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## Government Responses to the Recommendations of PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE'S Report on the 2022-23 Budget Estimates

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Pursuant to Section 36 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, this paper provides a response to the recommendations contained in the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's (PAEC) Report on the 2022-23 Budget Estimates.

**Guide for readers** - Following is the explanation of the format of this paper.

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PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action

**Please Complete for each recommendation:**

Column 1: Contains PAEC's recommendations as published in its Report on the 2022-23 Budget Estimates.

Column 2: Indicates the Government's response to each recommendation: 'Support', 'Support-in-Principle', 'Not Support', or 'Under Review'.

Column 3: Provides an explanation of the Government's position on the recommendation, indicates the actions that have been taken to date relevant to the implementation of the recommendation, and outlines commitment to further action relevant to the implementation of the recommendation.

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<p>Recommendation 1: The 2023–24 budget papers include further detail about how the Government will maintain an operating cash flow surplus beyond 2022–23 (step two of the fiscal strategy) and how an operating surplus will be achieved in 2025–26 (step three of the fiscal strategy).</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>As outlined in the <i>2022-23 Budget</i> and most recently in the <i>2022 Victorian Economic and Fiscal Update</i>, the Government is continuing to implement a four-step fiscal strategy to support Victorians through the COVID-19 pandemic and to restore the budget position over the medium term.</p> <p>In the <i>2022-23 Budget</i>, Budget Paper No. 2, Chapter 1 <i>Economic and Fiscal Overview</i> details the Government’s progress against this strategy and forecasts a return to an operating cash surplus in 2022-23 and a return to an operating surplus in 2025-26.</p> <p>Details on the primary drivers of revenue and expenditure growth outlooks across the budget and forward estimates can be found in Budget Paper No. 2, Chapter 4 <i>Budget Position and Outlook</i>.</p> <p>Budget Paper No. 5 <i>Statement of Finances</i>, Chapter 1 also contains further breakdowns of revenue and expenditure items, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comprehensive operating and cash flow statements</li> <li>2. Revenue estimates breakdowns including State Taxation in Table 1.2.1 and Grant Revenue in Table 1.2.4</li> <li>3. Expenses estimates breakdowns including by Portfolio Department in Table 1.3.5.</li> </ol> <p>The Government will outline its fiscal strategy in the 2023-24 budget papers as part of the annual budget process in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 2: All government departments and Court Services Victoria provide information relating to the programs and initiatives that received Treasurer's Advances/off budget funding during a financial year to the Committee, in the same manner as they have in previous years, in response to the Committee's questionnaire.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>Treasurer's Advances are not finalised until the end of the financial year. Treasurer's Advances for all departments for the 2021-22 financial year were reported in Chapter 4 of the Annual Financial Report (Tables 8.2.13 and 8.2.14). Amounts advanced under this authority will also be reported to and sanctioned by the Parliament in the 2023-24 Appropriation Bill.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: The Department of Treasury and Finance's annual report detail the performance of the Victorian Future Fund including the opening and closing balance at the end of each financial year and how its performance assists in stabilising net debt.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) supports publishing information in its annual report regarding the Victorian Future Fund (VFF) including in relation to its balance, and performance in assisting to stabilise net debt. DTF will also consider options for publishing information related to investment objectives and approach of the VFF. DTF notes that annual reporting is consistent with the VFF's growth-oriented, long-term objective and purpose. It strikes a sensible balance between monitoring the progress of the VFF frequently enough to identify any emerging issues in a timely manner, and the need to keep focused on the long-term objective without being distracted by shorter-term market volatility.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 4: The Victorian Funds Management Corporation consider publishing the investment strategies used to grow the Victorian Future Fund and provide real time information about the achievements of the Fund.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Victorian Funds Management Corporation will provide information to DTF to support the publication of its annual report regarding the Victorian Future Fund (per PAEC recommendation 3).</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: The Victorian Agency for Health Information publish and retain on its website past elective surgery data sets, beyond the last five quarters, to ensure trends over time can be tracked.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department's Victorian Agency for Health Information (VAHI) will consider options for improving publication of data regarding elective surgery.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6: To better understand the achievements of the COVID catch-up plan, the Department of Health develop a new objective indicator that demonstrates the total number of people on the elective surgery waiting list each year to complement the existing reporting by the Victorian Agency for Health Information.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>As noted in the recommendation VAHI does make publicly available data which allows for this annual comparison. However, the number of people waiting for planned surgery is not a meaningful metric in demonstrating system performance as it gives no indication of how long it will take the system to respond to this volume of surgeries, particularly in the context of population growth.</p> <p>The department considers that existing objective indicators reported within Budget Paper No 3, such as the number of patients admitted from the elective surgery waiting list and the proportion of patients treated within recommended timeframes, are more meaningful to patients and are sufficient to demonstrate the achievements of the COVID catch up plan.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 7: The Department of Health (DH) develop new performance measures and objective indicators to show targets and growth of healthcare workers by occupation, for inclusion in the 2023–24 Budget and DH’s next annual report.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The Department of Health does not support this recommendation.</p> <p>Public health services have responsibility as employers to determine the workforce required to deliver health care services. The department does not employ healthcare workers directly and does not mandate or set targets for public health service employers on the number of healthcare workers they should employ.</p> <p>The department already collects detailed information on healthcare workers by occupation in the public health service system and reports on this.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: The Department of Health update its Knowledge Bank Public Health Workforce data a minimum of twice per year.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The Department of Health does not support this recommendation.</p> <p>The department derives the workforce metrics presented in Knowledge Bank from the Victorian Public Sector Commission Health Sector Data Collection. This data set is only available annually.</p>
<p>Recommendation 9: In the context of the unprecedented pressures on the healthcare system as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Health regularly monitor and review its mental health and wellbeing supports for the Victorian public healthcare workforce to ensure they are responsive to the dynamic challenges faced by the sector.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Health has provided a range of mental health and wellbeing supports to all healthcare workers throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic and monitors and reviews these supports.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: The Department of Health account for the Healthcare worker retention and surge payment in the 2022–23 Budget Update.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Health has recognised the funding for this initiative as part of 2022 Pre-Election Budget Update.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 11: The Department of Health institute a performance measure to assess the wait times for residential and withdrawal rehabilitation beds in the public system for inclusion in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health is currently reviewing options for new performance and outcomes measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: The Department of Health review the existing performance measures under the Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation output to add further relevant quantity and quality measures, and to ensure targets for existing measures are sufficiently challenging.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health is currently reviewing options for new performance and outcomes measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13: The Department of Health report on the actual outcomes of Victoria’s mental health and wellbeing workforce strategy 2021–2024 every two years, to align with the update and review process of the strategy.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health will utilise the Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and Performance Framework (currently under development), to measure and report on the outcomes of Victoria’s mental health and wellbeing workforce strategy 2021-24.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 14: The Department of Health report on the net increase of mental health workers achieved by profession in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and Performance Framework.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health is currently developing the Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and Performance Framework that will include relevant workforce measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15: The Department of Health include performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget to assess the outcomes achieved under the Mental Health Community Support Services output that reflect recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System and government investment in this space.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health is currently reviewing options for new performance and outcomes measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: The Department of Health review the performance measure under the Health Protection output—Number of persons participating in newborn bloodspot or maternal serum screening—that is proposed to be discontinued in 2022–23.</p>	<p>Support in Principle</p>	<p>The performance measure, ‘Number of persons participating in newborn bloodspot or maternal serum screening’, is to be replaced with the measure ‘Percentage of newborns having a newborn bloodspot screening test’.</p> <p>In contrast to Newborn Bloodspot Screening, maternal serum screening is not a population-based screening program and the funding provided to Victorian Clinical Genetics Services for this purpose funds a limited proportion of all maternal serum screening tests delivered in Victoria. The Department of Health does not fund all maternal serum screening tests delivered in Victoria and does not collect data or report on the total number of persons participating in maternal serum screening.</p> <p>Reporting on this measure to date has been limited to the number of newborn bloodspot screens provided.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 17: The Department of Education and Training establish performance measures to track the benefits of implementing the new Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major and Victorian Pathways Certificate, regarding the quality of vocational education and training teaching and training in secondary schools, practical skill development and education outcomes, such as job attainment in chosen area of study or in priority and growth industries.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Education will look to develop measures to track the impact of senior secondary reforms over time, noting the new VCE Vocational Major and Victorian Pathways Certificate are being introduced for the first time in 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 18: The 2023–24 Budget include performance measures to track the outcomes achieved by investments to attract, retain and increase the numbers of teachers across metropolitan, rural and regional Victoria.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>The Department of Education will consider adding measures related to school workforce in future budgets.</p> <p>The Department of Education notes that other public reporting mechanisms, such as the Report on Government Services and the Victorian Teacher Supply and Demand report are robust mechanisms for monitoring the attraction and retention of teachers.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19: The 2023–24 Budget include performance measures to track the outcomes of the priorities and actions of the Victorian Skills Plan.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The outcomes of the priorities and actions of the Victorian Skills Plan are best measured through the existing suite of performance measures that cover training activity, student and employer satisfaction levels, and completion rates.</p> <p>Note: Due to machinery of government changes, responsibility for this recommendation has transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.</p>



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<p>Recommendation 20: The 2023–24 Budget disaggregate completion rates for apprentice and non-apprentice commencements for Victorian women, Indigenous peoples and people with disability.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>The inclusion of cohort breakdowns against objective indicators relating to apprenticeship and non-apprentice completion rates will be considered as part of a holistic review of the performance statement.</p> <p>Note: Due to machinery of government changes, responsibility for this recommendation has transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.</p>
<p>Recommendation 21: The 2023–24 Budget include a performance measure that reports on the kindergarten participation rate in the two years before school and a description of the methodology used to calculate the target rate.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Education is working to include a performance measure to monitor kindergarten participation rate two years before school from 2023-24. The department will also consider the most appropriate way of describing the basis for the target rate during the implementation phase of the reform via a footnote or other reporting mechanism.</p>
<p>Recommendation 22: The 2023–24 Budget include performance measures that report on the proportion of Victoria’s eligible population that participated in kindergarten and the proportion of Victoria’s vulnerable children, children with disability or culturally and linguistically diverse population that participated in kindergarten</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Education is working to develop measures to report kindergarten participation rates for children in out of home care through linking the Department of Education and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing data sets. In respect of other cohorts, the Department of Education’s review of available data sets indicates that, at present, it is not possible to establish comparable numerators and denominators. The Department of Education will continue to assess this as new data is available.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 23: The 2022–23 Budget Update provide a collated breakdown of the initiatives funded relating to the early childhood education workforce package and the 2023–24 Budget include performance measures that provide insights into the outcomes achieved by the Early Childhood Workforce Strategy.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>The Department of Education will consider adding a performance measure related to the early childhood education workforce where appropriate.</p>
<p>Recommendation 24: The Department of Education and Training address the shortcomings identified by the Committee with two new performance measures under the Early Childhood Education output with further, or altered, performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Under Review</p>	<p>The Department of Education will consider further measures and modifications to existing performance measures as the reforms mature, including considering the feasibility and coherence of measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 25: Where a new asset initiative is not accounted for in Budget Paper No. 4: State Capital Program, the relevant department provide an explanation for the omission in Budget Paper No. 3: Service Delivery</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) supports the department providing an explanation where a new asset initiative is not accounted for in Budget Paper No. 4 where the department is privy to the reason for the omission. Where required, DJCS will liaise with central agencies in providing the explanation.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 26: The Department of Justice and Community Safety publish information about the performance of the Stolen Generations Reparations Package on its dedicated website, including measures related to the timeliness of assessing general applications and applications made by those who are medically or terminally ill.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Commencing in January 2023, the following end of month performance information will be published on the Stolen Generations Reparations Package dedicated website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total number of complete applications received</li> <li>• Total number of incomplete applications received</li> <li>• Total number of full reparations paid</li> <li>• Total number of advance payments paid (people who are terminally or critically ill)</li> <li>• Total number of applications assessed by the Independent Assessment Panel</li> </ul> <p>Total number of applications assessed by the Independent Assessment Panel requiring further information for reassessment</p> <p>The time taken to assess general and advance payments depends on several factors, including the completeness of the application, whether additional information/research is required, and how long it takes an applicant to provide any requested additional information.</p> <p>At this stage of the program’s implementation, it is not possible to definitively provide fixed timelines for the different stages of the assessment process, due to the varying degrees of documentation/evidence relating to individual applicant’s circumstances. The Stolen Generations Reparations Unit is currently working on a monitoring and reporting framework which is expected to strengthen public reporting over time.</p>
<p>Recommendation 27: The Department of Justice and Community Safety establish performance measures for the Prisoner Supervision and Support and Community Based Offender Supervision outputs that provides a target for cost per person in corrections facilities and cost per person in community corrections or other performance measures that demonstrate how funding of these outputs relates to prisoner and offender populations over time.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>DJCS will review the existing suite of performance measures as part of annual budget processes. As far as practicable, DJCS will develop performance measures that measure service efficiency and effectiveness in delivering improved outcomes for people in custody and under supervision, subject to data availability and DTF guidance to ensure consistency across government.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 28: The Department of Justice and Community Safety provide in their next annual report information regarding what the Minister for COVID-19 was responsible for, what funding from the Emergency Management Capability output this Minister was responsible for and what performance measures, if any, allocated to this output were related to this Ministry.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>With the conclusion of the Crisis Council of Cabinet in November 2020, the dedicated portfolios created for the COVID-19 Coordinating Ministers for the emergency period were also de-commissioned.</p> <p>The funding associated with COVID-19 CQV was temporary and short-term. As such, it was not a standing performance measure in the Emergency Management Capability output.</p>
<p>Recommendation 29: The Department of Justice and Community Safety include outcomes-based performance measures for Triple Zero Victoria in the 2023–24 Budget. This should include performance measures that can track the enhanced capability of Triple Zero Victoria and demonstrate the outcomes of new staff investment.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>In accordance with the requirements of DTF’s Resource Management Framework (RMF), performance measures within departmental output statements are reviewed annually, and used to ensure the delivery of outputs, and act as the mechanism for accountability over government spending by specifying what the government wants to achieve. Under the RMF, departmental performance statements should also include a suite of objective indicators which demonstrate progress towards the achievement of the department’s objectives, unlike performance measures which measure outputs.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements set out in the RMF, DJCS will review the existing suite of performance measures as part of the next budget process and investigate new measures for inclusion to track the enhanced capability of Triple Zero Victoria and demonstrate the outcomes of new staff investment.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 30: After establishment, Triple Zero Victoria provide dedicated information on their website regarding the progress towards implementing the recommendations of the ESTA Capability and Service Review, including data to demonstrate performance that is updated regularly.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Inspector-General for Emergency Management (IGEM) is tasked with monitoring the implementation of ESTA Capability and Service Review recommendations, which was publicly announced in May 2022. Past experience with multiple layers of public reporting of implementation progress by both IGEM and by departments/agencies is that this introduces risks to government in terms of discrepancies between IGEM’s independent assessment and the assessment of departments and agencies.</p> <p>As the intent of the PAEC recommendation is to rebuild public trust in the Triple Zero service, it may be counterproductive to have a situation where IGEM’s independent assessment contradicts that of the agency in the public arena. It is suggested that the intent of recommendation can be met through IGEM solely monitoring and reporting publicly on the implementation of the reforms. Triple Zero Victoria’s website, once established through legislative change, could provide a link to IGEM’s independent reporting. This would also promote a streamlined approach that reduces duplication and administrative burden.</p> <p>With respect to the component of the PAEC recommendation that Triple Zero Victoria publish data to demonstrate performance that is updated regularly, this is a related but separate matter. Triple Zero Victoria routinely publishing data on its performance against standards and measures would complement the independent monitoring and reporting by IGEM on the implementation of the reforms and assist in rebuilding public trust.</p>
<p>Recommendation 31: The Department of Justice and Community Safety include performance information for the new victims of crime financial assistance scheme on the scheme’s dedicated website.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The <i>Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance Scheme) Act 2022</i> provides that the new scheme must collect and publish annual data and information in relation to the scheme’s functions. In response to the recommendation from PAEC, and to support transparency and accountability, the Department of Justice and Community Safety supports the recommendation to include performance information on the scheme’s website.</p> <p>The Department of Justice and Community Safety will consider what performance information will be included as part of design of the scheme’s website prior to the scheme commencing.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 32: When multiple departments share the administration and/ or responsibility for a program or initiative, the budget papers should clearly outline how this responsibility is divided and which elements of performance each department is responsible for.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>DJCS supports the recommendation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 33: The Department of Justice and Community Safety address the shortcomings identified by the Committee in the five new performance measures introduced in 2022–23 with further, or altered, performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p><b>Ministerial Portfolio: Police</b>  <u>Number of Family Violence incidents attended</u>  PAEC identified that this measure does not measure the impact of Victoria Police’s work in family violence or the outcome of attending family violence incidence.  As part of its annual review, DJCS will review the existing suite of performance measures and determine if the measure needs to be amended to ensure that it meets the requirements of DTF’s Resource Management Framework.</p> <p><b>Ministerial Portfolio: Crime Prevention</b>  <u>Proportion of crime prevention grant applications prepared using crime prevention resources</u>  The intention of this measure, as noted by the Committee, is to measure how many applicants are aware of and have access to crime prevention resources, in order to demonstrate the accessibility and utility of the crime prevention website and associated guidance materials, and the success of the department’s communication strategies to promote the use of these resources. Noting the Committee’s comments, and in accordance with DTF’s Resource Management Framework (RMF), DJCS will review this performance measure as part of the budget process.</p>

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		<p><b>Ministerial Portfolio: Youth Justice</b></p> <p><u>Average daily number of young people aged 10-13 under supervision</u></p> <p>PAEC recommended that an additional performance measure be introduced – Average daily number of Aboriginal young people aged 10-13 under supervision.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Justice Forum currently receives quarterly reporting on the numbers of Aboriginal children under supervision aged 10 to 13 years of age. This data is also published annually by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). Youth Justice will consider the inclusion of performance measures for 10–13-year-old children in the Budget Papers. Consideration will include reviewing the existing and planned reporting approaches to provide the most appropriate measure.</p> <p><u>Number of Children’s Court Youth Diversions (CCYD) and Proportion of successfully completed Children’s Court Youth Diversions (CCYD) (two separate measures)</u></p> <p>PAEC recommended expanding on these two measures to include other youth diversion programs administered by DJCS.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements set out in the Resource Management Framework (RMF), DJCS will review the existing suite of performance measures as part of the next budget process and investigate opportunities to include additional performance measures to provide greater coverage of youth diversion activities in DJCS. Consistent with the requirements of DTF’s RMF, additional consideration would need to be given as it would cross multiple outputs and the most appropriate output would need to be determined.</p>
<p>Recommendation 34: The Department of Transport should include further information in the 2022–23 Budget Update to explain the higher cost per level crossing removal for the 10 additional level crossings which make up the 85 by 2025 (Level Crossing Removal) capital program.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Each level crossing removal is developed individually to suit the specific site conditions and requirements, and an estimate is prepared in line with the scope for the specific location. The estimates for the additional 10 level crossing removal sites have been prepared in line with a program of works that will go out to 2025-26. Changes to the cost per level crossing removal have been included to allow for these new timeframes. When comparing costings for previous level crossing removals, specific site conditions and delivery timing need to be considered to account for these changes.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 35: The Department of Transport should include information in the 2022–23 Budget Update to explain the change in the completion date for the West Gate Tunnel capital program.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Information was provided as part of the State’s 2021-22 Budget Update, with outcomes of negotiations provided as part of the 2022-23 Budget.</p>
<p>Recommendation 36: The 2023–24 Budget should include detailed information for all major transport infrastructure projects with a total estimated investment (TEI) of \$2 billion or more at announcement, to explain revisions to the TEI of 10% or more since announcement and revisions to delivery dates of one year or more since announcement.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The State’s budget papers already provide information and explanation of movements for all infrastructure projects, not just transport projects and not just major projects over \$2 billion.</p> <p>Budget Paper No. 4 (BP4) State Capital Program provides commentary on all capital projects – either underway or recently completed – which have reported a change in TEI since the previous budget, and/or have reported a change of more than 3 months in its scheduled completion date.</p>



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<p>Recommendation 37: The Department of Transport undertake a review of the planning and design phase of the Melbourne Metro Tunnel project to identify how the costs of an anticipated risk of electromagnetic frequency interfering with critical medical and research equipment was underestimated and apply any learnings to planning approaches for future transport infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The new Metro Tunnel Parkville Station connects the Parkville education, health and research precinct to the rail network for the first time, including station entrances on the doorstep of The University of Melbourne and some of Victoria’s biggest hospitals.</p> <p>During the planning phase, the issue of electromagnetic interference (EMI) was recognised, however further work was required to fully understand, details of the equipment located in the precinct and its sensitivity to electromagnetic interference. There are limited examples around the world of new rail lines being implemented in very close proximity to such a complex environment.</p> <p>Rail Projects Victoria (RPV) has been working with stakeholders in the Parkville precinct for years, to ensure that suitable arrangements are in place prior to the Metro Tunnel testing and commissioning phase commencing in the second half of 2023. All arrangements have been funded from the existing Metro Tunnel Project budget</p> <p>This risk sits on the DoT risk register (RAIDO) and a Rail Engineering Guidance Note was released to ensure the risk is appropriately considered in the planning phase and design phase for future transport projects.</p>
<p>Recommendation 38: Rail Projects Victoria publish on its website the expected completion dates for each of the works packages that are procured to deliver the Melbourne Airport Rail Project.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>Construction of Melbourne Airport Rail will begin in 2022 with a target opening date of 2029, subject to relevant Victorian and Federal planning, environmental and other approvals.</p> <p>Melbourne Airport Rail is being procured and delivered through a number of works packages and the procurement process will continue for several years, with contracts awarded progressively. The design and construction for all packages will be carefully staged so that all works for the Melbourne Airport Rail project are completed and integrated by the target date of 2029, subject to the necessary approvals.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 39: The Department of Transport publish expected timelines on their website for the delivery of universally accessible tram stops in compliance with the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport, including its target time frames for reaching 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% compliance.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning is working to ensure our public transport network is inclusive and accessible for all Victoria. The Accessible Public Transport Action Plan 2020-2024 outlines how we are continuing to eliminate barriers to transport journeys.</p> <p>To date, we have delivered 458 level access tram stops in Melbourne. The 2022-23 State Budget is investing over \$81 million to help further improve Melbourne’s tram network to be more modern, accessible, and safe for all users. This includes delivery of level access tram stops at 6 sites along La Trobe Street in the city and upgrade of the Park Street tram interchange in South Melbourne.</p> <p>The Department of Transport and Planning is working to support approaches to the upgrading of tram stops using a new coordinated approach along a corridor, rather than individually, which is expected to make tram stop delivery more efficient in the future.</p>
<p>Recommendation 40: For the purposes of the 2023–24 Budget, the Department of Transport review the target set for the performance measure— ‘Public transport accessibility: level access tram stops upgraded’—to ensure it is sufficiently challenging.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning’s annual targets for the performance measure ‘Public transport accessibility: level access tram stops upgraded’ reflects the funded program of tram stop upgrades. Since 2015, 81 level access tram stops at 42 locations have been delivered with a further 22 stops at 11 locations currently funded for delivery.</p>
<p>Recommendation 41: The Department of Transport include a ‘Rolling stock’ subheading in Budget Paper No. 4: State Capital Program to identify those projects that create more rolling stock.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Victorian Government has invested over \$8 billion in Victorian-built rolling stock and supporting infrastructure since 2015, as per the Victorian Rolling Stock Strategy. Budget Paper No. 4 outlines the State’s Capital Program including rolling stock projects.</p>

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<p>Recommendation 42: The Department of Transport consider introducing performance measures that identify the numbers of additional units of rolling stock that are completed and introduced into service per year.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning will consider introducing performance measures that identify the additional rolling stock completed and introduced into service each year.</p>
<p>Recommendation 43: The Department of Transport develop performance measures to monitor the outcomes achieved by the investment in the delivery of road safety initiatives and projects in support of the Road Safety Action Plan 2021–2023 and the Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021–2030. This could take the form of reporting on the quality of safety data used in the department’s road safety management.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning will explore development of a performance measure to assess the quality of safety data used in the department’s road safety management. The Department utilises safety data to help identify emerging road safety issues, understand contributing factors to road trauma and to prioritise investments for interventions. Crash data is also used to evaluate the effectiveness of key road safety interventions and programs. The Department adopts a continuous improvement framework with Victoria Police, Department of Health and the Transport Accident Commission to improve the quality of road safety data available for use in road safety management.</p>
<p>Recommendation 44: The Department of Transport consider whether the current model of year-on-year funding for the Mode Shift Incentive Scheme is conducive to obtaining optimal returns on the Victorian Government’s investment in rail freight.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The current year-on-year funding of the Mode Shift Incentive Scheme (MSIS) has been appropriate as rail connections to the Port of Melbourne have been planned and delivered in recent years. On-Dock rail capacity will be delivered during 2023 that will significantly remove the port landside inefficiencies that MSIS is largely designed to assist with. The Government will monitor the impacts of the on-dock rail terminal at the Port when it opens and continue to work with industry to ensure that rail remains a competitive and efficient mode of transport to the Port, ultimately winding down the need for the MSIS.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 45: The Department of Transport address the shortcomings identified by the Committee in the performance measure under the Sustainably Manages Fish and Boating Resources output—Percentage of investigations into serious or organised fisheries offending that result in a prosecution, disruption or intelligence referral outcome— in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>As noted by the Committee, enforcement action targets have the potential to generate perverse, sub-optimal or unforeseen outcomes in the execution of law enforcement roles. The investigations subject to the current performance measure are intelligence-led, however, and are only undertaken following a preliminary investigation to determine that illegal activity is likely occurring. The measure is based on a similar one used by the Australian Federal Police and is designed so that a prosecution is not the only measure of success. This allows for alternative outcomes, such as disruptions or intelligence referrals. Disruption activities include targeted preventative education, inspections, arrests, seizure of fish and equipment, asset confiscation, licence suspension or cancellation. Intelligence referrals include an intelligence brief to a partner agency or to VFA fisheries managers for regulatory or management changes. The Department will investigate renaming the measure to clarify that it relates to investigations that are undertaken following a preliminary investigation that an illegal activity is likely occurring.</p>
<p>Recommendation 46: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing publish on the Big Housing Build website the net gain of public, social and affordable housing dwellings delivered each financial year under the program, including how the Government is tracking to meet the 25% commitment in regional Victoria.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Information about homes delivered through the Big Housing Build is reported in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) annual report. More than 7,400 homes have been completed or are underway. This includes almost 2,900 homes in regional Victoria.</p> <p>Homes Victoria will further consider how it reports housing delivered through the Big Housing Build.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 47: The 2022–23 Budget Update and future budget papers include analysis of the potential fiscal risks to the Big Housing Build and other projects caused by supply chain trends.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Residential construction activity across the State is occurring through Victoria’s Big Housing Build. The program is delivered by Homes Victoria.</p> <p>Funded in the 2020-21 Budget, the program invests \$5.3 billion and includes \$1.25 billion for regional areas. The program has recently merged with the Building New Homes to Fight Homelessness program, bringing the total estimated investment for new homes for Victorians up to \$5.5 billion.</p> <p>A total of more than 12 400 social and affordable dwellings are being delivered through partnerships with the community housing sector, private sector construction and development companies, superannuation funds and other investors.</p> <p>Government will investigate including commentary around supply change challenges specific to residential housing development for the 2023-24 Budget.</p>
<p>Recommendation 48: The 2022–23 Budget Update should clearly identify the amount of funding allocated to the Affordable Housing Rental Scheme.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>Funding allocated to the Affordable Housing Rental Scheme is included as part of the \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build. Expenditure to date on the Big Housing Build is available in Budget Paper 4.</p> <p>Information about homes delivered through the Big Housing Build is reported in the DFFH annual report. Homes Victoria will further consider how it reports housing delivered through the Big Housing Build, including the Affordable Housing Rental Scheme.</p>
<p>Recommendation 49: The Government publish the amount and source of the funding allocated to Homelessness to a Home in the 2022–23 Budget Update.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>In the Budget Papers, the Government only itemises initiatives funded since the last Budget Paper release. In this case, the Homelessness to a Home program did not receive new funding between the 2022-23 Budget and 2022-23 Budget Update (Victorian Pre-Election Budget Update), so this initiative was not included.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 50: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing consider providing ongoing funding to the Homelessness After Hours Service and introduce performance measures to report on the outcomes achieved by the Service.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>After-hours clients are captured in existing homelessness BP3 measures including 'Number of clients assisted to address and prevent homelessness' and 'Number of clients provided with accommodation'. The After-Hours program is monitored by DFFH for key performance measures established through the service agreement.</p> <p>No further action is proposed.</p>
<p>Recommendation 51: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing review the service delivery and funding models for supported residential services facilities to, where possible, prevent the loss of further facilities.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>DFFH is reviewing policy settings in relation to the SRS sector and will consider PAEC's recommendations as part of this broader work.</p>
<p>Recommendation 52: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing develop budget paper performance measures to report on demand for, and availability of, supported residential services (SRS) pension-level supported places, the quality of SRS provided and whether they meet client needs.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>DFFH is reviewing policy settings in relation to the SRS sector and will consider PAEC's recommendations as part of this broader work.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 53: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing develop budget paper performance measures to report on demand for kinship and foster carers and retention periods of these types of carers.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Further work with peak bodies and the sector is required. Further work would also be required to develop the data capturing and reporting processes and systems. 'Retention' and 'demand', particularly in the context of kinship carers as they are not recruited/employed, will need to be defined. As per legislative/policy settings, kinship care is the preferred model of care, and it is only when a kinship care arrangement cannot be identified that other forms of home-based care is considered.</p> <p>These measures would need to be considered for potential introduction in a future budget to enable building of the time series and development of targets.</p>
<p>Recommendation 54: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing review both the 2016 care allowance framework and carer support systems to ensure they provide adequate funding and support for the sector.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>DFFH will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review the Care Allowance Policy and Procedures guidance to improve care allowance processes with a view to improving transparency and equity</li> <li>• review and update available information and resources that support kinship carers to understand the care allowance application and decision-making process, including eligibility for each care allowance rate.</li> </ul> <p>Any further changes to the care allowance are budget dependent</p>
<p>Recommendation 55: The 2023–24 Budget include a performance measure that reports on the proportion of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care managed by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>DFFH reports on the transition of Aboriginal children to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) on a quarterly basis to the Aboriginal Children's Forum (ACF). The forum is co-chaired by the Minister of Child Protection and Family Services, Secretary of DFFH and the hosting ACCO. It has been agreed by DFFH and the ACF that the ACF is the oversight body of such initiatives.</p> <p>DFFH will develop a measure for inclusion in the 2023-24 Budget that demonstrates the continued commitment to transition Aboriginal children to ACCOs.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 56: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing create a performance measure under the Family Violence Service Delivery output that reports on the proportion of people seeking a refuge or crisis accommodation who are granted this support.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>DFFH supports in principle improving visibility on the level of unmet demand for family violence refuge and crisis accommodation. However, limitations to available data mean that there is currently no comprehensive way to capture performance against the measure recommended by PAEC.</p> <p>DFFH, through Family Safety Victoria, will explore other measures that could be used as proxies to establish the level of unmet demand for family violence refuge and crisis accommodation, including the rates of victim survivors accommodated in motels.</p>
<p>Recommendation 57: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing address the shortcomings identified by the Committee in the performance measure under the Office for Disability output—Departments report on progress to Office for Disability on state disability plan responsibilities within agreed timeframes—in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>DFFH tabled the final report under <i>Absolutely Everyone: 2017–2020 state disability plan</i> on 22 March 2022. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the report covers the 2019, 2020 and 2021 reporting periods. The report has been published through the Victorian Parliament’s tabled documents database since that time. DFFH published the final report under <i>Absolutely Everyone</i> on the Victorian Government’s website on 13 December 2022.</p> <p>To respond to PAEC and VAGO’s recommendations and to align the performance measure to the governance and policy settings outlined in <i>Inclusive Victoria: state disability plan 2022-2026</i>, DFFH will look to revise the performance measure.</p>



PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 58: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) describe the activities of Always Live that used Government funding in its next annual report, including a cost/benefit analysis of those activities and the economic activity they generated. DJPR consider publishing the specific costs and outcomes where Government funding is used by Always Live for large events.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry, and Regions (DJSIR) will continue to report on grants consistent with the Model Annual Report of Operations Guidelines provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p> <p>DJSIR will publish details of the grants to <i>Always Live</i> and the economic value of events and other benefits of the festival in its Annual Report. As appropriate, the benefits of large events comprising multiple contracted artists or groups will be included in these details.</p> <p>Consistent with previous and current practice for other large events, details of specific contracts with individual artists or their representatives will not be published. These details are a commercial matter between the artists and Always Live Limited.</p>
<p>Recommendation 59: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and the Department of Treasury and Finance outline in future budget papers the reasoning for listing a new asset initiative relevant to a department under Public Non-Financial Corporations in Budget Paper No. 4: State Capital Program and which agency is responsible for delivering the project.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Chapter 1 of the State Budget Paper No. 3 (BP3) provides an overview of government's new funding for output and capital initiatives. The Chapter presents the new initiatives by department, or in some cases whole-of-government grouping. Where new initiatives relate to public sector bodies, including Public Non-Financial Corporations (PNFCs), they are listed under their portfolio department's heading.</p> <p>State Budget Paper No. 4 (BP4) describes the government's asset investment program, including new and existing major capital projects. BP4 details the projects by General Government Sector (Chapter 2) and Public Non-Financial Corporations (Chapter 3). This distinction reflects the fact that capital projects within the General Government sector will see the assets held by the relevant government department and general government entity, while PNFC projects will be delivered and held by the PNFCs.</p> <p>The Department of Treasury and Finance prepares all State Budget Papers for the Treasurer. Any changes to the format or content of State Budget Papers should be directed to the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 60: Creative Victoria update, a minimum of once per year where possible, the data presented on its website as part of its Creative Impact Framework that is used to measure the overall impact of the creative sector.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Creative Victoria will update its website to publish measures relating to the overall impact of the creative sector. The three measures to be published annually are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative sector employment, updated quarterly (ABS)</li> <li>• Creative sector gross value add, updated annually (NIEIR)</li> <li>• Creative sector business counts, updated annually (ABS).</li> </ul>
<p>Recommendation 61: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions and Creative Victoria report on the impact of government investment in relation to the Creative State 2025 strategy, aligning investment and outcomes achieved to the objectives and actions outlined in the strategy</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Creative Impact Framework is designed to report on the impact of the Creative State 2025 strategy. Creative Victoria will update its website to publish annual key performance indicator data in relation to Creative Victoria funded investments.</p>
<p>Recommendation 62: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions publish performance indicators associated with the VicScreen strategy in its annual report.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Performance indicators associated with the VicScreen strategy are in VicScreen's 2021-22 Annual Report, which was tabled on 20 December 2022. The indicators are also included in DJPR's (DJSIR's) Departmental Performance Statement, which is published in Budget Paper 3, Chapter 2, along with DJPR's 2020-21 Annual Report.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 63: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions develop new performance measures that assess the outcomes of the investment in the screen industry, including around the VicScreen strategy's four priorities and actual economic activity generated by government investment.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>VicScreen's current BP3 performance reporting adequately assesses the economic outcomes of the investment in the screen industry. In FY24 VicScreen will work with DJSIR to investigate if there is an appropriately robust method to assess cultural outcomes of government investment in the screen industry.</p>
<p>Recommendation 64: The Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions develop further performance measures related to Jobs Victoria, including measures demonstrating the outcomes of investments in industries experiencing workforce shortages and in providing support to specific priority cohorts, for example women, young and older Victorians.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>DJSIR supports this recommendation in principle and will review Jobs Victoria performance measures for 2023-24.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 65: Regional Development Victoria publish on their website summary details and expected outcomes of all projects that are receiving grant funding through the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Support-in-principle as currently all projects supported under the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund are published on the Regional Development Victoria website, with varying levels of information. Additional information to what is currently published could be added, particularly in relation to the suggestion of “summary details and expected outcomes”.</p> <p>Grant amounts are published for Regional Infrastructure Fund projects, Investment Fast Track Projects, and reprioritised initiatives but not for grants awarded under the Regional Jobs Fund where the amount of funding committed to each project is an investment incentive and is commercial-in-confidence as the State is in a competitive market for investment attraction. General information about a supported project, key outcomes and benefits to the State may be published or made public through Ministerial announcements, departmental communication channels or both.</p>
<p>Recommendation 66: Regional Development Victoria conduct evaluations of the actual outcomes of high value projects that receive grant funding of above \$1 million. These evaluations should be publicly available and outline how the outcomes of projects align with the objectives of the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund and the relevant funding stream.</p>	<p>Under Review</p>	<p>Under review for part of the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, being Regional Infrastructure Fund projects, Investment Fast Track Projects and reprioritised initiatives, noting many of these grants are less than \$1 million. This is not supported for grants awarded under the Regional Jobs Fund where the amount of funding committed to each project is an investment incentive and is commercial-in-confidence as the State is in a competitive market for investment attraction. General information about a supported project, key outcomes and benefits to the State may be published or made public through Ministerial announcements, departmental communication channels or both.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 67: Once allocated, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions publish information about grants provided under the Victorian Industry Investment Fund (VIIF). This should include the size of the grant, a summary of the project proposed for funding, the expected outcomes of the project and an evaluation of the outcomes of the grant and how they align with the VIIF's strategic objectives.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Grants awarded under the Victorian Industry Investment Fund will be reported in DJSIR's Annual Report in line with standard disclosure requirements. The amount of funding committed to each project is an investment incentive and is commercial-in-confidence as the State is in a nationally and globally competitive market for investment attraction. General information about a supported project, key outcomes and benefits to the State may be made public through Ministerial announcements, departmental communication channels or both. DJSIR will comply with the evaluation requirements for VIIF as set out in the Department of Treasury and Finance's Resource Management Framework.</p>
<p>Recommendation 68: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions publish a report evaluating the success of the Victorian Government's rebate and voucher schemes implemented in response to COVID-19 which include total program expenditure and outcomes achieved and document the lessons learnt from administering the stimulus package.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>DJSIR will comply with the evaluation requirements for the COVID-19 Business Stimulus Package as set out in the Department of Treasury and Finance's Resource Management Framework.</p>
<p>Recommendation 69: The Victorian Government regularly report on a dedicated website the actual costs related to the 2026 Commonwealth Games divided into output and asset funding.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>As part of DJSIR's standard reporting mechanisms, output costs will be reported in Budget Paper 3, asset funding and actual associated asset expenditures will be reported in Budget Paper 4. Expenditure related to the Commonwealth Games will be reported in the department's Annual Report. The Organising Committee will also publish an Annual Report. These annual reports will also be available on the Victoria 2026 website, which currently is <a href="https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games">https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games</a></p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 70: The Victorian Government regularly report on a dedicated website the status of infrastructure projects related to the 2026 Commonwealth Games, including estimated costs and delivery dates and, if required, explanations for any changes.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Infrastructure project information is published on the Victorian Government website. Online platforms will continue to be used to provide Commonwealth Games updates to the Victorian community. The State is committed to delivering the Commonwealth Games infrastructure projects with full transparency for the public disclosure. As part of DJSIR's reporting mechanisms, actual expenditures will be reported in the department's Annual Report. The annual report will also be available on the Victoria 2026 website, which currently is <a href="https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games">https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games</a></p>
<p>Recommendation 71: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions publish detailed information regarding how the four regional hubs and any additional locations for the 2026 Commonwealth Games were determined.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Within the context of a regional Games, the four regional hubs and Shepparton were selected based on the capacity of the cities to host the Games. To minimise the cost of the Games, the State has sought to use existing infrastructure where suitable for competition. The considerations included what existing facilities are available to host Commonwealth Games events currently, what upgrades will be required and whether new or temporary venues will need to be installed. The best placed locations also exhibited suitable logistic and transport options for athletes and spectators and displayed a good gateway to other parts of regional Victoria. Further information about the hubs is available on the Victoria 2026 website, which currently is <a href="https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games">https://www.vic.gov.au/victoria-2026-commonwealth-games</a></p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 72: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions publish its methodology for determining the benefits and costs associated with hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Victoria, including the cost/benefit ratio and the social, cultural and sports tourism impacts.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Based on the economic modelling publicly released by the Victorian Government, it is anticipated that the 2026 Commonwealth Games will contribute more than \$3 billion to Victoria’s economy and create more than 600 full-time equivalent jobs before the Games, 3,900 jobs during the Games and a further 3,000 jobs beyond the Closing Ceremony. The <i>Victorian Budget 2022/23</i> included \$2.6 billion allocated to the hosting of the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games, delivering a positive cost-benefit ratio.</p> <p>Victoria 2026 will introduce an innovative multi-city model to the Commonwealth Games, driving the social, cultural and tourism benefits from the Games across the five sporting host cities and throughout regional Victoria. The benefits of hosting the Games include: international marketing of regional Victoria as a tourism destination, increased international and interstate visitation, investment in new and upgraded community sport infrastructure, investment in new housing (including social and affordable housing), and job creation in the supply chain for Games delivery.</p> <p>The methodology undertaken to determine the benefits and costs associated with hosting the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games is cabinet-in-confidence.</p>
<p>Recommendation 73: The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions address the shortcomings identified by the Committee in the performance measure under the Industry, Innovation, Medical Research and Small Business output—Strategic priority businesses engaged on investment and growth—in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Committee sought confirmation on how strategic priority businesses are defined. Strategic priority businesses are identified through consideration of relevant policy priorities, industry development strategies, economic circumstances, scale, employment, turnover, capital expenditure, research and development expenditure, location, supply chain criticality, inputs, investment potential and growth opportunities such as innovation and export markets. As the approach often supports the implementation of departmental business growth initiatives and programs the selection of businesses is also informed by specific guidelines in use at the time.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 74: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning develop budget paper performance measures that holistically assess the long-term benefits of the Power Saving Bonus program, for example, reporting on the total volume of traffic to the Victorian Energy Compare (VEC) website, the proportion of recurring VEC users, or the proportion of VEC users who report cost-savings after using the website.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports in-principle this recommendation. DEECA will consider options for new budget performance measures that assess the long-term benefits of the program. It is noted that the existing measure 'Vulnerable Victorian energy consumers reached through consumer support programs' already reflects a long-term benefit of the program, that being the extent to which the program is attracting and having impact on its target demographic.</p> <p>As per standard practice, the department will continuously review these performance measures to ensure that they accurately reflect the delivery and achievements of this program.</p>
<p>Recommendation 75: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning identify the new output initiatives in the 2023–24 Budget that contribute to biodiversity conservation.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports in-principle this recommendation. Chapter 1 of Budget Paper No. 3 will list all new output budget initiatives that receive funding in the 2023-24 budget. The department will endeavour to ensure that the title and description of the initiative identifies those which contribute to biodiversity conservation.</p>
<p>Recommendation 76: In the 2023–24 Budget the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning outline the amount of funding allocated for owner-occupier and rental households relevant to any new output initiatives that form part of the Solar Homes program.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports-in-principle this recommendation. Chapter 1 of Budget Paper No. 3 will list all new output budget initiatives that receive funding in the 2023-24 budget. The department will endeavour to ensure that the amount of any new funding allocated for owner-occupier and rental households is identified and disclosed.</p>



PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 77: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning report on the number of interest-free loans approved under the Solar Homes program each year by household type (owner-occupier and rental) and the proportion of those loans that are paid within the required four years.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports this recommendation.</p> <p>DEECA will report on the number of interest-free loans approved under the Solar Homes program each year by household type (owner-occupier and rental) and the proportion of those loans that are paid within the required four years. This will be included in the DEECA Annual Report.</p>
<p>Recommendation 78: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning publish in its annual report collated data on the volume of recycled water and treated stormwater used in Victoria against its objective of ensuring the State has 'safe and sustainable water resources'.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports-in-principle this recommendation.</p> <p>DEECA provides information on recycled water use via the Victorian Water Accounts. This information is published in March-May each year, for the preceding year. The recycled water data required to meet the recommendation is not available early enough to enable collation, quality assurance and reporting in DEECA's Annual Report. DEECA will investigate whether the Victorian Water Accounts can be referenced in the annual report or whether it can be reported in arrears.</p> <p>The use of stormwater as a water resource is emerging and there is currently no state-wide stormwater dataset or reporting protocol which can be referenced. Data will be collated from Water Corporations, Local Government, and private organisations who all manage stormwater reuse assets in the future. The department will consider developing new performance measures on stormwater for inclusion in future budgets once meaningful datasets are available.</p>
<p>Recommendation 79: The 2022–23 Budget Update reflect the correct payments made on behalf of the State to the Victorian Desalination Project in 2022–23.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports-in-principle this recommendation.</p> <p>As there is no Budget Update in 2022-23, the Department will report the final payments made to the Victorian Desalination Project in the 2022-23 DEECA Annual Report.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 80: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning ensure that funding for new initiatives in the Planning portfolio is commensurate with up-to-date demographic changes and population trends, such as increased growth rates in regional and peri-urban Victoria.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>Funding of new initiatives in the Planning portfolio require detailed business cases that include detailed demand driven information based on the most up to date demographic and population projections and growth estimates.</p>
<p>Recommendation 81: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning address the shortcomings in the three new performance measures introduced in 2022–23 and identified by the Committee through further, or altered, performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Overall Support-in-principle</p>	<p><i>See below 81 a, b, c</i></p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>a. "Microgrids established" - This measure aims to quantify the delivery of energy resilience solutions. Microgrids include solar panels, batteries and/or generators for residential or commercial premises, virtual power plants and community scale battery storage solutions. Although installing and establishing microgrids is an important step in developing reliable renewable energy, a more meaningful performance measure would report on how microgrids contributed to energy security, cost savings and sustainability</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports-in-principle this recommendation. It is too early in the market's current maturity and the rollout of microgrids to be able to develop and report on how microgrids contribute to energy security, cost savings and sustainability at a whole of system scale. Project specific targets could possibly be considered.</p> <p>The department will review and consider amending the current performance measure or developing a new performance measure for inclusion in the 2023-24 budget or in future budgets.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>b. “Applications for Zero Emissions Vehicle subsidies approved” - This measure aims to quantify the eligibility applications for Zero Emissions Vehicle subsidies that are approved by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The Committee commends this new measure but notes that the Committee’s Report on the 2021–22 Budget Estimates recommended the addition of a performance measure for annual electric vehicle (EV) sales and the progress towards the department’s long-term target of EVs comprising 50% of Victorian light vehicle sales by 2030. The Committee notes that this performance measure neither tracks the annual EV sales nor the department’s progress towards its 2030 target.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports in-principle this recommendation. DEECA will work with the Department of Transport and Planning and external data providers to report on new light vehicle zero emissions vehicles (ZEV) sales through a new departmental objective indicator in the 2023-24 budget papers and reported on in DELWP’s annual report, noting that ZEV sales are not an output of the department. Reporting on ZEV sales reflects progress towards the department’s objective of achieving 50 per cent of Victorian light vehicle sales by 2030, therefore in line with the definitions in the Resource Management Framework, this measure is best represented as a departmental objective indicator. This will be supported by Solar Victoria, who administer Victoria’s subsidy program for new light vehicle ZEV sales, collates and disseminates data on EV sales across government, and formally reports on the BP3 target of subsidies issued under our ZEV subsidy program.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>c. “Successful objection rate for rating authority valuations”</p> <p>This measure aims to reflect the quality of the rating and taxing valuation service in line with the International Valuation Standards (IVS) benchmark. The Committee was unable to determine the benchmark related to ‘objection rate’ in IVS.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) supports this recommendation and has revised this performance measure (and will in turn revise the associated target in the 2023-24 Budget) to better reflect the quality of the department’s rating valuation service as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. This performance measure demonstrates the quality of the rating valuation service</li> <li>b. The result is the number of successful valuation objections divided by the total number of objections reviewed within the reporting period, converted to a percentage</li> <li>c. The target was informed by historical rates of successful objections</li> <li>d. The measure only partially reflects the quality of the rating valuation service, since rating valuations are adjusted for a variety of reasons, not all of which are due to the quality and accuracy of the original valuation</li> <li>e. An on-target or below-target successful objection rate will indicate that the department is providing an accurate and authoritative valuation service.</li> </ol>
<p>Recommendation 82: The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning review the five discontinued performance measures outlined by the Committee.</p>	<p>Overall not support</p>	<p><i>See below 82 a, b, c</i></p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>a. "EPA prosecutions are selected using a risk-based approach, focused on environmental outcomes and are successful" - This measure is proposed to be discontinued as the activity is reflected through a new departmental objective indicator "Environment Protection Authority (EPA) prosecutions result in a finding of guilt or a clarification of the law". The Committee notes that converting the performance measure to an objective indicator may risk losing information about EPA prosecutions in the budget papers. The Committee notes that output performance measures enable meaningful comparisons and benchmarking over time and recommends that the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) retain the performance measure to report on how the EPA's prosecutions align with the EPA's objectives.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) does not support this recommendation.</p> <p>DEECA has considered the inclusion of the 'EPA prosecutions are selected using a risk-based approach, focused on environmental outcomes and are successful' as a performance measure.</p> <p>DEECA notes that the conversion of the output performance measure to a departmental objective indicator was completed in response to a recommendation in the Auditor-General's 2021 report <i>'Measuring and Reporting on Service Delivery'</i>; i.e., that departments "review their objectives, indicators and output performance measures using a service logic approach to clearly distinguish between their service objectives, inputs, processes and outputs, and use this information to re-validate and, as needed, redesign their performance statements".</p> <p>The commencement of prosecutions is an output activity within EPA's control, but court outcomes are not. Prosecution outcomes reflect progress towards achieving the outcome (objective indicator) rather than measuring a departmental output (performance measure) in line with definitions of the Resource Management Framework.</p> <p>Output activities that may result in prosecutions are currently reported on by EPA through several performance measures, such as inspections, reviews of duty holder compliance with remedial notices, and responses to priority waste incidents.</p> <p>In addition, objective indicators are reported on in DEECA's annual reports in more detail than output performance measures, including outcome trends over time and a narrative on progress and key achievements in each reporting year. Therefore, this critical information continues to be made available to the public.</p> <p>The impacts that the new objective indicator is intended to capture and report on are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) prosecutions resulting in a finding of guilt; and</li> <li>ii) prosecutions resulting in clarification of the law.</li> </ul> <p>Reflecting prosecution activity and outcomes at the objective indicator level enables a coherent link and transparent reporting on how the 'Statutory Activities and Environment Protection' output is helping to achieve the objective of a 'Healthy, resilient and biodiverse environment'</p> <p>As per standard practice, DEECA undertakes a continuous review of performance and outcome measures to ensure that they accurately reflect program delivery success.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>b. "Proportion of waste diverted away from landfill" - This measure is proposed to be discontinued as the activity is reflected by a new departmental objective indicator 'Increase in diversion of municipal and industrial waste from landfill'. The Committee notes this may risk losing critical information about the success of recycling methods in Victoria in the budget papers. The Committee recommends that DELWP consider the proposed objective indicator as a performance measure to demonstrate improvements in recycling methods and waste diversion in Victoria.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) does not support this recommendation. DEECA has considered retaining 'proportion of waste diverted away from landfill' as a performance (output) measure. However, this metric to measure improvements in recycling methods and waste diversion in Victoria better aligns to the definition of a departmental objective (outcome) indicator.</p> <p>The conversion of the original performance (output) measure to a departmental objective (outcome) indicator was undertaken in response to the Auditor-General's 2021 report <i>'Measuring and Reporting on Service Delivery'</i>. The findings and recommendations of this report recommended that departments follow a service logic model to clearly distinguish between service outputs and outcomes and use this information to redesign performance statements as needed.</p> <p>Expressing this measure as an objective (outcome) indicator is also more closely aligned to the DTF Resource Management Framework, which defines the Budget Paper No. 3 performance management concepts around outputs and objectives.</p> <p>Diversion of waste from landfill directly represents progress towards achieving a key objective/outcome of <i>Recycling Victoria</i>, the Victorian Government's 10-year policy and action plan for waste and recycling. Diversion of waste from landfill is the outcome of services being delivered, rather than a measure of service delivery (output measure). Note that the words 'municipal and industrial waste' have been added to the metric title to improve clarity on the scope of the data. The calculation method has not changed.</p> <p>Critical information on service output activities that support the recovery and diversion of waste will continue to be reported through several Budget Paper No. 3 performance measures, including household access to kerbside glass and food and organic waste collection services, increasing waste processing capacity, infrastructure upgrades for collecting and sorting e-waste, and timeliness of major investment grant applications, all of which contribute to the overall outcome of 'increased diversion of municipal and industrial waste from landfill'.</p> <p>As a departmental objective (outcome) indicator, this metric will continue to be reported in the budget papers to demonstrate progress towards the achievement of the 'Healthy, Resilient and Biodiverse Environment' objective. This objective indicator is reported in DEECA's annual report with actual results reported over time and a narrative on progress and key achievements included in each reporting year. Therefore, this information continues to be made available to the public</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>c. “Building inspections undertaken by the Victoria Building Authority to identify use of noncompliant cladding materials”</p> <p>“Building audits undertaken by the Victoria Building Authority to identify use of noncompliant cladding materials”</p> <p>“In-scope government buildings that have commenced cladding rectification works”</p> <p>These three measures are proposed to be discounted as the cladding rectification works program will be completed in 2021–22. The initiative was introduced as an asset initiative in the 2018–19 Budget with a total estimated investment of \$10 million. The 2019–20 Budget further allocated \$165.3 million over five years as output funding to the initiative (ending in 2022–23). The 2019–20 Budget also allocated \$4.5 million in 2019–20 to the Transforming Victoria’s building system initiative, to continue the Victorian Building Authority’s work to meet inspections of 10% of building permits, as committed to in the response to the Victorian Cladding Taskforce Interim Report. As the Cladding Safety Victoria’s Strategic Plan 2021–25 was released in November 2021 and spans four years, the Committee considers the discontinuation of these measures to be premature and recommends that they be reinstated.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>DTP has reviewed these measures and advises the following:</p> <p>The Cladding Rectification Portfolio (CRP) started in 2018 and will be completed by 2025, however some of the individual programs under the portfolio will be or have been completed before 2025.</p> <p>Recommendations (i) and (ii) relate to VBA measures associated with the Statewide Cladding Audit (SCA). The SCA concluded in August 2021 and the Statewide Cladding Audit Intensive Inspection Initiative (SCAIII) inspections and audits were concluded in June 2022. It’s recommended that these measures are not reinstated.</p> <p>In relation to recommendation (iii), at the time the 2022-23 BP3 targets were set (October 2021), Cladding Safety Victoria (CSV) advised that the target for in-scope government buildings to commence cladding rectification works would be 0. This is because all buildings were expected to commence in FY2021-22. As at 31 December 2022, all of the 131 in-scope buildings had commenced works. Given this, it is not recommended that this measure be reinstated.</p>



PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 83: The funding and resourcing for the County Court of Victoria be reviewed, noting that the targets related to case clearance rates and on time case processing have been modified down, in part due to the Court's increase in pending matters and constraints on resourcing.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>Court Services Victoria (CSV) will continue to work with key stakeholders, including Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) officers, to assess funds and resources for the County Court, and support the Court to meet demands and its ongoing efforts to reduce pending matters.</p> <p>CSV notes pending matters in the County Court's criminal division increased as a result of the suspension of jury trials during COVID-19 outbreaks, in line with Victorian Government health directions. As a result, the Court revised down its case clearance and on-time case processing targets to reflect the impact on court operations.</p> <p>Through legislative amendment and additional funding, the County Court implemented various initiatives, such as remote hearings, active case management, early appointment of replacement judges, and judge alone trials, to progress criminal cases as much as possible during the pandemic. Further, as a result of the resumption of criminal jury trials in December 2021, the number of pending criminal trials in the County Court has decreased substantially and this trend is expected to continue in 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 84: The 2023–24 Budget include performance measures that track the outcomes of programs introduced to reduce the number of pending matters across Victorian courts and tribunals.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>CSV's Budget Paper No. 3 performance measures includes <i>case clearance rates</i> and <i>on-time case processing</i> which are based on case finalisations with improved outcomes generally reflecting in more cases being finalised and a reduction in pending matters. As of October 2022, CSV has also published the number of pending matters across Victorian courts and tribunals on its website (accessible to the general public) to assist in tracking outcomes.</p> <p>CSV is reviewing its Budget Paper No. 3 measures as, noting that the approval of any new performance measures – including measures as recommended by PAEC – will be a matter for Courts Council, the Attorney-General and the Assistant Treasurer as part of future Budget processes.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 85: Court Services Victoria perform a review of the Bendigo Law Courts project and publicly report on learnings to inform future law court projects. The report should include assessment of the project's development, construction and operationalisation stages and how the project has relieved demand pressures and improved the court services it delivers.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>CSV supports PAEC's recommendation that it performs a review of Bendigo Law Courts project. This is in line with CSV's commitment to best practice and supports one of CSV's key priorities – as stated in CSV's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 – to invest in contemporary, safe and integrated venues that are fit for purpose and people centred.</p> <p>CSV commits to assessing the Bendigo Law Courts project (on track for operations to commence in early 2023) and its impacts on demand pressures and the delivery of improved court services once the court is fully operational, via a voluntary Gateway 6 process (Benefits Realisation Gate).</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 86: The 2023–24 Budget include performance measures that assess the progress and effectiveness of treaty negotiations between the State and Aboriginal negotiating parties, and the compliance of the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian Government with key statutory obligations.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) does not support the recommendation of establishing a new Budget Paper No. 3 (BP3) performance measure on the progress and effectiveness of Treaty negotiations between the State and Aboriginal negotiating parties – noting that all statutory Treaty elements required under Victoria's Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018 (Treaty Act) have been negotiated and delivered in 2022 and that all Whole of Victorian Government (WOVG) funding to support Treaty negotiations lapses in June 2023. Future BP3 performance measures on negotiations can be considered in future budget cycles to support State negotiations.</p> <p>DPC does not support the request for BP3 performance measure reporting on statutory compliance for the State and Aboriginal negotiating parties. The agreement and establishment of the Treaty Authority and Self-Determination Fund in 2022 included formal agreement between the State and the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria on funding allocations for each of these entities and reporting and compliance requirements. These elements have been agreed under the Treaty Act and have specific independence requirements that have been the subject of lengthy negotiations to reach formal and legal agreement. In addition to the specific reporting and compliance mechanisms agreed with each of these treaty elements, there are existing statutory reporting requirements for the State under the Treaty Act on the status and progress of the Treaty process and individual treaty elements. The last report was tabled in the Victorian Parliament in August 2022.</p> <p>Lastly, it is also not appropriate for the State to report on First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria compliance in the manner suggested given they are an equal and independent partner in the Treaty process and there is a significant risk these proposed measures are in breach of treaty negotiation protocols and the Treaty Act. The First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria also have existing statutory reporting requirements under the Treaty Act. The last First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria report was tabled alongside the State’s Treaty report in the Victorian Parliament in August 2022.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 87: The Department of Premier and Cabinet’s annual report detail the proportion and source of funding allocated to support the operations and capital expenditure of the self-determination fund and the Treaty Authority, including the opening and closing balance of both treaty elements at the end of each financial year.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>DPC does not support this recommendation as it is not appropriate for the State to report on the funding of the Treaty Authority and Self-Determination Fund in the manner recommended. These elements have been agreed under Victoria's <i>Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018</i> (Treaty Act) and have specific independence and financial reporting requirements that have been the subject of lengthy negotiations to reach formal and legal agreement. As referenced in response to recommendation 86, in addition to the specific reporting and compliance mechanisms agreed with each of these treaty elements, there are existing statutory reporting requirements for the State under the Treaty Act on the status and progress of the Treaty process and individual treaty elements. The last report was tabled in the Victorian Parliament in August 2022.</p> <p>The Treaty Authority is funded through Special Appropriation under its facilitative legislation (<i>Treaty Authority and Other Treaty Elements Act 2022</i>) which outlines the funding allocation and the application of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>. The Treaty Authority Agreement between the State and the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria outlines the reporting and accountability requirements to ensure statutory compliance and funding transparency whilst recognising that the Treaty Authority is wholly independent of government and does not report to a Minister or any area of government. Under the Treaty Authority Agreement, the Treaty Authority must prepare an annual report that will be made publicly available and must include finances and governance.</p> <p>The Self-Determination Fund is required by the Treaty Act to also be independent of Government and has been the subject of careful drafting to ensure the State does not overstep reporting requirements that may be in breach of the independence requirements of the Fund under the Treaty Act. The Self-Determination Fund Agreement (which established the Fund under the Treaty Act to be administered by the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria) outlines reporting, accountability and financial obligations of both the State and the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria which have been formally and legally agreed. Under the Self-Determination Fund Agreement, the Assembly must report publicly on any funding distributions and administration costs of the Fund, including through an annual report under the Trust Deed with publicly available audited financial statements.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 88: The Department of Premier and Cabinet should consider including footnote disclosures or additional commentary in the budget papers to detail the types of activities delivered by Service Victoria that are included in its performance measures.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Service Victoria will consider opportunities to provide more detail about the types of activities delivered by Service Victoria that meet performance reporting requirements set out in DTF's Resource Management Framework.</p> <p>Note: Service Victoria was transferred to the Department of Government Services on 1 January 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 89: The Department of Premier and Cabinet should distinguish between end-to-end services and hyperlinks to other agency and department websites and platforms when reporting on the number of new services delivered by Service Victoria annually.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>This measure reports on the number of new end-to-end services that Service Victoria delivers. Service Victoria will review the current BP3 performance measure ahead of publication of the 2023-24 Departmental Performance Statement.</p> <p>Note: Service Victoria was transferred to the Department of Government Services on 1 January 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 90: The Department of Premier and Cabinet publish an update on Service Victoria's website about when digital driving licenses will be available in Victoria.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Service Victoria will work towards opportunities to publish information about the progress of digital driving licence reform in Victoria, including advice on when Victorians can expect this service to be available.</p> <p>Note: Service Victoria was transferred to the Department of Government Services on 1 January 2023.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 91: All government departments and agencies publish in their annual reports the number of jobs successfully filled through the Jobs and Skills Exchange (JSE), the number of jobs awarded to contractors, consultants or under labour hire arrangements after being unsuccessfully advertised on the JSE, and the total estimated savings realised as a result of the JSE.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Jobs and Skills Exchange (JSE) is a primarily digital service platform which supports and is a key enabler of VPS staff mobility, workforce capability and career progression, and contributes to reduce WOVG labour hire expenditure through utilising the platform to engage existing VPS staff where possible.</p> <p>The JSE's key focus areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating more efficient movement of staff to meet evolving workforce priorities including peak and surge capacity and flexible and hybrid ways of working.</li> <li>• Building stronger links across government through staff mobility.</li> <li>• Aligning the workforce with the long-term skills and capability requirements of the VPS.</li> </ul> <p>DPC will work in partnership with the Victorian Public Sector Commission and other Government departments to assess options to improve the quality of recruitment and placement data in a systematic and automated way.</p> <p>Further consideration of the availability, consistency and comparability of placement data is needed prior to engagement with DTF on the feasibility of including this type of data in future annual reporting processes.</p>
<p>Recommendation 92: The Department of Premier and Cabinet develop and introduce new performance measures to report on the Wage Inspectorate's wage theft operations in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>DPC, in collaboration with Wage Inspectorate Victoria, will develop new BP3 performance measure/s for the 2023-24 Departmental Performance Statement.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 93: The Department of Premier and Cabinet address the shortcomings in the six new performance measures introduced in 2022–23 and identified by the Committee through further, or altered, performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p><b>Completion of an Aboriginal-led evaluation and review of government performance under the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018–2023 and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap</b></p> <p>DPC will propose a revised BP3 performance measure for the 2023-24 Departmental Performance Statement to replace the 2022-23 BP3 performance measure to provide more meaningful information on DPC’s role in implementing the 2021-22 Budget initiative ‘Self-determination and delivering on Victoria’s commitment to Closing the Gap’.</p> <p>DPC is funded to coordinate WOVG Aboriginal self-determination reform and the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) in Victoria, which includes the collection of data and evidence and progressing shared decision making with Aboriginal communities in Victoria. Other Victorian Government departments are funded, and have BP3 performance measures, to track delivery of commitments in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework and the National Agreement.</p>
	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p><b>Delivery of a public report on outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians to be tabled in parliament by 30 June each financial year</b></p> <p>Part of the role of DPC is to coordinate the delivery of the annual Victorian Government Aboriginal Affairs Report to report on progress across the Victorian Government to improve outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians. The report summarises the progress of all Victorian Government departments and agencies (including DPC) in relation to a suite of BP3 performance measures and other commitments relevant to Aboriginal Victorians. For DPC, these include BP3 performance measures under the ‘Self-determination policy and reform advice and programs’ and ‘Traditional owner engagement and cultural heritage management programs’ outputs.</p> <p>DPC’s BP3 performance measures follow the requirements of the Resource Management Framework, tracking key activities delivered.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
	Support-in-Principle	<p><b>The service provision of the Office of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council enables the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council to undertake its statutory responsibilities.</b></p> <p>DPC accepts PAEC's concerns in principle however believes they can be addressed through the method of assessment, and the BP3 performance measure can be retained. The Office of the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (Council) will draw on internal data about statutory functions performed in the reporting period (Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) appointments, monitoring RAPs, managing Ancestors, managing Secret or Sacred Objects, managing statutory fund, awareness raising) to inform a survey for Council to assess service quality. Further, Council has increased access to statutory funds from 2022-23 making it less dependent on DPC for funding.</p>
	Support-in-Principle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Number of new services Service Victoria delivers</b></li> <li>• <b>Volume of activities delivered by Service Victoria</b></li> <li>• <b>Average cost per activity delivered by Service Victoria</b></li> </ul> <p>Service Victoria will consider opportunities to provide additional BP3 performance measures for the 2023-24 Budget to provide greater detail on Service Victoria performance and to meet performance reporting requirements set out in DTF's Resource Management Framework.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Service Victoria was transferred to the Department of Government Services on 1 January 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 94: The Government introduce performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget to track the progress made toward embedding Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in Victoria's legislation as well as the outcomes achieved by GRB.</p>	Support-in-Principle	<p>The Government will continue to develop metrics associated with the implementation of Gender Responsive Budgeting for public reporting, as well as additional measures which will support internal monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>The 2023-24 budget will include an initial set of performance measures which may be added to over-time as the necessary data becomes available.</p>



PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 95: The Department of Treasury and Finance publish the total cost savings to Government achieved through the Centralised Asset Management program.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Shared Service Provider (SSP) will publish the total Centralised Accommodation Management (CAM) program savings achieved in the 2022-23 annual report.</p> <p>It should be noted that SSP has recently been transferred to the Department of Government Services (DGS) from the Department of Treasury Finance (DTF), as a result of the 2022 Machinery of Government changes, effective 1 January 2023. SSP will work with DTF and DGS to enable the reporting.</p>
<p>Recommendation 96: The Department of Treasury and Finance include performance measures under the Commercial and Infrastructure Advice output in the 2023–24 Budget that measure both the estimated cost savings and greenhouse gas emission abatements realised through the Greener Government Buildings program.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department supports the introduction of a performance measure for the Greener Government Buildings (GGB) Program. It is proposed to include a measure of the annual investment in GGB projects. This approach provides a targeted measure of the Department’s output in facilitating new projects and can be updated accurately on a regular basis. This measure remains consistent with the principle of tracking cost savings and greenhouse gas abatement, as these benefits typically have a linear relationship with the investment amount, noting that GGB projects typically have a five-year payback period and include technologies with consistent energy performance and abatement such as solar PV and LED lighting.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
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<p>Recommendation 97: In its 2022–23 Budget Update the Department of Treasury and Finance clearly account for the up to \$1 billion that will be made available for low interest loans and government guarantees to community housing agencies.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) supports this recommendation.</p> <p>In accordance with the requirements of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, DTF released the Pre-Election Budget Update on 10 November 2022.</p> <p>The commercial and financial impact of the initiative is included in the 2022 Pre-Election Budget Update, as general government sector grant expenditure in the income statements and a corresponding liability created in the State’s general government sector balance sheet. Furthermore, the reversal of this liability when the loans are repaid is recorded as a discount interest income in the general government sector income statements.</p> <p>DTF will continue to incorporate the commercial and financial impact of this initiative, as well as the recognition of the subsidy provided to the community housing sector via concessional financing arrangements, in future budget publications.</p>
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PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 98: The 2022–23 Budget include performance measures that provide insight into the number of new social and affordable housing dwellings facilitated as part of the low interest loans and government guarantees to community housing agencies.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) supports-in-principle this recommendation (for the 2023-24 budget onward).</p> <p>To date, the Building Financial Capacity of Housing Agencies (BFCHA) initiative (soon to be referred to as the Financing Social and Affordable Housing (FSAH) program) has supported more around 3 400 new dwellings with more than \$500 million of financing. The BFCHA initiative was announced as part of the <i>Homes for Victorians</i> housing strategy in March 2017 and formally implemented in 2018.</p> <p>DTF supports-in-principle inserting a new performance measure into the 2023-24 budget and future budget publications. The measure would track the number of social and affordable housing dwellings supported by the FSAH program as evidenced by the number of dwellings endorsed by the FSAH Steering Committee (consisting of senior representatives from DTF and Treasury Corporation of Victoria).</p> <p>The measure would include social and affordable housing dwellings supported by either low interest loans provided by the Treasury Corporation of Victoria or guarantees from the Treasurer of Victoria where an applicant has had their credit application for financing approved.</p> <p>DTF will continue to modify and refine the performance measures over time to ensure it is providing timely and robust information in relation to the <i>Unlocking the potential of loans and guarantees to support more housing</i> initiative announced as part of the <i>2022-23 Budget</i> and the FSAH program more broadly.</p>
<p>Recommendation 99: The Department of Treasury and Finance address the shortcomings in the four new performance measures introduced in 2022–23 and identified by the Committee with further, or altered, performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>DTF will review the findings identified by the Committee as part of DTF’s annual performance measure review process prior to the publication of the 2023-24 Budget.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 100: The Department of Treasury and Finance review the performance measure under the Economic Regulatory Services output— ‘Decisions overturned on review’—that is proposed to be discontinued in 2022–23.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The performance measure ‘<i>Decisions overturned on review</i>’ is proposed to be discontinued due to new enforcement powers which took effect from 1 December 2021.</p> <p>The measure has been replaced for 2022-23 with a new quality measure ‘<i>Stakeholder satisfaction survey result</i>’ which provides a qualitative measure of the ESC’s performance. With an industry benchmark standard target of 65%.</p> <p>DTF and ESC will review the findings identified by the Committee as part of DTF’s annual performance measure review process prior to the publication of the 2023-24 Budget.</p>
<p>Recommendation 101: The Departments of the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly consider including performance measures in the 2023–24 Budget to capture the inquiries and reports produced by their Standing Committees.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>A separate response has been requested from the Department of Parliamentary Services to maintain independence.</p>