director of Finance

The prime functions and responsibilities of the Department relate to budget and financial matters including the raising of revenue, control over governmental expenditure within the ambit of Parliamentary authority, and the financial aspects of government policy. Treasury exercises overall control of financial planning and administration.

Branches are: State Taxation Office, Stamp Duties Office, State Tender Board, State Superannuation Board and State Employees Retirement Benefits Board, and the State Insurance Office.

The State Insurance Office issues policies of insurance in respect of Employees' Liability, Compulsory Third Party, and the Comprehensive Motor Vehicle to employers and motorists. The Office is administered and controlled by the Insurance Commissioner who also advises the Victorian Government, government departments, instrumentalities, and industry in insurance matters, and the Minister in respect of the annual approval of insurers under the Workers Compensation Act. (For history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1966, pages 97-100.)

Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation

Minister: Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation

Permanent Head: Director-General of Youth, Sport and Recreation

The objectives of this Department are to assist in the growth of the individuality and character of youth, to promote fitness and general health, to improve facilities available in Victoria for leisure-time pursuits, and to administer the Racing Act, Professional Boxing Control Act, and the Youth, Sport and Recreation Act.

The various divisions are: Administration and Special Services, Racing, Regional Services, and Recreation Development and Youth Affairs.

Ministry for the Arts

Minister: Minister of the Arts

Permanent Head: Director, Ministry for the Arts

The Ministry for the Arts functions at three levels: (1) as the Victorian Government's arts funding body with a charter to increase the public awareness and accessibility of the arts in Victoria, (2) as a government department having broad administrative responsibility for its various branches and agencies, and (3) as an entrepreneur of a number of cultural activities.

The Ministry funds some 300 arts organisations throughout Victoria and is responsible for the following branches and agencies: National Museum, National Gallery of Victoria, Science Museum, State Film Centre, State Library, Victorian Film Corporation, State Library and National Museum Building Committee, Victorian Arts Centre Trust, and the Exhibition Building.

Ministry for Conservation

Minister: Minister for Conservation

Permanent Head: Director of Conservation

The Ministry was established under the *Ministry for Conservation Act* 1972. The functions of the ministry are the protection and preservation of the environment; and the proper management and utilisation of land and living aquatic resources of Victoria.

The agencies and divisions of the Ministry are: Environment Protection Authority, Fisheries and Wildlife Division, Land Conservation Council, National Parks Service, Soil Conservation Authority, and the Victorian Archaeological Survey. These agencies are supported by three Central Groups which carry out a number of specialist activities and provide services to the agencies. They are the Administration Group, Assessments Group, and the Research Group.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Minister: Minister of Consumer Affairs

Permanent Head: Director of Consumer Affairs

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs was established under the *Ministry of Consumer Affairs Act* 1973. The objectives of the Ministry are to promote a fair market place by the improvement of consumer-trade relations, the encouragement by education of consumer awareness and responsibility, the investigation and settling of disputes, investigation of practices which prejudice such a market, and the administration and enforcement of the Acts for which the Minister is responsible.

The Ministry, through the Consumer Affairs Bureau, advises persons in respect of matters affecting their interests as consumers, receives and investigates complaints, implements consumer education programmes, conducts research into consumer matters, and takes and initiates action for remedying breaches of the legislation.

Associated with the Ministry are the Consumer Affairs Council, Consumer Affairs Bureau, Small Claims Tribunal, Motor Car Traders Committee, Residential Tenancies Bureau, and Residential Tenancies Tribunal.

Ministry for Economic Development

Minister: Minister for Economic Development

Permanent Head: Director-General of Ministry for Economic Development

The functions of the Ministry are to facilitate, encourage, promote, and carry out either separately or in conjunction with the Victorian Economic Development Corporation or the Small Business Development Corporation:

- (1) The balanced economic development of Victoria;
- (2) the development of industries and business undertakings throughout Victoria with particular regard to those in decentralised locations; and
- (3) the development of high technology industry and export-orientated industry throughout Victoria.

In pursuing these objectives the Ministry is actively engaged in a detailed analysis of Victoria's resources and its strengths and weaknesses. It is developing new initiatives to encourage investment in identified preferred areas of activity for Victoria and is seeking to maximise the natural advantages which Victoria has to offer.

The Ministry is also actively engaged in a review of legislation and procedures in order to simplify and facilitate new business enterprises, with an emphasis on eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic restraints and restrictions which may hamper industrial development.

The Ministry has been organised through four Divisions: Policy and Planning, Development and Decentralisation, Major Projects, and Management Services.

Other bodies encompassed by the Ministry's administration are the Victorian Economic Development Corporation, Small Business Development Corporation, Geelong Regional Commission, and the Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation.

Ministry for Employment and Training

Minister: Minister for Employment and Training

Permanent Head: Director of Employment and Training

This Ministry was established on 1 July 1981. Its role is to encourage the creation of new job opportunities; improve training for the jobs available; monitor and adapt to technological change; and, in conjunction with industry, overcome the human cost to the community through the lack of employment.

The Ministry aims to:

- (1) Increase employment opportunities within the private sector particularly in the small business sector;
- (2) ensure that Victoria has the skilled labour force necessary to meet the current and future demands of industry;
- (3) assist employers by maximising their access to available training opportunities in Victoria to aid in productivity improvement;
- (4) increase training opportunities by reviewing, modifying, and establishing training opportunities that lead to jobs; and
- (5) reduce the severity of the effects of long-term unemployment by facilitating individual and family well being.

The Ministry has four divisions: Training; Employment; Planning, Evaluation, and Budget; and Technology, Forecasting, and Research.

Members of the Victorian Technology Advisory Committee, the Victorian Employment Committee, and the Industrial Training Commission (Statutory Authority) report to the Minister for Employment and Training.

Ministry of Housing

Minister: Minister of Housing

Permanent Head: Director of Housing

The Ministry of Housing was established under the *Housing Act* 1958 to meet the housing needs of Victoria. The Act empowers the Ministry to implement policies and programmes approved by the Minister of Housing and intended to ensure the co-ordination, provision, and proper administration of public and private housing in Victoria.

The Ministry carries out its responsibilities primarily by providing rental accommodation and home purchase assistance for eligible persons on low incomes. Properties for rental—houses, boarding houses, and flats—are used to assist disadvantaged persons on low incomes, including single parent families, young homeless persons, the unemployed, the elderly, and the disabled, to meet their pressing housing needs.

Families on low incomes, provided they meet eligibility criteria, are assisted also with finance to buy their own homes. The setting and enforcement of housing standards is another task of the Ministry which also encourages the development of materials and methods to improve the quality and availability of suitable housing in Victoria.

Duties of the Ministry are administered through the following divisions: Finance and Administration, Home Finance, Development and Property, and Estates Management.

The following bodies report to the Minister: Housing Commission, Government Employee Housing Authority, Decentralized Industry Housing Authority, Urban Land Authority, Aboriginal Housing Board, Housing Advisory Council, Home Finance Trust, and Co-operative Societies Advisory Council.

Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

Minister: Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

Permanent Head: Director, Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

The Victorian Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs was established in 1976. The objectives of the Ministry are:

- (1) To promote and facilitate the settlement of migrants in Victoria and to co-ordinate measures conducive to the building of a socially cohesive society;
- (2) to promote and encourage the establishment of a community in which all ethnic groups will have full expression of identity;
- (3) to encourage a community awareness of the value of ethnic cultures;
- (4) to encourage migrants to accept Australian citizenship and to participate in the social, cultural, educational, political, and economic life of the Australian community and in such other activities as are conducive to good citizenship; and
- (5) to take such steps considered necessary to prevent or remove discrimination against persons because of their ethnic background or characteristics and to promote the welfare of migrants and their families in Victoria.

In addition, the Ministry was created to remove areas of possible misunderstanding and rationalise, as far as possible, any overlapping of functions by government departments and agencies involved in the area of ethnic affairs.

The various divisions are: Community Relations and Liaison, Community Education and Development, Migrant Settlement Services, Immigration, and Administration.

Department of Planning

Minister: Minister for Planning

Permanent Head: Secretary for Planning

Under the *Town and Country Planning (Amalgamation) Act* 1980, proclaimed in 1981, the Ministry for Planning and the Town and Country Planning Board were amalgamated to form a new Department of Planning.

The Department is responsible for the co-ordination and administration of the planning functions of the former Town and Country Planning Board, regional planning authorities, and all other responsible planning authorities throughout Victoria. It also provides advice and assistance to these bodies to ensure that the planning process is fully co-ordinated and consistent with Victorian Government policies.

The following bodies report to the Minister: Historic Buildings Preservation Council, Historic Buildings Classification Sub-Committee, Planning Consultative Council, Town

Planning Appeals Tribunal, Geelong Regional Commission, Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority, Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, and the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (Planning Division).

Ministry for Police and Emergency Services

Minister: Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Permanent Head: Secretary of Police and Emergency Services

This Ministry was established on 1 July 1979, following the abolition of the Chief Secretary's Department. (Further information on the Chief Secretary's Department can be found in the *Victorian Year Book* 1963, pages 100-4 and also the *Victorian Year Book* 1979, page 685.) The Ministry's major functions include the maintenance of law and order in Victoria, which involves preservation of the peace, protection of life and property, and the prevention and detection of crime; planning, organising, co-ordinating, and implementing measures to guard against or minimise the effects of emergencies harmful to life, health, or property; and the prevention and suppression of fires in the Melbourne metropolitan area and in the country area of Victoria. Other functions include co-ordinating arrangements where interaction between police, emergency, and fire-fighting services is necessary, registration of private agents, and the administration of functions arising from the *Motor Car Act* 1958, the *Motor Boating Act* 1961, the *Recreation Vehicles Act* 1973, *Road Traffic Act* 1958, and the *Motor Car (Compulsory Third Party Insurance) Act* 1967.

The major branches and agencies which comprise the Ministry are the Police Department, the Victoria State Emergency Service, the Registry of Private Agents, the Road Safety and Traffic Authority, Country Fire Authority, and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board. Although the Road Safety and Traffic Authority is staffed by public servants, members of the Authority itself are appointed from outside the Victorian Public Service.

The committees and boards falling within the administration of the Ministry are: Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeals Tribunal, Metropolitan Fire Brigade Superannuation Board, Police Discipline Board, Police Medical Board, Police Service Board, and Police Superannuation Board.

Ministry of Transport

Minister: Minister of Transport

Permanent Head: Director of Transport

The Ministry is responsible for securing the improvement, development, and better co-ordination of passenger and freight transportation in Victoria. The Ministry carries out detailed investigations into all aspects of land transport and is the policy adviser to the Minister of Transport. The Minister of Transport is responsible for the transport authorities governing the operation, maintenance, and improvement of Victoria's land transport system. (For the history of transport administration in Victoria, see the *Victorian Year Book* 1979, pages 129-30.)

Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply

Minister: Minister of Water Supply

Permanent Head: Chairman, State Rivers and Water Supply Commission

The Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply was established under the *Water Resources Act* 1975, to provide an administrative mechanism whereby a co-operative approach to the resolution of competing demands on the water resources of Victoria could be achieved.

The Act also created the position of Director of Water Resources and the establishment of a Water Resources Council. The Council members are drawn from the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, the Waterworks Trusts Association of Victoria, the Victorian Irrigation Central Council, the Ministry of Conservation, and the Treasury with the Director of Water Resources as Chairman.

The function of the Council is: "to investigate and advise the Minister generally on matters pertaining to the water resources of the State or to water supply drainage or sewerage throughout the State referred to it by the Minister".

The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission is Victoria's statutory authority for the conservation and distribution of rural water resources and the control of water from all rivers, streams, and other natural sources in Victoria (except the Melbourne metropolitan area). Its functions also include drainage, flood protection and flood plain management, and the control of salinity and water pollution.

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works is the water supply authority responsible for the conservation and distribution of water to the Melbourne metropolitan area. It is also the responsible authority for the preparation and submission for approval of any planning scheme in relation to the Melbourne metropolitan area and is responsible for Melbourne metropolitan parks.

Those aspects of the Board's activities which relate to water, sewerage, and drainage functions come within the administration of the Minister of Water Supply. For its planning function the Board is responsible to the Minister for Planning.

Victorian Government statutory authorities

In addition to ministerial departments, there is also a wide variety of Victorian Government statutory authorities, some of which are bodies corporate. Such authorities are constituted by specific Acts of Parliament, are governed by controlling Boards or Commissions, and have varying degrees of freedom from ministerial direction. Some are staffed under the Public Service Act; some employ their own staff; and in others, the authority employs its own staff under conditions approved by the Public Service Board.

The largest of the statutory authorities are engaged in public utility or developmental fields of activity, for example, the Victorian Railways Board, the State Electricity Commission, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, the Gas and Fuel Corporation, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and the Country Roads Board.

VICTORIA — GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Minister of Agriculture	Agriculture	Dairy Produce Board Filled Milk Advisory Committee Imitation Milk Advisory Committee Milk Pasteurization Committee Poultry Farmer Licensing Review Committee Stock Medicines Board Tobacco Quota Appeals Tribunal Tobacco Quota Committee Tomato Processing Industry Negotiating Committee Victorian Abattoir and Meat Inspection Authority Victorian Advisory Council on Agricultural Education Victorian Broiler Industry Negotiation Committee Victorian Wheat Advisory Committee Wine Grape Processing Industry Negotiating Committee	Australian Barley Board Country Grain Handling Improvement Authority Geelong Grain Handling Improvement Authority Grain Elevators Board Marketing Boards— Citrus Fruit Tobacco Leaf Victorian Egg Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust Portland Grain Handling Improvement Authority Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee Veterinary Board of Victoria Victorian Dairy Industry Authority Victorian Dried Fruits Board Western Metropolitan Market Trust Young Farmers Finance Council
Minister for the Arts	Ministry for the Arts	Council of the Science Museum of Victoria Council of Trustees of the National Gallery Library Council of Victoria National Museum of Victoria Council State Library and National Museum Buildings Committee Victorian Film Corporation	Exhibition Trustees Geelong and District Cultural Institute Victorian Arts Centre Trust Victorian Council of the Arts

VICTORIA — GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES—*continued*

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Attorney-General	Law	Appeals Costs Board Boards of Inquiry Companies Auditor's Board Crimes Compensation Tribunal Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board Estate Agents Board Metropolitan Fair Rents Board Motor Accident Tribunal Patriotic Funds Council Office of the Public Trustee Raffles and Bingo Permits Board State Classification of Publications Board Victorian Taxation Board of Review	Council of Legal Education Law Reform Commissioner Legal Aid Commission
Minister for Community Welfare Services	Community Welfare Services	Adult Parole Board Child Development and Family Services Council Correctional Services Council Social Welfare Training Council Youth Parole Board	
Minister for Conservation	Conservation	Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Advisory Committee Commercial Fisheries Licensing Panel Environment Protection Appeal Board Environment Protection Council Environment Protection Authority Fisheries Management Committee Land Conservation Council Licensing Appeals Tribunal (Commercial Fisheries) National Parks Advisory Council Port Phillip Authority Port Phillip Consultative Committee Soil Conservation Authority	Victorian Conservation Trust Victorian Institute of Marine Science Zoological Board of Victoria
Minister of Consumer Affairs	Ministry of Consumer Affairs	Consumer Affairs Council Market Court Motor Car Traders Committee	Small Claims Tribunal
Minister for Economic Development	Ministry for Economic Development		Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation Geelong Regional Commission Small Business Development Corporation Victorian Economic Development Corporation
Minister of Education	Ministry of Education	Committee of Classifiers Council of Public Education Primary Teachers' Registration Board Secondary Teachers' Registration Board Teachers Registration Council Teachers Tribunal Technical Teachers' Registration Board	Council of Adult Education State College of Victoria Victorian Institute of Secondary Education Victorian Post Secondary Education Commission
Assistant Minister of Education			Special Education Authority State Council for Special Education
Minister for Employment and Training	Ministry for Employment and Training	Victorian Technology Advisory Committee Victorian Employment Committee	Industrial Training Commission
Minister of Forests	State Forests	Forests Commission	Baw Baw Alpine Reserve Committee of Management Board of Forestry Education Mt Buller Alpine Reserve Committee of Management Timber Promotion Council

VICTORIA — GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES—*continued*

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Minister of Health	Health Commission	Advanced Dental Technicians Licensing Committee Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Board Cinematograph Operations Board Dental Technicians Licensing Committee Dieticians Registration Board Food Standards Committee Foreign Practitioners Qualification Committee Health Advisory Council Hospitals Accreditations Committee Hospitals Superannuation Board Medical Board Plumbers and Gasfitters Board Poisons Advisory Committee Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee Victorian Psychological Council	Anti-Cancer Council Cancer Institute Board Chiroprodists Registration Board Dental Board of Victoria Fairfield Hospital Board Optometrists Registration Board Pharmacy Board Physiotherapists Registration Board Specialist Practitioners Qualification Committee Victorian Nursing Council
Minister of Housing	Ministry of Housing	Building Societies Advisory Committee Co-operative Housing Advisory Committee Co-operative Societies Advisory Council Credit Societies Reserve — Fund Committee Death Benefits Advisory Committee Decentralised Industry Housing Authority Home Finance Trust Housing Commission Teacher Housing Authority Urban Land Authority* Urban Renewal Advisory Committee	Housing Advisory Council
Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	Victorian Ethnic Affairs Advisory Council Victorian Immigration Advisory Council	
Minister of Labour and Industry	Labour and Industry	Board of Examiners for Steam Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants Board of Examiners for Welders of Boilers and Pressure Vessels Board of Examiners (Under the Scaffolding Act) Building Industry Long Service Leave Board Conciliation and Arbitration Boards Hospitals Remuneration Tribunal Industrial Relations Commission Industrial Safety Advisory Council Liquor Control Commission Scaffolding Regulations Committee Workers Compensation Board	Hairdressers Registration Board Motor Accidents Board
Minister of Lands	Crown Lands and Survey	Coastal Management and Co-ordination Committee Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Management Committee Place Names Committee Surveyor's Board Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board	Melbourne Cricket Ground Trustees Yarra Bend Park Trustees
Minister for Local Government	Local Government	Building Qualifications Board Building Regulations Committee Land Valuation Boards of Review Local Government Advisory Board Municipal Auditors Board Municipal Clerks Board Municipal Electrical Engineers Board Municipal Valuation Fees Committee Valuer's Qualification Board Victoria Grants Commission	Local Authorities Superannuation Board
Minister for Minerals and Energy	Minerals and Energy	Board of Examiners for Engine Drivers Board of Examiners for Mine Managers Board of Examiners for Quarry Managers Coal Mine Workers Pensions Tribunal Driller's Licensing Board Extractive Industries Advisory Committee Groundwater Advisory Committee Sludge Abatement Board Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Board	Electrical Approvals Board Falls Creek Advisory Council Victorian Solar Energy Council Gas and Fuel Corporation State Electricity Commission Victorian Brown Coal Council

* The Urban Land Authority is associated with the Ministry of Housing and the Department of Planning.

VICTORIA — GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES—*continued*

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Minister for Planning	Department of Planning	Historic Buildings Classification Sub-Committee Historic Buildings Preservation Council Planning Consultative Council Town Planning Appeals Tribunal* Urban Land Authority †	Geelong Regional Commission Loddon/Campaspe Regional Planning Authority Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (Planning Division) Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Planning Authority
Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Ministry for Police and Emergency Services	Police Medical Board Police Superannuation Board Registrar of Private Agents	Country Fire Authority Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeals Tribunal Metropolitan Fire Brigade Board Metropolitan Fire Brigade Superannuation Board Police Discipline Board Police Services Board Road Safety and Traffic Authority Safety Inspection Advisory Committee
Premier	Department of the Premier	Equal Opportunity Board Promotions Appeals Board Public Service Board Public Works Committee State Co-ordination Council State Development Committee State Relief Committee	
Minister for Property and Services	Property and Services	Public Records Advisory Council	
Minister for Public Works	Public Works	Architects Registration Board Government Buildings Advisory Council Port Phillip Pilot Slick and Superannuation Board State Accommodation Committee Victorian Public Offices Corporation	Geelong Harbor Trust Port of Melbourne Authority Portland Harbor Trust
Minister of Transport	Ministry of Transport	Metropolitan Transit Council Transport Regulation Board	Country Roads Board Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority Railway Construction and Property Board Street Lighting Committee Victorian Railways Appeal Board Victorian Railways Board West Gate Bridge Authority
Treasurer	Treasury	Bookmakers and Bookmakers Clerks Registration Board Hardship Relief Board Investment Advisory Committee State Superannuation Board Tender Board	Premiums Committee State Savings Bank of Victoria
Minister of Water Supply	Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission Water Resources Council	Ballarat Water Commissioners Dandenong Valley Authority First Mildura Irrigation and Urban Water Trusts Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works West Moorabool Water Board Various local water (203) and sewerage (131) authorities Various river improvement and drainage trusts (32)
Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation	Youth, Sport and Recreation	Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board Racecourse Licences Board State Recreation Council State Sports Council State Youth Council	Greyhound Racing Control Board Totalizator Agency Board Trotting Control Board

* Legislation has been enacted which will replace the Tribunal with a Planning Appeals Board.

† Also associated with the Ministry of Housing.

In the following list, each statutory authority is classified under the heading which is nearest to its main function:

**VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION**

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|---|--|
| <p>1. <i>Legal, protective, and registry services</i>
 Adult Parole Board
 Appeal Costs Board
 Boards of Inquiry
 Country Fire Authority
 Credit Societies Reserve Fund Committee
 Crimes Compensation Board
 Law Reform Advisory Council
 Law Reform Commissioner
 Legal Aid Commission
 Legal Aid Committee
 Metropolitan Fair Rents Board
 Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board
 Office of the Ombudsman
 Raffles and Bingo Permits Board
 Youth Parole Board
 Victorian Taxation Board of Review</p> <p>2. <i>Regulation of primary production</i>
 Australian Barley Board
 Commercial Fisheries Licensing Panel
 Country Grain Handling Improvement Authority
 Citrus Fruit Marketing Board
 Dairy Produce Board
 Geelong Grain Handling Improvement Authority
 Licensing Appeals Tribunal (Commercial Fisheries)
 Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust
 Portland Grain Handling Improvement Authority
 Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee
 Poultry Farmer Licensing Review Committee
 Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board
 Tobacco Quota Appeals Tribunal
 Tobacco Quota Committee
 Tomato Processing Industry Negotiating Committee
 Victorian Dairy Industry Authority
 Victorian Dried Fruits Board
 Victorian Egg Marketing Board
 Victorian Fishing Industry Council
 Victorian Wheat Advisory Committee
 Young Farmers Finance Council</p> <p>3. <i>Regulation of industry and commerce</i>
 Consumer Affairs Council
 Extractive Industries Advisory Committee
 Market Court
 Motor Car Traders Committee
 Premiums Committee
 Small Claims Tribunal
 Transport Regulation Board
 Transport Region Consultative Committee
 Victorian Broiler Industry Negotiating Committee
 Wine Grape Processing Industry Negotiating Committee</p> | <p>4. <i>Regulation of labour conditions</i>
 Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Tribunal
 Conciliation and Arbitration Boards
 Hospital Remuneration Tribunal
 Hospitals Superannuation Board
 Industrial Appeals Committees
 Industrial Relations Commission
 Industrial Training Commission
 Local Authorities Superannuation Board
 Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeal Tribunal
 Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Board
 Regional Advisory Committees
 Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Board
 Workers Compensation Board</p> <p>5. <i>Regulation of general standards</i>
 Advisory Committee on Building in Alpine Areas
 Building Regulations Committee
 Co-operative Housing Advisory Committee
 Co-operative Societies Advisory Council
 Deputy Public Trustee
 Food Standards Committee
 Fire Safety Advisory Committee
 Foundation and Underpinning Advisory Committee
 Land Valuation Boards of Review
 Liquor Control Commission
 Marine Board
 Metropolitan Transit Council
 Motor Accidents Board
 Municipal Valuation Fees Committee
 Place Names Committee
 Planning Consultative Council
 Premiums Committee
 Public Trustee
 Safety Inspection Advisory Committee
 Sewerage Advisory Committee
 Scaffolding Regulations Committee
 State Classification of Publications Board
 Stock Medicines Board
 Street Lighting Committee
 Victorian Abattoir and Meat Inspection Authority</p> <p>6. <i>Regulation of professional and occupational standards</i>
 Advanced Dental Technicians Qualifications Board
 Architects Registration Board
 Board of Examiners for Engine Drivers (Coal Miners)
 Board of Examiners for Engine Drivers (Mines)
 Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Coal Mines Act)</p> |
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VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION—*continued*

Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Mines Act)	Ballarat Water Commissioners
Board of Examiners for Quarry Managers	Baw Baw Alpine Reserve Committee
Board of Examiners for Steam Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants	Building Societies Advisory Committee
Board of Examiners for Welders of Boilers and Pressure Vessels	Building Trustees (The)
Board of Examiners (under the Scaffolding Act)	Central Advisory Council to the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board
Board of Forestry Education	Coastal Management and Co-ordination Committee
Bookmakers and Bookmakers Clerks Registration Committee	Community Advisers Panel
Building Qualifications Board	Country Roads Board
Chiropodists Registration Board	Dandenong Valley Authority
Chiropractors and Osteopaths' Registration Board	Decentralized Industry Housing Authority
Cinematograph Operators Board	Emerald Tourist Railway Board
Committee of Classifiers — Primary, Secondary, Technical	Environment Protection Appeal Board
Companies Auditors Board	Environment Protection Authority
Council of Legal Education	Environment Protection Council
Dental Board	Exhibition Trustees
Dental Technicians Licensing Committee	Falls Creek Advisory Council
Dietitians Registration Board	First Mildura Irrigation Trust
Drillers' Licensing Board	Fisheries Management Committee
Electrical Approval Board	Forest Reserve Committee of Management
Estate Agents Board	Forests Commission
Foreign Practitioners Qualifications Committee	Gas and Fuel Corporation
Hairdresser's Registration Board	Geelong Harbor Trust Commissioners
Industrial Training Commission	Geelong Regional Commission
Medical Board	Government Buildings Advisory Council
Motor Car Traders Committee	Grain Elevators Board
Municipal Auditors Board	Ground Water Advisory Committee
Municipal Clerks Board	Historic Buildings Classification Sub-Committee
Municipal Electrical Engineers Board	Historic Buildings Preservation Council
Municipal Engineers Board	Home Finance Trust
Optometrists' Registration Board	Housing Advisory Committee
Pharmacy Board of Victoria	Housing Commission
Physiotherapists' Registration Board	Land Conservation Council
Plumbers and Gasfitters Board	Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board
Primary Teachers' Registration Board	Local Government Advisory Board
Registry of Estate Agents	Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority
Registrar of Private Agents	Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works
Scaffolding Regulations Committee	Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board
Secondary Teachers' Registration Board	Melbourne Tourism Authority
Specialist Practitioners Qualification Committee (of the Medical Board)	Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority
Surveyors Board	Mt Buller Alpine Reserve Committee of Management
Teacher Registration Council	Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Management Committee
Technical Teachers' Registration Board	National Parks Advisory Council
Trade Committees	National Parks Advisory Committee
Valuers' Qualification Board	National Parks Service
Veterinary Board of Victoria	Port of Melbourne Authority
Victorian Psychological Council	Port Phillip Authority
Victorian Nurses Council	Port Phillip Authority Consultative Committee
<i>7. Public utility, conservation, and development</i>	Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners
Albury-Wodonga Corporation (Victoria)	Public Records Advisory Council
	Public Works Committee
	Railway Construction and Property Board

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION—*continued*

Road Safety and Traffic Authority	Council of Public Education
Rural Finance Commission	Council of the Science Museum of Victoria
Shrine of Remembrance Trustees	Council of Trustees of the National Gallery
Sludge Abatement Board	Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust
Small Business Development Corporation	Greyhound Racing Control Board
Soil Conservation Authority	Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board
State Bank of Victoria	Institute of Educational Administration
State Co-ordination Council	Library Council of Victoria
State Development Committee	Melbourne Cricket Ground Trustees
State Electricity Commission	National Museum of Victoria Council
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	Racecourse Licences Board
Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority	Raffles and Bingo Permits Board
Timber Promotion Council	State Classification of Publications Board
Town Planning Appeals Tribunal	State College of Victoria
Trustees of various cemeteries	State Council for Special Education
Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Planning Authority	State Library and National Museum Building Committee
Urban Renewal Advisory Committee	State Recreational Council
Various local water and sewerage authorities	State Sports Council
Various regional tourist authorities	State Youth Council
Various river improvement and drainage trusts	Totalizer Agency Board
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board	Trotting Control Board
Victoria Grants Commission	Victoria Institute of Secondary Education
Victorian Brown Coal Council	Victorian Advisory Council on Agricultural Education
Victorian Conservation Trust	Victorian Arts Centre Trust
Victorian Economic Development Corporation	Victorian Council for the Arts
Victorian Government Travel Authority	Victorian Ethnic Affairs Advisory Council
Victorian Public Offices Corporation	Victorian Film Corporation
Victorian Railways Board	Victorian Immigration Advisory Council
Victorian Solar Energy Council	Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences Council
Victorian Urban Land Council	Victorian Institute of Secondary Education
Water Resources Council	Victorian Post-Secondary Education Committee
West Gate Bridge Authority	Yarra Bend Park Trustees
West Moorabool Water Board	Zoological Board of Victoria
Western Metropolitan Market Trust	
Westernport Regional Planning Authority	
8. Social welfare	10. Public health
Child Development and Family Services Council	Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria
Correctional Services Council	Cancer Institute Board
Crimes Compensation Board	Fairfield Hospital Board
Death Benefits Advisory Committee	Filled Milk Advisory Committee
Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board	Geelong and District Cultural Committee
Equal Opportunities Board	Health Advisory Council
Family Welfare Advisory Council	Hospitals Accreditation Committee
Land Tax Hardship Relief Board	Imitation Milk Advisory Committee
Patriotic Funds Council	Medical Board of Victoria
Probate Duty Hardship Relief Board	Milk Pasteurization Committee
Social Welfare Training Council	Poisons Advisory Committee
State Relief Committee	Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee
9. Education and recreation	11. Industrial health
Archaeological Relics Advisory Committee	Industrial Safety Advisory Council
Council of Adult Education	12. Internal administrative services
Council of Legal Education	Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramway Appeal Board

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION—*continued*

Motor Accidents Tribunal Office of the Building Industry Long Service Leave Board Pilots Superannuation Board Police Discipline Board Police Medical Board Police Service Board Promotion Appeals Board	Public Service Board State Accommodation Committee State Insurance Office State Superannuation Board State Tender Board Teacher Housing Authority Teachers' Tribunal Victorian Railways Board of Discipline
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Public general Acts of Victoria

The following list shows the departments or ministries responsible for the administration of the public Acts of general application in Victoria which were in effect at 1 September 1981 or which had then been passed by the Victorian Parliament to come into force at a later date.

The list does not include references to Acts that are spent or expired or to Amending Acts, Appropriation Acts, Finance Acts, or other Acts containing miscellaneous provisions.

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE
1958 CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1981

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act 1973</i>	Agriculture	<i>Bail Act 1977</i>	Law
<i>Aboriginal Affairs (Transfer of Functions) Act 1974</i>	Premier	<i>Bank Holidays Act 1958</i>	Premier
<i>Aboriginal Lands Act 1970</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Barley Marketing Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Acts Enumeration and Revision Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Bees Act 1971</i>	Agriculture
<i>Acts Interpretation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Benefit Associations Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Administration and Probate Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act 1970</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Administrative Law Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Bread Industry Act 1959</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Adoption of Children Act 1964</i>	Community Welfare	<i>Broiler Chicken Industry Act 1978</i>	Agriculture
<i>Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966</i>	Services also Law Agriculture	<i>Building Contracts (Deposits) Act 1962</i>	Consumer Affairs
<i>Age of Majority Act 1977</i>	Law	<i>Building Industry Long Service Leave Act 1975</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Agent-General's Act 1958</i>	Community Welfare	<i>Building Societies Act 1976</i>	Housing
<i>Agricultural Chemicals Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Business Franchise (Petroleum Products) Act 1979</i>	Treasury
<i>Agricultural Colleges Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Business Franchise (Tobacco) Act 1974</i>	Treasury
<i>Agricultural Education Cadetships Act 1969</i>	Agriculture	<i>Business Investigation Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Air Navigation Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Business Names Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>Albany-Wodonga Agreement Act 1973</i>	Economic Development	<i>Cadet Surveyors Act 1964</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Alcoholics and Drug-dependent Persons Act 1968</i>	Health also Law	<i>Cancer Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Amendments Incorporation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Canned Fruits Marketing Act 1979</i>	Agriculture
<i>Anzac Day Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Carriers and Innkeepers Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Appeal Costs Fund Act 1964</i>	Law	<i>Cattle Compensation Act 1967</i>	Treasury also Agriculture
<i>Arbitration Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Cemeteries Act 1958</i>	Health also Law
<i>Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Charities Act 1978</i>	Law
<i>Architects Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Children's Court Act 1973</i>	Law
<i>Attorney-General and Solicitor-General Act 1972</i>	Law	<i>Chiropodists Act 1968</i>	Health
<i>Auction Sales Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Chiropractors and Osteopaths Act 1978</i>	Health
<i>Audit Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1961</i>	Transport
		<i>Cluster Titles Act 1974</i>	Local Government
		<i>Coal Mines Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
		<i>Collusive Practices Act 1965</i>	Law

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1981—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Commonwealth Arrangements Act 1958</i>	Premier	<i>Development Areas Act 1973</i>	Economic Development
<i>Commonwealth Places (Administration of Laws) Act 1970</i>	Law	<i>Developmental Railways Act 1958</i>	Transport
<i>Community Welfare Services Act 1970</i>	Community Welfare Services	<i>Dietitians Registration Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Companies Act 1961</i>	Law	<i>Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act 1961</i>	Consumer Affairs
<i>Companies (Acquisition of Shares) (Application of Laws) Act 1981</i>	Law	<i>Dog Act 1970</i>	Local Government
<i>Companies and Securities (Interpretation and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Application of Laws) Act 1981</i>	Law	<i>Domicile Act 1978</i>	Law
<i>Constitution Act 1975</i>	Law also Premier	<i>Drainage Areas Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958</i>	Property and Services	<i>Drainage of Land Act 1975</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Constitutional Convention Act 1972</i>	Law	<i>Dried Fruits Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Constitutional Powers (Coastal Waters) Act 1980</i>	Law also Premier	<i>Economic Development Act 1981</i>	Economic Development
<i>Constitutional Powers (Request) Act 1980</i>	Law also Premier	<i>Education Act 1958</i>	Education
<i>Construction Safety Act 1979</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Educational Grants Act 1973</i>	Treasury
<i>Consumer Affairs Act 1972</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Educational Institutions (Guarantees) Act 1976</i>	Treasury
<i>Co-operation Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Egg Industry Stabilization Act 1973</i>	Agriculture
<i>Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958</i>	Housing	<i>Electoral Provinces and Districts Act 1974</i>	Property and Services
<i>Coroners Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Electric Light and Power Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Council of Law Reporting in Victoria Act 1967</i>	Law	<i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i>	Conservation
<i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1970</i>	Conservation
<i>Country Roads Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Equal Opportunity Act 1977</i>	Premier
<i>County Court Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Essential Services Act 1958</i>	Premier
<i>Courts Administration Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>Estate Agents Act 1980</i>	Law
<i>Court Security Act 1980</i>	Law	<i>Evidence Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Credit Reporting Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Explosives Act 1960</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Crimes Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Extractive Industries Act 1966</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Crimes (Offences at Sea) Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Farm Produce Merchants and Commission Agents Act 1965</i>	Agriculture
<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1972</i>	Law	<i>Fences Act 1968</i>	Law also Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Fertilizers Act 1974</i>	Agriculture
<i>Crown Proceedings Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Filled Milk Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Cul-de-sac Applications Act 1965</i>	Law	<i>Films Act 1971</i>	Law
<i>Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963</i>	Local Government	<i>Finance Brokers Act 1969</i>	Law
<i>Dandenong Valley Authority Act 1963</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Firearms Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Deakin University Act 1974</i>	Education	<i>Fisheries Act 1968</i>	Conservation
<i>Decentralization Advisory Committee Act 1964</i>	Economic Development	<i>Foreign Judgements Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>Decentralized Industry (Housing) Act 1973</i>	Economic Development	<i>Forests Act 1958</i>	Forests Commission
<i>Decentralized Industry Incentive Payments Act 1972</i>	Economic Development	<i>Friendly Societies Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Decimal Currency Act 1965</i>	Treasury	<i>Fruit and Vegetables Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Dental Technicians Act 1972</i>	Health	<i>Frustrated Contracts Act 1959</i>	Law
<i>Dentists Act 1972</i>	Health	<i>Fuel Emergency Act 1977</i>	Premier
		<i>Gas Act 1969</i>	Minerals and Energy
		<i>Gas and Fuel Corporation Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
		<i>Gas Franchise Act 1970</i>	Minerals and Energy
		<i>Geelong Harbor Trust Act 1958</i>	Public Works
		<i>Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust Act 1980</i>	Arts
		<i>Geelong Regional Commission Act 1977</i>	Economic Development
		<i>Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1981—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Gift Duty Act 1971</i>	Treasury	<i>Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act 1972</i>	Conservation
<i>Goods Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Land Settlement Act 1959</i>	Rural Finance Commission
<i>Gordon Technical College Act 1976</i>	Education	<i>Land Tax Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Government Buildings Advisory Council Act 1972</i>	Public Works	<i>Landlord and Tenant Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Government Employee Housing Authority Act 1981</i>	Housing	<i>Lands Compensation Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Grain Elevators Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>La Trobe University Act 1964</i>	Education
<i>Grain Handling Improvement Authorities Act 1979</i>	Agriculture	<i>Latrobe Valley Act 1958</i>	Premier also State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Groundwater Act 1969</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Law Reform Act 1973</i>	Law
<i>Hairdressers Registration Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Legal Aid Commission Act 1978</i>	Law
<i>Harbor Boards Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Legal Profession Practice Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Hawkers and Pedlars Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education Act 1972</i>	Law
<i>Health Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Libraries Act 1958</i>	Arts
<i>Health Commission Act 1977</i>	Health	<i>Library Council of Victoria Act 1965</i>	Arts
<i>Health (Fluoridation) Act 1973</i>	Health	<i>Lifts and Cranes Act 1967</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Hire-Purchase Act 1959</i>	Law	<i>Limitation of Actions Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Historic Buildings Act 1974</i>	Planning	<i>Liquefied Gases Act 1968</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Home Finance Act 1962</i>	Treasury	<i>Liquefied Petroleum Gas Act 1958*</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Hospitals and Charities Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Liquefied Petroleum Gas Subsidy Act 1980</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Hospitals Remuneration Tribunal Act 1978</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Liquor Control Act 1968</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965</i>	Health	<i>Listening Devices Act 1969</i>	Law
<i>Housing Act 1958</i>	Housing Commission	<i>Litter Act 1964</i>	Local Government
<i>Imitation Milk Act 1969</i>	Agriculture	<i>Livery and Agistment Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Imperial Acts Application Act 1980</i>	Law	<i>Local Authorities Superannuation Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Imperial Law Re-enactment Act 1980</i>	Law	<i>Local Government Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Local Government Department Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1966</i>	Law
<i>Industrial Relations Act 1979</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Magistrates' Courts Act 1971</i>	Law
<i>Industrial Safety Advisory Council Act 1960</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975</i>	Law
<i>Industrial Training Act 1975</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Maintenance Act 1965</i>	Law
<i>Inflammable Liquids Act 1966</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Margarine Act 1975</i>	Agriculture
<i>Institute of Educational Administration Act 1980</i>	Education	<i>Marine Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Instruments Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Marine Stores and Old Metals Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Joint Select Committee (Road Safety) Act 1979</i>	Premier	<i>Market Court Act 1978</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Marketable Securities Act 1970</i>	Law
<i>Juries Act 1967</i>	Law	<i>Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Labour and Industry Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Markets Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Land Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Marriage Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Land Conservation Act 1970</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Married Women's Superannuation Fund Act 1968</i>	Treasury
		<i>Medical Act 1958</i>	Health
		<i>Medical Practitioners Act 1970</i>	Health
		<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958</i>	Local Government

* Repealed by Act No. 7754 which is not yet in operation.

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1981—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Ombudsman Act 1973</i>	Premier
<i>Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Act 1970</i>	Transport	<i>Optometrists Registration Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Melbourne University Act 1958</i>	Education	<i>Parliamentary Committees Act 1968</i>	Premier
<i>Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust Act 1977</i>	Local Government	<i>Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1962</i>	Premier
<i>Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978</i>	Premier	<i>Parliamentary Officers Act 1975</i>	Premier
<i>Mental Health Act 1959</i>	Health also Community Welfare Services	<i>Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968</i>	Premier
<i>Metric Conversion Act 1973</i>	Local Government	<i>Partnership Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Patriotic Funds Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Act 1976</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Pawnbrokers Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Pay-roll Tax Act 1971</i>	Treasury
<i>Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Penalties and Sentences Act 1981</i>	Law
<i>Milk Board Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Pensions Supplementation Act 1966</i>	Treasury
<i>Milk Pasteurization Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968</i>	Law
<i>Minerals and Energy Act 1976</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Petrol Pumps Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Mines Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Petroleum Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Mining Development Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Petroleum Products Subsidy Act 1965</i>	Treasury
<i>Ministry for Conservation Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Ministry for the Arts Act 1972</i>	Arts	<i>Pharmacists Act 1974</i>	Health
<i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs Act 1973</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Physiotherapists Act 1978</i>	Health
<i>Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Act 1976</i>	Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	<i>Planning Appeals Board Act 1980</i>	Planning
<i>Ministry of Transport Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Pipelines Act 1967</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Mint Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Poisons Act 1962</i>	Health
<i>Monash University Act 1958</i>	Education	<i>Police Assistance Compensation Act 1968</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Money Lenders Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Police Offences Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Motor Accidents Act 1973</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Police Regulation Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Motor Boating Act 1961</i>	Police and Emergency Services also Transport	<i>Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Motor Car Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services also Country Roads Board also Transport	<i>Port Phillip Authority Act 1966</i>	Port Phillip Authority
<i>Motor Car Traders Act 1973</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Portland Harbor Trust Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Act 1972</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Post-Secondary Education Act 1978</i>	Education
<i>Municipalities Assistance Act 1973</i>	Local Government also Treasury	<i>Post-Secondary Education Remuneration Tribunal Act 1980</i>	Education
<i>National Companies and Securities Commission (State provisions) Act 1981</i>	Law	<i>Poultry Levy (Collection Arrangements) Act 1965</i>	Agriculture
<i>National Gallery of Victoria Act 1966</i>	Arts	<i>Poultry Processing Act 1968</i>	Agriculture
<i>National Museum Council of Victoria Act 1970</i>	Arts	<i>Pounds Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>	Conservation	<i>Printers and Newspapers Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Navigable Waters (Oil Pollution) Act 1960</i>	Public Works	<i>Private Agents Act 1966</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Nurses Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Probate Duty Act 1962</i>	Treasury
		<i>Professional Boxing Control Act 1975</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation
		<i>Property Law Act 1958</i>	Law
		<i>Protection of Animals Act 1966</i>	Conservation
		<i>Provincial Sewerage Authorities Association of Victoria Act 1966</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
		<i>Psychological Practices Act 1965</i>	Health

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1981—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Public Account Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Small Business Development Corporation Act 1976</i>	Economic Development
<i>Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966</i>	Treasury	<i>Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Public Authorities Marks Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (Victoria) Act 1971</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Public Contracts Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958</i>	Soil Conservation Authority
<i>Public Lands and Works Act 1964</i>	Public Works	<i>Soldier Settlement Act 1958</i>	Rural Finance Commission
<i>Public Records Act 1973</i>	Property and Services	<i>Stamps Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Public Safety Preservation Act 1958</i>	Premier	<i>State Bank Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Public Service Act 1974</i>	Premier	<i>State Co-ordination Council Act 1975</i>	Premier
<i>Public Trustee Act 1958</i>	Premier	<i>State Development Committee Act 1958</i>	Premier
<i>Public Works Committee Act 1958</i>	Premier	<i>State Electricity Commission Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Racing Act 1958</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation	<i>State Employees Retirement Benefits Act 1979</i>	Treasury
<i>Railway Construction and Property Board Act 1979</i>	Transport	<i>State Insurance Office Act 1975</i>	Treasury
<i>Railway Lands Acquisition Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>State Library National Gallery National Museum and Institute of Applied Science Act 1960</i>	Arts
<i>Railways Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>State Relief Committee Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Railways Standardization Agreement Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (Special Projects) Act 1969</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Rain-making Control Act 1967</i>	Agriculture	<i>Statistics Act 1958</i>	Property and Services
<i>Recreation Vehicles Act 1973</i>	Conservation	<i>Status of Children Act 1974</i>	Law
<i>Reference Areas Act 1978</i>	Conservation	<i>Stock (Artificial Breeding) Act 1962</i>	Agriculture
<i>Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959</i>	Property and Services	<i>Stock Diseases Act 1968</i>	Agriculture
<i>Religious Successory and Charitable Trusts Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Stock Foods Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Residential Tenancies Act 1980</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Stock Medicines Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>River Improvement Act 1958</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Strata Titles Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>Road Traffic Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Subordinate Legislation Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>Rural Finance Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Summary Offences Act 1966</i>	Law
<i>Rural Finance and Settlement Commission Act 1961</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Summer Time Act 1972</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Sale of Human Blood Act 1962</i>	Health	<i>Sunday Entertainment Act 1967</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Sale of Land Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Superannuation Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Scaffolding Act 1971*</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Superannuation Act 1975</i>	Treasury
<i>Science Museum of Victoria Act 1970</i>	Arts	<i>Superannuation Benefits Act 1977</i>	Treasury
<i>Seaman's Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Supreme Court Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Second-hand Dealers Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Survey Co-ordination Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Securities Industry Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>Surveyors Act 1978</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Securities Industry (Application of Laws) Act 1981</i>	Law	<i>Swine Compensation Act 1967</i>	Treasury also Agriculture
<i>Seeds Act 1971</i>	Agriculture	<i>Tattersall Consultations Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Senate Elections Act 1958</i>	Property and Services	<i>Taxation Appeals Act 1972</i>	Law
<i>Settled Land Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Teaching Service Act 1958</i>	Education
<i>Sewerage Districts Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Temperance Halls Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Shearers Accommodation Act 1976</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Theatres Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Sheep Branding Fluids Act 1963</i>	Agriculture		
<i>Sheep Owners Protection Act 1961</i>	Police and Emergency Services		

* Repealed by Act No. 9271 which is not yet in operation.

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1981—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Tobacco Leaf Industry Stabilization Act 1966</i>	Agriculture	<i>Victorian Film Corporation Act 1976</i>	Arts
<i>Tomato Processing Industry Act 1976</i>	Agriculture	<i>Victorian Fishing Industry Council Act 1979</i>	Conservation
<i>Town and Country Planning Act 1961</i>	Planning	<i>Victorian Government Travel Authority Act 1977</i>	Economic Development
<i>Town and Country Planning (Amalgamation) Act 1980</i>	Planning	<i>Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences Act 1974</i>	Conservation
<i>Trade Unions Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Victorian Institute of Secondary Education Act 1976</i>	Education
<i>Transfer of Land Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Victorian Public Offices Corporation Act 1974</i>	Public Works
<i>Transport Regulation Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Victorian Solar Energy Council Act 1980</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Trustee Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Vital State Projects Act 1976</i>	Premier
<i>Trustee Companies Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Volunteer Civil Defence Workers Compensation Act 1972</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Unauthorized Documents Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Warehousemen's Liens Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Unclaimed Moneys Act 1962</i>	Treasury	<i>Water Act 1958</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Underseas Mineral Resources Act 1963</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Water Resources Act 1975</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Unlawful Assemblies and Processions Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Waterworks Trusts Association of Victoria Act 1966</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Act 1976</i>	Planning	<i>Weights and Measures Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Urban Land Authority Act 1979</i>	Planning	<i>West Gate Bridge Authority Act 1980</i>	Planning
<i>Urban Renewal Act 1970</i>	Housing	<i>West Moorabool Water Board Act 1968</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Vagrancy Act 1966</i>	Law	<i>Wheat Marketing Act 1979</i>	Agriculture
<i>Valuation of Land Act 1960</i>	Local Government	<i>Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection Act 1958</i>	Forests Commission
<i>Vegetation and Vine Diseases Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Wild Life Act 1975</i>	Conservation
<i>Venerable Diseases Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Wills Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Wine Grape Processing Industry Act 1978</i>	Agriculture
<i>Veterinary Surgeons Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Wire Netting Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Victoria Conservation Trust Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Wodonga Area Land Acquisition Act 1973</i>	Economic Development
<i>Victoria Grants Commission Act 1976</i>	Local Government	<i>Workers Compensation Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Victoria Law Foundation Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Wrongs Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Victorian Arts Centre Act 1979</i>	Arts	<i>Youth, Sport and Recreation Act 1972</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation
<i>Victorian Brown Coal Council Act 1978</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Zoological Parks and Gardens Act 1967</i>	Conservation
<i>Victorian College of the Arts Act 1981</i>	Education		
<i>Victorian Dairy Industry Authority Act 1977</i>	Agriculture		
<i>Victorian Economic Development Corporation Act 1981</i>	Economic Development		

Public Bodies Review Committee

Introduction

While there are several ways in which members of Parliament and the community generally can be better informed on the activities of government, a major source of information for acquiring an understanding of government, and a principal instrument of reform, is the Parliamentary Committee. However, both the quantity and quality of information available to members of Parliament, and their level of understanding of the machinery of government, is considerably enhanced if the Parliamentary Committee is provided with substantial authority and real independence, such as is held by the Public Bodies Review Committee.

By passing the *Parliamentary Committees (Public Bodies Review) Act* 1980, No. 9367, which received Royal Assent on 18 March 1980, the Victorian Parliament established a Select all party eight member Public Bodies Review Committee with powers to review the efficiency, effectiveness, structure, and role of Victoria's public bodies.

The Public Bodies Review Committee, which is the first comprehensive adoption of the "sunset principle" by a government outside the United States, may receive a reference from either House of Parliament or the Governor in Council and has the authority to recommend that a public body cease to exist. Furthermore, such a recommendation automatically takes effect on the anniversary of the Committee's report being laid before Parliament, unless Parliament otherwise resolves. To acquire the information necessary to meet the responsibilities that attend such an authority, the Committee may, with the full legal authority of Parliament, call for any persons, papers, or records it regards as essential to its Inquiry.

When reviewing a public body, to determine whether it should cease to exist or continue in an altered form, the Committee is by its Act obliged to consider *inter alia* the following matters:

- (1) Whether or not the objects of the body are worth pursuing in contemporary society;
- (2) whether or not the body pursued its objects efficiently, effectively and economically; and
- (3) whether or not the structure of the body is suited to the activities it performs.

The Parliamentary Committees (Public Bodies Review) Act has three features which provide the Public Bodies Review Committee with a focus, authority, and independence which is unique among Westminster Parliaments. First, as illustrated above, the Public Bodies Review Committee has a responsibility to evaluate, judge, and make recommendations on government policy; it is, therefore, clearly concerned with policy review. Second, as mentioned above, when the Committee recommends a public body be wound up, then unless the Parliament otherwise resolves, that body ceases to exist one year after the date of recommendation. Third, the Committee may commission and have payment made for research, collection of information, and analysis without reference to government.

Committee's first reference

The Committee held its first meeting on 29 March 1980, and on 2 April 1980 the Legislative Assembly resolved: "That the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and each constituted water, sewerage, drainage and river improvement trust or authority except the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, be referred to the Public Bodies Review Committee for review". That reference was subsequently amended by the Governor in Council to include Local Governing Bodies constituted under the *Water Act* 1958, the Ballarat Water Commissioners and Sewerage Authority, the Dandenong Valley Authority, the First Mildura Irrigation Trust, the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust, the Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board, the Mildura Urban Water Trust, the West Moorabool Water Board, and the personnel of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission.

That reference involved the review of virtually all of Victoria's water resources and the vast majority of public bodies involved in water, sewerage, drainage, and river improvement. An indication of the magnitude of the reference is that the capital expenditure borne by the State in respect of country water supply and river improvement, excluding the Melbourne metropolitan area and excluding country sewerage, irrigation, or drainage expenditure, stood at \$618m at 30 June 1979. Specifically, that reference embraced the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, 186 waterworks trusts, 15 local governing bodies under the Water Act, five water authorities created under special Act, 136 sewerage authorities, four drainage authorities, and 28 river improvement trusts.

Victoria's public bodies generally, and certainly those bodies in the Committee's first reference, vary greatly. Some bodies are more than a century old, tracing their origins to gold mining days, while others have been created during the period of the Committee's investigation. Annual budgets range from \$2,000 to around \$100m; the number of staff employed ranges from a part-time employee to some three thousand on full-time. Most bodies were created by Order of the Governor in Council under either the Water Act or

the Sewerage Districts Act. In fact only seven of the bodies in that reference were established by Parliament by specific separate enactment.

Committee's philosophy of review

The operations of the Public Bodies Review Committee are characterised by the application of five broad principles:

- (1) Any review would, as far as possible, be an open process, i.e., all hearings would be held in public.
- (2) To the maximum extent possible, the Committee would seek to enter into genuine discussion and dialogue with all relevant groups in their own domain.
- (3) The Committee's hearings and other information derived from bodies under review would be augmented by independent high quality research.
- (4) The Committee itself should be the working, reviewing agency, not merely a sanctioning authority endorsing the work of others.
- (5) The Committee's work should be the constructive review of policy, not merely a process of negative audit.

At the outset of its activities the Public Bodies Review Committee identified certain broad characteristics of Victoria's public bodies sector. There are in excess of 9,000 public bodies in Victoria, and approximately 1,000 such bodies may be regarded as significant, although less than 5 per cent of Victoria's public bodies are established by an independent Act of Parliament. Some of Victoria's public bodies (e.g., State Electricity Commission, Gas and Fuel Corporation, VicRail, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works) are among Australia's largest enterprises and indeed Victoria's public bodies account for more than two-thirds of all public sector expenditure in Victoria. Most public bodies are monopolies and many of these with monopoly power have autonomous taxing authority, i.e., they may levy taxes, rates, fares, etc., without the approval of Parliament and thus the greatest proportion of Victoria's public bodies (approximately 80 per cent) do not report their activities to Parliament; many are not even obliged to report to the responsible Minister.

Most reports made to Parliament (usually provided on an annual basis) are in a form that has little relevance, even comprehensibility, to the member of Parliament. A number of those reports have been up to five years late, and less than 20 per cent of Victoria's public bodies are audited by the Auditor-General. Public bodies employ approximately two-thirds of Victoria's public sector workforce and some 25-30 per cent of capital formation each year in Victoria is effected by a public body.

AUDITOR-GENERAL

The Auditor-General of Victoria is appointed by the Governor in Council pursuant to the *Audit Act* 1958. He is not subject to the Public Service Act nor is he subject to the direction of a Minister.

His function is to undertake an independent audit and review of the Treasurer's and departmental accounts, to verify the Treasurer's annual statement, and to submit a report on these matters to the Legislative Assembly of the Victorian Parliament. He is also required to audit the accounts of statutory authorities such as the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, harbour trusts, and universities. He is a countersignatory to the Governor's Warrant, the constitutional document by which the Governor authorises the withdrawal of money from the Public Account.

To carry out his statutory responsibilities, the Audit Act gives the Auditor-General the power to address queries and observations to the Treasurer or other persons; for these purposes he may require the production of books and papers. He may also disallow expenditure and, in certain circumstances, surcharge a defaulter with the amount of any deficiency or loss.

The Auditor-General's staff is not appointed under the Audit Act but under the Public Service Act. Under the Public Service Act the Auditor-General has all the powers of, or exercisable by, a permanent head of a department.

OMBUDSMAN

The office of the Ombudsman was established in Victoria on 30 October 1973. The principal function of the Ombudsman is to investigate administrative actions taken in any

government department or public statutory body, to which the Ombudsman Act applies, or by any officer or employee of a municipality.

There are no government departments not subject to the Ombudsman Act. There are, however, some public statutory bodies not so subject, they being those presided over by a Judge, magistrate, barrister, or solicitor, presiding as such by virtue of a statutory requirement and appointment. In practice, they are those tribunals, boards, and commissions exercising a quasi judicial function, such as the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal.

For the most part, the Ombudsman's investigations are initiated in consequence of complaints received by him from the public, but he may initiate an investigation of his own motion and without any complaint being made concerning the matter to be investigated.

The Ombudsman has been given wide powers to enable him to competently carry out investigations and there are substantial penalties for impeding him. He may summon witnesses and call for the production of documents and in the context of an investigation by him, the Crown is not entitled to claim such privilege in respect of either the production of documents or the giving of evidence, as is allowed in legal proceedings. He may regulate his procedures on an investigation in such manner as he thinks fit.

The Ombudsman's purpose in investigating a complaint concerning a particular administrative action is to establish whether the action complained of:

- (1) Appears to have been taken contrary to law;
- (2) was unreasonable, unjust, oppressive, or improperly discriminatory;
- (3) was in accordance with a rule of law or a provision of an enactment or practice that is or may be unreasonable, unjust, oppressive, or improperly discriminatory;
- (4) was taken in the exercise of a power or discretion, and was so taken for an improper purpose or on irrelevant grounds, or on the taking into account of irrelevant considerations;
- (5) was a decision that was made in the exercise of a power or discretion and the reasons for the decision were not, but should have been given;
- (6) was based wholly or partly on a mistake of law or fact; or
- (7) was wrong.

If he comes to the conclusion that the action does fall into one or other of those categories, the Ombudsman is empowered to make such recommendation as he thinks fit. He has no power to compel compliance with his recommendation but, if no steps are taken within a reasonable time to implement it, he may send a copy of his report and recommendation to the Governor in Council and to the Victorian Parliament.

Up to June 1981, Victorian authorities have overwhelmingly seen fit to comply with his recommendations.

Complaints to the Ombudsman are required to be in writing, but in cases of urgency he can and will act on the strength of a telephone call.

The Ombudsman is required to report to the Victorian Parliament annually, may report at more regular intervals and, in fact, reports quarterly.

VICTORIA—OMBUDSMAN: COMPLAINTS RECEIVED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Particulars	1973-1981
Complaints —	
Received	15,514
Investigated (a)	4,286
Found to be made out	754
Recommendations —	
No recommendations necessary	289
No remedial action possible	314
Formal recommendation —	
Submitted	142
Complied with	135

(a) The figures exclude cases outside the jurisdiction of the Ombudsman, disposed of by preliminary inquiry, or deferred.

Further references: Ombudsman, *First Six Years of Office, 1973-79*. *Victorian Year Book*, 1980, pp. 138-40; Public Records Office, 1981, pp. 128-9; Victorian Government Printing Office, 1981, pp. 129-30

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

Local government is the third tier in the tripartite structure of government in Australia (namely, Commonwealth, State, and local). Since it is closely connected with the life of communities, it can become sensitive to, and aware of, their needs. Local government in Victoria is administered by 211 municipalities operating under the oversight of the Minister for Local Government, and his Permanent Head, the Secretary for Local Government, with a staff of some 265 officers as well as about 60 members of various boards, most of whom serve part-time.

Although the Minister and his Department administer a number of other Acts of the Victorian Parliament, as set out in detail in Chapter 6 of this *Year Book*, the majority of the powers and duties given to municipal councils are contained in the *Local Government Act 1958*. The Act which is subject to continuing review in the light of changing community needs, sets out the framework within which each Council is free to exercise control over matters of local concern. While the traditional role of the Department was essentially to assist councils in executing the wishes of their electors within this framework as well as providing a measure of protection to, and a point of reference for communities served by local government, the Minister for Local Government in a Ministerial Statement made on 10 December 1980 gave the Victorian Government's response to the Final Report of the Board of Review of the Role, Structure, and Administration of Local Government in Victoria. In the statement, the Victorian Government undertook to strengthen the Local Government Department in the fields of policy formulation and research so that it could play an expanded role generally, and in particular in the development of an inter-Departmental approach to policies related to local government.

The Victoria Grants Commission set up by the *Victoria Grants Commission Act 1976* recommends the allocation of untied grant money to municipalities, carries out inspections, conducts hearings, takes evidence, and generally makes such investigations as are considered necessary to determine:

- (1) Special needs and disabilities of a municipality;
- (2) the effort made by the municipality to function effectively and provide reasonable services; and
- (3) any other matters of special significance to the municipality.

In addition to these functions, the Department encompasses the Valuer-General's Office and the Weights and Measures Branch. The Valuer-General is responsible under the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* for the co-ordination and standards of valuations made for rating purposes, including those for all municipal, water, sewerage, planning, and land tax authorities.

The Weights and Measures Branch is headed by the Superintendent of Weights and Measures, who administers weights and measures legislation, instructs inspectors in the performance of their duties, and generally supervises the local administration, the design of equipment, and the examination of weighing and measuring equipment.

The Minister is also responsible for a number of Boards and Committees including the Land Valuation Boards of Review, Building Regulations Committee and Referees, Local Government Advisory Board, Municipal Auditors Board, Building Qualifications Board, Municipal Clerks Board, Municipal Electrical Engineers Board, Municipal Engineers Board, Municipal Valuation Fees Committee, Valuers Qualification Board, Local Authorities Superannuation Board, and the Building and Development Control Administration Office. (For the history of the Department, see the *Victorian Year Book 1972*, pages 103-5.)

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1981*, p. 131

PLANNING IN VICTORIA

Department of the Premier: State Co-ordination Council

The State Co-ordination Council was established under the *State Co-ordination Council Act 1975*. The Council consists of the heads of 40 State Government agencies, i.e. departments, statutory authorities, and ministries, and reports directly to the Premier. The Council assists the Victorian Government to make decisions on matters of major or special significance which involve the use of the State's resources, by providing advice based on consultation between agencies.

The Council has been active in the following areas:

- (1) *Victoria's strategy for the eighties*. The Council helped develop the strategy, and assists in its implementation by advising on priorities, consultative procedures, and regulatory processes.
- (2) *Metropolitan strategy*. The Council has examined the strategy so as to identify and resolve possible conflicts with other Victorian Government policies and plans, and to assist the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works in implementation.
- (3) *Energy policies*. A senior committee of the Council has examined and reported upon the main elements affecting Victorian energy supply and demand, giving particular attention to aspects of policy and consultation at Commonwealth and State level.
- (4) *Regional development*. The Council has assisted in planning the development of the La Trobe Valley, and has prepared population forecasts indicating the effects of various levels of increased activity. A similar exercise has also been undertaken for Portland. At Western Port, Albury-Wodonga, Geelong, and Port Melbourne-South Melbourne, regional developments are facilitated by co-ordinating groups.
- (5) *Delivery of human services*. The Council has completed a classification of all human services programmes delivered by State agencies, as well as a study of appropriate arrangements for crime statistics and research. Current work includes statistics on drug usage, transport requirements of disadvantaged groups, and facilitation of the delivery of personal health and welfare services.
- (6) *Decentralisation, regionalisation, and devolution*. The Council is examining means for encouraging State agencies to place more of their staff in country regions and is also assisting the development of arrangements which will devolve responsibility more to regional and local levels.
- (7) *Information network*. The Council operates a consultative procedure for major proposals, and services many State agency requirements for information on activities, statistics, and forecasts.

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book 1978*, pp. 155-6

Department of Planning

General

The *Town and Country Planning (Amalgamation) Act 1980* came into effect early in 1981, and under its provisions the Department of Planning assumed the responsibilities of the former Ministry for Planning and the former Town and Country Planning Board (see *Victorian Year Book 1980*, pages 143-6). The Department administers the Town and Country Planning Act, the Development Areas Act, the Historic Buildings Act, and the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Act. It also oversees the planning functions of regional and other responsible authorities, the Maldon Architectural Advisory Service and Restoration Fund, the Beechworth-Chiltern-Yackandandah Advisory Service and Restoration Fund, and the Queenscliff Advisory Service and Restoration Fund.

The Planning Consultative Council is established under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Amalgamation) Act, and its functions are:

- (1) To advise the Minister on any matter relating to the use or development of land concerning which the Minister wishes to have the advice of Council; and
- (2) to carry out the duties imposed on the Council by section 8C in relation to statements of planning policy and by section 16 of the *Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Act 1976* in relation to regional strategy plans.

The Council consists of seven members appointed by the Governor in Council of whom:

- (1) One (who shall be the Chairman) shall be a person having knowledge and experience in town and country planning and who is nominated by the Minister;
- (2) two shall be persons having experience in local government and community affairs and who are nominated by the Minister after consideration of panels of names submitted to him under this section by councils of municipalities and organisations concerned with local government and community affairs;
- (3) two shall be persons having experience in town and country planning and who are nominated by the Minister after consideration of panels of names submitted to him under this section by organisations concerned with town and country planning;

(4) one shall be a person who is nominated by the Minister after consideration of panels of names submitted to him under this section by industrial or commercial organisations; and

(5) one shall be a person who is concerned with the balanced development of Victoria and who has regard to the need to conserve the natural resources of the State in the light of all relevant social, economic, environmental, ecological, and scientific factors after consideration of panels of names submitted to him under this section by organisations concerned with the balanced development of Victoria and who is nominated by the Minister.

The Amalgamation Act also enables the Minister to establish committees consisting of such number of persons as the Minister thinks fit to advise him on certain matters as he refers to such committees.

The Town and Country Planning (General Amendment) Act of 1979 came into effect late in 1980 and provided for a new procedure for public comment on proposed planning schemes. Under the previous Act, persons or bodies had the right of objection to proposals in proposed planning schemes or amendments on exhibition. However, it was considered that a wrong perspective could be obtained when persons were able only to object. Objections did not allow for submissions to be put by persons who favoured a scheme or an amendment.

The General Amendment Act allows for written submissions to enable persons who basically agree with a proposed scheme to make suggestions on some aspects of the scheme. Those who fully support a scheme may now comment accordingly. The same Act also provides for consideration of submissions by responsible authorities and others as the Minister directs. The responsible authority after consideration of each submission must determine to:

- (1) Uphold or adopt the proposed scheme;
- (2) modify or alter the scheme to include all variations requested in the submission; and
- (3) refer the submission to a panel appointed by the Minister.

The panels appointed by the Minister comprise three persons selected for their expertise in planning and associated areas, and who are independent of the administration itself. A panel is required to report and recommend to the responsible authority after the hearing and consideration of submissions on any modifications or alterations to a planning scheme. On adoption of the scheme, the authority is required to submit it to the Minister for consideration, together with a copy of all written submissions and a statement of those other submissions which the Minister has directed it to consider. The authority is also required to submit a copy of the report of the panel which considered submissions.

Objectives

The Department of Planning's responsibilities are to promote and co-ordinate regional planning throughout Victoria; prepare Statements of Planning Policy; supply planning services to responsible authorities at the local level; prepare planning schemes for specified areas; review and report on planning schemes; and advise the Minister on any planning matter.

As an instrument of the Minister, the Department may carry out studies of investigation areas under the provisions of the Development Areas Act, and report to the Minister. This Act empowers the Governor in Council to designate areas suitable for accelerated development or controlled development.

Statements of Planning Policy

These statements provide regional authorities and municipalities with firm guidelines of Victorian Government policy, and ensure that planning is co-ordinated and that planning proposals fall within overall aims.

The Department of Planning prepares statements of planning policy in consultation with the State Co-ordination Council. They are referred by the Minister to the Governor in Council, and upon approval they are tabled in the Victorian Parliament for twenty-four days and may be revoked by resolution of either House within that time.

The tabling in Parliament of Statements of Planning Policy was introduced by amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act in December 1978 to enable the

Victorian Parliament to monitor government action in planning, and to increase public input to planning policies through local members of Parliament.

Statements of Planning Policy are binding on all responsible authorities including government departments. They encompass demographic, social, and economic factors and influences; conservation of natural resources for social, economic, environmental, ecological, and scientific purposes; land characteristics and land-use; amenity and environment; communications; and the development requirements of public authorities.

Application of Statements

There are Statements of Planning Policy for Western Port, Mornington Peninsula, the Dandenong Ranges, the Yarra River, Geelong, the Macedon Ranges, Central Gippsland brown coal deposits, and highway areas and land-use around aerodromes. A Statement of Planning Policy is being prepared for the whole of the Victorian coastline.

Planning for specific areas

Where a local planning authority does not have the resources, the Department of Planning prepares planning schemes for special areas or projects of State significance. The Department also assists regional authorities in the preparation of strategy plans through special task forces which comprise staff drawn from various Victorian Government agencies.

Melton and Sunbury

Under the Development Areas Act, Melton and Sunbury were the subject of studies by the former Town and Country Planning Board, after which the Victorian Government confirmed their future development as satellite cities.

The Melton-Sunbury Management Committee comprises four councillors, a nominee from the Board of Works and from the Department of Planning, and an independent member representing local interests. Planning for the satellite cities has placed special emphasis on social and community needs and the services and facilities to satisfy them, in addition to a commitment to industrial and employment development.

The Victorian Government has reiterated its continuing commitment to the project, which it sees as a co-operative venture between the two councils, the Victorian Government, and private enterprise.

Commonwealth Government co-operation

Commonwealth Government involvement with Victoria in planning began in 1972 with the establishment of the Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development to enable the two Governments to work together in this area.

Commonwealth interest was directed towards the development of new metropolitan and regional growth centres, providing assistance for other urban and regional projects, and funds for land acquisition, metropolitan improvement programmes, and sewerage works.

The Department of Urban and Regional Development was subsequently incorporated into the Department of Environment, Housing and Community Development. The functions of this Department have now been redistributed to the Department of Housing and Construction, the Department of National Development and Energy, and the Department of Home Affairs.

The major planning project between the two Governments and the Government of New South Wales is the Albury-Wodonga Growth Centre (see below). The Governments are represented by the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation. Following legislative amendments in the Victorian Parliament, planning control over a large portion of the growth centre area has been returned to the local responsible authorities. However, the Development Corporation retains planning control over land that it owns in the area and in particular over those areas where development will take place in future years.

Albury-Wodonga

In recognition of the need to encourage a more balanced development of the Australian continent and to provide an alternative to capital city living for those who seek a different life style, the Commonwealth, New South Wales, and Victorian Governments agreed on 25 January 1973 to plan and develop the twin cities of Albury-Wodonga. On 23 October

1973, the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria confirmed this intention when they signed the Albury-Wodonga Area Development Agreement at Wodonga. The Agreement provided for the establishment of a development corporation as a statutory authority to plan and develop the areas designated for new growth.

The Corporation operates under the overall direction of a Ministerial Council consisting of the Commonwealth Minister for National Development, the New South Wales Minister for Industrial Development and Decentralisation, and the Victorian Minister for Economic Development.

Land acquisition and development projects are funded by interest bearing advances from the Commonwealth Government, while both the New South Wales and Victorian Governments accept responsibility for providing all their normal services and facilities at a time to meet requirements of newly developed communities.

While the initial target population for the growth centre by the turn of the century was set at 300,000, this was reduced to between 150,000 and 200,000 following a review of the Commonwealth's urban development programmes in 1976-77. Revised growth projections call for an increase in population of about 15,000 during the five year period from 1980 to 1985. This, in turn, was based on the attraction of 2,500 new basic jobs and 6,500 total new jobs in that period. These targets were based on assessment of a reasonably attainable growth of employment opportunities following examination of actual performance, current industrial negotiations, and planned industrial expansion of existing employers.

Private sector employment in Albury-Wodonga since 1973 has shown an impressive rate of growth. Over that period the average annual increase has been 6.4 per cent compared with 0.7 per cent for Australia as a whole. Private capital investment in Albury-Wodonga has grown substantially from \$30.2m in 1973-74 to \$117.2m in 1981-82. Average per capita investment in the growth centre for the nine year period to 1981-82 was 36.0 per cent higher than the national average.

The Corporation's land development programme has been concentrated at Thurgoona (a new centre almost contiguous to existing Albury) and in and around the urban centre of Wodonga. Baranduda, a proposed new development some 7 kilometres south-east of Wodonga will be commenced within the next two to three years.

On the Victorian side of the growth centre, two modern industrial parks have been developed to provide 70 hectares of fully serviced industrial sites and a number of factory units for relocating industries. In addition, a newly developed Wodonga Business Park provides 34 landscaped sites for commercial and light industrial uses.

Attractive residential estates have been developed to the west and south of Wodonga to accommodate the new population. More than four hundred houses have also been constructed for rental to key personnel moving to the area to service newly located manufacturing and service industries.

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book* 1979, p.134

Regional authorities

There are regional planning authorities for the Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, and the Loddon-Campaspe region. A regional planning authority was established for Geelong, but in 1977 its planning powers were transferred to the Geelong Regional Commission which continues to act as a regional planning authority for this area. The functions of the Western Port Regional Planning Authority were transferred to the Department of Planning in 1981.

Regional offices of the Department of Planning are established at Ballarat, Bendigo, Traralgon, Warrnambool, and Wodonga. Regional offices are to be established at other key locations throughout Victoria.

Further references: *Victorian Year Book* 1978, pp. 276-8, Western Port Regional Planning Authority, 1980, p. 146

Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority

In 1974, the Victorian Government decided on major changes in planning for the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges and the Minister for Planning established an interim study group to review existing policy and zonings and make recommendations. Legislation for

the Yarra Valley and Dandenong region was outlined by the Minister for Planning in a Ministerial Statement in 1976, and later that year the interim study group published its report entitled *Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Land Management and Stream Environmental Study*.

The Act establishing the Authority was gazetted in April 1977. The Act charges the Authority with providing increased protection for the special features and character of the region; with implementing Statements of Planning Policy for the region; and with preparing a regional strategy plan. The strategy plan was placed on public exhibition late in 1980 for a period of five months. The Minister for Planning has appointed a review panel of five members (two from the Authority and three individuals with a knowledge of planning and conservation) to review submissions on the strategy plan and to report to the Authority. By October 1981, the report was in the process of being finalised.

There are four municipalities in the region, which comprises an area of 3,000 square kilometres: Healesville, Lilydale, Sherbrooke, and Upper Yarra. There are 15 members of the Authority: two councillors from each Shire appointed for three years; three residents representing primary production, conservation, and commercial interests, who are appointed for three years; and a total of four members nominated for three years by the Ministers of Forests, Conservation, Social Welfare, and by the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

Geelong Regional Commission

Geelong is the largest provincial city in Victoria and given its geographic location and comprehensive road, rail, and port facilities, Geelong is the major transport and distribution centre for south-western Victoria. As a trade centre, Geelong has a wider sphere of influence, extending beyond its defined regional boundaries, and its port serves not only the Western District but also much of Victoria.

In its report entitled *Organization for Strategic Planning*, the Town and Country Planning Board pointed out that Geelong merited special investigation as a practical alternative to the future sprawling growth of Melbourne. In response to this view, the Victorian Government established the Geelong Regional Commission in August 1977. The Commission's role is to be responsible for the co-ordination, planning, and management of the future development of the Geelong region. The Commission comprises representatives of the nine municipalities of the region, as well as experts on rural matters, industry, and industrial relations.

The Geelong Regional Planning Scheme which was approved by the Victorian Government in October, 1981, provides for the region's expansion over the next decade. Future needs, to ensure that infrastructure for development is available on time and in the right locations, are presently being investigated. In carrying out its charter to promote controlled industrial development of the region, the Commission has purchased a total of 51.5 hectares of land in the South Geelong, Breakwater, Cowie Street, and Furner Street areas since 1977 for development into fully serviced industrial estates. These estates are catering for several new and expanding industries in the region which are crucial to enable the region to improve its economic stability currently weakened by unemployment problems. In 1980, the Commission also purchased 204 hectares of land to cater for heavy industries, such as metal and chemical processing, which have been showing considerable interest in the region.

In conjunction with its development and promotion of Geelong as an attractive location for industry, the Commission is undertaking several studies aimed at making the region an attractive place in which to live. An example of such a study is the "City by the Bay" development announced in November 1981.

Further reference: Port Phillip Authority, *Victorian Year Book 1974*, pp. 273-4

New role for the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works

Provision is made in the Town and Country Planning (General Amendment) Act for the introduction of local development schemes. These schemes represent a new concept in planning. The effect of the schemes will be to place responsibility for detailed local planning with local councils. This will enable the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of

Works to concentrate its expertise further in devising and updating strategy for the Melbourne metropolitan area. The Board will also assist and advise local councils in the preparation of local development schemes in the framework of such strategy.

Historic Buildings Preservation Council

The *Historic Buildings Act 1974* was proclaimed in May 1974 and is administered by the Historic Buildings Preservation Council. The Council is a part-time body which consists of ten persons. They are: a person nominated by the Minister for the Arts, a town planner nominated by the Department of Planning, the Valuer-General or a person nominated by him, and seven members appointed by the Governor in Council, each of whom represents an appropriate area of professional experience. The Council meets regularly and carries out on-site inspections of buildings of historic and/or architectural importance.

The functions of the Council are:

(1) To recommend to the Minister:

- (i) the buildings of architectural or historic importance which it considers should be added to the register;
- (ii) the designated buildings which it considers should be removed from the register; and
- (iii) any alteration which it considers should be made to any item in the register.

(2) of its own motion, or at the request of the Minister for Planning, to report to the Minister on any matter relating to designated buildings or to the administration of this Act.

The Council is also required to consider and evaluate all applications for permits to remove, alter, or demolish a designated building. It may serve an interim preservation order on the owner of any building which it is investigating where, in its opinion, such action is necessary or desirable for the purposes of achieving the objects of the Historic Buildings Act.

The Council may consider requests for financial assistance and make recommendations to the Minister that special assistance be granted to the owner of a designated building which is not economically viable and whose preservation is thereby endangered.

Architectural Advisory Services and Restoration Funds

The 1977-78 budget provided funds for the establishment of an Architectural Advisory Service and Restoration Fund to assist with the preservation and restoration of buildings of historical importance within the township of Maldon. The Architectural Advisory Service, located in the restored Tarrangower Times Office, is manned by an architect on Fridays and Saturdays and is a free service for local residents. Finance for restoration is in the form of grants and loans on a similar basis to that provided under the Historic Buildings Act.

This scheme has been extended to cover Beechworth-Chiltern-Yackandandah and Queenscliff.

Further references: State Planning Council, *Victorian Year Book* 1976, pp. 154-5; Re-structuring of old and inappropriate sub-divisions, 1978, p. 162; Town Planning Appeals Tribunal, 1978, p. 162; Urban Land Council 1979, p. 133; Town and Country Planning Board, 1980, pp. 143-4; Regional planning, 1980, pp. 145-6

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire authorities

Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board

Until January 1974, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District contributed one-third, and fire insurance companies transacting business in the same area provided two-thirds, of the amount required to maintain metropolitan fire brigades. As a result of amended legislation, operative since the beginning of 1974, contributions have subsequently been received in the proportions of one-eighth from the Victorian Government, one-eighth from municipal councils, and three-quarters from fire insurance companies. During 1980-81, contributions by municipalities were equivalent to 0.373 cents

in the dollar of the annual value of property, amounting to \$1.477m, while fire insurance companies contributed at a rate of \$34.55 for every \$100 of fire insurance premiums paid on insured property. Premiums received in the Metropolitan Fire District in 1980-81 amounted to \$95.68m.

Particulars of the revenue, expenditure, and loan indebtedness of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board for each of the years 1976-77 to 1980-81 are shown in the following table:

**VICTORIA—METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD:
REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.
(\$'000)**

Particulars	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
REVENUE					
Statutory contributions—					
Treasurer of Victoria	3,219	3,736	3,956	4,646	5,510
Municipalities	3,219	3,736	3,956	4,646	5,510
Insurance companies	19,262	22,423	23,736	27,782	33,061
Brokers and owners	357	525	443	530	533
Charges for services	2,309	2,428	2,670	3,480	4,385
Interest and sundries	1,440	2,062	979	929	1,172
Total	29,806	34,910	35,740	42,013	50,171
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries	20,013	22,014	25,419	29,104	33,138
Other	9,728	12,121	12,458	13,759	15,555
Total	29,741	34,135	37,877	42,863	48,693
Net surplus (+) or deficit (-)	+ 65	+ 775	-2,137	-850	+ 1,478
Loan indebtedness (at 30 June)	4,936	5,722	6,422	6,071	5,664

The following table shows particulars of the number of fire stations operated by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and the number of staff employed at 30 June for each of the years 1977 to 1981.

**VICTORIA—METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD: NUMBER
OF FIRE STATIONS AND STAFF EMPLOYED AT 30 JUNE**

Particulars	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Fire stations	48	48	48	48	48
Staff employed—					
Fire fighting	1,467	1,572	1,631	1,654	1,683
All other	292	292	323	350	365

Country Fire Authority

The headquarters of the Country Fire Authority are situated in Malvern, a suburb of Melbourne, where an operations centre is in direct radio contact with every fire control region throughout Victoria. At 30 June 1981, there were 122 permanent firefighters employed in brigades at Ballarat, Ballarat City, Bendigo, Boronia, Dandenong, Doveton, Frankston, Geelong, Norlane, North Geelong, Geelong West, and Springvale, with a total of 122 permanent brigade officers at these stations and at Belgrave, Chelsea, Mildura, Morwell, Shepparton, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Belgrave, Wodonga, and Fiskville Training Centre.

The revenue of the Country Fire Authority consists mainly of statutory contributions, in the proportion of one-third from the Victorian Treasury's Municipalities Assistance Fund and two-thirds from insurance companies underwriting fire risks in the country area of Victoria. There were 147 insurance companies thus contributing during 1980-81.

Up to 30 June 1981, the Authority had raised 162 loans, representing a total of \$26.1m, which has been used for the provision of buildings and equipment for brigades.

Particulars of revenue, expenditure, surplus, and loan expenditure and indebtedness of the Country Fire Authority, for each of the years 1976-77 to 1980-81, are shown in the

first of the following tables. The second table shows particulars of the number of fire brigades, personnel, and motor vehicles for the same years.

VICTORIA—COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY: REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.
(\$'000)

Particulars	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
INCOME					
Statutory contributions—					
Municipalities Assistance Fund	4,666	5,648	6,414	7,303	8,417
Insurance companies	9,311	11,295	12,828	14,606	16,834
Other	491	782	810	901	1,100
Total	14,468	17,725	20,052	22,810	26,351
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries and wages	6,657	7,652	8,877	9,809	11,456
Other	6,632	8,060	9,441	10,601	13,168
Total	13,289	15,712	18,318	20,410	24,624
Net surplus	1,179	2,013	1,734	2,400	1,727
Loan expenditure	1,823	3,295	2,066	2,025	3,104
Loan indebtedness (at 30 June)	9,086	10,831	13,291	16,354	19,515

VICTORIA—COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY: NUMBER OF FIRE
BRIGADES, PERSONNEL, AND MOTOR VEHICLES AT 30 JUNE

Particulars	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Fire brigades—					
Urban	215	215	215	215	215
Rural	1,058	1,058	1,067	1,065	1,066
Personnel—					
Permanent	471	515	548	576	590
Volunteer	110,697	109,100	107,061	106,874	107,699
Vehicular fleet—					
Self-propelled	1,539	1,611	1,746	1,773	1,876
Trailer units	429	422	476	472	486

Natural disasters and emergencies

Victoria State Emergency Service and Civil Defence Organisation

The Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is a branch of the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services. It operates under the provisions of the *Victoria State Emergency Act 1981*. Under this Act an "Emergency" means an emergency due to the actual or imminent occurrence of any event including an earthquake, flood, wind-storm, or other natural event; a fire; an explosion; a road accident or any other accident; a plague or epidemic; or a warlike act, whether directed at Victoria or a part of Victoria or any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth.

The functions of the VICSES are to:

- (1) Assist the Chief Commissioner of Police to plan and organise measures to deal with emergencies and their effects;
- (2) assist the bodies and organisations responsible for dealing with emergencies and their effects to discharge their responsibilities;
- (3) deal with floods and windstorms and their effects;
- (4) provide a rescue service for persons involved in road accidents; and
- (5) co-ordinate and assist bodies and organisations providing welfare services to persons affected by emergencies.

The Act also provides compensation protection and indemnity for registered members of the Service in performing their duties. It also empowers the Service to draw upon volunteer manpower during emergencies in addition to its registered members.

The headquarters of VICSES is located in Melbourne, with a Divisional Officer for each North and South Divisions of the Melbourne metropolitan area. There are ten permanently manned Regional Headquarters located at Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Dandenong, Geelong, Hamilton, Moe, Shepparton, Swan Hill, and Wodonga. The units of the VICSES, of which there were 133 municipal units and sub-units at 30 June 1981, are wholly manned by volunteer members of the Service, although the controller, or head, of each unit is a council nominee. The State, Division, and Regional Headquarters also have trained volunteers on their establishments. The functional divisions of these Headquarters are operations, communications, training, equipment and administration.

The structure of the VICSES is similar to that of the State Emergency Services of other States and Territories and has strong ties with the Commonwealth Natural Disasters Organisation, which is a branch of the Department of Defence.

Funding of the Service is derived from three levels. The Commonwealth Government, through the Natural Disasters Organisation, sponsors an equipment support programme and building subsidies for municipal units. The Victorian Government bears the administrative costs of the VICSES, including various grants and subsidies for local councils and their units. Local municipal councils provide for the administration of their local units. There is also voluntary fund raising at the local level.

The VICSES, in accordance with its responsibilities, is an active participant in the Victoria State Disaster Plan (DISPLAN) under the provisions of which its headquarters may be the alternative and/or supporting DISPLAN headquarters. The VICSES is also responsible for the operation of the State Disaster Welfare Plan, a sub-plan of DISPLAN. The extent of routine involvement of the VICSES in emergencies is indicated in the following table of operations:

VICTORIA—STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE: OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Type of operations	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Search and rescue	311	161	260	214
Road accident assistance	167	193	293	387
Aircraft incidents	2	7	9	7
Fire support	33	18	68	78
Flood	25	45	17	22
Wind storm	30	33	31	150
Welfare	9	1	5	23
Hazardous materials	5	3	7	10
Community service	10	61	81	52
Evacuation	3	2	—	4
Other	36	84	90	95
Total (a)	631	608	861	1,042

(a) An incident irrespective of magnitude, duration, or units deployed is recorded as one operation.

State Disaster Plan

The State Disaster Plan codifies arrangements for co-ordinating the resources of governmental agencies in coping with natural disasters and serious emergencies in Victoria. The Plan relates to three levels of disaster/emergency situations, namely:

Stage 1. Localised disasters or emergencies capable of being dealt with by the resources of government and local government agencies within the particular area.

Stage 2. Disasters or emergencies involving a number of localities, perhaps within a region of the State, and incidents of a nature where local resources are not able to cope, for example, flooding, bushfires, multi-storey building emergencies, passenger aircraft crash, industrial explosion, or large scale gas emission.

Stage 3. Disasters and emergencies of considerable magnitude which are beyond the capacity of local and regional resources and which require central co-ordination at State level, for example, major floods and bushfires.

The Chief Commissioner of Police acts as co-ordinator under the State Disaster Plan in situations where it is necessary to bring together the resources of a number of agencies to deal with a disaster or emergency. State organisations are allocated either combating roles,

for example, the Country Fire Authority and the Forests Commission in the event of bushfires, or supporting roles, for example, the Health Commission and the State Electricity Commission. Provision is made for the obtaining of assistance from Commonwealth agencies such as Telecom Australia and the Defence Forces.

Within the broad context of the State Disaster Plan, specific plans have been developed by combating authorities to deal with particular types of disasters and emergencies.

The State Disaster Plan also establishes procedures for the provision of relief for victims of disasters and emergencies involving the assistance of State and private agencies.

When a major disaster occurs, a Natural Disaster Relief Committee is formed to conduct inspections and consider reports to assess whether the Victorian Government should declare the locality affected as a disaster area. The Committee operates under the direction of the Premier and is chaired by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. It recommends the forms of assistance which may be required and co-ordinates the various types of government assistance which may be provided following a disaster.

Grants may be provided to repair or replace essential household items or for essential repairs to homes; to offset the cost of transporting fodder and stock; or to restore public and community assets. Loans may also be provided to primary producers at concessional rates of interest or to the proprietors of small businesses if they do not have ready access to conventional sources of finance. Primary producers may also apply to the Committee for cash grants in cases of personal hardship.

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