

## GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

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### VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Victorian Government consists of the central Government composed of the departments of State and statutory bodies as described in the following pages and a local government network of 211 municipalities as described in Chapter 6 beginning on page 170.

#### Victorian Public Service

The Public Service of Victoria consists of those officers and employees who staff the ministerial departments as distinct from those employed in statutory bodies, the teaching service, the police force, or in local government. Their duty is to administer legislation and implement the policies of permanent heads of departments. There are about 23,000\* permanent officers who are grouped in three Divisions: the First Division comprising officers exercising the more important administrative or professional functions, the Second Division comprising other officers performing duties of an administrative or professional nature, and the Third Division comprising a wide range of positions including clerical assistants, chauffeurs, tradesmen, various inspectors, etc.

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

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

About 8,600\* persons are employed on a temporary basis and recruitment for permanent positions often comes from this group. While legislation limits

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\* At 30 June 1977.

their employment for a maximum period of two years, the Public Service Board may renew these engagements or make exemptions in certain cases. A further group of about 6,600\* known as exempt employees are not subject to the provisions of the Public Service Act and are employed under the provisions of Commonwealth Awards, State Wages Boards determinations, or at special rates determined by the Public Service Board.

As the population of Victoria has grown and with the increasing complexities of modern life, the Public Service has had to provide a more diverse range of services. The last few years has seen the emergence of new departments (e.g., Youth, Sport and Recreation; Social Welfare; Minerals and Energy; and State Development) and Ministries (e.g., Planning, Arts, and Conservation) concerned with providing services aimed at improving the quality of life for the community and the individual.

### **Public Service Board**

#### *Public Service Act 1974*

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

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

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\* At 30 June 1977.

The Office of the Public Service Board was reorganised on 1 February 1977 to enable the Board to carry out more effectively its management responsibilities under section 16 (1) of the 1974 Act.

The revised divisional structure now provides for the following divisions: Administration Division, Claims and Industrial Division, Conditions of Employment Division, Electronic Data Processing Division, Management Services Division, Recruitment and Staff Development Division, Research and Special Projects Division, and Staffing and Classification Division.

The Directors of the following Divisions are subject to the direction of the Secretary: Administration Division, and Recruitment and Staff Development Division.

The Directors of the following Divisions are subject to the direction of the Chief Public Service Inspector and the Assistant Chief Public Service Inspectors: Claims and Industrial Division, Conditions of Employment Division, Electronic Data Processing Division, and Staffing and Classification Division.

The Directors of the Management Services Division and the Research and Special Projects Division report directly to the Board.

#### *Amendments to the Public Service Act 1974*

The *Public Service Act* 1974 has been amended to remove some technical difficulties encountered in administration and in addition to ensure that the powers of the Public Service Board when constituted in its "Mental Hygiene" jurisdiction include the same powers as those of the General Service Board.

Other amendments have been made in respect of certain entitlements and conditions for officers of the Public Service including long service leave and the assignment of allowances for the performance of higher duties.

**Further reference, 1977**

### **Victorian Government Departments and Ministries**

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

#### *Department of Agriculture*

Minister: Minister of Agriculture

Permanent Head: Director-General of Agriculture

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

Having proper regard to social and economic factors in the community, this role is achieved through the following functions: developing and reviewing Victorian Government policies, Acts, and Regulations, and attending to their administration; contributing to the development of national rural policies and participating in national programmes; protecting and improving the health of livestock, crops, and people; improving the skills, competence, and knowledge of people involved or interested in agriculture; assisting the rural community

to adjust to changing circumstances; developing more efficient farming practices; the development of sound and stable marketing practices; and assisting in the planning, development, and use of natural resources and in the improvement of the environment in urban and rural Victoria. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1971, pages 105-8.)

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

*Chief Secretary's Department*

Minister: Chief Secretary

Permanent Head: Under Secretary

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

The various branches are: State Insurance Office, Police (including Motor Registration Branch), Public Record Office, Government Shorthand Writers Office, Electoral Office, Registry of Estate Agents, State Emergency Service, Government Statist's Office (including the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages), Registry of Private Agents, the offices of the Liquor Control Commission, the Road Safety and Traffic Authority, and the Workers Compensation Board.

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

*Department of Crown Lands and Survey*

Minister: Minister of Lands

Permanent Head: Secretary for Lands

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

*Education Department*

Ministers: Minister of Education

Minister of Special Education

Permanent Head: Director-General of Education

The function of the Education Department is to ensure that all children between the ages of 6 and 15 years receive efficient and regular instruction in

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

The five operating divisions each administered by a director are: Primary Education, Secondary Education, Technical Education, Special Services, and Teacher Education. Currently there are four service divisions each administered by a director. These are: Planning Services, Building Operations, Personnel, and Administrative Services. Details of all aspects of education within the State are covered in Chapter 25 of this *Year Book*.

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

#### *Department of Health*

Minister: Minister of Health

Assistant Minister of Health

Permanent Head: Secretary to the Department of Health

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

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

#### *Department of Labour and Industry*

Minister: Minister of Labour and Industry

Permanent Head: Secretary for Labour and Industry

The Department is concerned with the administration and enforcement of legislation relating to conditions of employment, Wages Board Determinations, and with the registration and inspection of factories and shops, boilers and pressure vessels, lifts and cranes, and scaffolding. Its main functions involve industrial relations, the control and regulation of matters affecting safety, health and welfare in industry, training within industry, and statistical research in the industrial field.

These functions are performed by the Industrial Relations Division, the Wages Board Secretariat, the Industrial Training Commission, the Office of the Building Industry Long Service Leave Board, and the following Inspectorates: Factories and Shops, Boilers and Pressure Vessels, Lifts and Cranes, and Scaffolding. The Office of Industrial Relations Co-ordination (Public Employing Authorities) is attached to the Department for administrative purposes. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1975, pages 140–4.)

*Law Department*

Minister : Attorney-General

Permanent Head : Secretary to the Law Department

The principal function of this Department is to provide administrative services to the Supreme, County, Magistrates', Children's, and Coroner's Courts in Victoria. Other functions include giving legal advice and assistance to the Government and the public, registration of transfers of land, registration of money lenders, drafting of statutes, maintaining a register of companies and businesses, and the administration of estates. (For information on the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1974, pages 588-611, and *Victorian Year Book* 1976, pages 737-59.)

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

*Local Government Department*

Minister : Minister for Local Government

Permanent Head : Secretary for Local Government

This Department supervises administration by municipalities of the Local Government Act and related Acts. It is responsible for the oversight of government funds allocated to assist municipalities with certain construction works (e.g., main drainage, recreational facilities, and public halls in country areas).

In addition to these functions the Department encompasses the Valuer-General's Office, whose major function is to co-ordinate valuations made for councils and other rating authorities, and the Weights and Measures Branch, headed by the Superintendent of Weights and Measures, who administers weights and measures legislation and generally supervises the operations of local weights and measures authorities.

*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 enabled the Mines Department and the Ministry of Fuel and Power to be amalgamated.

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

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

The Department also administers legislation relating to petroleum exploration and production, mining, quarrying, ground water resources, gas regulation, explosives, liquefied gases, and inflammable liquids. It is responsible for the survey and assessment of the State's mineral resources and for mapping Victoria's geological structure. It provides technical services, information, and financial assistance to the mining industry. (For the history of the Department, see pages 105-8 of the *Victorian Year Book* 1970.)

*Premier's Department*

Minister : The Premier

Permanent Head : Secretary to the Premier's Department

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

In 1976, the Victorian Government established the State Co-ordination Council within the Department's administration to evaluate and advise on the formulation and evaluation of policies and programmes and their likely effect on the physical, economic, social, and environmental conditions of Victoria. (For the history of the Department, see the *Victorian Year Book* 1964, pages 81-4.)

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

*Public Works Department*

Minister : Minister of Public Works

Permanent Head : Director-General of Public Works

As the State's building construction authority, this Department provides design, construction, engineering, furnishing, maintenance, and consultant services for departments, government agencies, schools, and institutions. It arranges purchase, rental, allocation of accommodation, telephone and janitorial services, and security of property for governmental purposes.

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

Divisions : Administration, Building, Ports and Harbours, and Property and Services.

*Social Welfare Department\**

Minister : Minister for Social Welfare

Permanent Head : Director-General of Social Welfare

This Department provides services for families and children ; deals with the problems of young persons and promotes youth welfare ; controls all correctional establishments ; supervises persons on probation, under detention, and when released on parole ; and provides training courses in matters pertaining to social welfare.

The various divisions are : Family Welfare, Youth Welfare, Prisons, Probation and Parole, Research and Statistics, Regional Services, Training, and a Policy Planning Unit. After restructuring the Department will consist of four Divisions : Management Services, Family and Adolescent Services, Regional Services, Correctional Services, and an Institute of Social Welfare and an Office of Research and Social Policy.

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\* More detailed information is shown in Chapter 27 of this *Year Book*.

*Department of State Development and Decentralization*

Minister : Minister for State Development and Decentralization

Permanent Head : Secretary for State Development and Decentralization

The activities of the Department are directed towards the balanced development of population and industry throughout Victoria; developing and promoting of tourist attractions and facilities in the State, by providing tourist information and operating tourist bureaux; processing residency nominations from intending immigrants from Britain; and assisting with the reception and the integration of all migrants into the community.

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

*State Forests Department*

Minister : Minister of Forests

Permanent Head : Chairman, Forests Commission

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

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

*Treasury*

Minister : The Treasurer

Permanent Head : Director of Finance

The Treasury exercises overall control of financial administration. Its prime functions and responsibilities relate to the raising of revenue, control over governmental expenditure within the ambit of Parliamentary authority, and the financial aspects of Government policy. (For the history of the Department, see *Victorian Year Book* 1966, pages 97-100.)

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

*Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation*

Minister : Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation

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

The objectives of this Department are to assist in the growth of the individuality and character of youth; to promote fitness and general health; and to improve facilities in Victoria for leisure-time pursuits. This involves regular consultation with public and private youth, sporting, and recreational organisations or bodies, and administering the *Racing Act* 1958 and the *National Fitness Council of Victoria Act* 1960 and the *Professional Boxing Control Act* 1975.

*Ministry for the Arts*

Minister : Minister of the Arts

Permanent Head : Director of the Arts

While the enabling Act was passed in 1972, this Ministry was not established as a separate Department until 1 August 1975. Its aims are to develop and improve the knowledge, understanding, appreciation, and practice of the arts in Victoria through increased availability and accessibility, assistance in providing facilities for performance and display, and continual assessment and encouragement.

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



*Ministry for Conservation*

Minister : Minister for Conservation

Permanent Head : Director of Conservation

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

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

*Ministry of Consumer Affairs*

Minister : Minister of Consumer Affairs

Permanent Head : Secretary for Labour and Industry

The Ministry was created by legislation in 1973. Its objectives are generally to protect and promote the interests of consumers through investigations and recommendations on matters affecting their interests as consumers and through programmes designed to fully inform them of goods and services offered to consumers. The Consumer Affairs Bureau has responsibility for developing and maintaining these objectives. The Bureau gives advice on consumer affairs legislation and other matters affecting consumers; initiates action to remedy infringements; receives complaints about fraudulent, illegal, or unfair trade or commercial practices regarding goods and services; and conducts research into matters affecting consumers.

*Ministry of Federal Affairs*

Minister : Minister for Federal Affairs

Permanent Head : Secretary to the Premier's Department

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

The Ministry disseminates information from Commonwealth services to Victorian Departments and Agencies; examines Commonwealth legislation for its relevance to and implication for State functions and responsibilities; co-ordinates Victorian Government submissions to the Commonwealth and other States; and undertakes specialised analysis and policy evaluation.

*Ministry of Housing*

Minister : Minister of Housing

Permanent Head : Secretary of Housing

The functions of this Ministry are to improve existing housing, accommodate people of limited means, and redevelop insanitary areas. Its activities include the fabrication of building components, housing for decentralised industry and the teaching service, home finance, and the regulation of co-operative societies.

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

*Ministry for Planning*

Minister : Minister for Planning

Permanent Head : Secretary for Planning

This Ministry was established under the *Ministry for Planning Act 1973* to be responsible for the administration of the Town and Country Planning, Development Areas, and Historic Buildings Acts. It ensures that government planning policies are implemented by co-ordinating and assisting with the functions of the Town and Country Planning Board, Regional Planning Authorities, and all other responsible authorities in Victoria.

*Ministry of Transport*

Minister : Minister of Transport

Permanent Head : Director of Transport

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 advisor to the Minister of Transport. The Minister of Transport is responsible for the transport authorities governing the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the State's land transport system.

*Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply*

Minister : Minister of Water Supply

Permanent Head : Chairman, State Rivers and Water Supply Commission

This Ministry is the administrative organisation for the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission which is the State's authority for the conservation and distribution of rural water resources and the control of water from all rivers, streams, and other natural sources in Victoria. This excludes those resources under the jurisdiction of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, which is the water supply authority for the Melbourne metropolitan area and also comes under the Minister of Water Supply.

*Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs*

Minister : Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs

Permanent Head : Secretary for State Development and Decentralization

Activities of the Ministry are directed towards promoting and facilitating the settlement of migrants in Victoria and processing sponsorship applications lodged by residents of Victoria on behalf of British citizens seeking permanent residence in Australia. The Ministry is also concerned with promoting the welfare and interests of migrants and their families within the State of Victoria, encouraging the establishment of a community in which all ethnic groups will have full expression of identity, and co-ordinating measures conducive to the building of a socially cohesive society.

**Victorian Government instrumentalities**

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

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

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

### VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Instrumentality	
Minister of Agriculture	Agriculture	Dairy Produce Board Filled Milk Advisory Committee Fruit and Vegetable Marketing Advisory Committee Imitation Milk Advisory Committee Milk Board 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	Australian Barley Board Grain Elevators Board Marketing boards— Chicory Citrus Fruit Egg and Egg Pulp Tobacco Leaf Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee Veterinary Board of Victoria Victorian Dairy Products Board Victorian Dried Fruits Board Victorian Inland Meat Authority Western Metropolitan Market Trust
Minister of 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	Victorian Arts Centre Building Committee Victorian Documentary Film Council Victorian Film Corporation
Attorney-General	Law	Appeal Costs Board Companies Auditors' Board Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board Patriotic Funds Council Raffles Board	Council of Law Reporting Council of Legal Education Law Reform Commissioner Legal Aid Committee Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education
Chief Secretary	Chief Secretary's	Crimes Compensation Tribunal Liquor Control Commission Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeal Tribunal Motor Accidents Tribunal Police Discipline Board Police Medical Board Police Service Board Police Superannuation Board Premiums Committee Public Records Advisory Council Road Safety and Traffic Authority State Advisory Board on Publications Workers Compensation Boards	Country Fire Authority Estate Agents' Committee Exhibition Trustees Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Board Motor Accidents Board Seamen's Welfare Advisory Council Seamen's Welfare Trust Committee
Minister for Conservation	Ministry for Conservation	Archaeological Relics Advisory Committee Environment Protection Appeal Board Environment Protection Authority Environment Protection Council Land Conservation Council Licensing Appeals Tribunal (Commercial Fisheries) National Parks Advisory Council Port Phillip Authority Port Phillip Authority Consultative Committee Land Conservation Council Soil Conservation Authority	Victorian Institute of Marine Science Victoria Conservation Trust Zoological Board of Victoria
Minister of Consumer Affairs	Labour and Industry	Consumer Affairs Council Motor Car Traders' Committee Small Claims Tribunal	

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES—*continued*

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Instrumentality	
Minister of Education	Education	Committee of Classifiers Council of Public Education Teacher Registration Council Teachers Tribunal	Council of Adult Education State College of Victoria Victoria Institute of Colleges
Minister of Special Education	Education		State Council for Special Education
Minister of Forests	State Forests	Forests Commission	Board of Forestry Education Timber Promotion Council
Minister of Health	Health	Advisory Committee to Mental Health Authority Cinematograph Operators Board Commission of Public Health Consultative Council for Poliomyelitis Consultative Council for Quarantinable Diseases Consultative Council for Anaesthetic Mortality and Morbidity Consultative Council on Maternal and Child Health Consultative Council on Maternal and Prenatal Mortality Food Standards Committee Medical Board Mental Health Authority (medical officers are not subject to Public Service Act) Plumbers and Gasfitters Board Poisons Advisory Committee Psychological Council Superintendents Committee	Anti-Cancer Council Cancer Institute Board Fairfield Hospital Board Hospitals and Charities Commission Hospitals Superannuation Board Trustees of various cemeteries Various professional and occupational registration bodies— Advanced Dental Tech- nicians Qualifications Board Chiropractors Registration Board Dental Board Dental Technicians Licensing Committee Dietitians Registration Board Hairdressers Registration Board Masseurs Registration Board Nurses Council Opticians Registration Board Pharmacy Board
Minister of Housing	Ministry of Housing	Decentralized Industry Housing Authority Home Finance Trust Housing Commission Registry of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Societies Teacher Housing Authority	
Minister of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	State Development	Victorian Immigration Advisory Council	Victorian Ethnic Affairs Advisory Council
Minister of Labour and Industry	Labour and Industry	Board of Examiners for Steam Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants Board of Examiners for Welders of Boilers and Pressure Vessels Board of Examiners (under the Scaffolding Act) Industrial Appeals Court Industrial Safety Advisory Council Industrial Training Commission Office of the Building Industry Long Service Leave Board Scaffolding Regulations Committee Wages Boards	
Minister of Lands	Crown Lands and Survey	Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Management Committee Place Names Committee Surveyors' Board Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board	

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES—*continued*

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Instrumentality	
Minister for Local Government	Local Government	Building Regulations Committee Land Valuation Boards of Review Local Government Advisory Board Municipal Auditors Board Municipal Building Surveyors Board Municipal Clerks Board Municipal Electrical Engineers Board Municipal Engineers Board Valuers' Qualification Board	Local Authorities Super- annuation Board
Minister for Minerals and Energy	Minerals and Energy	Board of Examiners for Engine Drivers Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Coal Mines Act) Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Mines Act) Board of Examiners for Quarry Managers Coal Mine Workers' Pensions Tribunal Drillers' Licensing Board Extractive Industries Advisory Committee Groundwater Advisory Committee Sludge Abatement Board Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Board	Gas and Fuel Corporation State Electricity Commission
Minister for Planning	Ministry for Planning	Historic Buildings Preservation Council Town Planning Appeals Tribunal	Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Town and Country Planning Board
Premier	Premier's	Promotion Appeals Boards Public Service Board State Co-ordination Council	State Relief Committee
Minister of Public Works	Public Works	Government Buildings Advisory Council Marine Board of Victoria State Accommodation Committee Victorian Public Offices Corporation	Architects Registration Board of Victoria Geelong Harbor Trust Commissioners Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners
Minister for Social Welfare	Social Welfare	Adult Parole Board Family Welfare Advisory Council Prisons Advisory Council Social Welfare Training Council Youth Parole Board	
Minister of Soldier Settlement			Rural Finance and Settle- ment Commission
Minister for State Development and Decentralization	State Development		Albury-Wodonga Develop- ment Corporation Albury-Wodonga (Victoria) Corporation Small Business Development Corporation Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority Various regional tourist authorities Victorian Development Corporation

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES—*continued*

Minister	Instrumentalities with Public Service staffs and department or ministry with which the instrumentality is associated		Instrumentalities which do not have Public Service staffs
	Department	Instrumentality	
Minister of Transport	Ministry of Transport		Country Roads Board Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority Railway Construction Board Transport Regulation Board Victorian Railways Board West Gate Bridge Authority
Treasurer	Treasury	Superannuation Board Tender Board	State Savings Bank
Minister of Water Supply	Ministry of Water Resources and Water Supply	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	Ballarat Water Commis- sioners Dandenong Valley Authority First Mildura Irrigation and Urban Water Trust Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works West Moorabool Water Board Various local water (209) and sewerage (131) authorities Various river improvement and drainage trusts (33)
Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation	Youth, Sport, and Recreation	Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board Racecourses Licences Board Sports and Recreation Council State Youth Council	Greyhound Racing Control Board National Fitness Council Totalizator Agency Board Trotting Control Board

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

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES  
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION

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| <p>1. <i>Legal, protective, registry services</i><br/> Adult Parole Board<br/> Appeal Costs Board<br/> Council of Law Reporting<br/> Country Fire Authority<br/> Law Reform Commissioner<br/> Legal Aid Committee<br/> Metropolitan Fire Brigades Board<br/> Raffles Board<br/> Youth Parole Board</p> <p>2. <i>Regulation of primary production</i><br/> Australian Barley Board<br/> Chicory Marketing Board<br/> Citrus Fruit Marketing Board<br/> Dairy Produce Board<br/> Egg and Egg Pulp Marketing<br/> Board<br/> Fruit and Vegetable Marketing<br/> Advisory Committee<br/> Licensing Appeals Tribunal<br/> (Commercial Fisheries)<br/> Poultry Farmer Licensing Committee</p> | <p>Poultry Farmer Licensing Review<br/> Committee<br/> Tobacco Leaf Marketing Board<br/> Tobacco Quota Appeals Tribunal<br/> Tobacco Quota Committee<br/> Tomato Processing Industry<br/> Negotiating Committee<br/> Victorian Dairy Industry<br/> Authority<br/> Victorian Dairy Products Board<br/> Victorian Dried Fruits Board</p> <p>3. <i>Regulation of industry and commerce</i><br/> Consumer Affairs Council<br/> Extractive Industries Advisory<br/> Committee<br/> Premiums Committee<br/> Small Claims Tribunal<br/> Transport Regulation Board</p> <p>4. <i>Regulation of labour conditions</i><br/> Coal Mine Workers' Pensions<br/> Tribunal</p> |
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VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES  
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION—*continued*

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|---|---|
| Hospitals Superannuation Board                                    | Municipal Building Surveyors Board                                    |
| Industrial Appeals Court  | Municipal Clerks Board  |
| Industrial Training Commission                                    | Municipal Electrical Engineers Board                                  |
| Local Authorities Superannuation Board                            | Municipal Engineers Board   |
| Metropolitan Fire Brigades Appeal Tribunal                        | Nurses Council  |
| Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Board                   | Opticians Registration Board  |
| Victorian Coal Miners' Accidents Relief Board                     | Pharmacy Board  |
| Wages Boards  | Plumbers and Gasfitters Board   |
| Workers Compensation Boards                                       | Psychological Council   |
| 5. <i>Regulation of general standards</i>                         | Surveyors' Board  |
| Building Regulations Committee                                    | Teacher Registration Council  |
| Food Standards Committee  | Valuers' Qualification Board  |
| Land Valuation Boards of Review                                   | Veterinary Board of Victoria  |
| Liquor Control Commission   | 7. <i>Public utility, conservation, and development</i>               |
| Marine Board  | Ballarat Water Commissioners  |
| Motor Accidents Board   | Country Roads Board   |
| Motor Accidents Tribunal  | Dandenong Valley Authority  |
| Place Names Committee   | Decentralized Industry Housing Authority                              |
| Scaffolding Regulations Committee                                 | Environment Protection Appeal Board                                   |
| State Advisory Board on Publications                              | Environment Protection Authority                                      |
| Stock Medicines Board   | Environment Protection Council  |
| Victorian Abattoir and Meat Inspection Authority                  | Exhibition Trustees   |
| 6. <i>Regulation of professional and occupational standards</i>   | First Mildura Irrigation and Urban Water Trusts                       |
| Advanced Dental Technicians Qualifications Board                  | Fisheries and Wildlife Division                                       |
| Architects Registration Board                                     | Forests Commission  |
| Board of Examiners for Engine Drivers                             | Gas and Fuel Corporation  |
| Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Coal Mines Act)             | Geelong Harbor Trust Commissioners                                    |
| Board of Examiners for Mine Managers (Mines Act)                  | Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust                                 |
| Board of Examiners for Quarry Managers                            | Government Buildings Advisory Council                                 |
| Board of Examiners for Steam Engine Drivers and Boiler Attendants | Grain Elevators Board   |
| Board of Examiners for Welders of Boilers and Pressure Vessels    | Groundwater Advisory Committee  |
| Board of Examiners (under the Scaffolding Act)                    | Historic Buildings Preservation Council                               |
| Board of Forestry Education                                       | Home Finance Trust  |
| Chiropractors Registration Board                                  | Housing Commission  |
| Cinematograph Operators Board                                     | Land Conservation Council   |
| Committee of Classifiers  | Latrobe Valley Water and Sewerage Board                               |
| Companies Auditors Board  | Local Government Advisory Board                                       |
| Council of Legal Education  | Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works                             |
| Dental Board  | Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board                             |
| Dental Technicians Licensing Committee                            | Melbourne Harbor Trust Commissioners                                  |
| Dietitians Registration Board                                     | Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Authority                             |
| Drillers' Licensing Board   | Portland Harbor Trust Commissioners                                   |
| Estate Agents Committee   | Port Phillip Authority  |
| Hairdressers Registration Board                                   | Port Phillip Authority Consultative Committee                         |
| Masseurs Registration Board                                       | Public Records Advisory Council                                       |
| Medical Board   | Railway Construction Board  |
| Motor Car Traders Committee                                       | Registry of Co-operative Housing Societies and Co-operative Societies |
| Municipal Auditors Board  | Road Safety and Traffic Authority                                     |

VICTORIA—GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES  
CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO FUNCTION—*continued*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Finance and Settlement Commission</li> <li>Sludge Abatement Board</li> <li>Soil Conservation Authority</li> <li>State Co-ordination Council</li> <li>State Electricity Commission</li> <li>State Rivers and Water Supply Commission</li> <li>State Savings Bank of Victoria</li> <li>Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority</li> <li>Timber Promotion Council</li> <li>Town and Country Planning Board</li> <li>Town Planning Appeals Tribunal</li> <li>Trustees of various cemeteries</li> <li>Various local water and sewerage authorities</li> <li>Various regional tourist authorities</li> <li>Various river improvement and drainage trusts</li> <li>Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board</li> <li>Victoria Conservation Trust</li> <li>Victoria Promotion Committee</li> <li>Victorian Broiler Industry Negotiation Committee</li> <li>Victorian Brown Coal Research and Development Committee</li> <li>Victorian Development Corporation</li> <li>Victorian Inland Meat Authority</li> <li>Victorian Public Offices Corporation</li> <li>Victorian Railways Board</li> <li>West Gate Bridge Authority</li> <li>West Moorabool Water Board</li> <li>Western Metropolitan Market Trust</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Records Advisory Council</li> <li>Racecourses Licences Board</li> <li>Sports and Recreation Council</li> <li>State College of Victoria</li> <li>State Council for Special Education</li> <li>State Youth Council</li> <li>Totalizer Agency Board</li> <li>Trotting Control Board</li> <li>Victoria Institute of Colleges</li> <li>Victorian Advisory Council on Agricultural Education</li> <li>Victorian Arts Centre Building Committee</li> <li>Victorian Documentary Film Council</li> <li>Victorian Institute of Marine Science</li> <li>Victorian Film Corporation</li> <li>Zoological Board</li> </ul> |
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| <p>8. <i>Social welfare</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crimes Compensation Tribunal</li> <li>Discharged Servicemen's Employment Board</li> <li>Family Welfare Advisory Council</li> <li>Patriotic Funds Council</li> <li>Prisons Advisory Council</li> <li>Seamen's Welfare Advisory Council</li> <li>Seamen's Welfare Trust Committee</li> <li>Social Welfare Training Council</li> <li>State Relief Committee</li> </ul> <p>9. <i>Education and recreation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Advisory Committee</li> <li>Council of Adult Education</li> <li>Council of Public Education</li> <li>Council of the Science Museum of Victoria</li> <li>Council of Trustees of the National Gallery</li> <li>Greyhound Racing Control Board</li> <li>Greyhound Racing Grounds Development Board</li> <li>Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education</li> <li>Library Council of Victoria</li> <li>National Museum of Victoria Council</li> </ul> | <p>10. <i>Public health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advisory Committee to Mental Health Authority</li> <li>Anti-Cancer Council</li> <li>Cancer Institute Board</li> <li>Commission of Public Health</li> <li>Consultative Council for Poliomyelitis</li> <li>Consultative Council for Quarantinable Diseases</li> <li>Consultative Council on Anaesthetic Mortality and Morbidity</li> <li>Consultative Council on Maternal and Child Health</li> <li>Fairfield Hospital Board</li> <li>Filled Milk Advisory Committee</li> <li>Hospitals and Charities Commission</li> <li>Imitation Milk Advisory Committee</li> <li>Mental Health Authority</li> <li>Milk Pasteurization Committee</li> <li>Mount Hotham Alpine Resort, Management Committee</li> <li>National Fitness Council</li> <li>Poisons Advisory Committee</li> <li>Proprietary Medicines Advisory Committee</li> <li>Superintendents Committee</li> <li>Tuberculosis Advisory Committee</li> </ul> <p>11. <i>Industrial health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Safety Advisory Council</li> </ul> <p>12. <i>Internal administrative services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of the Building Industry Long Service Leave Board</li> <li>Police Discipline Board</li> <li>Police Medical Board</li> <li>Police Service Board</li> <li>Police Superannuation Board</li> <li>Promotion Appeals Boards</li> <li>Public Service Board</li> <li>State Accommodation Committee</li> <li>Superannuation Board</li> <li>Teacher Housing Authority</li> <li>Teachers' Tribunal</li> <li>Tender Board</li> </ul> |
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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 15 June 1977 or which had then been passed by the Victorian Parliament to come into force at a later date.

The list does not include references to Acts that are spent or expired or to amending Acts, Appropriation Acts, Finance Acts, or other Acts containing miscellaneous provisions, such as Statutes Amendment Acts.

## VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958 CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE 1977

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Abattoir and Meat Inspection Act 1973</i>	Agriculture	<i>Cattle Compensation Act 1967</i>	Treasury also Agriculture
<i>Aboriginal Affairs (Transfer of Functions) Act 1974</i>	Premier's	<i>Cemeteries Act 1958</i>	Health also Law
<i>Aboriginal Lands Act 1970</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Children's Court Act 1973</i>	Law
<i>Acts Enumeration and Revision Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Chiropodists Act 1968</i>	Health
<i>Acts Interpretation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Civil Aviation (Carriers' Liability) Act 1961</i>	Transport
<i>Administration and Probate Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Clean Air Act 1958</i>	Conservation
<i>Adoption of Children Act 1964</i>	Chief Secretary's also Law	<i>Cluster Titles Act 1974</i>	Local Government
<i>Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966</i>	Agriculture	<i>Coal Mines Act 1958</i>	Mines
<i>Agent-General's Act 1958</i>	Premier's	<i>Collusive Practices Act 1965</i>	Registrar of Companies
<i>Agricultural Colleges Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Commercial Goods Vehicles Act 1958</i>	Transport
<i>Agricultural Education Cadetships Act 1969</i>	Agriculture	<i>Commonwealth Arrangements Act 1958</i>	Premier's
<i>Air Navigation Act 1958</i>	Transport	<i>Commonwealth Places (Administration of Laws) Act 1970</i>	Law
<i>Albury-Wodonga Agreement Act 1973</i>	State Development	<i>Companies Act 1961</i>	Law
<i>Alcoholics and Drug-dependent Persons Act 1968</i>	Health	<i>Constitution Act 1975</i>	Law
<i>Amendments Incorporation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Constitution Act Amendment Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's also Premier's
<i>Anzac Day Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Constitutional Convention Act 1972</i>	Law
<i>Appeal Costs Fund Act 1964</i>	Law	<i>Consumer Affairs Act 1972</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Arbitration Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Co-operation Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Co-operative Housing Societies Act 1958</i>	Housing
<i>Architects Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Coroners Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Attorney-General and Solicitor-General Act 1972</i>	Law	<i>Council of Law Reporting in Victoria Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>Auction Sales Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's also Country Fire Authority
<i>Audit Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Country Roads Act 1958</i>	Transport
<i>Bail Act 1977</i>	Law	<i>County Court Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Bank Holidays Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Courts Administration Act 1975</i>	Law
<i>Barley Marketing Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Crimes Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Bees Act 1971</i>	Agriculture	<i>Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1972</i>	Crimes Compensation Tribunal
<i>Benefit Associations Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Crown Proceedings Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act 1970</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Cul-de-sac Applications Act 1965</i>	Law
<i>Bread Industry Act 1959</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963</i>	Local Government
<i>Broiler Chicken Industry Act 1975</i>	Agriculture	<i>Dairy Products Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Building Contracts (Deposits) Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Dandenong Valley Authority Act 1963</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Building Industry Long Service Leave Act 1975</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Deakin University Act 1974</i>	Education
<i>Building Societies Act 1976</i>	Housing	<i>Decentralization Advisory Committee Act 1964</i>	State Development
<i>Business Franchise (Tobacco) Act 1974</i>	Treasury	<i>Decentralized Industry (Housing) Act 1973</i>	State Development
<i>Business Investigation Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Decentralized Industry Incentive (Payments) Act 1972</i>	State Development
<i>Business Names Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Decimal Currency Act 1965</i>	Treasury
<i>Cadet Surveyors Act 1964</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Dental Technicians Act 1972</i>	Health
<i>Cancer Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>Dentists Act 1972</i>	Health
<i>Carriers and Innkeepers Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Development Areas Act 1973</i>	State Development
<i>Cattle Breeding Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Developmental Railways Act 1958</i>	Victorian Railways
		<i>Dietitians Registration Act 1958</i>	Health

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE 1977—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Discharged Servicemen's Preference Act 1943</i>	Law	<i>Health Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Disposal of Uncollected Goods Act 1961</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Health Commission Act 1977</i>	Health
<i>Dog Act 1970</i>	Local Government	<i>Health (Fluoridation) Act 1973</i>	Health
<i>Drainage Areas Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>Hire-Purchase Act 1959</i>	Law
<i>Drainage of Land Act 1975</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Historic Buildings Act 1974</i>	Planning
<i>Dried Fruits Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Home Finance Act 1962</i>	Treasury
<i>Education Act 1958</i>	Education	<i>Hospitals and Charities Act 1958</i>	Health
<i>Educational Grants Act 1973</i>	Treasury	<i>Hospitals Superannuation Act 1965</i>	Health
<i>Educational Institutions (Guarantees) Act 1976</i>	Treasury	<i>Housing Act 1958</i>	Housing Commission also Treasury
<i>Egg Industry Stabilization Act 1973</i>	Agriculture	<i>Housing Ministry Act 1972</i>	Housing
<i>Electoral Provinces and Districts Act 1974</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Imitation Milk Act 1969</i>	Agriculture
<i>Electric Light and Power Act 1958</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Imprisonment of Fraudulent Debtors Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>	Conservation	<i>Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Equal Opportunity Act 1977</i>	Premier's	<i>Industrial Safety Advisory Council Act 1960</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Essential Services Act 1958</i>	Premier's	<i>Industrial Training Act 1975</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Estate Agents Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Inflammable Liquids Act 1966</i>	Mines
<i>Evidence Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Instruments Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Explosives Act 1960</i>	Mines	<i>Joint Select Committee (Conservation of Energy Resources) Act 1976</i>	Premier's
<i>Extractive Industries Act 1966</i>	Mines	<i>Joint Select Committee (Meat Industry) Act 1976</i>	Premier's
<i>Farm Produce Merchants and Commission Agents Act 1965</i>	Agriculture	<i>Joint Select Committee (Osteopathy, Chiropractic and Naturopathy) Act 1973</i>	Premier's
<i>Fences Act 1968</i>	Law also Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Joint Select Committee (Road Safety) Act 1976</i>	Premier's
<i>Fertilizers Act 1974</i>	Agriculture	<i>Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Filled Milk Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Juries Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>Films Act 1971</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Labour and Industry Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Finance Brokers Act 1969</i>	Law	<i>Land Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Firearms Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Land Conservation Act 1970</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Fisheries Act 1968</i>	Conservation	<i>Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Act 1972</i>	Conservation
<i>Foreign Judgements Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Land Settlement Act 1959</i>	Rural Finance and Settlement Commission
<i>Forests Act 1958</i>	Forests Commission	<i>Land Surveyors Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Friendly Societies Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Land Tax Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Fruit and Vegetables Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Landlord and Tenant Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Frustrated Contracts Act 1959</i>	Law	<i>Lands Compensation Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Fuel and Power Act 1965</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>La Trobe University Act 1964</i>	Education
<i>Fuel Emergency Act 1977</i>	Premier's	<i>Latrobe Valley Act 1958</i>	Premier's also State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Game Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Law Reform Act 1973</i>	Law
<i>Gas Act 1969</i>	Mines	<i>Legal Aid Act 1969</i>	Law
<i>Gas and Fuel Corporation Act 1958</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Legal Profession Practice Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Gas Franchises Act 1970</i>	Fuel and Power	<i>Leo Cussen Institute for Continuing Legal Education Act 1972</i>	Law
<i>Geelong Harbor Trust Act 1958</i>	Public Works	<i>Libraries Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Geelong Regional Commission Act 1977</i>	State Development	<i>Library Council of Victoria Act 1965</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Lifts and Cranes Act 1967</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Gift Duty Act 1971</i>	Treasury	<i>Limitation of Actions Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Goods Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Liquefied Gases Act 1968</i>	Mines
<i>Gordon Technical College Act 1976</i>	Education	<i>Liquor Control Act 1968</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Government Buildings Advisory Council Act 1972</i>	Public Works		
<i>Grain Elevators Act 1958</i>	Agriculture		
<i>Groundwater Act 1969</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission		
<i>Hairdressers Registration Act 1958</i>	Health		
<i>Harbor Boards Act 1958</i>	Public Works		
<i>Hawkers and Pedlars Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's		

VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE, 1977—continued

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Listening Devices Act</i> 1969	Law	<i>Money Lenders Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Litter Act</i> 1964	Chief Secretary's	<i>Motor Accidents Act</i> 1973	Chief Secretary's
<i>Livery and Agistment Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Motor Boating Act</i> 1961	Chief Secretary's <i>also</i> Transport
<i>Local Authorities Superannuation Act</i> 1958	Local Government	<i>Motor Car Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's <i>also</i> Country Roads Board <i>also</i> Transport
<i>Local Government Act</i> 1958	Local Government		Chief Secretary's
<i>Lotteries Gaming and Betting Act</i> 1966	Chief Secretary's	<i>Motor Car Traders Act</i> 1973	
<i>Magistrates' Courts Act</i> 1971	Law	<i>Mt Hotham Alpine Resort Act</i> 1972	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Magistrates (Summary Proceedings) Act</i> 1975	Law	<i>Municipalities Assistance Act</i> 1973	Local Government <i>also</i> Treasury
<i>Maintenance Act</i> 1965	Law	<i>National Fitness Council of Victoria Act</i> 1960	Youth, Sport and Recreation
<i>Margarine Act</i> 1975	Agriculture	<i>National Gallery of Victoria Act</i> 1966	Arts
<i>Marketable Securities Act</i> 1970	Law	<i>National Museum Council of Victoria Act</i> 1970	Chief Secretary's
<i>Marine Act</i> 1958	Public Works	<i>National Parks Act</i> 1975	Conservation
<i>Marine Stores and Old Metals Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's	<i>Navigable Waters (Oil Pollution) Act</i> 1960	Public Works
<i>Marketing of Primary Products Act</i> 1958	Agriculture	<i>Nurses Act</i> 1958	Health
<i>Markets Act</i> 1958	Local Government		
<i>Marriage Act</i> 1958	Law	<i>Ombudsman Act</i> 1973	Premier's
<i>Married Women's Superannuation Fund Act</i> 1968	Treasury	<i>Optometrists Registration Act</i> 1958	Health
<i>Massesurs Act</i> 1958	Health	<i>Parliamentary Committees Act</i> 1968	Premier's
<i>Medical Act</i> 1958	Health	<i>Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Act</i> 1962	Premier's
<i>Medical Practitioners Act</i> 1970	Health	<i>Parliamentary Officers Act</i> 1975	Premier's
<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act</i> 1958	Local Government	<i>Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act</i> 1968	Premier's
<i>Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Act</i> 1958	Transport	<i>Partnership Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Melbourne Harbor Trust Act</i> 1958	Public Works	<i>Patriotic Funds Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Melbourne Underground Rail Loop Act</i> 1970	Transport	<i>Pawnbrokers Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's
<i>Melbourne University Act</i> 1958	Education	<i>Pay-roll Tax Act</i> 1971	Treasury
<i>Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Act</i> 1968	Local Government	<i>Penalties Act</i> 1958	Law
<i>Melbourne Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust Act</i> 1977	Local Government	<i>Pensions Supplementation Act</i> 1966	Treasury
<i>Mental Health Act</i> 1959	Health <i>also</i> Chief Secretary's	<i>Perpetuities and Accumulations Act</i> 1968	Law
<i>Metric Conversion Act</i> 1973	Local Government	<i>Pesticides Act</i> 1958	Agriculture
<i>Metropolitan Fire Brigades Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's	<i>Petroleum Act</i> 1958	Mines
<i>Metropolitan Fire Brigades Superannuation Act</i> 1976	Chief Secretary's	<i>Petroleum Products Subsidy Act</i> 1965	Treasury
<i>Mildura Irrigation and Water Trusts Act</i> 1958	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act</i> 1967	Mines
<i>Milk and Dairy Supervision Act</i> 1958	Agriculture	<i>Petrol Pumps Act</i> 1958	Local Government
<i>Milk Board Act</i> 1958	Agriculture	<i>Pharmacists Act</i> 1974	Health
<i>Milk Pasteurization Act</i> 1958	Agriculture	<i>Pipelines Act</i> 1967	Fuel and Power <i>also</i> Mines
<i>Minerals and Energy Act</i> 1976	Mines	<i>Poisons Act</i> 1962	Health
<i>Mines Act</i> 1958	Mines	<i>Police Assistance Compensation Act</i> 1968	Chief Secretary's
<i>Mining Development Act</i> 1958	Mines	<i>Police Offences Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's
<i>Ministry for Conservation Act</i> 1972	Conservation	<i>Police Regulation Act</i> 1958	Chief Secretary's
<i>Ministry of Consumer Affairs Act</i> 1973	Labour and Industry	<i>Port Phillip Authority Act</i> 1966	Port Phillip Authority
<i>Ministry of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Act</i> 1976	Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	<i>Portland Harbor Trust Act</i> 1958	Public Works
<i>Ministry for Planning Act</i> 1973	Planning	<i>Poultry Levy (Collection Arrangement) Act</i> 1965	Agriculture
<i>Ministry for the Arts Act</i> 1972	Arts	<i>Poultry Processing Act</i> 1968	Agriculture
<i>Ministry of Transport Act</i> 1958	Transport	<i>Pounds Act</i> 1958	Local Government
<i>Mint Act</i> 1958	Treasury	<i>Printers and Newspapers Act</i> 1958	Law <i>also</i> Chief Secretary's
<i>Monash University Act</i> 1958	Education	<i>Private Agents Act</i> 1966	Chief Secretary's
		<i>Probate Duty Act</i> 1962	Treasury
		<i>Professional Boxing Control Act</i> 1975	Youth, Sport and Recreation
		<i>Property Law Act</i> 1958	Law
		<i>Protection of Animals Act</i> 1966	Chief Secretary's
		<i>Provincial Sewerage Authorities Association of Victoria Act</i> 1966	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
		<i>Psychological Practices Act</i> 1965	Health

**VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE, 1977—continued**

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Public Account Act 1958</i>	Treasury	<i>Stamps Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Public Authorities (Contributions) Act 1966</i>	Treasury	<i>State College of Victoria Act 1972</i>	Education
<i>Public Authorities Marks Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>State Co-ordination Council Act 1975</i>	Premier's
<i>Public Contracts Act 1958</i>	Local Government	<i>State Development Act 1970</i>	State Development
<i>Public Lands and Works Act 1964</i>	Public Works	<i>State Development Committee Act 1958</i>	Premier's
<i>Public Records Act 1973</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>State Electricity Commission Act 1958</i>	Fuel and Power
<i>Public Safety Preservation Act 1958</i>	Premier's	<i>State Insurance Office Act 1975</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Public Servants Ethical Conduct (Joint Select Committee) Act 1976</i>	Premier's	<i>State Library National Gallery National Museum and Institute of Applied Science Act 1960</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Public Service Act 1974</i>	Premier's	<i>State Relief Committee Act 1958</i>	Labour and Industry
<i>Public Trustee Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>State Rivers and Water Supply Commission Act 1969</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Public Works Committee Act 1958</i>	Premier's	<i>State Savings Bank Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Racing Act 1958</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation	<i>Statistics Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Railway Lands Acquisition Act 1958</i>	Victorian Railways	<i>Status of Children Act 1974</i>	Law
<i>Railways Act 1958</i>	Victorian Railways	<i>Stock (Artificial Breeding) Act 1962</i>	Agriculture
<i>Railways Standardization Agreement Act 1958</i>	Victorian Railways	<i>Stock Diseases Act 1968</i>	Agriculture
<i>Rain-making Control Act 1967</i>	Agriculture	<i>Stock Foods Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Recreation Vehicles Act 1973</i>	Conservation	<i>Stock Medicines Act 1958</i>	Agriculture
<i>Registration of Births Deaths and Marriages Act 1959</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Strata Titles Act 1967</i>	Law
<i>Religious Successory and Charitable Trusts Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Subordinate Legislation Act 1962</i>	Law
<i>River Improvement Act 1958</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission	<i>Summary Offences Act 1966</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Road Traffic Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Summer Time Act 1972</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Rural Finance Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Sunday Entertainment Act 1967</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Rural Finance and Settlement Commission Act 1961</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Superannuation Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Sale of Human Blood Act 1962</i>	Health	<i>Superannuation Benefits Act 1977</i>	Treasury
<i>Sale of Land Act 1962</i>	Law	<i>Supreme Court Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Scaffolding Act 1971</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Survey Co-ordination Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Science Museum of Victoria Act 1970</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Swine Compensation Act 1967</i>	Treasury also Agriculture
<i>Seamen's Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Tattersall Consultations Act 1958</i>	Treasury
<i>Second-hand Dealers Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Taxation Appeals Act 1972</i>	Treasury
<i>Securities Industry Act 1975</i>	Law	<i>Teacher Housing Act 1970</i>	Housing
<i>Seeds Act 1971</i>	Agriculture	<i>Teaching Service Act 1958</i>	Education
<i>Senate Elections Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Temperance Halls Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Settled Land Act 1958</i>	Law	<i>Theatres Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Sewerage Districts Act 1958</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Tobacco Leaf Industry Stabilization Act 1966</i>	Agriculture
<i>Shearers Accommodation Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Tomato Processing Industry Act 1976</i>	Agriculture
<i>Shearers Accommodation Act 1976</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Town and Country Planning Act 1961</i>	Local Government
<i>Sheep Branding Fluids Act 1963</i>	Agriculture	<i>Trade Unions Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Sheep Owners Protection Act 1961</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Tramways Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Small Business Develop- ment Corporation Act 1976</i>	State Development	<i>Transfer of Land Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Small Claims Tribunals Act 1973</i>	Labour and Industry	<i>Transport Regulation Act 1958</i>	Transport
<i>Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation (Victoria) Act 1971</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply	<i>Trustee Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Social Welfare Act 1970</i>	Social Welfare	<i>Trustee Companies Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Soil Conservation and Land Utilization Act 1958</i>	Soil Conservation Authority	<i>Unauthorized Documents Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Soldier Settlement Act 1958</i>	Rural Finance and Settlement Commission	<i>Unclaimed Moneys Act 1962</i>	Treasury
		<i>Underseas Mineral Resources Act 1963</i>	Mines
		<i>Unlawful Assemblies and Processions Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's

**VICTORIA—UNREPEALED PUBLIC GENERAL ACTS ENACTED IN THE 1958  
CONSOLIDATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY, 15 JUNE, 1977—continued**

Act	Administering department or ministry	Act	Administering department or ministry
<i>Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority Act 1976</i>	Planning	<i>Warehousemen's Liens Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Urban Renewal Act 1970</i>	Housing	<i>Water Act 1958</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Vagrancy Act 1966</i>	Chief Secretary's	<i>Water Resources Act 1975</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Valuation of Land Act 1960</i>	Local Government	<i>Waterworks Trusts Association of Victoria Act 1966</i>	Water Resources and Water Supply
<i>Vegetation and Vine Diseases Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Weights and Measures Act 1958</i>	Local Government
<i>Venerable Diseases Act 1958</i>	Health	<i>West Moorabool Water Board Act 1968</i>	State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
<i>Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey	<i>Wheat Industry Stabilization Act 1974</i>	Agriculture
<i>Veterinary Surgeons Act 1958</i>	Agriculture	<i>Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market (Traders) Act 1963</i>	Agriculture
<i>Victoria Conservation Trust Act 1972</i>	Conservation	<i>Wild Flowers and Native Plants Protection Act 1958</i>	Forests Commission
<i>Victoria Grants Commission Act 1976</i>	Local Government	<i>Wild Life Act 1975</i>	Conservation
<i>Victoria Institute of Colleges Act 1965</i>	Education	<i>Wills Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Victorian Dairy Industry Authority Act 1977</i>	Agriculture	<i>Wire Netting Act 1958</i>	Crown Lands and Survey
<i>Victorian Development Corporation Act 1973</i>	State Development	<i>Wodonga Area Land Acquisition Act 1973</i>	State Development
<i>Victorian Film Corporation Act 1976</i>	Arts	<i>Women's Qualification Act 1958</i>	Law
<i>Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences Act 1974</i>	Conservation	<i>Workers Compensation Act 1958</i>	Chief Secretary's 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>Youth, Sport and Recreation Act 1972</i>	Youth, Sport and Recreation
<i>Vital State Projects Act 1976</i>	Premier's	<i>Zoological Gardens Act 1967</i>	Chief Secretary's
<i>Volunteer Civil Defence Workers Compensation Act 1972</i>	Chief Secretary's		

### History of Victorian Government departments and instrumentalities

A series of short, comprehensive histories of Victorian Government departments has appeared in this place in previous editions of the *Victorian Year Book* since 1963. They have included the Chief Secretary's Department (1963), the Premier's Department (1964), the Law Department (1965), the Treasury (1966), the Public Works Department (1967), the Department of Crown Lands and Survey (1968), the Education Department (1969), the Mines Department (1970), the Department of Agriculture (1971), Local Government, including the establishment of the Local Government Department (1972), the Department of Health (1974), the Department of Labour and Industry (1975), the Public Service Board (1976), and the Melbourne Harbor Trust (1977).

### History of the Forests Commission, Victoria\*

In the early years of the Colony of Victoria, licences were given to timber getters to work without restraint of any kind. The destructive methods used prompted a number of unsuccessful attempts in the latter nineteenth century to impose government control on the exploitation of forest resources. The *Land Act 1869* provided for the proclamation of reserves for the preservation and growth of timber, but these were temporary reserves and could be revoked at one month's notice.

As a result of applications by various bodies for assistance in the preservation of local timber, the *State Forests Act 1876* was passed, the first specialised forestry legislation in Victoria. In seeking to provide for the care, management, and control of State forests and timber reserves, local Boards were to be

\* This article can be read in conjunction with chapter 1

established to manage and control timber reserves, to grant licences to cut timber, to appoint foresters with the same powers as Crown Lands Bailiffs and to look after the preservation of the forests. However, the Act was never put into practice. Such forest management as there was, derived from the provisions of the Land Acts of 1884 and 1890. Apathy, indifference to, and ignorance of the value of forests were the prevalent attitudes; Forests Bills presented to Parliament in 1879 and 1881 did not pass the first-reading stage, while in 1887 and 1892 draft Bills were prepared but never presented. George Perrin, with a background of experience in Tasmania was appointed Conservator of Forests in 1888 and battled almost fruitlessly against such inertia until his death in 1900. Two eminent Indian foresters, F. Vincent in 1887 and B. Ribbentrop in 1896, at the request of the Colonial Government reported on the gravity of the effects of mis-management and inadequate legislation on Victoria's forests. Both recommended sweeping reforms; those of Ribbentrop included giving the Government power to declare any Crown land a State Forest, alienable only by Parliament, and providing for proper fire protection in State Forests and for their systematic management. Largely as a result of these two reports, a Royal Commission was appointed in 1897, consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, "to investigate the general question of forestry and forest control and management in Victoria". At the same time, the Surveyor-General, S. K. Vickery and the Inspector of Forests, J. Blackburne, upon the request of the Minister of Lands, reported that nearly 1.8 million hectares of land should be permanently reserved for forest purposes. The Royal Commission made 14 progress reports between 1898 and 1900 concerning mainly the forests in various districts, pastoral lands in East Gippsland and Upper Glenelg, forest royalties, and fire protection in country districts.

The most important result of the Commissioners' work was the *Forests Act* 1907. For some 40 years a State Forests Branch had been attached to the Lands, Agriculture, and Mines and Water Supply Departments for varying periods. Under the new Act, a separate Forests Department was established, responsible to a Minister in the Cabinet. Permanently reserved forests were created, provision was made for future such dedications, the Department assumed control of timber on unoccupied Crown lands and it was authorised to collect royalties on timber produced. A Conservator, H. Mackay, was appointed with what, at the time, was considered to be the necessary staff to implement the Act. Several amendments in 1910 mainly clarified the responsibilities of the Department and increased the penalties for infringements of the Act. The new Department made substantial progress towards becoming self-supporting but lack of an assured source of funds and a shortage of qualified staff prevented full attainment of the aims of the 1907 Act.

These handicaps prompted the establishment of the Forestry School at Creswick in 1910 and the passage of the *Forests Act* 1918. A Forests Commission consisting of a chairman and two commissioners was set up to provide the continuity of management impossible with frequent changes of Cabinet Ministers. In the Commission was vested the control and management of natural forests, plantations, nurseries, State-managed forest industrial undertakings, the planning and execution of all forest work, the sale of all forest produce and the implementation of plans for the proper restriction of forest produce yields. A State Forestry Fund was created for the improvement and development of the State Forests.

During the 1920s and 1930s the introduction of several new types of machinery enabled the exploitation of timber stands in more remote areas of the State.

The Forests Act was amended in 1927 to improve methods of fire prevention and control. Immediately after the disastrous bushfires of January 1939, when over 1.2 million hectares of forest were damaged, a Royal Commission under

Judge L. Stretton was appointed to inquire into the causes of and measures taken to prevent the bushfires of January 1939 and the measures to be taken to prevent bushfires in Victoria and to protect life and property in the event of future bushfires. Stretton's recommendations were responsible for the passage of extensive amendments to the Forests Act to strengthen fire protection measures. Also in 1939, the State Forests (Timber Salvage) Loan and Application Act enabled timber salvage operations to be carried out in State Forests destroyed or damaged by bushfires. In the same year the Chairman of the Commission became the permanent head of a new Department of State Forests and the Department's staff, formerly employed by the Commission, were transferred to the Victorian Public Service.

Radio communications have been used by foresters since 1940, particularly to enhance the efficiency of the fire protection system. From the early 1950s, applied research has yielded techniques for regeneration of timber stands on overcut and poorly stocked land, while aerial seeding was commenced in the mid-1960s to bring about regeneration after clear felling and to reforest land covered with scrub species but with potential for high timber yields. Computers have been used since 1958 to process forest survey data and to analyse the results of experimental work. They have also been used in the planning of forest management programmes together with mathematical models simulating forest growth and providing accurate estimates of produce likely to be available. Aerial photographs have been used to help forest assessors locate and estimate timber volumes in previously uncut or regenerated areas.

The Statute Law Revision Committee found in the late 1950s that legislative provisions relating to State Forests were dispersed among 25 Acts of Parliament. The *Forests Act* 1959 was both a revision and amendment of the 1918 Act—a true consolidating measure. It has remained the principal Act; the outstanding feature of the several amendments has been the enlargement of the Commission's responsibilities. To cater for the recreational and aesthetic aspects of forest management, provision was made for the declaration of portions of reserved forest as forest parks, alpine resorts, scenic reserves, roadside reserves, and special purpose reserves. In 1958 five reserves (1,321 hectares) were established. By 1965, 89 reserves had been designated, covering an area of over 16,000 hectares, and a decade later there were 113 reserves embracing 56,395 hectares.

In recent years the Commission has been promoting the sale of trees and timber and sharing its technical knowledge with the public. These and other practices have made for good relations with the community. It has also made farm forestry agreements with private land owners, established a Board of Forestry Education, and continued to stress the need for fire protection. A wide range of regulations has been promulgated under the Act, basically concerned with the more detailed and technical aspects of the Commission's activities, e.g., diseases of trees, camping and fire restrictions, and management of individual reserves.

The area of reserved forest in Victoria stood at 462,266 hectares in 1874. Substantial expansion did not occur until after 1900: 1,530,378 hectares were recorded in 1912. Thereafter a steady rate of additions to the area of reserved forests have taken the total to 1,877,124 hectares in 1934, 2,195,536 in 1955, and 2,295,236 hectares in 1975.

Since 1958 the administrative structure of the Commission has been progressively enlarged and adapted to its broader functions and responsibilities. It is now divided into two groups: Administrative, comprising the Divisions of Administration, Forest Management, Forest Operations, Economics and Marketing, Forest Protection, Forest Education and Research; and Field, comprising seven territorial divisions within Victoria.

## PLANNING

**Premier's Department : State Co-ordination Council**

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

The new arrangements replace those administered by the State Planning Council which was created in 1968 under the Town and Country Planning Act. The more diverse and complex involvement of government in many activities, the creation of new agencies and the revision of the functions of existing agencies, the size and cost of many programmes using public and private community resources, and the increasing emphasis on conservation and the environment have all created a need to bring agencies closer together to maximise co-ordination and consultation. It was in this context that the existing mechanism was reviewed by an inter-departmental committee and the new legislative arrangements adopted.

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

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

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

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

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

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



between this Group and the Town and Country Planning Board exists for the preparation of Statements of Planning Policy.

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

### **Ministry for Planning**

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

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

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

**Further reference, 1977**

### *Town and Country Planning Board*

#### *Introduction*

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

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

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

Since that date population projections have decreased significantly as a result of a decrease in the natural birth rate and migration. Metropolitan Melbourne is now expected to have a population from 3.2 to 3.4 million by the

turn of the century. The Town and Country Planning Board in close consultation with the Board of Works has been responsible for a number of investigations of the most appropriate means of housing this increased population. The recent establishment of the State Co-ordination Council has taken over the prime functions of the State Planning Council which has now been disbanded.

The Town and Country Planning Board's responsibilities became:

- (1) Promoting and co-ordinating urban and regional planning throughout the State;
- (2) preparing statements of planning policy;
- (3) convening and supplying services to local responsible planning authorities;
- (4) preparing planning schemes for special areas;
- (5) reviewing and reporting on planning schemes; and
- (6) advising the Minister on any planning matter.

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

#### **State Planning Council, 1976**

##### *Statements of planning policy*

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

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

Statements have already been approved for Western Port, the Mornington Peninsula, the Dandenong Ranges, the Yarra River, Geelong, the Macedon Ranges, Central Gippsland brown coal deposits, and highway areas and land-use around aerodromes. Others for the Melbourne metropolitan area and the whole of the Victorian coastline are in the course of preparation.

##### *Planning schemes for special areas*

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

##### *Reviewing and reporting on planning schemes*

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

*Responsibilities under the Development Areas Act*

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

*Development of Melton and Sunbury*

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

*Commonwealth Government involvement in planning*

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

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

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

*Albury-Wodonga*

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

The Agreement provided for the establishment of a development corporation as a statutory authority to plan and develop the areas designated for new growth. The agreement between the Commonwealth, New South Wales, and Victorian Governments defined an initial study area by a circle of radius 55 kilometres centred on the Union Bridge between Albury and Wodonga. This

was the area within which took place the initial investigations designed to establish the growth centre's feasibility, potential sites for development, and the effect of such development on the environment. It also defined the boundaries within which land price stabilisation legislation would apply.

Following the initial feasibility studies the study area was reduced to 5,000 square kilometres taking in the municipalities of the City of Albury, the Rural City of Wodonga, and the Shires of Beechworth, Chiltern, Hume, Towong (now Tallangatta), and Yackandandah.

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

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

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

### *Regional planning*

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

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

Regional committees were set up for all regions except Port Phillip. Their functions were to advise on potential development of resources; to provide a common ground for discussion between local administrators and interested parties on problems and the methods of co-ordinating public services; and to advise on outstanding problems such as soil deficiencies, transport difficulties, housing shortages, etc., which required government action. The Victorian Government has

acted on many of the committees' recommendations but as the committees were only advisory bodies, they could not be seen as regional planning authorities in the modern context.

In 1968 the Town and Country Planning Act was amended to provide a three tier system of planning administration—State-wide, regional, and local. Within this framework, regional planning authorities were to be established to prepare planning schemes for any specified area extending beyond the boundaries of any one municipality and to enforce and carry out those schemes. Under this amending Act, a regional planning authority must consist of representatives of every municipality within the region and may also include other approved specially qualified people. It is to be financed by the participating municipalities on an agreed basis and be a body corporate with powers to acquire and dispose of land. It has the power to appoint its own staff and technical advisory committees and it can become the sole responsible authority for any interim development order or planning scheme in operation in the region. It can also delegate to the council of a municipality within the region such powers as it thinks fit.

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

The Geelong Regional Planning Authority's planning role was transferred to the Geelong Regional Commission on 1 August 1977. The Upper Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Authority came into being in April 1977 under its own Act. This new region was created by transferring the Shires of Lillydale and Sherbrooke and part of Healesville from the Metropolitan Region to the new Region, and includes the balance of Healesville and also the Upper Yarra Shire.

The Act requires the new authority to prepare a regional strategy plan for the area and directs it to concentrate on matters of regional rather than local significance. The system of dual permits from both local and regional authorities which exists in several other regions has not been instituted in this region. Rather, the regional authority will have the right of veto over developments which it considers contrary to regional planning aims. This arrangement is likely to be introduced for the other regional authorities.

In addition to establishing regional planning authorities, regional offices of the Town and Country Planning Board have recently been established at Bendigo, Warrnambool, Traralgon and Wodonga. The Bendigo office services the Loddon-Campaspe Regional Planning Authority.

#### *Western Port Regional Planning Authority*

The Western Port Regional Planning Authority was constituted on 25 February 1969 by Order of the Governor in Council, under the provisions of section 12 of the *Town and Country Planning Act* 1961. It has the statutory obligation to prepare and submit a planning scheme or schemes for a region comprising 1,680 square kilometres near Western Port Bay and to enforce and carry out these planning schemes.

The Region comprises six municipalities, namely, the Shires of Flinders, Hastings, Mornington, Phillip Island, and portions of the Shires of Cranbourne and Bass. French Island is also in the Region but is not incorporated in any municipality.

The area, although largely agricultural, has industrial potential and port capability as well as potential for residential, tourist and recreational development

in some sections. The topography of the Region is varied, ranging from the hilly, undulating country of the Mornington Peninsula, through the flat coastal areas of Western Port, the former Koo-Wee-Rup swamps to the foothills of the Strzelecki Ranges, and the islands of Western Port Bay.

The Authority is a body corporate composed of twelve members, two from each of the six municipalities in the Region. The Authority elects a Chairman from its members, who holds office for a period of 12 months. The Authority employs a small staff of professional officers headed by a director. The operating costs are met by the Victorian Government and member councils. Member councils meet costs in agreed proportions for one-third of the approved estimates and the Victorian Government contributes the remaining two-thirds.

In 1970 the Victorian Government brought down Statement of Planning Policy No. 1 (Western Port) which laid down guidelines for the regional planning necessary for the expected port and industrial development in the Western Port area on both the mainland and French Island. This was varied in 1976 to exclude French Island and areas to the north of Watson's Inlet. The Statement emphasises the need to limit urban development within the area, the achievement and maintenance of high standards of environmental quality, and the integration of land-use policies with those of adjacent regions and resources.

The value of the Mornington Peninsula for conservation, recreation, and scientific interests was recognised in Statement of Planning Policy No. 2 (Mornington Peninsula), which was approved in 1970 and varied in 1976. This policy lays down guidelines for the regional planning necessary to conserve and preserve the natural resources of the southern part of the Mornington Peninsula.

In order to implement these policies, and to plan development in a logical, orderly manner the Regional Authority, prior to the approval of the Regional Planning Scheme, made an Interim Development Order covering the whole Region, which was gazetted on 7 October 1970. This order divides the Region into areas classed as Urban, Non-urban, and Special Significance.

Following the concern over the implications of Statement of Planning Policy No. 1, the Government commenced a comprehensive study of the characteristics of the Western Port Bay environment and, pending the findings of these studies and the revision of the Statement, maintained a moratorium on development in the area from February 1973 to February 1976. The Authority has drawn up policies aimed at ensuring the long-term availability of land suitable for water-oriented industry; the policies require the observance of stringent environmental controls. Investigations are currently being undertaken with the purpose of developing and refining these policies and preparing a new plan for this area.

In response to Statement of Planning Policy No. 2, the Authority has prepared a Conservation Plan for the area lying generally south and south-west of a line between the towns of Mornington and Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula. This Plan was developed following an extensive programme of investigation in the area, involving physical, ecological, cultural, and sociological studies. The findings were integrated into a plan which introduces three sets of overlapping controls to cope with the variety of land-uses and activities sought in the area. Basic activity controls are achieved through land unit provisions and permitted developments are constrained in specified areas by the application of natural systems or cultural element provisions. The Plan is currently being considered by the Town and Country Planning Authority.

The Authority is also involved in providing assistance to the municipalities in the Region for the preparation of urban development policies and appropriate planning schemes.

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

*Re-structuring of old and inappropriate sub-divisions*

The Ministry for Planning in co-operation with local municipalities and regional planning authorities where they exist has established a number of schemes to overcome the problems faced by the estimated 56,000 inappropriately sub-divided residential sized allotments within Victoria. Most of these allotments are in areas of environmental sensitivity or natural beauty which the community has increasingly wished to protect from unwarranted development. An allocation of \$500,000 was provided on a revolving fund basis for the re-sub-division and subsequent re-sale of allotments in the Dandenong Ranges in the 1976-77 budget. This fund was further augmented with a \$50,000 provision in the 1977-78 budget and a number of re-structuring schemes are now in progress in the Dandenong Ranges. Given financial limitations, major emphasis has changed to a co-operative re-structuring scheme aimed at development in these sub-divisions.

Other areas of Victoria where re-structuring schemes are now in progress include the Macedon Ranges, the Gippsland Lakes, Western Port Region, and Bellarine Peninsula.

*Town Planning Appeals Tribunal*

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

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

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

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

- (1) Failure of a responsible authority to grant him a permit;
  - (2) refusal of a responsible authority to grant him a permit;
  - (3) refusal of a responsible authority to consider an application;
  - (4) conditions in a permit granted by a responsible authority;
  - (5) failure or refusal of a responsible authority to extend the time of commencement or completion of any development;
  - (6) restrictions as set out in Section 19 (c) of the Act; or
  - (7) determination, as an objector, of a responsible authority to grant a permit.
- In 1976, 1,581 appeals were lodged with the Tribunal.

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

**Further reference, 1972**

### *Urban Land Council*

The Urban Land Council was formed in May 1975 as the result of an agreement between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments. The objective of this agreement was to use funds provided by the Commonwealth Government to assist in the provision of an adequate supply of fully serviced allotments at appropriate locations throughout Victoria at a minimum cost, and in so doing, provide a substantial measure of price stability and to provide land for associated commercial, industrial, conservation, and community development. In establishing the Council the Victorian Government has been mindful of its policies to encourage home ownership, particularly first home ownership.

To 30 June 1977, the Council had purchased a total of 623 hectares of land at Thomastown, Deer Park, St. Albans West, and Keilor. The Council is also to be granted 36 hectares of Crown Land at Altona. All land purchased is in areas zoned for immediate development, where all services are available and are close to existing schools, shops, public transport, and community facilities.

At 30 June 1977, loans totalling \$21.2m had been received from the Commonwealth. By that date a total of 1,091 allotments had been developed and released for sale and a further 639 allotments were under construction. Until 30 June 1977, 819 allotments had been sold to individuals and to builders. Sales are subject to minimum conditions necessary to ensure that land is sold to genuine home builders.

### *Historic Buildings Preservation Council*

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

- (1) To recommend to the Minister :
  - (i) the buildings of architectural or historic importance which it considers should be added to the register ;
  - (ii) the designated buildings which it considers should be removed from the register ; and
  - (iii) any alteration which it considers should be made to any item in the register.
- (2) Of its own motion or at the request of the Minister for Planning to report to the Minister on any matter relating to designated buildings or to the administration of this Act.

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

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

### *Maldon Architectural Advisory Service and Restoration Fund*

The 1977-78 budget provided funds for the establishment of an Architectural Advisory Service and Restoration Fund to assist with the preservation and restoration of buildings of historical importance within the township of Maldon. The Architectural Advisory Service, located in the restored Tarrangower Times



Office, is manned by an architect on Fridays and Saturdays and is a free service for local residents. Finance for restoration will be in the form of grants and loans on a similar basis to that provided under the Historic Buildings Act.

### **Statistical divisions in Victoria**

#### *Origins of statistical division concept*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

As a consequence the policy of the Australian Bureau of Statistics on statistical divisions was reviewed at a conference of State Deputy Commonwealth Statisticians in June 1973. Among other things this Conference resolved that :

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

*Development of new statistical divisions  
State Planning Regions*

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) Comparisons with other ways of dividing the State, including the then current Central Planning Authority regions, and various areas used for presenting statistics ;
- (2) physical factors including river basins and tablelands, climate, geology, and soils, all of which influence economic activity, particularly primary production ;
- (3) communication, that is, the concept of a region as a hierarchy of towns joined by a coherent system of lines of communication ; and
- (4) areas of influence of towns described by studies and researches within the Town and Country Planning Board and the University of Melbourne on the socio-economic areas of influence of Victorian towns and cities. The Board's studies used a system of weighting elements of association according to their

apparent significance. Elements considered included the patterns of a community's frequent (at least once a month) travel to a retail shopping centre, newspaper circulation, distribution or marketing areas for major consumer items, regional zoning of sporting, social, and community and welfare organisations, the composition of municipal associations (made by local selection), and library and hospital service regions.

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

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

#### *Adoption of new statistical divisions*

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

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

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

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

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local government is a tier in the tripartite structure of government in Australia (namely, Commonwealth, State, and local). Since it is closely connected with the life of communities, it can become sensitive to, and aware of, their needs. Local government in Victoria is administered by 211 municipalities operating under the provisions of the *Local Government Act* 1958 and under the oversight of the Minister for Local Government, his permanent head, the Secretary for Local Government, and a staff of some 252 officers as well as some 50 members of boards, most of whom serve part-time.

The Minister and his Department also administer a number of other Acts of the Victorian Parliament, as set out in detail in Chapter 6, but the majority of the powers and duties given to municipal councils are set out in the Local Government Act. There are several amendments to this Act each year, as a result of changing community circumstances which affect most citizens. The Act sets out the framework within which each council is free to exercise control over matters of local concern, and the role of the Department is essentially to assist councils in executing the wishes of their electors within this framework of statutory powers.

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

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

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

The Victoria Grants Commission was established under the *Victoria Grants Commission Act* 1976 to apportion among Victorian municipalities the share of personal income tax revenue allocated to the State for this purpose under the Commonwealth Government's *Local Government (Personal Income Tax Sharing) Act* 1976. (See also page 177.)

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

The administration of the Town and Country Planning Act and Town Planning Appeals Tribunal, previously functions of the Local Government Department, is now handled by the Ministry for Planning, and the supervision of scaffolding by the Department of Labour and Industry (see page 136). Other important areas for councils, such as health and various welfare functions (e.g., home help, elderly citizens, meals-on-wheels, social workers, etc.), come within the administration of the Health Department.

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

**Further reference, 1977**

## PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

The Public Library of Victoria (now the State Library) served as a repository for public records from 1893 but there were no systematic transfers and much indiscriminate destruction occurred. This resulted in a Premier's instruction in 1928, which was repeated at intervals to preclude further unscheduled destruction of public records.

The first archivist was appointed in 1948 and an Archives Section was established in 1955, its staff then comprising three archivists and one senior archivist. In 1963 a Board of Inquiry into Library Services in Victoria recommended that a separate Public Records Authority should be developed and that policy on the preservation of and access to public records should be laid down by legislation.

In 1967 a Public Records Advisory Council was appointed by the Chief Secretary at the request of the Library Council of Victoria. Its recommendations were accepted by both the Library Council and the Government, and served as the basis of the *Public Records Act* 1973. This Act established in the Chief Secretary's Department a Public Record Office "for the better preservation, management and utilisation of the public records of the State," a new institution in line with modern records management programmes overseas.

Subject to the Act and the general control of the Chief Secretary, the management of the Public Record Office is vested in the Keeper of Public Records. The Keeper's principal duties include the preservation and security of public records in his custody, their orderly classification and the preparation of indexes and guides to facilitate their use, the establishment of standards for the maintenance, selection, disposal, and transfer of Public Records to the Public Record Office, and assistance to public officers in implementing these standards.

The Act also created a Public Records Advisory Council, whose functions are, in consultation with the Keeper of Public Records, to promote co-operation between the Public Record Office and public offices and to make recommendations to the Minister on any matter relating to the administration of the Act.

In July 1975, purchase of a modern, air-conditioned building in Cherry Lane, Laverton, made possible further stages in both the proper listing and shelving of records hitherto held in congested basements beneath the State Library building or in scattered locations elsewhere, and a resumption of controlled transfers from equally congested government departments. Ultimate storage capacity will be 100,000 linear metres, housed in a two-tier construction of compactus shelving, and there are special facilities for storing microfilms and computer tapes. The main reference services are at the Laverton repository, but a branch reference room is located at the city head-quarters of the Public Record Office in which records may also be consulted on formal request.

At the end of 1976, the Public Record Office held approximately 26,000 shelf metres of public records and, apart from its statutory duties and reference services rendered to public offices, dealt with over 11,800 research and other enquiries from the public in that year.

**Further reference, 1977**

## OMBUDSMAN

The office of the Ombudsman was established in Victoria on 30 October 1973, and the Ombudsman has published three Annual Reports concerning the exercise of his functions and giving relevant statistical information.

During the year ended 30 June 1976, the Ombudsman received 1,457 complaints. In that period he investigated 446 complaints (the remainder being either outside his jurisdiction, disposed of by preliminary inquiry, or deferred). Of these 101 were found to be justified (23 per cent of those investigated). In 13 cases he made no recommendation as the Authority concerned had taken steps to

rectify the complaint sufficiently. In 56 cases no remedial action was possible. The Ombudsman made 32 formal recommendations (11 relating to the one complaint), all of which were complied with.

One of the most significant aspects of the exercise of his functions is the high percentage of complaints received from prisoners. For the period 30 October 1973 to 30 June 1974, the Ombudsman received 391 complaints from prisoners; for the year ending 30 June 1975, 615 complaints were received and 408 for the year ending 30 June 1976, a total of 1,414 out of 4,611 complaints received over the whole period, or approximately 30 per cent.

During 1975-76, the Ombudsman investigated 90 complaints by prisoners against the Social Welfare Department, 23 against the Department of Health, 8 against the Chief Commissioner of the Victoria Police, 3 against the Mental Health Authority, and 1 against the Law Department. (The remainder were disposed of by preliminary inquiry, deferred, withdrawn, etc.) Of the complaints investigated, 26 concerning the Social Welfare Department and 2 concerning the Health Department were found to be justified.

The principal subject matters of complaints against the Social Welfare Department were—victimisation 35; assault 18; visits 12; remissions 12; release dates 9; wrongly punished 7; wrongful detention 6; and improperly charged 4. The principal subject matter of complaint against the Health Department was concerned with medical treatment—46.

The percentage of complaints made to the Ombudsman by prisoners in Victoria is substantially higher than that in other countries and the high percentage continues despite the small percentage of complaints found to be justified. This could be related to the following factors:

- (1) Every letter received from a person in custody is invariably acknowledged or answered on the day of its receipt. Prisoners are aware of this practice and place reliance upon it.
- (2) One of the Investigation Officers on the staff of the Ombudsman attends the principal prison in Victoria (Pentridge) at least once a week to interview complainants, as a result of which many complaints are resolved by discussion without need for investigation.
- (3) The Social Welfare Department complies strictly with the statutory provision that a letter written by a person in custody addressed to the Ombudsman shall immediately be forwarded unopened to him by the person for the time being in charge of the prison where the writer of the letter is detained and, indeed, the Department affords every facility to a prisoner who wishes to write to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has reported that he has not found a single instance in which a prisoner desiring to make a complaint to him has been impeded.

The substantial percentage of complaints received from prisoners would appear to stem from the confidence that prisoners have in the office.

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