

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

Portfolio:	Minister for Small Business
Witness:	
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan MP
Page/s of transcript:	

Relevant text:

1. Minister, with regard to the West Gate Tunnel project (BP4 PG 16) and the purchase of steel from China for the project; the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (Local Jobs First) Act 2018 sets out mandatory minimum local content requirements on major projects. As the Minister representing Victoria's small businesses, are you disappointed that the builders of the West Gate Tunnel have signed a contract with a related Chinese company, ZPMC, to purchase 33,000 tonnes of Chinese steel for the West Gate Tunnel project?

Answer:

The Victorian Government is unequivocally committed to supporting Victorian small businesses, self-employed Victorians, local industry and workers' participation in Victorian Government projects.

Relevant text:

2. Minister what are you going to do for Victoria's small businesses that have been short-changed by this deal?
- i. Are you going to allow steel workers in China to benefit at the expense of Victorian workers and small businesses as a result of this decision to import Chinese steel for the West Gate Tunnel?

Answer:

Responsibility for the West Gate Tunnel project sits with the Minister for Transport Infrastructure.

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Relevant text:

3. Minister, if I can turn to the luxury car tax and its impact on Victorian small businesses, has your department or in fact your office, undertaken any analysis on the impact of the luxury car tax on Victorian small businesses?
- i. If so, how many small businesses would be impacted by this increased tax?
 - ii. How many small businesses have sought further assistance from your Department on this issue?

Answer:

Responsibility for the *Duties Act 2000* and any associated analysis sits with the Treasurer.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Inquiry into the 2019-20 Budget Estimates

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Relevant text: 4.

Minister, BP3 page 233 details a 21 per cent cut to the Industry, Innovation and Small Business departmental objectives. The Budget details now only \$153.5 million for these portfolios, how much of that \$153.5 million relates directly to your small business portfolio?

- a. How does this figure compare to previous years?

Answer:

This output provides funding for programs which benefit business in Victoria.

Programs that specifically target small business are reported against in the relevant performance measures and they show consistent targets over the reporting period.

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Relevant text: 5.

Minister, BP3 page 238 reveals that a number of small business programs were completed in 2018-19 that have not had funding renewed. Can you detail for the committee the specific programs that have had funding cease?

Answer:

BP3 page 238 does not suggest that small business programs have had funding cease.

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Relevant text:

6. Minister, BP3 page 237 details 42 industry roundtables and engagements forums, down from 72 in 2018-19 and from 109 in 2017-18. Why has this been reduced? How many of these 42 industry roundtables are expected to be solely for small businesses in Victoria?

Answer:

Responsibilities for the BP3 performance measure for industry roundtables and engagement forums sits with the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade. There is no requirement for the industries roundtables and engagement forums to be solely for small businesses in Victoria.

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Relevant text: 7. Minister, client satisfaction of small business information, referral, mentoring and business programs, client satisfaction with the Victorian Government Business Offices and the Victorian Small Business Commission mediation service have both had significant performance measure downgrades from what was achieved in 2017-18. Can you explain why service in your portfolio responsibilities has dropped so significantly?

a. Minister, are you able to please provide the committee with the specific results for the 2018-19 expected outcome for those three performance measures, including how they are calculated, what areas of concern and whether there is any evidence to show a regional/metropolitan divide for client satisfaction?

Answer:

Client satisfaction targets across all services within my portfolio from 2017-18 through 2019-20 have consistently been achieved, representing the high standard of services offered to Victoria's small businesses.

Client satisfaction data is collected electronically by Small Business Victoria at the completion of each workshop, event, service interaction or mentoring reporting period.

Victorian Small Business Commission mediation client satisfaction data is collected from each party to a mediation responding to a mediation survey at the completion of a mediation.

Responsibility for the Victorian Government Business Offices sits with the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade.

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8. In March the Minister made comment that there may be a potential review of the daylight savings in Victoria, has the Department begun that review?

Answer:

In 2007, the Victorian Government agreed with other state governments on our current daylight saving times. There are no plans to change daylight saving arrangements at this time.