

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Witness:	Hon Martin Pakula MP
Committee member:	Ms Bridget Vallence MP
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Relevant text:

Ms VALLENCE: It was good to see in your presentation and indeed in the budget funding allocation for the Yarra Valley Railway. It is good to see that five years after the federal Liberal government committed to that project we are getting that after the advocacy of the member for Eildon and myself. That is great for our region, but a similar attraction that has been around for a very long time is Puffing Billy. I have a question there around Puffing Billy, which I recall going on as a child. In recent times there was a safety review completed for Puffing Billy and travelling on that. Has this been completed?

Mr PAKULA: Yes, I understand that it has been completed, and that report is with the Emerald Tourist Railway Board for its consideration as we speak.

Ms VALLENCE: Minister can we get a copy of that report for the committee? We can take it on notice after it is to be—

Mr PAKULA: I will take that on notice because I would not want to interfere with the board's consideration of that report. I will take that on notice, and if it is appropriate to release the report, then it will be.

Ms VALLENCE: In that case then, subject to the conclusion of their review of the report, will you be making that public?

Mr PAKULA: As I said, I have agreed to take the question on notice and I would need to take some advice about whether or not the release of that report would be appropriate. I will take that advice, and if it is, it will be, and if it is not, it will not.

Answer:

Matters relating to the operations of Puffing Billy Railway are the responsibility of the Emerald Tourist Railway Board. As such, any decision to release this report is a matter for the Board.

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Relevant text: Ms VALLENCE: No, I appreciate that that review will look into that. I am wanting to know also: how much is the government allocating out of the \$32 million to that activity of looking at the infrastructure in regional Victoria?

The CHAIR: Minister, if you can take that on notice.

Mr PAKULA: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The \$32 million provided to Visit Victoria in the 2019-20 budget is for a range of marketing initiatives to attract more visitors to Victoria. Initiatives include marketing, digital initiatives and partnership agreements. Marketing and awareness campaigns include *Your Happy Space*, which is aimed at encouraging more Melburnians to visit regional Victoria.

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Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins MP
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Relevant text:

Mr HIBBINS: All right. Thank you. What is the total time spent on construction activities at Albert Park for the grand prix?

Mr PAKULA: Well, again, that would be a matter that the Australian Grand Prix Corporation could provide you with greater detail on than I can, but as someone who goes past the Albert Park circuit or in its vicinity on most days on the way to work when it is happening—

Mr HIBBINS: I am probably looking for a more accurate date. I run around it all the time as well. I am looking for something a bit more accurate.

Mr PAKULA: I think it goes for a few weeks.

Mr HIBBINS: A few weeks? Okay. Perhaps you could take on notice: start date, construction, finished pack-up.

Mr PAKULA: Sorry, you would like me to take that on notice? I am more than happy to take that on notice.

Mr HIBBINS: Thank you. The funding for the grand prix, does that come from the major event pool of \$123.5 million?

Answer:

The Australian Grand Prix Corporation commences set up of event infrastructure at Albert Park nine weeks prior to event week.

The park remains accessible to the public throughout the bump-in, with limited accessibility in some areas due to construction and safety requirements.

The park is fully locked down from 12.01am on the Tuesday of race week, and re-opens to the public at midnight Monday 11.59pm immediately following the race.

The pack down of event infrastructure follows a similar process to the set-up whereby a number of ovals and public areas are progressively handed back in a staged and planned manner.

In 2019, all assets and infrastructure had been removed from the park five weeks post event.

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Relevant text: Mr HIBBINS: Okay. You have indicated no cost directly to Apple, but were there any costs just incurred by government in general because of the proposal?

Mr PAKULA: No, no. No payments to Apple, a cost to government for the review, and beyond that I am not aware of any cost that you could attribute to the decision either way in regard to Apple. I am not aware of any, but I am happy to take that on notice.

Mr HIBBINS: Okay, thanks.

Answer:

No costs have been incurred by the Government in relation to the Apple global flagship store.