

## Responses to Questions on Notice or further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Witness	DTF Secretary Chris Barrett
Committee member	Richard Riordan
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### Question:

**Richard RIORDAN:** Just to finish on that line of questioning, could you provide to the committee, then, since you do not have it, the actuals for the last five years – accepting that there is a blow-out in the COVID years, but even from 2023 to now, what the actuals were.

**Jaelyn SYMES:** It will be in previous budget papers. Because they are available in all of the previous budget papers.

**Richard RIORDAN:** I would have thought, as you have just put the budget together, you would have some idea how it is – you have come at 2.5 per cent. Clearly it has been higher than that, and most industries are saying it is higher. I am just wondering the logic as to why you have got there.

**Chris BARRETT:** We can go back and see what we can provide.

### Response:

Total general government expenses and annual growth rates from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (actuals) are provided in the table below.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total GG expenses (\$b)	87.2	96.8	93.6	97.3	104.0
Annual growth (%)	17.1%	11.0%	-3.4%	4.0%	6.9%

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**Question:**

**Richard RIORDAN:** Okay. Thank you. So just moving then to the Suburban Rail Loop, if I may, the Suburban Rail Loop has a TEI – this is budget paper 4, page 154. The Suburban Rail Loop in the budget this year, as it has been since the budget has been mentioning the Suburban Rail Loop, is in the state capital program. Given this, how much money is attributable to the Suburban Rail Loop in the government’s infrastructure investment line item in table 1.1 on page 5 of budget paper 2? So the government infrastructure investment – how much in that is allowed for the Suburban Rail Loop?

**Chris BARRETT:** Mr Riordan, I could not tell you off the top of my head, because you would see, obviously, the amount that is expected for Suburban Rail Loop – this is on page 154 of budget paper 4, which is where Ms Benham was going before – is between \$30 billion and \$34.5 billion. Now, as to your question – effectively your question is how much of that is within the forwards – because some of that sits outside of the forwards, I could not tell you off the top of my head what that number is.

**Richard RIORDAN:** Could we take that on notice?

**Chris BARRETT:** I am happy to.

**Response:**

As part of the 2026-27 Budget Government Infrastructure Investment profile, there is a total of \$15.1 billion of capital expenditure provisioned over the financial years 2025-26 to 2029-30 for the Suburban Rail Loop East project.

Witness Treasurer Jacyn Symes

Committee member Aiv Puglielli

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**Question:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** I will move on. Last year the Australia Institute reported that for that financial year the fossil fuel sector received around \$61 million combined in both federal and state subsidies. Can I ask, for our Victorian context, how much will taxpayers be subsidising fossil fuels at the state level over the forward estimates?

**Jacyn SYMES:** I think for the specifics of your question, I am happy to take it on notice and see what material we could provide you, Mr Puglielli. But I think I would point to, and I am sure you will have a lengthy conversation with, the minister for energy and climate change. We are a government that is committed to the energy transition. We are investing and attracting private investment as well in relation to renewable energy sources to ensure our commitments to reduce emissions and to ensure that Victorians continue to have access to reliable and cheap power. They are things that this government has demonstrated are a priority.

**Response:**

In the report *Fossil fuel subsidies in Australia 2026*, the Australia Institute estimated \$60.7 million in Victorian Government subsidies in 2025-26 for fossil fuels. As suggested in the report, the estimate comprises \$7 million as the State's contribution to the Federation Funding Agreement for CarbonNet Stage 3. The remaining \$53.7 million was inferred from the 2025-26 output cost for the Resource output published in the *2025-26 Budget* representing the Resource portfolio expenditure by the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action.

Resource output expenditure provides a range of activities including funding for the work of Resources Victoria across various programs. This includes the Critical Minerals Roadmap, mine remediation works, as well as the implementation of new regulatory frameworks. The proportion of funding related to fossil fuel activities is not separately published in the Budget.

As published in the *2026-27 Budget*, the expected Resource output funding is \$47.9 million in 2026-27. There is no new funding for CarbonNet or the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain in the *2026-27 Budget*.

The *2026-27 Budget* invests \$52 million in the renewable energy transition, as well as a further \$34.1 million to support VicGrid and delivery of Marinus Link.