

PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES BILL 1976.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM.

ITEM 1 (SCHOOL BUILDINGS &C.—\$180,000,000).

A total amount of \$145.5 million has been allocated by the Government from the Works and Services Account for expenditure by the Education Department during the 1976-77 financial year.

The appropriation provided by this Item covers building and other works at primary, secondary, technical, mid-level colleges and special schools, provision of residences for caretakers and other non-teaching staff, the purchase of sites for new schools and for the extension of school grounds, the provision of furniture and equipment and special grants towards the cost of assembly halls, special purpose rooms and other projects related to education.

The components of this allocation and a comparison with the 1975-76 expenditure are as follows :—

	1975-76	1976-77	
	Actual	Allocation	Percentage
	Expenditure		Increase
	\$'000	\$'000	
<i>State Funds</i>	86.282	100.305	+16.25
<i>Commonwealth Funds—</i>			
State Grants (Schools) Act 1972-74	10.349	11.200	
State Grants (Schools) Act 1973-74, and }	30.533	11.812	
State Grants (Schools) Act 1976 .. .. .	..	12.300	
Proposed New Commonwealth Legislation	7.166	9.863	
State Grants (T.A.F.E.) Act	48.048	45.175	— 6.0
Total Commonwealth	134.330	145.480	+ 8.3
Total Funds			

The Commonwealth allocations quoted in the above table are tentative and are subject to confirmation.

This year for the first time capital works programmes will be planned on a regional basis. Priorities are assessed by Priority Review Committees which are chaired by the Regional Directors of Education. The Committees comprise representatives of Education Department School Councils, community groups and other interested parties.

The approved programme includes :—

(a) a total of 13 new schools to be established during the 1977 school year as follows :—

Primary—

Glengala Park at Sunshine
Greenbrook at South Morang
Regency Park at Wantirna
Templestowe Park
Coldstream
Birmingham at Lilydale
Silverton at Dandenong North

Secondary—

Highvale at Glen Waverley
Springvale South
Berwick
Noble Park North
Ardoch Education Village at St. Kilda

Technical—

Whittlesea

(b) a total of 184 major building projects costing over \$100,000 are programmed to commence in 1976-77 at primary, secondary and technical schools throughout the State.

(c) A mid-level technical college at Moorabbin will soon be completed and a contract is to be let for a new college at Dandenong.

These colleges have been funded by the Commonwealth under the State Grants (T.A.F.E.) Act 1974, and provide a wide range of training facilities to associate diploma level for full time and part time students. Other mid-level colleges are planned for Collingwood and Newport, and extensions are planned at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Preston and Footscray.

The State Government has recognised the need to expand this programme and an allocation of \$5 million of State funds has been provided for this purpose.

(d) Six assembly halls will be completed during 1976-77 and work is planned to commence on a further ten assembly halls.

(e) fire reinstatement is an extremely costly burden on the school building programme. Work is planned to commence on the reinstatement of facilities at 14 schools at a total estimated cost of \$3.8 million.

(f) the Education Department has already assumed responsibility under the Education (Handicapped Persons) Act 1973 for ten Special Developmental Schools and a further six centres will be transferred to the Education Department in the 1977 school year. Previously these schools were the complete responsibility of local committees, supported by the Mental Health Authority and the Commonwealth Department of Social Services through various subsidy schemes.

Special Education Units will be completed this financial year at Frankston, Benalla, Seymour and Colac.

A contract has been let for the construction of a Special School at Glen Waverley. This school will be jointly funded by the Spastic Children's Society and the Government and is estimated to cost \$4 million.

(g) in accordance with the Government's policy undertaking prior to the State elections, particular emphasis is given in the programme to :—

- staff rooms and offices
- libraries in smaller primary schools
- toilet renovations
- training facilities for apprentices

As indicated in that Speech an additional \$2 million has also been allocated for the Teacher Housing Authority. A full explanation is detailed under Item 91 of this memorandum.

ITEM 3 (PARLIAMENT HOUSE—\$1,500,000)

An allocation of \$627,000 has been made available from the Works and Services Account for expenditure at Parliament House during the 1976-77 financial year. This more than doubles the 1975-76 expenditure of \$291,000.

The 1976-77 Works and Services Programme provides for the implementation of a recommendation of the 1973 Committee of Inquiry into the Salaries and Allowances of Members, in relation to the establishment of electorate offices.

\$336,000 has been allocated to provide offices for those Members of Parliament who have elected to have an office in their electorate. Approximately 50 new offices will be established and minor adaptation works plus new furniture and equipment are proposed for approximately 60 existing offices.

It is also intended to continue the programme of internal and external renovations at Parliament House, and to undertake further works on the ornamental lighting at the front steps.

Consideration will be given later in the financial year to the matter of funds for a start on the extensions to the North Wing.

ITEM 4 (GOVERNMENT HOUSE—\$200,000).

This item gives authority to make payment for the cost of renovations and other works on the building and grounds at Government House. An amount of \$135,000 has been allocated for expenditure in 1976-77.

ITEM 5 (POLICE DEPARTMENT—\$14,000,000).

An amount of \$9,527,000 has been allocated for the 1976-77 Works Programme of the Police Department.

The Government has given a high priority to the provision and improvement of facilities, mobility and equipment of Victorian Police. The following figures show that allocations of funds to the Police Works Programme have increased at a far greater rate than the total of funds available for works generally.

- 1973-74 expenditure of \$2,370,000
- 1974-75 expenditure of \$4,078,000 increase of 72 per cent.
- 1975-76 expenditure of \$7,800,000 increase of 91 per cent.
- 1976-77 allocation of \$9,527,000 increase of 22 per cent.

During 1976-77 new 24 hour Police Stations will be completed at Prahran, Greensborough and St. Arnaud.

A new athletic training track will be completed at the Glen Waverley Police Training Academy and major works costing \$634,000 will proceed on new residential accommodation. A further \$200,000 has been allocated for construction of the \$2.8 million Physical Education Block which is expected to commence later this financial year.

The Government recently rented accommodation at Essendon Airport for the Police Air Wing and funds have been made available for adaptation works to these facilities.

Approximately \$2 million has been provided over the past five years for adaptation works to the building purchased in Collingwood for use as a Police Store and Garage. An amount of \$818,000 has been provided in 1976-77 to complete this work.

A high priority is given to the improvement of communications and information storage and retrieval. It is proposed this year to commence upgrading the telephone communications system at Russell Street and to expand the police computer facilities. In particular it is proposed that the police computer will interface with the new State computer to provide mobile police with access to Motor Registration Board files on motor vehicle ownership.

During 1975-76 the Government purchased a new building at 376-384 William Street for use as an administrative building for the Police Department, and nearly \$1 million has been allocated in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme for adaptation works and the installation of a P.A.B.X. Administrative staff will be progressively relocated from Russell Street, and this will facilitate the expansion of operational facilities at Russell Street. The Bourke Street West and North Melbourne Police Stations are to be closed and a new station established on the ground floor of the new building.

Provision has been made for new works to commence later in the financial year on the Doncaster East and Port Fairy Police Stations.

Major elements of proposed expenditure in the Police Works Programme in 1976-77 include :—

	\$
Prahran—24 hour police station and District Headquarters	1,008,000
Greensborough—24 hour police station and District Headquarters	301,000
Police Academy—2 Residential Blocks	634,000
Collingwood Store and Garage	818,000
Sale—Police Station and Divisional Office	1,120,000
Payment towards purchase of new headquarters building in William Street ..	770,000
Maintenance and Minor Works on buildings and residences, and other Annual Provisions	1,975,000

ITEM 6 (STATE LIBRARY—\$900,000)

The sum of \$482,000 has been allocated in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme for capital works associated with the State Library, Latrobe Library, Science Museum, and National Museum.

The more significant items in the 1976-77 Programme are :—

- (a) The continuing programme of renovations to Halls and Galleries, which is facilitating the re-allocation of space following the transfer of the National Gallery to St. Kilda Road. The allocation of \$144,000 for this purpose will enable the provision of more satisfactory accommodation for the Public Libraries Division, the Rare Books Library, and the Training Section of State Library.
- (b) Stonework on the West Facade facing Swanston Street, for which \$86,000 has been allocated in 1976-77.
- (c) Adaptations and shelving at the recently purchased building at Victoria Crescent, Abbotsford. Work on this property, which will provide a much needed decentralised store for the various Branches of the Ministry of the Arts is estimated to cost \$66,000 in 1976-77.

The above appropriation also gives the necessary Parliamentary authority to cover the balance of the purchase cost of the Decentralized Store at Abbotsford, the total price of which was \$635,000.

ITEM 7 (SOCIAL WELFARE—FAMILY WELFARE DIVISION \$1,500,000).

An amount of \$1,170,000 has been provided in the 1976–77 Works Programme for the Family Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Department. This contrasts with 1975–76 expenditure of \$680,000.

Six Family Group Homes were established in 1975–76, making a total of 49 established since 1970. This year \$306,000 has been provided for the continuation of this programme under which State wards are cared for in a family group home setting. One home will be established in Swan Hill and at least four more will be established within the metropolitan area.

Another major project on which funds will be expended in 1976–77 is the remodelling to the General Services Block at Allambie. Stage 1 of these works is due for completion in February, 1977. Plans for Stage 2 are now being prepared.

Other significant works in the 1976–77 Programme of the Family Welfare Division include completion of an Activities Centre and Cooling Units at Allambie, Stage 1 Extensions at Ashdene, and roof repairs and renovations at Pirra.

ITEM 8 (SOCIAL WELFARE—YOUTH WELFARE DIVISION—\$1,500,000).

An amount of \$1,231,000 has been allocated to the Youth Welfare Division of the Social Welfare Department. This represents an increase of \$354,000, or 40 per cent. over the 1975–76 expenditure.

This allocation covers :—

- (a) Completion of construction work on a new General Services Block at Turana with expenditure on the project in 1976–77 estimated to be \$466,000. The new block will provide accommodation for staff currently working in overcrowded conditions. The vacated offices will be converted into a modern Admitting Office with full facilities.
- (b) \$148,000 for the continuation of construction work on a Special Services Centre at Langi Kal Kal.
- (c) \$188,000 has been provided for Adaptation Works at the Ascot Vale Hostel.
- (d) Commencement of alterations, estimated to cost \$338,000, to dormitories at Malmsbury. These alterations will permit a more appropriate grouping of particular youths into smaller units, enabling their individual needs to be more adequately met.

ITEM 9 (SOCIAL WELFARE—PRISONS DIVISION—\$2,000,000).

An amount of \$1,190,000 has been allocated for expenditure by the Prisons Division of the Social Welfare Department.

The remodelling of the administration block at Pentridge will be continued this financial year, with \$104,000 allocated for this purpose. These works will provide a more adequate office area for the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent and supporting staff who are presently housed in what was formerly the Governor's residence. As part of this project, provision will also be made for a new armoury to provide a modern secure area to house firearms and ammunition.

\$202,000 has been allocated to enable the Remand Yards at Pentridge to be extended and equipped with improved facilities. Three portable buildings will be provided to cover recreation, shelter and industry activity for remand prisoners.

Other works for which funds have been provided this year include Observation Cell renovations at Pentridge, the completion of a new residence and Fruit Cannery at Dhurringile and sewerage works at Beechworth and Ararat, and improvements to toilet facilities at Pentridge.

Design will also be well advanced on measures to upgrade security at Pentridge, including the installation of a perimeter micro-wave curtain and interlocking doors at the Main and South Gates.

ITEM 10 (SOCIAL WELFARE—TRAINING AND PROBATION AND PAROLE DIVISION—\$400,000).

An amount of \$161,000 has been allocated in the Works and Services Programme for the Training Division of the Social Welfare Department.

This year's allocation will cover a further instalment of the purchase of the Division's Institute of Training at Watsonia (\$38,000), and further adaptation works to the Institute to provide upgraded facilities and accommodation (\$59,000).

ITEM 11 (ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT—\$6,000,000).

The Works Programme of the Attorney-General's Department has been more than doubled with the allocation of \$4,976,000 for expenditure in 1976-77. This contrasts with an expenditure figure in 1975-76 of \$2,070,000.

The major projects on which funds will be expended are :—

1. A new courthouse is being constructed at Prahran at a total cost of \$1.4 million. This building is approximately 40 per cent. complete and is expected to be ready for occupation in August, 1977.
2. The provision of additional Supreme Court and Judges' Chambers at Lonsdale Street is being made for foreseeable future needs. The total estimated cost of this project is \$2.7 million. The work is approximately 60 per cent. complete and it is expected to be ready for occupation late in the current financial year.
3. The construction of a new courthouse at Heidelberg. The present courthouse possesses insufficient Court and Court staff accommodation and is affected by traffic noise. The estimated cost of the new Court House is \$1.2 million and work is anticipated to commence in the latter half of 1976-77.
4. Other Courts upon which significant work will be undertaken in 1976-77 include Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Preston, Sandringham, Sale, Malvern and Kerang.

ITEM 12 (GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE—\$350,000).

An amount of \$205,000 has been allocated for expenditure in 1976-77 by the Government Printing Office at North Melbourne. Major items are :—

	\$
Internal renovations and painting	35,000
Ventilation repairs which will improve working conditions and reduce the problems created by dust	56,000
Purchase of a new Offset Printing Machine	50,000

The appropriation also provides the necessary Parliamentary authority to cover part of the cost of recent machine purchases of an urgent nature.

ITEM 13 (SOIL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY—\$100,000)

An amount of \$54,000 has been allocated in the 1976-77 financial year for expenditure by the Public Works Department on offices and residences for the Soil Conservation Authority.

The allocation covers maintenance and minor works on existing buildings.

Items 121 and 122 of the Table provide for other expenditure by or under the supervision of the Authority.

ITEM 14 (FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DIVISION—\$600,000.)

The Fisheries and Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Conservation has been allocated \$420,000 for the 1976-77 financial year.

Included in the allocation is an amount of \$87,000 to improve fire safety at the Arthur Rylah Institute, Heidelberg, including the provision of improved access to the building, and modifications to electrical and ventilation facilities.

Provision has also been made for expenditure of \$114,000 by the Branch on Equipment. An emphasis is being placed on the supply of additional communication equipment for Divisional Officers located at various centres throughout the State. An efficient radio communications system is essential to assist with the control of staff movement, liaison with other agencies and Departments, the detection of offenders and improved safety for officers in remote areas.

\$59,000 has been allocated to provide Temporary Accommodation for the Marine Pollution Section at the North Wharf.

ITEM 15 (CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY DEPARTMENT—\$900,000.)

This item provides for expenditure on the purchase and renovation of residences, depots and offices for the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, including works for the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Destruction Board, and other works relating to Crown land. Major items which will be covered by the allocation of \$620,000 in 1976-77 are :—

1. A new Store, Workshop and Office will be completed at Lilydale for the purpose of vermin and noxious weeds destruction in that area. Expenditure in 1976-77 will be \$62,000.
2. At Horsham a building has been recently purchased for use as a Workshop, Store and Depot, for which adaptations will be undertaken in 1976-77. This depot will serve the Wimmera region. Expenditure in 1976-77 will be \$90,000.
3. Another building was purchased at the end of 1975-76 at Warragul to serve as a Depot for the Gippsland region. Expenditure in developing the property for Vermin and Noxious Weeds purposes will be \$20,000 in 1976-77.
4. An amount of \$73,000 will be spent at the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort for the replacement of entry control buildings which were recently destroyed by fire, for the completion of a Wardens Residence and on water reticulation and roads.

ITEM 16 (KEITH TURNBULL RESEARCH INSTITUTE—\$70,000.)

The Institute is the centre of research, training and extension activities for the destruction of vermin and noxious weeds.

An amount of \$40,000 has been allocated in 1976-77 to provide for minor works at the Institute, upgrading the experimental glasshouse and attention to heating.

ITEM 17 (BOTANIC GARDENS—\$400,000.)

An amount of \$305,000 has been allocated this year for work associated with the Royal Botanic Gardens.

In the Election Policy Speech of March last it was indicated that the Native Plants Annexe of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne would be developed. In the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme \$87,000 has been allocated to purchase adjoining land which will enable the restoration of an eroded area south of the Annexe, thereby providing essential stability for the main garden complex. Funds have also been provided to enable the completion of a water supply to the Annexe, and planning will be advanced on a house and fencing which will allow for a resident officer to maintain security in the Reserve.

At the Royal Botanic Gardens in South Yarra allocations have been provided to complete rebuilding of the residence at the "E" Gate, and to undertake repairs and renovations to shelter sheds.

ITEM 18 (PUBLIC BUILDINGS—\$20,000,000.)

An amount of \$15.3 million has been allocated from the Works and Services Account this financial year for expenditure on the construction, purchase and development of public buildings and residences.

This expenditure is directed at improving and replacing the substandard and overcrowded accommodation which still exists in some Government Departments, in many cases where direct services given to the public, and to generally improve the working efficiency of the Public Service. Major items are as follows:—

1. The multi-storey building at 166 Wellington Parade has been purchased and is being fitted out to provide accommodation for several Divisions of the Head Office administration of the Agricultural Department. It is expected that the project will be completed early in 1977. An allocation of \$1 million has been made for this purpose.
2. An amount of \$1 million has been set aside for adaptation works and the provision of a P.A.B.X. at the building of 601 Bourke Street which has been purchased for the headquarters for the Forests Commission. When this work is completed in mid 1977, it will be possible to overcome some accommodation difficulties confronting Departments located on Treasury Reserve.
3. An amount of \$800,000 has been provided in 1976-77 for expenditure on the Government Exhibition Centre at the Showgrounds. The purpose of the project is to consolidate the display of the work of Government Departments and make it available to the public on a "year round" basis. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.8 million and it is anticipated that it will be completed for the 1977 Show.
4. A new computer is being purchased at a cost of \$2.5 million for use by the central departments of the Public Service and will be accommodated in the upper basement at No. 5 Parliament Place.

The new system being installed will provide a sophisticated system incorporating a central "node" to receive signals from users' terminals by means of telecom lines direct to the central computer. Work will then be processed and information returned to the user in the same manner.

5. An allocation of \$200,000 has been made for expenditure at Werribee Park in 1976-77. This will continue the programme of restoration of the mansion and grounds.
6. Part of the administration of the Health Department has already been moved to Enterprise House, the new building at 555 Collins Street which is owned by the State Superannuation Board and leased by the Government. The remaining Commissions and authorities under the Ministry of Health will be moved to this building during 1976-77.
7. The upper floors of the Government offices at 295 Queen Street vacated by the Health Department, will be occupied by the Government Statist and will allow much better service to be given to the public in this area.

The Public Offices Corporation is constructing the new public offices block in Geelong which will accommodate 700 public servants from 30 State departments and agencies in the Geelong area. Work has already commenced on these offices which are of unusual design and are shaped in the form of a truncated pyramid. They are expected to be completed in 1978.

The Corporation is consolidating a site in Ballarat where it intends to erect offices after completion of the Geelong project.

Other important Public Building works for which funds have been allocated in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme include adaptation works at the Public Records Office, Laverton, and at Public Offices in Kerang, Wodonga and the Ministry of Planning at 500 Collins Street.

ITEM 19 (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BRANCH—\$80,000).

An amount of \$70,000 will be provided in 1976-77 for expenditure by the Weights and Measures Branch of the Local Government Department. These funds will be spent on the provision of vehicles and testing equipment, including the replacement of a weighbridge testing unit and ancillary equipment.

ITEM 20 (MINES DEPARTMENT—\$500,000).

An allocation of \$382,000 has been made for expenditure by the Mines Department in 1976-77. Of this \$200,000 will be expended on drilling equipment and \$78,000 on geological equipment. A further \$46,000 will be spent in the purchase of a prime mover.

ITEM 21 (EXPLOSIVES BRANCH—\$40,000).

This item provides authority for expenditure on minor works and explosives testing equipment as required by the Explosives Branch of the Mines Department. An allocation of \$24,000 has been made for expenditure in 1976-77.

ITEM 22 (AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION—\$400,000).

An amount of \$292,000 has been allocated in 1976-77 for expenditure on Agricultural Education.

Of this \$87,000 has been set aside for the purchase of land for the McMillan Rural Studies Centre. This Centre will be established, close to Warragul, for the purpose of improving the skills, competence and knowledge of people involved or interested in any aspect of agriculture in Gippsland. Planning will commence during this financial year for site works, lecture facilities, and office accommodation.

A further \$146,000 will be expended on various minor works at the Glenormiston, Burnley, Dookie and Longerenong Colleges, and \$20,000 on the provision of water supply from the Broken River to Dookie.

ITEM 23 (RESEARCH FARMS AND STATIONS &c.—\$3,000,000).

Provision has been made under this item for expenditure by the Department of Agriculture on research farms and stations. The estimated expenditure in 1976-77 is \$2.6 million.

Major projects which will be funded from this allocation are as follows :—

1. The extensions to the Victorian Plant Research Institute at Burnley will be continued in 1976-77 with an anticipated expenditure of \$511,000. The existing laboratories provide facilities for research aimed at the control of insect pests and plant diseases. The extensions which are expected to be completed in early 1977, will include a new library.
2. An amount of \$618,000 has been allocated this year for the completion of the Bairnsdale and Benalla Research Veterinary laboratories. These laboratories provide support for the control and eradication of animal diseases, and research into regional problems of animal health and productivity. This year's funds will provide for the completion of site works, and the installation of chillers.
3. \$328,000 has been allocated for expenditure on a new surgery and milking machine centre to be constructed at the Werribee Research Station.
4. Other significant allocations have been made for the Administration and Laboratory Buildings at Scoresby, Portable Accommodation at Mildura, Burnley and Scoresby, and the Fly Suppression Laboratory and Glasshouse Heating Replacement at Burnley.

ITEM 25 (GENERAL HEALTH, INCLUDING SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICES—\$700,000).

An amount of \$519,000 has been allocated to the Health Department for expenditure during 1976–77 under this item. Provision has been made under Item 25 to cover :—

- (i) the General Health Works Programme of which the major works are the provision of a general purpose incinerator and fire protection and quarantine equipment, interior alterations, and roadway and pathworks at the Fairfield Exotic Diseases Hospital.
- (ii) the State's 10 per cent. matching component of capital funds to be made available by the Commonwealth under the School Dental Scheme for Dental Clinics in Schools, and the provision of concrete platforms for Mobile Dental Units.
- (iii) the funding of approved Community Health capital projects coming under the administration of the Health Department.

ITEM 26 (BUSH NURSING HOSPITALS—\$1,300,000).

This item covers the payment of capital grants to Committees of Management of Bush Nursing Hospitals on a \$3 for \$1 basis.

During 1975–76 \$850,000 was paid to 23 hospitals.

The allocation from the 1976–77 Works and Services Programme is \$900,000 and grants have been made in connection with a programme submitted by the Central Council of the Victorian Bush Nursing Association.

In 1976–77 some 26 hospitals will receive grants, the larger projects obtaining assistance being :—
Ballan—the provision of an additional six beds together with ancillary services at a total cost of \$162,000.

Berwick—completion of a building programme at a cost of \$96,000.

Charlton—reconstruction of the midwifery area and toilet extensions at a total cost of \$128,000.

Hopetoun—renovations to and extension of present buildings including the nurses home and domestic quarters, over two years, at a total cost of \$387,000.

Nagambie—modernization, alterations and extensions involving provision of an additional four beds, a modern labour ward, operating theatre and outpatient areas, at a total cost of \$400,000 over two years.

ITEM 27 (CANCER INSTITUTE BOARD—\$10,000,000).

An amount of \$8 million has been allocated this year from the Works and Services Account for expenditure by the Cancer Institute Board comprising \$7·6 million for building works and \$0·4 million for equipment.

The allocation for building works will enable the completion late in 1976–77 of Phase 1 of the Institute's Redevelopment, involving extension through to the Centre Block, Little Lonsdale Street, at a total cost of \$17·9 million. This will relieve existing overcrowding and will provide room for a further 63 beds.

Funds have been provided within the building allocation to meet the cost of Architects fees in relation to the planning of Phase 2 Redevelopment, which is estimated to cost \$22·5 million.

ITEM 28 (SANATORIA—\$150,000).

This financial year \$216,000 has been allocated for the Works Programme of the State Sanatorium at Heatherton where it is proposed to proceed on the following projects :—

Nurses Home—internal and external renovations.

South Wing—Roof repairs.

New gas mains.

Progress on these projects is such that the bulk of the expenditure involved will be covered by the appropriation available under the existing Public Works and Services Act.

The Commonwealth Government, under its *Tuberculosis Act* 1948, has notified the State that the scheme of reimbursement of expenditure on tuberculosis control which has operated since 1949 will cease on 31st December, 1976.

After that date the financing of necessary tuberculosis control measures will be by the State Government.

ITEM 29 (MENTAL HOSPITALS AND MENTAL INSTITUTIONS—\$16,000,000).

A total of \$12.9 million will be available for Works to be undertaken through the Mental Health Authority in 1976–77, \$10.9 million from the Works and Services Programme and \$2 million from the Commonwealth's Hospital Development Programme.

Work will commence in 1976–77 on a major new Psychiatric Centre at the Geelong Hospital in collaboration with the Hospitals and Charities Commission. This is a major element in the expansion programme of this hospital.

An amount of \$1.93 million has been provided for completion of the Psychiatric Centre at Footscray. This Centre, which has cost \$4.7 million, will fulfill the urgent need for a Psychiatric Service in the Western Metropolitan area.

A further \$1.3 million is allocated in the 1976–77 Works and Services Programme for the completion of two Psycho-Geriatric Wards and an Admission Unit at Beechworth. Construction works on the Geriatric Wards have been almost completed and they will soon be ready for occupation. The Admission Unit is also in an advanced stage of construction and it is anticipated that work will be finished this calendar year.

An Admission Unit at Warrnambool is scheduled for completion in April, 1977 at a total cost of \$2.25 million. \$1.1 million has been provided in the 1976–77 Programme for the Unit which follows the establishment of Warrnambool as a regional psychiatric and mental hospital. The unit will comprise 30 beds and includes Pharmacy, Occupational Therapy and Day Hospital facilities.

\$840,000 has been provided for a new food system at the Mont Park–Plenty Hospital complex. This system, which will provide improved hygiene and better control over feeding and diets, also involves the construction of a suitable kitchen and staff dining facilities. Excavation for the new structure is currently in progress and it is expected that a contract for building works will be let during the 1976–77 financial year to enable the new kitchen to be operational by December, 1977.

An important project nearing completion at Colac will provide forty beds for non-ambulant adult patients, twenty beds for the hospitalization of patients and staff, a dental surgery, pharmacy and ancillary services. \$360,000 has been provided for this project.

Other major works which will be commenced during the year include the replacement of Ward 23 at Kew Cottages, the remodelling of Wards A and B at Larundel, a twenty bed admission unit at Mildura, and the initial stage of the Loddon–Campaspe Regional Service for the Retarded. Significant projects in the course of construction in 1976–77 include a Day Centre, and Hostel and Clinical and Services Block at Stawell, Ward Remodelling and improved laundry services at Larundel, Ablution Remodelling at Kew, extension of a Clinical block at Malvern, and work to Steam Lines at Mont Park, Ballarat and Kew.

An amount of \$2,923,000 is being provided for minor works, renovations, &c. of Institutions under the control of the authority.

Provision has also been made in the appropriation for the Mental Health Authority to fund approved Community Health Capital Projects falling within its administration.

In addition to the sums provided for Mental Health under this item, \$700,000 has been allocated as the State's matching contribution for the Minus Children's Project at Kew Cottages. The necessary appropriation is covered by Item 206.

ITEM 30 (ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG DEPENDENCY SERVICES—\$350,000).

A total of \$264,000 has been allocated for expenditure on facilities for these services during 1976/77.

An amount of \$68,000 has been allocated for work at Greswell where it is anticipated that the remodelling of Ward B will be completed this financial year. Two wards have been completed in earlier years, and Ward A remodelling will proceed as an ongoing work into 1977-78. \$30,000 has been allocated for the Branch's equipment purchases. The remainder of the allocation is for minor works including the provision of a Service Road and Car Park at Pleasant View.

ITEM 31 (ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION—\$1,200,000).

An allocation of \$543,000 is provided from the Works and Services Account for expenditure by the Environment Protection Authority and its delegated agencies during 1976-77. This represents an increase of 27 per cent. over the actual expenditure for 1975-76, and reflects the priority given by the Government in meeting the Authority's requirements.

Motor vehicle emissions have been identified as the major source of atmospheric and noise pollution and regulations have been prepared to control exhaust and noise emissions. Building will commence shortly on a motor vehicle emission and noise testing station at Altona with the objective of enforcing the Regulations and providing data as a basis for the formulation of future control policies. \$392,000 has been allocated this year on this project which is estimated to cost \$900,000.

\$100,000 has been allocated for the purchase of air, water and soil testing equipment. This will increase the range of equipment available for the continuation of research and for the enforcement of licensing conditions.

ITEM 51 (ADVANCES TO PUBLIC OFFICERS FOR PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR OFFICIAL DUTIES—\$40,000).

This item makes provision for the Government to continue its policy of making available short-term loans for the purchase of new motor vehicles to officers driving between 3,000 and 10,000 miles a year on official duties.

Ten loans were granted in 1975-76, and an amount of \$25,000 has been allocated for this purpose in 1976-77.

ITEM 61 (COUNTRY ART GALLERIES—\$250,000).

Capital Grants are provided to Country Art Galleries to assist approved projects for the construction and improvement of art gallery buildings in country towns where there are substantial art collections. Grants are made on a \$2 : \$1 matching local council contributions basis with a ceiling determined for each case. In the past five years from 1971-72 grants totalling \$720,000 have been made to country galleries.

An amount of \$75,000 has been allocated in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme for this purpose. The two major projects to be assisted this year will be the Craft Workshop at the La Trobe Valley Arts Centre and the provision of additional storage and improvements to the Mildura Arts Centre.

ITEM 62 (VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE—\$13,000,000).

The construction of the Theatres and Concert Hall complex at the Victorian Arts Centre is progressing well. During 1976-77 bulk excavation will be completed for the theatres, followed by the laying of the base slab over a major portion of the site and the construction of internal walls at lower levels. The garden plaza contract and the Concert Hall contract for excavation, drainage and retaining walls are both due for completion by the end of 1976.

The Building Committee is preparing proposals for the consideration of the Government which would enable the structural work for the Concert Hall to proceed without delay as soon as current works are completed. The allocation to the Committee from the Works and Services Account this year is \$9.7 million.

ITEM 63 (PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES—\$1,500,000).

This item provides Parliamentary authority for grants to be made towards approved capital projects for performing arts centres. These grants are made on a \$2 : \$1 basis and in accordance with its election undertaking the Government contribution this year will be increased from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Commitments have been made in various centres including Geelong, Warragul, Echuca, Robinvale, and Kyneton. These represent the beginnings of a network of Regional Performing Arts Centres and Arts Activity Centres throughout the State.

Work is scheduled to start this financial year on the Geelong Performing Arts Centre. This will involve the construction of a new 250 seat theatre and conversion of existing buildings to an 800 seat theatre at a cost of \$4 million. The Government contribution to this project will be \$2.7 million, spread over several years.

ITEM 64 (ARTS FUND—VICTORIAN FILM CORPORATION—\$1,000,000).

In accordance with its policy undertaking the Government has established the Victorian Film Corporation to encourage and support the production of film and television in Victoria. The Corporation has been appointed and has started to frame its programmes and policies in accordance with the framework of its enabling legislation.

Section 16 (1) of the *Victorian Film Corporation Act* 1976 No. 8864 provides that any moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of that Act shall be paid to the Arts Fund and shall be accounted for separately in that Fund.

Item 64 provides an initial appropriation for the work of the Corporation.

ITEM 71 (PAYMENTS FOR FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT—\$25,000).

This appropriation makes provision to meet commitments under the scheme, now concluded, introduced by the Government in 1970–71 to subsidise the purchase of small fire fighting units by landholders.

Under the scheme grants were made available on a \$2 for \$1 basis for the initial fitting of fire fighting equipment to vehicles such as utilities or to units capable of being attached to a truck or car. Expenditure on the scheme since its inception to the end of 1975–76 totalled \$1,511,000.

ITEM 81 (GRANTS TO WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS—\$1,000,000).

This item provides authority for the Department of Social Welfare to make capital grants to voluntary organizations.

In 1973–74 the range of capital subsidies was extended to include capital grants on a \$1 : \$1 basis to voluntary agencies to assist with the establishment of family group homes within their own welfare programmes. Funds for this purpose are additional to the allocation for the purchase or construction of family group homes for operation by the Department itself which are covered by Item 7 of the Schedule. This year the following funds have been allocated :—

Grants to Voluntary Organizations	..	..	..	..	..	\$325,000
\$1 : \$1 subsidy to Voluntary Organizations for Family Group Homes					..	\$425,000

In the five years to 1975–76 \$2,279,000 was expended under this item.

ITEM 82 (YOUTH HOSTELS—\$150,000).

An amount of \$100,000 has been provided in 1976–77 from the Works and Services Account for subsidies to voluntary organizations providing youth hostels to accommodate wards of the State, probationers, and other young persons who have been in remand centres or youth training centres, and who require supervision and special care.

ITEM 91 (TEACHER HOUSING AUTHORITY—\$4,500,000).

This item provides authority for the payment of advances and grants towards the capital and maintenance programmes of the Teacher Housing Authority.

The Government provides direct assistance for the Authority through a special grant for maintenance works and loans for capital works which carry a concessional interest rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

In accordance with an election undertaking to provide an extra \$2 million a year to speed up the provision of housing for teachers in country areas, an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ million was provided during the last quarter of 1975-76 and the full year increase of \$2 million is being provided in 1976-77.

The total provision from the Works and Services Account in 1976-77 is \$3.8 million comprising \$650,000 by way of special grant for maintenance works and \$3,150,000 of advances for capital works. In addition, the Authority has a borrowing allocation of \$800,000.

ITEM 101 (GRANT TO "ALEXANDER MILLER MEMORIAL HOMES TRUST"—\$45,000).

In November, 1974, the Government approved the continuation of assistance to the Alexander Miller Memorial Homes Trust for a further five year period towards the cost of modernisation works at the Trusts Homes for the aged in the towns of Euroa, Castlemaine and Geelong.

ITEM 102 (INSTALLATION OF BOOM BARRIERS—\$200,000).

The Government provides two-thirds of the finance for the continuing programme for the elimination of railway gate crossings by the installation of boom barriers. The other one-third is met by local Councils.

Commitments made for installations in Frankston and Seaford will be funded as part of the 1976-77 Works and Services allocation of \$100,000.

ITEM 103 (GRANT TO GEELONG AND WESTERN DISTRICT LADIES BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION—\$9,000).

A grant of \$9,000 is being made in each of three financial years until 1977-78 to the Geelong and Western District Ladies Benevolent Association towards the cost of an accommodation improvement programme being undertaken in the Austin, Haines and Baxter Homes. These homes in Geelong cater for elderly citizens.

ITEM 104 (EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH METRIC CONVERSION—\$850,000).

This item provides authority for expenditure involved with metric conversion. An allocation of \$600,000 this financial year will be directed towards the cost of conversion for Government Departments which are financed through the Consolidated Fund.

ITEM 105 (CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VICTORIAN NATURAL DISASTERS RELIEF ACCOUNT—\$3,500,000).

Under existing arrangements relating to the funding of Natural Disasters the State is required to meet the initial \$3.5 million of relief and restoration expenditure in a financial year, with the Commonwealth Government meeting expenditure in excess of this amount.

The appropriation of \$3.5 million under this item will enable the State to make contributions to the Victorian Natural Disasters Relief Account to meet its financial responsibilities under the joint Commonwealth-State arrangements during the currency of this Act.

ITEM 121 (SOIL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY—WORKS—\$1,200,000).

ITEM 122 (SOIL CONSERVATION AUTHORITY—GRANTS, LOANS, &c.—\$200,000).

Items 121 and 122 provide the capital funds required by the Soil Conservation Authority to fulfil its statutory functions.

An allocation of \$724,000 has been made for expenditure on works under item 121 of the programme. Major expenditure items included in this allocation are as follows :—

- (a) an amount of \$303,000 has been provided towards the cost of soil conservation and erosion control works in water supply catchments. The major project is the commencement of a ten year programme estimated to cost \$1·13 million for the Yarra Valley above Yering Gorge. This project will improve catchment and stream conditions in this area which is important for water supply, recreation and farming.
- (b) an amount of \$365,000 has been provided to continue existing soil conservation and erosion control programmes, and the limited development of catchment improvement works in the Whiteheads Creek catchment.

This new programme at Whiteheads Creek will complement works being undertaken by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission in the main drainage line in accordance with the flood zone plan prepared under the Seymour Planning Scheme.

- (c) a further \$30,000 has been allocated for plant and machinery purchases, and \$26,000 for Farm Water Supply Advisory Services.

Item 122 provides for grants to individual landholders and Public Authorities for erosion control works. In the case of landholders, the Soil Conservation Authority contributes \$1 for \$1 of the cost of approved projects whilst for erosion control works undertaken by Foreshore Committees of Management and Municipal Councils, the subsidy is \$5 for \$1.

A total of \$114,000 has been allocated from the Works and Services Account in 1976–77 for Item 122 purposes.

ITEM 123 (NATIONAL PARKS FUND—\$2,500,000).

The contribution from the Works and Services Account to the National Parks Fund in 1976–77 is \$1,600,000.

Major items of expenditure proposed to be met from this contribution are as follows :—

- (a) The installation of a new sewerage system at the Tidal River Camp in the Wilsons Promontory National Park.
- (b) \$250,000 for new housing for park rangers.
- (c) improved visitor facilities at Cape Schanck Coastal Park.
- (d) the establishment of picnic facilities at “ Seawinds ” on Arthurs Seat in the 20 acres of show gardens which is now the headquarters of the Nepean District.
- (e) \$275,000 has been provided to protect park assets from damage by fire. This will be spent on works authorized by the joint Forests Commission/National Parks Service Fire Protection Committee.
- (f) the establishment of a camp at Yanakie for overnight visitors.
- (g) \$600,000 is provided for general park works throughout the State, including the development of new facilities such as extensions and improvements to camping grounds.

ITEM 124 (GRANT TO THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)—\$117,000).

This item provides for the payment of a Preservation grant of \$50,000 to the National Trust. Annual grants totalling \$250,000 have been paid by the Government to the Trust over the past five years for the continuing programme of restoration of buildings throughout Victoria.

In addition the Government will make a further payment this year of some \$67,000 for restoration work on the “ Polly Woodside ”.

ITEM 125 (ZOOLOGICAL BOARD—\$600,000).

An amount of \$254,000 has been allocated for grants and loans to the Zoological Board for 1976–77. This allocation covers :—

	\$
1. The annual provision for works and development at Parkville : being made available as one-third loan and two-thirds grant	120,000
2. New Catering Centre : final payment from Special Government Grant of \$300,000 towards construction costs	79,000
3. Werribee Park : grant to assist with the development of land for use as a fauna park	55,000

The appropriation sought under this item also provides the necessary parliamentary authority to cover payments towards the new Catering Centre met from Treasurer's Advance after the previous appropriation was exhausted.

ITEM 131 (RURAL FINANCE AND SETTLEMENT COMMISSION AGENCY DEPARTMENT—\$6,000,000).

An amount of \$3.8 million has been allocated in the Works and Services Programme to the Agency Department of the Rural Finance and Settlement Commission for approved purposes in accordance with directions given by the Treasurer pursuant to the provisions of Section 35 of the *Rural Finance Act* 1958, No. 6360.

The overall 1976–77 allocation comprises :—

	\$'000
1. Carry-on finance at concessional rates of interest to specialist viable beef producers, who are unable to obtain carry-on loans from normal sources (Joint Commonwealth–State Programme)	800
2. Carry-on loans to dairy farmers under matching arrangements with the Commonwealth under the Dairy Adjustment Programme	2,500
3. For general Agency purposes including loans for soil and water conservation ..	510

ITEM 132 (SURVEY EQUIPMENT &C. DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY—\$300,000).

An amount of \$250,000 has been allocated from the Works and Services Account for expenditure by the Survey and Mapping Division of the Department of Crown Lands and Survey. This will be spent on the replacement of equipment, including microfilm equipment and vehicles. The functions of the Survey Division embrace geodetic and survey co-ordination surveys to provide basic control for mapping, cadastral and engineering purposes, cadastral surveys for Crown Grant, Crown Lease and like purposes, and cartographic, draughting and photographic services for several departments and authorities.

ITEM 133 (BUCHAN CAVES—\$25,000).

An amount of \$20,000 has been allocated in the 1976–77 Works and Services Programme for works at the Buchan Caves.

This year an amenities block consisting of toilets, shower and laundry facilities will be constructed to cater for the increased number of visitors using the caravan park. The number of campers in the Reserve has increased from 12,672 in 1972 to 18,830 in 1975.

ITEM 134 (ROAD CONSTRUCTION—CROWN LANDS—\$15,000).

An allocation of \$5,000 has been made in the 1976–77 Works and Services Programme for expenditure on works under this item. The allocation is made available to cover road construction to provide adequate access to certain country land made available from time to time under Improvement Purchase Leases. The amounts involved are eventually recouped.

ITEM 135 (PURCHASE OF LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF CROWN LAND—\$5,500,000).

Provision is made under this item for the purchase of land for public purposes and for expenditure on improving and developing Crown Land which is not covered by specific appropriations for Departments and purposes listed elsewhere in the Table incorporated in the Bill.

In 1976–77 payments in connection with the following major purchases will be met under this appropriation :—

- (a) Land owned by the Gas and Fuel Corporation at Highett.
- (b) Land adjacent to the Yarra near Flockhart Street, Collingwood.
- (c) Mount Gellibrand.
- (d) Land adjacent to the Kinglake National Park.

Provision has been made for the establishment of a “revolving fund” of \$500,000 to purchase small building lots in old subdivisions in the Dandenongs. The objective is to aggregate sites for sale to ensure more suitable development and the maximum preservation of the environment.

In addition appropriation is available under this Item to cover the continuous programme of assistance to Committees of Management of Crown reservations for expenditure on improved landscaping, drainage, rehabilitation of degraded land and provision of basic recreation facilities.

ITEM 141 (PIERS, WHARVES, JETTIES, HARBORS AND NAVIGATIONAL AIDS—\$900,000).

An allocation of \$800,000 has been made for expenditure by the Ports and Harbors Division of the Public Works Department in 1976–77 on works coming within the scope of this Item. Major works which are proposed include :—

	\$
St. Kilda Pier Reconstruction	91,000
Portarlington Pier Reconstruction	50,000
Port Welshpool—Reconstruction of Slipway	73,000
Queenscliff—Berths and facilities for Government Vessels	88,000
Tankerton—Jetty Repairs	83,000

ITEM 142 (FORESHORE PROTECTION WORKS—\$1,400,000).

An allocation of \$1·2 million has been provided in 1976–77 to cover expenditure on foreshore protection works by the Ports and Harbors Division of the Public Works Department.

An amount of \$114,000 will be expended on work to prevent further erosion of a valuable foreshore reserve between Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. \$109,000 will be spent in the purchase of equipment for the Port Phillip Coastal Study. This study was designed by the Ports and Harbors Division in conjunction with the Delft Hydraulics Laboratories of the Netherlands to provide essential design criteria for coastal works in Port Phillip.

Further sums have been allocated for continuing general protection works on Metropolitan Foreshores and River Mouths, and works at the Mitchell River Silt Jetties. A preliminary report has been requested on the Gippsland Lake Study. This will be a study of the hydro-dynamics of the waters of the Gippsland Lakes and of the adjacent coastal zone and has been designed to provide data to enable the Public Works Department to fulfil its responsibilities for management of the entrance and the lakes for navigational purposes.

ITEM 143 (DEPOTS, STORAGE COMPOUNDS, PLANT & C. PORTS AND HARBORS—\$400,000).

For the current financial year an amount of \$285,000 has been allocated for works associated with the operation and improvement of depots and laboratories maintained by the Ports and Harbors Division of the Public Works Department.

\$56,000 has been allocated for expenditure in 1976-77 on the Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale Sewerage connections to Public Works Department residences occupied by survey, works, and lighthouse staff. The Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale area is a major focus for operations of this Division.

\$74,000 has been allocated for expenditure on field and laboratory equipment. The Department's coastal model testing facilities will be further improved by the installation of a random waves generator in the Port Melbourne Marine Models Laboratory. Equipment which will provide data on tidal currents in both coastal waters and harbors is also being purchased.

Other projects for which funds have been allocated in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme include extensions at the Marine Survey Office at Queenscliff, new inspection vehicles, and marine survey equipment.

ITEM 144 (FLOATING PLANT—PORTS AND HARBORS—\$500,000).

An amount of \$1.8 million has been allocated in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme for expenditure on items of floating and marine plant required by the Ports and Harbors Division of the Public Works Department. The bulk of this expenditure will be met from the appropriation under the current Works and Services Act.

The major expenditure item in this programme is the purchase of a Sidecasting Dredge, the first ocean-going vessel of its type in Australia. The total price of this vessel is \$3 million, of which \$1.5 million will be paid in 1976-77. The Dredge, which is being constructed in Newcastle, was launched on 19th August and is expected to be delivered, following final fitting out, in late 1976. It will be engaged on specialized clearance of ocean bars such as exist at Lakes Entrance, and will also carry out the dredging of river mouths and beach renourishment works in Port Phillip Bay.

Other allocations have been made for Craft and Radio Replacements, and the purchase of Marine Plant and Craft Equipment.

ITEM 145 (HARBOR FACILITIES AT WESTERNPORT—ACT NO. 7950—\$10,000).

Pursuant to the provisions of the agreement ratified under Act No. 7950—the Western Port (Steel Works) Act, the State is required to undertake dredging at the berthing terminals. This item makes provision for expenditure on minor works during the currency of this Act.

ITEM 146 (PROVISION OF PORT FACILITIES OF WESTERNPORT—\$200,000).

An amount of \$163,000 has been allocated in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme for expenditure under this item. The works involved are in addition to that covered by the specific appropriation under Item 145.

In the 1976-77 Works Programme, in addition to the continuing allocation for Harbor Facilities through which improved amenities are provided for Ports and Harbors staff, tug crews and mooring gangs for the general development of Westernport, specific allocations have been made for the purchase of Oil Pollution Equipment, work on the new Depot and Office at Stony Point, and Crib Point Jetty maintenance.

ITEM 151 (ADVANCES TO WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITIES—\$250,000).

This item provides the authority for special advances which may become necessary to water and sewerage authorities, towards the cost of providing water, sewerage and drainage facilities for schools, mental hospitals and other public buildings. In particular, the appropriation provides a source of funds to an authority which does not have the capital funds to extend its services to a new Government facility in an area where services are not yet available. There is a specific allocation in the 1976-77 Works and Services Programme for an advance to the Frankston Sewerage Authority to extend a sewerage main to Mount Eliza North State School.

Amounts advanced under this item are recovered from the Authority concerned when the works would ordinarily have been included in the particular Authority's Works Programme.

ITEM 152 (SUBSIDIES TO MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC BODIES—\$12,000,000).

This item provides authority for payments for the following purposes.

	1976-77 <i>Estimate</i> \$'000
<i>Grants and subsidies to Municipalities</i>	
Drainage Works	675
Private Street Construction	213
Beach Cleaning	277
Public Halls	279
Saleyards	331
Fire Access Roads	180
Pedestrian Overpasses	120
Other Capital Works	25
Necessary contributions to the Municipalities Assistance Fund, for Local Government assistance and towards the costs of the Country Fire Authority	2,000

Other major subsidies or grants for municipalities or public bodies covered by this appropriation include :—

	1976-77 <i>Estimate</i> \$'000
Victorian Government Drought Employment Scheme	1,500
Alpine Resorts Development Works	320
Whiteheads Creek—Flood Mitigation works	173
City of Hamilton—Lake Project	125
Town of Portland—Land Slip	127

ITEM 153 (MUNICIPALITIES FOREST ROADS IMPROVEMENT FUND—\$125,000)

This item provides the necessary authority for the Government to make further contributions, as necessary, to the Municipalities Forest Roads Improvement Fund to assist municipal councils in the improvement and protection of roads adjacent to State Forest areas in order to facilitate the extraction of forest produce.

Further works totalling \$125,000 will be approved during 1976-77.

ITEM 161 (PLANNING STUDIES FOR URBAN AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT—\$700,000).

This item provides the necessary appropriation for the Government to meet expenditure in connection with approved investigations relating to the establishment and implementation of Government planning policies in selected areas.

Allocations totalling \$417,000 have been provided, for planning studies primarily relating to the Melton/Sunbury area, the Central Business District, the Gippsland Lakes, Albury/Wodonga, the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort and for a study relating to the proposed railway to Webb Dock.

ITEM 171 (PAYMENTS TO AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL SOCIETIES—\$200,000).

This item provides authority for the payment of grants to Agricultural and Pastoral Societies in accordance with the Government's established policy of assisting Societies in their efforts to improve facilities at country showgrounds.

Grants of up to \$10,000 are made available on a \$2 : \$1 basis to these societies to enable the provision of facilities for :—

- (a) the exhibiting and judging of stud stock ;
- (b) the housing of shearing competitions and fleece displays. and
- (c) the housing of arts and crafts displays.

In addition, grants of up to \$8,000 are made available on a \$2 : \$1 basis to Agricultural Societies towards the cost of improving toilet facilities at agricultural showgrounds.

Grants totalling \$133,000 will be provided to nineteen Societies this financial year.

ITEM 181 (HOSPITALS AND CHARITIES—\$38,000,000).

For 1976–77 the allocation from the Works and Services Account for expenditure on buildings and equipment at hospitals and other charitable institutions is \$28·9 million. The main elements of the programme are :—

	\$
Grants to hospitals and institutions	27,000,000
Special grants for facilities required for implementation of extended nursing curriculum	600,000
Community Health programme—matching contribution by the State in the general hospital field	1,080,000

The amount spent in 1975–76 was \$28·1 million.

In addition the Commonwealth Government is making available \$27·0 million under its Hospitals Development Programme, of which \$2·0 million will be allocated to the Mental Health Authority and \$25·0 million to hospitals under the control of the Hospitals and Charities Commission. The total available to the Commission from both Commonwealth and State sources will be \$57·1 million.

Hospital works programmes have received an impetus in the past two financial years and there are now a large number of projects under construction. The funds available to the Commission this year will be used almost entirely to meet payments on projects already under construction. Requirements of major projects are expected to be as follows :—

	\$ million
Alfred Hospital : completion of Main Ward Block	4·6
Austin Hospital : provision of wards, Intensive Care Units, laboratories, rehabilitation services, operating theatres and administrative offices	6·0
Dandenong Hospital : South Block	2·5
Maroondah Hospital, Ringwood : Completion of 40 bed first stage, and commencement of stage two to provide a further 76 beds	1·2
Moorabbin Hospital : provision of second stage to expand number of beds available to 108	1·0
Southern Memorial Hospital	1·5
Western General Hospital, Footscray : Completion of new out-patient block	1·6
Bendigo Base Hospital	2·0
Hamilton Base Hospital	2·7
Goulburn Valley Base Hospital, Shepparton	4·0
Ovens and Murray Hospital for the Aged, Beechworth, construction of new kitchen	1·3
Sunshine and District Community Hospital : completion of 40 bed temporary ward	1·0

Major projects are also in course at base hospitals at Ballarat and Sale.

Under the Community Health Programme for capital works the State provides 25 per cent. of the cost of projects approved by the Commonwealth Government. As indicated above \$1,080,000 of State funds have been allocated for the Programme in 1976–77.

ITEM 182 (LOANS TO PUBLIC CEMETERIES—\$25,000).

This Item provides the necessary authority for advances to be made to Trustees of Public Cemeteries in order to assist them in meeting the cost of approved schemes for the improvement and development of the cemeteries which they control.

ITEM 183 (SUBSIDIES, TO PRE-SCHOOL INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, &c.—\$1,800,000).

Item 183 provides authority for the payment of subsidies totalling \$1.3 million towards capital expenditure on pre-school, infant welfare and pre-natal centres throughout Victoria.

Pre-Schools

A Commonwealth/State pre-school capital programme involving the establishment of 64 new kindergartens at total cost exceeding \$6.1 million was approved by both Governments in 1975. Final costs of 40 incomplete projects in the programme and the precise State commitment on those projects have still to be determined but the estimated cost to the State is \$1,100,000, much of which will become due for payment in 1976-77.

In accordance with the undertaking given in the 1976 Policy Speech, the State's maximum capital subsidy on a \$2 for \$1 basis with local contributions for the building of new kindergartens has been doubled from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

In addition to the initial approved programme some 40 additional grants have already been recommended by the State Advisory Committee on Pre-School and Childhood Services for joint funding and a further 30 applications in respect of works at various stages of planning are expected during 1976-77. Pending a further Commonwealth allocation, it is expected that State grants will be sought to enable a number of these projects to be commenced.

Overall, it is expected that 70 new pre-school centres will be established during the financial year and, although some of these will be in temporary premises involving little or no capital expenditure, payments for new centres are estimated at a minimum of \$900,000. Improvement works at existing centres, many of which are now 20-25 years old, are estimated to cost \$170,000 in 1976-77.

Infant Welfare/Pre-Natal Centres

\$2 : \$1 capital grants are made available for new infant welfare centres subject to a maximum of \$12,000. Total payments for 1976-77 are expected to be \$130,000. Pre-natal clinics are normally incorporated in infant welfare centres and there is no separate pre-natal component in the allocation.

Day Nurseries

Only two day nursery grants totalling \$25,000 were paid in 1975-76 but five grants, each of \$20,000, are being processed currently for payment in 1976-77. Further State commitment for day nurseries will depend largely on the result of Commonwealth/State negotiations in the child care field.

ITEM 184 (GRANTS TO SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRES—\$3,000,000).

Grants were first made available to municipal councils by the State Government towards the establishment of Elderly Citizens Clubs in 1955. Up to 30th June, 1976, approval has been given for capital subsidies in respect of 237 clubs.

In September, 1971, Victoria elected to participate in the Commonwealth arrangement covered by the *States Grants (Home Care) Act 1969*. Up to that time, municipal councils had been granted capital subsidies in respect of 169 elderly citizens clubs. From 1955 to 30th June, 1971, the State Government had expended \$1.38 million on capital subsidies for clubs.

The basis of capital grants, subject to prior Commonwealth approvals, is as follows :—

(a) Cost not exceeding \$30,000—a grant amount equal to actual cost ;

(b) Cost exceeding \$30,000—a basic amount of \$30,000 plus \$2 for each \$1 contributed to the project cost by the municipal council from municipal funds only.

Since June, 1971, capital subsidies have been provided in respect of an additional 68 clubs whilst further subsidies have been provided for 44 existing clubs for additions to clubrooms and /or furniture and equipment.

Total capital subsidies paid in respect of the clubs to 30 June, 1976, was \$4.36 million, in respect of which the contribution from the Commonwealth Government was \$2.38 million.

During 1975–76, 21 new clubrooms were opened. A further 47 projects have been recommended to the Commonwealth for approval pursuant to its legislation—eleven for new clubrooms and 36 for extensions, furniture or equipment.

The allocation in the 1976–77 Works and Services Programme for Senior Citizens Clubs of \$2,069,000 represents an 18 per cent. increase on 1975–76 expenditure. An estimated \$1.8 million of this amount will be recovered from the Commonwealth.

ITEM 185 (MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN'S CENTRES—\$4,500,000).

Under this Item authority is given for the payment of capital grants on a \$4 : \$1 basis to voluntary organisations for the provision of non-residential facilities for mentally retarded children.

In the past five years these grants have increased from \$496,000 in 1972–73 to an estimated \$3,170,000 in 1976–77.

In the 1975–76 Budget the Government virtually doubled the allocation to \$2 million. More rapid completion of building work than expected, and the effect of escalating construction costs on the expanded building programme, required additional funds to be provided towards the end of last financial year. The actual expenditure was \$2.6 million.

The presently approved detailed programme for 1976–77 is as follows :—

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Estimated Total Cost</i>	<i>1976–77 Subsidy</i>
		\$	\$
Benalla .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	432,352	196,263
Brighton .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	194,039	155,232
Croydon .. .. .	.. .. . Workshop	38,187	30,550
Doncaster .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	395,900	194,279
Kyneton .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	473,850	274,933
Lilydale .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	964,000	708,314
Macleod .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	531,706	189,223
Maffra .. .. .	.. .. . Workshop	162,500	130,000
St. Arnaud .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	384,000	243,855
Sunshine .. .. .	.. .. . Extensions	80,473	64,379
Traralgon .. .. .	.. .. . Workshop	329,400	167,501
Warracknabeal .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	405,100	284,942
Wodonga .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	300,000	30,000
Whittlesea .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	357,300	173,397
Southern Autistic .. .. .	.. .. . Covered Play Area	43,767	35,013
Geelong .. .. .	.. .. . Workshop	317,000	100,000
Mornington .. .. .	.. .. . New Centre	370,000	10,000
Other Works .. .. .	.. .. .	..	182,119
			<hr/> 3,170,000

ITEM 191 (TOURIST FUND—\$500,000).

Item 191 provides the necessary appropriation for the State's contributions to the Tourist Fund. It is anticipated that contributions in 1976-77 will total \$380,000 compared with \$245,000 in 1975-76.

In recent Public Works and Services Acts an allocation has been made for the connection of public toilet blocks at bayside beaches to sewer mains in order to reduce the pollution of Port Phillip Bay. This program has been well received by bayside municipalities and over \$680,000 has been spent under the scheme. In 1976-77 the Scheme will be extended to include payments to inland and coastal resorts throughout Victoria in locations where pollution is causing problems. \$250,000 has been allocated for these general Tourist Fund purposes in 1976-77.

A further \$30,000 has been provided for snow clearing of the Mount Hotham Alpine Road,

A \$100,000 grant for the Chinatown redevelopment project, also made under this appropriation, covers the Government's contribution towards the cost of building pagodas and erecting Chinese lanterns in Little Bourke Street. This is the first joint venture into tourist development by the Government and the Melbourne City Council.

ITEM 201 (GRANT TO THE VILLERS BRETONNEUX SCHOOL, FRANCE—\$2,500).

After World War I, Victorian school children provided the funds for the building and furnishing of a school at Villers Bretonneux, France, to replace one destroyed during the 1914-18 War.

It was at this town, in the Valley of the Somme, that the first Australian forces were led into battle under an Australian Command, and here that 1,200 Australian soldiers died.

The Agent-General, who recently visited the school, advised that the stone obelisk commemorating the opening of the school has deteriorated beyond repair. It is proposed to replace the obelisk by one of similar size and structure. The \$2,500 appropriation sought under this item covers the cost of replacement.

ITEM 202 (GRANT TO COMMITTEE FOR GIPPSLAND FIELD DAYS—\$14,000).

This item will provide authority for the payment of a grant of \$14,000 to the Gippsland Field Days Committee on a \$2 : \$1 basis. This grant contributes towards renewing the electrical installation, at an estimated cost of \$11,000, and some renovation of the building owned by the Committee at Lardner.

ITEM 203 (GRANT TO SWAN HILL IRRIGATORS RESEARCH FARM COMMITTEE—\$12,000).

The community-owned Swan Hill Irrigators Research Farm has operated for 22 years as a successful research and demonstration unit for the district. The farm has played a useful role in the advancement of irrigated agriculture following the period when salinity became an acute problem some 30 years ago.

The farm relies heavily on a small dairy herd, and the decline in the price paid for milk over the past two years has affected the farm's viability.

The appropriation sought under this item provides the necessary Parliamentary Authority to cover a grant of \$4,000 which was provided during 1975-76, as well as enabling a further grant of \$8,000 to be paid in 1976-77.

ITEM 204 (GRANT TO ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN WITH IMPAIRED HEARING—\$161,000).

The Government has recently provided a grant of \$150,000 to the Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing for the purchase of a property at Blackburn for development as an Audiology/Pre-school Centre.

This purchase will enable the Council to establish a permanent centre for the diagnosis and assessment of children who are affected with impaired hearing from infancy to school age. The chosen site has advantages of seclusion from noise of heavy traffic and accessibility to Audiology Students from the Royal Eye and Ear Hospital, and from Burwood Teachers College.

A further grant of \$11,000 will be paid to the Council during the current financial year to cover architects fees for the initial plans and specifications, pending the outcome of negotiations with the Commonwealth Department of Social Security regarding the funding of this centre under the Commonwealth Handicapped Persons Assistance Act.

Item 204 gives the necessary authority for these two payments.

ITEM 205 (GRANT TO BAKER MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE—\$40,000).

The Baker Medical Research Institute, one of the few autonomous medical research institutes in Australia, is being developed as a multi-disciplinary Cardiovascular Research Centre in conjunction with the Clinical Research Unit of the Alfred Hospital. Research is aimed at detecting at an early stage people likely to suffer from coronary artery disease.

The grant of \$40,000 proposed under this item will enable the Institute to establish a Cardiovascular Metabolism and Nutrition Research Unit which is planned to commence operating by the end of 1976.

ITEM 206—"THE AGE" MINUS CHILDREN APPEAL—CONTRIBUTION—\$1,100,000).

During 1975 the Government contributed \$10,000 to "The Age" Minus Children Appeal, and also agreed to match the proceeds of the appeal on a \$1 for \$1 basis up to a maximum of \$1,100,000.

The funds raised are to be used to establish a Recreational Development Centre at Kew Cottages providing facilities for Arts and Crafts, Homecrafts, a Kindergarten-Play Centre, Music Hall, a First Aid Centre, and Management areas. Completion of this centre is scheduled for early 1977-78.

The appropriation sought under this Item provides the necessary Authority for the Government's matching contribution to the Appeal.