

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
2017–18 Budget Estimates Hearing – 12 May 2017**

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION
AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE HEARING**

Hon Daniel Andrews MP

PREMIER

- 1. Please provide the total cost to CFA of all workforce bans imposed by the UFU for the past two years.**

(Pages 8-9 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

CFA advises that it has not identified any significant impact on revenue from false alarms as a result of the bans.

The majority of the other bans imposed on CFA relate to training, meeting attendance or industrial activity on station or bans on activities incidental to firefighting roles. The impact of these bans are not costed but is estimated to be minimal.

- 2. Please provide details of the quantity of emissions reductions expected by individual budget measure.**

(Pages 10-11 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

In the context of broader Victorian Government actions, such as the TAKE2 pledge process, the 2017–18 State budget allocates \$25.4 million over five years for action on climate change, covering both mitigation and adaptation.

For mitigation, this funding is in most part for planning, information gathering and upskilling to help government and partners achieve our emissions targets into the future.

Some initiatives do focus on reducing emissions in the shorter term. The following individual budget measures have, or will have, emissions reductions calculated:

- Solar Trams: \$9.5 million over 4 years has been provided to establish 35 MW of new large-scale solar farms in regional Victoria to power Melbourne's tram network and reduce emissions by 80,000 tonnes per year
- Greener Government Buildings Program: \$20 million has been provided over two years for this program, which will reduce emissions by improving the energy efficiency of government buildings. Emissions reductions from this initiative will be calculated once specific projects are identified.

- 3. In relation to the three court cases following the Government's decision to house youth inmates in Barwon Prison, please advise the legal costs incurred to date.**

(Page 15 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

The Minister for Families and Children took this question on notice.

The Minister for Families and Children is the appropriate Minister to answer this question and will provide this advice once the information is available.

- 4. With respect to the target of 15 to 20 per cent emissions reduction by 2020:**

- a. What analysis has the Government undertaken on measures necessary to achieve the target?**

- b. What contribution will the closure of Hazelwood make to the reduction in emissions?**

(Page 24 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

Analysis undertaken by government indicates that a number of factors will contribute to meeting our 2020 target.

These factors include:

- ongoing work to encourage technological improvement
- a reduction in emissions from the government's TAKE2 operational and sector pledges, including the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target scheme and renewable energy certificate purchases
- reduced emissions from electricity generation in Victoria due to the closure of the Hazelwood power station, which emitted around 15 million tonnes per year.

Voluntary pledges by business, local government and the community under the TAKE2 program will deliver additional emissions reductions. Finally, if the Australian Government was to strengthen its climate change action following its current review of national climate change policies, that would deliver further reductions.

- 5. How can PPP projects be made more transparent? What plans does the Government have to make PPP projects more transparent?**

(Pages 30-31 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

In November 2016, the government updated the Partnerships Victoria requirements to improve our transparency and efficiency in the implementation of PPPs. We have introduced standardised base contracts and procurement documents, including standard project summary templates, which are publicly available.

The updated requirements reflect best practice and implement reforms that make it easier for the private sector to participate in Victorian Government tenders. The standard expression of interest, request for tender and base contract documents will reduce costs for bidders and improve certainty for PPP participants and investors.

Within 60 days of financial close of a PPP contract, Partnerships Victoria publishes a project summary and the executed PPP contracts are published on the Victorian Government Tenders website.

The government has also established the Office of Projects Victoria to improve project development and implementation and to monitor major projects including PPPs.

In addition to these best-practice procedures, the Victorian Auditor-General's Office was granted 'follow-the-dollar' powers in 2015, which increase accountability and transparency into government decision-making with regard to contracts and financial agreements.

6. Of all the projects announced in the budget, what number are PPPs?

(Page 31 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

The government selects the most appropriate procurement strategy for each individual project based on the characteristics and aims of the project.

A list of current Public Private Partnerships that are in construction and procurement can be found in the 2017–18 Budget, in Budget Paper 4, page 12.

7. In relation to a community survey into attitudes about community safety:

- a. Did DPC engage Quantum Market Research to conduct this survey?
- b. How much is Quantum Market Research being paid to oversee this survey?
- c. Please provide the list of the questions being asked in this survey.

(Page 34 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

Quantum Market Research has not been engaged by DPC to conduct a survey into attitudes about community safety.

8. With a 16-year-old alleged serial sex offender recently released into the community by the Supreme Court:

- a. What would be the cost of residential care for a young person such as this, given that it will include 24-hour supervision by two staff and sole occupancy of a residential care unit?
- b. What education would be provided in a case such as this?

(Page 35 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

The Minister for Families and Children holds portfolio responsibility for this matter. I have directed this question on notice to her for a response.

9. Have funds (\$60 million) expected under the Commonwealth's asset recycling initiative following the sale of the Rural Finance Corporation been received?

(Page 36 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

The Victorian Government is in negotiations with the Commonwealth to secure the \$60 million owed to Victoria for the Rural Finance Corporation.

10. In relation to the *Ice Action Plan*:

- a. Please explain how the success of the plan is to be evaluated i.e. is it less overdoses? Is it that at the next household drug survey less people are taking ice in Victoria?
- b. Is the use of benzodiazepines as well as methamphetamines included in the scope of the plan?

(Page 37 of the Premier's transcript)

Response:

Members of the Ice Action Taskforce have been involved in the development of a progress monitoring framework for the *Ice Action Plan*. At the last Ice Action Taskforce meeting in March 2017, members discussed the next steps in developing a framework. It was proposed an Outcomes Framework be developed to evaluate progress across the Plan's six focus areas: Helping families; Supporting frontline workers; More support where it's needed; Prevention is better than a cure; Reducing supply on our streets; and Safer, stronger communities.

It is proposed that a range of measures be used to monitor progress, such as frequency of ice use, overdose deaths and referrals to drug treatment and support. Data will be obtained from various sources across government agencies, such as the Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria Police, and through other publicly available sources, such as the National Drug Strategy Household Survey. It is expected that the Outcomes Framework will be finalised by the end of 2017 in consultation with government departments, the Ice Action Taskforce and Specialist Workforce Advisory Group. The Ice Action Plan Outcomes Framework will align with other government Outcomes Frameworks, and measures will be reviewed and developed over time. At this stage, it is envisaged that a progress report will be prepared annually, noting that for some measures, the frequency of reporting will be dependent on the how often data is collected.

Benzodiazepines are included in the scope of the *Ice Action Plan*, as investments under the plan address both ice and other drug use, (for example \$34.8 million funding in the 2017–18 State Budget for 30 new alcohol and other drug rehabilitation beds). This broader investment in alcohol and other drugs supports studies that demonstrate methamphetamine users tend to be extensive poly-drug users (Law reform, drugs and crime prevention committee: Inquiry into the supply and use of methamphetamines, particularly ice, in Victoria, 2014).