

3.7 Department of Planning and Community Development

3.7.1 Departmental assumptions and performance measures

3.7.1.1 Question

Please list the key assumptions (up to five) that have been used to develop the department's budget projections for 2008-09.

Response

- Implementation and timing of payments for grant programs and infrastructure projects
- Implementation of savings announced in the Budget
- Staffing levels within the Department as outlined in the reply
- Revenue paid into the Community Support Fund.

3.7.1.2 Question

What have been the key budget themes/issues that have had to be taken into account in framing the department's budget?

Response

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) was established in August 2007 to lead and support the development of liveable communities in Victoria through improved planning and design for sustainable communities, ensuring better access to housing, infrastructure, jobs and services and increasing opportunities for participation.

Enhancing Victoria's liveability is a key priority that will be achieved through implementing planning reforms and delivering investments that help support population and economic growth and address issues of disadvantage across different parts of the State.

There is a strong evidence base to indicate that liveable communities can be achieved by understanding what works in a local context, working with local governments and communities to ensure that investments in social and physical infrastructure are delivered in a coordinated and timely manner.

Growing Victoria Together remains the key policy driver. Within the policy the major goals that relate to the Department are Growing and Linking Victoria and A Fairer Society.

DPCD also contributes to a significant and diverse range of government policy directions and priorities including: A Fairer Victoria, Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework, Melbourne 2030, Sport & Recreation Victoria 2005-2010, Future Directions: An Action Agenda for Young Victorians etc.

The DPCD 2008-09 budget is particularly focussed on meeting the 2008-09 Budget priorities of improving urban development and planning, and housing affordability with a strong continued focus on progressing *A Fairer Victoria (AFV)* through driving service delivery reforms, building human capital, and expanding economic opportunities for those who continue to miss out. *AFV 2008* will have a more targeted focus on the 4 priority areas of getting the best start, getting people into work, improving health and wellbeing, and liveable communities.

3.7.1.3 Question

What impact have developments at the Commonwealth level had on preparing the department's component of the 2008-09 state budget?

Response

There are significant opportunities to collaborate with the Commonwealth Government, particularly in the areas of housing affordability, social inclusion, cutting red tape, and strengthening local government and the community sector.

Key developments at the Commonwealth level influencing the Department's budget preparation included:

Housing strategy and policy (for example, housing affordability, use of surplus government land)

Climate change (for example, coastal management and the future of farms)

Water resources (for example, water security for towns and cities)

Transport infrastructure (for example, funding of major road and rail freight projects through Auslink 2).

The Commonwealth is also a funding contributor to a number of AFL club facility redevelopment projects and to events such as the Parliament of the World's Religions.

3.7.1.4 Question

Please provide the rationale for any change in performance measures presented in the budget papers for 2008-09 (including new and discontinued measures).

2007-09 Performance measure	Previously	Reason
Planning, Urban Design and Housing Affordability		
Planning Practice Notes Prepared	This performance measure is to be discontinued in 2008-09.	This performance measure to be discontinued as practice notes are prepared on a needs basis which is therefore out of the Department's control.
Prior Authorisations of Planning Scheme Amendments	This performance measure is to be discontinued in 2008-09.	This performance measure is to be discontinued as prior authorisations are on a needs basis which is therefore out of the Department's control.
Housing Lots with zoning completed within Growth Areas	These are new performances measure to be reported on in 2008.	These are new performance measures for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding housing affordability.

2007-09 Performance measure	Previously	Reason
Increased housing density in established areas		
Metropolitan Councils housing growth requirements established		
Establish regional housing targets for regions and for local governments within regions		
PSP's completed in accordance with agreed timetable		
10 year zoned land supply available within the Urban Growth Boundary for residential and employment purposes	These are new performances measure to be reported on in 2008.	These are new performance measures to be introduced in 2008-09 to highlight improvements in efficiency in planning.
Infrastructure Planning is co-ordinated through PSP's to support sustainable community development		
Pursuant Structure Planning supports municipal strategic development		
Advice to Government on policy issues to facilitate informed decision making - response within required timeframe		
Amendments completed in 30 days	These are new performances measure to be reported on in 2008.	These are new performance measures to be introduced in 2008-09 to highlight improvements in efficiency in planning.
Authorisations completed in 15 days		

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2007-09 Performance measure	Previously	Reason
Strategic Planning program in place on agreed time frame		
Disability		
Number of agencies supported to develop Disability Action Plans	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding people with disabilities.
Multicultural Affairs		
Consultations with CALD Communities	Consultations and forums with community groups	Amended to more accurately and clearly capture the original intent of this output measure which measures the Victorian Multicultural Commission's (VMC) function of consulting with cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.
Language Services Partnerships Implemented	Number of language services projects implemented	The word 'projects' has been changed to 'partnerships' to more accurately describe the performance measure. This measure relates to collaborative work undertaken with relevant organisations to achieve the government Language Services Strategy including the tertiary sector, other Departments and community organisations including accreditation bodies.
Metropolitan Grants (Number Approved)	Victorian Multicultural Grants: grants paid against milestones of funding agreements	Breaking up the 'number of grants approved' measure into metropolitan and regional/rural categories adds value to this measure and provides insight into the broad coverage of the VMC grants program
Regional/Rural Grants (Number Approved)		
Number of active Refugee Support Service Agreements	Refugee Support: Clients assisted	This measure relates to the Refugee Brokerage Program (RBP). Since the merger of the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs (VOMA) into the VMC in May 2007, the VMC has carriage of this program. The focus of the program is a community development one not a client/service relationship one although this is always in part what the program delivers. It is considered that a better way to measure the RBP is through the number of service agreements the VMC/Victorian Government has with agencies who support refugee communities.

2007-09 Performance measure	Previously	Reason
Number of Celebrate our Cultural Diversity Week Events held	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	This measure correlates with one of the VMC's major commitments.
Local refugee communities developing local plans	Client satisfaction with briefs provided	It has been replaced to better reflect the work of the VMC.
Interpreting and Translating Workforce Strategy plan developed	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure in 2008-09 to reflect the Government's commitment in relation to multicultural affairs.
Multilingual Technology Strategy Developed	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure in 2008-09 to reflect the Government's commitment in relation to multicultural affairs.
Seniors and Veterans		
Digitised veterans' histories completed	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure in 2008-09 to reflect the Government's commitment in relation to seniors and veterans
Indigenous Community and Cultural Development		
Number of Aboriginal community land initiatives established	These performance measures are to be discontinued in 2008-09.	In 2008-09 the Aboriginal Land and Economic Development Program will be consolidating initiatives established in the first phase of the Program.
Approved land initiatives established within stipulated timeframes		
Adult Community Education		
Annual VET module enrolments Government funded through the ACFEB – ACE organisations and adult education institutions	Government-funded annual module enrolments – ACE organisations and adult education institutions	These performance measures include activity that is not funded by the ACFE Board. They do not reflect the accountabilities of the ACFE Board and the Board is not in a position to manage these outputs, therefore they are being replaced for 2008-09
Student contact hours Government funded through the ACFEB - ACE organisations and adult education institutions	Government-funded student contact hours of VET activity provided through ACE organisations and adult education institutions	

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2007-09 Performance measure	Previously	Reason
Student contact hours Government funded through the ACFEB to 16 to 24 year olds - ACE organisations and adult education institutions	Government-funded student contact hours of VET activity provided to 15-24 year olds through ACE organisations and adult education institutions	
Student contact hours Government funded through the ACFEB to students 16 to 64 year old who do not have Year 12 or an equivalent level of education - ACE organisations and adult education institutions	Student contact hours delivered in ACE to persons 15 and over who have no qualification at all or a qualification less than Year 12 or Certificate II	This performance measure includes activity that is not funded by the ACFE Board. This does not reflect the accountabilities of the ACFE Board and the Board is not in a position to manage these outputs, therefore it is being replaced for 2008-09
Successful completions as measured by module load completion rate – ACFEB funded - ACE organisations and adult education institutions	Successful completions as measured by module load completion rate – ACE organisations and adult education institutions	The 2008-09 performance measure only measures activity which is funded by the ACFEB.
Sport and Recreation Development		
Sporting uniform grants: number approved	This performance measure is to be discontinued in 2008-09.	This performance measure is to be discontinued as it was a one year program only.
Physical Activity Program: grants paid against milestones of funding agreements	This performance measure is to be discontinued in 2008-09.	This performance measure is to be discontinued as the program is completed.
Rectangular Sports Stadium - construction proceeding	This performance measure is to be discontinued in 2008-09.	This performance measure has been amended to reflect the status of works on the Rectangular Sports Stadium.
Combat sports licences, registrations and permits issued	Combat sports licences and permits issued	This performance measure has been amended to include registrations.
Number of VFL ground projects commenced	These are new performances measure to be reported on in 2008.	New performance measures for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding sport and recreation.
Commencement of MCG concourse extension works		

2007-09 Performance measure	Previously	Reason
Completion of business case for the refurbishment of Melbourne Park		
Community Strengthening		
Community Foundations: Sites established	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding community strengthening
Enterprising Communities: Operational Community Enterprise Catalyst	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding community strengthening
ICT projects and programs underway	This performance measure previously belonged to the Citizen Engagement and Information output.	This measure has been brought over from the Citizen Engagement and Information Services output following machinery-of-government changes in 2007.
Community Services Workforce Capability Framework: planning and research conducted in consultation with and endorsed by community sector	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding community strengthening
Enterprising Communities: Grants paid against milestones of funding agreement	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding community strengthening
ICT project quarterly monitoring reports are assessed	This performance measure previously belonged to the Citizen Engagement and Information output.	This measure has been brought over from the Citizen Engagement and Information Services output following machinery-of-government changes in 2007 where it was previously titled: Assessment of quarterly monitoring reports for grant agreements undertaken. Wording changed to identify this is an ICT project measure as it is new to the output area of Community Strengthening.
Office for the Community Sector established	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding community strengthening
Payments made according to contracts provided ICT grant recipients meet	This performance measure previously belonged to the Citizen Engagement	This measure has been brought over from the Citizen Engagement and Information Services output following machinery-of-

2007-09 Performance measure	Previously	Reason
contract terms	and Information output.	government changes in 2007.
Workforce Capability Framework: Completion of developmental work and advice provided	This is a new performance measure to be reported on in 2008-09.	New performance measure for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding community strengthening
Local Government Sector Development		
Meetings held by Best Value Commission with Councils	This performance measure is to be discontinued in 2008-09.	Performance measure to be discontinued in 2008-09 as the Best Value Commission has been disbanded.
Procurement strategy completed within agreed timeline	This performance measure is to be discontinued in 2008-09.	Performance measure to be discontinued in 2008-09 as the procurement strategy will be completed.
Inter-library loans supplied by public library services to other libraries	These are new performances measure to be reported on in 2008.	New performance measures for 2008-09 to reflect the Government's priorities regarding local government.
Library branches with computer safety measures in place		

3.7.1.5 Question

For any performance measures where there is a variance of over 10 per cent between the expected outcome for 2007-08 and the target for 2008-09, please provide the reasons for the variance.

Response

Performance measure	2007-08 Expected Outcome	2008-09 Target	Variance	Reason
Planning, Urban Design and Housing Affordability				
Number of property transactions assessed by the Government Land Monitor (GLM) for compliance with	1050	950	100	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome due to the increased number of government land transactions in 2007-08.

Performance measure	2007-08 Expected Outcome	2008-09 Target	Variance	Reason
Government Policy				
Research bulletins published	13	8	5	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as the number of research bulletins is being reduced as a result of consolidation of publications supporting local research networks.
Youth Affairs				
Young people participating in the Advance Youth Development Program	11600	10000-10250	1350-1600	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as in 2007-08 schools enrolled more students than required by the program.
Young people completing the Advance Youth Development Program	85	75	10	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as in 2007-08 active program support and professional development assisted schools to retain a higher proportion of participants.
Women's Policy				
Number of consultations held	8-10	4-6	4	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as in 2007-08 extensive consultations were undertaken in 2007-08 in preparation for 2008-09. It is not anticipated that the same level of consultation will be required again until 2011.
Women participating in consultation	1000	600	400	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as in 2007-08 a large number of consultations were held in 2007-08 as part of the development of the new Women's Policy Framework 2007-11.
Seniors and Veterans				
Seniors activities grants programs: number approved	139	110-130	9	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as in 2007-08 an additional round of Images of Age grants occurred.

Performance measure	2007-08 Expected Outcome	2008-09 Target	Variance	Reason
Indigenous Community and Cultural Development				
Governance training programs supported	8	7	1	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as in 2007-08 a pilot Diploma of Business Governance was delivered which will not need to occur in 2008-09.
Local Indigenous representation groups established	16	14	2	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as the total number of Local Indigenous Networks to be established is 38 over 3 years. 8 were established in Year 1 and 16 in Year 2, leaving 14 as the target for Year 3.
Meetings of Aboriginal Heritage Council supported	10	6	4	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as the volume of Council business in 2007-08 necessitated extra meetings.
Verified records added to heritage data base	1132	800-1000	132-332	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome, the introduction of the requirements under the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i> and increased land disturbance associated with development activity caused the Expected Outcome to exceed its original Target. As a result the 2008-09 Target has been increased.
Proportion of Indigenous community organisations receiving funding from multiple departments on a single funding agreement	5	10	5	The 2008-09 Target is greater than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as this performance measure will progressively increase in Target each year as more organisations go onto single funding agreements.
Adult and Community Education				
Minimum target for ACE and adult education institution students funded through Youth Pathways Program (YPP)	872	500	372	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome due to an unanticipated increase in demand in 2007-08. This is only a baseline measure.

Performance measure	2007-08 Expected Outcome	2008-09 Target	Variance	Reason
Sport and Recreation Development				
Aquatic facility grants: number approved	18	10-15	3-8	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as a number of smaller, lower cost projects were approved in 2007-08.
Community Sporting Facility Grants: number approved	230	>120	110	The 2008-09 Target is less than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as the two newly announced rounds of drought projects were included in 2007-08.
Community Strengthening				
Community Bus investments provided	4	6	2	The 2008-09 Target is greater than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome due to increased targeting and lower unit cap per bus.
Community Enterprise grants: number approved	5	10	5	There will be an increase in 2008-09 due to a growing interest in developing community enterprises by local communities.
Volunteering Small Grants: number approved	100	60-90	10-40	The 2008-09 Target is lower than the 2007-08 Expected Outcome as the Target 60-90 is the baseline target for the program.

3.7.2 Asset funding

3.7.2.1 Question

Please provide a list of the asset investment projects for which capital expenditure is budgeted to occur in 2008-09.

Response

Capital Initiatives	2008-09 (\$ million)
Rectangular Sports Stadium	106.9
Geelong Transit Cities	3.6
Electronic Document and Records Management System	2.6
Improving Major Sporting Precincts	0.9
Footscray Transit City	19.2
Revitalising Central Dandenong	10.3
Land Compensation	2.0
Northbank Promenade	6.2
Olympic Park Upgrade	11.2
Aboriginal Heritage Information System	1.5
Total	164.4

3.7.2.2 Question

- (a) What are the future infrastructure challenges (immediate and long-term) facing Victoria that relate to the department's responsibilities?

Response

DPCD's role is to lead and support the development of liveable communities. A key strategic direction for the Department to achieve this goal is to improve planning and design for sustainable communities.

Two key aspects related to the delivery of this strategic direction are:

- the provision of infrastructure to meet community needs; and
- the timing of the infrastructure investment to ensure that necessary services are provided early in the life of new communities.

Growth and change in rural, regional and metropolitan communities will challenge the full range of infrastructure including housing, utility services (water, energy etc), social (health, education etc), transport (all modes including cycling, walking, personal travel and freight), community infrastructure (libraries, open space, sporting and recreation facilities etc), jobs and services.

New infrastructure will be required in growth areas in Melbourne and regional Victorian cities, and infrastructure upgrades and replacement will be required in established urban areas experiencing growth.

Responses to these infrastructure challenges by the Department are primarily through land use planning and will include:

- Improving public transport interchanges, walking and cycling routes, and public realm amenity in Transit Cities and Activity Centres experiencing growth (in collaboration with DOI).
 - Improving the balance between private vehicular traffic and pedestrians, cyclists and public transport in Transit Cities and Activity Centres.
 - Ensuring affordable housing in areas with appropriate levels of social supports and access to employment and training, particularly for refugee and humanitarian entrants.
 - Integrating land use and transport planning to ensure that the transport system is responsive to both changes in travel patterns and the creation of desirable land uses and urban form.
 - Developing multi-use facilities for sporting, community, school and club utilisation to maximise participation
- (b) Has the department undertaken (or plans to undertake) any forward looking assessment of infrastructure demand and future needs as they relate to the department's operations? If so, please provide details of the findings.

Response

Understanding future need is pivotal to the development of Department strategy and operations. As part of this process the Department sources and utilises a range of tools to forecast operational implications and review strategic positions.

Findings resulting from external and departmental analysis include:

- Analysis of 2006 census results, together with recent migration trends, suggest that the projected population of Melbourne in 2030 will be higher than previously forecast and is now estimated to be in the order of more than 5 million people (over half a million higher than previously forecast). Melbourne is growing at a faster rate than Sydney.
- This additional population will impact the need for housing with demand increasing to a total of approximately 630,000 dwellings by 2030. More than half of these new homes will need to be located in and around activity centres and along major public transport corridors if real progress is to be made in achieving urban consolidation and in reducing the need for government investment in infrastructure on the urban fringe.
- Retail floor space in Melbourne is forecast to increase by over 3 million square metres by 2030 with the bulk of this additional space to be located outside the CBD. Over 2 million square metres of this additional space is expected to comprise investment in regional and sub-regional shopping centres or homemaker or factory outlet centres.
- Implementation of growth area strategies is increasingly urgent given the increasing awareness of climate change impacts and the need for significant and early action on greenhouse gas emission reductions, water shortages, higher petrol prices and housing affordability issues.
- Growth at the fringes of Melbourne will continue to be high over the next five years emphasising the importance of facilitating development within activity centres and improving liveability in outer suburbs and for new communities.
- Settlement of refugee and humanitarian program entrants will increase in regional Victoria

- Liveability in regional Victoria is increasingly impacted by a range of socio-economic and environmental issues. Evidence highlights many regional areas are witnessing diminishing health levels, greater household cost pressures and changing service needs due to ageing populations and lower household incomes relative to Victoria’s average.

In relation to the infrastructure demands required to support the departmental operations, these include:

- workforce and skill profiles,
- information technology and business operations systems, and
- facilities.

These challenges have been analysed critically as part of the establishment needs of the new Department.

- (c) Please outline any asset investment projects of the department to be undertaken in 2008-09 that are linked to whole of government infrastructure initiatives.

Response

The infrastructure projects relate to the Transit Programs. Jointly with the Department of Transport, the Department of Planning and Community Development is developing a number of Transit City locations. The major project is the Revitalising of Central Dandenong. Other large Transit Cities projects are Geelong, Footscray, and Broadmeadows.

All funds for the program are held by the Department of Planning and Community Development with the transport related infrastructure delivered by the Department of Transport and the urban renewal by DPCD. VicUrban is the public non-financial entity delivering the program in Dandenong.

3.7.2.3 Question

In relation to the unapplied output and asset funding carried forward to 2008-09, please provide:

- (a) a breakdown of the carried forward funding for both output and asset initiatives;

Output initiatives

Output	Estimated Carryover (\$million)
Aboriginal Land and Economic Development Program	2.1
Flexible Transport Solutions	0.7
Fair and Affordable Credit	0.8
Community Awareness Program	0.3
Family Violence Strategy	0.4
Positive Ageing Program	1.8
Healthy and Active Victorians	0.1
Memorial Grants Program	0.3
FreeZa Central Program	0.3
Healthy and Active Victorians	0.4
Injury Prevention Program	0.1

Commonwealth Games Dividend	3.0
Ice Sports Centre	0.1
Total	10.4

Asset Initiatives

Initiative	Estimated Carryover (\$million)
Rectangular Sports Stadium	6.9
Geelong Transit Cities	3.6
Electronic Document and Records Management System	0.8
Total	11.3

(b) the underlying reasons for the department's funding carryover for each category; and

Response

Output initiatives

The reason for the requirement to carryover funds relates to longer than anticipated implementation and finalisation of funding details and deliverables.

Asset initiatives

The reason for the requirement to carryover funds relating to the asset initiatives above is mostly due to minor delays in construction between the financial years. Finalisation of these projects is expected within the original estimate.

- (c) the intended revised timing for use of the carried forward funds.

Response

These funds are expected to be expended in 2008-09.

3.7.3 Efficiencies and savings

3.7.3.1 Question

In relation to the estimated efficiencies to be derived in 2008-09 (including from the various measures that fall under the umbrella of the *Efficient Government* policy and the other targeted initiatives, as initially presented in the 2007-08 State Budget), please provide:

- (a) a breakdown of the planned efficiency savings according to the various measures of efficiency that apply to the department's operations;

Response

The Departments saving target for the 2008-09 financial year is \$11.2 million. This made up from \$8.3 million in savings announced in the 2008-09 Budget and an additional \$2.7 million from the 2007-08 Budget. This is in line with the governments "*Efficient Government*" policy.

- (b) an explanation of:

- (i) how decisions regarding applicable savings measures are to be made;

Response

Decisions regarding applicable saving measures are made in line with the governments "Efficient Government" policy and to reduce the cost of administration. The department will review its operations and identify the cost reductions in line with the policy outlined by Government the nature of their expected impact on programs such programs accelerated or deferred; and

- (ii) the nature of their expected impact on programs such programs accelerated or deferred; and

Response

No impact is expected on service delivery areas. The savings are targeted to administrative areas.

- (iii) the basis for estimating the savings target to be achieved for each measure; and

Response

The savings target is in line with governments “*Efficient Government*” policy, and targets are against administration and no impact will be made on key deliverables and service areas.

- (c) particulars of any changes to the department’s allocated savings for 2008-09 from the data shown in the 2007-08 Budget.

Response

Due to the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes the Department’s savings in the 2007-08 budget papers have been revised to \$6.3 million.

3.7.4 Economic impacts, initiatives and improvements

3.7.4.1 Question

Please explain how the following economic related factors and the impact on departmental initiatives have been addressed in framing the department’s budget for 2008-09:

- (a) interest rates
- (b) inflation
- (c) productivity improvement
- (d) National Reform Agenda initiatives

Response

In relation to a), b) and c) the impacts of the above economic factors have been set by the Department of Treasury and Finance in framing the 2008-09 Budget. Indexation of costs has been provided in the Budget for the Department and any impacts of these factors on electronic gaming revenue paid into the Community Support Fund has been built into the overall 2008-09 Budget estimates.

DPCD has established a three year administrative burden reduction plan to streamline regulatory administrative processes for business and the not-for profit sector. In framing the 2008-09 budget, these regulatory reform initiatives have been reviewed in this context.

3.7.5 Environmental challenges

3.7.5.1 Question

What are the key environmental issues that are predicted to have an impact on services delivered by the department’s portfolios in 2008-09?

Response

The Department of Planning and Community Development is responding to environmental issues through a range of activities across land use planning and building policy through to strengthening community capacity to respond to climate change. Key issues include climate change, environment issues associated with infrastructure and regional development, sport and recreation, growth of Melbourne as a liveable city, and the land use planning and community development aspects of sustainable resource use.

In this context the Department is both leading some whole of Government programs such as Melbourne 2030, as well as contributing to development of other activities such as the Government response to climate change.

Broad sustainability issues associated with the future development of Melbourne is a major area of activity. The Melbourne 2030 Audit process has a focus on taking stock of implementation activities and identifying how government can do things better to ensure Melbourne remains one of the most liveable cities in the world.

Land use planning and community programs to enhance our capacity to adapt to climate change will also be an important area of work. This includes work with other agencies and organisations to address emergency response management, land use planning in vulnerable locations, and development of robust infrastructure and building design responses. Actions across Government will be developed as part of the Climate Change Green Paper process announced by the Premier on April 4th at the Victorian Climate Change Summit.

In addition DPCD is contributing to the development of a revised Victorian Coastal Strategy (led by Department of Sustainability and Environment). This Strategy is aimed at providing policy, land-use planning and overall decision making tools to guide development along Victoria's coastline. Future challenges relating to climate change within the coastal zone environment include future sea-level rise and storm surge activity within a context of sustained population growth and development activity. Parallel work is underway to respond to future challenges associated with flood and bushfire risks.

Managing the interaction between natural resource use, protection environmental values and liveability will also be covered in the White paper on 'Land and Biodiversity'. DPCD will be contributing to the spatial, land use planning and community development aspects of this work.

(b) How have these issues been addressed in the department's budget estimates for 2008-09?

Response

Funding has been sought through the ERC process.

(c) Please list five projects or programs worth over \$1million (new and/or existing) where increased funding has been provided in the budget to address environmental issues (including responding to climate change) (please provide a comparison of funding levels for 2007-08 and 2008-09 for existing projects if applicable).

Response

New projects include:

Approx \$3.7 million over 4 years via Future Farming Strategy to identify rural policy development issues and provide strategic land use response capacity.

3.7.5.2 Question

What initiatives are planned to be implemented by the department in 2008-09 in order to enhance energy reporting?

Response

DPCD will be reporting against the revised Financial Reporting Directive (FRD) 24 which now requires additional information on: energy consumption trends and targets; energy management actions undertaken; and provision of greater context to the energy data reported.

FRD 24 also requires specific reporting regarding greenhouse emissions associated with energy use, transport activities and waste production.

DPCD is providing input to the development of a whole of government data management and reporting tool to provide greater consistency in energy reporting.

The Department is also monitoring energy usage on a quarterly basis and takes appropriate steps to ensure that energy and other environmental initiatives are achieved.

3.7.6 Financial information

3.7.6.1 Question

In relation to output costs, please explain any variations of more than 10 per cent between the expected outcome for 2007-08 and the target for 2008-09 for individual outputs.

Response

Planning, Urban Design and Housing Affordability

The increase in this output in 2008-09 is due to new initiative funding from the 2008-09 Budget and the timing of funding from for Transit City projects.

Disability, Multicultural Affairs, Seniors and Veterans, and Community Strengthening

The increase in these outputs in 2008-09 is due to new initiative funding from the 2008-09 Budget.

Sport and Recreation Development

The decrease from the 2007-08 Expected Outcome to the 2008-09 Target is due to the provision of additional funds in 2007-08 for a number of projects including drought programs, the MCG concourse, Days in the Diocese, and AFL and VFL initiatives.

3.7.6.2 Question

In relation to expenses from transactions that relate to 'Employee Benefits', if a variation of more than 10 per cent arises between the Estimated Actual for 2007-08 and the budget for 2008-09, please provide an explanation.

Response

Nil

3.7.6.3 Question

Please provide a tabular dissection of the department's 2008-09 budget and expected expenditure for 2007-08 under the Government's key themes presented annually in the Victorian Budget Overview (see pp.5-7 of 2007-08 document) differentiating between new funding initiatives and ongoing funding.

Response

2008-09 Budget Theme	2008-09 Expenditure (\$ million)
Securing a prosperous future for Provincial Victoria	1.1
Improving community safety and access to justice	0.2
Reducing disadvantage and building a fairer Victoria	10.7
Building thriving, liveable communities	31.3
Total	43.3

2007-08 Budget Theme	2007-08 Expenditure (\$ million)
Tackling Disadvantage	4.7
Maintaining Victoria's Liveability	43.3
Total	59.5

3.7.7 Regional and rural considerations

3.7.7.1 Question

- (a) What are the critical issues facing regional and rural communities in 2008-09 that depend on services provided by the department (please provide comment relating to particular areas of the state where applicable)?

Response

Many regional communities are growing strongly. Planning for regional growth and the associated infrastructure will demand better coordination and regional planning involving all levels of government to develop and leverage joint responses to critical issues.

The Department of Planning and Community Development has a well established and extensive regional and local government network across Victoria which provides planning advice, community strengthening activity and program delivery.

Critical issues facing regional and rural communities in the near future that relate to services provided by the Department include:

- Addressing priority areas for growth and land supply in areas such as Geelong, Latrobe Valley, Wodonga, Bendigo and Ballarat.
- Managing rapid growth in fringe metropolitan, the pressures facing peri-urban areas and land use adjustments in rural areas.
- Integrating whole-of-government policy response on issues such as liveability, wildfire management, natural resource management, agriculture and forestry sectors, and biodiversity into rural and regional strategic land use planning and community development initiatives.
- Developing transport solutions to reduce barriers to accessing services, employment and social networks.
- Rural and regional communities need to consider ways of adapting to climate change. Community resilience will be important in responding to the effects of drought, water shortages, floods and bushfire. Mitigation measures such as alternative energy also present opportunities to some regional and rural communities.
- The challenge of disadvantage is also being addressed by rural and regional communities. In particular, the need to coordinate effort across agencies and levels of government remains a challenge. Housing stress and homelessness is a critical issue, along with the significant disadvantage faced by indigenous communities. We have provided greater focus in *A Fairer Victoria 2008* on the 4 priority areas of getting the best start, getting people into work, improving health and wellbeing, and liveable communities will impact across the state.
- The changing nature of volunteering is a challenge for rural communities. Government relies on volunteers to deliver key community services such as sporting activities, essential services and home care. It will be necessary to adopt new approaches to volunteering to engage and support new volunteers in innovative ways.

The Gippsland and Barwon South West regions will be faced with a range of coastal issues in 2008-09, including the challenges of managing urban growth and climate change. Developing the capacity of local government to respond adequately to these challenges will be of critical importance.

Commonwealth and State Government policies of encouraging regional settlement of migrants and refugees requires appropriate levels of support services for both the migrants and the host communities.

This is applicable across the State, but in particular locations such as Shepparton, which has been a designated regional humanitarian settlement pilot site; and Ballarat, which is presently finalising its regional humanitarian settlement pilot.

There have also been significant refugee settlements in Geelong, Warrnambool, Colac, the Gippsland region, Mildura and Swan Hill.

(b) How does the department's 2008-09 budget address these issues?

Response

In 2008-09 planning support to Regional Victoria will be boosted with specific initiatives targeting rural land use planning, increased capacity to address major project assessments and approvals, and improved understanding of regional centre land needs and support for regional frameworks in priority areas including Latrobe Valley and the Murray Corridor.

Approx \$2.19 million has been allocated in 08/09 to support and initiate these activities.

In addition, more than \$3.7 million has been allocated over the next 4 years to support improved rural planning responses to structural change.

These initiatives will build upon significant regional presence programs delivered by the Department to promote liveability, address issues generated through growth and the specific challenges of disadvantage through the decline of regional and rural townships.

(c) Please provide a table showing for up to ten of the department's largest projects (in terms of expenditure) the:

- (i) budget allocation for 2008-09 dissected between new and existing projects
- (ii) the purpose of each project
- (iii) how the funding is to be spent
- (iv) the performance measures in place to assess performance

Response

Project	Budget 08-09	Project Purpose	Funding deliverables	Performance Measures
Planning for Sustainable Communities	\$2.1m	An integrated approach to extend regional urban design and development capability	Increased capacity through expert support Resources to assist councils	Regional strategies in place
Geelong Transit Cities	\$9.1m	To revitalise central Geelong by encouraging and facilitating private sector investment	Improved railway precinct Regeneration including intersection and streetscape	Transit Cities projects/works delivered in accordance with agreed plans

DPCD delivers many programs that are statewide and has a comprehensive range of grant programs which are taken up by regional and rural Victoria as required. Approximately 40% of DPCD grant funding is utilised by regional and rural Victoria through programs such as:

- Community Enterprise
- Creating Better Places
- Neighbourhood houses

- Country Football and Netball Program
- Living Libraries
- Better Pools/Aquatic Access

3.7.8 Vocational Training Communication, advertising and promotion

3.7.8.1 Question

- (a) What is the communication, advertising and promotion budget for 2008-09? Please also provide the expected actual expenditure for 2007-08.

Response

DPCD does not have a central budget for communication, advertising and promotion. This activity is undertaken as part of policy and program work undertaken by the business areas with budget incorporated and approved via program allocations.

Anticipated overall expenditure for advertising and promotion 2007-08 is \$3,774,739.

- (b) How does the 2008-09 budget compare with the estimated expenditure to be incurred on communications, advertising and promotion during 2007-08 (due to machinery of government changes relating to the structure of departments, if applicable please break down according to like agencies where possible for comparative purposes)?

Response

Budgets have not been allocated for 2008-09 however as communication, advertising and promotional expenditure is determined by business units according to specific program needs, budget comparison is unavailable.

It is anticipated that the inclusion of the Planning, Heritage and Urban Design, Building Policy and Housing Affordability areas will result in an increase in communication, advertising and promotion expenditure overall in 2008-09.

3.7.9 Non government sector

3.7.9.1 Question

- (a) Please provide a summary of the funding provided through the budget that will be disseminated by the department through to the non-government sector in 2008-09

Response

In relation to the grant and other payments line included within the operating statement of the Department is an estimated amount of funding to the non government sector of \$145.7 million. It should be noted that this is an estimate only and the final expenditure will be determined by the grant applications provide by the non government sector as compared to the local government sector.

- (b) Please provide a brief description of the performance monitoring framework that will be in place during 2008-09 to enable the department to monitor whether government funding is spent efficiently and effectively by non-government organisations for the intended purpose

Response

In relation to funding provided to the non government sector, the funding is subject to a funding agreement. The funding agreement will set out the objects of the funding and the deliverables by the organisation. The performance of the organisation is reviewed on a regular basis during the funding period. Performance reports are required to be provided. There is also regular contact with the funded organisation. At the end of the grant period a final outcomes report is provided by the funded organisation as well as an acquittal of the funds expended.

3.7.10 Revenue initiatives/departmental income

3.7.10.1 Question

- (a) In relation to 2008-09, please outline any new revenue raising initiatives and/or major changes to existing revenue initiatives? If applicable, please provide details of these initiatives together with anticipated revenue collections.

Response

Nil

- (b) Please outline the actual and expected financial impact in 2008-09 of any revenue foregone initiatives (such as tax relief measures) falling within the responsibility of the department.

Response

Nil

3.7.10.2 Question

For the department's income categories shown in its operating statement, please provide an explanation for any items that have a variance of greater than 10 per cent between the revised estimate for 2007-08 and the budget for 2008-09.

Response

Output appropriations

The movement in this revenue category relates to new initiatives announced as part of the 2008-09 Budget, as well as the timing of funding provided for the Transit City projects.

Revenue from other parties and other income

The movement in this revenue category relates to the method of funding for Major Events which is provided through the Department of Treasury and Finance.

3.7.11 Fees, fines, concessions and subsidies

3.7.11.1 Question

Please provide a list of fees, fines, charges etc. administered by the department and the expected revenue from each of these in 2008/09. What is the expected increase for each of these (eg. in dollars and percentage terms), if any?

Response

Attached is a listing of the fees and charges administered by the Department which is available on the Department's external website (www.dpcd.vic.gov.au).

The listing will be updated on 1 July to reflect indexation in line with the guidelines issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance. It is estimated that \$0.9m of revenue will be generated from the fees, fines and charges administered by the Department in 2008-09.

3.7.11.2 Question

Please provide a detailed list of subsidies and concessions (both direct and indirect) to be provided by the department in 2008/09 (including, for example, estimated number, average subsidy or concession, estimated cost).

Response

Nil

3.7.12 Staffing matters

3.7.12.1 Question

Using the format below, please provide actual EFT staff numbers at 30 June 2007 and estimates of EFT staff numbers (non-executive officers, executive officers and departmental secretary classifications) at 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009 for the department and its major budget funded agencies.

Response

Employment — Equivalent full-time staff

Classification	30-Jun-07 (Actual) (EFT)					30-Jun-08 (Estimate) (EFT)					30-Jun-09 (Estimate) (EFT)				
	On-going	Fixed term	Casual	*Funded vacancy	Total	On-going	Fixed term	Casual	*Funded vacancy	Total	On-going	Fixed term	Casual	*Funded vacancy	Total
Secretary	0.0	1.0	0.0		1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0		1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0		1.0
Executive Officer Grade 2	0.0	12.0	0.0		12.0	0.0	14.0	0.0		14.0	0.0	14.0	0.0		14.0
Executive Officer Grade 3	0.0	17.0	0.0		17.0	0.0	21.0	0.0		21.0	0.0	21.0	0.0		21.0
STS	3.0	1.0	0.0		4.0	3.6	2.0	0.0		5.6	3.6	2.0	0.0		5.6
Principal Scientist Grade 6	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0		1.0	1.0	0.0	0.0		1.0
Grade 5	99.0	13.0	0.0		112.0	170.0	19.4	0.0		189.4	183.0	18.4	0.0		201.4
Grade 4	179.0	16.0	0.0		195.0	238.8	34.1	0.0		272.9	254.4	36.6	0.0		291.0
Grade 3	129.0	34.0	0.0		163.0	190.3	47.0	0.0		237.3	198.3	49.0	0.0		247.3
Grade 2	100.0	19.0	0.0		119.0	122.8	30.8	0.0		153.6	124.8	31.8	0.0		156.6
Grade 1	44.0	13.0	0.0		57.0	48.6	10.0	0.0		58.6	48.6	9.0	0.0		57.6
Grade 1	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0		2.7	0.0	2.7	0.0		2.7
Ministerial Chauffeurs	2.0	0.0	0.0		2.0	3.0	0.0	0.0		3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0		3.0
Indigenous Cadets	0.0	4.0	0.0		4.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		2.0
Total	556.0	130.0	0.0	0.0	686.0	778.1	184.0	0.0	0.0	962.1	816.7	187.5	0.0	0.0	1004.2

* **Funded Vacancies:** The Department is unable to provide data on 'funded vacancies' as no such category exists. Section 20 of the Public Administration Act 2004 devolves authority for employment to Secretaries, who may engage staff as required to exercise the Department's functions. A position does not become vacant but rather ceases, with the departure of its incumbent, and the Secretary at his discretion, may not choose to engage another person to undertake the same or other duties depending on the needs of the Department.