

**ATTACHMENT: PAEC 2017–18 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING
SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE PORTFOLIO - 23 MAY 2017
HON GAVIN JENNINGS MLC**

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

The following questions were submitted to the Chair from Ms Patten and Ms Pennicuik, who were absent from the hearing:

Question 1

Q1. The budget papers include an initiative (*Securing Victorians' Data*) for software that will assist the Government to monitor data security across Victorian public sector agencies and allow the 'Office of the Commissioner for Privacy and Data Protection to analyse and monitor data to mitigate security risks, including potential threats to citizens' personal information'.¹ With respect to individuals' concerns about personal data storage and who has access to this:

- a. Does the data that is being monitored include information such as personal banking details for Myki auto-top ups? Is the monitoring that specific?
- b. What level of access to personal information will this software allow for the Commissioner? What guarantees are there that the software will not increase data security risks, by effectively being a backdoor entry to whole-of-government systems?
- c. How is this software intended to mitigate security risks? Will it actively detect security risks?

¹ Department of Treasury and Finance, *Budget Paper No.3: 2017-18 Service Delivery* (2017), pp.102, 104

RESPONSE

The software to be implemented will receive, monitor and analyse information provided in Protective Data Security Plans (Plans) that public sector agencies need to submit by July 2018. These Plans will address the Protective Data Security Standards applicable to the relevant public sector agency. To this end:

- a. The software will not access information such as personal banking details for Myki auto-top ups.
- b. The only personal information collected will be details of the Responsible Officer of an agency who signs off and submits a Plan. The software will not be connected to whole-of-Victorian Government (WoVG) systems, and as such will not be a 'back door' to them.
- c. The software will collect Plans from across the public sector. These are treatment plans for information security risks identified in agencies' Security Risk Assessments. The software will run analytics across the data collected to identify 'hot spots', trends and WoVG information security risks.

Question 2

Q2. Under 'Public advice, administration and support', the budget papers show a 28% drop in funds from \$9.8 million budgeted in 2016-17 to \$7 million in 2017-18.² There are no decreases in output measures for this output,³ which includes advice on public administration, service delivery and research via the Victorian Public Sector Commission. How are those same outputs expected to be met with such a significant percentage drop in funding?

² Department of Treasury and Finance, *Budget Paper No.3: 2017-18 Service Delivery* (2017), p.299

³ Department of Treasury and Finance, *Budget Paper No.3: 2017-18 Service Delivery* (2017), p.315

RESPONSE

Since its establishment, the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC) has had an ongoing baseline budget of \$6.023.

An additional \$2.8 million was provided to the VPSC in the 2016-17 Budget for a program to build public sector capability and integrity. This additional \$2.8 million funding had a sunset date of 30 June 2017.

Approximately \$1 million of this additional funding was carried over into the 2017-18 financial year.

Additionally, the VPSC utilises a fee-for-service model for some of its services to recoup costs, which will further mitigate the impact of any reduction in funds.

Finally, the "carry over" of approximately \$1 million will enable the VPSC to meet its output measures.

Question 3

Q3. The budget papers detail funding for Infrastructure Victoria,⁴ some of which will go toward investigating proposals outlined in the draft 30 Year Strategy.⁵ 'The Road Ahead' discussion paper as part of the 30 year strategy very broadly investigates the options for a road pricing strategy. Noting that ridesharing, autonomous vehicles and other technological innovations are changing how Victorians commute, what considerations have been given to road pricing?

⁴ Department of Treasury and Finance, *Budget Paper No.3: 2017-18 Service Delivery* (2017), p.299

⁵ Hon Gavin Jennings MLC, Special Minister of State, 'Infrastructure Victoria Releases Draft 30 Year Strategy' (media release, 4 October 2016)

RESPONSE

Infrastructure Victoria (IV) tabled its final report, *Victoria's 30-year infrastructure strategy* (the strategy) in Parliament on 8 December 2016. The strategy included a recommendation for a Transport network pricing regime to be implemented over the next 5-15 years. IV also indicated that they would undertake further research on transport network pricing including a review of road pricing options to manage congestion and complementary measures to address equity and public transport impacts. As an independent body, IV has the authority to develop an independent research agenda.

Later this year, we will release our response to IV's 30-year strategy, which will include a response to IV's recommendations. At the time of IV strategy's release, we restated our commitment not to toll existing roads. Pricing is one mechanism for managing demands on our roads, and as you note, there are a range of new technologies and innovations that will influence road usage patterns in the future.

Question 4

Q4. Topic: Forest Industry Taskforce

Reference: Budget Paper 5, p. 118

It is assumed that the Forest Industry Taskforce has been funded from the output appropriations or special appropriations under Department of Premier and Cabinet. The Special Minister of State has carriage of the Taskforce process, due to it cutting across various policy areas.

Did the Forest Industry Taskforce provide a final report to Government, and if yes, will this report be released to the public?

RESPONSE:

The Forest Industry Taskforce provided a high level statement of intent to Government in September 2016. This included interim recommendations and was released publicly.

Question 5:

Q5. Topic: Heyfield Mill Reference:

Reference: Budget Paper 5, p. 117

Will the Latrobe Valley assistance package be used to purchase Heyfield Mill?

RESPONSE:

Latrobe Valley support funds will not be used towards the purchase of the Heyfield timber mill.