

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

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### INTRODUCTION

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

### COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

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

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

### VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

#### Victorian Public Service

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

There are approximately 26,000\* permanent officers who are grouped in three Divisions; the First Division comprises officers exercising the more important administrative or professional functions, Second Division officers perform duties of an administrative or professional nature, and the Third Division comprises a wide range of positions, including clerical assistants, stenographers and typists, chauffeurs, tradesmen, and various inspectors.

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

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

About 4,600\* persons are employed on a temporary basis and recruitment for permanent positions frequently comes from this group. Although legislation limits their employment to a maximum period of two years, the Public Service Board may renew these engagements in special circumstances. A further group of about 7,900\* persons known as "exempt employees" are not subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act. These personnel are engaged in intermittent or casual work or employed under the provisions of Commonwealth Awards, State Wages Board Determinations, or at special rates determined by the Public Service Board.

### **Public Service Board**

#### *Functions*

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

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

#### *Composition*

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

#### *Structure of the Board's Office*

Several senior officers support the Board directly. The office of the Board has seven divisions: Management Consultancy and Organisational Studies; Human Resource Development; Computer and Systems; Industrial Relations; Policy, Staffing, Evaluation and Review; and Operations. (For the history of the Board see *Victorian Year Book 1976*, pages 146-9.)

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\* At 30 June 1982.

### Victorian Government Departments and Ministries

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

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

The entries for the Auditor-General and the Ombudsman have been listed separately to reflect their role and independence. Their primary function is to report to the Victorian Parliament on specific aspects of administration.

Further information concerning Victorian Government Departments and Ministries may be found in the *Victorian Government Directory 1982*, compiled by the Department of the Premier, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

#### *Auditor-General*

The office of the Auditor-General of Victoria is established under the *Audit Act 1958*. The function of the Auditor-General and his staff is to independently audit and review the Treasurer's and departmental accounts, and to submit a report to the Legislative Assembly of the Victorian Parliament. He also audits the accounts of such statutory authorities as the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, port authorities, and universities.

To carry out his statutory responsibilities, the Act gives the Auditor-General the power to query the Treasurer and other persons, and for the purpose of his audit, he may require the production of any records he considers relevant. The Auditor-General carries out his duties independently on behalf of Parliament and of others and reports directly to Parliament.

Further information concerning the office of the Auditor-General can be found on page 129 of this *Year Book*.

#### *Ombudsman*

The Office of the Ombudsman is established under the *Ombudsman Act 1973*. The function of the Ombudsman is to investigate complaints concerning administrative actions taken in government departments, statutory bodies, or by officers and employees of municipal councils.

Further information concerning the Office of the Ombudsman can be found on pages 129-30 of this *Year Book*.

#### *Department of Agriculture*

Minister: Minister of Agriculture

Permanent Head: Director-General of Agriculture

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

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

#### *Department of Community Welfare Services*

Minister: Minister for Community Welfare Services

Permanent Head: Director-General of Community Welfare Services

The Department of Community Welfare Services provides for the social security and development of individuals, families, and communities. It also provides services which

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

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

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

#### *Department of Crown Lands and Survey*

Minister: Minister of Lands

Permanent Head: Secretary for Lands

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

#### *Education Department*

Minister: Minister of Education

Permanent Head: Director-General of Education

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

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

The Education Department provides the teachers for all State schools, and is also responsible for general administration including the provision, maintenance, and equipment of school buildings, teachers' salaries, and transport of children to school.

The office of the Co-ordinator-General of Education was created in January 1982 as a new Department within the Ministry of Education. It is responsible for the co-ordination of the overall development of education in Victoria.

(For a brief history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1969, pages 107-10; for a detailed history see Volume 1 of the Department's 1973 publication *Vision and Realization: a centenary history of State education in Victoria*.)

#### *Health Commission*

Minister: Minister of Health

Permanent Head: Chairman of the Health Commission

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

The Commission operates through four "line" Divisions: Mental Health, Hospitals, Mental Retardation, and Public Health.

The Mental Health Division controls and staffs all State-run psychiatric and mental hospitals and operates specialist alcohol, drug, and forensic services, as well as a community mental health programme.

The Hospitals Division oversees the conduct and standards of public hospitals, community health centres, ambulance services, day hospitals, hospitals and homes for the aged, private hospitals, and benevolent and philanthropic organisations.

The Mental Retardation Division controls and staffs all State-run facilities for mentally retarded persons, and oversees the activities of private facilities. The Division has responsibility for developing community resources for its clients and their families.

The Public Health Division provides services through six branches: Clinical Services (TB, communicable diseases, Prison Medical Services), Inspection Services (food standards, drugs and poisons control, sanitation, district health services, environmental health, refugee screening, epidemiology, and special accommodation houses), Occupational Health Services (control of radioactive materials, certain chemicals, dangerous trades and pest control operators, and services in audiology and radiology), Dental Health (the operation of the school dental service), Pre-School Child Development (kindergartens, day care, and child-minding centres) and Family Health (infant welfare, school medical, and family planning).

The "line" Divisions are supported by four "service" Divisions—Finance, Planning, Personnel, and Building and Services.

#### *Department of Labour and Industry*

Minister: Minister of Labour and Industry

Permanent Head: Secretary for Labour and Industry

The Department of Labour and Industry was formally established under the *Labour and Industry Act 1953*. Through its various divisions, the Department is concerned with physical and non-physical conditions of employment and the enforcement of various legislation concerned primarily with safety of workers and the public. The Department provides administrative, regulatory inspection, and technical services, and works in liaison with other Commonwealth and State labour departments.

The Department consists of four major divisions: Administration, Industrial Relations, Inspection Services, and Technical Services; four branches, i.e. Legal, Personnel, Special Projects, and Research and Evaluation; and four offices of statutory bodies: Building Industry Long Service Leave Board, Hairdressers Registration Board, Motor Accidents Board, and the Workers Compensation Board. On 23 December 1980, the Industrial Training Commission was transferred from the Department of Labour and Industry and became a direct responsibility of the Ministry of Employment and Training. (For the history of the Department of Labour and Industry, see *Victorian Year Book 1975*, pages 140-4.)

#### *Law Department*

Minister: Attorney-General

Permanent Head: Secretary to the Law Department

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

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

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

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

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

#### *Local Government Department*

Minister: Minister for Local Government

Permanent Head: Director-General for Local Government

The Local Government Department was established under the *Local Government Department Act 1958*, to facilitate the operation of local government at the State level.

The head office of the Department has both administrative and functional responsibilities including a degree of superintendence over Victoria's 211 municipal councils in relation to the administration of the *Local Government Act* 1958 and other Acts relating to local government. The Department provides a point of reference for persons served by local government.

The Department encompasses the Valuer-General's Office, Division of Building Control, and the Weights and Measures Branch. The Valuer-General is responsible under the *Valuation of Land Act* 1960 for the co-ordination and standards of valuations made for rating purposes, including those for all municipal, water, sewerage, planning, and land tax authorities. The Division of Building Control was established following the introduction of the *Building Control Act* 1981 to advise the Minister on matters relating to building control.

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

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

#### *Department of Minerals and Energy*

Minister: Minister for Minerals and Energy

Permanent Head: Secretary for Minerals and Energy

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

The Minister for Minerals and Energy is responsible for the operation of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and the Gas and Fuel Corporation of Victoria, as well as two smaller statutory authorities—the Victorian Brown Coal Council and the Victorian Solar Energy Council.

The Department of Minerals and Energy is responsible for the formulation and monitoring of overall energy policies for Victoria. The Department implements energy conservation programmes and administers procedures under the Fuel Emergency Act of 1977.

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

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

#### *Department of the Premier and Cabinet*

Minister: The Premier

Permanent Head: Secretary, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet advises and supports the Premier as chief Minister of the State as Minister of the Department and as Chairman of Cabinet. This involves administering and advising on the implementation of Victorian Government policies; assisting in the development of policy proposals and advising on their priorities; advising the Premier and Cabinet on legislative programme priorities; monitoring and reporting regularly on the implementation of policies; co-ordinating the activities of Victorian Government departments and agencies where necessary; acting as a focal point between the Victorian Government and the public; and an overall responsibility for inter-governmental relations.

The Divisions of the Department are: Economic and Financial Division; Natural Resources Division, which has two branches—Resources and Development; Social Development Division, with a Justice Branch and Community Services Branch; Parliamentary and Government Division, with a Parliamentary Branch, a Government Branch, and an Inter-governmental Relations Branch; and Services Division, which incorporates 8 units.

In addition within the Cabinet Office there are Administration, Programmes and Special Studies, and Legislation Branches.

The Offices of Aboriginal Affairs, Women's Affairs, the Ombudsman, Industrial Relations, the Equal Opportunity Board, and Victoria's 150th Anniversary Celebrations, also receive administrative support from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book*, 1964, pages 81-4.)

#### *Department of Property and Services*

Minister: Minister for Property and Services

Permanent Head: Director-General of Property and Services

The Department was created by Order-in-Council on 16 May 1978. The functions of the Department are: to monitor and independently check all aspects of property dealings by government departments and government statutory authorities; to ensure that each real estate transaction involving large sums of money is in the public interest; to be responsible for the functions of the Government Printing Office, the Government Computing Service, and the Public Record Office; to administer the registration of *Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1959*; to be responsible for the conduct of the Government Information Centre and the Government Courier Service; and to conduct elections of members of the Victorian Parliament and a number of government and semi-government bodies.

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

#### *Public Works Department*

Minister: Minister of Public Works

Permanent Head: Director-General of Public Works

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### *State Forests Department*

Minister: Minister of Forests

Permanent Head: Chairman, Forests Commission

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

For the administration of its activities, the Commission is organised into two groups, central and field. The central administrative group comprises six divisions: Administration; Forestry Education and Research; Forest Management; Forest Protection; Forest Operations; and Economics and Marketing. The field group comprises seven territorial divisions: Central; Eastern; Northern; North-Eastern; Southern; South-Western; and Western. A total of 44 field districts are located within the seven territorial divisions. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1978, pages 152-4.)

#### *Department of Management and Budget*

Minister: The Treasurer

Permanent Head: Director-General

The Department, which was created by Order in Council on 12 October 1982, will supersede the Treasury. The prime objective of the Department is to ensure that all public sector resources are utilised in the most efficient and effective manner in accordance with the Victorian Governments' priorities.

The major functions of the Department are to: (1) Manage the budgetary process; (2) advise the Victorian Government on revenue options and manage revenue collection; (3) advise the Victorian Government, through the Cabinet Economics Committee on short, medium, and long-term economic and financial objectives and priorities; (4) develop and promulgate accounting policies, standards, and systems and manage the operation of the Public Account; and (5) develop financial policies, strategies, and projects and manage the investment of short and long-term Government funds.

The Head Office of the Department comprises the following areas: Administration, Budget and Resources Management, Budget Development, Comptroller-General, Finance and Investment Policy and Management, Office of the Director-General, Policy and Planning, and Revenue.

Separate administrations within the Department are: Hospitals Superannuation Board, Office of the Government Statist and Actuary, Stamp Duties Office, State Employees Retirement Benefits Board, State Superannuation Board, State Taxation Office, and the State Tender Board. Statutory authorities responsible to the Treasurer are the State Bank and the State Insurance Office. Boards and Committees responsible to the Treasurer are: Bookmakers and Bookmakers' Clerks Registration Committee, Hardship Relief Boards (involving Land Tax and Probate Duty), Investment Advisory Committee, and the Premiums Committee. (For a History of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1966, under Treasury, pages 97-100.)

#### *Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation*

Minister: Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation

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

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

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



*Ministry for the Arts*

Minister: Minister for the Arts

Permanent Head: Director, Ministry for the Arts

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

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

*Ministry for Conservation*

Minister: Minister for Conservation

Permanent Head: Director of Conservation

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

The agencies and divisions of the Ministry are: Environment Protection Authority, Fisheries and Wildlife Division, Land Conservation Council, National Parks Service, Soil Conservation Authority, and the Victoria Archaeological Survey. These agencies are supported by three central groups which carry out a number of specialist activities and provide services to the agencies. They are the Administration Division, Environment Assessment Division, and the Environmental Studies Division.

*Ministry of Consumer Affairs*

Minister: Minister of Consumer Affairs

Permanent Head: Director of Consumer Affairs

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

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

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

*Ministry for Economic Development*

Minister: Minister for Economic Development

Permanent Head: Director-General of Ministry for Economic Development

The functions of the Ministry are to facilitate, encourage, and promote the balanced economic development of Victoria, either separately or in conjunction with the Victorian Economic Development Corporation or the Small Business Development Corporation.

The Ministry's objectives are to recommend State Government policy for the economic development of Victoria, to implement the economic development policy of the Victorian Government, and to monitor and assess the progress of that implementation.

The overall strategies of the Ministry are to identify and lead the Victorian Government's efforts to move resources to desirable industries and regions; to strengthen those existing industries which can be made more competitive; to encourage a high level of exports; to facilitate investment in Victoria; and to provide an economic advisory service to the Victorian Government.

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

The Ministry is organised in four divisions: Policy and Planning, Industry Development, Regional Development, and Management Services.

Other bodies encompassed within the portfolio of the Minister for Economic Development are the Victorian Economic Development Corporation, Small Business Development Corporation, Geelong Regional Commission, Latrobe Regional Commission, and the Albury/Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation.

#### *Ministry of Employment and Training*

Minister: Minister for Employment and Training

Permanent Head: Director-General of Employment and Training

The role of the Ministry is to:

- (1) encourage, stimulate, or initiate the creation of new job opportunities in Victoria;
- (2) improve existing and develop new training systems to ensure a skilled labour force necessary to meet the current and future demands of industry;
- (3) analyse labour market information and identify likely future skill requirements by industry and region;
- (4) investigate the impact of technological change on the labour market; and
- (5) assist disadvantaged groups to gain access to employment and training opportunities.

The Ministry has four Divisions: Employment; Training; Planning and Research; and Management, Evaluation, and Special Projects.

The three affiliated statutory bodies which all report to the Minister are the Industrial Training Commission, the Victorian Employment Committee, and the Victorian Technology Advisory Committee.

#### *Ministry of Housing*

Minister: Minister of Housing

Permanent Head: Director of Housing

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

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

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

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

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

#### *Ethnic Affairs Commission*

Minister: Minister of Ethnic Affairs

Permanent Head: Chairman, Ethnic Affairs Commission

The Ethnic Affairs Commission has been established pursuant to the Ethnic Affairs Commission Act which received Royal Assent on 9 November 1982. The objectives of the Commission are:

- (1) To achieve full participation of ethnic groups in the community in the social, economic, cultural, and political life of the community;

- (2) to ensure access of ethnic groups to services made available by governmental or other bodies;
- (3) to ensure that all ethnic groups in the community can retain and express their social identity and cultural inheritance;
- (4) to promote co-operation between bodies concerned with ethnic affairs;
- (5) to promote unity of ethnic groups in the community; and
- (6) to promote a better understanding of ethnic groups within the community.

The Act requires the Commission to investigate, report, and make recommendation to the Minister on all aspects of ethnic affairs. The Commission will consult with other government departments and instrumentalities to assist in the implementation of policies, it will also co-ordinate meetings, conferences, seminars, etc., with respect to ethnic affairs and ensure the introduction of additional translation and interpreter services where appropriate.

The four divisions of the Commission are: Research and Policy, Community Education, Government and Community Relations, and Management Services.

#### *Department of Planning*

Minister: Minister for Planning

Permanent Head: Secretary for Planning

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

The Department is concerned primarily with the management of the State's physical development—land-use planning. It is responsible for the promotion and co-ordination of urban and regional planning throughout the State and for the implementation of government planning policies. This includes reviewing and reporting on planning schemes, interim development orders, local development schemes, and urban renewal proposals prepared by all responsible authorities throughout the State; the administration of some planning schemes; the preparation of strategy plans, where appropriate; the provision of advice and assistance to regional planning authorities (including the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works), local councils, and the public; and advising the Minister.

It is also responsible for the restructuring of old and inappropriate subdivisions throughout the State; and for overseeing the development of the Melton/Sunbury growth area.

The Department's activities are organised on a regional basis with offices in Melbourne, Cranbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Traralgon, Warrnambool, and Wodonga.

The following bodies report to the Minister: Historic Buildings Council, Planning Appeals Board, Geelong Regional Commission, Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority, Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority, Western Port Committees, and the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (Planning Division).

#### *Ministry for Police and Emergency Services*

Minister: Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Permanent Head: Secretary to the Ministry for Police and Emergency Services

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

The major branches and agencies which comprise the Ministry are the Police Department, the Victoria State Emergency Service, the Registry of Private Agents, the Country Fire Authority, and the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board.

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

#### *Ministry of Transport*

Minister: Minister of Transport

Permanent Head: Director of Transport

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

#### *Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply*

Minister: Minister of Water Supply

Permanent Head: Chairman, State Rivers and Water Supply Commission

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Victorian Government statutory authorities**

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

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

## VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Minister of Agriculture	Agriculture	Dairy Produce Board Filled Milk Advisory Committee Imitation Milk Advisory Committee Milk Pasteurization Committee Poultry Farmer Licensing Review Committee Stock Medicines Board Tobacco Quota Appeals Tribunal Tobacco Quota Committee Tomato Processing Industry Negotiating Committee Victorian Abattoir and Meat Inspection Authority Victorian Advisory Council on Agricultural Education Victorian Broiler Industry Negotiation Committee Victorian Wheat Advisory Committee Wine Grape Processing Industry Negotiating Committee	Australian Barley Board Country Grain Handling Improvement Authority Geelong Grain Handling Improvement Authority Grain Elevators Board Marketing Boards— Citrus Fruit Tobacco Leaf Victorian Egg Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust Portland Grain Handling Improvement Authority Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee Veterinary Board of Victoria Victorian Dairy Industry Authority Victorian Dried Fruits Board Western Metropolitan Market Trust Young Farmers Finance Council
Minister for the Arts	Ministry for the Arts	Council of the Science Museum of Victoria Council of Trustees of the National Gallery Library Council of Victoria National Museum of Victoria Council State Library and National Museum Buildings Committee Film Victoria	Council of the Victorian College of the Arts Exhibition Trustees Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust Victorian Arts Centre Trust Victorian Council of the Arts
Attorney-General	Law	Appeal Costs Board Boards of Inquiry Companies Auditors and Liquidators Disciplinary Board Crimes Compensation Tribunal Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board Estate Agents Board Motor Accident Tribunal Patriotic Funds Council Office of the Public Trustee Raffles and Bingo Permits Board State Classification of Publications Board Victorian Taxation Board of Review	Barristers' Disciplinary Tribunal Council of Legal Education Law Reform Commissioner Legal Aid Commission Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal Victoria Law Foundation
Minister for Community Welfare Services	Community Welfare Services	Adult Parole Board Child Development and Family Services Council Correctional Services Council Social Welfare Training Council Youth Parole Board	
Minister for Conservation	Conservation	Archaeological Relics Advisory Committee Commercial Fisheries Licensing Panel Environment Protection Council Environment Protection Authority Fisheries Management Committee Land Conservation Council Licensing Appeals Tribunal (Commercial Fisheries) National Parks Advisory Council Reference Areas Advisory Committee Soil Conservation Authority Soil Conservation District Advisory Committees	Victoria Conservation Trust Victorian Fishing Industry Council Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences Zoological Board of Victoria
Minister of Consumer Affairs	Ministry of Consumer Affairs	Consumer Affairs Council Market Court Motor Car Traders Committee Office of State Prices Commissioner	Residential Tenancies Tribunals Small Claims Tribunal

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES—*continued*

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Minister for Economic Development	Ministry for Economic Development		Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation Geelong Regional Commission Latrobe Regional Commission Small Business Development Corporation Victorian Economic Development Corporation
Minister of Education	Ministry of Education	Committee of Classifiers Council of Public Education Institute of Educational Administration Primary Teachers' Registration Board Secondary Teachers' Registration Board Teacher Registration Council Technical Teachers' Registration Board Victorian Education Service Conciliation and Arbitration Commission	Council of Adult Education Victoria Institute of Secondary Education Victorian Post Secondary Education Commission State Council for Special Education
Minister for Employment and Training	Ministry of Employment and Training		Industrial Training Commission Victorian Technology Advisory Committee Victorian Employment Committee
Minister of Ethnic Affairs	Ethnic Affairs Commission	Ethnic Affairs Commission	
Minister of Forests	State Forests	Forests Commission	Baw Baw Alpine Reserve Committee of Management Board of Forestry Education Mt Buller Alpine Reserve Committee of Management Timber Promotion Council
Minister of Health	Health Commission	Advanced Dental Technicians Qualifications Board Chiropractors and Osteopaths Registration Board Cinematograph Operations Board Dental Technicians Licensing Committee Dieticians Registration Board Food Standards Committee Foreign Practitioners Qualification Committee Health Advisory Council Hospitals Accreditation Committee Medical Board Plumbers and Gasfitters Board Poisons Advisory Committee Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee Victorian Psychological Council	Anti-Cancer Council Cancer Institute Board Chiropractors Registration Board Dental Board of Victoria Fairfield Hospital Board Optometrists Registration Board Pharmacy Board Physiotherapists Registration Board Victorian Nursing Council
Minister of Housing	Ministry of Housing	Building Societies Advisory Committee Co-operative Housing Advisory Committee Co-operative Societies Advisory Council Credit Societies Reserve—Fund Committee Death Benefits Advisory Committee Decentralised Industry Housing Authority Government Employee Housing Authority Home Finance Trust Housing Commission Urban Land 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 Board of Examiners (Under the Scaffolding Act) Building Industry Long Service Leave Board Conciliation and Arbitration Boards Hospitals Remuneration Tribunal Industrial Relations Commission Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Advisory Council Scaffolding Regulations Committee Workers Compensation Board	Hairdressers Registration Board Motor Accidents Board

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

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES—*continued*

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Minister of Lands	Crown Lands and Survey	Coastal Management and Co-ordination Committee Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Management Committee Place Names Committee Port Phillip Authority Surveyor's Board Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board	Melbourne Cricket Ground Trustees Yarra Bend Park Trustees
Minister for Local Government	Local Government	Building Qualifications Board Building Control Technical Advisory Council Building Referees Panel Land Valuation Boards of Review Local Government Commission Municipal Auditors Board Municipal Clerks Board Municipal Electrical Engineers Board Municipal Engineers Board Municipal Valuation Fees Committee Valuers Qualification Board Victoria Grants Commission	Local Authorities Superannuation Board
Minister for Minerals and Energy	Minerals and Energy	Board of Examiners for Engine Drivers Board of Examiners for Mine Managers Board of Examiners for Quarry Managers Coal Mine Workers Pensions Tribunal Driller's Licensing Board Extractive Industries Advisory Committee Groundwater Advisory Committee Sludge Abatement Board Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Board	Electrical Approvals Board Falls Creek Advisory Council Victorian Solar Energy Council Gas and Fuel Corporation State Electricity Commission Victorian Brown Coal Council
Minister for Planning	Department of Planning	Historic Buildings Council Planning Appeals Board Western Port Committee	Geelong Regional Commission Loddon/Campaspe Regional Planning Authority Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (Planning Division) Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Planning Authority
Minister for Police and Emergency Services	Ministry for Police and Emergency Services	Country Fire Authority Appeal Tribunal Metropolitan Fire Brigade Appeal Tribunal Police Discipline Board Police Medical Board Police Service Board Police Superannuation Board Registry of Private Agents Victoria Police Force Victoria State Emergency Service	Country Fire Authority Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Board
Premier	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Agent-General (London) Equal Opportunity Board Promotions Appeals Board Public Service Board State Co-ordination Council State Relief Committee	
Minister for Property and Services	Property and Services	Public Records Advisory Council	
Minister for Public Works	Public Works	Architects Registration Board Government Buildings Advisory Council Port Phillip Pilot Slick and Superannuation Board State Accommodation Committee Victorian Public Offices Corporation	Port of Geelong Authority Port of Melbourne Authority Port of Portland Authority
Minister of Transport	Ministry of Transport	Metropolitan Transit Council Transport Regulation Board	Country Roads Board Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority Railway Construction and Property Board Street Lighting Committee Victorian Railways Appeal Board Victorian Railways Board





The Melbourne Concert Hall was opened on 6 November 1982 and part of the programme was a fireworks display which lasted for 15 minutes. The illuminated spire of the Theatres Building is featured in the background.

*Victorian Arts Centre Trust*



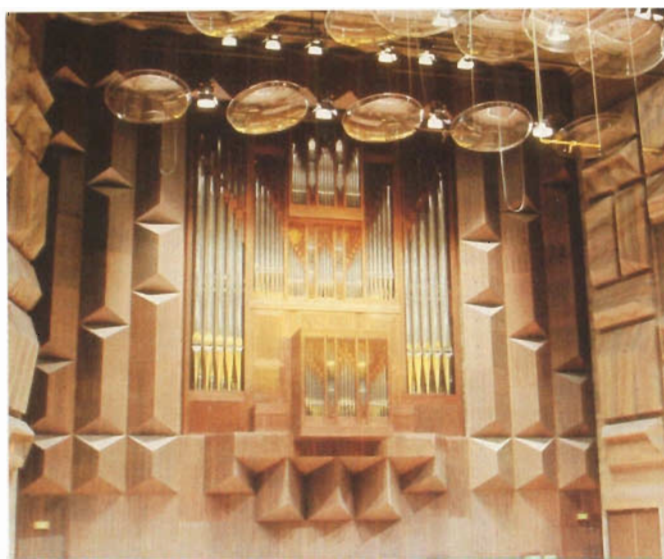


The three tiered interior of the Melbourne Concert Hall.

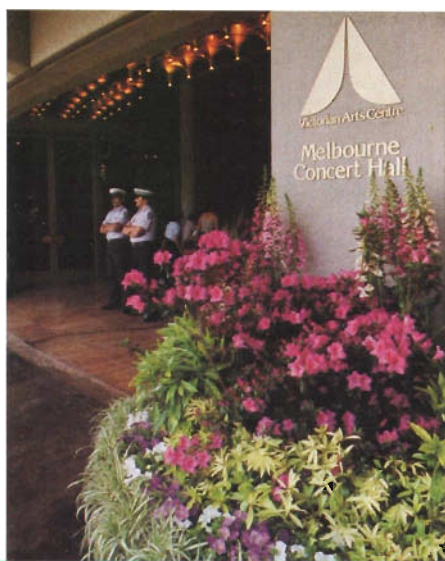
*Victorian Arts Centre Trust*

The pipe organ commissioned for the Melbourne Concert Hall. It was built in Canada and includes 4,189 pipes.

*Victorian Arts Centre Trust*







The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and some of the audience on the opening night of the Melbourne Concert Hall. (Left) is a floral arrangement near the entrance for the opening ceremony.

*Victorian Arts Centre Trust*

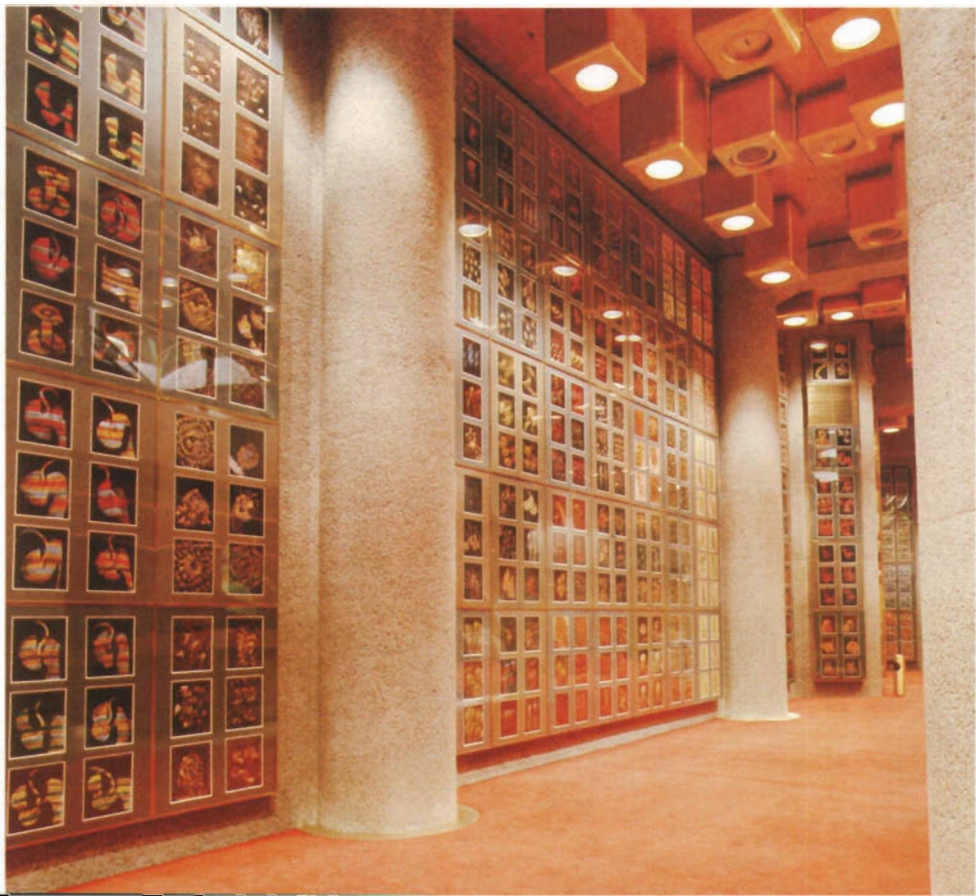




The foyer (left) and light reflecting chandelier of the Melbourne Concert Hall.  
*Victorian Arts Centre Trust*

The foyer features a mural of paintings by Sir Sidney Nolan especially commissioned for the Melbourne Concert Hall.

*Victorian Arts Centre Trust*



VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES—*continued*

Minister	Statutory authorities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the statutory authority is associated		Statutory authorities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Statutory authority	
Treasurer	Department of Management and Budget	Bookmakers and Bookmakers' Clerks Registration Committee Hardship Relief Board Investment Advisory Committee Land Tax Hardship Relief Board Premiums Committee Probate Duty Hardship Relief Board State Employees Retirement Benefits Board State Superannuation Board State Tender Board State Insurance Office	Hospitals Superannuation Board State Bank
Minister of Water Supply	Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission Water Resources Council	Ballarat Water Commissioners Dandenong Valley Authority First Mildura Irrigation and Urban Water Trusts Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works West Moorabool Water Board Various local water (200) and sewerage (136) authorities Various river improvement and drainage trusts (32)
Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation	Youth, Sport and Recreation	Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board Racecourse Licences Board State Recreation Council State Sports Council State Youth Council	Greyhound Racing Control Board Harness Racing Board Totalizator Agency Board

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

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT STATUTORY AUTHORITIES  
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION1. *Legal, protective, and registry services*

Adult Parole Board  
Appeal Costs Board  
Boards of Inquiry  
Country Fire Authority  
Credit Societies Reserve Fund  
Committee  
Law Reform Commissioner  
Legal Aid Commission  
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board  
Office of Finance Brokers,  
Auctioneers and Money  
Lenders  
Office of the Ombudsman  
Office of the Public Trustee  
Raffles and Bingo Permits Board  
Residential Tenancies Tribunal  
Residential Tenancies Bureau  
Solicitor-General  
Youth Parole Board  
Victorian Taxation Board of Review

2. *Regulation of primary production*

Australian Barley Board  
Commercial Fisheries Licensing Panel  
Country Grain Handling Improvement  
Authority

Citrus Fruit Marketing Board  
Dairy Produce Board  
Geelong Grain Handling Improvement  
Authority  
Licensing Appeals Tribunal  
(Commercial Fisheries)  
Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and  
Vegetable Market Trust  
Portland Grain Handling  
Improvement Authority  
Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee  
Poultry Farmer Licensing Review  
Committee  
Timber Promotion Council  
Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board  
Tobacco Quota Appeals Tribunal  
Tobacco Quota Committee  
Tomato Processing Industry  
Negotiating Committee  
Victorian Dairy Industry  
Authority  
Victorian Dried Fruits Board  
Victorian Egg Marketing Board  
Victorian Fishing Industry Council  
Victorian Wheat Advisory Committee  
Young Farmers Finance Council

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

3. *Regulation of industry and commerce*

Consumer Affairs Council  
Extractive Industries Advisory  
Committee  
Market Court  
Motor Car Traders Committee  
Premiums Committee  
Small Claims Tribunal  
Transport Regulation Board  
Victorian Broiler Industry  
Negotiating Committee  
Wine Grape Processing Industry  
Negotiating Committee

4. *Regulation of labour conditions*

Building Industry Long Service  
Leave Board  
Coal Mine Workers' Pensions  
Tribunal  
Conciliation and Arbitration Boards  
Hospital Remuneration Tribunal  
Hospitals Superannuation Board  
Industrial Training Committees  
Industrial Relations Commission  
Industrial Training Commission  
Local Authorities Superannuation  
Board  
Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeal  
Tribunal  
Metropolitan Fire Brigades  
Superannuation Board  
Regional Advisory Committees  
Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents  
Relief Board  
Victorian Employment Committee  
Victorian Technology Advisory  
Committee  
Workers Compensation Board

5. *Regulation of general standards*

Advisory Committee on Building  
in Alpine Areas  
Building Regulations Committee  
Co-operative Housing Societies  
Advisory Committee  
Co-operative Societies Advisory  
Council  
Deputy Public Trustee  
Food Standards Committee  
Fire Safety Advisory Committee  
Foundation and Underpinning  
Advisory Committee  
Land Valuation Boards of Review  
Liquor Control Commission  
Marine Board of Victoria  
Motor Accidents Board  
Municipal Valuation Fees Committee  
Place Names Committee  
Planning Consultative Council  
Premiums Committee  
Public Trustee  
Scaffolding Regulations Committee  
State Classification of Publications  
Board  
Stock Medicines Board  
Street Lighting Committee  
Victorian Abattoir and Meat  
Inspection Authority

6. *Regulation of professional and  
occupational standards*

Advanced Dental Technicians  
Qualifications Board  
Architects Registration Board  
Board of Examiners for Engine  
Drivers (Coal Mines)  
Board of Examiners for  
Engine Drivers (Mines)  
Board of Examiners for Engineers  
of Water Supply  
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 Examiners (under the  
Scaffolding Act)  
Board of Forestry Education  
Bookmakers and Bookmakers Clerks  
Registration Committee  
Building Qualifications Board  
Chiropractors Registration Board  
Chiropractors and Osteopaths'  
Registration Board  
Cinematograph Operators Board  
Committees of Classifiers—Primary,  
Secondary, Technical  
Companies Auditors Board  
Dental Board of Victoria  
Dental Technicians Licensing  
Committee  
Dietitians Registration Board  
Drillers' Licensing Board  
Electrical Approval Board  
Estate Agents Board  
Foreign Practitioners  
Qualifications Committee  
of the Medical Board  
Hairdressers Registration Board  
Medical Board of Victoria  
Motor Car Traders Committee  
Municipal Auditors Board  
Municipal Clerks Board  
Municipal Electrical Engineers  
Board  
Municipal Engineers Board  
Optometrists' Registration Board  
Pharmacy Board of Victoria  
Physiotherapists' Registration  
Board  
Plumbers and Gasfitters Board  
Primary Teachers' Registration  
Board  
Secondary Teachers' Registration  
Board  
Specialist Practitioners  
Qualification Committee  
of the Medical Board  
Specialist Practitioners'  
Qualification Committee  
(Dentists Act)  
Surveyors Board

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

Teacher Registration Council	Mildura Urban Water Trust
Technical Teachers' Registration Board	Mt Buller Alpine Reserve Committee of Management
Valuers' Qualification Board	Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Management Committee
Veterinary Board of Victoria	National Parks Advisory Council
Victorian Psychological Council	National Parks Service
Victorian Nursing Council	Planning Appeals Board
<i>7. Public utility, conservation, and development</i>	Port of Geelong Authority
Albury-Wodonga Corporation (Victoria)	Port of Melbourne Authority
Ballarat Water Commissioners	Port of Portland Authority
Baw Baw Alpine Reserve Committee	Port Phillip Authority
Building Trustees, State Library, National Museum, and Science Museum	Port Phillip Authority Consultative Committee
Building Societies Advisory Committee	Public Record Office
Central Advisory Council to the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board	Public Records Advisory Council
Coastal Management and Co-ordination Committee	Public Works Committee
Coolart Committee of Management	Railway Construction and Property Board
Country Roads Board	River Improvement and Drainage Trusts
Dandenong Valley Authority	Road Safety and Traffic Authority
Decentralized Industry Housing Authority	Rural Finance Commission
Emerald Tourist Railway Board	Shrine of Remembrance Trustees
Environment Protection Authority	Sludge Abatement Board
Environment Protection Council	Small Business Development Corporation
Exhibition Trustees	Soil Conservation Authority
Falls Creek Advisory Council	State Co-ordination Council
First Mildura Irrigation Trust	State Development Committee
Fisheries Management Committee (Commercial)	State Electricity Commission
Forest Reserve Committee of Management	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
Forests Commission	State Bank
Gas and Fuel Corporation	Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority
Geelong Regional Commission	Timber Promotion Council
Geelong Water Works and Sewerage Trust	Trustees of various cemeteries
Government Buildings Advisory Council	Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority
Government Employee Housing Authority	Urban Land Authority
Grain Elevators Board	Urban Renewal Advisory Committee
Ground Water Advisory Committee	Various local water and sewerage authorities
Historic Buildings Council	Various regional tourist authorities
Home Finance Trust	Various river improvement and drainage trusts
Housing Advisory Council	Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board
Housing Commission	Victoria Grants Commission
Housing Commission Death Benefit Advisory Committee	Victorian Brown Coal Council
Land Conservation Council	Victorian Conservation Trust
Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board	Victorian Economic Development Corporation
Local Government Advisory Board	Victorian Government Travel Authority
Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority	Victorian Public Offices Corporation
Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works	Victorian Railways Board
Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board	Victorian Solar Energy Council
Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority	Victoria State Emergency Service
	Water Resources Council
	West Gate Bridge Authority
	West Moorabool Water Board
	Western Metropolitan Market Trust
	Western Port Committee

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

<p>8. <i>Social welfare</i>  Child Development and Family Services Council  Community Welfare Training Council  Correctional Services Council  Crimes Compensation Tribunal  Death Benefits Advisory Committee  Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board  Equal Opportunity Board  Land Tax Hardship Relief Board  Patriotic Funds Council  Probate Duty Hardship Relief Board  Seaman's Welfare Advisory Council  Seaman's Welfare Trust Committee  State Relief Committee</p> <p>9. <i>Education and recreation</i>  Council of Adult Education  Council of Public Education  Council of the Science Museum of Victoria  Council of Trustees of the National Gallery  Deakin University  Film Victoria  Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust  Greyhound Racing Control Board  Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board  Harness Racing Board  Latrobe University  Library Council of Victoria  Monash University  National Museum of Victoria Council  Racecourse Licences Board  Small Business Development Committee  State College of Victoria  State Council for Special Education  State Library and National Museum Building Committee  State Recreational Council  State Sports Council  State Youth Council  Totalizator Agency Board  University of Melbourne  Victoria Institute of Secondary Education  Victorian Advisory Council on Agricultural Education  Victorian Arts Centre Trust  Victorian College of the Arts</p>	<p>Victorian Council for the Arts  Victorian Ethnic Affairs Advisory Council  Victorian Immigration Advisory Council  Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences Council  Victorian Institute of Secondary Education  Zoological Board of Victoria</p> <p>10. <i>Public health</i>  Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria  Cancer Institute Board  Fairfield Hospital Board  Filled Milk Advisory Committee  Food Standards Committee  Health Advisory Council  Hospitals Accreditation Committee  Imitation Milk Advisory Committee  Medical Board of Victoria  Milk Pasteurization Committee  Poisons Advisory Committee  Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee</p> <p>11. <i>Industrial health</i>  Industrial Safety, Health and Welfare Advisory Council</p> <p>12. <i>Internal administrative services</i>  Groundwater Appeals Board  Institute of Educational Administration  Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramway Appeals Board  Motor Accidents Tribunal  Office of the Building Industry  Long Service Leave Board  Pilot Superannuation Board  Police Discipline Board  Police Medical Board  Police Service Board  Police Superannuation Board  Promotions Appeal Board  Public Service Board  State Accommodation Committee  State Insurance Office  State Superannuation Board  State Tender Board  Teachers Tribunal  Victorian Grants Commission  Victorian Post-Secondary Education Commission</p>
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### Public general Acts of Victoria

The following list shows the departments or ministries responsible for the administration of the public Acts of general application in Victoria which were in effect at 1 September 1982 or which had then been passed by the Victorian Parliament to come into force at a later date.

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



**VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE  
1958 CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1982**

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act 1973</i>	Agriculture	<i>Business Franchise (Tobacco) Act 1974</i>	Treasury
<i>Aboriginal Affairs (Transfer of Functions) Act 1974</i>	Premier	<i>Business Investigation Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Aboriginal Lands Act 1970</i>	Lands	<i>Business Names Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>Acts Enumeration and Revision Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Cadet Surveyors Act 1964</i>	Forests also Lands also Water Supply
<i>Acts Interpretation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Cancer Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Administration and Probate Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Canned Fruits Marketing Act 1979</i>	Agriculture
<i>Administrative Law Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Carriers and Innkeepers Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Adoption of Children Act 1964</i>	Community Welfare	<i>Cattle Compensation Act 1967</i>	Agriculture
<i>Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966</i>	Services also Law Agriculture	<i>Cemeteries Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Age of Majority Act 1977</i>	Law	<i>Charities Act 1978</i>	Law
<i>Agent-General's Act 1958</i>	Premier	<i>Chattel Securities Act 1981</i>	Consumer Affairs
<i>Agricultural Chemicals Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Children's Court Act 1973</i>	Law also Community Welfare Services also Health
<i>Agricultural Colleges Act 1958</i>	Agriculture also Lands	<i>Chiropodists Act 1968</i>	Health
<i>Agricultural Education Cadetships Act 1969</i>	Agriculture	<i>Chiropractors and Osteopaths Act 1978</i>	Health
<i>Air Navigation Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1961</i>	Transport
<i>Albury-Wodonga Agreement Act 1973</i>	Economic Development	<i>Cluster Titles Act 1974</i>	Local Government
<i>Alcoholics and Drug-dependent Persons Act 1968</i>	Health also Law	<i>Coal Mines Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Amendments Incorporation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Collusive Practices Act 1965</i>	Law
<i>Anzac Day Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry also Youth, Sport and Recreation	<i>Commonwealth Arrangements Act 1958</i>	Premier
<i>Appeal Costs Fund Act 1964</i>	Law	<i>Commonwealth Places (Administration of Laws) Act 1970</i>	Law
<i>Arbitration Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Community Welfare Services Act 1970</i>	Community Welfare Services
<i>Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Companies Act 1961</i>	Law
<i>Architects Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Companies (Acquisition of Shares) (Application of Laws) Act 1981</i>	Law
<i>Associations Incorporation Act 1981</i>	Law	<i>Companies (Administration) Act 1981</i>	Law
<i>Attorney-General and Solicitor-General Act 1972</i>	Law	<i>Companies (Application of Laws) Act 1981</i>	Law
<i>Auction Sales Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Companies and Securities (Interpretation and Miscellaneous Provisions) (Application of Laws) Act 1981</i>	Law
<i>Audit Act 1958</i>	Treasury also Premier	<i>Constitution Act 1975</i>	Law also Premier
<i>Bail Act 1977</i>	Law	<i>Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958</i>	Property and Services
<i>Bank Holidays Act 1958</i>	Premier	<i>Constitutional Convention Act 1972</i>	Law
<i>Barley Marketing Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Constitutional Powers (Coastal Waters) Act 1980</i>	Law also Premier
<i>Bees Act 1971</i>	Agriculture	<i>Constitutional Powers (Request) Act 1980</i>	Law
<i>Benefit Associations Act 1958</i>	Property and Services	<i>Construction Safety Act 1979</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act 1970</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Consumer Affairs Act 1972</i>	Consumer Affairs also Health
<i>Bread Industry Act 1959</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Co-operation Act 1981</i>	Treasury
<i>Broiler Chicken Industry Act 1978</i>	Agriculture	<i>Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958</i>	Housing
<i>Building Contracts (Deposits) Act 1962</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Coroners Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Building Control Act 1981</i>	Local Government	<i>Council of Adult Education Act 1981</i>	Education
<i>Building Industry Long Service Leave Act 1975</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Council of Law Reporting in Victoria Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>Building Societies Act 1976</i>	Housing	<i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Business Franchise (Petroleum Products) Act 1979</i>	Treasury	<i>Country Roads Act 1958</i>	Transport



VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1982—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>County Court Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>	Conservation
<i>Courts Administration Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>Equal Opportunity Act 1977</i>	Premier
<i>Court Security Act 1980</i>	Law	<i>Essential Services Act 1958</i>	Premier
<i>Credit Act 1981</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Estate Agents Act 1980</i>	Law
<i>Credit Reporting Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Evidence Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Crimes Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Evidence (Commissions) Act 1982</i>	Law
<i>Crimes (Offences at Sea) Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Explosives Act 1960</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1972</i>	Law	<i>Extractive Industries Act 1966</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>	Lands	<i>Farm Produce Merchants and Commission Agents Act 1965</i>	Agriculture
<i>Crown Proceedings Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Fences Act 1968</i>	Law also Lands
<i>Cul-de-sac Applications Act 1965</i>	Law	<i>Fertilizers Act 1974</i>	Agriculture
<i>Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963</i>	Local Government	<i>Filled Milk Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Dandenong Valley Authority Act 1963</i>	Water Supply	<i>Film Victoria Act 1981</i>	Arts
<i>Deakin University Act 1974</i>	Education	<i>Films Act 1971</i>	Law
<i>Decentralization Advisory Committee Act 1964</i>	Economic Development	<i>Finance Brokers Act 1969</i>	Law
<i>Decentralized Industry (Housing) Act 1973</i>	Housing	<i>Firearms Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Decentralized Industry Incentive Payments Act 1972</i>	Economic Development	<i>Fisheries Act 1968</i>	Conservation
<i>Decimal Currency Act 1965</i>	Treasury	<i>Foreign Judgements Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>Dental Technicians Act 1972</i>	Health	<i>Forests Act 1958</i>	Forests
<i>Dentists Act 1972</i>	Health	<i>Friendly Societies Act 1958</i>	Property and Services
<i>Development Areas Act 1973</i>	Economic Development also Planning	<i>Fruit and Vegetables Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Developmental Railways Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Frustrated Contracts Act 1959</i>	Law
<i>Dietitians Act 1981</i>	Health	<i>Fuel Emergency Act 1977</i>	Premier also Law, Consumer Affairs
<i>Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act 1961</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Fuel Prices Regulation Act 1981</i>	Premier
<i>Dog Act 1970</i>	Local Government	<i>Gas Act 1969</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Domicile Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Gas and Fuel Corporation Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Drainage Areas Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Gas Franchise Act 1970</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Drainage of Land Act 1975</i>	Water Supply	<i>Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust Act 1980</i>	Arts
<i>Dried Fruits Act 1958</i>	Agriculture also Health	<i>Geelong Regional Commission Act 1977</i>	Economic Development also Planning
<i>Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981</i>	Health	<i>Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act 1958</i>	Water Supply
<i>Economic Development Act 1981</i>	Economic Development also Tourism	<i>Gift Duty Act 1971</i>	Treasury
<i>Education Act 1958</i>	Education also Health	<i>Goods Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Education Service Act 1981</i>	Education	<i>Gordon Technical College Act 1976</i>	Education
<i>Educational Grants Act 1973</i>	Education	<i>Government Buildings Advisory Council Act 1972</i>	Public Works
<i>Educational Institutions (Guarantees) Act 1976</i>	Treasury	<i>Government Employee Housing Authority Act 1981</i>	Housing
<i>Egg Industry Stabilization Act 1973</i>	Agriculture	<i>Grain Elevators Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Electoral Provinces and Districts Act 1974</i>	Property and Services	<i>Grain Handling Improvement Authorities Act 1979</i>	Agriculture
<i>Electric Light and Power Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Groundwater Act 1969</i>	Minerals and Energy also Water Supply
<i>Employment and Training Act 1981</i>	Employment and Training	<i>Hairdressers Registration Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i>	Conservation	<i>Harbor Boards Act 1958</i>	Public Works
		<i>Hawkers and Pedlars Act 1958</i>	Local Government
		<i>Health Act 1958</i>	Health
		<i>Health Commission Act 1977</i>	Health
		<i>Health (Fluoridation) Act 1973</i>	Health

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1982—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Hire Purchase Act 1959</i>	Law	<i>Liquefied Gases Act 1968</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Historic Buildings Act 1981</i>	Planning	<i>Liquefied Petroleum Gas Act 1958 (a)</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981</i>	Conservation	<i>Liquefied Petroleum Gas Subsidy Act 1980</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Home Finance Act 1962</i>	Housing	<i>Liquor Control Act 1968</i>	Tourism
<i>Hospital Benefits (Levy) Act 1982</i>	Health	<i>Listening Devices Act 1969</i>	Law
<i>Hospitals and Charities Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Litter Act 1964</i>	Local Government
<i>Hospitals Remuneration Tribunal Act 1978</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Livery and Agistment Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965</i>	Health	<i>Local Authorities Superannuation Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Housing Act 1958</i>	Housing	<i>Local Government Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Imitation Milk Act 1969</i>	Agriculture	<i>Local Government Department Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Imperial Acts Application Act 1980</i>	Law	<i>Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act 1966</i>	Law
<i>Imperial Law Re-enactment Act 1980</i>	Law	<i>Magistrates' Courts Act 1971</i>	Law
<i>Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act 1975</i>	Law
<i>Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Maintenance Act 1965</i>	Law
<i>Industrial Relations Act 1979</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Margarine Act 1975</i>	Agriculture
<i>Industrial Safety Health and Welfare Act 1981</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Marine Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Industrial Training Act 1975</i>	Employment and Training	<i>Marine Stores and Old Metals Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Inflammable Liquids Act 1966</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Market Court Act 1978</i>	Consumer Affairs
<i>Institute of Educational Administration Act 1980</i>	Education	<i>Marketable Securities Act 1970</i>	Law
<i>Instruments Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Marketing of Primary Products Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Joint Select Committee (Road Safety) Act 1979</i>	Premier	<i>Markets Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Marriage Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Juries Act 1967</i>	Law	<i>Medical Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Labour and Industry Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Medical Practitioners Act 1970</i>	Health
<i>Land Act 1958</i>	also Health	<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958</i>	Water Supply
<i>Land Conservation Act 1970</i>	Lands also Law	<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act 1958</i>	Transport
<i>Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Act 1970</i>	Transport
<i>Land Settlement Act 1959</i>	Soldier Settlement	<i>Melbourne University Act 1958</i>	Education
<i>Land Tax Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust Act 1977</i>	Agriculture
<i>Landlord and Tenant Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978</i>	Premier
<i>Lands Compensation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Mental Health Act 1959</i>	Health also Community Welfare Services
<i>La Trobe University Act 1964</i>	Education	<i>Metric Conversion Act 1973</i>	Local Government
<i>Latrobe Valley Act 1958</i>	Economic Development also Water Supply	<i>Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Law Reform Act 1973</i>	Law	<i>Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Act 1976</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Legal Aid Commission Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Legal Profession Practice Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Milk and Dairy Supervision Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education Act 1972</i>	Law	<i>Milk Board Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Libraries Act 1958</i>	Arts	<i>Milk Pasteurization Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Library Council of Victoria Act 1965</i>	Arts	<i>Minerals and Energy Act 1976</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Lifts and Cranes Act 1967</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Mines Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Limitation of Actions Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Mining Development Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1982—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Ministry for Conservation Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Ministry for the Arts Act 1972</i>	Arts	<i>Pharmacists Act 1974</i>	Health
<i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs Act 1973</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Physiotherapists Act 1978</i>	Health
<i>Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Act 1976</i>	Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	<i>Pipelines Act 1967</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Ministry of Transport Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Planning Appeals Board Act 1980</i>	Planning
<i>Mint Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Poisons Act 1962 (d)</i>	Health
<i>Monash University Act 1958</i>	Education	<i>Police Assistance Compensation Act 1968</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Money Lenders Act 1958 (b)</i>	Law	<i>Police Offences Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Motor Accidents Act 1973</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Police Regulation Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services also Health
<i>Motor Boating Act 1961</i>	Police and Emergency Services also Transport also Public Works	<i>Port of Geelong Authority Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Motor Car Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services also Transport	<i>Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Motor Car Traders Act 1973</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Port of Portland Authority Act 1958</i>	Public Works
<i>Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Act 1972</i>	Lands	<i>Port Phillip Authority Act 1966</i>	Lands
<i>Municipalities Assistance Act 1973</i>	Local Government	<i>Post-Secondary Education Act 1978</i>	Education
<i>National Companies and Securities Commission (State Provisions) Act 1981</i>	Law	<i>Post-Secondary Education Remuneration Tribunal Act 1980</i>	Education
<i>National Gallery of Victoria Act 1966</i>	Arts	<i>Poultry Levy (Collection Arrangements) Act 1965</i>	Agriculture
<i>National Museum Council of Victoria Act 1970</i>	Arts	<i>Poultry Processing Act 1968</i>	Agriculture
<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>	Conservation	<i>Pounds Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Navigable Waters (Oil Pollution) Act 1960</i>	Public Works	<i>Printers and Newspapers Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Nurses Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Private Agents Act 1966</i>	Police and Emergency Services
<i>Ombudsman Act 1973</i>	Premier	<i>Probate Duty Act 1962</i>	Treasury
<i>Optometrists Registration Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Professional Boxing Control Act 1975</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation
<i>Parliamentary Committees Act 1968</i>	Premier also Law	<i>Property Law Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act 1962</i>	Treasury	<i>Protection of Animals Act 1966</i>	Agriculture
<i>Parliamentary Officers Act 1975</i>	Premier	<i>Psychological Practices Act 1965</i>	Health
<i>Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968</i>	Premier also Treasury	<i>Public Account Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Partnership Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966</i>	Treasury
<i>Patriotic Funds Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Public Authorities Marks Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Pawnbrokers Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Public Authorities (Sinking Funds) Act 1982</i>	Premier
<i>Pay-roll Tax Act 1971</i>	Treasury	<i>Public Contracts Act 1958</i>	Water Supply
<i>Penalties and Sentences Act 1981</i>	Law also Community Welfare Services	<i>Public Lands and Works Act 1964</i>	Public Works
<i>Pensions Supplementation Act 1966</i>	Treasury	<i>Public Records Act 1973</i>	Property and Services
<i>Perpetuities and Accumulations Act 1968</i>	Law	<i>Public Safety Preservation Act 1958</i>	Premier
<i>Petrol Pumps Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Public Service Act 1974</i>	Premier
<i>Petroleum Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Public Trustee Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Petroleum Products Subsidy Act 1965</i>	Treasury	<i>Racing Act 1958</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation
<i>Petroleum Retail Selling Sites Act 1981</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Railway Construction and Property Board Act 1979</i>	Transport
<i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967 (c)</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Railway Lands Acquisition Act 1958</i>	Transport
		<i>Railways Act 1958</i>	Transport
		<i>Railways Standardization Agreement Act 1958</i>	Transport
		<i>Rain-making Control Act 1967</i>	Agriculture
		<i>Recreation Vehicles Act 1973</i>	Police and Emergency Services also Transport
		<i>Reference Areas Act 1978</i>	Conservation

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1982—*continued*

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959</i>	Property and Services	<i>State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (Special Projects) Act 1969</i>	Water Supply
<i>Religious Successory and Charitable Trusts Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Statistics Act 1958</i>	Property and Services
<i>Residential Tenancies Act 1980</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Status of Children Act 1974</i>	Law
<i>River Improvement Act 1958</i>	Water Supply	<i>Stock (Artificial Breeding) Act 1962</i>	Agriculture
<i>Road Traffic Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services also Transport	<i>Stock Diseases Act 1968</i>	Agriculture
<i>Rural Finance Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Stock Foods Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Rural Finance and Settlement Commission Act 1961</i>	Soldier Settlement	<i>Stock Medicines Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Sale of Human Blood Act 1962</i>	Health	<i>Strata Titles Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>Sale of Land Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Subordinate Legislation Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>Scaffolding Act 1971 (e)</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Summary Offences Act 1966</i>	Law
<i>Science Museum of Victoria Act 1970</i>	Arts	<i>Summer Time Act 1972</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Seamen's Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Sunday Entertainment Act 1967</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Second-hand Dealers Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Superannuation Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Securities Industry Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>Superannuation Act 1975</i>	Treasury
<i>Securities Industry (Application of Laws) Act 1981</i>	Law	<i>Superannuation Benefits Act 1977</i>	Treasury
<i>Seeds Act 1971</i>	Agriculture	<i>Superannuation (Lump Sum Benefits) Act 1981</i>	Treasury
<i>Senate Elections Act 1958</i>	Property and Services	<i>Supreme Court Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Settled Land Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Survey Co-ordination Act 1958</i>	Lands
<i>Sewerage Districts Act 1958</i>	Water Supply	<i>Surveyors Act 1978</i>	Lands
<i>Shearers Accommodation Act 1976</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Swine Compensation Act 1967</i>	Agriculture
<i>Sheep Branding Fluids Act 1963</i>	Agriculture	<i>Tattersall Consultations Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Sheep Owners Protection Act 1961</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>Taxation Appeals Act 1972</i>	Law
<i>Small Business Develop- ment Corporation Act 1976</i>	Economic Development	<i>Teaching Service Act 1958 (f)</i>	Education
<i>Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973</i>	Consumer Affairs	<i>Temperance Halls Act 1958</i>	Lands
<i>Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (Victoria) Act 1971</i>	Water Supply	<i>Theatres Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958</i>	Conservation	<i>Tobacco Leaf Industry Stabilization Act 1966</i>	Agriculture
<i>Soldier Settlement Act 1958</i>	Soldier Settlement	<i>Tomato Processing Industry Act 1976</i>	Agriculture
<i>Stamps Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Tourist Railways Act 1981</i>	Tourism
<i>State Bank Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Town and Country Planning Act 1961</i>	Planning
<i>State Co-ordination Council Act 1975</i>	Premier	<i>Town and Country Planning (Amalgamation) Act 1980</i>	Planning
<i>State Electricity Commission Act 1958</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Trade Unions Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>State Employees Retirement Benefits Act 1979</i>	Treasury	<i>Transfer of Land Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>State Insurance Office Act 1975</i>	Treasury	<i>Transport Regulation Act 1958</i>	Transport
<i>State Library National Gallery National Museum and Institute of Applied Science Act 1960</i>	Arts	<i>Trustee Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>State Relief Committee Act 1958</i>	Premier	<i>Trustee Companies Act 1958</i>	Law
		<i>Unauthorized Documents Act 1958</i>	Law
		<i>Unclaimed Moneys Act 1962</i>	Treasury
		<i>Underseas Mineral Resources Act 1963</i>	Minerals and Energy
		<i>Unlawful Assemblies and Processions Act 1958</i>	Police and Emergency Services
		<i>Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Act 1976</i>	Planning
		<i>Urban Land Authority Act 1979</i>	Housing
		<i>Urban Renewal Act 1970</i>	Housing

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 1 SEPTEMBER 1982—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Vagrancy Act 1966</i>	Law	<i>Victorian Solar Energy Council Act 1980</i>	Minerals and Energy
<i>Valuation of Land Act 1960</i>	Local Government	<i>Victorian Water and Sewerage Authorities Association Act 1981</i>	Water Supply
<i>Vegetation and Vine Diseases Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Vital State Projects Act 1976</i>	Premier also Law
<i>Venerable Diseases Act 1958</i>	Health		
<i>Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1958</i>	Lands	<i>Warehousemen's Liens Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Veterinary Surgeons Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Water Act 1958</i>	Water Supply
<i>Victoria Conservation Trust Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Water Resources Act 1975</i>	Water Supply
<i>Victoria Grants Commission Act 1976</i>	Local Government	<i>Waterworks Trusts Association of Victoria Act 1966</i>	Water Supply
<i>Victoria Law Foundation Act 1978</i>	Law	<i>Weights and Measures Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Victoria State Emergency Service Act 1981</i>	Police and Emergency Services	<i>West Moorabool Water Board Act 1968</i>	Water Supply
<i>Victorian Arts Centre Act 1979</i>	Arts	<i>Wheat Marketing Act 1979</i>	Agriculture
<i>Victorian Brown Coal Council Act 1978</i>	Minerals and Energy	<i>Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection Act 1958</i>	Forests
<i>Victorian College of the Arts Act 1981</i>	Education	<i>Wildlife Act 1975</i>	Conservation
<i>Victorian Dairy Industry Authority Act 1977</i>	Agriculture	<i>Wills Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Victorian Economic Development Corporation Act 1981</i>	Economic Development	<i>Wine Grape Processing Industry Act 1978</i>	Agriculture
<i>Victorian Fishing Industry Council Act 1979</i>	Conservation	<i>Wire Netting Act 1958</i>	Lands
<i>Victorian Government Travel Authority Act 1977</i>	Tourism	<i>Wodonga Area Land Acquisition Act 1973 (g)</i>	Economic Development
<i>Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences Act 1974</i>	Conservation	<i>Workers Compensation Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry also Health
<i>Victorian Institute of Secondary Education Act 1976</i>	Education	<i>Wrongs Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Victorian Public Offices Corporation Act 1974</i>	Public Works	<i>Wrongs (Public Contracts) Act 1981</i>	Premier
		<i>Youth, Sport and Recreation Act 1972</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation
		<i>Zoological Parks and Gardens Act 1967</i>	Conservation

(a) Repealed by Act No. 7754 which is not yet in operation.

(b) To be repealed by the *Credit Act 1981* which is not yet in operation.

(c) To be repealed by the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982* which is not yet in operation.

(d) To be repealed by the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981* which is not yet in operation.

(e) Repealed by Act No. 9271 which is not yet in operation.

(f) To be repealed by the *Education Service Act 1981* which is not yet fully in operation.

(g) Lapsed.

### Freedom of Information

The Victorian Parliament in 1982 passed the Freedom of Information (F.O.I.) Act. Except for Part II the legislation will come into operation on 5 July 1983. Cited as the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (No. 9859), the aim of this Act is to give members of the public rights of access to official documents of the Government of Victoria and of its agencies.

The legislation is based on three major premises:

- (1) The individual has a right to know what information is contained in government records about himself or herself;
- (2) a government that is open to public scrutiny is more accountable to the people who elect it; and
- (3) where persons are informed about government policies, they are more likely to become involved in policy making and in government itself.

The information now held by government agencies in documentary form, with certain exclusions and exemptions, will be available under the F.O.I. Act. This includes files, reports, manuals of procedure, and other documents in the possession of the agency. It also includes information held on microfiche, video tapes, computer tapes, and other

"non-written" documents. In many cases persons will be able to buy copies of documents to take away with them.

The Act, however, excludes certain types of document from access. Documents created prior to 5 July 1978 are not generally available unless they relate personally to the applicant. The Act does not provide access to documents available through other means, for example, documents such as birth certificates or annual reports. Library reference material, archives available through the Public Record Office and court judicial records are also excluded from access.

Moreover, several classes of documents are exempt from release under the F.O.I. legislation. These include Cabinet documents, certain documents relating to inter-government relations, the economy and financial affairs, internal working documents, law enforcement documents, documents relating to the personal affairs of a third person (including a deceased person), and documents protected from release by secrecy provisions of other Acts. Depending on the circumstances, anyone who objects to the denial of access to documents can appeal to the principal officer of the agency and then if not satisfied to the County Court.

However, the legislation provides that documents can be edited before release to remove exempt material and facilitate access. Furthermore, at the discretion of Ministers and agencies, access can be granted to exempt documents.

Victoria's new Freedom of Information Act is part of the world-wide movement towards open government, reflected in Australia by F.O.I. legislation in Victoria and the Commonwealth. Further information on the operation of Victorian F.O.I. legislation is contained in a brochure, entitled *Freedom of Information in Victoria*.

#### AUDITOR-GENERAL

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

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

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

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

#### OMBUDSMAN

The office of the Ombudsman was established in Victoria on 30 October 1973. The principal function of the Ombudsman is to investigate administrative actions taken in any government department or public statutory body, to which the Ombudsman Act applies, or by any officer or employee of a municipality.

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

For the most part, the Ombudsman's investigations are initiated in consequence of complaints received by him from the public, but he may initiate an investigation of his

own motion and without any complaint being made concerning the matter to be investigated.

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

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

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

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

Up to June 1982, Victorian authorities have overwhelmingly seen fit to comply with his recommendations.

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

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

#### VICTORIA—OMBUDSMAN: COMPLAINTS DEALT WITH, 1981-82

Complaints dealt with	1981-82
Prior to inquiry or investigation—	
No jurisdiction—not a Victorian	
Government Authority	396
Referred initially to appropriate	
Authority	324
Withdrawn	96
Following inquiry—	
Discontinued or withdrawn (a)	126
Rectified or clarified	518
Sustained	30
Not sustained	655
Following investigation—	
Withdrawn during investigation	5
Rectified or clarified	35
Sustained	95
Recommendations—to correct	
legislation or procedures	11
Other recommendations	14
Not sustained	72
Total	2,377

(a) Often as a result of the matter being rectified or clarified.

Further references: Ombudsman, *First Six Years of Office, 1973-79*, *Victorian Year Book*, 1980, pp. 138-40; Public Records Office, 1981, pp. 128-9; Victorian Government Printing Office, 1981, pp. 129-30; Public Bodies Review Committee, 1982, pp. 125-7

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

**General**

Local Government in Victoria is administered by the councils of 211 municipalities. The powers and duties of municipal councils are set out in the *Local Government Act 1958* and a number of other Acts of the Victorian Parliament. (For a comprehensive description of the Local Government and the Acts the Department administers, see Chapter 6 of this *Year Book*.)

Operating under the Minister for Local Government, the Local Government Department through a staff of 261 officers and 50 members of various boards, who serve on a part-time and full-time basis, acts to assist municipal councils in the performance of their duties within the framework of the statutory powers under which they operate, and provides a point of reference for people served by local government. While the traditional role of the Department has been to assist councils in executing the wishes of their electors, the Department has recently been strengthened in policy formulation and research.

To enable it to carry out its tasks, the Department is composed of a number of specialist sections and branches the more important of which are described below.

The Legislation section prepares new and amending legislation and provides general legislative support and advice. The Engineers provide technical advice to the Minister and the Department on matters of engineering or related to the marketing of livestock through municipal sale yards. General Administration prepares draft Ministerial and Governor in Council Orders on a wide range of statutory procedures and provides a general administrative and secretarial service to the Department and a number of statutory boards and committees.

The Policy and Research section assists the Minister and the Department with research and policy development on all aspects of local government and in particular, in developing inter-departmental policies. Inspectors of Municipal Administration provide advice to councils, councillors, officers, and the general public on the administration and financial management of municipalities.

Further references: *Victorian Year Book* 1981, p. 131; 1982, p. 129

## PLANNING IN VICTORIA

**Department of the Premier: State Co-ordination Council**

The State Co-ordination Council was established under the *State Co-ordination Council Act 1975*. The Council consists of the heads of 40 State Government agencies, i.e. departments, statutory authorities, and ministries, and reports directly to the Premier. The Council provides advice to the Premier on a wide range of matters, including the rationalisation of Government Regulations, the provision of human services, and industrial and urban development. In addition, the Council prepares demographic and other forecasts, co-ordinates agencies' statistical requirements, and assists in the co-ordination of regional development.

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book* 1978, pp. 155-6; 1982, pp. 129-30

**Department of Planning***General*

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

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

The Planning Consultative Council (see *Victorian Year Book* 1982, pages 130-1) was disbanded in 1982.



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

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

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

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

#### *Objectives*

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

#### *Statements of Planning Policy*

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

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

The tabling in Parliament of statements of planning policy was introduced by amendment to the Town and Country Planning Act in December 1978 to enable the Victorian Parliament to monitor government action in planning, and to increase public input to planning policies through local members of Parliament.

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

#### *Application of Statements*

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

#### *Planning for specific areas*

Where a local planning authority does not have the resources, the Department of Planning prepares planning schemes for special areas or projects of State significance. The Department also assists regional authorities in the preparation of strategy plans through

special task forces which comprise staff drawn from various Victorian Government agencies.

#### *Melton and Sunbury*

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

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

#### *Commonwealth Government co-operation*

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

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

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

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

#### *Albury-Wodonga*

In recognition of the need to encourage a more balanced development of the Australian continent and to provide an alternative to capital city living for those who seek a different life style, the Commonwealth, New South Wales, and Victorian Governments agreed on 25 January 1973 to plan and develop the twin cities of Albury-Wodonga. On 23 October 1973, the Prime Minister of Australia and the Premiers of New South Wales and Victoria confirmed this intention when they signed the Albury-Wodonga Area Development Agreement at Wodonga. The Agreement provided for the establishment of a development corporation as a statutory authority to plan and develop the areas designated for new growth.

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

Commerce and industry are continuing to function in Albury-Wodonga. Since the Growth Centre was established, private sector employment in Albury-Wodonga has increased from 11,500 to almost 17,000. In percentage terms, total employment in Albury-Wodonga has been increasing at some 5 per cent yearly.

To be consistent with the objectives established in 1977, a population increase in Albury-Wodonga of 15,000 is required over the 5 years 1977-1982, and a population of at least 150,000 is required by the end of the century. The increase in population of 15,000 over the 5 years 1977-1982 was based on the creation of 2,500 new basic jobs in that period.

Capital investment in Albury-Wodonga, in both private and public sectors, has experienced rapid growth in the past few years. In per capita terms, private investment has grown to some 37 per cent above that for Australia as a whole for the eight years to June

1981. With public outlays by all levels of government significantly above national per capita levels in that period, injection of capital into the region is currently about 51 per cent above that for the rest of Australia.

Emphasis continues to be placed on the attraction of further private sector investment and the Corporation is now actively promoting private sector involvement in its land development activities by way of joint venture arrangements.

Further reference: *Victorian Year Book* 1979, p. 134; 1982, p. 133

#### *Regional authorities*

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

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

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

#### *Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority*

In 1974, the Victorian Government decided on major changes in planning for the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges and the Minister for Planning established an interim study group to review existing policy and zonings and make recommendations. Legislation for the Yarra Valley and Dandenong region was outlined by the Minister for Planning in a Ministerial Statement in 1976, and later that year the interim study group published its report entitled *Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Land Management and Stream Environmental Study*.

The Act establishing the Authority was gazetted in April 1977. The Act charges the Authority with providing increased protection for the special features and character of the region; with implementing statements of planning policy for the region; and with preparing a regional strategy plan. The strategy plan was placed on public exhibition late in 1980 for a period of five months. The Minister for Planning appointed a review panel of five members (two from the Authority and three individuals with a knowledge of planning and conservation) to review submissions on the strategy plan and to report to the Authority. This has been completed and the strategy plan has been forwarded to the Minister for approval.

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

#### *Geelong Regional Commission*

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

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

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

In conjunction with its development and promotion of Geelong as an attractive location for industry, the Commission is undertaking several studies aimed at making the region an attractive place in which to live. An example of such a study is the "City by the Bay" development announced in November 1981. This project involves the re-development and revitalisation of the Central Business District of Geelong with major emphasis being placed on the development of the Corio Bay foreshore area.

In recent years the Geelong region has seen the completion of the Australian National Animal Health Laboratory at East Geelong and the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences at Queenscliff.

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

#### *New role for the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works*

Provision is made in the Town and Country Planning (General Amendment) Act for the introduction of local development schemes. These schemes represent a new concept in planning. The effect of the schemes will be to place responsibility for detailed local planning with local councils. This will enable the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works to concentrate its expertise further in devising and updating strategy for the Melbourne metropolitan area. The Board will also assist and advise local councils in the preparation of local development schemes in the framework of such strategy.

#### *Historic Buildings Council*

The *Historic Buildings Act* 1981 was proclaimed in March 1982 and is administered by the Historic Buildings Council. The Council is a part-time body which consists of twelve persons. They are: a person nominated by the Minister for the Arts, the Valuer-General or a person nominated by him, the Director-General of Public Works or a person nominated by him, and nine members appointed by the Governor in Council, each of whom represents an appropriate area of professional experience.

The Council meets regularly and carries out on-site inspections of buildings of historic and/or architectural importance.

The functions of the Council are:

- (1) To recommend to the Minister:
  - (i) the buildings of architectural or historic importance which it considers should be added to the Historic Buildings Register;
  - (ii) the designated buildings which it considers should be removed from the Register; and
  - (iii) any alteration which it considers should be made to any item in the Register.
- (2) of its own motion, or at the request of the Minister for Planning, to report to the Minister on any matter relating to buildings or land on the Register or to the administration of this Act or on any matter which might facilitate the preservation of buildings on the Register; and
- (3) to exercise any other powers and carry out any other duties conferred or imposed on it by or under this Act.

The Council may prepare reports when so requested by a responsible authority in relation to any matter referred to in clause 8 or 8B of the Third Schedule to the *Town and Country Planning Act* 1961 for submission to the Minister.

For the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act the Council may consult with the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and any other person or body and carry

out any investigations it thinks fit. The Council shall consider such submissions as are from time to time made to it by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

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

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

#### *Architectural Advisory Services and Restoration Funds*

The 1977-78 budget provided funds for the establishment of an Architectural Advisory Service and Restoration Fund to assist with the preservation and restoration of buildings of historical importance within the township of Maldon. The Architectural Advisory Service is a free service for local residents. Finance for restoration is in the form of grants and loans as recommended to the Minister by a local committee.

This scheme has been extended to cover Ballarat, Beechworth-Chiltern-Yackandandah, Port Fairy, and Queenscliff.

Further references: State Planning Council, *Victorian Year Book* 1976, pp. 154-5; Re-structuring of old and inappropriate sub-divisions, 1978, p. 162; Town Planning Appeals Tribunal, 1978, p. 162; Urban Land Council 1979, p. 133; Statistical divisions in Victoria, 1980, pp. 150-2; Town and Country Planning Board, 1980, pp. 143-4; Regional planning, 1980, pp. 145-6

### PUBLIC SAFETY

#### Fire authorities

##### *Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board*

Until January 1974, municipalities within the Metropolitan Fire District contributed one-third, and fire insurance companies transacting business in the same area provided two-thirds, of the amount required to maintain metropolitan fire brigades. As a result of amended legislation, operative since the beginning of 1974, contributions have subsequently been received in the proportions of one-eighth from the Victorian Government, one-eighth from municipal councils, and three-quarters from fire insurance companies. During 1981-82, contributions by municipalities were equivalent to 0.274 cents in the dollar of the annual value of property, amounting to \$2.189m, while fire insurance companies contributed at a rate of \$34.82 for every \$100 of fire insurance premiums paid on insured property. Premiums received in the Metropolitan Fire District in 1981-82 amounted to \$103.22m.

Particulars of the revenue, expenditure, and loan indebtedness of the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board for each of the years 1977-78 to 1981-82 are shown in the following table:

#### VICTORIA—METROPOLITAN FIRE BRIGADES BOARD: REVENUE, EXPENDITURE, ETC.

(\$'000)					
Particulars	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
REVENUE					
Statutory contributions—					
Treasurer of Victoria	3,736	3,956	4,646	5,510	5,990
Municipalities	3,736	3,956	4,646	5,510	5,990
Insurance companies	22,423	23,736	27,782	33,061	35,941
Brokers and owners	525	443	530	533	539
Charges for services	2,428	2,670	3,480	4,385	4,676
Interest and sundries	2,062	979	929	1,172	2,127
Total	34,910	35,740	42,013	50,171	55,263
EXPENDITURE					
Salaries	22,014	25,419	29,104	33,138	39,571
Other	12,121	12,458	13,759	15,555	19,337
Total	34,135	37,877	42,863	48,693	58,908
Net surplus (+) or deficit (-)	+ 775	-2,137	-850	+ 1,478	-3,645
Loan indebtedness (at 30 June)	5,722	6,422	6,071	5,664	5,217

The following table shows particulars of the number of fire stations operated by the Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board and the number of staff employed at 30 June for each of the years 1978 to 1982:

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

Particulars	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Fire stations	48	48	48	48	48
Staff employed—					
Fire fighting	1,572	1,631	1,654	1,683	1,696
All other	292	323	350	365	374

*Country Fire Authority*

The headquarters of the Country Fire Authority are situated in Malvern, a suburb of Melbourne, where an operations centre is in direct radio contact with every fire control region throughout Victoria. At 30 June 1982, there were 120 permanent firefighters employed in brigades at Ballarat, Ballarat City, Bendigo, Boronia, Dandenong, Doveton, Frankston, Geelong, Norlane, North Geelong, Geelong West, and Springvale, with a total of 118 permanent brigade officers at these stations and at Belgrave, Chelsea, Mildura, Morwell, Shepparton, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Wodonga, and Fiskville Training Centre.

The revenue of the Country Fire Authority consists mainly of statutory contributions, in the proportion of one-third from the Victorian Treasury's Municipalities Assistance Fund and two-thirds from insurance companies underwriting fire risks in the country area of Victoria. There were 123 insurance companies thus contributing during 1981-82.

Up to 30 June 1982, the Authority had raised 172 loans, representing a total of \$30.1m, which has been used for the provision of buildings and equipment for brigades.

Particulars of revenue, expenditure, surplus, and loan expenditure and indebtedness of the Country Fire Authority, for each of the years 1977-78 to 1981-82, are shown in the first of the following tables. The second table shows particulars of the number of fire brigades, personnel, and motor vehicles for the same years.

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

Particulars	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
<b>INCOME</b>					
Statutory contributions—					
Municipalities Assistance Fund	5,648	6,414	7,303	8,417	9,600
Insurance companies	11,295	12,828	14,606	16,834	19,201
Other	782	810	901	1,100	1,913
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,725</b>	<b>20,052</b>	<b>22,810</b>	<b>26,351</b>	<b>30,714</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Salaries and wages	7,652	8,877	9,809	11,456	13,650
Other	8,060	9,441	10,601	13,168	15,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,712</b>	<b>18,318</b>	<b>20,410</b>	<b>24,624</b>	<b>28,786</b>
<b>Net surplus</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>2,400</b>	<b>1,727</b>	<b>1,928</b>
<b>Loan expenditure</b>	<b>3,295</b>	<b>2,066</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>3,833</b>
<b>Loan indebtedness (at 30 June)</b>	<b>10,831</b>	<b>13,291</b>	<b>16,354</b>	<b>19,515</b>	<b>22,690</b>

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

Particulars	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Fire brigades—					
Urban	215	215	215	215	216
Rural	1,058	1,067	1,065	1,066	1,069

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

Particulars	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Personnel—					
Permanent	515	548	576	590	600
Volunteer	109,100	107,061	106,874	107,699	106,937
Vehicular fleet—					
Self-propelled	1,611	1,746	1,773	1,876	2,020
Trailer units	422	476	472	486	490

### Natural disasters and emergencies\*

#### *Victoria State Emergency Service*

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

The functions of the VICSES are to:

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

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

The headquarters of VICSES is located in Melbourne, with a Divisional Officer for each North and South Divisions of the Melbourne metropolitan area. There are ten permanently manned Regional Headquarters located at Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Dandenong, Geelong, Hamilton, Moe, Shepparton, Swan Hill, and Wodonga. The units of the VICSES, of which there were 137 municipal units and sub-units at 30 June 1981, are wholly manned by volunteer members of the Service, although the controller, or head, of each unit is a council nominee. The State, Division, and Regional Headquarters also have trained volunteers on their establishments. The functional divisions of these Headquarters are operations, communications, training, equipment and administration.

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

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

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

\*Information concerning the bushfires of 1982-83 and "Ash Wednesday" can be found in Appendix G at the end of this Year Book.

VICTORIA—STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE:  
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Type of operations	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
Search and rescue	311	161	260	214	204
Road accident assistance	167	193	293	387	421
Aircraft incidents	2	7	9	7	12
Fire support	33	18	68	78	49
Flood	25	45	17	22	65
Wind storm	30	33	31	150	159
Welfare	9	1	5	23	9
Hazardous materials	5	3	7	10	12
Community service	10	61	81	52	7
Evacuation	3	2	—	4	3
Marine incidents	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	16
Rail incidents	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	3
Miscellaneous	36	84	90	95	102
Total (a)	631	608	861	1,042	1,062

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

*State Disaster Plan*

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

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

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

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

The Chief Commissioner of Police acts as co-ordinator under the State Disaster Plan in situations where it is necessary to bring together the resources of a number of agencies to deal with a disaster or emergency. State organisations are allocated either combating roles (for example, the Country Fire Authority and the Forests Commission in the event of bushfires) or supporting roles (for example, the Health Commission and the State Electricity Commission). Provision is made for obtaining assistance from Commonwealth agencies such as Telecom Australia and the Defence Forces.

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

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

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

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

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