

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**19 and 21 June 2007**

**(Extract from book 9)**

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.  
Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Assembly.  
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.  
The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Tuesday, 19 June 2007**

**Roads and ports: country road toll**

- 59. Mr WELLER** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the Government response to the Road Safety Committee's Report on the Inquiry in to the Country Road Toll —
- (1) Has VicRoads undertaken a review of minimum road standards for Category C roads as the Government undertook to do in its response to Recommendation 20; if so —
    - (a) what was the outcome of this review;
    - (b) will the Government be providing additional funding for Category C roads in the 2007–08 Budget.
  - (2) What are the Government's plans for additional rest areas on rural roads that have been developed in response to Recommendation 41.
  - (3) Has the Road Safety Executive Group published an audited statement on Government road safety expenditure in accordance with the commitment given in the Government response; if not, when will this occur.
  - (4) Has VicRoads recently undertaken a review of the clear zone guidelines; if so, what was the outcome.
  - (5) Have the clear zone guidelines been amended to increase the minimum clear zone distance as recommended by Recommendation 24 of the report; if not, what was the rationale behind this decision.
  - (6) What was the outcome of the VicRoads investigation into wire rope safety barriers along the centre of undivided roads as recommended by Recommendation 28 of the report.
  - (7) Has the Government developed a Code of Practice for roadside safety zones as recommended by Recommendation 23 of the report; if so, is the code based on the principle that the safety of road users should have precedence over the conservation of native vegetation on road reserves as recommended by the Committee.

**ANSWER:**

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

1. (a) Yes. When developing projects, the standards for widening of 'C' Class roads have been revised to provide for widening the seal width and the provision of shoulders based on traffic volumes and the existing seal width of the road.
- (b) Yes. As part of the Government's commitment of \$597 million TAC funding for the Safer Road Infrastructure Program, \$12.5 million will be allocated to provide edge lining on suitable sections of the 'C' road network, commencing in 2007/08. VicRoads is currently working to identify and develop further road safety projects across rural Victoria, including 'C' roads, as part of the initial investment under the \$597 million Safer Road Infrastructure Program. In addition, five 'C' roads are being improved under the Drought Package, at a total cost of \$15.5 million. This work will commence in the current financial year and continue in the 2007/08 financial year.

2. A number of rest area projects with a total cost of approximately \$16 million have recently been completed or are under development in rural areas.

In addition to these projects, a commercial service centre has recently been established off the Melbourne bound carriageway of the Western Freeway at Ballan.

3. An audited statement on Government road safety expenditure will be published following the close of the 2006/07 financial year.
4. Yes. As a result of the review, changes to Victoria's clear zone guidelines have been made with the minimum clear zone for high volume, high-speed roads being increased from nine metres to up to 20 metres. The minimum clear zone varies depending on the traffic volume.
5. Yes, as indicated in response to Question 4.
6. VicRoads' investigation into wire rope safety barriers along the centre of undivided highways has indicated that while such a treatment could be expected to be effective in reducing head-on crashes at the locations where they were installed, the benefit cost ratio (BCR) of these types of projects is unlikely to be above one. A project with a BCR of less than one would not normally obtain funding ahead of other projects. Typically, VicRoads' road safety program is delivering projects with a minimum BCR of at least three. Nevertheless, VicRoads will continue to look for opportunities to trial the centring of road wire rope barriers.
7. VicRoads and the Department of Sustainability and Environment are working on the development of a Code of Practice for Roadside Vegetation Removal. This is being pursued in conjunction with the review of native vegetation permit requirements. The development of a Code will be subject to extensive consultation. In accordance with the Government's response to the Committee's Report, the Code will seek to ensure that there is a greater degree of consistency in the assessment of potential impacts to ensure that road safety benefits are achieved and that road authorities are not unduly encumbered by permit requirements in achieving this.

**Roads and ports: Victoria–King streets, Doncaster**

68. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Road and Ports with reference to the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Victoria and King Streets, Doncaster, promised in the 2006 Budget —
- (1) When will the traffic lights be installed.
  - (2) What is the expected cost of the traffic lights and associated works.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) It is expected that the installation of the traffic signals will be completed during the 2007/08 financial year.
- (2) The estimated cost of the project is \$600,000.

**Roads and ports: Maroondah Highway, Coldstream**

90. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the section of the Maroondah Highway in Coldstream near Boundary Road —
- (1) What is the maintenance regime for this section of the Highway as per VicRoads' road management plan for this road.
  - (2) Has this section of the Highway been audited; if so —
    - (a) when was this section of the Highway last audited;
    - (b) what works did the last audit of this section of the Highway identify.

- (3) Have any complaints been received by VicRoads regarding this section of the Highway; if so —
- (a) how many individual complaints have been received;
  - (b) over what period of time were the complaints received;
  - (c) what was the response to each complaint.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) Under VicRoads' routine maintenance program, this section of the Maroondah Highway is inspected weekly, with maintenance carried out as required.
- (2a) The section of the highway near Boundary Road was last inspected on 13 March 2007 to confirm that the water blasting completed on 6 March 2007 had been effective. It was found that the treatment had been effective in improving skid resistance at this site and across the majority of the local area.
- (2b) The 13 March 2007 pavement inspection report recommended that:
- Line marking be reinstated (this was completed in April 2007),
  - Funding for resurfacing be sought (surface treatments are programmed in the 2007/08 summer),
  - Monitoring be carried out (VicRoads will continue to monitor the condition of the highway, including the section around Boundary Road, to determine the need for any further improvements), and
  - Further water blasting be undertaken if required. (This will be done as needed).

In response to feedback from the community and VicRoads' previous investigations into the condition of the highway since 2002, a variety of works have been undertaken on the Highway:

- A 'slippery when wet' sign was installed near Stringybark Creek in 2004. Additional signs were installed between the creek and just north of St Huberts Road in 2005,
  - Sections of the highway between Tarrowarra Road and Maddens Lane were resealed in three stages in 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07,
  - Audio-tactile centre-line marking was installed along the 15 kilometres of highway between Coldstream and Healesville in September 2006 to address a history of head-on crashes,
  - In late 2006, an area of road surface (approximately 100 metres long) within the inbound lane north of Stringybark Creek was reconstructed and resurfaced, and
  - Water blasting, completed 6 March 2007 to improve the skid resistance of the surface of a 1.4 km section from east of Stringybark Creek to east of Boundary Road.
- (3a) VicRoads has records of nine enquiries about the condition of the Maroondah Highway in Coldstream, all of them relating to the section just north of Stringybark Creek. An additional query was received on 22 December 2005 in relation to the resealing of a section near Hyde Park Road.
- (3b) The earliest enquiry was recorded on 26 July 2005.
- (3c) In response to these enquiries, VicRoads installed signs advising motorists of the slippery surface in the vicinity of Stringybark Creek and undertook investigations into the condition of the road. Four people enquired about the highway since 25 July 2006 and were advised that water blasting had been scheduled to address the issues raised.

**Roads and ports: Maroondah Highway, Coldstream**

- 91.** Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the section of the Maroondah Highway, Coldstream from Ingram Road to the Yarra River —

- (1) What is the maintenance regime for this section of the Highway as per VicRoads' road management plan for this road.
- (2) Has this section of the Highway been audited; if so —
  - (a) when was this section of the Highway last audited;
  - (b) what works did the last audit of this section of the Highway identify.
- (3) Have any complaints been received by VicRoads regarding this section of the Highway; if so —
  - (a) how many individual complaints have been received;
  - (b) over what period of time were the complaints received;
  - (c) what was the response to each complaint.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) Under VicRoads' routine maintenance program, this section of the Maroondah Highway is inspected weekly, with maintenance carried out as required.
- (2a) The length of Highway from Ingrams Road to the Yarra River was last inspected on 13 March 2007.
- (2b) The 13 March 2007 pavement inspection report recommended that:
  - Line marking be reinstated (this was completed in April 2007);
  - Funding for resurfacing be sought (surface treatments are programmed in the 2007/08 summer);
  - Monitoring be carried out (VicRoads will continue to monitor the condition of the highway, including the section around Boundary Road, to determine the need for any further improvements); and
  - Further water blasting be undertaken if required. (This will be done as needed.)

In response to feedback from the community and VicRoads' previous investigations into the condition of the highway since 2002, a variety of works have been undertaken on the highway:

- A 'slippery when wet' sign was installed in 2004, near Stringybark Creek, and additional signs were installed between the creek and just north of St Huberts Road in 2005,
  - Sections of the highway between Tarrowarra Road and Maddens Lane were resealed in three stages in 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07,
  - Audio tactile centre-line marking was installed along the 15 kilometres of the highway between Coldstream and Healesville in September 2006 to address a history of head-on crashes,
  - In late 2006, an area of road surface (approximately 100 metres long) within the inbound lane north of Stringybark Creek was reconstructed and resurfaced, and
  - Water blasting, completed by 6 March 2007 to improve the skid resistance of a 1.4 km length from east of Stringybark Creek to east of Boundary Road.
- (3a) VicRoads has records of nine enquiries about the condition of the Maroondah Highway in Coldstream, all of them relating to the section just north of Stringybark Creek. An additional query was received on 22 December 2005 in relation to the resealing of a section near Hyde Park Road.
  - (3b) The earliest enquiry was recorded on 26 July 2005.
  - (3c) In response to these enquiries, VicRoads installed signs advising motorists of the slippery surface in the vicinity of Stringybark Creek, and undertook investigations into the condition of the road. Four people enquired about the highway since 25 July 2006 and were advised that water blasting had been scheduled to address the issues raised.

**Energy and resources: Doncaster electorate Crown land**

**92(a).** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) What is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

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

There is no Crown land held within the Doncaster electorate that relates to the portfolio of the Minister for Energy and Resources. There is no intention to acquire any such land.

**Health: Doncaster electorate Crown land**

**92(b).** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) What is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services does not control any Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to its portfolio and there are no plans to acquire any Crown-owned land in the electorate.

**Community services: Doncaster electorate Crown land**

**92(c).** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) What is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services does not control any Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to its portfolio and there are no plans to acquire any Crown-owned land in the electorate.

**Housing: Doncaster electorate Crown land**

**92(d).** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) What is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Office of Housing does not control any Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to its portfolio and there are no plans to acquire any Crown-owned land in the electorate.

**Sports, recreation and youth affairs: Doncaster electorate Crown land**

**92(j).** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) What is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Under the portfolio of Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs I do not have responsibility for the management of Crown land or the sale and acquisition of land.

The Minister for Planning is responsible for the management of Crown land.

**Water, environment and climate change: Doncaster electorate Crown land**

**92(l).** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) What is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

A schedule of all Crown land parcels and the associated details of each in the electorate of Doncaster has been prepared, along with a corresponding map indicating the location of each parcel.

*[Map supplied in format unsuitable for incorporation in Hansard. Map can be viewed in electronic form under 'Questions on notice' at <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard/assembly.htm>]*

The responsibility for Crown land (under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* and the *Land Act 1958*) in the main rests with the Minister for Planning. The responsibility for the sale of Crown land rests with the Minister for Finance.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Tuesday, 19 June 2007

ASSEMBLY

2213

RESERVE No	PURPOSE	TYPE OF MANAGEMENT	MANAGER	AREA Ha
1204199	PUBLIC PARK – YARRAN DHERAN	RESERVE (COFM – COUNCIL)	WHITEHORSE CITY COUNCIL	0.291
1204681	PUBLIC RECREATION	RESERVE (COFM – COUNCIL)	MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL	2.019
1204745	PUBLIC PARK	RESERVE (COFM – COUNCIL)	MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL	0.733
1204872	PUBLIC BUILDINGS – DONCASTER EAST POLICE STATION	RESERVE (IMPLIED MGT – POLICE)	DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	0.229
2015002	PUBLIC PURPOSES (PROJECT)	RESERVE (COFM – OTHER)	SOUTHERN AND EASTERN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT AUTHORITY (SEITA)	3.496

PARCEL NO	SPI	RELATED RESERVE	COMMENTS	Area Ha
P360014	5A~10A\PP2264	1204745	PUBLIC PARK RESERVE	0.733
P360004	C1~6\PP2264	1204872	CROWN LAND	0.077
P360005	C2~6\PP2264	1204877	PUBLIC BUILDING RESERVE	0.152
P374245	2011\PP3337	2015002	MITCHAM–FRANKSTON FREEWAY	8.023
P360011	15B3\PP2264	1204681	PUBLIC PARK RESERVE	2.019
P244170	17A4\PP3753		STREAMSIDE RESERVE	1.131
P374261	2013\PP3337	2015002	MITCHAM–FRANKSTON FREEWAY	9.745
P374260	2012\PP3337	2015002	MITCHAM–FRANKSTON FREEWAY	9.030
P372302	2008\PP3337		STREAMSIDE RESERVE	0.406
P372303	2009\PP3337		STREAMSIDE RESERVE	0.351
P374263	2015\PP3337	2015002	MITCHAM–FRANKSTON FREEWAY	2.513
P374315	2019\PP3753	2015002	MITCHAM–FRANKSTON FREEWAY	0.983
P360848	127D\PP3337	204199	PUBLIC PARK RESERVE	0.339
P372299	2006\PP3337		STREAMSIDE RESERVE	0.014

**Public transport: W-class trams**

**100.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport how many of each of SW5, SW6, W6 and W7 class trams, based at each of the Glen Huntly and Southbank depots, were in a serviceable condition on 27 March 2007 for —

- (1) The City Circle service.
- (2) Revenue services such as routes 30 and 78/79.

**ANSWER:**

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

The following W-Class trams were in a serviceable condition at Glen Huntly and Southbank depots for use on tram Routes 30 and 78/79 and the City Circle service on 27 March 2007.

<b>Southbank Depot</b>				
	<b>City Circle</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Route 30</b>	<b>No.</b>
	SW5	1		
	SW6	5	SW6	2
	W6	1	W6	3
	W7	1	W7	3
		<b>8</b>		<b>8</b>
<b>Glenhuntly Depot</b>				
	<b>Route 78/79</b>	<b>am</b>	<b>pm</b>	
	SW5	0	0	
	SW6	5	9	
	W6	2	2	
	W7	3	3	
		<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	

**Water, environment and climate change: Dandenong Ranges National Park**

**109. Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change with reference to the section of the Dandenong Ranges National Park which abuts the electorate of Ferntree Gully —

- (1) When was the last occasion that this section of National Park was burnt in a controlled environment, such as a fuel reduction burn.
- (2) Taking into consideration the topography and flora of this area, how often should this area be subject to a controlled burn in order to reduce the amount of available fuel.
- (3) When will be the next occasion that this section of National Park will be subject to a controlled burn.

**ANSWER:**

– For the purposes of answering this question, my Department has interpreted the portion of the Dandenong Ranges National Park abutting the electorate of Ferntree Gully as that area south of the Mountain Highway and west of the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road (approximately 650 hectares).

- (1) Since the 1997 wildfire which burnt 340 hectares of this area, 24 fuel reduction burns have been conducted covering 160 hectares.
- (2) The frequency with which this area is fuel reduced is determined by the fuel management strategies defined in the East Port Phillip Fire Protection Plan (Nov 2003). This plan assigns fuel management zones based on the strategic importance of different areas, the appropriateness of burning to manage fuels, and the natural and developed values on or adjacent to the area. There are currently five zones: Zone 1 Asset protection, Zone 2 Strategic fuel reduced corridors, Zone 3 Broadacre fuel reduced mosaic, Zone 4 Specific flora and fauna management and Zone 5 Exclusion of prescribed burning. Each zone has triggers based on overall fuel hazard that determines when fuel reduction should be undertaken.

In this area approximately 11% is Zone 1, 70% is Zone 3 and 19% Zone 5.

Overall fuel hazard is monitored and used in conjunction with community and stakeholder input to determine when an area is next programmed for burning.

- (3) This area will be looked at again during the annual Fire Operations Planning process, and the community will be consulted formally in September. It is anticipated that at least 25 hectares will be programmed for burning over the next three years.

**Water, environment and climate change: Lysterfield Park**

**110.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change with reference to the Lysterfield State Park —

- (1) When was the last occasion that this State Park was burnt in a controlled environment, such as a fuel reduction burn.
- (2) Taking into consideration the topography and flora of this area, how often should this area be subject to a controlled burn in order to reduce the amount of available fuel.
- (3) When will be the next occasion that this State Park will be subject to a controlled burn.

**ANSWER:**

– For the purposes of answering this question, my Department has assumed the area in question is Lysterfield Park (approximately 1430 ha).

- (1) In the last ten years, seven burns have been conducted covering approximately 80 hectares. In 2003, 110 hectares was burnt in a wildfire.
- (2) The frequency with which this area is fuel reduced is determined by the fuel management strategies defined in the East Port Phillip Fire Protection Plan (Nov 2003). This plan assigns fuel management zones based on the strategic importance of different areas, the appropriateness of burning to manage fuels, and the natural and developed values on or adjacent to the area. There are currently five zones: Zone 1 Asset protection, Zone 2 Strategic fuel reduced corridors, Zone 3 Broadacre fuel reduced mosaic, Zone 4 Specific flora and fauna management and Zone 5 Exclusion of prescribed burning. Each zone has triggers based on overall fuel hazard that determines when fuel reduction should be undertaken.

In this area approximately 1% is Zone 1, 5% is Zone 2, 83% is Zone 3 and 11% Zone 5.

Overall fuel hazard is monitored and used in conjunction with community and stakeholder input to determine when an area is next programmed for burning.

- (3) This area will be looked at again during the annual Fire Operations Planning process, and the community will be consulted formally in September. It is anticipated that at least 30 hectares will be programmed for burning over the next three years.

**Water, environment and climate change: Churchill National Park**

**111.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change with reference to the Churchill State Park —

- (1) When was the last occasion that this National Park was burnt in a controlled environment, such as a fuel reduction burn.
- (2) Taking into consideration the topography and flora of this area, how often should this area be subject to a controlled burn in order to reduce the amount of available fuel.
- (3) When will be the next occasion that this National Park will be subject to a controlled burn.

**ANSWER:**

– For the purposes of answering this question, my Department has assumed the area in question is the Churchill National Park (approximately 290 hectares).

- (1) This area has not been fuel reduced or burnt by wildfire in the last ten years.
- (2) The frequency with which this area is fuel reduced is determined by the fuel management strategies defined in the East Port Phillip Fire Protection Plan (Nov 2003). This plan assigns fuel management zones based on the strategic importance of different areas, the appropriateness of burning to manage fuels, and the natural and developed values on or adjacent to the area. There are currently five zones: Zone 1 Asset protection, Zone 2 Strategic fuel reduced corridors, Zone 3 Broadacre fuel reduced mosaic, Zone 4 Specific flora and fauna management and Zone 5 Exclusion of prescribed burning. Each zone has triggers based on overall fuel hazard that determines when fuel reduction should be undertaken.

The entire Churchill National Park has been classified as Zone 3.

Overall fuel hazard is monitored and used in conjunction with community and stakeholder input to determine when an area is next programmed for burning.

- (3) This area will be looked at again during the annual Fire Operations Planning process, and the community will be consulted formally in September. However, given the nature of the vegetation (low fuel loading) and assets within and surrounding the park; it is unlikely that significant areas will be programmed for burning in the next three years.

### Public transport: taxidriver licences

**115.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) How many taxidrivers were licensed in Victoria as at 30 April 2007.
- (2) How many taxidrivers had demerit points on the Victorian Taxi and Tow Truck Directorate's demerit points register in each category ranging from zero to 12 as at 30 April 2007.

### ANSWER:

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

- (1) There was a total of 50,719 holders of a driver certificate as at 30 April 2007.

Of these:

- 20,407 drivers were endorsed to drive a metropolitan taxi or a metropolitan hire car; and
- 30,312 driver certificates permit the holder to drive a commercial passenger vehicle, including a non-metropolitan taxi, a commercial bus or private bus operating within the meaning of the Public Transport Competition Act 1995.

- (2) The Victorian Taxi Directorate does not maintain a demerit point register for taxi drivers. VicRoads administers the demerit point register and Mr Mulder should refer his question regarding demerit points to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

### Public transport: V/Line call centre

**122.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to V/Line's 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. telephone enquiry call centre line 13 61 96 —

- (1) How many calls in total were made to the call centre in —
  - (a) March 2007;
  - (b) April 2007.

- (2) What was the median waiting time for callers to the call centre in —
  - (a) March 2007;
  - (b) April 2007.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The total number of calls made to the call centre was:
  - (a) March 2007 — 73,530
  - (b) April 2007 — 75,897
- (2) The median waiting time for callers to the call centre was:
  - (a) March 2007 — 48 seconds
  - (b) April 2007 — 32 seconds

**Housing: women's refuges/ halfway houses**

**138.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to the acquisition of properties for the purpose of being used as 'women's refuges' or 'half way houses' —

- (1) How many properties are there in the southern metropolitan region as at 1 May 2007.
- (2) How many properties are currently occupied for the intended purpose.
- (3) What is the approximate dollar cost of staffing and maintenance of the houses.

**ANSWER:**

Four organisations receive funding in the Southern Metropolitan Region to provide a crisis response for women and children experiencing family violence. These agencies operate three women's refuges and eight interim accommodation properties.

All the properties are currently occupied for this purpose.

The total recurrent funding for these programs in the Southern Metropolitan Region is \$1,497,822 per annum. Maintenance is carried out when required and covered from the overall budget for community housing.

**Skills, education services and employment: ministerial communications training**

**145(m).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

- (1) What training has the Minister received.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity providing the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As neither the financial year for 2006/2007 nor the full calendar years for 2006 and 2007 have as yet transpired, then complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

**Women's affairs: ministerial communications training**

**145(p).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

- (1) What training has the Minister received.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity providing the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As neither the financial year for 2006/2007 nor the calendar years for 2006 and 2007 have as yet transpired, then complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.  
Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Assembly.  
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.  
The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Thursday, 21 June 2007**

**Skills, education services and employment: workforce participation strategy**

**70.** Mr **DIXON** to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment — when will the Minister implement the Workforce Participation Strategy for Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I anticipate releasing the Strategy later in 2007.

**Public transport: V/Line service replacement/augmentation**

**107.** Mr **MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — how much did V/Line expend between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007 on taxis to fully or partially replace or augment scheduled rail and coach services.

**ANSWER:**

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

V/Line has spent approximately \$107,000 between 1 January 2006 and 31 March 2007 on taxis to fully or partially replace or augment scheduled rail and coach services.

**Education: Sandringham electorate school upgrades**

**125.** Mr **THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education with reference to the Labor Party commitment at the last State election to commit an extra \$1.9 billion in its next term, in addition to the \$448 million committed in 2006–07, to deliver \$2.3 billion for education capital over five years — when will upgrades commence at —

- (1) Beaumaris North Primary School.
- (2) Black Rock Primary School.
- (3) Sandringham East Primary School.
- (4) Beaumaris Campus of Sandringham College.
- (5) Holloway Road Campus of Sandringham College.
- (6) Hihett Campus of Sandringham College.

**ANSWER:**

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

The Bracks Government has committed a massive \$1.9 billion over this term, which will see about 500 schools being built or modernised to meet the challenges of the future and invest in the services that matter to their families.

The 2007–08 State Budget delivers on more than a quarter of this commitment with 131 Victorian schools receiving capital funding to commence building.

Decisions relating to funding and commencement of the remainder of the commitment will be in future budgets.

**Education: Moorooduc Primary School upgrade**

**128.** Mr BURGESS to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education with reference to the Labor Party promise at the last state election to commit an extra \$1.9 million on top of its existing 2006–07 commitment of \$448 million, a total commitment of \$2.3 billion for education capital over the next five years — when will the upgrade of Moorooduc Primary School commence.

**ANSWER:**

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

The Bracks Government has committed a massive \$1.9 billion over this term, which will see about 500 schools being built or modernised to meet the challenges of the future and invest in the services that matter to their families.

The 2007–08 State Budget delivers on more than a quarter of this commitment with 131 Victorian schools receiving capital funding to commence building.

Decisions relating to funding and commencement of the remainder of the commitment will be in future budgets.

**Aged care: ministerial communications training**

**145(a).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Aged Care with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

- (1) What training has the Minister received.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity providing the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As neither the financial year for 2006/ 2007 nor the full calendar years for 2006 and 2007 have as yet transpired, then complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

**Sports, recreation and youth affairs: ministerial communications training**

**145(n).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

- (1) What training has the Minister received.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity providing the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As neither the financial year for 2006/2007 nor the calendar years for 2006 and 2007 have as yet transpired, then complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

**Premier: adviser appointment**

**155.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Premier with reference to the appointment of Lisa Mahood as an adviser to the Premier —

- (1) In which newspaper was the job advertised.
- (2) How many applications for the job were received.
- (3) What is the public service grade level at which the appointment was made.
- (4) What were terms of the job description that was prepared prior to the job being advertised.
- (5) What is the correlation between the selection criteria and the skill set of the appointee.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The engagement of staff for deployment in the office of a Minister of the Crown is governed by the Public Administration Act 2004. Further information about the appointment of staff within the office of a Minister of the Crown can be found in the aforementioned act.

**Education: Doncaster Secondary College upgrade**

**178.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education with reference to the Government's 2006 election commitment to upgrade Doncaster Secondary College — why was the College not funded in the 2007–08 state budget and when will the Government provide the funds the College requires to bring its facilities up to date.

**ANSWER:**

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

The Bracks Government has committed a massive \$1.9 billion over this term, which will see about 500 schools being built or modernised to meet the challenges of the future and invest in the services that matter to their families.

The 2007–08 State Budget delivers on more than a quarter of this commitment with 131 Victorian schools receiving capital funding to commence building.

Decisions relating to funding and commencement of the remainder of the commitment will be in future budgets.

