



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

2011-12 BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONNAIRE

PART A

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE

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PART A: Non-Budget-sensitive information

1. Strategic priorities

Question 1.1

What are the Department's key strategic priorities that underpin its budget for 2011-12 and over the forward estimates to 2014-15?

The department's key strategic priorities for the 2011-12 Budget are its departmental objectives, which guide its policy directions:

- sound financial management of the State's fiscal resources with an emphasis on maintenance of a substantial budget surplus;
- guide government actions to best increase living standards for all Victorians; and
- champion an integrated whole of government 'value for money' approach to ensure optimal service delivery and the provision of world class infrastructure to benefit all Victorians.

In addition, the department will implement the Government's election commitments which relate to the Treasury and Finance portfolio.

Question 1.2

If applicable, how do these priorities differ from the previous year?

Growing Victoria Together related to the previous government and does not form part of the department's 2011-12 budget preparation.

2. Budget preparation

Question 2.1

(a) Does your Department estimate the cost of providing input into the process of developing the State Budget?

The department does not estimate the cost of providing input into the process of developing the State Budget. The department's input into the process of developing the State Budget is integrated into the department's annual work program and resources are allocated to meet the demands. The resources contributing to the State Budget are across DTF.

(b) If so, what are the cost centres involved e.g. preparation of budget bids; preparation, internal reviews and approvals of business cases; servicing the Budget Expenditure Review Committee?

Not applicable.

- (c) If it is possible to do so, what is the Department's estimate of the cost of work undertaken as part of the preparation of the 2011-12 Budget (please provide a breakdown according to key tasks if possible). For the Department of Treasury and Finance, please provide a breakdown that differentiates between the part of the Department that provides input as a department and the part of the Department that manages the budget process as a whole on behalf of the Government.**

The department does not estimate the costs of work undertaken as part of the preparation of the 2011-12 Budget. The process of developing the State Budget is integrated into the department's annual work program and resources are allocated to meet the demands.

- (d) What is the estimated expenditure incurred for the engagement of consultants by the Department to assist in the preparation of items considered for the State Budget for 2011-12?**

No consultants were engaged by the department for its input into the preparation of the 2011-12 State Budget.

Question 2.2 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

- (a) What is the cost of the development, preparation and publication of the budget papers? Please also provide the details of the number of resources employed and hours entailed.**

The department does not estimate the cost of the development, preparation and publication of the budget papers. The process of developing the State Budget is integrated into the department's annual work program and resources are allocated to meet the demands.

- (b) What is the Department of Treasury and Finance's view on publishing in future, as part of the budget papers, the cost of developing, preparing and publishing this key accountability document for the State?**

The process of developing the State Budget is integrated to the department's annual work program and resources are allocated to meet the demands.

The major cost of developing and preparing the budget papers is employee expenses. This cost is necessarily incurred to ensure sound financial analysis to meet the State's financial reporting obligation.

The Department is aiming to minimise the costs by investing in a new system that will provide a single repository of all relevant key financial, budgetary and performance information. The State Resource Management System (SRIMS) will enable DTF to improve the financial management of the State by supporting Victoria's financial management framework and effective management of the State's fiscal resources.

The Department will further increase on-line publication of the budget papers to reduce the costs of printing.

Question 2.3 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

If not detailed in the budget papers, please indicate the figure for Victoria's estimated GSP for 2011-12 used in the budget papers and how it was calculated.

DTF is anticipating publishing key economic forecasts (including GSP) as part of the on-line information available in conjunction with the 2011-12 Budget Papers. This will also include an explanation as to how the key forecasts are derived.

3. Performance measures

Question 3.1 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

What proposed training and development initiatives are planned by DTF to update or re-skill the general government sector in the requirements of outcome-based reporting, should the Public Finance and Accountability Bill become legislation?

At the conclusion of the last term of Parliament, the Legislative Council's consideration of the Public Finance and Accountability Bill remained incomplete. As such, the Bill was not enacted by the Parliament. There is no Public Finance and Accountability Bill currently before the Parliament and the Financial Management Act 1994 continues to apply to the State's management of public finances.

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The completed questionnaire must be returned in two parts:

PART A: by 5:00 pm, Thursday, 28 April 2011

PART B: by 5:00pm, Wednesday, 4 May 2011

Please return the response (**including an electronic Word version**) of the questionnaire to:

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