

Interim Report

Economic Development Committee

August 2001

by Authority.

Government Printer for the State of Victoria

No. 91 - Session 1999/2001

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Hon. Neil Lucas, P.S.M., M.L.C. (Chairman)
Hon. Theo Theophanous, M.L.C. (Deputy Chairman)
Hon. Ron Best, M.L.C.
Hon. Andrea Coote, M.L.C.
Hon. Geoff Craige, M.L.C.
Hon. Kaye Darveniza, M.L.C.
Hon. John McQuilten, M.L.C.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH STAFF

Mr R. Willis, Executive Officer
Ms T. Esposito, Office Manager
Ms K. Ellingford, Research Officer

The Committee's Address is:

Level 8
35 Spring Street
MELBOURNE 3000

Telephone: (03) 9651 3592

Facsimile: (03) 9651 3691

E-mail: edc@parliament.vic.gov.au

Website: <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/e/dev>

Parliamentary Committees Act 1968

TERMS OF REFERENCE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

IMPACT OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE VICTORIAN ECONOMY

The Governor in Council, under section 39 of the **Parliamentary Committees Act 1968** issues the following terms of reference to the Economic Development Committee for inquiry into structural changes in the Victorian economy:

a) Assess the impact on the Victorian economy of structural changes in:

- I. banking;
- II. postal communications;
- III. municipal services (including the reduction in the number of municipal outlets due to the recent municipal amalgamations);
- IV. public transport; and
- V. employment services

b) Assess the impact of the withdrawal of the above services (including the reduction in the number of municipal outlets due to the recent municipal amalgamations) on small and medium sized towns.

c) Report by the first day of the Spring 2001 Parliamentary session.

Dated: 29 February 2000

Responsible Minister:

Steve Bracks Premier

Clerk of the Executive Council

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE VICTORIAN ECONOMY
INTERIM REPORT

1. Background

On 29th February 2000, the Economic Development Committee received a Terms of Reference through Governor-in-Council, to inquire into and report on the impact of structural changes in the Victorian economy.

Specifically, the Committee is required to assess the impact of structural changes in:

1. Banking
2. Postal communications
3. Municipal services
4. Public transport
5. Employment Services.

The Committee is also required to assess the impact of the withdrawal of the above services (including the reduction in the number of municipal outlets due to the recent municipal amalgamations) on small and medium sized towns.

The Terms of Reference requires the Committee to table a report by the first day of the Spring 2001 Parliamentary session.

2. Purpose of Interim Report

Over the past 12 months, the Committee has been involved in conducting separate inquiries into the GST and Workcover Premiums. Investigations into these inquiries has precluded the Committee from advancing with its Structural Changes Inquiry to a position which would enable a final report to be tabled in line with the reporting deadline of the first sitting day of the 2001 Spring Session.

It is therefore necessary for the Committee to table this Interim Report which provides a brief overview of the Committee's activities to date. It is anticipated the final report will be completed and tabled during the 2002 Autumn Session.

3. Progress Report

The Committee advertised its Terms of Reference in November 2000 seeking written submissions. To date 35 written submissions have been received.

Informal meetings have also been held with key organisations in Canberra and Sydney including the Australian Bankers' Association, Department of Employment, Workplace Relations & Small Business, the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority and Rural Transaction Centres.

The Committee is planning a series of public hearings in Melbourne and throughout regional Victoria during the second half of 2001. Particular emphasis will be placed on obtaining evidence from communities in small and medium sized towns.

The Committee's final report will be tabled in the 2002 Autumn Session.

13th August 2001