

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Wednesday, 5 May 2010**

**(Extract from book 6)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Mr A. G. Lupton, MP

## Legislative Council committees

**Legislation Committee** — Mr Atkinson, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, Mr Drum, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Pulford.

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. Davis, Mr Drum, Mr Jennings, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Rich-Phillips.

**Select Committee on Train Services** — Mr Atkinson, Mr Barber, Mr Drum, Ms Huppert, Mr Leane, Mr O'Donohue and Mr Viney.

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mr Guy, Mr Hall, Mr Kavanagh, Mr Rich-Phillips and Mr Viney.

**Standing Orders Committee** — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney.

## Joint committees

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Jennings, Mr Lenders and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Mr Batchelor, Mr Cameron, Mr Clark, Mr Holding, Mr Lupton, Mr McIntosh and Mr Walsh.

**Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Coote, Mr Leane and Ms Mikakos. (*Assembly*): Ms Beattie, Mr Delahunty, Mrs Maddigan and Mr Morris.

**Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Atkinson, Mr D. Davis and Mr Tee. (*Assembly*): Ms Campbell, Mr Crisp, Mr Lim and Ms Thomson.

**Education and Training Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elasmarr and Mr Hall. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Dr Harkness, Mr Herbert, Mr Howard and Mr Kotsiras.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Broad, Mr P. Davis and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Campbell, Mr O'Brien, Mr Scott and Mr Thompson.

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Murphy and Mrs Petrovich. (*Assembly*): Ms Duncan, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Ingram, Ms Lobato, Mr Pandazopoulos and Mr Walsh.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Ms Kairouz, Mr Noonan, Mr Perera, Mrs Powell and Mrs Shardey.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Atkinson, Ms Darveniza, Mr Drum, Mr Eideh and Ms Hartland. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Mr Delahunty, Mr Howard, Mr Kotsiras, Mr Scott and Mr K. Smith.

**Law Reform Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Kronberg and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Mr Clark, Mr Donnellan, Mr Foley and Mrs Victoria.

**Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elasmarr, Mr Guy and Ms Hartland. (*Assembly*): Mr Hodgett, Mr Langdon, Mr Nardella, Mr Seitz and Mr K. Smith.

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva, Ms Huppert, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Rich-Phillips. (*Assembly*): Ms Graley, Mr Noonan, Mr Scott, Mr Stensholt, Dr Sykes and Mr Wells.

**Road Safety Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Koch and Mr Leane. (*Assembly*): Mr Eren, Mr Langdon, Mr Tilley, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller.

**Rural and Regional Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Darveniza, Mr Drum, Ms Lovell, Ms Tierney and Mr Vogels. (*Assembly*): Mr Nardella and Mr Northe.

**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Eideh, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Peulich and Ms Pulford. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Mr Burgess, Mr Carli, Mr Jasper and Mr Languiller.

## Heads of parliamentary departments

*Assembly* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

*Council* — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

**President:** The Hon. R. F. SMITH

**Deputy President:** Mr BRUCE ATKINSON

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**Deputy Leader of the Government:**  
Mr GAVIN JENNINGS

**Leader of the Opposition:**  
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**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**  
Ms WENDY LOVELL

**Leader of The Nationals:**  
Mr PETER HALL

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**  
Mr DAMIAN DRUM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Madden, Hon. Justin Mark	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Murphy, Mr Nathan <sup>2</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary	Northern Victoria	ALP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Davis, Mr Philip Rivers	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee	Northern Victoria	LP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Guy, Mr Matthew Jason	Northern Metropolitan	LP	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hall, Mr Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Smith, Hon. Robert Frederick	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Huppert, Ms Jennifer Sue <sup>1</sup>	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Theophanous, Hon. Theo Charles <sup>3</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Kavanagh, Mr Peter Damian	Western Victoria	DLP	Thornley, Mr Evan William <sup>4</sup>	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Koch, Mr David Frank	Western Victoria	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Vogels, Mr John Adrian	Western Victoria	LP

<sup>1</sup> Appointed 3 February 2009

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 9 March 2010

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 1 March 2010

<sup>4</sup> Resigned 9 January 2009



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.  
 Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.  
 Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.  
 The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Wednesday, 5 May 2010**

**Energy and resources: publications**

**10 547. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration, what is the title of each brochure and publication that has been published since 25 November 2006.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: travel expenses**

**10 589. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since 25 November 2006, what are the details of all domestic and international air travel used by the Minister and/or the Minister's office or the Minister's predecessor, indicating in respect of each flight —

- (a) the date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

Due to the nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources. All overseas travel information is published quarterly on the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development website.

**Energy and resources: consultancies**

**10 630. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to each department, agency and authority under the administration of the Minister, for the periods 2008–09 and 2009 to date, what are the details of each consultancy commissioned, indicating —

- (a) the date;
- (b) cost;
- (c) purpose;
- (d) name and address of consultant;

- (e) recommendations made;
- (f) action taken in response to any recommendations; and
- (g) whether tenders were called.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To provide the details of this request would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources. However, details regarding contractors employed by the Department of Primary Industries for amounts over \$100,000 are published on the Victorian Government Contracts Publishing System website.

**Energy and resources: travel expenses**

**10 672. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since 25 November 2006, what are the details for all charter flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister and/or the Minister's office or the Minister's predecessor, indicating in respect of each flight —

- (a) the date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

In the course of my Ministerial duties I travel to regional Victoria in order to meet with constituents and stakeholders and to attend official events.

The use of charter flights is occasionally required when commercial flights and other modes of transport are not available.

**Energy and resources: grants**

**10 713. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since 25 November 2006, what is the total sum of Government grants provided to individuals, businesses and organisations by the Minister's department in the electoral districts of:

- (a) Carrum;
- (b) Clayton;
- (c) Cranbourne;
- (d) Dandenong;
- (e) Frankston;
- (f) Lyndhurst;
- (g) Mordialloc;
- (h) Mount Waverley;
- (i) Mulgrave;
- (j) Narre Warren North; and
- (k) Narre Warren South.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: grants**

**10 872. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since 25 November 2006, what is the total sum of State Government grants that have been provided to individuals, businesses and organisations by the Minister's department in the electoral districts of —

- (a) Gembrook;
- (b) Forest Hill;
- (c) Mitcham;
- (d) South Barwon;
- (e) Prahran;
- (f) Burwood;
- (g) Ripon;
- (h) Bendigo East;
- (i) Bentleigh;
- (j) Eltham;
- (k) Ballarat West;
- (l) Ballarat East;
- (m) Seymour;
- (n) Monbulk;
- (o) Yan Yean; and
- (p) Bellarine.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: leadership coaching**

**10 913. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources):

- (1) How many senior officials in the Minister's Department have a personal leadership coach or trainer.
- (2) In each case, what is the cost per hour.
- (3) What sum has been expended on leadership coaching in the Minister's Department during the 2008–09 financial year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: publications**

**10 955. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Did the Minister’s Department, or any agency or authority under the Minister’s portfolio engage the services of a graphic design company to assist in the production of annual reports or other publications in 2009; if so, what was the name and postal address of each company engaged for this purpose and what sum was it paid.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: media and communications staff**

**10 997. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources):

- (1) What sum was spent on media monitoring and clipping services engaged by the Minister’s office in 2008–09.
- (2) What was the name and postal address of each media monitoring company engaged by the Minister’s office.
- (3) How many staff members does the Minister’s office have that are allocated towards media and/or communications.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: entertainment expenses**

**11 079. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to the Minister’s office and/or departmental resources used by the Minister, what are the details of all entertainment expenses incurred since 25 November 2006, indicating —

- (a) total cost;
- (b) itemised details of all expenditures over \$500; including —
  - (i) number of guests;
  - (ii) cost;
  - (iii) purpose; and
  - (iv) name of service provider.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

The entertainment expenses for my Office over the past four years are listed below. There was one item greater than \$500 in relation to a dinner with the Clinton Foundation and was for a total of 12 people.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Entertainment Cost</b>
<b>2006/07</b>	\$293.83
<b>2007/08</b>	\$610.92
<b>2008/09</b>	\$484.10
<b>2009/10</b>	\$0.00

**Energy and resources: credit cards**

**11 121. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Does the Minister or staff of the Minister’s office hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 25 November 2006, indicating —

- (a) the date;
- (b) cost of each purchase; and
- (c) credit card provider.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

Government credit cards are not issued to Ministers or their staff.

**Energy and resources: professional development**

**11 163. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Did the Minister or the Minister’s personal staff receive any media training in 2009; if so —

- (a) what was the cost of the media training; and
- (b) what was the name and postal address of each company engaged to provide media training.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: media research and public opinion polling**

**11 205. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted since 25 November 2006, including —

- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
- (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
- (c) cost;
- (d) the personnel conducting the project;
- (e) whether it was put to tender;
- (f) recommendations made; and
- (g) any actions taken by the Department or Minister.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: recruitment agencies**

**11 247. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources):

- (1) Which recruitment agencies were used by the Department and each agency and authority in the Minister's portfolio in 2009.
- (2) What sum was paid to each agency.
- (3) For 2009, what sum was spent on recruitment agencies by the Department and each agency in the Minister's portfolio.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: residential allowances**

**11 289. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since 25 November 2006 to date, how much has been paid in residential allowances to the Minister and staff in the Minister's department and what are the details of each claim.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: staff**

**11 330. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration, what were the staffing levels for the financial years 2005–06 and 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

Information on staff numbers and VPS classification is provided in the annual reports of departments, agencies and authorities.

**Energy and resources: travel expenses**

**11 371. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since 25 November 2006, what is the total amount paid in travel allowances to the Minister, and what are the details of each claim by the Minister, including —

- (a) the date of travel;

- (b) destination; and
- (c) purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: office expenses**

**11 436. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since 25 November 2006, what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: office expenses**

**11 478. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): What were the details of the total operating costs of the Minister's Office for the 2008–09 financial year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: advertising**

**11 581. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration, what are the details of all advertising campaigns from 25 November 2006 to date that were published in each of the following newspapers, indicating the purpose, total costs and date period of each campaign:

- (1) Cobram Courier.
- (2) Border Mail.
- (3) Age.
- (4) Herald Sun.
- (5) Sunday Herald Sun.
- (6) Advocate.
- (7) Cranbourne News.
- (8) Berwick/Pakenham Cardinia Leader.
- (9) Brimbank Leader.
- (10) Caulfield Glen Eira/Port Phillip Leader.
- (11) Community News-Moonee Valley.
- (12) Cranbourne Journal.
- (13) Cranbourne Leader.

- (14) Journal.
- (15) Diamond Valley Leader.
- (16) Manningham Leader.
- (17) Emerald Hill Weekly.
- (18) Chelsea, Mordialloc, Mentone Independent.
- (19) Peninsula Journal Weekender.
- (20) Frankston & Hastings Independent.
- (21) Frankston Standard/Hastings Leader.
- (22) Heidelberg Leader.
- (23) Hume Leader.
- (24) Knox Leader.
- (25) Knox Journal.
- (26) Lilydale & Yarra Valley Leader.
- (27) Mail/Williamstown Advertiser/Altona-Laverton Mail.
- (28) Stonnington Leader.
- (29) Maroondah Journal/Yarra Ranges Journal.
- (30) Melbourne Leader.
- (31) Melbourne Times.
- (32) Melbourne Weekly Magazine.
- (33) Melton/Moorabool Express Telegraph.
- (34) Monash Journal.
- (35) Moonee Valley Leader.
- (36) Moorabbin Kingston/Moorabbin Glen Eira Leader.
- (37) Mordialloc Chelsea Leader.
- (38) Moreland Leader.
- (39) Mornington Peninsula Leader.
- (40) Northcote Leader.
- (41) Dandenong/Springvale Dandenong Leader.
- (42) Pakenham-Berwick Gazette.
- (43) Preston Leader.
- (44) Progress Leader.
- (45) Sunbury/Macedon Ranges Leader.
- (46) Maroondah Leader.
- (47) Bayside Leader.
- (48) Free Press Leader.
- (49) Waverley/Oakleigh Monash Leader.
- (50) Werribee/Point Cook Banner.
- (51) Wyndham Leader.
- (52) Western Leader.
- (53) Whitehorse Leader.
- (54) Whittlesea Leader.
- (55) Ranges Trader Mail.
- (56) Alexandra & Eildon Standard.
- (57) Ararat Advertiser.
- (58) Bairnsdale Advertiser.

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- (59) East Gippsland News.
  - (60) Ballarat Courier.
  - (61) Ballarat News.
  - (62) Pyrenees Advocate.
  - (63) Ovens & Murray Advertiser.
  - (64) Echo.
  - (65) Benalla Ensign.
  - (66) Bendigo Advertiser.
  - (67) Loddon Times.
  - (68) Camperdown Chronicle.
  - (69) Casterton News.
  - (70) Castlemaine Mail.
  - (71) Cobden Times.
  - (72) Cohuna Farmers' Weekly.
  - (73) Colac Herald.
  - (74) Corryong Courier.
  - (75) Dimboola Banner.
  - (76) Buloke Times.
  - (77) Riverine Herald.
  - (78) West Wimmera Advocate.
  - (79) Euroa Gazette.
  - (80) Mirror.
  - (81) Geelong Advertiser.
  - (82) Geelong Independent.
  - (83) Geelong News.
  - (84) Macedon Ranges/Sunbury Telegraph.
  - (85) Hamilton Spectator.
  - (86) Mountain Views Mail.
  - (87) McIvor Times.
  - (88) Hopetoun Courier & Mallee Pioneer.
  - (89) Wimmera Mail-Times.
  - (90) Northern Times.
  - (91) Free Press.
  - (92) Great Southern Star.
  - (93) South Gippsland Sentinel-Times.
  - (94) Kyabram Free Press/Tatura Guardian.
  - (95) Macedon Ranges Guardian.
  - (96) Midland Express.
  - (97) Lakes Post.
  - (98) Western Plains Advertiser.
  - (99) Tarrangower Times.
  - (100) Mansfield Courier.
  - (101) Maryborough District Advertiser.
  - (102) Mildura Midweek.
  - (103) Sunraysia Daily.

- (104) Moe & Narracan News.
- (105) Mornington & Southern Peninsula Mail.
- (106) Latrobe Valley Express.
- (107) Bright Observer.
- (108) Wimmera Messengers: Voice of Hindmarsh.
- (109) Numurkah Leader.
- (110) Snowy River Mail.
- (111) North West Express.
- (112) Phillip Island & San Remo Advertiser.
- (113) Portland Observer & Guardian.
- (114) Rainbow-Jeparit Argus.
- (115) Robinvale Sentinel.
- (116) Campaspe Valley News.
- (117) Gippsland Times & Maffra Spectator.
- (118) Sea Lake & Wycheproof Times–Ensign.
- (119) Seymour Telegraph.
- (120) Shepparton Adviser.
- (121) Shepparton News.
- (122) North Central News.
- (123) Stawell Times–News.
- (124) Swan Hill Guardian.
- (125) Tatura Guardian.
- (126) Terang Express.
- (127) Traralgon Journal.
- (128) Chronicle.
- (129) Warracknabeal Herald.
- (130) Warragul & Drouin Gazette.
- (131) Baw Baw Shire & West Gippsland Trader.
- (132) Warrnambool Standard.
- (133) Upper Yarra Mail.
- (134) Yarram Standard–News.
- (135) Yarrawonga Chronicle.
- (136) Yea Chronicle.
- (137) Maribymong Leader.
- (138) Queenscliffe Herald.
- (139) Berwick News.
- (140) Hobsons Bay Leader.
- (141) Weekly Advertiser.
- (142) Moyne Gazette.
- (143) Star Keilor, Taylors Lakes, Sydenham.
- (144) Ferntree Gully-Belgrave Mail.
- (145) Northern Star Real Estate.
- (146) City Weekly Melbourne.
- (147) Melbourne Weekly Bayside.
- (148) North Central Review.

- (149) Melbourne Observer.
- (150) Star St Albans, Deer Park, Caroline Springs.
- (151) Star Werribee, Hoppers Crossing.
- (152) Star Williamstown, Altona, Laverton.
- (153) Star Footscray, Yarraville, Braybrook.
- (154) Star Sunshine, Ardeer, Albion.
- (155) Western Star Real Estate.
- (156) North West Star Real Estate.
- (157) Geelong Times.
- (158) Myrtleford Times.
- (159) Bendigo Weekly.
- (160) Melton/Moorabool Leader.
- (161) mX.
- (162) Seymour Nagambie Advertiser.
- (163) Surf Coast Times.
- (164) Post.
- (165) Wimmera Messengers: Voice of Wimmera.
- (166) Pakenham News.
- (167) Heidelberg & Diamond Valley Weekly.
- (168) Berwick and District Journal/Pakenham Journal.
- (169) Northern Weekly.
- (170) Melbourne Weekly Eastern.
- (171) Hume Weekly.
- (172) Moonee Valley Community News.
- (173) Trading Post.
- (174) Whittlesea Review.
- (175) Community News—Moreland.
- (176) Star Hume—Our City.
- (177) Star Whittlesea, Mernda, Doreen.
- (178) Star Wallan, Kilmore, Broadford.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

To answer this question would be an unreasonable and unnecessary diversion of resources.

**Energy and resources: smart meters**

**11 760. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Public Transport (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Do concession holders pay less for the compulsory smart meter or do they pay the same amount but in smaller amounts over time.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that as at the date the question was raised:

Smart metering infrastructure is being rolled out to all Victorian households and small businesses over the next four years as part of a major upgrade to Victoria's electricity distribution networks.

Electricity metering including the costs associated with replacing existing meters with new smart meters, and other electricity network charges are a regulated component of household electricity bills. Network charges are regulated by the Australian Energy Regulator. The various network charges are identified generally as the 'service to property', or 'supply charge' on retail electricity bills. The average regulated smart meter charge in 2010 is \$68.00, and is generally bundled with the total network service charge on consumer bills.

Energy concessions are generally applied as a percentage discount on the total energy bill and therefore, as the size of the bill increases so too does the size of the concession. Consequently, concession holders are billed the same amount for the smart meter roll-out as other consumers, but receive a discount proportionate to the total of their electricity bill.