

3.9 Department of Primary Industries

3.9.1 Departmental assumptions and performance measures

3.9.1.1 Question

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

Response

The following key assumptions have been used to develop the Department's budget priorities in 2008-09:

- CPI at 2.5%
- EBA increase of 3%
- New initiatives announced in the 2008-09 Budget
- Drought and Savings Targets

3.9.1.2 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 two key issues for the Department in regards to the 2008-09 Budget are:

- Securing the future of farming and;
- Responding to climate change challenges

Securing the future of farming

The *Future Farming* strategy was released on 23 April 2008. In line with the objectives of this Statement, the 2008-09 Budget allocated funding across a number of initiatives which aim to reshape and strengthen services so that farm businesses and rural communities are equipped to anticipate and manage change, increase productivity and competitiveness and gain access to new markets.

Responding to climate change challenges

The Budget provides for a suite of measures to ensure Victoria is well placed to meet the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change including advancing developments in sustainable energy and carbon capture and storage systems for the more sustainable use of Victoria's brown coal resources.

3.9.1.3 Question

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

Response

The release of the Commonwealth Budget on 13 May 2008 confirms the Rudd Government's commitment to substantial funding of low-emission energy technologies. This was anticipated in the Victorian budget allocation for such technologies, which will be used to leverage Commonwealth and private funding.

3.9.1.4 Question

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

Response

Explanations are footnoted in the Budget Papers for all discontinued performance measures, which are separately listed in the appendix of the Budget Papers.

The rationale behind discontinuing these measures includes:

- The initiative involved being completed by the end of 2007-08.
- The removal of old published targets based on DOI administrative systems for measures now delivered by DPI.
- Measures no longer required beyond 2007-08 as effective from January 2008 the Victoria Work cover Authority (VWA) assumes responsibility for OHS regulation for the State's earth resources sector.
- Those which are duplicated by another measure or have been replaced with a new measure that is more comprehensive.

New measures which have been developed for 2008-09 to replace deleted measures or to monitor government initiatives include:

- A new measure for 2008-09 reflecting the re-direction of regulation resources to manage critical environmental and compliance activities following the transfer of OHS regulatory responsibilities to VWA effective from January 2008.
- Replacement measures which are more in line with current policy directions.
- Measures which take into account funding for new initiatives through the 2008-09 Budget.

2008-09 targets are adjusted based on any new funding through the Budget and other factors, such as being increased to more accurately measure and account for increased performance. Significant changes from 2007-08 targets are footnoted in Chapter 3 - Budget Paper 3.

3.9.1.5 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

Output Performance Measure	Unit of Measure		2007-08 Published Target	2007-08 Expected Outcome	2008-09 Preliminary Target	Comments
Primary Industries Policy						
Industry information packages released targeted at Minerals & Petroleum	Quantity	number	12	12	14	The increase in packages targeted for release in 2008-09 reflects the progression of the Gold Undercover and Rediscover Victoria geoscience work programs.
Strategic and Applied Scientific Research						
Number of applications for intellectual property protection	Quantity	number	10	6	10	This measure will be below target in 2007-08 as four applications originally scheduled for 2007-08 were completed earlier than expected in 2006-07. The measure was above target in 2006-07 as a result.
Scientific and technical publications in international and peer review journals that promote productive and sustainable farming (including aquaculture) and fisheries systems	Quantity	number	335	335	366	Increase in 2008-09 target is due to projected growth and new funding through Future Farming initiatives.
Value of external (non-state) funding contribution to research projects that support productive and sustainable farming (including aquaculture) and fisheries systems	Quantity	\$ million	33	33	37.2	Increase in 2008-09 target is due to projected growth and new funding through Future Farming initiatives.
Sustainable Practice Change						
Significant customer interactions to facilitate export outcomes	Quantity	number	70	70	80	Target increased in line with funding for the Securing and Developing Services to Farmers initiatives.

3.9.2 Asset funding

3.9.2.1 Question

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

Response

Capital expenditure is budgeted to occur for the following asset investment projects in 2008-09:

Asset investment project	Budget for 2008 -09 (\$ million)
Melbourne Wholesale Market Redevelopment	42.2
New Biosciences Research Centre	49.7
Redevelopment of Melbourne Showgrounds	11.2
Fisheries Catch and Effort System Redevelopment	0.7
Establishment of new fishing production facility in Northern Victoria	0.5
Lysterfield Lake Park Land Purchase	0.06
Resource Rights Allocation and Management Capability	1.7
Victorian Renewable Energy Target Scheme Administration*	1.1
Total	107.16

*This funding is provided as a grant to the Essential Services Commission Victoria. It is provided to build system capability for VRET and the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Scheme.

3.9.2.2 Question

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

Response

There are a range of infrastructure challenges facing the Department of Primary Industries. Two examples in relation to energy and water are:

- Provision of 5 or 6 Star Energy Rated facilities for DPI operations. Whilst energy efficiency improvements have been undertaken at our sites, there is a limit to the improvement possible to aged infrastructure to generate energy, water and cost savings.
- The changing face of science. Over the last few years DPI has significantly decreased the level of applied field trials to support agricultural research. This has allowed DPI to reduce water usage, however the field based research has been replaced by more intensive laboratory based work requiring dedicated specialist labs with high energy consuming equipment.

- (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

DPI is continually reviewing asset requirements to meet the service delivery outputs in the changing world of research, community expectation, environmental improvement and budget reduction in the annual Asset Strategy. The findings of these analyses has resulted in approved and planned upgrade and rationalisation – the new Biosciences Research Centre (BRC) at Latrobe University Bundoora will result in state of the art bioscience laboratories for animal and plant research and allow the closure of the Knoxfield and Frankston DPI sites.

Ongoing planning includes a review of DPI land holdings in relation to changing operational models and continued assessment of current locations and their relevance to Departmental operations. This planning will include consideration of service delivery needs, environmental improvement opportunities and minimising operational costs.

- (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

Biosciences Research Centre (BRC) – tendering and construction of the BRC will commence in 2008-09 with completion anticipated in late 2011/early 2012.

Melbourne Wholesale Market Redevelopment – design and construction of the new wholesale market complex at Epping.

3.9.2.3 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;
- (b) the underlying reasons for the department's funding carryover for each category; and
- (c) the intended revised timing for use of the carried forward funds.

Response

Information on carry over funding can not be provided at this point of the year

3.9.3 Efficiencies and savings

3.9.3.1 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

DPI was originally set a savings target of \$40.291 million (over a period of four years) commencing 2007-08. This was subsequently reduced by the Treasurer to \$37.952 as shown in the tables below:

Area of savings	2007-08 (\$ million)	2008-09 (\$ million)	2009-10 (\$ million)	2010-11 (\$ million)	Total (\$ million)
Buying smarter, buying less	3.892	5.085	6.071	7.403	22.451
Shared services	0.590	0.873	1.393	1.721	4.577
Best practice grant administration	0.012	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.084
Fleet management	0.498	0.498	0.498	0.498	1.992
Advertising & consultancies	0.279	0.279	0.279	0.279	1.115
Other efficiencies	0.463	0.866	1.300	1.765	4.394
Workcover 07-08	0.108	0.110	0.113	0.116	0.449
Insurance	0.030	0.031	0.032	0.033	0.126
Initial Savings Total	5.872	7.767	9.710	11.839	35.188

Additional savings targets were subsequently identified in the areas of State Purchase Contracts, Workcover and Insurance as illustrated below:

Area of savings	2007-08 (\$ million)	2008-09 (\$ million)	2009-10 (\$ million)	2010-11 (\$ million)	Total (\$ million)
State Purchase Contracts	1.119	1.147	1.176	1.205	4.647
Workcover 06-07	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.114	0.456
Additional Savings Total	1.233	1.261	1.290	1.319	5.103
Total Savings	7.105	9.028	11.000	13.158	40.291

The budget efficiencies adjustment reduction is shown below, but has not been set against the areas specified above.

	2007-08 (\$ million)	2008-09 (\$ million)	2009-10 (\$ million)	2010-11 (\$ million)	Total (\$ million)
Total Savings	7.105	9.028	11.000	13.158	40.291
Budget efficiencies adjustment	-0.403	-0.531	-0.631	-0.774	-2.339
Total Revised Savings	6.702	8.497	10.369	12.384	37.952

Savings in the Efficient Government Policy categories for DPI are being found through options including the review of procurement contracts and policies to ensure maximum value, participation in more whole of Government contracts, and improving fleet management practices through revised management arrangements that will achieve better use of corporately pooled vehicles. However, due to the size of the savings under the Efficient Government Policy it will be difficult for them to be met fully from these areas within DPI. Savings amounts that are unable to be met within the Efficient Government Policy areas within DPI will be allocated across other areas within the Department and found from other efficiencies and by reducing investment in low priority areas in line with Government priorities.

- (b) an explanation of:
- (i) how decisions regarding applicable savings measures are to be made;

Response

Decisions regarding savings measures within DPI are made by the Secretary and the Department's Executive Committee, in consultation with the Ministers.

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

Response

Savings amounts that are unable to be met within the Efficient Government Policy areas within DPI will be allocated across other areas within the Department and found from other efficiencies and by reducing investment in low priority areas in line with Government priorities. Any impact on programs will be in line with Government priorities.

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

Response

The savings for each area are estimated depending on the basis of how the savings will be found, such as efficiencies with the use of pool vehicles and the relative use of the vehicles across areas of the department, or on a pro rata basis across all areas of the Department.

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

Response

See response to part (a)

3.9.4 Economic impacts, initiatives and improvements

3.9.4.1 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

There is no direct impact on the Budget from interest rates or the National Reform Agenda. Inflation is factored in through escalation of 2.5%. In regards to productivity improvement, the Department addresses this by allocating efficiency savings targets, as set out under the Efficient Government policy initiative, across the department.

3.9.5 Environmental challenges

3.9.5.1 Question

- (a) 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 Government requirement to further improve the key environmental targets of energy efficiency, water consumption, vehicle emissions and paper usage will require financial investment as well as organisational and behavioural change. This change is required to implement the Environmental Sustainability Framework (ESF). It will test the priority setting of DPI in relation to investment in environmental performance. The ESF requires departments to consider environmental issues in all business and operational planning and activities, and will therefore require major financial investment in measurement capabilities to meet expected reporting requirements. This is a particular challenge for DPI given the complexity of its operations in offices, farms, laboratories and other facilities.
- The rising cost of electricity, water and gas will put further strain on existing budget allocations, and strengthens the argument for greater investment in 5 Star energy rated facilities and efficiency upgrades to older facilities.

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

Response

The DPI Executive has recently approved the implementation of the DPI Environmental Management System (EMS) Roadmap to measure and improve the environmental performance of DPI operations over the next 4 years. This rolling program will see the investment (internally funded) of approximately \$500,000 per annum. Funding for the projects has been sourced internally including from funds normally allocated to Minor Works.

No additional funding has been sought through the 2008-09 Budget 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

Existing Initiatives

- Biosciences Research Centre – the budget allocated to this project includes allowance to build a minimum 5 Star Green Star rated facility. The 2008-09 budget for the project is \$49.7 million, the 2007-08 budget was \$10.2 million.
- Melbourne Wholesale Market Redevelopment – budget includes allowance to build office component to a minimum 5 Star Green Star rated facility. The 2008-09 budget for the project is \$42.2 million, the 2007-08 budget was \$31.5 million.

2008-09 Budget Initiatives

Future Farming Strategy

- Understanding and managing climate change: New Technologies and Strategies, Planning for Climate Change – as detailed in the Department's *Future Farming Strategy*, released April 2008. The Budget provides funding to help farm businesses to plan for climate change and provide farmers in key industries with new technologies and strategies to adapt to future climatic condition.

Future energy

- Future Energy I: Positioning Victoria as a Carbon Capture and Storage Leader – as detailed in the 2008-09 Budget papers funding is provided for initiatives designed to move Victoria towards near zero emission outcomes; large scale carbon capture storage demonstration project; additional policy work and regulation with respect to carbon capture and storage; and funding for continued membership of the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas technologies (CO2CRC)
- Future Energy II: Sustainable Energy - funding is provided for large scale pre-commercial demonstration of sustainable energy technologies, such as solar, energy storage, biofuels, biomass conversion, geothermal energy efficiency and clean distributed energy.

3.9.5.2 Question

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

Response

As part of the above EMS Roadmap initiatives, DPI is developing an environmental management reporting tool (EMT) to allow accurate collection, tracking and reporting of energy, water and gas consumption across all DPI managed sites. It is expected that this will be completed for the 20 or so sites which represent the majority of DPI consumption by the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

In addition, DPI has embarked on a mapping project to accurately identify meter locations and billing information for all energy (and water) used on its sites. The information gathered will be entered into a central reporting database within the EMT.

To meet the requirements of environmental reporting under Financial Reporting Directive 24C (FRD24C), DPI will be able to match energy use and greenhouse gas emissions to its various operational functions, for example farming, office activities and research programs.

As the program develops, DPI will implement periodic reporting at site and regional levels showing current usage, trend histories and targets, linked to actual on-site programs and business functions. This will position DPI well to deliver on Government expectations around accuracy of data and reporting capabilities, as well as creating a strong base from which to identify and implement capital and behavioural environmental improvement programs.

3.9.6 Financial information

3.9.6.1 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

	2007-08 Revised	2008-09 Published	Variance (%)
Primary Industries Policy	49,406	50,680	3%
Regulation and Compliance	96,265	86,828	-10%
Strategic and Applied Scientific Research	188,231	200,737	7%
Sustainable Practice Change	259,716	142,760	-45%
Total	593,619	481,004	-19%

The decrease in Regulation and Compliance reflects the once-off nature of the Treasurer's Advance received in 2007-08 for Equine Influenza and Red Imported Fire Ants.

Decrease in Sustainable Practice Change reflects the once-off nature of the additional funding received in 2007-08 for various drought relief initiatives, and the expected reduction in funding received from the Commonwealth for the Exceptional Circumstances drought relief subsidies.

3.9.6.2 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

N/A - Variance is less than 10 per cent.

3.9.6.3 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

It is difficult to assign the department's whole 2008-09 budget and expected expenditure for 2007-08 according to the key themes in the Budget Overview, however the major new initiatives for 2008-09 have been assigned to the Budget themes below.

Government's Key Themes	2008-09 Budget (\$ million)
<i>Investing in Infrastructure / Meeting Environmental Challenges</i>	
Climate Change Initiatives	
Energy Technology Innovation Strategy Large Scale Demonstration	1.500
Sustainable Transport Energy	1.000
CO2 Storage & Dynamic Modelling	1.750
Large Scale Carbon Capture Storage	2.000
Clean Coal Authority	3.050
<i>Provincial Victoria</i>	
Future Farming Strategy	13.170
Securing and Developing Services to Farmers	16.000
<i>Maintaining Victoria's Liveability</i>	
Managing Pests on Roadsides, Regionally and Beyond	4.423
Securing Wild Dogs Through Improved Management	0.280
<i>A Competitive Business Environment</i>	
Resource Rights Allocation and Management Capability - Output	1.187
Support for the Grapevine Industry	0.750

3.9.7 Regional and rural considerations

3.9.7.1 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

The critical issues facing regional and rural communities of relevance to DPI's services are the challenges and opportunities presented by:

- Climate change and its effects on production systems, biosecurity and other risk, and the sustainability of environmental systems;
- Water scarcity and its effects on productivity;
- Technology and its effect on productivity and competitiveness;
- Demographic and social change and shifts in land use, regional economic drivers, and regional economic and social diversity;
- Competition and trade and its effect on market access, competitiveness and the need to drive productivity; and
- New sources of capital and its effect on business and investment structures.

These issues face all regional and rural Victorians to some degree, irrespective of location.

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

Response

The *Future Farming Strategy* provides significant additional funding to the Department to enable it to address many of the issues listed above. Initiatives include:

- \$98.6 million to boost productivity through new technology and changes in farming practices – including the development of new generations of drought, cold and salt resistant crops, improved plant and animal disease control, and new technologies to lift productivity.
- \$11.4 million to help farm businesses plan for and adapt to climate change and to provide farmers in key industries with new technologies and strategies to adapt their farming systems to future climatic conditions.
- An additional \$20 million over four years to manage weeds and pests.

In addition, to this new funding, the department's 2008-09 budget has been shaped to match the ongoing realignment of the department's activities to assist Victoria's regional and rural communities develop the capacity and capabilities to manage the challenges faced and to take advantage of the opportunities presented.

(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

Name of Project	2008-09 Estimated Funding (\$ million)	Summary	Performance Measures
Securing and Developing Services to Farmers	16.0	A key government initiative to develop innovative technologies for the sustainable development of Victoria's food and agriculture sector.	This initiative is accounted for under a number of performance measures. Specific new performance measures under the Strategic and Applied Scientific Research Output include "Number of new key enabling technologies and core science capacity competencies established/upgraded by DPI" and "Number of Postgraduate level PhD students in training by DPI".
Weeds and Pests	7.0	Funding to continue the improvement of the management of weeds and pests on public and private land across Victoria, and reduce the number of new weeds and pests outbreaks.	There are a number of performance measures under the Regulation and Compliance output which assess weeds and pests control.
Developing Gold Undercover	4.1	Provides funding to attract greater investment for gold exploration in Victoria where limited or no exploration has taken place.	Performance measures for this initiative include "Area of the State for which first generation regional 3D geological models are available" under the Strategic and Applied Scientific Research output and "Industry information packages released targeted at Minerals & Petroleum" under the Primary Industries policy output.

3.9.8 Communication, advertising and promotion

3.9.8.1 Question

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

Response

The Department of Primary Industries does not allocate a separate advertising or print budget. Rather, budgets are derived using the objective-task method. Each project manager allocates the budget necessary to achieve the specific objectives outlined in the project's communication strategy, rather than an arbitrary percentage of the Department's overall budget being allocated to advertising or print each year.

The anticipated communication and promotion budget for 2008-09 is \$4,950,040. This figure includes budgeted staff expenditure, administration and management costs for the DPI Marketing and Communication Branch, recurring major events and field days.

	2007-08 Budget	2007-08 Estimated actual expenditure
Communication and Promotion (C&P) ⁽¹⁾	\$5,094,440	\$4,984,267
<i>New Projects:</i>		
<i>Drought</i>	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
<i>Equine Influenza</i>	\$950,000	\$920,000
Sub Total C&P	\$7,544,440	\$7,404,267
Print	Nil	\$814,338 ⁽²⁾
Advertising	Nil	\$765,119 ⁽²⁾
Total		\$8,983,724

1. Budgeted staff expenditure, administration and management costs for the DPI Marketing and Communication Branch.

2. Estimated actual expenditure cannot be provided for advertising or print because there are no allocated budgets for these items. The figures provided are actual expenditure from 1 July 2007 to 25 March 2008, not including drought and Equine Influenza, which have been incorporated into the Communication and Promotion figure.

- (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

The budget for 2007-08 is \$5,094,400. The estimated actual expenditure (\$8,983,724) includes additional funding for drought (\$1.5 million) and Equine Influenza (\$950,000) initiatives.

3.9.9 Non government sector

3.9.9.1 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

Details of known 2008-09 estimated major grant payments to the non-government sector are itemized below, other grant payments to the non government sector could be made during 2008-09 but these have as yet not been determined.

Description	2008-09 Estimated Funding \$ million
Agricultural & Pastoral Society Grants	0.30
RSPCA	1.00
Drought Apprenticeship Retention Bonus	0.50
Brown Coal R&D	3.00
Sustainable Energy Research & Development	2.65
Large Scale Demonstration Project	6.50
Total	13.95

- (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

The performance reporting of grants, as for all Departmental outputs, are included in the Departments output statements as published annually in the Budget papers.

The two components of grant programs as detailed below, are considered separately for performance reporting purposes at a Departmental level:

1. administration costs
2. grant payments;

Specific guidelines are available for individual grant programs passed through to non-government organisations. These guidelines include submitting progress reports to the Department, the grant applicant being responsible for any expenditure/costs over the approved amount and upon completion of the project the proponent must complete and sign the Certification Statement for Acquittal of Grant Funds.

3.9.10 Revenue initiatives/departmental income

3.9.10.1 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

There are no new revenue raising initiatives planned or major changes to existing revenue initiatives for 2008-09.

- (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

There are no revenue forgone initiatives for 2008-09.

3.9.10.2 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

The department is estimating a reduction of \$111 million (20%) in its Output Appropriation revenue predominantly due to a decrease in drought related assistance commitments. If exceptional circumstances drought conditions continue, additional drought assistance funding will be required in 2008-09. The reduction is offset by new approved initiatives related to the Future Farming Statement and future energy technology.

3.9.11 Fees, fines, concessions and subsidies

3.9.11.1 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

- DPI has a full list of all the charges administered by the Department for 2007-08 on the external DPI website. There are some 2000 fees and charges administered by DPI. Given the length of this list (approximately 125 pages) a full list has not been included in the Questionnaire response. It can be accessed at the following web address:
<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/DPI/dpincor.nsf/childdocs/-859961425DC5F851CA25712A0014CC81-DCD61CC677191F00CA25712900838EAE?open>
- The 2008-09 fees and charges list is currently being updated and will be published online by 1 July 2008.

3.9.11.2 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

There are no subsidies or concessions for 2008-09.

3.9.12 Staffing matters

3.9.12.1 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 June 2007 (Actual EFT)				30 June 2008 (Estimate EFT)				30 June 2009 (Estimate EFT)			
	Ongoing	Fixed Term	Casual	Total	Ongoing	Fixed Term	Casual	Total	Ongoing	Fixed Term	Casual	Total
Secretary		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0		1.0
Executive Officer 2		9.0		9.0		12.0		12.0		12.0		12.0
Executive Officer 3		13.0		13.0		16.0		16.0		16.0		16.0
STS	4.6	1.0		5.6	2.8	1.0		3.8	2.8	1.0		3.8
Principal Scientist	39.5			39.5	43.3			43.3	43.3			43.3
Grade 6	140.0	5.0	1.0	146.0	136.3	15.4	1.0	152.7	136.3	15.4	1.0	152.7
Grade 5	159.6	11.2	2.0	172.8	176.9	12.4	2.0	191.3	176.9	12.4	2.0	191.3
Grade 4	218.7	18.7	4.0	241.4	226.7	30.7	2.0	259.4	226.7	30.7	2.0	259.4
Grade 3	317.4	54.2	20.0	391.6	291.5	46.0	20.0	357.5	291.5	46.0	17.0	354.5
Grade 2	284.2	85.0	44.0	413.2	260.8	70.7	54.0	385.5	260.8	70.7	45.0	376.5
Grade 1	29.7	21.8	31.0	82.5	28.7	20.8	30.0	79.5	28.7	20.8	26.0	75.5
Science D	109.7	3.6		113.3	104.0	5.0		109.0	104.0	5.0		109.0
Science C	178.7	9.4		188.1	179.6	11.0	1.0	191.6	179.6	11.0	1.0	191.6
Science B	226.4	29.2	2.0	257.6	235.2	33.6	4.0	272.8	235.2	33.6	4.0	272.8
Science A	359.3	166.1	8.0	533.4	328.9	140.9	9.0	478.8	328.9	140.9	8.0	477.8
Field Staff	16.0	3.0		19.0	23.0	1.0		24.0	23.0	1.0		24.0
Ministerial Chauffeur		2.0		2.0		2.0		2.0		2.0		2.0
Mining Warden		0.8		0.8		0.8		0.8		0.8		0.8

Classification	30 June 2007 (Actual EFT)				30 June 2008 (Estimate EFT)				30 June 2009 (Estimate EFT)			
	Ongoing	Fixed Term	Casual	Total	Ongoing	Fixed Term	Casual	Total	Ongoing	Fixed Term	Casual	Total
Workcover	3.0			3.0	2.0			2.0	2.0			2.0
Total	2086.8	434.0	112.0	2632.8	2039.7	420.3	123.0	2583.0	2039.7	420.3	106.0	2566.0

Please note that staff numbers in the tables above are indicative of EFT counts only so do not correspond with the headcount figures published in the 2006-07 Annual Report, which are based on actual staff numbers.