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**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 31 March 2009

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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, 31, March 2009

Roads and ports: questions on notice

561. Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — when will the Minister provide answers for questions on notice 373b, 374b, 375, 376b and 439.

ANSWER:

I am advised as follows:

The answers to questions on notice 373b, 374b, 375, 376b and 439 have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Roads and ports: country road toll

677. Mr WELLER to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — when will the Government release a comprehensive strategy to address the country road toll as committed to in the Government response to recommendation six of the Road Safety Committee’s Inquiry into the Country Road Toll which states the Government will request VicRoads to develop a strategy and action plan for country roads.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Brumby Government released its new arrive alive road safety strategy in February 2008. This is a comprehensive strategy to address the road toll across the state. Included within this strategy is a dedicated section that specifically addresses Country Road safety issues. In 2008, Victoria recorded its lowest country road toll on record since records were compiled in 1987.

Roads and ports: Better Roads Victoria Trust Account

678. Mr WELLER to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the Government’s commitment to contribute money collected from traffic camera on the and spot speeding fines to improving roads through the Better Roads Victoria Trust Account — why has estimated expenditure from the Trust Account as shown on page 13 of Budget Information Paper 1: Public Sector Asset Investment Program 2007–08 fallen short of revenue from police fines as shown on page 145 of Budget Paper No 4: Statement of Finances 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

All revenue raised from traffic cameras and on the spot speeding fines is directed to the Better Roads Victoria Trust Account. Police fines, as shown in Budget paper No 4, includes fines other than traffic camera and on the spot speeding fines.

Roads and ports: rural road projects

679. **Mr WELLER** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to a discrepancy between a media release on 24 August 2007 that stated the Government had invested \$341 million in country roads in 2006–07 and information published in Budget Information Paper 1: Public Sector Asset Investment Program 2006–07 which shows estimated expenditure on Government funded road projects in 2006–07 as \$84.9 million —

- (1) Why is there a discrepancy.
- (2) Were additional funds made available by the Government for rural road projects; if so, are audited details confirming these additional funds available.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) The figure of \$84.9 million represents the 2006-07 estimated expenditure for certain rural road improvement projects under the Public Sector Asset Investment Program 2006-07 listed in Budget Information Paper 1 (BIP1). In contrast, the \$341 million relates to the total expenditure in 2006-07 on country roads including road improvements, road safety projects, maintenance and operations works like street lighting and line marking.
- (2) During 2006-07, the Treasurer approved TEI increases for two rural projects listed in BIP1 which resulted in additional expenditure during that year. These projects were —

Calder Highway Sec 2-Faraday to Ravenswood
Koo Wee Rup-Longwarry Road-Bayles Bridge Rehabilitation

Details of these additional approvals are available to the Auditor-General as part of the annual audit of VicRoads accounts.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham — red-light cameras

901. **Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham)** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the red light cameras monitoring right-hand turns at the intersections of Nepean Highway and Bay Road and Nepean Highway and Karen Street in Cheltenham —

- (1) How many fines were imposed on 9 January 2008.
- (2) How many fines have been withdrawn on the recommendation of a prosecutor owing to a minimal or fraction of a second time delay in proceeding against a red light since July 2007.
- (3) How many fines have been accepted, where no request was made for a contested hearing owing to a minimal or fraction of a second time delay, in proceedings against a red light camera since July 2007.
- (4) How many fines have been withdrawn by Victoria Police since 1 July 2007 to date.
- (5) What criteria have been applied by Victoria Police for the withdrawal of fines.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- 1) On 9 January 2008, 44 infringements were issued for turning against the red signal.
- 2) Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008, no infringements were withdrawn by the prosecutor due to the fact that the vehicle captured turned right less than a second after the light turned red.

- 3) There were 9 infringements issued between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008 where the vehicle turned right less than a second after the light turned red which were paid and no contested hearing was requested.
- 4) From 1 July 2007 until 30 June 2008, 28 infringements were withdrawn by Victoria Police following an internal review request.
- 5) Each application for internal review is considered by Victoria Police on its merits.

Roads and ports: Maroondah Highway, Coldstream — traffic lights

915. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — when will the promised traffic lights on the Maroondah Highway at Coldstream be installed.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Service relocation work required to install traffic signals at the intersection of the Melba Highway and the Maroondah Highway commenced in September 2008. The installation of the traffic signals has been delayed until a planning permit to remove a tree is obtained from the Shire of Yarra Ranges. The matter was heard by Council on 27 January 2009. The application to remove the tree was refused and VicRoads will now consider its options to progress the matter.

Roads and ports: Omeo Highway — sealing

1139. Mr TILLEY to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — what are the details of the Minister's commitment to have a road study commenced into sealing the remaining 27 km of the Omeo Highway following the sealing of the Bogong High Plains Road.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Omeo Highway is inspected and maintained in accordance with VicRoads' Roads Management Plan. Regular grading and gravel resurfacing works are programmed throughout the year.

To ensure public funds are used for the greatest benefit, all road upgrade proposals are considered on a state-wide and region-wide basis. This allows the needs of all Victorian road users to be considered. Any future decisions to upgrade the Omeo Highway will be evaluated by these means.

Information and communication technology: adjournment debate responses

1180(ab). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Information and Communication Technology what is the usual length of time taken for the Minister to respond to matters raised during the adjournment debate in the House.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The adjournment debates in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council play an important role where members raise matters for Ministers which they consider requires attention.

If there is a particular adjournment debate matter which relates to my portfolio that you are seeking a response to please feel free to contact me.

Roads and ports: adjournment debate responses

1180(ad). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports what is the usual length of time taken for the Minister to respond to matters raised during the adjournment debate in the House.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The adjournment debates in the Legislative Assembly play an important role where members raise matters for Ministers which they consider require attention.

If there is a particular adjournment debate matter which relates to my portfolio to which a response is sought, members should feel free to contact me.

Police and emergency services: Croydon station site

1405. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the former Croydon Police Station site —

- (1) Does the Department of Justice still own the site; if so, what does the Department intend to do with the site.
- (2) Is it the intention of the Department to sell the site; if so —
 - (a) under what zoning restrictions will the site be sold;
 - (b) how much is expected to be raised from the sale of the site; and
 - (c) will the proceeds from the sale of the site be reinvested into policing in the district of Kilsyth.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) No. The site was sold by the Department of Treasury and Finance more than two years ago.
- (2) See above.

Roads and ports: St Peter Julian Eymard Primary School, Mooroolbark — electronic speed signs

1406. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the installation of electronic speed limit signs on Hull Road in Mooroolbark near St Peter Julian Eymard Primary School —

- (1) When will the installation commence.
- (2) When will the installation be completed and the signs operational.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The electronic speed signs program is part of the Brumby Government's commitment to improve safety for children, one of the most vulnerable groups who use Victoria's roads.

Signs have already been installed at schools on roads which are 80km/h and above. Signs are now being installed at all schools on 70km/h roads followed by 60km/h roads with the highest traffic volumes.

Roads and ports: Maroondah Highway–Dorset Road–Bellara Drive — upgrade

1407. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the intersection of Dorset Road, Bellara Drive and Maroondah Highway in Croydon —

- (1) Are there any plans to upgrade the intersection; if so, when; if not —
 - (a) when will the Government investigate an upgrade; and
 - (b) against what criteria will the Government assess the need for and upgrade.
- (2) When was the last traffic count conducted.
- (3) What was the outcome of the last traffic count.
- (4) How many cars, on average, use the intersection during —
 - (a) weekdays prior to 7.30 am;
 - (b) weekdays between —
 - (i) 7.30–8.30 am;
 - (ii) 8.30–9.00 am;
 - (iii) 9.00–9.30 am;
 - (iv) 9.30 am and 3.00 pm;
 - (v) 3.00–4.00 pm;
 - (vi) 4.00–5.00 pm;
 - (vii) 5.00–6.00 pm;
 - (viii) 6.00–7.00 pm;
 - (c) weekdays after 7.00 pm; and
 - (d) weekends.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

1. (a) & (b)
 Planning for road improvements is undertaken with regard to the objectives of the Government’s planning, transport and road safety strategies. Proposals for improvement projects must be considered and evaluated on a statewide basis.
- 2, 3 & 4.
 Traffic counts for both the Maroondah Highway/Dorset Road and Dorset Road/Bellara Drive intersections were last conducted on Saturday 13 September 2008, Sunday 14 September 2008 and Wednesday 8 October 2008.

Intersection Dorset Road and Bellara Drive

- (a) Weekdays, 12:00am–7:30am: 1,759 vehicles.
- (b) (i) 7:30am–8:30am: 1,429 vehicles.
- (ii) 8:30am–9:00am: 871 vehicles.
- (iii) 9:00am–9:30am: 624 vehicles.
- (iv) 9:30am–3:00pm: 5,913 vehicles.
- (v) 3:00pm–4:00pm: 1,554 vehicles.
- (vi) 4:00pm–5:00pm: 1,705 vehicles.
- (vii) 5:00pm–6:00pm: 1,869 vehicles.
- (viii) 6:00pm–7:00pm: 1,338 vehicles.

- (c) Weekdays, 7:00pm–12:00am: 2,556 vehicles.
- (d) Saturday: 17,508 vehicles per day.
Sunday: 13,925 vehicles per day.

Intersection Dorset Road and Maroondah Highway

- (a) Weekdays, 12:00am–7:30am: 4,115 vehicles.
- (b)
 - (i) 7:30am–8:30am: 3,211 vehicles.
 - (ii) 8:30am–9:00am: 1,769 vehicles.
 - (iii) 9:00am–9:30am: 1,348 vehicles.
 - (iv) 9:30am–3:00pm: 13,053 vehicles.
 - (v) 3:00pm–4:00pm: 3,189 vehicles.
 - (vi) 4:00pm–5:00pm: 3,730 vehicles.
 - (vii) 5:00pm–6:00pm: 3,959 vehicles.
 - (viii) 6:00pm–7:00pm: 2,890 vehicles.
- (c) Weekdays, 7:00pm–12:00am: 5,213 vehicles.
- (d) Saturday: 40,167 vehicles per day.
Sunday: 33,642 vehicles per day.

Industry and trade: Kenworth Trucks

1416. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Rural and Regional Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade with reference to recent cuts to manufacturing staff at Kenworth Trucks in Bayswater —

- (1) How many staff have been laid off.
- (2) What compensation is available to dismissed staff under current Government policy.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Regarding recent staff cuts at Kenworth’s manufacturing plant in Bayswater, thirty five staff were retrenched on 23 December 2008. All entitlements were paid to those staff.
- (2) The Government is able to assist affected workers through a range of existing Government initiatives including:

Access to the range of existing government funded training places is available at nearby TAFE institutions and a range of private Registered Training Organisations. State Government invests approximately \$700 million each year in training places across the State. Swinburne University-TAFE Division, Croydon campus, or Box Hill Institute of TAFE, Nunawading campus, would be the closest institutions to the Bayswater site that can assist the Kenworth Trucks employees.

Access to Skills Stores — The State Government has committed over \$23 million towards the establishment of 13 Skills Stores across the State. Skills Stores provide up-front free skills assessment, career advice and information about opportunities in the vocational education and training sector. The Eastern Melbourne Skills Store, based in Box Hill, which has a mobile service, is the closest Skills Store to the Bayswater site.

Potential for support through the Skill Up program — Skill Up is a rapid response program to retrain workers who are retrenched as a result of major industry downturn or workplace closure. The program focuses on helping retrenched workers upgrade their skills or develop new skills so they can re-enter the workforce as quickly as possible. A Situational Assessment report is required to be submitted by an authorised representative of the affected enterprise, or relevant union or TAFE institution, to determine

eligibility for support. If approved, a relevant TAFE institution is identified to take the lead in sourcing appropriate training.

Consumer affairs: franchising industry

1418. Mrs **VICTORIA** to ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs — does the Minister plan to initiate an inquiry into the franchising industry —

- (1) If so, when.
- (2) If not, why not.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

This matter does not fall within the responsibilities of the Minister of Consumer Affairs. The Member should direct the question to the Minister for Small Business.

Roads and ports: bicycle helmets

1472. Mr **THOMPSON (Sandringham)** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — how many cyclists were fined for their failure to wear a securely fitted, approved bicycle helmet carrying the Australian Standards Mark (trademark) AS 2063.2 or AS/NZA 2063 in —

- (1) 2003–04.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2005–06.
- (4) 2006–07.
- (5) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question does not fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and Ports.

Roads and ports: bicycle safety

1473. Mr **THOMPSON (Sandringham)** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — how many cyclists were fined for failure to have a working bell or horn on their bicycle in —

- (1) 2003–04.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2005–06.
- (4) 2006–07.
- (5) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question does not fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Roads and Ports.

Water: new dams

1503. Mrs **VICTORIA** to ask the Minister for Water — when does the Government plan to release its investigation into the building of new dams.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the report titled ‘Alternative Options to Meet Long Term Demands — Dams’, is available on the Victorian Government *Our Water Our Future* website — www.ourwater.vic.gov.au.

Roads and ports: Crown land — Warrandyte electorate

1536. Mr **SMITH (Warrandyte)** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — why was part one of the question not answered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Information on crown land is available to the general public at www.landata.vic.gov.au

Community services: South West Primary Care Partnership

1552. Ms **WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$50,000 funding given to South West Primary Care Partnership in Warrnambool.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- A range of local initiatives have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria’s Alcohol Action Plan.

Roads and ports: VicRoads — traffic system performance monitoring reports

1590. Mr **MULDER** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to VicRoads Traffic System Performance Monitoring reports —

- (1) What date was the 2005–06 report uploaded to the VicRoads website
- (2) What date will the 2006–07 and 2007–08 reports be uploaded to the VicRoads website.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Traffic System Performance Monitoring Report for 2005-06 was released in December 2007.

The Traffic System Performance Monitoring Report for 2006-07 has been re-ordered to reflect an integrated transport network, taking longer to collate related data. The report will be finalised in the near future, with the 2007-08 report to follow.

Roads and ports: Western Port container island

1610. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the answer to question on notice 17 lodged on 7 October 2006 that referred to an answer to question without notice given by the Treasurer on 2 December 2004 which estimated the cost of construction of a container island in Western Port Bay to be \$2.7 billion (Hansard Vol 464, p 1,999) —

- (1) Who provided the construction cost estimate and from where was the information sourced.
- (2) Was the Government's request for the construction cost estimate and the sourcing of information put out to tender.
- (3) What was the cost of obtaining the construction cost estimate and the source information.
- (4) What are the complete details for all documents, reports and briefing notes supporting the cost estimates given by the Treasurer.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Construction cost estimates for infrastructure projects and proposals are prepared from a range of sources both within the Department of Transport and from external providers.

Where external providers are selected and relevant financial thresholds are reached, an appropriate process is carried out in accordance with Government procurement protocols which can be accessed at <http://www.vgpb.vic.gov.au/>.

Water: First Mildura Irrigation Trust

1625. Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the status of the Grange/Lehman Brothers investment made by the former First Mildura Irrigation Trust —

- (1) Have interest payments been made.
- (2) When is the security to be redeemed.
- (3) Was the security part of the United States Government financial market rescue.
- (4) Have recent currency re-evaluations had any effect on the security's value.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The investment with Grange Securities was spread over two investment vehicles, Zircon Finance (Merimbula) and Lehman Brothers (Federation).

Interest payments were received from both investments up until September 2008, when both investments defaulted.

Rabobank, which bought the Lehman Brothers (Federation) after its collapse, repaid the investment in full on 3 November 2008, including interest.

The Zircon Finance (Merimbula) has been written down to zero and is not expected to be recovered.

The securities were not part of the United States Government financial market rescue.

As one of the investments has already been paid out in full, and the other has been written down to zero, currency fluctuations have no impact on the securities' value.

Roads and ports: I-view

1643. **Mr SMITH (Warrantdyte)** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — has the Department of Infrastructure engaged the services of data collection agency I-view since 1 July 2007; if so, for what purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Infrastructure engaged the services of data collection agency I-view twice since 1 July 2007, to provide likely patronage survey near bus routes.

Consumer affairs: ice pipes

1720. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs with reference to the sale of ice pipes and the permanent ban order published in the Victorian Government Gazette No S11 22 January 2004 —

- (1) How many retailers, individuals or bodies corporate were fined for selling ice pipes in —
 - (a) 2004;
 - (b) 2005;
 - (c) 2006; and
 - (d) 2007.
- (2) How many retailers have been fined for selling ice pipes in contravention of the ban order since 1 January 2008.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The results of an ongoing product safety inspection program by Consumer Affairs Victoria Inspectors over a range goods, including ice pipes, in both metropolitan and regional centres are as follows: —

2004	No ice pipes detected in the market.
2005	1 prosecution resulting in the director and company each being fined \$1,000, 1 court enforceable undertaking given, and 2,126 ice pipes seized.
2006	No ice pipes detected in the market.
2007	1 prosecution resulting in a \$6,000 fine for the company, 1 court injunction obtained, 5 court enforceable undertakings given and 1,089 ice pipes seized.
2008	1 prosecution resulting in a \$15,000 fine with conviction as part of an aggregate order, 1 warning letter to a trader, and 7 ice pipes seized (among other banned goods).

Roads and ports: Royal Automobile Club of Victoria report

1736(b). **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports has the Minister read the RACV Outer Melbourne Connect report published in October 2008.

ANSWER:

I have read the RACV Outer Melbourne Connect report which was published in October 2008.

Roads and ports: city of Maroondah — roads

1737. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the proposals made in the RACV Outer Melbourne Connect report for road upgrades in Maroondah — will the Government include funding in the 2009–10 Budget for the —

- (1) Upgrade of Canterbury Road to six lanes between Dorset Road and Mount Dandenong Road.
- (2) Widening of Dorset Road between Hull Road and Maroondah Highway.
- (3) Upgrade and widening of Croydon Road, Plymouth Road, Warranwood Road, Wonga Road and Yarra Road from Yarra Road to Ringwood-Warrandyte Road.
- (4) Construction of the Northern Arterial between Croydon Road and Maroondah Highway.
- (5) Duplication and upgrade of Croydon Road between Canterbury Road and Mount Dandenong Road.
- (6) Duplication and upgrade of Bayswater Road between Canterbury Road and Mount Dandenong Road.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Planning for road improvements is undertaken with regard to the objectives of the Government's planning, transport and road safety strategies. Government will consider the RACV report and as, with all proposals for improvement projects, will evaluate and prioritise the projects on a statewide basis.

Roads and ports: shire of Yarra Ranges — roads

1738. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the proposals made in the RACV Outer Melbourne Connect report for road upgrades in Yarra Ranges — will the Government include funding in the 2009–10 Budget for the —

- (1) Upgrade of York Road between Swansea Road and Monbulk Road.
- (2) Duplication of Maroondah Highway between the Warburton Highway and the Melba Highway.
- (3) Construction of the Lilydale Bypass between Maroondah Highway and Anderson Street.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Planning for road improvements is undertaken with regard to the objectives of the Government's planning, transport and road safety strategies. Government will consider the RACV report and as, with all proposals for improvement projects, will evaluate and prioritise the projects on a statewide basis.

Skills and workforce participation: TAFE electrical engineering courses

1753. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation with reference to the answer to Question on Notice 1165 lodged on 11 November 2008 —

- (1) What areas are represented within the 384 Government funded enrolments in electrical engineering at TAFE institutions.
- (2) Is the number of enrolments funded by the Government for applicants to study electrical engineering at TAFE institutions adequate to the electrical engineering needs of the State.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The 384 government funded enrolments in electrical engineering at TAFE institutes in Victoria in 2007 were at five metropolitan institutes: Chisholm Institute of TAFE, Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE, RMIT University, Swinburne University and Victoria University.

I am advised that Skills Victoria's 2008 analysis (using 2007 data) shows that there is a shortfall in the delivery of Electrical Engineering to meet forecast needs.

However as you would be aware, on 26 August 2008 I announced, alongside the Premier, *Securing Jobs for your Future—Skills for Victoria*. These reforms deliver \$316 million in extra funding over the next four years. It will provide an additional 172,000 training places for Victorians and further strengthen our world-class TAFE network.

A key feature of this significant reform is *Skills for Life—The Victorian Training Guarantee*. For the first time, we are introducing an entitlement to all eligible Victorians to a government subsidised place in recognised training. It can be accessed at any time for training at the foundation level and for training in qualifications higher than those already held.

Industry will be operating in a system where the number of training places available is determined according to the number of people who seek them, not by government or training providers. This means that the number of electrical engineer training places will not be capped.

The role of Industry Training Advisory Boards will be strengthened. The Victorian Skills Commission will continue to provide advice to government on options to invest in skills development in critical skills shortage areas.

Environment and climate change: Kilsyth electorate — parks charge

1756(a). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to the parks charge —

- (1) What was the total amount collected in the electorate of Kilsyth.
- (2) What percentage of the amount collected in the electorate of Kilsyth was allocated for projects in the electorate.

ANSWER:

The parks charge is paid to Parks Victoria, Zoos Victoria, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance for the management of parks, open spaces and waterways in the metropolitan area.

I am informed that the amount of parks charge collected in the Kilsyth area (postcodes 3136, 3137 and 3138) in 2007-08 was \$1.6 million and the amount spent by Parks Victoria in the Kilsyth area in 2007-08 on the Dandenong Ranges National Park and Dandenong Ranges Gardens was \$3.7 million.

Roads and ports: Kilsyth electorate — road intersections

1761. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to road funding priority listings — is there a list of roads for priority funding for intersections; if so —

- (1) Which intersections make up the top 20 intersections.
- (2) Which intersections in the electorate of Kilsyth appear on the list.
- (3) When will work commence on the first intersection in the electorate of Kilsyth that appears on the list.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

A document in the terms described does not exist.

Proposals for improvement projects are considered in accordance with the Government's road safety and transport plans and are evaluated on a case by case basis against other statewide priorities.

Roads and ports: Maroondah Highway–Dublin Road, Ringwood East — traffic lights

1762. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the intersection of Maroondah Highway and Dublin Road in Ringwood East —

- (1) How many accidents have occurred at the intersection —
 - (a) in 2008; and
 - (b) since 2003.
- (2) How many fatal accidents have occurred at the intersection in the past —
 - (a) in 2008; and
 - (b) since 2003.
- (3) Are there plans to install traffic lights at the intersection; if so, when.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of installing traffic lights at the intersection.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

(1) & (2)

This information is available on the VicRoads website at www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

(3) & (4)

Planning for road improvements is undertaken with regard to the objectives of the Government's planning, transport and road safety strategies. Proposals for improvement projects are considered and evaluated on a statewide basis.

Roads and ports: Eastfield Road–Morinda Street–Railway Avenue, Ringwood East — traffic lights

1763. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the intersection of Eastfield Road, Morinda Street and Railway Avenue in Ringwood East —

- (1) How many accidents occurred at the intersection —
 - (a) in 2008; and
 - (b) since 2003.
- (2) How many fatal accidents occurred at the intersection —
 - (a) in 2008; and
 - (b) since 2003.
- (3) Are there any plans to install traffic lights at the intersection; if so, when.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of installing traffic lights at the intersection.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

(1) & (2)

This information is available on the VicRoads website at www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

(3) & (4)

Planning for road improvements is undertaken with regard to the objectives of the Government's planning, transport and road safety strategies. Proposals for improvement projects are considered and evaluated on a statewide basis.

Roads and ports: Eastfield Road, Croydon South — upgrade

1764. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports will the Government fund driver and pedestrian safety upgrades for Eastfield Road in Croydon South, in the 2009–10 Budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Proposals for improvement projects are considered on a state-wide and region-wide basis with regard to the objectives of the Government's planning, transport and road safety strategies.

Roads and ports: Croydon Primary School — electronic speed signs

1765. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports will the Government fund electronic speed signs outside Croydon Primary School on Kent Avenue in Croydon.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The electronic speed signs program is part of the Brumby Government's commitment to improve safety for children, one of the most vulnerable groups who use Victoria's roads.

Signs have already been installed at schools on roads which are 80km/h and above. Signs are now being installed at all schools on 70km/h roads followed by 60km/h roads with the highest traffic volumes.

Roads and ports: Croydon Secondary College — electronic speed signs

1766. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports will the Government fund electronic speed signs outside Croydon Secondary College on Croydon Road in Croydon.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The electronic speed signs program is part of the Brumby Government's commitment to improve safety for children, one of the most vulnerable groups who use Victoria's roads.

Signs have already been installed at schools on roads which are 80km/h and above. Signs are now being installed at all schools on 70km/h roads followed by 60km/h roads with the highest traffic volumes.

Roads and ports: Kilsyth Primary School — electronic speed signs

1767. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports will the Government fund electronic speed signs outside Kilsyth Primary School on Mount Dandenong and Durham Roads in Kilsyth.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The electronic speed signs program is part of the Brumby Government's commitment to improve safety for children, one of the most vulnerable groups who use Victoria's roads.

Signs have already been installed at schools on roads which are 80km/h and above. Signs are now being installed at all schools on 70km/h roads followed by 60km/h roads with the highest traffic volumes.

Roads and ports: Pembroke Secondary College, Kilsyth — electronic speed signs

1768. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports will the Government fund electronic speed signs outside Pembroke Secondary College Cambridge Campus on Cambridge Road in Kilsyth.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The electronic speed signs program is part of the Brumby Government's commitment to improve safety for children, one of the most vulnerable groups who use Victoria's roads.

Signs have already been installed at schools on roads which are 80km/h and above. Signs are now being installed at all schools on 70km/h roads followed by 60km/h roads with the highest traffic volumes.

Roads and ports: St Richard's Primary School, Kilsyth — electronic speed signs

1769. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports will the Government fund electronic speed signs outside St Richard's Primary School on Mount Dandenong Road in Kilsyth.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The electronic speed signs program is part of the Brumby Government's commitment to improve safety for children, one of the most vulnerable groups who use Victoria's roads.

Signs have already been installed at schools on roads which are 80km/h and above. Signs are now being installed at all schools on 70km/h roads followed by 60km/h roads with the highest traffic volumes.

Industry and trade: Kilsyth electorate — government assistance

1770. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade what measures has the Government undertaken to increase trade and industry infrastructure to assist businesses in the electorate of Kilsyth since beginning of the 2008-09.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) is the Victorian Government's lead agency for economic and regional development. It has 10 organisational divisions and three associated bodies with wide-ranging responsibilities.

The Department develops and implements a diverse range of programs, initiatives and projects designed to attract and facilitate investment, encourage exports and industries, foster skills, stimulate innovation, and promote Victoria nationally and internationally. DIIRD works closely with business, other government agencies and the community to achieve the Government's major economic development goals of increased investment, exports and high-quality jobs.

The range of initiatives, programs and services are available to all Victorian businesses including those in the electorate of Kilsyth.

Industry and trade: Kilsyth electorate — job losses

1771. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade how many job losses have occurred in the electorate of Kilsyth since the beginning of the 2008–09.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Since the Government came to office, Victorian employment has increased by 449,600 persons (20.5 per cent). The Brumby Government is taking decisive action to create more job opportunities for more Victorians. Since 1999, we have committed more than \$300 million to workforce participation programs.

Roads and ports: Jumping Creek Road — upgrade

1807. Mr SMITH (Warrandyte) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — will the Government include funding in the 2009–10 Budget to upgrade —

- (1) Harris Gully Road to Jumping Creek Road.
- (2) Jumping Creek Road to Tortice Drive.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Proposals for improvement projects are considered on a state-wide and region-wide basis with regard to the objectives of the Government's planning, transport and road safety strategies.

Water: Target 155 campaign

1814. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — will Melbourne households be allocated an additional 155 litres for international, interstate and intrastate visitors staying overnight in private households in Melbourne in any calculations by water authorities of the number of people in any household.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Target 155 is a voluntary campaign and therefore not subject to the same levels of enforcement as the current Stage 3a restrictions. It is not a system of per household water allocation; the target is a guide for individual water use.

An individual's water usage is calculated by dividing an entire household's water use by the number of people in the household. Rather than being a means of policing water usage, the calculation is intended to give individuals an idea of how much water they are using.

Visitors to Melbourne should be aware of the target and should also try to restrict their water usage to 155 litres per day. Indeed, many accommodation providers now supply guests with information about how they can reduce their water use.

Consumption on household water accounts is generally recorded over a three-month period and so a short-term visitor will have little impact on the household's long-term water usage.

Environment and climate change: Wonthaggi desalination project

1877. **Dr SYKES** to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to the Wonthaggi desalination project —

- (1) What is the total area of native vegetation cleared or planned to be cleared for the project.
- (2) For each Ecological Vegetation Class cleared or planned to be cleared what is the area in hectares and final habitat score in habitat hectares.
- (3) What specific action has Melbourne Water taken to offset the native vegetation cleared in order to achieve the Government's net gain objective.
- (4) What is the location, total area and ecological vegetation classes of the remnant vegetation of any land that has been acquired by the Government or Melbourne Water as part of the offset program.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total area of native vegetation that may be cleared by the final Project Company will not be known until full assessment of the successful proposal is complete late this year. Once the final proposed configuration of the plant site, transfer pipeline and power corridors are known, an accurate estimation of the amount of native vegetation and habitat areas that may need to be offset can be calculated.

Responsibility for attaining any native vegetation offsets will be the responsibility of Department of Sustainability and Environment as the entity responsible for delivering the project, not Melbourne Water.

The project will comply with the Government's Native Vegetation Management framework and the necessary offsets will be obtained when quantified. Assessments in this regard are presently under way.