

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Victorian Government consists of the central Government composed of the departments of State and statutory bodies as described in the following pages, and a local government network of 211 municipalities as described in Chapter 6 on page 174.

Victorian Public Service

The Victorian Public Service consists of those officers and employees who staff the ministerial departments as distinct from those employed in statutory bodies, the teaching service, the police force, or in local government. Their duty is to administer legislation and implement the policies of ministers and permanent heads of departments. There are about 19,500 permanent officers who are grouped in three Divisions: the First Division comprising officers exercising the more important administrative or professional functions, the Second Division other officers performing duties of an administrative or professional nature, and the Third Division a wide range of positions, including clerical assistants, chauffeurs, tradesmen, various inspectors, etc.

Permanent heads are selected by the government of the day, mostly from within the Public Service. First Division officers usually are promoted from the Second Division, while entry to the Second Division requires a professional qualification or the passing of a competitive entrance examination. There is also special provision for the recruitment of graduates for administrative work in this Division. Appointment to the Third Division is based on acceptable educational and other qualifications. A cadetship scheme operates to complement recruitment in a number of areas.

Because of the career nature of the Service, the classification of officers within the Divisions provides for some progression by salary increments in most positions, commensurate with increased knowledge and experience but subject to a satisfactory level of performance. Creation of new offices or the abolition of existing offices within the Divisions is by Order of the Governor in Council after recommendation by the Public Service Board. For new offices the Treasury must specify that the necessary funds are available before the offices can be created.

About 9,500 persons are employed on a temporary basis and recruitment for permanent positions often comes from this group. While legislation limits their employment for a maximum period of two years, the Public Service Board may renew these engagements or make exemptions in certain cases. A further group of about 9,000 persons known as "exempt employees" are not subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act and are engaged in

intermittent or casual work, or are employed under the provisions of Commonwealth Awards, State Wages Boards Determinations, or at special rates determined by the Board.

Historical background to public service legislation, 1974

Public Service Board

Public Service Act 1958

The functions of the Public Service Board under the *Public Service Act 1958* included :

(1) The determination (subject to disallowance by Parliament) of salaries and wages, and the terms or conditions of service or employment in the Public Service of Victoria.

(2) The supervision and improvement of the recruitment of the Public Service.

(3) The making of all appointments (including promotions) to offices in the Public Service.

(4) The determination of appeals against non-recommendation for promotion.

(5) The hearing and determination of disciplinary charges referred to it by the Minister of the Department concerned.

(6) The classification of offices within the Public Service.

(7) The devising of means for promoting efficiency in the working of departments by :

(i) improved organisation and procedure,

(ii) closer supervision,

(iii) simplification of work,

(iv) co-ordination of the work of the various departments,

(v) limitation of staffs of departments to actual requirements,

(vi) the improvement of the training of officers, and

(vii) the avoidance of unnecessary expenditure.

(8) The exercise of a critical oversight over the methods of conducting business in departments.

In respect of the last two functions outlined, the Board's powers were advisory only.

Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Public Service

On 2 October 1973, Sir Henry Bland, Kt., C.B.E., was constituted and appointed to be a Board to inquire into and report upon the role, organisational structure, management, and staffing of the Victorian Public Service, and to recommend action considered necessary to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and economy of the Service, having particular regard to :

(1) Improvements that should be made in the machinery of government relating to the organisation, co-ordination, and control of departments, including the possible redistribution of functions;

(2) methods of improving the efficiency of the use of human and allied resources, with particular emphasis on staff training and development; and

(3) possible changes in conditions of recruitment, employment, and accommodation of public servants to ensure comparability with general standards elsewhere in the community and equality of opportunity for further personal development and advancement.

The First Report of the Board of Inquiry, which was tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 17 September 1974, recommended substantial revision of the *Public Service Act 1958*. A summary of the principal recommendations appears on pages 137-8 of the *Victorian Year Book 1976*. Following consideration of that report by the Victorian Government, many of the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry were incorporated in a new Public Service Act.

One of the recommendations not accepted by the Victorian Government relates to the representative on the Public Service Board elected by officers of

the Public Service. The Victorian Government decided that it would be inappropriate to remove the concept of an elected member in view of the increasing trend overseas towards employee participation on similar boards. The elected member was, therefore, retained but reference to the representative status of Public Service Board members has been removed.

The Second Report of the Board of Inquiry, which was tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 3 December 1974, dealt with organisational and administrative arrangements relating to conservation, environmental, and land-use planning matters.

The Third Report, which was tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 18 March 1975, was directed primarily at the organisational structure, management, and staffing of major administrative elements of the Education Department.

The Fourth Report was tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 7 September 1976 and dealt with personnel and certain administrative matters.

Public Service Act 1974

The Public Service Act 1974, which came into operation on 1 August 1975 repealed the *Public Service Act 1958* and incorporated most of the major recommendations of the first Report of the Board of Inquiry. The new Act was given Royal Assent on 20 December 1974 and two further Acts—the *Public Service (Transitional Provisions) Act 1975* and the *Public Service Act 1975*—were passed in April and December 1975, respectively. The amending Acts were necessary to facilitate technical, procedural and administrative matters arising out of the implementation of the principal Act.

The new Act, which is basically a wide-ranging revision of the *Public Service Act 1958*, incorporated the following principal provisions:

- (1) The powers and functions of the Public Service Board were substantially enlarged, particularly in regard to its management of the organisation and staffing of the Service. Section 16 of the Act requires the Board “. . . . to ensure that the Public Service is so organised and staffed as to be capable of performing its functions in the most efficient and economic manner”. It further provides for the Board “to assist in promoting the effective, efficient, and economic management and operation of departments and for that purpose to exercise a critical oversight of methods of conducting business in departments and to bring to the attention of permanent heads any improvements that appear to be necessary”.
- (2) Promotions Appeal Boards were established to consider appeals from officers concerning their failure to be provisionally promoted to offices in the Second and Third Divisions. Thus the Public Service Board was relieved of this function.
- (3) A new Divisional structure—First, Second, and Third, with permanent heads as a separate specified group—was introduced.
- (4) Methods of recruitment were changed, including provision for greater flexibility in relation to the appointment of persons not in the Public Service.
- (5) Long service leave became an entitlement after ten years, instead of fifteen years as previously provided.
- (6) Disciplinary provisions were revised and provision included for officers to appeal to an appropriate appeals tribunal against decisions in respect of the more serious charges laid against them.
- (7) Temporary employment was limited to a one year period with provision for a further period of employment of no more than one year unless the Board certified that temporary employment was needed to ensure that the work was performed.

Present functions of the Public Service Board

Under the *Public Service Act 1974*, the functions of the Public Service Board include:

- (1) 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 for that purpose to review and to keep under review the organisation of, and the recruitment for, the Public Service, and the facilities for the training and development of officers and employees;
- (2) assisting in promoting the effective, efficient, and economic management and operation of departments and, for that purpose, exercising a critical oversight of the methods of conducting business in departments and bringing to the attention of permanent heads any improvements that appear to be necessary, and from time to time advising the permanent heads of departments as to the measures that appear to the Board to be necessary or desirable to:
 - (i) improve the management, organisation, staffing, and procedures in the departments;
 - (ii) improve the conduct, co-ordination, and supervision of work performed in the departments;
 - (iii) eliminate unnecessary work and procedures in the departments; and
 - (iv) improve departmental staff training programmes;
- (3) advising the Premier of any measures which are beyond the powers of the Board or the permanent heads of departments that it considers necessary or desirable to enable the organisation and staffing of the Public Service and the co-ordination of the work of the departments to be improved;
- (4) recruitment and initial appointments to the Public Service;
- (5) the determination of appeals against provisional promotions to offices in the First Division. (The First Division consists of officers required to exercise the more important administrative or professional functions in the Public Service);
- (6) the determination (subject to disallowance by Parliament) of salaries, wages or other remuneration, and the terms and conditions of service or employment for officers and employees in the Public Service;
- (7) determining applications by officers for permission to engage in duties unconnected with their offices;
- (8) the classification of offices within the Public Service;
- (9) dealing with certain disciplinary charges in relation to senior officers; and
- (10) the making of Regulations (subject to disallowance by Parliament and with the approval of the Governor in Council) for and with respect to any matter which relates to the organisation, management, or discipline of the Public Service or generally for giving effect to the *Public Service Act 1974*.

Further reference, 1976

Auditor-General

The Auditor-General for 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, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, harbor trusts, and universities. He is a counter-signatory to the Governor's Warrant, the constitutional document by which the Governor authorises the withdrawal of public moneys 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 and he may require the production of books and papers. He may 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 as officers of the Audit Office in the Premier's Department.

Following recommendations of the Board of Inquiry into the Victorian Public Service, legislation in the form of the *Public Service Act* 1974 gave the Auditor-General, in respect of the staff of the Audit Office, all the powers of, or exercisable by, a permanent head of a department.

Victorian Government departments and ministries

The Victorian Public Service consists of the State Departments of Agriculture, Chief Secretary, Crown Lands and Survey, Education, Health, Labour and Industry, Law, Local Government, Mines, Premier, Public Works, Social Welfare, State Development, State Forests, Treasury, and Youth, Sport and Recreation, and the Ministries for the Arts, Conservation, and Planning, and the Ministries of Consumer Affairs, Fuel and Power, Housing, Transport, and Water Resources and Water Supply. These are the instruments of ministerial action, and legislative enactment is generally not required to establish, abolish, or reorganise a department, although this is often the method used. All but two of the departments are organised so that all their activities are related in some way to a general function. The exceptions are the Premier's and Chief Secretary's Departments which both embrace a wide variety of dissimilar activities.

Department of Agriculture

Minister : Minister of Agriculture

Permanent head : Director of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture provides a range of services to ensure an adequate supply of high quality agricultural products, while contributing to the protection of public health and the improvement of the environment.

Having proper regard to social and economic factors in the community, this role is achieved through the following functions: developing and reviewing Victorian Government policies, Acts, and Regulations, and attending to their administration; contributing to the development of national rural policies and participating in national programmes; protecting and improving the health of livestock, crops, and people; improving the skills, competence, and knowledge of people involved or interested in agriculture; assisting the rural community to adjust to changing circumstances; developing more efficient farming practices; the development of sound and stable marketing practices; and assisting in the planning, development, and use of natural resources and in the improvement of the environment in urban and rural Victoria. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1971, pages 105-8.)

The various branches and agencies are: Animal Health Services: Veterinary Field Services, Veterinary Laboratories, Veterinary Public Health; Animal Services: Animal Industries, Animal Research, Dairying; Plant Services: Plant Industries, Plant Research, Plant Standards; Education, Extension, and Economic Services; and Agricultural Chemical Services. The Milk Board and a number of other Boards also come under the jurisdiction of the Minister.

Chief Secretary's Department

Minister : Chief Secretary

Permanent head : Under Secretary

This Department performs many diverse activities. It is the direct descendant of the first office of government established in the Colony of Victoria. Originally it undertook most governmental activities, but over the years specific functions have been transferred to other departments and also it has acquired other functions in response to governmental needs. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1963, pages 100-4.)

The various branches are : State Insurance Office, Police (including Motor Registration Branch), Public Record Office, Government Shorthand Writers Office, Electoral Office, Registry of Estate Agents, State Emergency Service, Government Statist's Office (including the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages), and Registry of Private Agents.

In addition, a multiplicity of committees and boards come within the administration of the Chief Secretary. These are: Country Fire Authority, Crimes Compensation Tribunal, Estate Agents Committee, Exhibition Trustees, Liquor Control Commission, Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeal Tribunal, Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board, Motor Accidents Board, Motor Accidents Tribunal, Motor Car Traders Committee, Police Discipline Board, Police Medical Board, Police Service Board, Police Superannuation Board, Premiums Committee, Public Records Advisory Council, Road Safety and Traffic Authority, Seamen's Welfare Advisory Council, Seamen's Welfare Trust Committee, State Advisory Board on Publications, and Workers Compensation Board.

Department of Crown Lands and Survey

Minister : Minister of Lands

Permanent head : Secretary for Lands

This Department is responsible for the disposal, in various forms of tenure, of Crown lands for agricultural, pastoral, residential, and industrial purposes and survey work in this connection ; the management and control of the uncommitted Crown lands of the State; destruction of vermin and eradication of noxious weeds; co-ordination of all survey work in the State and compilation of comprehensive maps ; and provision of Crown land for recreational and other reserves. It also controls and maintains the Royal Botanic Gardens and the National Herbarium, Melbourne. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1968, pages 100-2.)

Education Department

Minister : Minister of Education

Permanent head : Director-General of Education

The function of the Education Department is to ensure that all 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. Courses are, as far as possible, flexible, appropriate to the needs of the individual school and local community, and adaptable to the changing needs of society. Much of the administration of the Department is now decentralised, each of the eleven educational regions in the State being controlled by a Regional Director of Education. The Department's policy is to give more decision making authority to individual schools and principals and to encourage community involvement in school affairs. The teaching service provides the teachers for all State primary and post-primary schools. The Department is responsible for general administration, including : the provision and maintenance of school buildings, furniture, and equipment ; teachers' salaries ; transport of children to schools in country areas ; and the awarding of teaching studentships and scholarships.

The six divisions, each administered by a director, are : Primary Education ; Secondary Education ; Technical Education ; Teacher Education ; Special Services ; and Planning Services. Details of all aspects of education within the State are covered in Chapter 25 of this *Year Book*.

(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 realisation : A centenary history of State education in Victoria*.)

Department of Health

Minister : Minister of Health

Permanent head : Secretary to the Department of Health

This Department is responsible for implementation and co-ordination of measures for public health, including prevention and cure of diseases; avoidance of fraud in connection with alleged remedies; treatment of physical defects and mental afflictions; training for health services; control, care, and treatment of mental defectives as well as epileptics; initiation and direction of research; and preparation and dissemination of information and statistics. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1974, pages 109–11.)

The various branches are: General Health; Mental Hygiene; Alcoholic and Drug Dependent Persons Services; Maternal and Child Welfare; and Tuberculosis.

Department of Labour and Industry

Minister : Minister of Labour and Industry

Permanent head : Secretary for Labour and Industry

The main functions of this Department are: the fixation of wages and conditions of employment generally; industrial relations, including the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes; control and regulation of matters affecting safety, health, and welfare and industry; training within industry; and statistical research in the industrial field. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1975, pages 140–4.)

These functions are performed by the Wages Board Secretariat, Industrial Training Commission, Industrial Relations Division, Office of Industrial Relations Co-ordination (Public Employing Authorities), and the following Inspectorates: Factories and Shops, Boilers and Pressure Vessels, Lifts and Cranes, and Scaffolding.

Law Department

Minister : Attorney-General

Permanent head : Secretary

The principal function of this Department is to provide administrative services to the Supreme and County Courts and also Magistrates', Children's, and Coroner's Courts in Victoria. Other functions include giving legal advice and assistance to the Government and the public, registration of transfers of land, registration of money lenders, drafting of statutes, maintaining a register of companies and businesses, and the administration of estates. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1965, pages 100–4. For further information on the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1974, pages 588–617; and *Victorian Year Book* 1976, pages 743–59.)

The various branches are: Courts; Crown Solicitor's Office; Public Solicitor's Office; Parliamentary Counsel's Office; Public Trust Office; Corporate Affairs Office; Office of Titles; and Registrar-General's Office.

Local Government Department

Minister : Minister for Local Government

Permanent head : Secretary for Local Government

This Department supervises administration by municipalities of the Local Government Act and related Acts, and is responsible for the oversight of government funds allocated to assist municipalities with certain construction works (e.g., recreational facilities and public halls in country areas). It also administers State weights and measures legislation. (For a history of local government in Victoria, see *Victorian Year Book* 1972, pages 103–5. For further information on the Department, see pages 174–6.)

The Valuer-General's Office, whose major function is to co-ordinate valuations made for councils and other rating authorities, is included in this Department.

Mines Department

Minister : Minister of Mines

Permanent head : Secretary for Mines

This Department administers legislation relating to petroleum exploration and production, mining, quarrying, groundwater resources, gas regulation, explosives, liquefied gases, and inflammable liquids.

It is responsible for the survey and assessment of the State's mineral resources and mapping Victoria's geological structure. It provides technical services, information, and financial assistance to the mining industry. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1970, pages 105-8.)

Premier's Department

Minister : The Premier

Permanent head : Secretary to the Premier's Department

The functions of the Department are administrative, regulatory, planning, developmental, and educational in character, and include co-ordinating the implementation of government policy. It acts as a channel of communication with other governments and is responsible for administering, and governmental contact with, the Office of the Agent-General in London. Also within its organisation is the Office of the Governor and the Executive Council.

In 1976, the Victorian Government established the State Co-ordination Council within the Department's administration to advise and assist on the formulation and evaluation of policies and programmes and to initiate and direct research projects. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1964, pages 81-4.)

The various branches are : Audit Office, Office of the Agent-General, Office of the Executive Council and Office of the Governor, Office of the Public Service Board (for the history of the Board, see *Victorian Year Book* 1976, pages 146-9), the Ministry for Federal Affairs, and the Community Services Centre incorporating Migrant Advisory and Anti-Discrimination Bureaux, the Government Information Office, and Women's Advisory Offices.

Public Works Department

Minister : Minister of Public Works

Permanent head : Director-General of Public Works

As State building construction authority, this Department provides design, construction, engineering, furnishing, maintenance, and consultant services for departments, government agencies, schools, and institutions. Purchase, rental, allocation of accommodation and security of property for governmental purposes, and telephone and janitorial services, are arranged.

It advises government on port and marine matters; develops, operates, and manages Victorian ports (except Melbourne, Geelong, and Portland); and controls coastal waters, foreshore protection and beach renourishment, dredging of shipping channels, navigation aids, and prevention of oil pollution of navigable waters. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1967, pages 98-100.)

Divisions : Administration, Building, and Ports and Harbors.

Social Welfare Department

Minister : Minister for Social Welfare

Permanent head : Director-General of Social Welfare

This Department provides services for families and children; deals with the problems of young persons and promotes youth welfare; controls all correctional

establishments; assists in rehabilitating persons on probation, under detention, and when released on parole; and provides training courses in matters pertaining to social welfare.

The various divisions are: Family Welfare, Youth Welfare, Prisons, Probation and Parole, Research and Statistics, Regional Services, and Training.

Department of State Development

Minister: Minister for State Development and Decentralization

Permanent head: Secretary for State Development

Activities of this Department are directed towards the balanced development of population and industry throughout Victoria; processing residency nominations from intending immigrants from the United Kingdom; assisting migrants with their reception and integration with the community; the development and promotion of tourist attractions and facilities in the State and providing tourist information.

Divisions: Industrial Development, Tourism, Immigration, and Ethnic Affairs.

State Forests Department

Minister: Minister of Forests

Permanent head: Chairman, Forests Commission

This Department controls and manages State forests, including the establishment, maintenance, protection, preservation, and renewal of hardwood and softwood varieties. It also regulates harvesting and marketing of forest produce, trains foresters, and supervises forest areas allotted for public recreation and water catchment.

Divisions: Administration, Economics and Marketing, Forest Protection, Forest Education and Research, Forest Management (including Forest Environment and Recreation), Forest Operations, and seven Field Divisions.

Treasury

Minister: The Treasurer

Permanent head: Director of Finance

The Treasury exercises overall control of financial administration. Its prime functions are the raising of revenue and control over governmental expenditure within the ambit of Parliamentary authority. It co-ordinates government policy where it has a financial aspect. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book 1966*, pages 97-100.)

The various branches are: State Taxation, Stamp Duties Office, Government Printer, State Tender Board, and State Superannuation Board.

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; and to improve facilities in Victoria for leisure-time pursuits. This involves regular consultation with public and private youth, sporting, and recreational organisations or bodies, and administering the *Racing Act 1958*, the *National Fitness Council of Victoria Act 1960*, and the *Professional Boxing Control Act 1975*.

Ministry for the Arts

Minister: Minister of the Arts

Permanent head: Director of the Arts

While the enabling Act was passed in 1972, this Ministry was not established as a separate Department until 1 August 1975. Its aims are to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding, appreciation, and practice of the

arts in Victoria through increased availability and accessibility; assistance in providing facilities for performance and display; and by continual assessment and encouragement.

The various branches are : National Museum, National Gallery of Victoria, Science Museum, State Film Centre, and State Library.

Ministry for Conservation

Minister : Minister for Conservation

Permanent head : Director of Conservation

This Ministry embraces a number of organisations dealing with the conservation and management of the State's natural resources. It is concerned with the management of the fishery and wildlife resources; the establishment, protection, and development of national parks and other forms of parks; the protection of the environment and the minimising of pollution through waste management; the reduction of adverse environmental effects associated with major works and projects; an overall responsibility for the effective management of the foreshore around Port Phillip Bay; appropriate future uses of the State's Crown land in the interests of the community; the conservation of the soils of the State and, where necessary, the restoration of damaged areas; the direction and co-ordination of regional environmental studies; and, in general, the co-ordination of activities directed towards effective management of natural resources.

The component agencies of the Ministry are : Fisheries and Wildlife, National Parks Service, Environment Protection Authority, Port Phillip Authority, Land Conservation Council, and Soil Conservation Authority.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs

Minister : Minister of Consumer Affairs

Permanent head : Secretary for Labour and Industry

This Ministry was created by legislation in 1973 and is administered by the Director of Consumer Affairs. Its functions are to give advice on consumer affairs legislation and other matters affecting consumers; initiate action to remedy infringements; receive complaints about fraudulent, illegal, or unfair trade or commercial practices regarding goods and services; and to conduct research into matters affecting consumers.

Ministry of Fuel and Power

Minister : Minister for Fuel and Power

Permanent head : Secretary for Fuel and Power

The Minister for Fuel and Power is responsible for the operations of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria. The Ministry's activities relate mainly to administering the *Fuel and Power Act* 1965 and parts of the *Pipelines Act* 1967. It is responsible for the development and co-ordination of energy policies for Victoria and granting permits to own and use pipelines conveying crude oil, natural gas, refined petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gas, and ethane gas.

A committee known as the Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee, established in 1975, is operating within the Ministry for the purpose of studying all aspects of the development of Victoria's brown coal resources other than for the generation of electricity and with particular emphasis on the production of liquid hydrocarbons. (See also chapter 12 for a more detailed description of the functions and operations of the Ministry.)

Ministry of Housing

Minister : Minister of Housing

Permanent head : Secretary of Housing

The functions of this Ministry are to improve existing housing, accommodate people of limited means, and redevelop insanitary areas. Its activities include

the fabrication of building components, housing for decentralised industry and the teaching service, home finance, and the regulation of co-operative societies.

The various branches and agencies are : Housing Commission ; Registry of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Societies ; Registry of Permanent Building Societies ; Home Finance Trust ; Teacher Housing Authority ; and Decentralized Industry Housing Authority.

Ministry for Planning

Minister : Minister for Planning

Permanent head : Secretary for Planning

This Ministry was created under the *Ministry for Planning Act 1973*, to be responsible for the administration of the Town and Country Planning and the Development Areas Acts, which were previously the responsibility of the Local Government Department. It ensures that Victorian Government planning policies are implemented by co-ordinating and assisting with the functions of the Town and Country Planning Board, regional planning authorities, and all other responsible authorities in Victoria.

Ministry of Transport

Minister : Minister of Transport

Permanent head : Director of Transport

This 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 the State's land transport system.

Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply

Minister : Minister of Water Supply

Permanent head : Chairman, State Rivers and Water Supply Commission

This Ministry is the administrative organisation for the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission which is the State's 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. This excludes those resources under the jurisdiction of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, which is the water supply authority for the Melbourne metropolitan area.

Branches : Major Works, Mechanical, Rural Water Supplies, and Town Water Supplies and Local Authorities.

Ministry for Federal Affairs

The Ministry for Federal Affairs, established in February 1975, functions administratively as a branch of the Premier's Department.

Statutory authorities

The functions of the following public corporations are set out in the relevant sections of this *Victorian Year Book* :

Country Roads Board ; Gas and Fuel Corporation ; Hospitals and Charities Commission ; Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works ; Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board ; State Electricity Commission ; Victorian Railways Board.

Victorian Government instrumentalities

The term "instrumentalities" is limited to statutory bodies, which are not departments even though some are administered within or associated with departments.

The general features of the instrumentalities are constitution by Act of Parliament, a controlling Board or Commission appointed by the Governor in Council, freedom from direct ministerial control over day to day administration (but subject to governmental or ministerial control in matters of major policy, and subject in some cases to the approval of the Governor in Council or the Minister), and control over the appointment of staff and the determination of salaries and other conditions of employment. Financial arrangements differ considerably.

The largest of the instrumentalities 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, and the Country Roads Board.

The following is a list of instrumentalities showing the associated departments and ministries, and the relevant Ministers responsible for administration. Instrumentalities which are not staffed by members of the Public Service are shown separately.

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs		
	Department	Instrumentality			
Minister of Agriculture	Agriculture	Consumers' Committee	Australian Barley Board		
		Dairy Produce Board	Grain Elevators Board		
		Filled Milk Advisory Committee	Marketing boards— Chicory		
		Fruit and Vegetable Market- ing Advisory Committee	Citrus Fruit		
		Imitation Milk Advisory Committee	Egg and Egg Pulp		
		Milk Board	Tobacco Leaf		
		Milk Pasteurization Com- mittee	Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee (a)		
		Poultry Farmer Licensing Review Com- mittee (a)	Veterinary Board of Victoria		
		Stock Medicines Board	Victorian Dairy Product Board		
		Tobacco Quota Appeals Tribunal	Victorian Dried Fruits Board		
		Tobacco Quota Committee	Victorian Inland Meat Authority		
		Victorian Abattoir and Meat Inspection Authority (a)	Western Metropolitan Market Trust		
		Minister of the Arts	Ministry for the Arts	Council of the Science Museum of Victoria	Victorian Arts Centre Build- ing Committee
				Council of Trustees of the National Gallery	Victorian Documentary Film Council
Library Council of Victoria					
National Museum of Victoria Council					
Attorney-General	Law	Appeal Costs Board	Council of Law Reporting		
		Companies Auditors Board	Council of Legal Education		
		Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board	Law Reform Commissioner (a)		
		Patriotic Funds Council	Legal Aid Committee		
		Raffles Board	Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Edu- cation		
Chief Secretary	Chief Secretary's	Crimes Compensation Tribunal (a)	Country Fire Authority		
		Liquor Control Commission	Estate Agents Committee (a)		
		Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeal Tribunal (a)	Exhibition Trustees		
		Motor Accidents Tribunal (a)	Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board		
		Motor Car Traders Committee	Motor Accidents Board		
		Police Discipline Board	Seamans Welfare Advisory Council		
		Police Medical Board	Seamans Welfare Trust Committee		
		Police Service Board			
		Police Superannuation Board			
		Premiums Committee			
		Public Records Advisory Council			
		Road Safety and Traffic Authority			
		State Advisory Board on Publications			
		Workers Compensation Boards			

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES—*continued*

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Instrumentality	
Minister for Conservation	Ministry for Conservation	Clean Air Committee Commercial Fisheries Council Environment Protection Appeal Board Environment Protection Authority Fisheries and Wildlife Division Land Conservation Council National Parks Service Port Phillip Authority Soil Conservation Authority Victoria Archaeological Survey	Victoria Conservation Trust Zoological Board
Minister of Consumer Affairs	Labour and Industry	Consumer Affairs Council Small Claims Tribunal	
Minister of Education	Education	Council of Public Education Primary Teachers Registration Board Secondary Teachers Registration Board Teacher Registration Council Teachers' Tribunal Technical Teachers Registration Board	Council of Adult Education State College of Victoria Victoria Institute of Colleges
Minister of Forests	State Forests	Forests Commission (b)	Board of Forestry Education Timber Promotion Council
Minister for Fuel and Power	Ministry of Fuel and Power	Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee (c)	Gas and Fuel Corporation State Electricity Commission
Minister of Health	Health	Advisory Committee to Mental Health Authority Cinematograph Operators Board Commission of Public Health Consultative Council for Maternal Mortality Consultative Council for Poliomyelitis Consultative Council for Quarantinable Diseases Consultative Council on Pre-School Child Development Consultative Council on Road Accident Mortality Food Standards Committee Medical Board Mental Health Authority (medical officers are not subject to Public Service Act) Plumbers and Gasfitters Board Poisons Advisory Committee Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee Psychological Council Superintendents Committee Tuberculosis Advisory Committee	Anti-Cancer Council Cancer Institute Board Fairfield Hospital Board Hospitals and Charities Commission Hospitals Superannuation Board Trustees of various cemeteries Various professional and occupational registration bodies— Advanced Dental Technicians Qualifications Board Chiropodists Registration Board Dental Board Dental Technicians Licensing Committee Dietitians Registration Board Hairdressers Registration Board Masseurs Registration Board Nurses Council Opticians Registration Board Pharmacy Board
Minister of Housing	Ministry of Housing	Decentralized Industry Housing Authority Home Finance Trust Housing Commission Registry of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Societies Teacher Housing Authority	
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	

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES—*continued*

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Instrumentality	
Minister of Labour and Industry — <i>continued</i>	Labour and Industry — <i>continued</i>	Industrial Appeals Court Industrial Safety Advisory Council Industrial Training Commission Wages Boards	
Minister of Lands	Crown Lands and Survey	Place Names Committee Surveyors' Board Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board	
Minister for Local Government	Local Government	Building Regulations Committee Land Valuation Boards of Review Local Government Advisory Board Municipal Auditors Board Municipal Building Surveyors Board Municipal Clerks Board Municipal Electrical Engineers Board Municipal Engineers Board Municipal Scaffolding Inspec- tors Board Scaffolding Regulations Committee Valuers' Qualification Board	Local Authorities Superannuation Board
Minister of Mines	Mines	Board of Examiners for Engine Drivers Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Coal Mines Act) Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Mines Act) Board of Examiners for Quarry Managers Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Tribunal Drillers' Licensing Board Extractive Industries Advisory Committee Groundwater Advisory Com- mittee Sludge Abatement Board Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Board	
Minister for Planning	Ministry for Planning	Town Planning Appeals Tribunal	Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Town and Country Planning Board
Premier	Premier's	Promotion Appeals Boards (a) Public Service Board State Co-ordination Council (a)	State Relief Committee
Minister of Public Works	Public Works	Government Buildings Advisory Council Marine Board State Accommodation Committee (a)	Architects Registration Board Geelong Harbor Trust Com- missioners Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners
Minister for Social Welfare	Social Welfare	Adult Parole Board Family Welfare Advisory Council Prisons Advisory Council (a) Social Welfare Training Council Youth Parole Board	
Minister of Soldier Settlement			Rural Finance and Settlement Commission

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES—*continued*

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Instrumentality	
Minister for State Development and Decentralization	State Development		Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority (a) Various regional tourist authorities (9) (a) Victoria Promotion Committee Victorian Development Corporation
Minister of Transport	Ministry of Transport		Country Roads Board Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority Railway Construction Board Transport Regulation Board Victorian Railways Board West Gate Bridge Authority(a)
Treasurer	Treasury	Superannuation Board Tender Board	State Savings Bank
Minister of Water Supply	Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (b)	Ballarat Water Commissioners Dandenong Valley Authority First Mildura Irrigation and Urban Water Trusts Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board West Moorabool Water Board Various local water (208) and sewerage (130) authorities Various river improvement and drainage trusts (33)
Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation	Youth, Sport and Recreation	Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board Racecourses Licences Board Sports and Recreation Council State Youth Council	Greyhound Racing Control Board National Fitness Council Totalizator Agency Board Trotting Control Board

(a) These instrumentalities have been added since the list was last published in the *Victorian Year Book* 1975.
 (b) This statutory corporation also appeared in the *Victorian Year Book* 1963 as a government department which it is only for the purposes of personnel administration under the Public Service Act.

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

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES
 CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <i>Legal, protective, registry services</i>
 Adult Parole Board
 Appeal Costs Board
 Council of Law Reporting
 Country Fire Authority
 Law Reform Commissioner
 Legal Aid Committee
 Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board
 Raffles Board
 Youth Parole Board</p> <p>2. <i>Regulation of primary production</i>
 Australian Barley Board
 Chicory Marketing Board
 Citrus Fruit Marketing Board
 Commercial Fisheries Council
 Consumers' Committee
 Dairy Produce Board</p> | <p>Egg and Egg Pulp Marketing Board
 Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Advisory Committee
 Milk Board
 Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee
 Poultry Farmer Licensing Review Committee
 Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board
 Tobacco Quota Appeals Tribunal
 Tobacco Quota Committee
 Victorian Dairy Products Board
 Victorian Dried Fruits Board</p> <p>3. <i>Regulation of industry and commerce</i>
 Consumer Affairs Council
 Extractive Industries Advisory Committee</p> |
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VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION—*continued*

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Premiums Committee
Small Claims Tribunal
Transport Regulation Board</p> <p>4. <i>Regulation of labour conditions</i>
Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Tribunal
Hospitals Superannuation Board
Industrial Appeals Court
Industrial Training Commission
Local Authorities Superannuation Board
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeal Tribunal
Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Board
Wages Boards
Workers Compensation Boards</p> <p>5. <i>Regulation of general standards</i>
Building Regulations Committee
Food Standards Committee
Land Valuation Boards of Review
Liquor Control Commission
Marine Board
Motor Accidents Board
Motor Accidents Tribunal
Place Names Committee
Scaffolding Regulations Committee
State Advisory Board on Publications
Stock Medicines Board
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
Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Coal Mines Act)
Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Mines Act)
Board of Examiners for Quarry Managers
Board of Examiners for Steam Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants
Board of Examiners for Welders of Boilers and Pressure Vessels
Board of Forestry Education
Chiropodists Registration Board
Cinematograph Operators Board
Companies Auditors Board
Council of Legal Education
Dental Board
Dental Technicians Licensing Committee
Dietitians Registration Board
Drillers' Licensing Board
Estate Agents Committee
Hairdressers Registration Board
Masseurs Registration Board
Medical Board
Motor Car Traders Committee</p> | <p>Municipal Auditors Board
Municipal Building Surveyors Board
Municipal Clerks Board
Municipal Electrical Engineers Board
Municipal Engineers Board
Municipal Scaffolding Inspectors Board
Nurses Council
Opticians Registration Board
Pharmacy Board
Plumbers and Gasfitters Board
Primary Teachers Registration Board
Psychological Council
Secondary Teachers Registration Board
Surveyors' Board
Teacher Registration Council
Technical Teachers Registration Board
Valuers' Qualification Board
Veterinary Board of Victoria</p> <p>7. <i>Public utility, conservation, and development</i>
Ballarat Water Commissioners
Country Roads Board
Dandenong Valley Authority
Decentralized Industry Housing Authority
Environment Protection Appeal Board
Environment Protection Authority
Exhibition Trustees
First Mildura Irrigation and Urban Water Trusts
Fisheries and Wildlife Division
Forests Commission
Gas and Fuel Corporation
Geelong Harbor Trust Commissioners
Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust
Government Buildings Advisory Council
Grain Elevators Board
Groundwater Advisory Committee
Home Finance Trust
Housing Commission
Land Conservation Council
Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board
Local Government Advisory Board
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board
Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners
Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority
Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners
Port Phillip Authority
Public Records Advisory Council
Railway Construction Board</p> |
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VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION—*continued*

- Registry of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Societies
Road Safety and Traffic Authority
Rural Finance and Settlement Commission
Sludge Abatement Board
Soil Conservation Authority
State Co-ordination Council
State Electricity Commission
State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
State Savings Bank of Victoria
Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority
Timber Promotion Council
Town and Country Planning Board
Town Planning Appeals Tribunal
Trustees of various cemeteries
Various local water and sewerage authorities
Various regional tourist authorities
Various river improvement and drainage trusts
Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board
Victoria Conservation Trust
Victoria Promotion Committee
Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee
Victorian Development Corporation
Victorian Inland Meat Authority
Victorian Railways Board
West Gate Bridge Authority
West Moorabool Water Board
Western Metropolitan Market Trust
8. *Social welfare*
Crimes Compensation Tribunal
Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board
Family Welfare Advisory Council
Patriotic Funds Council
Prisons Advisory Council
Seamans Welfare Advisory Council
Seamans Welfare Trust Committee
Social Welfare Training Council
State Relief Committee
9. *Education and recreation*
Council of Adult Education
Council of Public Education
Council of the Science Museum of Victoria
Council of Trustees of the National Gallery
Greyhound Racing Control Board
Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board
Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education
Library Council of Victoria
National Museum of Victoria Council
Public Records Advisory Council
Racecourses Licences Board
Sports and Recreation Council
State College of Victoria
State Youth Council
Totalizator Agency Board
Trotting Control Board
Victoria Archaeological Survey
Victoria Institute of Colleges
Victorian Arts Centre Building Committee
Victorian Documentary Film Council
Zoological Board
10. *Public health*
Advisory Committee to Mental Health Authority
Anti-Cancer Council
Cancer Institute Board
Clean Air Committee
Commission of Public Health
Consultative Council for Maternal Mortality
Consultative Council for Poliomyelitis
Consultative Council for Quarantinable Diseases
Consultative Council on Pre-School Child Development
Consultative Council on Road Accident Mortality
Fairfield Hospital Board
Filled Milk Advisory Committee
Hospitals and Charities Commission
Imitation Milk Advisory Committee
Mental Health Authority
Milk Pasteurization Committee
National Fitness Council
Poisons Advisory Committee
Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee
Superintendents Committee
Tuberculosis Advisory Committee
11. *Industrial health*
Industrial Safety Advisory Council
12. *Internal administrative services*
Police Discipline Board
Police Medical Board
Police Service Board
Police Superannuation Board
Promotion Appeals Boards
Public Service Board
State Accommodation Committee
Superannuation Board
Teacher Housing Authority
Teachers' Tribunal
Tender Board

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 15 June 1976 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, such as Statutes Amendment Acts.

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958 CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE 1976

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act</i> 1973	Agriculture	<i>Cattle Compensation Act</i> 1967	Treasury <i>also</i> Agriculture
<i>Aboriginal Affairs (Transfer of Functions) Act</i> 1974	Premier's	<i>Cemeteries Act</i> 1958	Health <i>also</i> Law
<i>Aboriginal Lands Act</i> 1970	Crown Lands and Survey Law	<i>Children's Court Act</i> 1973	Law
<i>Acts Enumeration and Revision Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Chiroprodists Act</i> 1968	Health
<i>Acts Interpretation Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act</i> 1961	Transport
<i>Administration and Probate Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Clean Air Act</i> 1958	Conservation
<i>Adoption of Children Act</i> 1964	Chief Secretary's <i>also</i> Law	<i>Cluster Titles Act</i> 1974	Local Government
<i>Aerial Spraying Control Act</i> 1966	Agriculture	<i>Coal Mines Act</i> 1958	Mines
<i>Agent-General's Act</i> 1958	Premier's	<i>Collusive Practices Act</i> 1965	Registrar of Companies
<i>Agricultural Colleges Act</i> 1958	Agriculture	<i>Commercial Goods Vehicles Act</i> 1958	Transport
<i>Agricultural Education Cadetships Act</i> 1969	Agriculture	<i>Commonwealth Arrangements Act</i> 1958	Premier's
<i>Air Navigation Act</i> 1958	Transport	<i>Commonwealth Places (Administration of Laws) Act</i> 1970	Law
<i>Albury-Wodonga Agreement Act</i> 1973	State Development	<i>Companies Act</i> 1961	Law
<i>Alcoholics and Drug-dependent Persons Act</i> 1968	Health	<i>Constitution Act</i> 1975	Law
<i>Amendments Incorporation Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Constitution Act Amendment Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's <i>also</i> Premier's
<i>Anzac Day Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's	<i>Constitutional Convention Act</i> 1972	Law
<i>Appeal Costs Fund Act</i> 1964	Law	<i>Consumer Affairs Act</i> 1972	Labour and Industry
<i>Arbitration Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Co-operation Act</i> 1958	Treasury
<i>Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act</i> 1972	Chief Secretary's	<i>Co-operative Housing Societies Act</i> 1958	Housing
<i>Architects Act</i> 1958	Public Works	<i>Coroners Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Attorney-General and Solicitor-General Act</i> 1972	Law	<i>Council of Law Reporting in Victoria Act</i> 1967	Law
<i>Auction Sales Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's	<i>Country Fire Authority Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's <i>also</i> Country Fire Authority
<i>Audit Act</i> 1958	Treasury	<i>Country Roads Act</i> 1958	Transport
<i>Bank Holidays Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's	<i>County Court Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Barley Marketing Act</i> 1958	Agriculture	<i>Courts Administration Act</i> 1975	Law
<i>Bees Act</i> 1971	Agriculture	<i>Crimes Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Benefit Associations Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's	<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act</i> 1972	Crimes Compensation Tribunal
<i>Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act</i> 1970	Labour and Industry	<i>Crown Proceedings Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Bread Industry Act</i> 1959	Labour and Industry	<i>Cul-de-sac Applications Act</i> 1965	Law
<i>Broiler Chicken Industry Act</i> 1975	Agriculture	<i>Cultural and Recreational Lands Act</i> 1963	Local Government
<i>Building Contracts (Deposits) Act</i> 1962	Law	<i>Dairy Products Act</i> 1958	Agriculture
<i>Building Industry Long Service Leave Act</i> 1975	Labour and Industry	<i>Dandenong Valley Authority Act</i> 1963	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Building Societies Act</i> 1958	Housing	<i>Deakin University Act</i> 1974	Education
<i>Business Franchise (Tobacco) Act</i> 1974	Treasury	<i>Decentralization Advisory Committee Act</i> 1964	State Development
<i>Business Investigation Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Decentralized Industry (Housing) Act</i> 1973	State Development
<i>Business Names Act</i> 1962	Law	<i>Decentralized Industry Incentive (Payments) Act</i> 1972	State Development
<i>Cadet Surveyors Act</i> 1964	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Decimal Currency Act</i> 1965	Treasury
<i>Cancer Act</i> 1958	Health	<i>Dental Technicians Act</i> 1972	Health
<i>Carriers and Innkeepers Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's	<i>Dentists Act</i> 1972	Health
<i>Cattle Breeding Act</i> 1958	Agriculture	<i>Development Areas Act</i> 1973	State Development
		<i>Developmental Railways Act</i> 1958	Victorian Railways
		<i>Dietitians Registration Act</i> 1958	Health

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958 CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE 1976—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Discharged Servicemen's Preference Act 1943</i>	Law	<i>Hire-Purchase Act 1959</i>	Law
<i>Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act 1961</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Historic Buildings Act 1974</i>	Planning
<i>Dog Act 1970</i>	Local Government	<i>Home Finance Act 1962</i>	Treasury
<i>Drainage Areas Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Hospitals and Charities Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Drainage of Land Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965</i>	Health
<i>Drainage of Land Act 1975</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Housing Act 1958</i>	Housing Commission
<i>Dried Fruits Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Housing Ministry Act 1972</i>	also Treasury Housing
<i>Education Act 1958</i>	Education	<i>Imitation Milk Act 1969</i>	Agriculture
<i>Educational Grants Act 1973</i>	Treasury	<i>Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Egg Industry Stabilization Act 1973</i>	Agriculture	<i>Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Electoral Provinces and Districts Act 1974</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Industrial Safety Advisory Council Act 1960</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Electric Light and Power Act 1958</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Industrial Training Act 1975</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Employers and Employés Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Inflammable Liquids Act 1966</i>	Mines
<i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>	Conservation	<i>Instruments Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Essential Services Act 1958</i>	Premier's	<i>Joint Select Committee (Conservation of Energy Resources) Act 1976</i>	Premier's
<i>Estate Agents Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Joint Select Committee (Meat Industry) Act 1976</i>	Premier's
<i>Evidence Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Joint Select Committee (Osteopathy, Chiropractic and Naturopathy) Act 1973</i>	Premier's
<i>Explosives Act 1960</i>	Mines	<i>Joint Select Committee (Road Safety) Act 1976</i>	Premier's
<i>Extractive Industries Act 1966</i>	Mines	<i>Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Farm Produce Merchants and Commission Agents Act 1965</i>	Agriculture	<i>Juries Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>Fences Act 1968</i>	Law also Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Justices Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Fertilizers Act 1974</i>	Agriculture	<i>Labour and Industry Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Filled Milk Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Land Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Films Act 1971</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Land Conservation Act 1970</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Finance Brokers Act 1969</i>	Law	<i>Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act 1972</i>	Conservation
<i>Firearms Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Land Settlement Act 1959</i>	Rural Finance and Settlement Commission
<i>Fisheries Act 1968</i>	Conservation	<i>Land Surveyors Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Foreign Judgements Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Land Tax Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Forests Act 1958</i>	Forests Commission	<i>Landlord and Tenant Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Friendly Societies Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Lands Compensation Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Fruit and Vegetables Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>La Trobe University Act 1964</i>	Education
<i>Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Advisory Committee Act 1963</i>	Agriculture	<i>Latrobe Valley Act 1958</i>	Premier's also State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Frustrated Contracts Act 1959</i>	Law	<i>Law Reform Act 1973</i>	Law
<i>Fuel and Power Act 1965</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Legal Aid Act 1969</i>	Law
<i>Game Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Legal Profession Practice Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Gas Act 1969</i>	Mines	<i>Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education Act 1972</i>	Law
<i>Gas and Fuel Corporation Act 1958</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Libraries Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Gas Franchises Act 1970</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Library Council of Victoria Act 1965</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Geelong Harbor Trust Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Lifts and Cranes Act 1967</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Geelong Regional Authority Act 1975</i>	State Development	<i>Limitation of Actions Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Liquefied Gases Act 1968</i>	Mines
<i>Gift Duty Act 1971</i>	Treasury	<i>Liquor Control Act 1968</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Gold Buyers Act 1958</i>	Mines	<i>Listening Devices Act 1969</i>	Law
<i>Goods Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Litter Act 1964</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Government Buildings Advisory Council Act 1972</i>	Public Works	<i>Livery and Agistment Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Grain Elevators Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Local Authorities Superannuation Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Groundwater Act 1969</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Local Government Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Hairdressers Registration Act 1958</i>	Health		
<i>Harbor Boards Act 1958</i>	Public Works		
<i>Hawkers and Pedlars Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's		
<i>Health Act 1958</i>	Health		
<i>Health (Fluoridation) Act 1973</i>	Health		

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE 1976—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1966</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>National Gallery of Victoria Act 1966</i>	Arts
<i>Magistrates' Courts Act 1971</i>	Law	<i>National Museum Council of Victoria Act 1970</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>	Conservation
<i>Maintenance Act 1965</i>	Law	<i>Navigable Waters (Oil Pollution) Act 1960</i>	Public Works
<i>Margarine Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>Nurses Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Marketable Securities Act 1970</i>	Law	<i>Ombudsman Act 1973</i>	Premier's
<i>Marine Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Optometrists Registration Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Marine Stores and Old Metals Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Parliamentary Committees Act 1968</i>	Premier's
<i>Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1962</i>	Premier's
<i>Markets Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Parliamentary Officers Act 1975</i>	Premier's
<i>Marriage Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968</i>	Premier's
<i>Married Women's Superannuation Fund Act 1968</i>	Treasury	<i>Partnership Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Masseurs Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Patriotic Funds Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Medical Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Pawnbrokers Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Medical Practitioners Act 1970</i>	Health	<i>Pay-roll Tax Act 1971</i>	Treasury
<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Penalties Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Pensions Supplementation Act 1966</i>	Treasury
<i>Melbourne Harbor Trust Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968</i>	Law
<i>Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Act 1970</i>	Transport	<i>Pesticides Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Melbourne University Act 1958</i>	Education	<i>Petroleum Act 1958</i>	Mines
<i>Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Act 1968</i>	Local Government	<i>Petroleum Products Subsidy Act 1965</i>	Treasury
<i>Mental Health Act 1959</i>	Health also Chief Secretary's	<i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967</i>	Mines
<i>Metric Conversion Act 1973</i>	Local Government	<i>Petrol Pumps Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Pharmacists Act 1974</i>	Health
<i>Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Pipelines Act 1967</i>	Fuel and Power also Mines
<i>Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Poisons Act 1962</i>	Health
<i>Milk Board Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Police Assistance Compensation Act 1968</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Milk Pasteurization Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Police Offences Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Mines Act 1958</i>	Mines	<i>Police Regulation Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Mining Development Act 1958</i>	Mines	<i>Port Phillip Authority Act 1966</i>	Public Works
<i>Ministry for Conservation Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Portland Harbor Trust Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs Act 1973</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Poultry Levy (Collection Arrangement) Act 1965</i>	Agriculture
<i>Ministry for Planning Act 1973</i>	Planning	<i>Poultry Processing Act 1968</i>	Agriculture
<i>Ministry for the Arts Act 1972</i>	Arts	<i>Pounds Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Ministry of Transport Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Printers and Newspapers Act 1958</i>	Law also Chief Secretary's
<i>Mint Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Private Agents Act 1966</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Monash University Act 1958</i>	Education	<i>Probate Duty Act 1962</i>	Treasury
<i>Money Lenders Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Professional Boxing Control Act 1975</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation
<i>Motor Accidents Act 1973</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Property Law Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Motor Boating Act 1961</i>	Chief Secretary's also Transport	<i>Protection of Animals Act 1966</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Motor Car Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's also Country Roads Board also Transport	<i>Provincial Sewerage Authorities Association of Victoria Act 1966</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Motor Car Traders Act 1973</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Psychological Practices Act 1965</i>	Health
<i>Mt. Hotham Alpine Resort Act 1972</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Public Account Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Municipalities Assistance Act 1973</i>	Local Government also Treasury	<i>Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966</i>	Treasury
<i>National Fitness Council of Victoria Act 1960</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation	<i>Public Authorities Marks Act 1958</i>	Local Government
		<i>Public Contracts Act 1958</i>	Local Government
		<i>Public Lands and Works Act 1964</i>	Public Works
		<i>Public Records Act 1973</i>	Chief Secretary's
		<i>Public Safety Preservation Act 1958</i>	Premier's
		<i>Public Servants Ethical Conduct (Joint Select Committee) Act 1974</i>	Premier's
		<i>Public Service Act 1974</i>	Premier's
		<i>Public Trustee Act 1958</i>	Law

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE 1976—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Public Works Committee Act 1958</i>	Premier's	<i>State Rivers and Water Supply Commission Act 1969</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Racing Act 1958</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation	<i>State Savings Bank Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Railway Lands Acquisition Act 1958</i>	Victorian Railways	<i>Statistics Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Railways Act 1958</i>	Victorian Railways	<i>Status of Children Act 1974</i>	Law
<i>Railways Standardization Agreement Act 1958</i>	Victorian Railways	<i>Stock (Artificial Breeding) Act 1962</i>	Agriculture
<i>Rain-making Control Act 1967</i>	Agriculture	<i>Stock Diseases Act 1968</i>	Agriculture
<i>Recreation Vehicles Act 1973</i>	Conservation	<i>Stock Foods Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Stock Medicines Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Religious Successory and Charitable Trusts Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Strata Titles Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>River Improvement Act 1958</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Subordinate Legislation Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>Road Traffic Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Summary Offences Act 1966</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Rural Finance Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Summer Time Act 1972</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Rural Finance and Settlement Commission Act 1961</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Sunday Entertainment Act 1967</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Sale of Human Blood Act 1962</i>	Health	<i>Superannuation Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Sale of Land Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Supreme Court Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Scaffolding Act 1971</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Survey Co-ordination Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Science Museum of Victoria Act 1970</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Swine Compensation Act 1967</i>	Treasury also Agriculture
<i>Seamen's Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Tattersall Consultations Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Second-hand Dealers Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Taxation Appeals Act 1972</i>	Treasury
<i>Securities Industry Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>Teacher Housing Act 1970</i>	Housing
<i>Seeds Act 1971</i>	Agriculture	<i>Teaching Service Act 1958</i>	Education
<i>Senate Elections Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Temperance Halls Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Settled Land Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Theatres Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Sewerage Districts Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Tobacco Leaf Industry Stabilization Act 1966</i>	Agriculture
<i>Shearers Accommodation Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Tomato Processing Industry Act 1976</i>	Agriculture
<i>Sheep Branding Fluids Act 1963</i>	Agriculture	<i>Town and Country Planning Act 1961</i>	Local Government
<i>Sheep Owners Protection Act 1961</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Trade Unions Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Small Business Development Corporation Act 1976</i>	State Development	<i>Tramways Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Transfer of Land Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (Victoria) Act 1971</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Transport Regulation Act 1958</i>	Transport
<i>Social Welfare Act 1970</i>	Social Welfare	<i>Trustee Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958</i>	Soil Conservation Authority	<i>Trustee Companies Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Soldier Settlement Act 1958</i>	Rural Finance and Settlement Commission	<i>Unauthorized Documents Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Stamps Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Unclaimed Moneys Act 1962</i>	Treasury
<i>State College of Victoria Act 1972</i>	Education	<i>Underseas Mineral Resources Act 1963</i>	Mines
<i>State Co-ordination Council Act 1975</i>	Premier's	<i>Unlawful Assemblies and Processions Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>State Development Act 1970</i>	State Development	<i>Urban Renewal Act 1970</i>	Housing
<i>State Development Committee Act 1958</i>	Premier's	<i>Vagrancy Act 1966</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>State Electricity Commission Act 1958</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Valuation of Land Act 1960</i>	Local Government
<i>State Insurance Office Act 1975</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Vegetation and Vine Diseases Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>State Library National Gallery National Museum and Institute of Applied Science Act 1960</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Venerable Diseases Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>State Relief Committee Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
		<i>Veterinary Surgeons Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
		<i>Victoria Conservation Trust Act 1972</i>	Conservation
		<i>Victoria Institute of Colleges Act 1965</i>	Education
		<i>Victorian Development Corporation Act 1973</i>	State Development
		<i>Victorian Film Corporation Act 1976</i>	Arts
		<i>Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences Act 1974</i>	Conservation
		<i>Victorian Public Offices Corporation Act 1974</i>	Public Works
		<i>Volunteer Civil Defence Workers Compensation Act 1972</i>	Chief Secretary's

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE 1976—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Warehousemen's Liens Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection Act</i> 1958	Forests Commission
<i>Water Act</i> 1958	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Wild Life Act</i> 1975	Conservation
<i>Water Resources Act</i> 1975	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Wills Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Waterworks Trusts Association of Victoria Act</i> 1966	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Wire Netting Act</i> 1958	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Weights and Measures Act</i> 1958	Local Government	<i>Wodonga Area Land Acquisition Act</i> 1973	State Development
<i>West Moorabool Water Board Act</i> 1968	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Women's Qualification Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Wheat Industry Stabilization Act</i> 1968	Agriculture	<i>Workers Compensation Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's also Health
<i>Wheat Industry Stabilization Act</i> 1974	Agriculture	<i>Wrongs Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Wheat Marketing Act</i> 1969	Agriculture	<i>Youth, Sport and Recreation Act</i> 1972	Youth, Sport and Recreation
<i>Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market (Traders) Act</i> 1963	Agriculture	<i>Zoological Gardens Act</i> 1967	Chief Secretary's

History of Victorian Government departments and instrumentalities

A series of short, comprehensive histories of Victorian Government departments has appeared in this place in previous editions of the *Victorian Year Book* since 1963. They have included the Chief Secretary's Department (1963), the Premier's Department (1964), the Law Department (1965), the Treasury (1966), the Public Works Department (1967), the Department of Crown Lands and Survey (1968), the Education Department (1969), the Mines Department (1970), the Department of Agriculture (1971), Local Government, including the establishment of the Local Government Department (1972), the Department of Health (1974), the Department of Labour and Industry (1975), and the Public Service Board (1976).

History of the Melbourne Harbor Trust

The Melbourne Harbor Trust came into being on 1 January 1877 following the passage of a Bill that brought into effect the Melbourne Harbor Trust Act of 1876 which had its final reading on 22 December 1876. This was described as "An Act to provide for the regulation, management, and improvement of the Port of Melbourne and certain portions of the River Yarra and certain portions of the Salt water River and for other purposes connected therewith". The formation of the Trust culminated thirty years of representation by the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce and Melbourne City Council for such an institution to manage the Port. On 19 January 1843 the Melbourne City Council petitioned local government "to direct a survey of the River Yarra with the view of ascertaining the practicability of removing the bars which obstruct the passage of vessels of heavy burden, and the best means of preventing the filling up of the basin consequent on the construction of the dam at the Falls". Like numerous other urgent works between then and the time of Port Phillip's severance from New South Wales (for example, improvement of free navigation, surveying the river to ascertain the best means of obtaining communications with Hobson's Bay, and the meeting of wharfing requirements) there was no overall authority to supervise such work.

With the advent of self-government in Victoria and the election of a Legislative Council in 1851, the Melbourne City Council renewed its efforts to have port facilities improved and on 30 June 1852 the Lord Mayor of Melbourne drew the Lieutenant-Governor's attention to an "absolute necessity for greatly-increased wharf accommodation to meet constantly increasing traffic of the

Port of Melbourne". He called for several new wharves and wharf extensions and the removal of the Yarra mud basin, but the move appears to be one in support of the report of 25 October 1851 by Colonial Architect, Henry Ginn, who, following a grant of £6,000 from the New South Wales Legislature under the Appropriations Act of 1849-50-51, had carried out the survey on the Yarra River suggested by the Melbourne City Council in 1843. Within this report were the results of an extensive survey carried out on the Port of Melbourne and recommendations for improved and additional wharfage for which he included details and plans. Also during June 1852, a deputation of businessmen was received by the Legislative Council "setting forth the value and importance of forming a canal, or straight cut, from Melbourne to Hobson's Bay", a work that was also suggested in Ginn's report.

The Legislative Council, well aware of the works needed to be carried out in connection with all matters related jointly to commerce and sea navigation, in the meantime placed funds on the estimates for the Department of Ports and Harbours in 1853 to the extent of £42,580; apart from this amount, the Department of Vessels and Public Works (Marine) was voted £23,700. Still preferring the work to be placed in the hands of a trust rather than a government department, the Melbourne City Council resolved on 22 October 1855 "That this Council do co-operate with the Chamber of Commerce in procuring the establishment of a Port and Harbor Trust, the details to be subject of future adjustment". From this time, the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce acted as the main negotiator for "merchants, bankers, citizens, owners and occupiers of property and others" as well as on their own behalf, the result being a motion to set up a select committee "to inquire into the best means of promoting improved harbor accommodation for the Port of Melbourne and to consider the advisability of instituting a River and Harbor Trust". This was moved by James Service on 27 November 1858 and passed by the Victorian Parliament.

The select committee sat fourteen times between then and February 1859, and finally decided "That the definite projection of such important works would however require further engineering investigation, which can only be conducted under the superintendence of some board or corporate body, whose functions would be entirely confined to this specific object". Added to this was the recommendation that specified areas of land adjacent to the Yarra River and the foreshores be reserved, "with a view to a liberal grant of the same, or portion thereof, being made to such a body". A Royal Commission on Harbor Improvements and a River and Harbor Trust began sitting on 20 July 1860 and handed down its findings in the following November. These stated that all matters connected with the management and improvement of the Port of Melbourne would be conducted more economically and efficiently by means of a Harbor Trust or Marine Board and recommended that a Harbor Trust be created "as soon as possible". Twelve years later another Royal Commission was established to inquire into the use to which the specified lands might be put, while in 1875 a Joint Committee representing the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, the Shipowners' Association, and the Merchant Shipping and Underwriters' Association, was appointed to promote the establishment of a Marine Board for the Colony of Victoria and a Harbor Trust for the Port of Melbourne. When the Act covering the establishment of the Melbourne Harbor Trust was passed in 1876, it allowed for fifteen commissioners; in 1883 the number of commissioners was increased to seventeen.

Sir John Coode, an English engineer, was engaged to draw up a complete plan for harbor improvement; his report was received in 1879 and adopted after small modifications had been made. Work then proceeded with a cutting being made to avoid Fishermens Bend, thus shortening the distance along the Yarra River from the Bay to city berths by more than 1.6 kilometres; a dock complex

was established (complete with a railway system) on the West Melbourne swamp adjacent to the gasworks, and a 39 hectare basin excavated. The cutting project was begun in 1884 which resulted in the Coode Canal, 610 metres long by 91 metres wide and 8 metres deep coming into use in 1887. Water poured into the basin in 1892 and the first ship entered Melbourne's new principal shipping port in 1893. Sir John Coode in his plans for Victoria Dock wharves showed a concrete and masonry structure, but because of the availability and cheapness of hardwood and the nature of the ground, the use of timber piling was adopted as an economy measure at the instigation of Joseph Brady, the Commission's engineer; this decision was shown to be sound because the timber foundations were still serviceable and ready for continued use in modern reconstruction work on the wharves seventy years later.

The Melbourne Harbor Trust began operations with the wharves and jetties built earlier by the Victorian Government being handed over to the commissioners; their value was then estimated at over £250,000. The Act of Incorporation laid down that the new Trust would pay the Victorian Government one fifth of its revenue each year in repayment; although the charge was slightly varied from time to time, it is still estimated at about one fifth. The commissioners have always been financially independent and carry the responsibility of raising their own revenue and loans for capital works.

In 1884 the commissioners in envisaging increased trade and demand for shipping began planning for the gradual development along both sides of the river and on Hobsons Bay which has now taken place. Thirty years later, in 1914, the Appleton Dock system was proposed; work was started here in 1926 on a minor scale, but it was not until 1956 that it was finally completed.

In reviewing the structure of the Commission in 1913, the Victorian Government brought into effect an Act which reduced the number of commissioners from seventeen to five and the Commission was reconstituted to comprise a permanent chairman and four part-time commissioners with special qualifications. One was required to be a shipowner, one an importer, one an exporter, and one connected with primary production, and all five to be appointed instead of being elected. A sixth commissioner was appointed in 1954 to represent the interests of labour. Major works in reconstruction and modernisation of port facilities were carried out during the 1960s when the river was widened and deepened; changes in handling techniques were also pre-eminent during this decade, because of the increased use of the roll-on, roll-off method which helped in the rapid growth of quantities of cargo handled. During the 1970s the rate at which cargo was handled continued to rise to a total for 1974-75 which reached 17,137,678 tonnes, showing a rise of 223,920 tonnes above the 1973-74 figure.

PLANNING

Premier's Department : State Co-ordination Council

The State Co-ordination Council was established under the *State Co-ordination Council Act 1975*. This Act created changes in the top structure of planning in Victoria for achieving improved co-ordination and cohesion in the use and management of resources and in the development of major projects and programmes.

The new arrangements replace those administered by the State Planning Council which was created in 1968 under the Town and Country Planning Act. The more diverse and complex involvement of government in many activities, the creation of new agencies and the revision of the functions of existing agencies, the size and cost of many programmes using public and private community resources, and the increasing emphasis on conservation and the environment have all created a need to bring agencies closer together to maximise

co-ordination and consultation. It was in this context that the existing mechanism was reviewed by an inter-departmental committee and the new legislative arrangements adopted.

The new Council has wider responsibilities and a broader range of functions. There are 37 members on the new Council, including the permanent heads of all government departments and the senior executives of the major statutory authorities. For operating purposes the Council comprises four constituent groups: a Policy and Priority Review Group, a Natural Resources Group, a Social Resources Group, and a Works, Services, and Development Group.

Provision is also made for the Council to establish regional co-ordinating groups and special task groups. A Community Advisors Panel has been established to assist the Council by providing inputs different from, and complementary to, those available from within the public sector. The panel comprises prominent and skilled persons from a wide variety of backgrounds. The Council is serviced by a small full-time multi-disciplinary support staff unit under a director and within the Policy and Research Division of the Premier's Department.

The Council reports on the effects of adopting major proposals or objectives as policies of government; priorities to be established both within a policy and between competing policies; specific plans and projects both in the public and private sectors; and any other matter referred to it.

The Council also advises on Statements of Planning Policy (prepared by the Town and Country Planning Board); advises on matters of State interest in relation to preparation of regional plans; ensures effective co-ordination of the activities of all agencies participating in the achievement of the policies of the Victorian Government; reports on the effect of changing circumstances on priorities; reviews progress and performance in the achievement of policies; and advises on particular policies and programmes which an agency should develop.

The Council is required to give particular consideration to the physical, social, economic, and environmental implications of development proposals, and to the effects of the use and management of significant or scarce resources of matters placed before it. The emphasis throughout its functions is aimed at ensuring the best possible use and management of Victoria's resources. It is not confined to consideration of planning matters, but will embrace the examination of major proposals and objectives and their likely effects.

The Policy and Priority Review Group is available to assist and service the Victorian Cabinet and its committees through the Premier and, as required, to advise on matters of policy and priority. Matters to be dealt with by the Council are, in the first instance, initiated by referral to the Policy and Priority Review Group which also co-ordinates the activities of the other groups. A direct link between this Group and the Town and Country Planning Board exists for the preparation of Statements of Planning Policy.

The new State Co-ordination Council will not usurp the role of agencies or of government. Final decisions on all these matters remain with the Victorian Government.

Ministry for Planning

The Ministry for Planning was established under the *Ministry for Planning Act 1973* which was proclaimed on 2 December 1974. Prior to the establishment of the Ministry the administration of the Town and Country Planning Act was the responsibility of the Minister for Local Government.

The Ministry is responsible for the administration of the Town and Country Planning Act, the Development Areas Act, and the Historic Buildings Act. It is a co-ordinating ministry and is responsible for the co-ordination and administration of the planning functions of the Town and Country Planning Board, regional planning authorities, and all other responsible planning authorities throughout Victoria.

The objectives of the Ministry are to provide assistance to the various authorities who are engaged in the preparation of planning schemes so as to ensure that the planning process may be fully co-ordinated. The Ministry is also responsible for the administration of the Urban Land Council and the Secretary for Planning is Chairman of the Council.

Further reference, 1976

Town Planning Appeals Tribunal

The Town Planning Appeals Tribunal is constituted under the *Town and Country Planning Act 1961*. The Tribunal came into being in 1969 and held its first sitting on 28 April of that year. The Tribunal at that time consisted of a chairman and three members.

As a result of the increase in the number of appeals lodged with the Tribunal, an Act was passed in March 1970 to enable the number of members of the Tribunal to be increased. Three additional appointments were made and this enabled two divisions of the Tribunal to operate. In November 1974 a third Tribunal was created.

Section 19A (7A) of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1961* provides that a division of the Tribunal shall consist of the chairman who shall be a barrister and solicitor, one member who shall be experienced in town and country planning, and another who shall have a knowledge of and experience in public administration, commerce, or industry.

Most of the sittings are held in the city, but where necessary, hearings are held in the suburbs and in country centres.

Appeals may be made to the Tribunal by any person who feels aggrieved by the :

- (1) Failure of a responsible authority to grant him a permit ;
- (2) refusal of a responsible authority to grant him a permit ;
- (3) refusal of a responsible authority to consider an application ;
- (4) conditions in a permit granted by a responsible authority ;
- (5) failure or refusal of a responsible authority to extend the time of commencement or completion of any development ;
- (6) restrictions as set out in Section 19 (c) of the Act ; or
- (7) determination, as an objector, of a responsible authority to grant a permit.

In 1975, 1,350 appeals were lodged with the Tribunal.

Appeals to the Tribunal must be in writing and lodged with the Registrar within the prescribed time of the notice of determination and (except about "failure") must state shortly the grounds of appeal. Reference should be made to the Regulations under the Act which set out forms and procedures for appeals. Persons who desire to contest an appeal must lodge a short statement of their grounds with the Registrar and serve a copy on the appellant at least seven days before the day fixed for the hearing.

Procedure at the hearings has been described as "informal" and it is specifically provided that the Tribunal shall act without regard to technicalities or legal forms and shall not be bound by the rules of evidence, but subject to the requirements of justice may inform itself on any matter in such manner as it thinks fit. It is required, however, to act according to equity and good conscience and the substantial merits of the case.

This set of provisions is important to the ordinary citizen as giving him an opportunity to present his case without being overawed or made to feel ill at ease because of formality and legal technicalities, important as they may be at other times. The hearing is frequently followed by an inspection of the site and the locality by members of the Tribunal.

The hearings are open to the media and the public. All parties to the proceedings are entitled to be heard and to hear all the evidence put by the other parties and relied upon by the Tribunal in the reasons for its decision. The

tribunal does not seek or accept additional evidence from one party without the other parties being made aware of what is happening and given an opportunity to comment on that material.

Submissions may be made to the Tribunal either orally or in writing or in both ways. Where submissions are made in writing, four copies are provided for the convenience of the Tribunal, and additional copies made available for the other parties. Any party to an appeal may appear personally or may be represented by a barrister or solicitor or may authorise any other person to appear and speak on his behalf.

The decisions of the Tribunal are conveyed in writing to all parties to the appeal. If the decision does not contain a statement of reasons, a request for such a statement must be made either before or within fourteen days after the decision is made. The decisions of the Tribunal are final and must be given effect to by every responsible authority and every other person affected by the decision. There is no appeal against a decision of the Tribunal except by way of appeal to the Supreme Court on a question of law only.

For guidance about applications for town planning permits and appeals, a selected number of important or typical decisions of the Tribunal are published in *Victorian Planning Appeal Decisions* (Law Book Co. Ltd) and in *Current Law* (Butterworth and Co. Aust. Ltd).

By its determination of any appeal the Tribunal may direct that any permit shall or shall not be issued, and may direct that any permit shall or shall not contain any specified condition. It may also deal with certain restrictions.

Town and Country Planning Board

Introduction

The Town and Country Planning Board was constituted under the *Town and Country Planning Act* 1944 and commenced operations in February 1946. The Act enabled the State-wide preparation of statutory schemes by responsible authorities and charged the Board with advising the Minister for Planning on any planning matter and with preparing, at the Minister's request, a planning scheme for any specified area. This was the first stage in the life of statutory planning in Victoria.

The organisation assumed the structure and responsibilities it was to retain in the main until 1968. During this time its prime functions were reporting to the Minister on planning schemes prepared by local authorities and generally assisting and advising councils on planning matters. One very large task was the examination of the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme (1954) and objections to that scheme.

In 1967, in response to a Ministerial request, both the Town and Country Planning Board and the Board of Works submitted comprehensive reports with recommendations for the planning and administration of metropolitan Melbourne to the year 2000, when a population of 5,000,000 persons was envisaged. As a result the Town and Country Planning Act was amended in 1968 to provide for a three tier system of administration. The Town and Country Planning Board, assisted by a State Planning Council, was to promote and co-ordinate planning throughout Victoria, advise the Victorian Government on State planning policy, and generally administer the Act. Within this framework regional planning authorities were to be established with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works as the metropolitan regional authority over an area three times its previous size. Municipalities within the Board of Works area have been delegated responsibility for local planning matters within the regional framework.

The Town and Country Planning Board's responsibilities became:

- (1) Promoting and co-ordinating urban and regional planning throughout the State;
- (2) preparing statements of planning policy;

- (3) convening and supplying services to the State Planning Council;
- (4) preparing planning schemes for special areas;
- (5) reviewing and reporting on planning schemes; and
- (6) advising the Minister on any planning matter.

In 1973 the Board also became responsible for reporting to the Minister on investigation areas under the provisions of the *Development Areas Act 1973*.

Statements of planning policy

Statements of planning policy provide physical planning authorities with a pre-determined, co-ordinated outline of government policy as the basis for detailed planning proposals. They are prepared by the Board in consultation with the State Co-ordination Council and become effective after approval by the Governor in Council. Every responsible authority, including regional planning authorities, in preparing or amending a planning scheme, must have due regard to any approved statement of planning policy which affects its planning area.

Statements of planning policy can be prepared for any portion of Victoria and "shall be directed primarily towards broad general planning to facilitate the co-ordination of planning throughout the State by all responsible authorities". They shall have regard to "matters necessary to be provided for in the interests of the development of the State". These include demographic, social, and economic factors and influences; conservation of natural resources for social, economic, environmental, ecological, and scientific purposes; characteristics of land; characteristics and disposition of land-use; amenity and environment; communications; and development requirements of public authorities.

Statements have already been approved for Western Port, the 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. Others for the Melbourne metropolitan area and the whole of the Victorian coastline are in the course of preparation.

State Planning Council, 1976

Planning schemes for special areas

The Board is responsible for the preparation of planning schemes for special areas or projects of State significance where the local authority does not have the necessary resources to undertake the task or where a unified approach is necessary and a regional planning authority is not appropriate. This applies particularly to coastal areas, inland areas such as those with man-made lakes as a result of water conservation schemes or valuable national resources, and to areas of special significance such as the historic town of Maldon.

Reviewing and reporting on planning schemes

This is the Board's original function and the one for which it is best-known. It covers many aspects of statutory planning including examination of planning schemes and interim development orders, amendments, revocations, by-laws, and other general matters relating to the Town and Country Planning Act and the Local Government Act.

Responsibilities under the Development Areas Act

The Development Areas Act empowers the Governor in Council to declare as a "designated area" any area considered suitable for accelerated development or which requires controlled development. Areas requiring further study can be declared "investigation areas". The Board is required to report to the Minister on all investigation areas, assessing their suitability for accelerated development.

Development of Melton and Sunbury

As a result of the Board's studies into the Melton and Sunbury Investigation Areas, the Victorian Government confirmed that these two areas would be developed as satellite cities. Pending the establishment of a statutory development authority, an Interim Co-ordinating Committee was set up to undertake studies for their future development and to supervise planning control. The Committee is chaired by the Board's deputy chairman and members of the Board's staff have been seconded full-time to the project.

Commonwealth Government involvement in planning

In recent years the Commonwealth Government has shown an increasing awareness of the importance of urban and regional planning and the associated problems. One of the first steps taken in response to this situation was the establishment in 1972 of the Commonwealth Department of Urban and Regional Development, a structure designed to enable the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments to work together towards urban and regional development. The main areas of Commonwealth Government involvement were in the development of new metropolitan and regional growth centres, in providing assistance for projects in other urban and regional areas, and in providing funds for land acquisition, metropolitan area improvement programmes, and sewerage works. The Department was subsequently incorporated into a larger department, that of Environment, Housing, and Community Department.

The first major joint project in Victoria was the development of a new city in the Albury-Wodonga area (see below). In addition to the Albury-Wodonga project, the Board has been involved in several other joint studies principally with the former Cities Commission. The work generated has also involved the co-operation of the regional planning authorities within the Port Phillip district—the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, the Western Port Regional Planning Authority, and the Geelong Regional Planning Authority.

A major part of the Board's resources is committed to these projects. This includes representation on formal committees and working groups, active participation in studies and specific tasks, and a co-ordinating role as the responsible State body.

Albury-Wodonga

In recognition of the need to encourage 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 jointly 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 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 agreement between the Commonwealth, New South Wales, and Victorian Governments defined an initial study area by a circle of radius 55 kilometres centred on the Union Bridge between Albury and Wodonga. This was the area within which took place the initial investigations designed to establish the growth centre's feasibility, potential sites for development, and the effect of such development on the environment. It also defined the boundaries within which land price stabilisation legislation would apply.

Following the initial feasibility studies the study area was reduced to 5,000 square kilometres taking in the municipalities of the City of Albury, the Rural

City of Wodonga, and the Shires of Beechworth, Chiltern, Hume, Towong (now Tallangatta), and Yackandandah.

A target population of 300,000 persons by the year 2000 has been adopted for Albury-Wodonga and, as the initial studies indicated that the target was feasible in social, environmental, economic, and financial terms, it has been used as the basis for long-term planning.

In accordance with the agreement between the Commonwealth and the two State Governments, the Corporation was established as a Commonwealth Government statutory authority charged with planning and developing the growth centre. The Corporation operates under the supervision of a Ministerial Council comprising the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, Housing, and Community Development, the New South Wales Minister for Decentralisation and Development, and the Victorian Minister for State Development and Decentralization.

Three corporations have been established to carry out the project—the Development Corporation and two State Corporations. The principal functions of the State Corporations are to acquire, hold, manage, and provide land in areas designated for development. An area of land totalling 54,000 hectares has been so designated. Land acquisition and land development costs are met by interest-bearing advances from the Commonwealth Government. As a basic principle, the advances will be repaid and Albury-Wodonga will be self-supporting in a financial sense. The States accept the responsibility to provide their services and facilities to a timetable determined by the Development Corporation. The administrative expenses of the Development Corporation are shared by the three governments.

Regional planning

A form of regional planning was first introduced in Victoria in 1944 after the Commonwealth and State Governments agreed to plan post-war development and decentralisation on a regional basis. In the same year, the Victorian Government appointed a State Regional Boundaries Committee to inquire into physical, economic, and human resources, and to make a broad survey of the whole State. The regions recommended were: Barwon, Central Highlands, Corangamite, East Gippsland, West Gippsland, Glenelg, Goulburn, Loddon, Mallee, Port Phillip, Upper Goulburn, Upper Murray, and the Wimmera.

The Central Planning Authority was then set up in 1946 to arrange conventions of municipal councils within each region for the purpose of constituting regional committees; to advise and assist these committees in making surveys and investigations into regional resources; to co-ordinate their work; to disseminate information about planning; and to consider and report to the Victorian Government on recommendations made by these committees. The secretariat for the Authority was originally established in the Premier's Department, but was later incorporated in the Department of State Development and Decentralization.

Regional committees were set up for all regions except Port Phillip. Their functions were to advise on potential development of resources; to provide a common ground for discussion between local administrators and interested parties on problems and the methods of co-ordinating public services; and to advise on outstanding problems such as soil deficiencies, transport difficulties, housing shortages, etc., which required government action. The Victorian Government has acted on many of the committees' recommendations but as the committees were only advisory bodies, they could not be seen as regional planning authorities in the modern context.

In 1968 the Town and Country Planning Act was amended to provide a three tier system of planning administration—State-wide, regional, and local. Within this framework, regional planning authorities were to be established to

prepare planning schemes for any specified area extending beyond the boundaries of any one municipality and to enforce and carry out those schemes. Under this amending Act, a regional planning authority must consist of representatives of every municipality within the region and may also include other approved specially qualified people. It is to be financed by the participating municipalities on an agreed basis and be a body corporate with powers to acquire and dispose of land. It has the power to appoint its own staff and technical advisory committees and it can become the sole responsible authority for any interim development order or planning scheme in operation in the region. It can also delegate to the council of a municipality within the region such powers as it thinks fit and are capable of being delegated.

In addition to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, which is the planning authority for the enlarged metropolitan planning area of 5,000 square kilometres, regional planning authorities have now been constituted at Western Port and Geelong, thus covering the whole of the Port Phillip district. The only authority established outside this district to date is in the Loddon-Campaspe area, although a provisional non-statutory committee is operating in East Gippsland.

A further step was taken in 1973 when the State Planning Council reviewed the decentralisation of activities of government departments in Victoria, rationalised the boundaries used, and adopted a revised system of regions for general use by government departments and agencies in the decentralising of their future operations. This system was adopted subsequently by the Victorian Government and has replaced the 1944 Central Planning Authority regions. (See page 168.) The Central Planning Authority has ceased to operate and the regional committees are being disbanded and gradually replaced by provisional committees operating within the new regional system. The responsibility for the establishment and administration of these committees was given to the Town and Country Planning Board. Where local initiative creates the need for greater powers, provisional committees may become full regional planning authorities.

Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority

The Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority, established on 11 September 1973, consists of representatives of the Cities of Bendigo, Castlemaine, and Maryborough, the Borough of Eaglehawk, the Town of St Arnaud, and the Shires of Bet Bet, Charlton, Huntly, Kara Kara, Korong, Marong, Metcalfe, Rochester, Strathfieldsaye, Tullaroop, and the Western Riding of the Shire of Waranga.

The Authority has commenced preparation of an Interim Planning Statement, which will contain a description of the region's resources, an outline of its planning problems, a statement of planning objectives, and a brief for future action. As such, it will provide a framework for other studies undertaken in the region including those forming part of the process leading ultimately to the preparation of a regional plan.

The Authority is working closely with the Town and Country Planning Board which, in conjunction with the Department of State Development and Decentralization and the Cities Commission, is undertaking regional studies of the Central Highlands and Loddon-Campaspe Regions. The latter will provide an important input to the Interim Planning Statement.

A major problem in the Loddon-Campaspe Region is the scarcity of water, and the Authority has set up a Water Resources, Drainage, and Wastewater Disposal Committee to study it. The Town and Country Planning Board is providing technical and secretarial services at no cost to the municipalities for the first three years of the Authority's formation.

Geelong Regional Planning Authority, 1974 ; Western Port Regional Planning Authority, 1974

Statistical divisions in Victoria

Statistical divisions have traditionally been used as a geographic base for the presentation of the principal series of official economic, social, and demographic statistics of the State. The groupings of local government areas making up statistical divisions in Victoria have been altered since 1974 to reflect associations of the areas in terms of socio-economic links rather than the purely topographic and land-use associations which applied previously.

Origins of statistical division concept

Geographic sub-divisions of Victoria for presentation of official statistics were first used in 1896. In that year the Statistical Register of Victoria included a table of agricultural statistics which grouped counties into eight "statistical districts". Counties were groupings of parishes; these units were the original land survey units in the State.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics publication *Population and Vital Statistics* and later its publication *Demography* applied "divisions" of Victoria to the same groupings of counties as for agricultural statistics in publishing figures of births and deaths early this century. The same names of "divisions" appeared again, with the addition of a "metropolitan division".

The arrangement of local government areas into "statistical districts" is noted in the Population Census, Victoria, 1901. This Census volume included a table showing figures for 1891 and 1901, using district names identical with those in the tabulations of agricultural statistics of 1896. A metropolitan area was also shown within the Central District.

In 1929, in accordance with a resolution at a Conference of the Federal Health Council and the Statisticians of the Commonwealth and States, held in Melbourne on 19 and 20 March 1928, these "divisions" were reconstituted for the purpose of presenting vital statistics, from groupings of counties to groupings of local government areas. This divisional grouping was subsequently applied to other statistical series and continued unchanged until 1966 although with adjustment in the intervening years of the statistical division boundaries for changes in local government area boundaries and for the metropolitan development of Melbourne.

The Twenty-seventh Conference of Statisticians in 1965 adopted the substance of the report prepared by Dr G. J. R. Linge entitled *The Delimitation of Urban Areas for Statistical Purposes*. In accordance with resolutions of this Conference, an urban definition of 500 persons to one square mile (2.5 square kilometres) was adopted and the Melbourne Statistical Division was delimited to set an outer boundary around Melbourne so as to contain the anticipated urban growth for a period of between twenty and twenty-five years. The Melbourne Statistical Division was first applied to the 1966 Census of Population and Housing. The introduction of this Division affected the boundaries of surrounding divisions but did not alter the criteria for accepting those of other divisions in the State.

It is apparent that while no precise criteria for grouping counties or local government areas into "districts" or "divisions", respectively, can be discovered, the groupings were made on the basis of geographic, topographic, and land-use features, with the exception of the Melbourne metropolitan area where urban characteristics and the potential for them were considered, especially in later years.

This concept of statistical divisions did not positively allow for groupings of areas associated by a marked degree of demographic significance arising from social or economic intercourse. Consequently they have become increasingly unsuited for the presentation of a wide range of sophisticated statistics now available or planned for in the near future.

As a consequence the policy of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on statistical divisions was reviewed at a conference of State Deputy Common-

wealth Statisticians in June 1973. Among other things this Conference resolved that :

- (1) Statistical divisions should ideally be delimited in all States on the basis of socio-economic criteria and should where possible embrace contiguous local government areas ; and
- (2) the boundaries of the statistical divisions so delimited should be changed only at intervals, for example, at periods of fifteen to twenty years.

*Development of new statistical divisions
State Planning Regions*

At the time of this 1973 Conference, Victorian Government bodies, through the State Planning Council, were examining the re-grouping of local government areas into State Planning Regions as a basis for encouraging regional development and decentralising government departments.

This examination was prompted by a growing interest in regional development which was recognised in an amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act in 1968. Among other things this amendment provided legislative machinery for the formation of regional planning authorities to be composed primarily of representatives of local government authorities in each region. These authorities are by this amendment to have specific powers to direct planning programmes and hence are potentially more effective than the earlier Regional Planning Committees established under the Central Planning Authority, which could only recommend development programmes for those regions delineated in 1944 by that Authority.

Three constraints in delineating new State Planning Regions were established : first, for administrative convenience whole local government areas were to be used in all but exceptional circumstances ; second, because different sized units were required for various purposes, there should be a three tier system of dividing the State into regions and sub-regions based on local government areas ; and third, the sub-regions, once identified, would not be severed in delineating regions.

The criteria used in defining State Planning Regions were as follows :

- (1) The economic, social, administrative, and physical attributes of a region should be as uniform as possible ;
- (2) a region should embrace the full extent of known planning problems or resources of planning significance ; and
- (3) a region should be large enough in population and resources to support a regional planning programme and yet small enough for the community to be able to identify with it and for all members of a regional authority to acquire a sound knowledge of, and interest in, the whole region.

Factors taken into account in delineating regional and sub-regional boundaries were :

- (1) Comparisons with other ways of dividing the State, including the then current Central Planning Authority regions, and various areas used for presenting statistics ;
- (2) physical factors including river basins and tablelands, climate, geology, and soils. These influence economic activity, particularly primary production ;
- (3) communication, that is, the concept of a region as a hierarchy of towns joined by a coherent system of lines of communication ; and
- (4) areas of influence of towns described by studies and researches within the Town and Country Planning Board and the University of Melbourne on the socio-economic areas of influence of Victorian towns and cities. The Board's studies used a system of weighting elements of association according to their apparent significance. Elements considered included the patterns of a community's frequent (at least once a month) travel to a retail shopping centre, newspaper circulation, distribution or marketing areas for major consumer items, regional

zoning of sporting, social, and community and welfare organisations, the composition of municipal associations (made by local selection), and library and hospital service regions.

It should be noted that the socio-economic areas of influence of towns and cities of various sizes intersect and overlap in ways which prevent a quantifiable decision on the association of one area with another. In drawing boundaries to areas of influence, subjective judgement has of necessity been used in these cases. In other cases, for example, a well defined river basin, the region based on physical factors will be very similar to the socio-economic region, but where physical features do not provide strong barriers to communication, socio-economic boundaries may not align with whatever physical features do exist. Where there is a lack of congruence, the system adopted followed socio-economic rather than physical boundaries. Further, the use of whole local government areas often results in only an approximation to the real socio-economic unit.

State Planning Regions delimited on the criteria outlined were, after consultation with Commonwealth and local government authorities and other interested bodies, adopted by the Victorian Government in May 1974.

Adoption of new statistical divisions

The Victorian Office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics had regard to the criteria used in delimiting the regions and to the involvement of bodies interested in the delimitation. As these factors were in accord with the content and the spirit of the resolution of the 1973 Conference, State Planning Regions were adopted as statistical divisions for Victoria. In addition, by this adoption the Victorian Office had introduced a device for conveniently summarising official statistics into geographic areas which have a real and growing significance for most users of those statistics.

Consequently the boundaries of Victorian statistical divisions, with the exception of the Melbourne Statistical Division, have been re-drawn to accord with State Planning Regions. The combination of the Melbourne Statistical Division and the East Central Statistical Division is equivalent to the Port Phillip Planning Region adopted by the Victorian Government. In all other cases both the boundaries and names applied to the new statistical divisions are the same as for State Planning Regions.

New statistical division boundaries will be applied to all relevant annual statistics, other than those from the Agricultural and Pastoral Census, for their respective years ending in 1974. Agricultural and Pastoral Census statistics will be converted to the new boundaries from the year ending March 1975. Monthly and quarterly statistical series are published for the new boundaries from June 1974.

The boundaries of the new statistical divisions will be retained for so long as they are considered relevant by interested bodies. However, they will be altered to account for minor changes in local government area boundaries.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government is a 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 provisions of the *Local Government Act* 1958 and under the oversight of the Minister for Local Government, his permanent head, the Secretary for Local Government, and a staff of some 230 officers as well as some fifty members of boards, most of whom serve part-time.

The Minister and his Department also administer a number of other Acts of the Victorian Parliament, as set out in detail in Chapter 6, but the majority of the powers and duties given to municipal councils is set out in the Local Govern-

ment Act. There are several amendments to this Act each year, as a result of changing community circumstances which affect most citizens. The Act sets out the framework within which each council is free to exercise control over matters of local concern, and the role of the Department is essentially to assist councils in executing the wishes of their electors within this framework of statutory powers.

The Department functions with an administrative core and a number of specialised sections handling a variety of matters including the examination of legislative proposals, the preparation of legislation, statutory procedures, the making or revision of building and other regulations, the allocation of subsidies and payments to municipalities for various purposes, and the responsibility of advising councillors, municipal officers, and the public generally. Inspectors of municipal administration and engineers maintain field contact with municipalities and report to the Minister.

The Valuer-General is concerned with the standard of valuations carried out by the municipalities, and with co-ordinating all valuations within the State. The Valuers Qualification Board controls the level of academic attainment and experience required from prospective valuers, while Land Valuation Boards of Review determine appeals against land valuations and arbitrate on compensation for compulsory acquisition of land, etc., by public authorities, without the need for recourse to the courts of law, except at the appellant's option in some cases.

The Superintendent of Weights and Measures is responsible for the administration of the Weights and Measures Act, and is concerned principally with the activities of individual councils, or of groups of councils known as Weights and Measures Unions.

Among other boards operating within the Department are the Local Government Advisory Board, which advises the Minister on matters concerning the constitution or alteration of municipal areas, and the Municipal Officers Qualifications Boards. The latter include municipal clerks, auditors, engineers, electrical engineers, and building surveyors, and are all concerned with the qualifications of these respective officers and thus with the maintenance of standards. The power to inquire into conduct and competence is also vested in these boards.

The administration of the Town and Country Planning Act and Town Planning Appeals Tribunal, previously functions of the Local Government Department, is now handled by the Ministry for Planning, and the supervision of scaffolding by the Department of Labour and Industry (see page 143). Other important areas for councils, such as health and various welfare functions (e.g., home help, elderly citizens, meals-on-wheels, social workers, etc.), come within the administration of the Health Department.

The Minister and his Department have to ensure that councils act within their field of authority and so preserve the rights of citizens. The Department also makes recommendations about desirable legislative changes in order to improve the lives of citizens. The basic aim is not to reduce the autonomy of councils, but to help them match local government to local needs, while co-ordinating their activities for the benefit of all.

Further reference, 1976

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The *Public Records Act* 1973 marked a new era in Victoria by creating a new archival establishment in line with modern archival developments in England, the United States of America, Europe, and elsewhere. It established the Public Record Office in April 1973 "for the better preservation, management and utilisation of the public records of the State".

Although public records had been deposited somewhat sporadically in the then Public Library of Victoria from 1893 onwards, the first Archivist was appointed in 1948 and the Archives Section of the State Library was established in 1955.

Thereafter the quantities of public records deposited increased considerably. At the same time the introduction of systematic procedures for records management and, in particular, records selection and disposal brought widespread recognition among Victorian Government public offices of the importance of public records control in current administration. The outcome was the Public Records Act and the creation of the Public Record Office.

The Act also established a Public Records Advisory Council which "in consultation with the Keeper of Public Records shall promote co-operation between the Public Record Office and public offices" and "may report and make recommendations to the Minister (the Chief Secretary) on any matter relating to the administration of this Act". It consists of seven members, four of whom hold the position of permanent head of a department, the remainder representing tertiary educational institutions, municipal government, and the State Library.

Public records are those records made or received by any officer in carrying out the official business of any public office or the judicial business of any court. Public offices are defined in the Act as:

- (1) Any department, branch, or office of the Government of Victoria;
- (2) any public statutory body corporate or incorporate;
- (3) any municipality or other body constituted by or under the *Local Government Act 1958*; and
- (4) any other local governing body corporate or incorporate.

The Public Records Act vests "the management and control of the Public Record Office and of the public records therein" in a Keeper of Public Records subject to the Act and to the general direction and control of the Minister (the Chief Secretary). The Keeper is responsible for the security and orderly classification of the records held and for the provision of reasonable facilities to the public for inspecting and obtaining copies of them. The Public Record Office will also be developing a programme for publishing selected documents and finding aids.

The Act also requires officers in charge of public offices to ensure that full and accurate records are made and kept and that standards are established for the selection of public records worthy of preservation. Public officers and officers of the Public Record Office are working together to control the number of records created, to ensure that records of purely temporary significance are separated and discarded as early as possible and essential records safeguarded, and that arrangements are made for the regular transfer of non-current permanent files to the Public Record Office.

For some years the Public Record Office shared accommodation within the State Library of Victoria. However, in June 1975 a new building to serve as a base repository was purchased at Laverton for the purposes of the Public Record Office.

Further reference, 1976

OMBUDSMAN

With the appointment of Ombudsmen in Queensland on 1 October 1974, and in New South Wales on 12 May 1975, the office of Ombudsman has now been established in every State on the mainland of Australia.

The function of the Victorian Ombudsman is the investigation of complaints made to him concerning administrative actions taken in Victorian Government departments or public statutory bodies, and he is required to report to the Victorian Parliament at least annually upon his performance of that function. In fact, he reports to the Victorian Parliament quarterly.

While the expression "government department" is well enough known, the expression "public statutory body" is perhaps not. It means ". . . a body of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate, constituted or established under an Act for a public purpose, in respect of which the Governor in Council or a Minister has a right to appoint all or some of its members".

There have been challenges made to the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to investigate specific complaints, most of which are yet to be determined by the Supreme Court of Victoria. One such challenge has, however, been resolved by that Court which held, contrary to the assertion of the department concerned, that an alleged assault upon a prisoner in the presence of a Chief Prison Officer and an Acting Governor did constitute an administrative action, and the Ombudsman had jurisdiction to investigate a complaint alleging such an assault.

As a general rule, complaints made to the Ombudsman must be made by a person affected by the matter complained of, in writing and signed by him. However, a Member of Parliament can lodge a complaint on behalf of an aggrieved constituent and the Ombudsman may entertain a complaint made on behalf of an aggrieved person who is dead or unable to act for himself by any other person whom the Ombudsman considers suitable.

The Ombudsman is not confined within the ambit of complaints made to him. He may and does, where he considers it appropriate, investigate an administrative action of his own motion and without any complaint being made to him concerning it.

There are some government departments and public statutory bodies specifically excluded by the Ombudsman Act from the Ombudsman's jurisdiction. The Act in its original form expressly stated that nothing within it should authorise the Ombudsman to investigate any administrative action taken :

- (1) By a court of law or by a judge or a magistrate ;
- (2) by a person acting as legal adviser to the Crown or as counsel for the Crown in any proceedings ;
- (3) by a person in his capacity as trustee under the *Trustee Act* 1958 ; or
- (4) by the Auditor-General.

Since the Act's proclamation it has been amended once by the Ombudsman (Exemption) Act, which removes from the Ombudsman jurisdiction to investigate any administrative action taken by a board, tribunal, commission, or other body presided over by a judge, magistrate, barrister, or solicitor presiding as such by virtue of a statutory requirement and appointment.

The first Annual Report of the Ombudsman to cover a full period of twelve months was that for the year ended 30 June 1975. During that period the Ombudsman received 1,825 complaints of which 637 were outside his jurisdiction. He fully investigated 642 complaints, the balance being either withdrawn (285), deemed frivolous or vexatious (20), or dealt with by making preliminary inquiries. Of the complaints investigated, the Ombudsman found 110 complaints to be justified. In 60 cases, as the authority concerned had taken steps sufficiently to rectify the complaint, he made no recommendation. In 38 cases no remedial action was possible. The Ombudsman made twelve formal recommendations, of which nine had been complied with; three had not yet been complied with at the date of the Report.

Further reference, 1976

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