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FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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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, 29 July 2008

Tourism and major events: Growth Solutions Group

250(ac). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Major Events with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Between 1 January 2000 and 21 June 2007, Tourism Victoria entered into two contracts with Growth Solutions Group:
 - (a) 20 September 2006—Communications audit;
 - (b) 16 February 2007—Major Events issues and options paper.
- (2)
 - (a) \$45,000.
 - (b) \$36,190.
- (3) There were no contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) None.
- (5)
 - (a) Exemption. Under \$100,000. Chosen from Consultant Register.
 - (b) Exemption. Under \$100,000. Chosen from Consultant Register.

Aboriginal affairs: indigenous employment

767. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs — how many Indigenous Victorians were employed in the public service and government departments in —

- (1) 2004–05.
- (2) 2005–06.
- (3) 2006–07.
- (4) 2007–08 to date.

ANSWER:

I am advised by the State Services Authority that the number of Indigenous Victorians employed in the public sector over recent years were:

- (1) 2004–05 - 394
- (2) 2005–06 - 338
- (3) 2006–07 - 423
- (4) 2007–08 to date - figures not yet available.

I am advised that this year's Survey closed on 4 July 2008 and the findings will be available towards the end of the year.

* This information is from the People Matter Survey which is completed by individual public sector employees. The estimates for Indigenous employment have been calculated by using the proportion of Survey respondents who identified as Indigenous, and applying this percentage to total staff numbers.

Education: Premier's reading challenge

836. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education — with reference to schools in the Kilsyth electorate that participated in the 2007 Premier's Reading Challenge —

- (1) How many schools participated.
- (2) How many students participated.
- (3) How many books were read.
- (4) What was the average number of books read —
 - (a) per school;
 - (b) per student.
- (5) Which school tallied the highest number of books read during the Challenge.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Sixteen schools in the Kilsyth electorate participated in the 2007 Premier's Reading Challenge.
- (2) 2,311 students in those schools participated.
- (3) They read 33,889 books.
- (4)
 - (a) The average number of books read per school therefore was 2,118.
 - (b) The average number of books read per student therefore was 15.
- (5) Ruskin Park Primary School tallied the highest number of books read during the Challenge.

Education: Premier's reading challenge

837. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education — has the Government ever offered incentives to any school to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge Program.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The *Building Stronger Communities* policy, released for the 2006 Victorian election, included a commitment to introduce a Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund to provide \$1 million to school libraries for the purchase of books to support participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge. This funding was distributed directly to schools in December 2007.

Planning: HMVS *Cerberus* stabilisation

902. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Planning — with reference to the joint Federal and State Government proposal to stabilise HMVS *Cerberus* as reported in the *Bayside Leader* newspaper on 20 November 2007 —

- (1) What steps have been taken by the State Government to organise the stabilisation.
- (2) What support has been provided by the Federal Government for the stabilisation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Victorian Government has funded the preparation of an engineering feasibility study for the stabilisation of the *Cerberus* and has funded the removal of the four 18 ton guns from the ship in order to reduce the load on the superstructure and minimise the risk of further collapse. Heritage Victoria staff on my instruction, have met with their counterparts at the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts to discuss future options for funding the stabilisation of the *Cerberus*.
- (2) The Federal Minister for the Environment Heritage and the Arts, the Hon. Peter Garret AM, has supported the interdepartmental dialogue. Minister Garret has indicated that the decision on whether or not to provide assistance for the stabilisation of the *Cerberus* should be based on the advice of our respective Departments.

Water: Snowy River environmental flows

908. Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Water — with reference to the Minister's media release on 5 March 2008 regarding the Snowy River environmental flows —

- (1) For each of the savings projects in Victoria contributing to the 212 billion litre target what are the details of the —
 - (a) expected completion date;
 - (b) total cost, including how this is to be shared between the Commonwealth, Victorian and other state Governments;
 - (c) estimated total water savings and the share of these going to the Snowy River, the Living Murray initiative, and other purposes.
- (2) Regarding upgrades to the Shepparton Irrigation District and the Goulburn Channels 1–4 upgrades —
 - (a) what volume of water savings are anticipated;
 - (b) when will the savings be delivered;
 - (c) how will the savings be allocated between the Living Murray initiative, the Snowy River, irrigators and Melbourne via the Sugarloaf pipeline;
 - (d) are the savings anticipated to be achieved included within or separate from the anticipated 225 GL of savings arising from the Food Bowl Modernisation Project.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1 a), b), c)

Attachment 1 lists the water savings projects in Victoria that are contributing to the 212 billion litre target. Estimates of completion dates, costs and water savings are included in the attachment.

1 b) The projects are funded by Water for Rivers. The Victorian and New South Wales governments each contribute \$150 million to Water for Rivers and the Commonwealth contributes \$75 million. The Commonwealth Government has promised a further \$50 million.

1 c) As per the Snowy Agreement, one-third of savings from Water for Rivers projects across Victoria and NSW are allocated to the Murray River until such time that the annual allocation is 70 GL, then the balance is apportioned to the Snowy River.

2 a), b) The Shepparton Irrigation Area Modernisation is anticipated to deliver an average of 52 GL per annum by 2010.

The CG1234 project is anticipated to deliver an average 20 GL of savings per annum by the end of 2008/2009 water year.

2 c) The 75 GL to be supplied to Melbourne in 2010/2011 will be secured by accumulating savings made between 2008/09 and 2010/11 from the CG1234 project, the Shepparton project and from savings that will progressively become available from the Food Bowl project.

The Goulburn River water quality reserve is also available to support supplies to Melbourne in 2010/11 if needed.

The savings from these projects will temporarily support the supply to Melbourne in 2010/11. Post 2010/11 they will be used to meet Victoria's 2012 targets for water savings for the Living Murray and Snowy River.

2 d) The savings from these projects (CG1234 and the Shepparton Irrigation Area Modernisation) are not included in the estimated 225 GL of savings arising from stage one of the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project.

ATTACHMENT 1

Table 1 Summary of the project costs and water savings for each water recovery project in Victoria which is associated with the Water for Rivers program.

Project	Date of Completion	Estimated Long Term Average Water Savings Available	Total Project Cost
Woorinen Pipeline	2004	1.5 GL	\$9.0M
Normanville Pipeline	2004	3.9 GL	\$3.9M
IMSVID	2005	16.4 GL	\$11.0M
Lake Mokoan/Casey's Weir Stage 1 (Broken Licence Purchase)	2007	1.0 GL	\$1.4M
CG1234	2009	20.0 GL	\$48.0M
Lake Mokoan / Casey's Weir (incl. Tungamah) (Joint Living Murray/Snowy Project)	2009	53.0 GL	Not finalised

Project	Date of Completion	Estimated Long Term Average Water Savings Available	Total Project Cost
Shepparton Irrigation Area Modernisation (Primarily Living Murray, Small Snowy component)	2010	52.0 GL	\$188.2M
Strategic Measurement GMID	2008	3.0 GL	\$10.0 M

Attorney-General: departmental staff courses

913(e). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Attorney-General with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister’s department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

In relation to my portfolio responsibilities:

- (1) None.
- (2) The Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal funded two persons to attend courses by Landmark Education for a total cost of \$960.

Children and early childhood development: departmental staff courses

913(f). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister’s department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Please refer to the response to be provided by the Minister for Education.

Planning: departmental staff courses

913(i). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Planning with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister’s department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Planning and Community Development was established on 14 August 2007.

The Department of Planning and Community Development continues to provide training opportunities to employees from a number of accredited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation was not one of the accredited training organisations departmental staff attended since that time.

Health: departmental staff courses

913(r). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Health with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A review of the Department of Human Services financial recording systems indicates that eight accounts have been settled with Landmark Education Corporation between September 2001 and November 2007. These accounts indicate that approximately eight people have attended courses offered by the organisation at a cost of \$4,565.

This education provider was either chosen by individual staff members or clients of the department who were later reimbursed by the department. Alternatively, a manager was made aware of the courses available through Landmark Education Corporation and authorised attendance of staff or clients.

I am advised that decisions on the appropriateness of staff or clients attending courses by Landmark Education Corporation are made by individual managers who remain best placed to assess the development needs of their staff.

Roads and ports: departmental staff courses

913(af). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

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

The Department of Transport continues to provide training opportunities to employees from a number of credited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation is not one of them.

Roads and ports: second-hand motor vehicle duty

954. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports how much duty was paid in respect of the transfer of second-hand motor vehicles in —

- (1) 2004–05.
- (2) 2005–06.
- (3) 2006–07.

ANSWER:

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

The responsibility for duty paid for the transfer of second hand motor vehicles lies with the Treasurer.

Innovation: fair payments policy — departmental responsibility

958(x). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Innovation with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is committed to promoting a fair and competitive environment for small to medium sized businesses. To improve the cash flow certainty for these businesses, the Government introduced the "fair payment clause" for contracts.

From 1 November 2004, Government Departments are required to pay suppliers within 30 days upon receipt of correctly rendered invoice (or within any other payment period as agreed between the Department and the supplier, which may be shorter). This policy applies to new contracts for goods and services valued less than \$3 million.

If an invoice is not paid within 30 days from the date of receipt (or other payment period), and there is no dispute regarding the invoice or the provision of goods and services, the supplier may make a claim for penalty interest on outstanding debt.

Since 2002, the Department has not received any application for penalty interest payment in relation to the fair payments policy.

Accordingly no penalty interest payments have been made.

Roads and ports: fair payments policy — departmental responsibility

958(y). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

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

The Department of Transport, for the period in question has not paid any penalties or interest resulting from the late payment of supplier or vendor invoices under the terms and conditions of the Fair Payment Policy.

Planning: fair payments policy — departmental responsibility

959(c). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Planning with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

In relation to the five questions, the Department of Planning and Community Development and the former Department for Victorian Communities has not paid any penalty interest.

Roads and ports: Healesville bypass road

962. Mrs VICTORIA to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports what are the intentions for the land designated for the Healesville bypass road.

ANSWER:

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

Whilst there are no current proposals to construct a road within the Healesville Freeway reservation, the option for a future road will continue to be protected by the reservation.

Community services: Bass Coast community building project

978. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$500,000 worth of funding for a community building project on the Bass Coast announced on 30 April 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The initiative is not my portfolio responsibility.

Community services: community infrastructure project funding

989. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$10 million worth of funding for the Community Infrastructure Project promised in the 2002–03 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by the end of 2004–05.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This initiative is not my portfolio responsibility.

Senior Victorians: major sub-acute centres

1003. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Government's commitment to establish major sub-acute centres as centres for excellence and expertise in the care of older people, as seen in the Department of Human Services action plan 2006–09, *Recognising and supporting care relationships for older Victorians* —

- (1) Where will each of the centres be located.
- (2) How much funding will be directed to the establishment of each centre.
- (3) What is the expected completion date of each centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1)

- Caulfield General Medical Centre, Bayside Health
- Kingston Centre, Southern Health
- The Mornington Centre, Peninsula Health
- St Georges, St Vincent's Health
- Peter James Centre, Eastern Health
- Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Austin Health
- Bundoora Extended Care Centre, Northern Health
- Broadmeadows Health Service, Northern Health
- Sunshine Hospital, Western Health
- Royal Melbourne Hospital, Royal Park Campus, Melbourne Health
- The McKellar Centre, Barwon Health
- The Queen Elizabeth Centre, Ballarat Health Service
- The Anne Caudle Centre, Bendigo Health Care Group
- Latrobe Regional Hospital
- Wodonga Regional Health Service, Hume Health Services Consortia
- Goulburn Valley Health, Hume Health Services Consortia
- Seymour District Health Service, Hume Health Services Consortia
- Northeast Health Wangaratta, Hume Health Services Consortia

(2) A total of \$6 million has been provided to refocus these existing facilities into CPHI.

(3) All centres identified are currently operating as a CPHI.

Community services: child protection and family services workers

1030. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health will the Government fund a greater number of Child Protection and Family Service workers in the 2008–09 budget; if so, how many extra positions will be funded.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

Mental health: disability services — early intervention services

1032. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health will the Government provide the extra \$6 million for early intervention services for children with disabilities, as promised during the 2006 election, in the 2008–09 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development.

Education: year 12 completion rates

1033. Mr RYAN to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the answer the Minister provided to question on notice 761 in which the Minister stated that ‘the numbers of young people completing school is higher than it ever has been’ and referred to statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) relating to the proportion of young people aged 20–24 who had achieved a year 12 or equivalent qualification —

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the statistics quoted in the answer are not published by the ABS.
- (2) For what reason was an unpublished statistic relating to an age cohort that includes young people up to six years older than the normal school leaving age used as a benchmark of school performance.
- (3) How does the Minister reconcile the answer and original statement to the House with the data published by the Ministerial Council on Education Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, which is based on the number of year 12 completions as a proportion of the estimated population that could attend year 12 in that calendar year.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The answer to question on notice 761 referred to the fact that the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) derives the Year 12 or equivalent completion rate of young people aged 20 to 24 years and provides this measure to the Commonwealth, states and territories for their use, including public reporting.

The measure is the agreed National Key Performance Measure for measuring Year 12 or equivalent completion of young people as agreed by the Ministerial Council on Education Employment Training and Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) and included in the *Measurement Framework for National Key Performance Measures*. As a

nationally agreed measure it is intended to capture completion across the various pathways available to young people, including at school and at TAFE, for example through an apprenticeship.

The measure is reported in the *National Report on Schooling in Australia* by the MCEETYA and in the *Report on Government Services* by the Productivity Commission. This measure is also used to report progress against the *Growing Victoria Together* target that “by 2010, 90 per cent of young people in Victoria will successfully complete Year 12 or equivalent.”

During 2007, the ABS revised the methodology for the calculation of this measure. This was to address some minor inconsistencies in the calculation of estimates, due to changes in classifications of educational qualifications used by the ABS. To ensure that comparisons can be made over time the ABS has revised the time series. The ABS has advised that the revised time series supersedes any previous results.

Police and emergency services: Croydon railway station

1052. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) How many incidents requiring police attendance occurred at Croydon railway station in —
 - (a) 1999–2000.
 - (b) 2000–01.
 - (c) 2001–02.
 - (d) 2002–03.
 - (e) 2003–04.
 - (f) 2004–05.
 - (g) 2005–06.
 - (h) 2006–07.
 - (i) 2007–08 to date.

- (2) How many assaults, robberies or other violent crimes occurred at Croydon railway station in —
 - (a) 1999–2000.
 - (b) 2000–01.
 - (c) 2001–02.
 - (d) 2002–03.
 - (e) 2003–04.
 - (f) 2004–05.
 - (g) 2005–06.
 - (h) 2006–07.
 - (i) 2007–08 to date.

- (3) How many times was an ambulance called to the Croydon railway station in —
 - (a) 1999–2000.
 - (b) 2000–01.
 - (c) 2001–02.
 - (d) 2002–03.
 - (e) 2003–04.
 - (f) 2004–05.
 - (g) 2005–06.
 - (h) 2006–07.
 - (i) 2007–08 to date.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Collation of information in the specific format sought by the Honourable member represents an unreasonable diversion of resources by the Department of Justice. Information on the 2006-07 crime statistics for Victoria can be found on the Victoria Police website under *About Victoria Police, Statistics, Crime Statistics*. Further historical information is available in hard copy at the State Library of Victoria.

The Brumby Government is committed to providing safe streets and homes for all Victorians by ensuring Victoria Police are highly professional and well resourced.

Since coming to office, the State Government has increased the number of police by over 1,400. Further, we have increased funding to Victoria Police to a record budget of more than \$1.75 billion in 2008-09, and funded the construction and refurbishment of over 150 police stations across the state.

The Government's additional support to Victoria Police is showing good results. Victoria's crime rate has fallen 23.5 per cent since 2000-01, with Victoria now having the lowest crime rate in Australia.

However, the fight against crime is ongoing. That is why at the last election the Government committed to a further increase of 350 sworn police by 2010, as well as an additional 50 forensic and specialist investigators. In addition to this, the Government committed to providing additional resources and equipment to assist police in their work, including an extra 100 police cars.

The State Government has implemented a series of initiatives to improve public safety on trams and trains, as well as at railway stations. Measures include, installing duress buttons and Closed Circuit Televisions on all new and refurbished trains and fitting Combino trams with internal cameras to help drivers monitor passenger behaviour. At railway stations, security has been improved at entrances to underground City Loop stations, as well as upgrading Closed Circuit Television coverage both in and around various stations. Since 2000-01 the number of offences committed on public transport has been reduced by 30.9 per cent.

Education: Croydon Primary School — maintenance funding

1053. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education how much funding per student did Croydon Primary School receive in 2007 maintenance funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development undertakes a maintenance condition audit of every school building on a cyclical basis to provide schools with professional advice so that they might better plan and implement their maintenance programs. The audit assesses every building element in each building or room and identifies any potential maintenance issues that may arise. This process provides schools with an accurate and detailed list of important maintenance items as well as a detailed listing of other items which may be planned for completion in future years.

Both the Department and schools use the maintenance audit data to plan future maintenance activities.

The Department allocates \$42 million per annum to schools via a combination of the Student Resource Package (SRP) and supplementary grants:

- A minimum of \$29 million base funding is allocated to schools via the SRP each year for maintenance. Half (\$14.5 Million) is available to address urgent or unplanned works. The other half is for planned maintenance as identified in the audit.
- A further \$13 million is available for urgent works that exceed schools available funding.

The \$20 million 2007-08 maintenance program targeted high priority items identified via both the audit and regional staff. All schools which were not eligible for a targeted allocation received the greater of either \$1,000 or 22 per cent of their SRP to finance audit items in according with their local priorities.

Since 2000 Croydon Primary School has received \$292,286 for both planned and unplanned maintenance. This included \$3,299 in untargeted funding as part of the 2007-08 maintenance program.

Education: Eastwood Primary School — maintenance funding

1054. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the 2007 round of maintenance funding for Eastwood Primary School —

- (1) What formula was used to determine the amount of funding received by the school.
- (2) How much funding per student did the school receive.
- (3) Will the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recommend an increase to the funding in 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development undertakes a maintenance condition audit of every school building on a cyclical basis to provide schools with professional advice so that they might better plan and implement their maintenance programs. The audit assesses every building element in each building or room and identifies any potential maintenance issues that may arise. This process provides schools with an accurate and detailed list of important maintenance items as well as a detailed listing of other items which may be planned for completion in future years.

Both the Department and schools use the maintenance audit data to plan future maintenance activities.

The Department allocates \$42 million per annum to schools via a combination of the Student Resource Package (SRP) and supplementary grants:

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- A further \$13 million is available for urgent works that exceed schools available funding.

The \$20 million 2007-08 maintenance program targeted high priority items identified via both the audit and regional staff. All schools which were not eligible for a targeted allocation received the greater of either \$1,000 or 22 per cent of their SRP to finance audit items in according with their local priorities.

Since 2000 Eastwood Primary School has received \$440,906 for both planned and unplanned maintenance. This included \$90,000 for a toilet update as part of the 2007-08 maintenance program and a further \$15,000 to replace part of its sewer.

Education: Pembroke Primary School — maintenance funding

1055. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the Government's 2007 round of maintenance funding for Pembroke Primary School —

- (1) How much funding per student did the school receive.
- (2) Did the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development take into account the number of students attending the school when calculating the amount of funding the school would receive.

- (3) Will the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development recommend an increase to the funding in 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development undertakes a maintenance condition audit of every school building on a cyclical basis to provide schools with professional advice so that they might better plan and implement their maintenance programs. The audit assesses every building element in each building or room and identifies any potential maintenance issues that may arise. This process provides schools with an accurate and detailed list of important maintenance items as well as a detailed listing of other items which may be planned for completion in future years.

Both the Department and schools use the maintenance audit data to plan future maintenance activities.

The Department allocates \$42 million per annum to schools via a combination of the Student Resource Package (SRP) and supplementary grants:

- A minimum of \$29 million base funding is allocated to schools via the SRP each year for maintenance. Half (\$14.5 million) is available to address urgent or unplanned works. The other half is for planned maintenance as identified in the audit.
- A further \$13 million is available for urgent works that exceed schools available funding.

The \$20 million 2007-08 maintenance program targeted high priority items identified via both the audit and regional staff. All schools which were not eligible for a targeted allocation received the greater of either \$1,000 or 22 per cent of their SRP to finance audit items in according with their local priorities.

Since 2000 Pembroke Primary School has received \$144,512 for both planned and unplanned maintenance. This included \$2,005 in untargeted funds as part of the 2007-08 maintenance program important audit items in according with the school's priorities.

Police and emergency services: Office of Police Integrity

1058. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

- (1) Is the Office of Police Integrity an organisation independent of Victoria Police.
- (2) Is the Office of Police Integrity reliant on Victoria Police personnel to carry out its functions.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) The Office of Police Integrity (OPI) is established subject to the provisions of Part IVA and VB of the Police Regulation Act 1958 (the Act). The OPI is not part of Victoria Police. It is an independent and impartial organisation, with the Director reporting directly to the Parliament of Victoria.
- (2) The OPI is not reliant on Victoria Police personnel to perform its functions. It employs its own staff. The 2006-07 OPI Annual Report includes a summary of the personnel employed in 2007.

The Director, Office of Police Integrity, is able to engage specialist staff, including serving police officers. During the time these staff are engaged by OPI, they are under the direction of the Director.

Police and emergency services: Office of Police Integrity and Victoria Police — joint investigations

- 1059.** Mr SMITH (*Warrantyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services does the Office of Police Integrity and the Ethical Standards Department conduct joint investigations; if so —
- (1) How does the Office of Police Integrity conduct independent investigations into members of the Ethical Standards Department.
 - (2) Who conducts investigations to determine whether an Office of Police Integrity investigator, an Ethical Standards Department investigator, or both, have been guilty of misconduct.
 - (3) What procedures are in place to ensure the propriety of joint investigations conducted by the Office of Police Integrity and the Ethical Standards Department.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Act gives the Director, Office of Police Integrity (OPI) the power to conduct investigations under his own motion. The Director is able to conduct such investigations as he sees fit, and may engage the services of persons and bodies or second members of Victoria Police.

- (1) An investigation into a member of the Victoria Police Ethical Standards Department (ESD) may be conducted by an independent officer, or officers, of Victoria Police. OPI is also able to conduct such an investigation using its own staff.
- (2) Both OPI and Victoria Police are able to investigate the conduct of an ESD officer. While OPI is able to investigate its own staff, the Director may elect to refer such an investigation to the Ombudsman. The Special Investigation Monitor (SIM) may also have a role in monitoring the conduct of OPI personnel.
- (3) The *Police Regulation Act 1958* imposes extensive and time-specific reporting requirements on the Director to report to the SIM where a person is subject to the Director's examination in the course of an investigation. The SIM must also investigate complaints that are made under section 86ZE of the Act, including complaints against the Director and OPI personnel engaged in joint operations with ESD. In addition, the Ombudsman is able to oversight the propriety of any OPI personnel involved in a joint investigation with ESD. The propriety of ESD officers involved in joint investigations with OPI is monitored by and subject to Victoria Police's disciplinary procedures and structures.

Police and emergency services: former superintendent investigation

- 1060.** Mr SMITH (*Warrantyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services have any inquiries been undertaken to determine whether there is any basis for the complaints made by former police Superintendent Kerry Stephens alleging misconduct by Assistant Commissioner Luke Cornelius and the Victoria Police more generally —
- (1) If so —
 - (a) who conducted the investigation and when was it conducted;
 - (b) was Mr Stephens spoken to by an investigator charged with the task of investigating his complaints.
 - (2) If not —
 - (a) why not;
 - (b) is there an intention to request an investigation.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Office of Police Integrity (OPI) is able to investigate complaints made about an Assistant Commissioner of Police. The Victoria Police Ethical Standards Department (ESD) is also able to investigate such complaints, as well as complaints about other police officers.

Complaints made to either ESD, or OPI, are dealt with in confidence and in accordance with the *Police Regulation Act 1958*. The Director, Office of Police Integrity, is an independent officer who reports directly to the Parliament of Victoria. It would be inappropriate for me, as Minister for Police and Emergency Services, to intrude into the operations of this agency by seeking confidential information for the purpose of responding to this question. It would also be inappropriate for me to interfere and seek confidential information from ESD for this purpose.

I also note that the disclosure of the information sought in this instance would contravene the *Information Privacy Act 2000*.

Police and emergency services: former superintendent investigation

1061. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services will an inquiry be commenced to determine whether Victoria Police or the State of Victoria properly complied with their discovery obligations in the civil litigation that led to Mr Stephens being charged with a criminal offence; if not, why not.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The investigation of any complaint or allegation against a serving or former police officer is the role of the Victoria Police Ethical Standards Department and the Office of Police Integrity. These bodies have been established to specifically investigate allegations relating to misconduct or criminal behaviour by current or former members of Victoria Police.

As these are the appropriate bodies to address the matter relating to former Superintendent Kerry Stephens, it is not necessary to commence an inquiry.

Senior Victorians: pensioner concessions

1075. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support the Fair Go for Pensioners Coalition's 2008–09 budget submission recommending an increase in the pensioner concession rates for utilities and for municipal rates —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government has carefully considered all of the proposed budget submissions, the outcomes of which are conveyed in the announcement of the 2008-09 State Budget.

Senior Victorians: low-income concessions

1078. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support the Council on the Ageing's 2008–09 budget submission recommending that the Government allocate sufficient funds to ensure that the cost of utilities, rates and taxes are affordable for those on low incomes —

- (1) If so, how much funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government’s reasons for opposing the recommendation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government has carefully considered all of the proposed budget submissions, the outcomes of which are conveyed in the announcement of the 2008-09 State Budget.

Women’s affairs: Office of Women’s Policy — funding

1082. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women’s Affairs with reference to \$1.4 million worth of funding for the expansion of programs in the Office of Women’s Policy announced 8 May 2000 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2003.
- (2) Which programs were expanded using the funds.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

By 30 June 2003, all of the \$1.4 million funding was expended.

This funding provided for the relocation of the Office of Women’s Policy (OWP) to the Department of Premier and Cabinet, as well as providing for the expansion of the Office’s policy capacity from five to seven policy staff.

The funding was also used to deliver on key government policy commitments including addressing violence against women, the creation of a consultation program with Victoria’s women, research into the media portrayal of women, and the strengthening of the Victorian Women’s Directory managed at that time by the Waite Group.

The performance measures for these activities are included and reported on in the Departmental Output Statements in the Budget Papers.

Women’s affairs: Office of Women’s Policy — rural women programs

1083. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women’s Affairs with reference to the \$800,000 worth of funding for the provision of health promotion programs for rural women announced on 8 May 2000 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

As Minister for Women’s Affairs this initiative is not my portfolio responsibility.

Women’s affairs: maternal and child health services — home visiting service

1084. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women’s Affairs with reference to the \$12 million worth of funding for the enhancement of the home visiting service for the Maternal and Child Health Services announced on 8 May 2000 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) How many additional home visits were conducted each year as a result of the funding.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

This question should be redirected to me in my portfolio capacity as Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development.

Women's affairs: centres against sexual assault — funding

1085. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to improved assistance to victims who have experienced sexual assault by reducing waiting lists in Centres Against Sexual Assault announced on 8 May 2000 —

- (1) How much funding was expended on the strategy by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Was the waiting list reduced; if so, by what measure.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

As Minister for Women's Affairs this initiative is not my portfolio responsibility.

Women's affairs: young women — juvenile justice system

1086. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to the \$750,000 worth of funding to strengthen post-release support services for young women in the juvenile justice system, including intensive post-release support announced on 8 May 2000 —

- (1) What were the expected outcomes of the funding.
- (2) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated, if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

As Minister for Women's Affairs this initiative is not my portfolio responsibility.

Women's affairs: Strengthening Communities Through Women's Participation program

1091. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to the \$300,000 worth of funding to run the program Strengthening Communities Through Women's Participation announced on 3 March 2002 —

- (1) What were the expected outcomes of the program.
- (2) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (3) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of that evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Municipal Association of Victoria and Victorian Local Government Association received a Community Support Fund Grant to implement the Strengthening Communities Through Women's Participation program on 27 July 2001.

The primary aim of the Strengthening Communities Through Women's Participation program was "to strengthen local communities, democratic local government and good governance by increasing the political participation of women and achieving representation in equal numbers of women and men in Victorian local government".

There were five expected outcomes/priority work areas for the program:

- (a) encouraging good governance;
- (b) sustaining women in local government;
- (c) developing best practice models;
- (d) changing public attitudes; and
- (e) developing partnerships.

The full approved grant amount of \$291,000 was expended by 30 June 2004.

A full evaluation was undertaken for the project. Some of the key findings include that the program:

- encouraged good governance by making considerable gains in encouraging the participation of women in local community leadership;
- developed best practice models through the use of models to promote changing the future of politics - "doing politics differently" at the local level; and
- supported women to enter and continue in local government through the development of their skills and confidence to undertake local leadership.

Women's affairs: women's safety strategy

1095. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to the \$3.4 million worth of funding to establish a women's safety strategy announced on 12 May 2002 and the subsequent the \$600,000 worth of funding announced on 21 October 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of that evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

As Minister for Women's Affairs I have overall responsibility for the development and monitoring of the Women's Safety Strategy. However, expenditure responsibilities within the strategy rest with the participating portfolio Ministers and their departments.

With respect to the \$600,000 funding provided from the Community Support Fund and announced on 21 October 2002, \$300,398 was expended by 30 June 2006.

The Women's Safety Strategy as a whole is currently under evaluation.

Women's affairs: family violence network program

1097. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to the \$1.5 million worth of funding to enhance the Family Violence Network Program announced 4 June 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2005.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of that evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Women's Affairs I have overall responsibility for the development and monitoring of the Family Violence Strategy. However, expenditure responsibilities within the strategy rest with the participating portfolio Ministers and their Departments.

Women's affairs: violence prevention programs for men

1098. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to the \$1.6 million worth of funding to implement a range of prevention programs for men who use violence against family members announced on 29 July 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2005.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of that evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Women's Affairs I have overall responsibility for the development and monitoring of the Family Violence Strategy. However, expenditure responsibilities within the strategy rest with the participating portfolio Ministers and their Departments.

Women's affairs: women's community leadership grants

1104. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to the \$122,184 worth of funding for women's community leadership grants announced on 27 October 2003 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of that evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

By 30 June 2004, all of the \$122,184 funding had been expended.

An internal review of the Women's Community Leadership Grants was undertaken in 2005. The results were that:

- the grants have provided a significant benefit to a number of women, especially disadvantaged women;
- the benefits of the grants have had a lasting legacy with many programs continuing beyond the period of the funding from the initial grant;
- the benefits gained from the grants extends beyond the participants to include the flow on effect to other women who either undertake subsequent programs or are mentored by the original women; and

- the skills gained from undertaking funded programs have enabled a number of women to help their communities and other women.

Women’s affairs: women’s community leadership grants

1105. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Women’s Affairs with reference to the \$132,000 worth of funding for women’s community leadership grants announced on 16 August 2004 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2005.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of that evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

By 30 June 2005, all of the \$132,000 funding had been expended.

An evaluation of the Women’s Community Leadership Grants was undertaken in 2005. The results were that:

- the grants have provided a significant benefit to a number of women, especially disadvantaged women;
- the benefits of the grants have had a lasting legacy with many programs continuing beyond the period of the funding from the initial grant;
- the benefits gained from the grants extends beyond the participants to include the flow on effect to other women who either undertake subsequent programs or are mentored by the original women; and
- the skills gained from undertaking funded programs have enabled a number of women to help their communities and other women.

Police and emergency services: Moe D24 unit

1108. **Mr BLACKWOOD** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services when will the responsibilities of the Moe D24 Unit be transferred to the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority facility at Ballarat.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Moe D24 Unit is based at Moe. No decision has been made to move it.

Water: sewerage — septic tanks

1112. **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the Government’s plan to accelerate septic tank replacement with reticulated sewerage systems in the electorate of Warrandyte —

- (1) Has Yarra Valley Water completed its septic tank replacement plan.
- (2) Is the Essential Services Commission required to sign off on the plan before implementation can proceed.
- (3) Will there be an opportunity for community comment on the plan before it is implemented.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Yarra Valley Water has completed its plan to replace septic tanks in the electorate of Warrandyte with a reticulated sewerage system as part of the Metropolitan Backlog Sewerage Program.

The Essential Services Commission will make a decision on Yarra Valley Water's Water Plan, including the cost of implementing the Metropolitan Backlog Sewerage Program, by mid 2009. This decision will be made before the backlog sewerage projects can commence.

The metropolitan fringe councils, including the City of Manningham, have prepared domestic wastewater management plans which identify priority areas for the installation of sewerage infrastructure. These plans were submitted to Yarra Valley Water as part of its planning process for septic tank replacement within its license area.

The Essential Services Commission will provide an opportunity for the community and other interested stakeholders to comment on the Water Plan before it is approved.

Health: Ringwood railway station — ambulance attendance

1118. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Health how many times was an ambulance called to the Ringwood Railway Station in —

- (1) 1999–2000.
- (2) 2000–01.
- (3) 2001–02.
- (4) 2002–03.
- (5) 2003–04.
- (6) 2004–05.
- (7) 2005–06.
- (8) 2006–07.
- (9) 2007–08 to date.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The information you seek is not held by the Department of Human Services.

Health: Royal Children's Hospital redevelopment

1119. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Health what is the Government's financial contribution toward the construction of the Royal Children's Hospital redevelopment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As a PPP, the Government does not directly pay anything during the construction phase of the new hospital. Instead, an amount will be paid each quarter during the 25 years following construction, which covers both the construction costs as well as maintenance, refurbishment, security and other facilities management costs during this 25 year period. The net present cost of these quarterly service payments (discounted to June 2007) is \$946 million. Further details are set out in the Project Summary that was released to Parliament in February 2008.

Water: household water policy

1121. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water what is the Government's policy position on a suggestion that appeared in *The Age* on 19 March 2008 and 27 March 2008 to reduce household water consumption through reducing water pressure by adjusting the tap at the meter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Reducing water pressure by adjusting the tap at the meter is an overly simplistic approach to water conservation. This measure affects all water-using appliances in the home, some of which may not operate if the flow rate is too low. Buckets, baths and washing machines will simply take longer to fill without any consequential water savings.

The main water savings, as a result of your suggestion, come from reduced flow in the shower. The metropolitan retailers run free showerhead exchange programs and encourage households to swap inefficient showerheads for efficient models. A three star rated showerhead uses nine litres of water less per minute than less efficient showerheads.

The Government would not discourage individual property owners from turning down the tap at their meter; however, this is not considered a water conservation measure. In addition, turning down the tap is easily reversible, while measures such as installing three-star rated showerheads and flow control valves provide for permanent water savings.

Police and emergency services: red-light cameras — traffic infringements

1122. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the practice of issuing a red light camera infringement warning notice as an alternative to a fine —

- (1) What criteria govern police discretion in issuing a warning notice instead of a fine.
- (2) In the case of traffic infringement No 0151773187, also described as obligation number 0804974909, why was the motorist deemed ineligible for a warning.
- (3) What allowance is made for human reaction time when the elapsed time on the red signal of a traffic light is 0.9 seconds.
- (4) What is the minimum threshold before a fine is issued on elapsed time of red light showing for a traffic light camera.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Each application for an official warning is judged on a case-by-case basis and is subject to the discretion of the Victoria Police. The current Victoria Police policy is that warnings are only routinely given for minor speeding offences where the driver makes a written application and he or she:
 - holds a current driver's licence (including a probationary licence but not including a learner driver's permit);
 - has not been issued with a speeding or other traffic fine or official warning within the previous two years;
 - was caught travelling less than 10 kilometres per hour over the posted speed limit; and
 - he or she does not deny that they were speeding.
- (2) It is inappropriate to refer to details of an individual's infringement notice due to privacy laws
- (3) An allowance does not need to be made as the amber light phase effectively enables an allowance, (3-4 seconds) for human reaction time.

- (4) There is no minimum threshold.

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

1125. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to red light cameras monitoring right hand turning traffic at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road, Cheltenham — how many motorists were fined for having entered the intersection on a red light for a time of 0.9 of a second or less in —

- (1) November 2006.
- (2) December 2006.
- (3) January 2007.
- (4) February 2007.
- (5) March 2007.
- (6) April 2007.
- (7) May 2007.
- (8) June 2007.
- (9) July 2007.
- (10) August 2007.
- (11) September 2007.
- (12) October 2007.
- (13) November 2007.
- (14) December 2007.
- (15) January 2008.
- (16) February 2008.
- (17) March 2008.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

I am informed that there were 11 infringements issued for having entered the intersection on a red light for a time of 0.9 of a second or less between November 2006 until March 2008.

Planning: green wedge zone

1126. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister Planning with reference to approximately 87 hectares of land within the green wedge zone at the south east corner of the intersection at Springvale Road and Hutton Road, Keysborough —

- (1) Does the Government have plans to take the land out of the zone.
- (2) What discussions has the Minister or any of the Minister's staff had with the current or former registered proprietors or their representatives regarding the re-zoning of the land out of the zone.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Green wedge zones and the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) support the strategic directions of *Melbourne 2030*, in particular the protection of Melbourne's twelve green wedges from inappropriate development. The UGB manages outward urban expansion and the Green Wedge Zone protects and conserves green wedge

land. The Government is committed to maintaining the green wedge policies and therefore the Government does not have any plans to take this land out of the Green Wedge Zone.

- (2) In April 2002, the Greater Dandenong City Council prepared Amendment C27 to the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme. The amendment proposed to rezone the Keysborough Golf Course site and nearby land immediately south of the golf course located on the south east corner of Springvale and Hutton Roads to facilitate a residential and golf course development with approximately 480 dwellings. The Department of Sustainability and Environment objected to the amendment on the basis that it did not accord with the emerging directions of *Melbourne 2030*.

The introduction of *Melbourne 2030* and the interim UGB in October 2002 placed the land outside the UGB. The Golf Club made a submission to *Melbourne 2030* requesting a change to include the land within the UGB. When the location of the UGB was finalised in November 2003, the Golf Club site and the land south of Hutton Road were still located outside the UGB.

Amendment C27 lapsed as the then Minister for Planning did not agree to an extension of time for the amendment to proceed on the basis that the amendment was inconsistent with the UGB and green wedge principles of *Melbourne 2030*.

I am unaware of any other subsequent discussions regarding the rezoning of this land out of the green wedge.

Roads and ports: Wray Crescent, Mount Evelyn — traffic lights

- 1130.** Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports when will work proceed on the traffic lights at Wray Crescent in Mount Evelyn.

ANSWER:

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

The works to install traffic signals at the intersection of Wray Crescent and York Road, Mount Evelyn, are being managed by the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

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

- 1131.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the red light cameras monitoring traffic at the intersections of Nepean Highway and Bay Road and the Nepean Highway and Karen Street, Cheltenham —

- (1) How many motorists received infringement notices for executing a right hand turn from Nepean Highway into Bay Road on a red light in —
 - (a) August 2007;
 - (b) February 2008.
- (2) How many motorists received infringement notices for crossing the intersection against the red light while travelling in a southerly direction towards Frankston in —
 - (a) August 2007;
 - (b) February 2008.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) (a) In August 2007, 802 motorists received infringement notices for executing an illegal right hand turn from Nepean Highway into Bay Road on a red light.
- (b) In February 2008, 741 motorists received infringement notices for executing an illegal right hand turn from Nepean Highway into Bay Road on a red light.
- (2) (a) In August 2007, 141 motorists received infringement notices for crossing the intersection against the red light while travelling in a southerly direction towards Frankston. This figure does not include speed or registration infringements.
- (b) In February 2008, 142 motorists received infringement notices for crossing the intersection against the red light while travelling in a southerly direction towards Frankston. This figure does not include speed or registration infringements.

Please note that these figures may vary over time due to withdrawals and reissues of infringements.

Water: sewerage — Yarra Valley

1132. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Water —

- (1) How many homes in the Yarra Valley were connected to mains sewerage in —
 - (a) 1999;
 - (b) 2000;
 - (c) 2001;
 - (d) 2002;
 - (e) 2003;
 - (f) 2004;
 - (g) 2005;
 - (h) 2006;
 - (i) 2007.
- (2) How many properties are not connected to mains sewerage in the Yarra Valley.

ANSWER:

I am informed by Yarra Valley Water that:

- (1) In the Yarra Valley Water area, which includes most of the Yarra Valley, the following numbers of homes were connected to mains sewerage in the listed years:
 - (a) 1999 – 494,129
 - (b) 2000 – 501,055
 - (c) 2001 – 509,121
 - (d) 2002 – 520,504
 - (e) 2003 – 528,940
 - (f) 2004 – 536,659
 - (g) 2005 – 544,565
 - (h) 2006 – 553,505
 - (i) 2007 – 557,851
- (2) The responsibility for managing sewerage services for properties serviced with septic tanks (rather than mains sewerage) lies with local government. Therefore, information on how many properties are not connected to mains sewerage is held by the relevant local government authority and not by Yarra Valley Water. For

example, in the Yarra Ranges Shire Council area, more than 20,000 homes dispose of domestic waste water through septic tank systems.

Housing: women's refuges

1142. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Housing —

- (1) What are the details of any proposals to regulate or take over the management and operation of women's refuges currently operated by not-for-profit organisations.
- (2) What are the details of any plans or recommendations to register and centralise the operation of women's refuges.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) All organisations in receipt of Housing Support funding from Housing and Community Building are required to have commenced the accreditation process by December 2008.
- (2) Stand alone women's refuges have been granted exemption from the requirement to be registered housing providers. There are no plans to centralise the operation of women's refuges.

Environment and climate change: fire operations plan — burn number W43

1145. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to the fire operations plan for 2007–08 to 2009–10 — was burn number W43 conducted as scheduled; if not —

- (1) Why not.
- (2) When will the burn take place.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Burn number W43 has been completed.

Community services: housing — Flemington

1146. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$12.5 million for public housing development in Flemington announced on 12 June 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2005.
- (2) How many units were built with full disability access.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Housing.

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

1166. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the red light camera monitoring vehicles turning right from the Nepean Highway in a westerly direction down Bay Road at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road, Cheltenham — how many infringement notices were issued on 19 March 2008.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 33 infringement notices issued on 19 March 2008.

Environment and climate change: adjournment debate

1180(g). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change 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 that:

Where there is no complexity that might cause unavoidable delays, I respond to adjournment matters within 30 days.

Community services: adjournment debate

1180(i). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Community Services 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 that:

The time taken varies depending on the complexity of the matter being raised and the accessibility of relevant information.

Energy and resources: adjournment debate

1180(m). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources 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 endeavour to respond to all Adjournment Debate matters as soon as practicable.

Mental health: adjournment debate

1180(u). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Mental Health 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 that:

The time taken varies depending on the complexity of the matter being raised and the accessibility of relevant information.

Senior Victorians: adjournment debate

1180(ae). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians 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 that:

The time taken varies depending on the complexity of the matter being raised and the accessibility of relevant information.

Water: adjournment debate

1180(aj). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Water 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 that:

Where there is no complexity that might cause unavoidable delays, I endeavour to respond to adjournment matters within 30 days.

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.*

Wednesday, 30 July 2008

Environment and climate change: Growth Solutions Group

250(ag). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Sustainability and Environment has entered into three contracts with Growth Solutions Group for strategy and independent consultancy services.

The value of each of these contracts was \$25,000, \$62,370 and \$86,240.

Given the value of the contracts, and in compliance with Victorian Government Purchasing Board policies, none were offered for public tender.

Sports, recreation and youth affairs: local community sports clubs

389. Mr KOTSIRAS to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs — what is the total amount of funding provided to each Sport and Recreation Victoria funding program to support local community clubs since 1 July 2006.

ANSWER:

I previously responded to the same question from Mr Guy and my response dated 29 January 2008 was as follows:

“The Brumby Government, through Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) provides significant financial assistance for the development and administration of a wide range of sport and recreation programs and services.

Since 1 July 2006, the Brumby Government has provided \$69.3M towards the development of community sport and recreation.”

Water: sewerage — septic tanks

435. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Water with reference to replacing septic tanks with a reticulated sewerage system —

- (1) When is work scheduled to begin replacing residential septic tanks in —
 - (a) Warrandyte;
 - (b) South Warrandyte;
 - (c) Park Orchards.

- (2) How many residents in the electorate of Warrandyte are scheduled to have their septic tanks replaced in —
 - (a) 2008;
 - (b) 2009;
 - (c) 2010.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The indicative commencement date provided by Yarra Valley Water for replacing septic tanks for Warrandyte and Park Orchards is 2010/2011.

This information has been submitted to the Essential Services Commission in the Yarra Valley Water Draft Water Plan.

Subject to approval being granted by the Essential Services Commission, Yarra Valley Water will replace septic tanks at around 2,500 properties by 2012/2013 in the City of Manningham which includes Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards areas. Suburb specific information is not available at this stage.

Water: fire hydrants

517. **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the discharge of water from a fire hydrant outside 39 Eliza Street, Black Rock on 27 September 2007 —

- (1) How long was water running into the street.
- (2) How many litres of water were lost.
- (3) What was the reason for the discharge of water.
- (4) What is being done to prevent future water loss from fire hydrants.
- (5) What is the frequency of similar fire hydrant discharges in the Sandringham electorate in 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The water was running for slightly over 2 hours.
- (2) The quantity of water lost was estimated to be of the order of 5,000 litres.
- (3) The reason for the discharge was that a contractor was taking water from the hydrant and the sealing ring failed when the contractor closed the hydrant.
- (4) Response to hydrant leaks is based on reporting by customers. Maintenance cannot be programmed as the failures are unexpected and normally the hydrants do not leak until used.
- (5) There have been 7 minor hydrant leaks, 1 burst and 1 damaged hydrant in the Sandringham electorate so far this calendar year.

Water: Mokoan Wetlands project

- 521. Dr SYKES** to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the Mokoan Wetlands project developed by Murrumbidgee Irrigation on behalf of Broken System irrigators —
- (1) How did the Government arrive at its estimate of the cost of implementing the project.
 - (2) Will the Government make available to Broken System irrigators the details of the cost estimates for the project and how they differ from those provided by Murrumbidgee Irrigation.
 - (3) Did the Government obtain third party technical advice in relation to the project; if so —
 - (a) were the consultants engaged to provide the advice also involved in advising the Government in relation to the Lake Mokoan decommissioning proposal;
 - (b) did the Government consider the potential for the consultants to have a conflict of interest when assessing the project;
 - (c) what written advice was received;
 - (d) what costs were incurred by the Government in obtaining the advice.
 - (4) Will the Government agree to an independent assessment of the project by the Commonwealth Government, in comparison to the Government's proposal to decommission Lake Mokoan, and compare both proposals on the basis of the relative reliability of water supplies to existing irrigators, cost, water savings generated and environmental impacts.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The estimate of cost was based on a comprehensive review undertaken by DSE in collaboration with Goulburn-Murray Water and involving third party technical experts. The review considered the available information on the proposal and covered construction methodology, quantities, unit rates, survey/design allowances and contingency allowances.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Third party technical advice was provided by consultants Sinclair Knight Merz and URS.
 - (a) SKM were involved in technical studies for decommissioning Lake Mokoan after the Government decision to decommission the lake.
 - (b) Neither SKM or URS were involved in the decision to decommission Lake Mokoan and therefore no conflict of interest is considered likely. SKM were selected to review the Broken System Irrigators' proposal on the basis of their expertise and knowledge of the conditions at Mokoan. URS were selected to review SKM's assessment on the basis of their involvement in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation works at Barrenbox Swamp and their expertise with such projects.
 - (c) The Department of Sustainability and Environment is finalising the Government's response.
- (d) The cost of consultancies related to the review cannot be confirmed until the review process is completed. However, the cost of the review will be in the range of \$120,000.
- (4) The initial decision to decommission Lake Mokoan was made after considering similar modified Lake Mokoan options. The Lake Mokoan Study which informed this decision found decommissioning was superior in terms of cost, water savings, economics and environmental impact. The current review incorporates similar analysis by independent technical specialists. This analysis includes comparison of reliability of supply. The irrigators will be informed of the findings of this review and the report will be made available on request, and on the website.

