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**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**5 and 7 June 2007**

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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**Tuesday, 5 June 2007**

**Roads and ports: Springvale–Old Warrandyte roads, Donvale**

**67.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the Government's election commitment to install lights at the intersection of Springvale and Old Warrandyte Roads in Donvale —

- (1) What action has been taken on the design and what are the details of the design.
- (2) Have any tenders been let.
- (3) What is the time frame for completion.
- (4) What is the allocated budget for the project.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1) The Government has requested VicRoads to proceed with developing the proposal for signals at the intersection of Springvale Road and Old Warrandyte Road, Donvale.
- (2) No tenders have yet been let.
- (3) Delivery of the project will commence in 2008/09.
- (4) The estimated cost for the proposed works is \$3 million.

**Skills, education services and employment: Experience Counts program**

**71.** Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment with reference to the Government's Experience Counts program — when will the first retired experts commence their training.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Retired people who have worked in areas of skilled employment are an important resource of skills and experience for the next generation of workers.

We know that some mature aged people who have left the workforce are eager to continue working, and we also know that mature aged people have skills and experience that are extremely valuable to our workplaces.

Consequently, the Government has committed to delivery of a new \$4 million initiative, Experience Counts, which will help re-engage mature aged people with the labour market. This program will link retired mature aged people into skilled jobs through retraining and upskilling, training mature age workers to transfer their skills and mentor younger workers, and providing recognition of prior learning.

The program will also help employers meet their skills and labour needs through placing participants in areas of skills shortages.

I anticipate that the program will be ready for commencement in early 2007–08.

**Skills, education services and employment: skilled migration strategy**

**73. Mr DIXON** to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment — how will the Government extend the Skilled Migration Strategy in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

To meet skills shortages, boost population and grow communities, the Victorian Government implemented Victoria’s Skilled Migration Strategy 2004–07 to increase Victoria’s share of Australia’s skilled migrants.

Through this Strategy, Victoria’s share of skilled migrants increased from under 20% in 1998–99 to over 25% in 2005–06.

The Government has recognised the need to continue to advance Victoria as the destination of choice for skilled migrants and has committed \$8.4 million of additional funding to continue the Victorian Skilled Migration Strategy for another four years.

I anticipate releasing the Victorian Skilled Migration Strategy 2008–11 around the middle of 2007.

**Roads and ports: VicRoads internet site**

**75. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the VicRoads website [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au) —

- (1) How many hits did the website receive in each month from January 2006 to January 2007 inclusive.
- (2) How many distinct users accessed the website in each month from January 2006 to January 2007 inclusive.
- (3) What was the median time per session spent by users accessing the website in each month from January 2006 to January 2007 inclusive.
- (4) How much did VicRoads spend on maintaining or updating the website in —
  - (a) 2005–06;
  - (b) 2006–07 to date.
- (5) For each month from January 2006 to January 2007 inclusive, what is the description of each of the 10 most popular pages (excluding the home page) accessed on the website by —
  - (a) number of hits;
  - (b) number of page impressions.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1) VicRoads website tracking tool (Nielsen Netratings) does not record ‘hits’.

VicRoads does however record ‘page impressions’. A page impression is recorded each time a page is opened in a browser.

The following table shows page impressions for the VicRoads website by month from January 2006–January 2007.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Page Impressions</b>
<b>Jan-06</b>	1,350,870
<b>Feb-06</b>	1,343,433
<b>Mar-06</b>	1,707,651
<b>Apr-06</b>	1,342,822
<b>May-06</b>	1,713,589
<b>Jun-06</b>	1,655,865
<b>Jul-06</b>	1,788,610
<b>Aug-06</b>	1,844,492
<b>Sep-06</b>	1,717,155
<b>Oct-06</b>	1,877,186
<b>Nov-06</b>	1,802,494
<b>Dec-06</b>	2,157,625
<b>Jan-07</b>	2,478,387

- (2) The following table shows distinct users for the VicRoads website by month from January 2006–January 2007.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Distinct users</b>
<b>Jan-06</b>	185,254
<b>Feb-06</b>	195,878
<b>Mar-06</b>	264,067
<b>Apr-06</b>	195,789
<b>May-06</b>	224,524
<b>Jun-06</b>	201,165
<b>Jul-06</b>	216,951
<b>Aug-06</b>	231,985
<b>Sep-06</b>	222,774
<b>Oct-06</b>	244,674
<b>Nov-06</b>	243,980
<b>Dec-06</b>	263,664
<b>Jan-07</b>	278,785

- (3) VicRoads website tracking tool (Nielsen Netratings) does not record ‘median time per user session’ and this information is not readily obtainable.

VicRoads does however record ‘average user session duration’. Average user session duration is the average time visitors remain on a site per session.

The following table shows average user session duration for the VicRoads website by month from January 2006–January 2007.

Month	Average user session duration (minutes)
Jan-06	6.47
Feb-06	6.24
Mar-06	6.12
Apr-06	6.41
May-06	7.04
Jun-06	7.42
Jul-06	7.49
Aug-06	7.44
Sep-06	7.23
Oct-06	7.29
Nov-06	7.23
Dec-06	6.28
Jan-07	6.49

- (4) VicRoads expenditure for maintaining or updating the website are:
- (a) 2005–2006 financial year — hosting and support of the VicRoads website provided by contractors — \$885,000, plus 2 EFTs and a number of content authors.
  - (b) July 2006–February 2007 — hosting and support of the VicRoads website provided by contractors — \$490,000, plus 2 EFTs and a number of content authors.
- (5) (a) VicRoads website tracking tool (Nielsen Netratings) does not record ‘hits’
- (b) The description of each of the 10 most popular pages (excluding the homepage) accessed on the VicRoads website by number of page impressions for each month from January 2006–January 2007 are as follows:

JANUARY 2006	FEBRUARY 2006
Getting your learners permit	Getting your learners permit
Practice licence tests	Practice licence tests
Office locations and opening hours	Office locations and opening hours
Buying and Selling introduction	Buying and Selling introduction
Sample computer tests	Registration fees
Registration fees	Real time traffic mapping application
Change my address form	Sample computer tests
Cars vehicle entry point	Number plates introduction
Getting your probationary licence	Cars vehicle entry point
How to register or transfer	Change my address
MARCH 2006	APRIL 2006
Real time traffic mapping application	Practice licence tests
Practice licence tests	Getting your learners permit
Getting your learners permit	Office locations and opening hours
Office locations and opening hours	Real time traffic mapping application
Buying and Selling introduction	Buying and Selling introduction
Registration fees	Registration fees



QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

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Cars vehicle entry point	Sample computer tests
Sample computer tests	Cars vehicle entry point
Change my address	Change my address
Number plates introduction	Number plates introduction
<b>MAY 2006</b>	<b>JUNE 2006</b>
Getting your learners permit	Office locations and opening hours
Real time traffic mapping application	Practice licence tests
Office locations and opening hours	Getting your learners permit
Practice licence tests	Real time traffic mapping application
Buying and Selling introduction	Registration fees
Registration fees	How to register or transfer
Cars vehicle entry point	Buying and Selling introduction
Change my address	Change my address
How to register or transfer	Getting your probationary licence
Getting your probationary licence	Registration forms
<b>JULY 2006</b>	<b>AUGUST 2006</b>
Practice licence tests	Practice licence tests
Getting your learners permit	Office locations and opening hours
Office locations and opening hours	Getting your learners permit
Real time traffic mapping application	Real time traffic mapping application
Registration fees	Registration fees
Getting your probationary licence	Number plates introduction
How to register or transfer	How to register or transfer
Buying and Selling introduction	Getting your probationary licence
Change my address	Buying and Selling introduction
Number plates introduction	Change my address
<b>SEPTEMBER 2006</b>	<b>OCTOBER 2006</b>
Practice licence tests	Practice licence tests
Office locations and opening hours	Office locations and opening hours
Getting your learners permit	Getting your Learners permit
Real time traffic mapping application	Real time traffic mapping application
Registration fees	Registration Fees
How to register or transfer	Number plates introduction
Number plates introduction	How to register or transfer
Buying and Selling introduction	Change my address
Registration forms	Buying and Selling introduction
Change my address	Getting your Probationary Licence
<b>NOVEMBER 2006</b>	<b>DECEMBER 2006</b>
Practice licence tests	Licensing introduction
Office locations and opening hours	Office locations and opening hours
Real time traffic mapping application	Registration introduction
Getting your learners permit	Getting your learners permit
Registration fees	Real time traffic mapping application
How to register or transfer	Practice licence tests

Getting your probationary licence	Pay my registration information
Buying and Selling introduction	Rules standards and regulations
Number plates introduction	Traffic conditions and travel time information
Change my address	Pay my registration
<b>JANUARY 2007</b>	
Licensing introduction	
Getting your learners permit	
Registration introduction	
Office locations and opening hours	
Practice licence tests	
Rules, standards and regulations	
Real time traffic mapping application	
Pay my registration information	
Change my address	
Getting your probationary licence	

**Roads and ports: Stud Road duplication**

**87. Mrs VICTORIA** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — are there any plans or proposals by the Government to duplicate the lanes on Stud Road (a major north–south arterial) between Mountain Highway and Boronia Road, given the history of multiple major accidents and fatalities.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

Proposals for improvement projects must be considered and prioritised on a statewide basis, and any future duplication of Stud Road will be considered in this context.

I note that in the five years to December 2005, there was one casualty crash along the section of Stud Road between the Mountain Highway and Boronia Road. As both intersections currently have duplicated carriageways, any crash history at the intersections themselves would be unlikely to be affected by the duplication of the road. No fatalities have occurred along this length of road, including at the intersections, in the last seven years.

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**Thursday, 7 June 2007**

**Water, environment and climate change: dead water**

**39.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change — what is the current exact amount of dead water in the —

- (1) Cardinia Reservoir.
- (2) Silvan Reservoir.
- (3) Sugarloaf Reservoir.
- (4) Thomson Reservoir.
- (5) Upper Yarra Reservoir.
- (6) Yan Yean Reservoir.
- (7) Greenvale Reservoir.
- (8) Tarago Reservoir.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Melbourne Water reports reservoir storage levels as a percentage of the total full storage capacity of nine reservoirs. The total storage reported for these reservoirs is 1,773,000 ML. This does not include Tarago Reservoir, which will be reconnected to the metropolitan system in 2010. All of this 1,773,000 ML is recoverable.

For most of the reservoirs, there is an additional volume of water that is not included in the total reported storage figure. The volume of water for each dam that is not included in the storage figure is provided in the attached table. This water could be pumped to be accessed if required.

Reservoir	Total Reported System Storage (ML)	Unreported Water — (ML)
Thomson	1,068,000	55,089
Upper Yarra	200,000	4,406
Cardinia	287,000	2,053
Sugarloaf	96,000	2,969
Maroondah	22,000	6,054
O'Shannassy	3,000	unknown (low vol)
Silvan	40,000	136
Yan Yean	30,000	2,859
Greenvale	27,000	662
Tarago		Being investigated
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,773,000</b>	<b>74,228</b>

**Premier: Provincial Victoria campaign**

**146. Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham)** to ask the Premier with reference to the Government's Provincial Victoria Campaign promoted by advertising on television and through other media outlets —

- (1) What is the total cost of the campaign.
- (2) Who produced the campaign and for what amount.
- (3) What measures of success have been applied for the campaign to benchmark its effectiveness.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

1. The campaign was launched in 2003 in partnership with the state's 48 rural and regional Councils. As of 30 April 2007, \$5.867 million had been invested in the campaign over five years (2003–2007).
2. There have been a number of elements to the campaign, from the launch in 2003 through to the new business campaign in 2006.

The initial campaign was produced by Huzzard Byfield at a cost of \$283,000.

The business campaign was produced by Growth Solutions Group at a cost of \$440,000.

3. Unlike the previous Kennett Government, our Government is committed to making Provincial Victoria a better place to live, work and raise a family.

The Make it Happen in Provincial Victoria marketing campaign raises awareness of the great opportunities to live, work and invest in provincial Victoria.

Since coming to office, over 120,000 new jobs have been created and unemployment is now down to 5.2 per cent — the second-lowest rate recorded in 16 years.

The 2007/2008 State Budget provided a \$1.3 billion boost for regional services and infrastructure, including:

- \$123 million to replace, modernise and rebuild regional and rural schools;
- \$153 million for country health services, including \$52 million for health capital;
- \$42 million for new police stations at Swan Hill, Ararat, Foster, Kyneton and Ouyen;
- \$91 million to upgrade regional roads;
- \$134 million to buy back the regional rail tracks from Pacific National;
- \$25 million for maintenance upgrades of the rail freight network;
- \$53 million to upgrade the Mildura Rail corridor;
- \$38 million to modernise the Shepparton Irrigation area to save 50 billion litres per year;
- \$20 million for the Small Towns Water Quality program to upgrade water quality and maintain septic tanks in small towns;
- \$10 million for a four-year extension to the Water Smart Farms initiative to help increase agricultural output while improving water-use efficiency;
- \$4 million for the Leongatha Recycling Project;
- \$30 million to boost bus services in regional Victoria;
- \$29 million over four years to protect and grow Victoria's agriculture sector;
- \$30 million over four years to protect Victoria's farms and natural environment from the threats posed by pests and weeds;
- \$180 million towards a new biosciences research centre that will position Victoria as a national and international leader in plant and animal bioscience research, diagnostics and disease management;

- \$138 million outlined in the Ministerial Bushfire Recovery Taskforce’s final report to help rebuild, restore and equip bushfire-ravaged communities;
- \$23 million for regional tourism operators and local events over the next four years;
- \$3 million for drought counselling assistance;
- \$17.2 million for skills, employment and support for local industry;
- \$6.8 million for regional and rural planning initiatives, including implementing new rural zones and Geelong Transit City;
- \$40 million for upgrades to camping and recreation facilities and extra park rangers;
- \$1.2 million for the Marine Discovery Centre at Queenscliff;
- \$4.6 million to make Victoria one of the best places to 4WD; and
- \$137 million of savings to regional businesses in cuts to WorkCover.

The Make it Happen in Provincial Victoria campaign is just one part of the Government’s commitment to grow of the whole state and our goal of achieving 1.25% population growth. Most recent ABS figures show this has been exceed with population growth in regional Victoria ay 1.41%, the strongest in 17 years.

Our Government is proud of the work it has done to attract people to Provincial Victoria.

