

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

All moneys the government receives from taxes, imposts, rates, duties and other revenues (such as royalties) are paid into the Consolidated Fund. Each year, the government introduces appropriation bills into Parliament, so authority can be given to spend money from the Consolidated Fund.

On 6 May 2008, the government introduced two appropriation bills: the *Appropriation (2008/09) Bill* and the *Appropriation (Parliament 2008/09) Bill*, into Parliament. These bills, when passed, will enable the government and the Parliament respectively to deliver planned services and embark on new asset investments during 2008-09.

The appropriation bills seek parliamentary authority to draw an amount of \$31,258.3 million from the Consolidated Fund in 2008-09 for government purposes and \$93.4 million for the funding of Parliament's activities.

1.1.1 Budget estimates

Section 40 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* requires the government to submit to Parliament, along with the appropriation bills, the budget estimates for the forthcoming financial year. The budget estimates include, for the relevant financial year, particulars of:

- goods and services each government department will provide or produce;
- amounts available, or to be available, to each department;
- the estimated amount of the receipts and receivables for each department; and
- the expected financial requirements of Parliament.

The budget estimates also deal with the application of funds that do not require annual parliamentary authority such as special appropriations, \$2,287.3 million; where there is continuing authority derived from specific legislation, agency revenue credited to appropriations, \$2,093.7 million; and prior year appropriations, \$539.8 million, carried over to the budget year.

The 2008-09 Budget Estimates identify that the government expects total income from transactions of around \$37,810.0 million and total expenditure from transactions of \$36,982.4 million. In addition, substantial infrastructure investment is forecast to continue, with a projected net investment of \$4.0 billion in 2008-09.

1.2 Process followed by the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee for its review of the 2008-09 Budget Estimates

The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee is responsible for undertaking a review of the budget estimates including revenues contained in the budget papers. This review assists Parliament to more effectively scrutinise the activities of government.

Following the tabling of the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*, part two of the report includes an index of key matters raised and responded to by ministers for the remaining 25 hearings held between 21 May 2008 and 3 June 2008 and a list of further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio. The Hansard record of the hearings is attached at Appendix 1, as the Committee wishes to ensure it is available as soon as possible to inform debate on the budget in the Parliament.

Part three of the report will contain information relating to responses received to questions taken on notice and further information provided by Ministers; additional information sought by the Committee on departmental responses to the 2008-09 Budget Estimates questionnaire; and analysis, key findings and recommendations relating to the 2008-09 Budget Estimates.

The principal intention of the Committee, in presenting early reports to Parliament on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates, is to assist Members of Parliament in their consideration of the appropriation bills and, in turn, to enrich the Parliament's debate on the bills.

1.2.1 Departmental budget estimates questionnaire

Prior to the budget estimates hearings, the Committee sends a questionnaire to each department and the parliamentary departments to obtain information on the likely impact of the budget on their operations and future strategic directions. For the 2008-09 Budget Estimates questionnaire, the Committee focused on the following issues:

- departmental assumptions and performance measures;
- asset funding;
- efficiencies and savings;
- demographic factors;
- economic impacts, initiatives and improvement;
- environmental challenges;
- financial information;
- regional and rural considerations;
- communication, advertising and promotion;
- non government sector;
- revenue initiatives/departmental income;
- fees, fines, concessions and subsidies; and
- staffing matters.

Responses received from departments were reproduced in Appendix 3 of the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

1.2.2 Acknowledgment

The Committee is grateful to the ministers and their accompanying staff for their assistance at the budget estimates hearings held between 21 May 2008 and 3 June 2008.

Ministers also during the hearings or at the end of each session agreed to provide further information or took questions on notice.

1.2.3 General

The cost of this inquiry was approximately \$16,200.

CHAPTER 2: PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS

2.1 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

CHAPTER 3: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Review of portfolios

3.1 Education portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

3.2 Children and Early Childhood Development portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

CHAPTER 4: DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Review of portfolios

4.1 Community Services portfolio

4.1.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Community Services, on 22 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of the Community Services portfolio at the start of the hearing assisted by Fran Thorn, Secretary of the Department of Human Services; Alan Hall, Executive Director, Financial and Corporate Services; Arthur Rogers, Executive Director, Disability Services; and Paul McDonald, Executive Director, Children, Youth and Families. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

4.1.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 4.1.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

4.1.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- outline of the revenue foregone, specific subsidies and concessions in the portfolio and any changes to these from prior years (p.4);
- disability services funding, including funding pending a new Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement (pp.4-7);
- supported accommodation (pp.7-9);
- *My Future My Choice* program – younger people living in residential aged care (p.9 and p.15);
- leaving care support for young people (pp.10-11);
- community awareness campaign on disability issues (pp.11-12);
- concessions payable for water (pp.12-13);
- water charges for North East Water and Goulburn Valley Water (p.13);
- increase in the water concession cap (p.13);
- recipients of maximum concession for utilities (p.13);
- aids and equipment for people with disabilities (pp.13-15);

- strategic replacement and realignment program (pp.15–16); and
- the Child FIRST program (pp.16–17).

4.1.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

4.1.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

4.2 Health portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

4.3 Housing portfolio

4.3.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Housing, on 21 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Ms Fran Thorn, Secretary; Ms Margaret Crawford, Executive Director, Housing and Community Building; Mr Rob Jenkins, Acting Director, Policy, Strategy and Communications; and Mr Alan Hall, Executive Director, Financial and Corporate Services. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

4.3.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 4.3.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

4.3.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- outline of the revenue foregone, specific subsidies and concessions in the portfolio and any changes to these from prior years (p.4);
- spending on housing assistance from sources not included in Budget Paper No.3 (p.4);
- financial statement for the Office of Housing (pp.4–5);
- definition of ‘homelessness’ (p.5);
- Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) and unmet accommodation needs (pp.5–6);
- housing capital program for 2008-09 including major upgrades (pp.7–8 and p.13);
- management of waiting list and public housing stock (pp.8–9);
- matching applicants and available housing stock (pp.9–10);
- neighbourhood renewal program (pp.10–11);
- waiting time for early housing applicants (pp.11–12);
- energy efficiency measures (p.12);
- borrowings of the Office of Housing (pp.12–13); and
- transfers of stock from public housing to housing associations (pp.14–15).

4.3.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

4.3.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee’s website.

4.4 Mental Health portfolio

4.4.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Mental Health, on 22 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of the Mental Health portfolio at the start of the hearing assisted by Fran Thorn, Secretary of the Department of Human Services; Alan Hall, Executive Director, Financial and Corporate Services; and Ms Callister, Executive Director, Mental Health and Drugs Division of the department. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

4.4.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 4.4.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

4.4.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008-13

- proposals to reduce harm associated with the misuse of alcohol (pp.5–6);
- drug and alcohol treatment beds (p.6);
- funding arrangements (pp.7–8); and
- funding and output and deliverables (pp.7–8).

Other issues

- development of a new Victorian mental health reform strategy (pp.3–4);
- impact of the drought on the mental health and wellbeing of communities (pp.4–5);
- services for children and young people (pp.8–9);
- public drunkenness (p.9); and
- pre-emptive strike on ice (p.9).

4.4.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

4.4.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

CHAPTER 5: DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Review of portfolios

5.1 Major Projects portfolio

5.1.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Theo Theophanous MLC, Minister for Major Projects, on 30 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Mr Alf Smith, Deputy Secretary, Mr Robert Oliphant, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Transport, and Sean Sweeney, Executive Director, Major Projects Victoria. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

5.1.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 5.1.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

5.1.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- machinery of government changes and budget impacts (pp.3–4);
- outline of projects that MPV is responsible for (pp.4–5, and pp.9–10);
- Hepburn Springs bathhouse development (pp.5–6);
- Melbourne Convention Centre – funding provided for the lease payments into the forward estimates, and recognition of the liability in relation to the lease payments (pp.6–7, and pp.10–11);
- development of the Geelong cultural precinct (p.7);
- bioresearch centre project (pp.7–8);
- funding for the rectangular sports stadium (pp.8–9); and
- state athletics centre and MCG redevelopments (pp.9–10).

5.1.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

5.1.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

5.2 Public Transport portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

5.3 Roads and Ports portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

CHAPTER 6: DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Review of portfolios

6.1 Industrial Relations portfolio

6.1.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Rob Hulls MP, Minister for Industrial Relations, on 3 June 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, and Mr Tim Lee, Deputy Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.1.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 6.1.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 2 July 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

6.1.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- review of the operations of the Office of the Workplace Rights Advocate (pp.2–3);
- outcomes from the Workplace Relations Ministers' Councils (pp.3–4);
- commitment to promoting cooperative workplace practices (pp.4–6);
- initiatives to promote work and family balance (pp.6–7);
- Equal Opportunity Act (p.7)
- Workplace rights advocate's information sessions (pp.7–8);
- support for Outworkers (pp.8–9);
- competitiveness of the Victorian Building industry (pp.9–10)

6.1.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A question on notice was taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on this question is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

6.1.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

6.2 Industry and Trade portfolio

6.2.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Theo Theophanous MLC, Minister for Industry and Trade, on 30 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, and Mr Ben Foskett, Deputy Secretary. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.2.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 6.2.5) are available on the Committee's website.

6.2.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- Victoria's manufacturing sector (p.3);
- Victoria's financial services industries (pp.3–4);
- investment facilitation incentives (pp.4–5);
- challenges facing Victoria's industries (pp.5–6);
- Victoria's automotive industry (pp.6–7);
- the investment support program (p.7);
- aviation services (pp.7–8);
- joint marketing with Qantas (p.8);

- export policies and programs (p.8); and
- expected and actual outcomes under the department's Exports output (pp.8–9).

6.2.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

There were no questions taken on notice by the Minister at the estimates hearing.

6.2.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

6.3 Information and Communication Technology portfolio

6.3.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Theo Theophanous MLC, Minister for Information and Communication Technology, on 30 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of her portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, and Mr Randall Straw, Deputy Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.3.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 6.3.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

6.3.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- Satyam project (p.2);
- *ICT: Start Here. Go Anywhere* project (pp.2–3);
- savings achieved to date on ICT project initiatives, and project initiatives to be implemented over the forward estimates (pp.3–4);
- timeframes for standardisation of the desktop environment (p.4);
- advocating strong competitive outcomes for broadband (p.4);
- ICT investment in Geelong (p.5); and
- Recurrent budget for Project Rosetta over the forward estimates (pp.5–6).

6.3.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A question was taken on notice by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on this question is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

6.3.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

6.4 Innovation portfolio

6.4.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr Gavin Jennings MLC, Minister for Innovation, on 23 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, and Mr Randall Straw, Deputy Secretary. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.4.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 6.4.5) are available on the Committee's website.

6.4.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- science, technology and innovation initiatives and planned new innovation strategy (p.3);
- funding arrangements for the Australian Synchrotron (pp.3–4);
- importance of output targets for Victoria's design sector (p.4);
- discontinued output measures arising from the lapsed science, technology and innovation program (p.5); and
- future directions with biotechnology and the Healthy Futures program (pp.5–6).

6.4.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

There were no questions taken on notice by the Minister at the estimates hearing

6.4.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

6.5 Regional and Rural Development portfolio

6.5.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Regional and Rural Development, on 30 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of her portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, Mr Justin Hanney, Chief Executive, Regional Development Victoria, and Ms Lea Corbett, Executive Director. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.5.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 6.5.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

6.5.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (pp.3–8);
- output structure of the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (p.6);
- the Moving Forward statement (pp.8–9);
- the Provincial Victoria Growth Fund (pp.9–10);
- support for growth in Victoria's food industry (pp.10–11);
- quantity performance measures under the Regional Economic Development, Investment and Promotion output (pp.12–13);
- new exports facilitated in regional Victoria (pp.13–14); and
- drought assistance measures (pp.14–16).

6.5.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

6.5.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

6.6 Skills and Workforce Participation portfolio

6.6.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation, on 30 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of her portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Ms Patricia Neden, Deputy Secretary, Mr Phillip Clark, Executive Director, Skills Policy and Mr Stephen Ward, Director, Workforce Participation. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.6.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 6.6.5) are available on the Committee's website.

6.6.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- reform process for the TAFE and VET sector, including possible fee changes (p.3, and pp.8-9);
- regional call centres (p.4-5);
- closure of the Excelior call centre (pp.4-5);
- future of campuses at Glenormiston, Longerenong and Warragul (pp.5-6);
- variation in budget for the skills and workforce sector due to machinery of government changes (p.6);
- progress on the *Maintaining the Advantage* skills statement (pp.6-7);
- support for apprentices in Victoria (p.7); and
- outline of the Workforce Participation Partnerships program and the Indigenous Youth Employment program (pp.7-8).

6.6.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

No questions were taken on notice by the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation at the estimates hearing

6.6.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

6.7 Small Business portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

6.8 Tourism and Major Events portfolio

6.8.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Tim Holding MP, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, on 30 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Don Richter, Acting Chief Executive, Tourism Victoria. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.8.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 6.8.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

6.8.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- Melbourne Convention Centre timelines and budget (p.2);
- key performance indicators for domestic visitor numbers (p.3);
- improvements in aviation access into Victoria (p.4);
- plans to expand the exhibition centre (p.5);
- impact on growing tourism in Victoria of planned investment projects (p.5);

- signage rights for the 2008 Australian Open and Grand Prix (p.6);
- major events strategy and how it enhances investment and tourism (pp.6–7); and
- query as to whether the Australian Formula One Grand Prix will be staged at night (p.7).

6.8.4 *Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing*

No questions were taken on notice by the Minister for Tourism and Major Events at the estimates hearing

6.8.5 *Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing*

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

CHAPTER 7: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Review of portfolios

7.1 Attorney-General's portfolio

7.1.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Rob Hulls MP, Attorney-General, on 3 June 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Dr Roslyn Kelleher, Acting Secretary, Department of Justice, Mr John Griffins, Executive Director, Courts Division and Ms Paula Adams, Manager, Portfolio Coordination. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

7.1.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 7.1.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 2 July 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

7.1.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- revenue foregone, concessions and subsidies (p.3);
- court waiting lists (pp.3–5);
- alternative dispute resolution funding initiatives (pp.5–6);
- legal precinct master plan (pp.6–7);
- planned Koori County Court (pp.7–8);
- Parole Boards and the human rights charter (p.8);
- increased funding to the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (pp.8–9);
- status of legislative actions under Legal Policy, Advice and Law Reform output (pp.9–10); and
- safety, security and risk management in the Magistrates' Courts (pp.10–11).

7.1.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 2 July 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

7.1.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

7.2 Consumer Affairs portfolio

7.2.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr Tony Robinson MP, Minister for Consumer Affairs, on 21 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Dr Roslyn Kelleher, Acting Secretary, Department of Justice; and Dr David Cousins, Executive Director, Consumer Affairs Victoria. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

7.2.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 7.2.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

7.2.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- review of alcohol licensing fees (p.3);
- initiatives to protect property buyers through education and regulation (pp.3–4);
- inspections, compliance monitoring and enforcement activities (pp.4–5);
- protection of consumers of credit services (pp.6–7);
- funding for enforcement and compliance activities, and outputs for licensing transactions and enforcement and monitoring activities (pp.7–8);
- liquor licensing inspectors (pp.7–8);

- protection of tenants (pp.8–9);
- retirement villages (pp.9–10); and
- liquor licensing fees (p.10).

7.2.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A question was taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1, and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on this question is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

7.2.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

7.3 Corrections portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

7.4 Gaming portfolio

7.4.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr Tony Robinson MP, Minister for Gaming, on 21 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Dr Roslyn Kelleher, Acting Secretary of the Department of Justice, Ross Kennedy, Executive Director, Gaming and Racing, Alan Clayton, Project Director, Gambling Licences Review, and Jennifer Shinn, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, Gaming and Racing. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

7.4.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 7.4.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

7.4.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- funding for the Problem Gambling Communication campaign and other campaigns (pp.4–5, p.9 and p.13);
- post-2012 gaming industry structure (p.6);
- Merkel review panel (pp.7–8);
- Intralot and expected revenue (pp.8–10);
- cooperation with the commonwealth and other states on gaming (pp.11–12);
- ATMs at gaming venues (p.12); and
- caps on gaming machines (p.12).

7.4.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions were taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1, and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

7.4.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

7.5 Police and Emergency Services portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

7.6 Racing portfolio

7.6.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Rob Hulls MP, Minister for Racing, on 3 June 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Ross Kennedy, Executive Director, Office of Gaming and Racing and Mr Ged Prescott, Manager, Office of Racing. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

7.6.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 7.6.5) are available on the Committee's website.

7.6.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- governance in the racing industry (pp.2–3);
- future financial arrangements for the racing industry (p.3);
- integrity services in the racing industry (pp.3–4);
- greyhound adoption program (pp.4–5); and
- taxation revenue from racing over the forward estimates period (p.5).

7.6.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

No questions were taken on notice by the Minister at the estimates hearing.

7.6.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

CHAPTER 8: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Review of portfolios

8.1 Aboriginal Affairs portfolio

8.1.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, on 21 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary of the Department of Planning and Community Development; Ms Angela Jurjevic, Executive Director, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria; Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer; and Mr Morrison, Acting Director, Governance and Legislation and Local Government Programs, all from the department.

8.1.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 8.1.5) are available on the Committee's website.

8.1.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- outputs and outcomes in Budget Paper No.3 compared with the strategic whole of government areas for action (pp.3 and 6);
- whole of government Aboriginal programs (p.6);
- the stolen generation (p.3);
- indigenous staff (pp.3–4);
- Aboriginal youth employment (pp.5–6);
- representational arrangements for Aboriginal people in Victoria (pp.4–5); and
- indigenous rehabilitation centres – healing services (p.4).

8.1.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

There were no questions taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing.

8.1.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.2 Community Development portfolio

8.2.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Peter Batchelor MP, Minister for Community Development, on 22 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Ms Gillian Miles, Deputy Secretary, Department of Planning and Community Development; Mr Damian Ferrie, Executive Director, Community Programs; and Mr Steven Gregory, Chief Financial Officer from the department. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.2.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 8.2.5) are available on the Committee's website.

8.2.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- the gaming industry post-2012 and the Community Support Fund (p.3);
- no-interest loan scheme (pp.3–4);
- impact of the Commonwealth social inclusion agenda (pp.4–5);
- Community Support Fund – project funding and management costs (pp.5–6);
- Office for the Community Sector (pp.6–7);
- Transport Connections program (pp.7–8);
- Community Foundations (pp.8–9);
- funding source for the Community Support Fund (pp.9–10);
- emerging community enterprises (pp.10–11);
- e-grant portal (pp.11–12);
- support for volunteering (p.11); and
- Community Support Fund, and compliance with the Gambling Regulation Act (pp.11–12).

8.2.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

No questions were taken on notice by the Minister for Community Development at the estimates hearing

8.2.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.3 Local Government portfolio

8.3.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Local Government, on 21 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary of the Department of Planning and Community Development, Ms Angela Jurjevic, Executive Director, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria; Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer; and Mr Morrison, Acting Director, Governance, Legislation and Local Government programs. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.3.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 8.3.5) are available on the Committee's website.

8.3.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- Councils' Reforming Business program (p.8);
- local government and proposed planning decision making changes (pp.8-9);
- local councillor conduct (p.10);
- Winky Pop Pty Ltd & Or Australia Pty Ltd v Hobsons Bay City Council and possible impact (pp.10-11);
- neighbourhood houses (p.11); and
- sustainability of local councils (pp.11-12).

8.3.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

No questions were taken on notice by the Minister for Local Government at the estimates hearing.

8.3.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.4 Planning portfolio

8.4.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Justin Madden MLC, Minister for Planning, on 23 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Yehudi Blacher, Secretary of the Department of Planning and Community Development; Genevieve Overell, Executive Director, Planning, Heritage and Urban Design; Prue Digby, Acting Deputy Secretary, Planning and Local Government; Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer; and Monica Ferrie, Director, Corporate Strategy from the department. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.4.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 8.4.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.4.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

Melbourne 2030

- audit of Melbourne 2030 and government response (pp.4–5); and
- infrastructure plan for Melbourne 2030 and the growth boundary areas (pp.7–8).

Transit Cities

- Transit Cities projects (pp.5–6);
- Ringwood precinct plan (pp.6 and 21–22);
- Revitalising Central Dandenong project (pp.19–20);

- private investment in regional centre projects (pp.20–21);
- Broadmeadows Transit City project (pp.22–23); and
- Footscray Transit City project (pp.25–26).

Other issues

- green wedge policy (pp.6–9);
- overlay area DPO 7 between Narrawong and Portland (pp.9–11);
- Melbourne’s growth areas and managing population increases (pp.11–12);
- assessing the Sugarloaf pipeline project (pp.12–14);
- strategic land use plan for Regional Victoria (pp.14–16);
- precinct structure plans (pp.16–17);
- development assessment committees (pp.17–18);
- housing affordability initiatives (pp.18–19);
- Rossdell Court, Portland (pp.23–25); and
- possible support for Councils’ new planning zones (pp.26–27).

8.4.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.4.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee’s website.

8.5 Multicultural Affairs portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

8.6 Senior Victorians portfolio

8.6.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Senior Victorians, on 22 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of the Senior Victorians portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Ms Fran Thorn, Secretary, Department of Human Services, Mr Alan Hall, Executive Director, Financial and Corporate Services, Dr Chris Brook, Executive Director, Rural and

Regional Health and Aged Care Services, and Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.6.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 8.6.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice (see 8.6.4) should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.6.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- assistance to older Victorians with chronic wounds (p.3);
- concessions for senior Victorians (pp.4–5);
- Men's Shed program (pp.5–6); and
- re-development of category 2 public sector residential aged care facilities (p.6).

8.6.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.6.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.7 Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs portfolio

8.7.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr James Merlino MP, Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, on 23 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of the Sport and Recreation portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Yehudi Blacher, Secretary, Department of Planning and Community Development; Peter Hertan, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation Victoria;

Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer; and James Montgomery, Director, Office for Youth. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.7.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1, for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 8.7.5) are available on the Committee's website.

8.7.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- development of the state athletics centre at Albert Park and the refurbishment of Olympic Park (pp.5–6);
- number of major projects in Victoria (p.7);
- grants made for Community Sporting Facilities (pp.7–8);
- scholarships at the Victorian Institute of Sport (p.9);
- funding for VFL grounds (pp.9–10);
- state level facilities in train, and completion timeframes (pp.10–11);
- positive body image strategy including Voluntary Code (pp.11–12 and pp.18–19);
- funding for country football-netball clubs (pp.12–14);
- women's participation in sport and recreation (pp.14–15);
- youth input to program agenda and policy development (pp.16–17);
- 'Advance youth development' program (pp.16–17); and
- FReeZA program (pp.17–18).

8.7.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

No questions were taken on notice by the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs at the estimates hearing.

8.7.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The Minister also tabled the following document at the hearing:

- Country Football and Netball Half-Time Report

The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.8 Veterans' Affairs portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

8.9 Women's Affairs portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

CHAPTER 9: DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Review of portfolios

9.1 Arts portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

9.2 Premier's portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

CHAPTER 10: DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Review of portfolios

10.1 Agriculture portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

10.2 Energy and Resources portfolio

10.2.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Peter Batchelor MP, Minister for Energy and Resources, on 22 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Richard Bolt, Secretary, Department of Primary Industries, Ms Marianne Lourey, Executive Director, Energy and Earth Resources and Mr Chris O'Farrell, Chief Financial Officer. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

10.2.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 10.2.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice (see 10.2.4) should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

10.2.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- planned rollout of smart meters by distribution companies (pp.5–6);
- review by the Australian Energy Market Commission of the effectiveness of competition in Victoria's electricity and gas markets (p.7);
- CCS technology, baseload generating capacity, demonstration projects and national emissions trading scheme (pp.4–5 and 7–8);
- establishment of Clean Coal Victoria (pp.8–9);
- solar power feed-in tariff (pp.9–10);
- energy technology innovation strategy (p.10);

- HRL project (pp.10–12);
- Otways Basin project (p.12);
- security of energy supply in one-off emergency situations (pp.12–13);
- impact of population growth on future demand for electricity (p.13); and
- Victorian Renewable Energy Target Scheme and renewable energy investment and emission reductions in Victoria (p.14).

10.2.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A question on notice was taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on this question is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

10.2.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

CHAPTER 11: DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

Review of portfolios

11.1 Environment and Climate Change portfolio

11.1.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr Gavin Jennings MLC, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, on 23 May 2008. The Minister provided an overview of the Environment and Climate Change portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Peter Harris, Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment, and Mr Des Hill, Chief Finance Officer. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

11.1.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 11.1.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice (see 11.1.4) should be submitted to the Committee by 30 June 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

11.1.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- revenue foregone such as concessions and subsidies managed within the portfolio (p.4);
- targeted reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (pp.4–5);
- Natural Resources Investment Program (pp.5–6);
- whole of government reporting on environmental outcomes (pp.7–8);
- funding for bays and maritime initiatives (p.8);
- environmental impacts associated with north-south pipeline under the Food Bowl Modernisation project (pp.8–9);
- funding to assist low-income households to reduce their energy bills and greenhouse gas emissions (pp.9–10);
- native vegetation tracking strategies (p.10);
- bridge replacement in parks and forests (pp.10–11);
- integration of biodiversity issues with planning developments (p.11);
- extension of the black balloons campaign (pp.11–12); and

- commonwealth and state decisions relating to emissions reduction targets (pp.12–13).

11.1.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

11.1.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

11.2 Water portfolio

11.2.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Tim Holding MP, Minister for Water, on 3 June 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Peter Harris, Secretary, Department of Sustainability and Environment, and Mr Des Hill, Chief Finance Officer. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

11.2.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 11.2.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 2 July 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

11.2.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- reconnection of Tarago Reservoir (p.3);
- Food Bowl Modernisation project and North-South pipeline (pp.3–11);
- Goldfields Superpipe project (p.5);
- water savings under Top 1500 industry program (pp.7–8);
- viability of construction of a pipeline from Tasmania to Victoria (pp.9–10);
- dams as an alternative water augmentation strategy (pp.11–12);

- environmental contribution levy (p.15);
- Small Towns Water Quality Fund and Victoria's overall performance in water management compared with other Australian jurisdictions (pp.15–16);
- Geelong-Melbourne pipeline (p.17);
- Victorian Water Trust (pp.17–18); and
- Sustainable Water Management and Supply output (pp.18–19).

11.2.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 2 July 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

11.2.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

CHAPTER 12: DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE

Review of portfolios

12.1 Finance, WorkCover and Transport Accident Commission portfolio

12.1.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Tim Holding MP, Minister for Finance, WorkCover and Transport Accident Commission, on 3 June 2008. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Grant Hehir, Secretary, Department of Treasury and Finance, Mr Paul O'Connor, Chief Executive Officer, Transport Accident Commission and Mr Greg Tweedly, Chief Executive, Worksafe Victoria. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

12.1.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2008-09 (see Appendix 1 for transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see 12.1.5) are available on the Committee's website. The Committee has agreed that written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 2 July 2008. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

12.1.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included the following (page references refer to the transcript in Appendix 1):

- revenue foregone, concessions and subsidies (p.4);
- funding by Transport Accident Commission (TAC) for road safety programs of Victoria Police (p.2);
- new output funding initiative in 2008-09 for Efficient Technology and Administrative Services (pp.5–6);
- savings targeted under Efficient Government policy (pp.6–8);
- reporting framework following harmonisation of government financial statistics (GFS) and generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) (pp.8–9);
- accounting policy for dividends paid by TAC (pp.9–10);
- planned review of Financial Management Act (p.10);
- performance of the WorkCover scheme (pp.11–12);
- movement in superannuation liabilities (pp.12–13);

- planned improvements in workplace health and safety (pp.13–14);
- Project Rosetta (pp.14–15);
- compensation scheme for sufferers of asbestosis (pp.15–16);
- WorkHealth scheme (p.16); and
- use of the Old Treasury Building (p.16).

12.1.4 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions on notice were taken by the Minister at the estimates hearing (see the transcript in Appendix 1 and the further information to be provided and questions on notice for each portfolio listed in Appendix 2).

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 30 June 2008 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

12.1.5 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

12.2 Treasury portfolio

The report of the hearing on this portfolio was included in the *Report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates – Part One*.

This report was adopted by the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee at its meeting held on 10 June 2008 in Meeting Room G7 at 55 St Andrews Place, Melbourne.