

## PAEC 2026–27 Budget Estimates Hearing – Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

### Question 1

***How many security incidents, threats, unauthorised access incidents, aggressive public interactions, protests, vandalism events or police call-outs have happened at Parliament House and electorate offices in the past year?***

In the year to date period June 2025 to April 2026 there were 48 security incidents recorded in the Parliamentary precincts (Parliament House, 55 St Andrews Place and Treasury Reserve) which is a reduction of recorded incidents from last year, and 303 security incidents recorded across the electorate offices which is an increase of recorded incidents from last year.

Security incidents recorded at Parliament House include protests on the front steps.

Security incidents at electorate offices include behaviour that is threatening/intimidating, information of concern, vandalism and graffiti as well as protest/demonstration activity.

### Question 2

***Can we talk about what specific security risks, threats or incidents have driven the continual upgrade to Parliament House and electorate office security upgrades that were identified in the questionnaire and what the costs incurred might be?***

***What costs have been incurred in security upgrades at Parliament House and electorate offices?***

The continual upgrade of security at Parliament House and across electorate offices has been driven by risks associated with operating in a high-profile, publicly accessible environment.

These include politically motivated protests, hostile or aggressive behaviour, unauthorised access, as well as the challenges of managing large visitor volumes.

Risk assessments have identified a need to uplift physical security controls, including screening, surveillance, and the effectiveness of layered security measures.

Electorate offices present a distributed and variable risk profile, including exposure to hostile constituents and inconsistent security environments, requiring a more standardised approach to security infrastructure.

In relation to the Parliamentary precincts, aggregate funding of \$3.64 million was approved in 2021-22 to support design and development of a number of projects including new equipment (such as bag scanners) and security overlay such as CCTV. These projects will conclude in mid-2026.

As part of the Committee Hearing Rooms project, the security infrastructure at entry points has been upgraded and the design of the hearing rooms improves the security of committee members, staff and witnesses. The cost of these works is included in the overall cost of the Committee Hearing Rooms.

The Electorate Office Safety and Security Upgrades project was approved in the 2020-21 Budget for the relocation of non-compliant electorate offices to new offices that meet the Electorate Office Accommodation Standards with required security overlays. The relocation of electorate offices is now an ongoing program of works for which an annual funding of \$1.222 million has been approved, this includes security overlay on electorate offices.

### Question 3

***The upper balcony in the Legislative Assembly's chamber previously had a capacity of 15 persons. What is the capacity now?***

The current maximum capacity of the LA upper gallery is 27 persons. This is based on the National Construction Code standard model sizing for adult seating. The seating is arranged in a bench-style layout.

### Question 4

***Will a portrait of the former Premier, Mr Andrews, be mounted?***

The Parliament currently has 24 portraits of former Premiers, including every Premier since Premier Harry Lawson (1924) (except two, each in office for less than 125 days). In line with that practice, a portrait of former Premier Daniel Andrews will be hung in Queen's Hall. The timing for that portrait to join the exhibition has not been finalised.

### Question 5

***We have touched on the egress of water and leaks with respect to the Members' Annexe. Is there anything with respect to cost that you can speak to for this committee?***

The allocated budget is commercially sensitive at this time, and it is not appropriate to disclose, as the project is currently progressing through to the tender process to appoint a main contractor to carry out the rectification works to the Members' Annexe building.

This approach is consistent with the Buying for Victoria procurement framework, including probity, governance and risk management requirements, ensuring that commercial sensitivities are appropriately managed and that the procurement process is conducted in a fair, transparent and competitive manner.

However, to provide some order of magnitude guidance, the cost is expected to be several million dollars. The expenditure will be reported and disclosed through Parliament of Victoria's standard financial reporting and annual reporting in due course.

**Question 6**

***The Member for Brunswick's former office was found to be mouldy because of water ingress. Repairs were attempted, I understand. Have those repairs been successful? Is that office now functional? Is it being used?***

Interim repair works undertaken in July 2025 addressed the water ingress issues in specific areas of the Members' Annexe, including the Member for Brunswick's former office. These works have been generally effective, and the Member for Brunswick's office is now occupiable.

Monthly monitoring and air testing has continued throughout the Annexe to provide information regarding possible on-going water ingress.

Pending the full and comprehensive rooftop rectification works, scheduled during the sitting breaks between September 2026 and February 2027, with further works in mid 2027, the residual risk of water ingress during significant rain events is being managed through daily inspections for dampness by cleaning staff, together with regular air quality testing, including for mould.