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FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

2, 3 and 4 May 2006

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Tuesday, 2 May 2006

Finance: Treasury and Finance — advertising and credit card expenditure

4714. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance: In relation to the Department of Treasury and Finance:

- (1) What was the advertising expenditure in 2003-04.
- (2) What was the credit card expenditure in 2003-04.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The research required to provide a response to the question would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the department.

Treasurer: Gascor Pty Ltd — entertainment expenses

5386. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance (for the Treasurer): In relation to Gascor Pty Ltd's entertainment expenses incurred in 2004-05, what are the itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including —

- (a) date incurred;
- (b) cost;
- (c) number of guests;
- (d) purpose; and
- (e) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Gascor Pty Ltd (Gascor) is no longer a State owned entity. In September 2003 the ownership of Gascor was transferred to Victoria's gas retailers Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd, AGL Victoria Pty Ltd and TXU Pty Ltd pursuant to put options exercised by the State in December 2002.

Women's affairs: minister's office — alcohol purchases

5418. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Women's Affairs): In relation to alcohol purchased by the Minister's Office since 30 June 2004, what was the —

- (a) the date of each purchase;
- (b) the value of each purchase; and
- (c) the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

For the period January 2005 to the date the question was asked, my Women's Affairs portfolio office has purchased alcohol to the value of \$17.

For the period July–December 2004 accounts for my office were managed across several Departments and have not been maintained in a way which would allow any costs to be easily determined.

Police and emergency services: Police Appeals Board — external legal advice

5534. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): How much has been spent by the Police Appeals Board on external legal advice since 1 June 2004.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Between 1 June 2004 and 5 October 2005 expenditure by the Police Appeals Board on external legal advice was \$31,220. This figure comprises legal fees, counsel fees, other disbursements and out of pocket expenses.

Police and emergency services: Victoria Police — external legal advice

5536. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): How much has been spent by Victoria Police on external legal advice since 1 June 2004.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Between 1 June 2004 and 5 October 2005 expenditure by Victoria Police on external legal advice was \$3,053,100. This figure comprises legal fees, counsel fees and disbursements.

Tourism: Innovation, Industry and Regional Development — entertainment expenses

7522. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What was the total amount spent by the Minister's department on entertainment expenses including alcohol, food, admission to Commonwealth Games events, admission to other entertainment events, special gifts, all transport and corporate box leasing for their invited guests and those who were hosting them at the Commonwealth Games.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

Racing: ministerial staff — cost

7885. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Racing): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Racing: ministerial staff — number

7927. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Racing): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

I refer you to the response to Question on Notice number 7885.

Corrections: ministerial staff — number

7931. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Police and emergency services: ministerial staff — number

7934. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Tourism: ministerial staff — number

7942. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Gaming: minister's office — secondments

7967. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Gaming): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The number of public servants on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and not counted within the ministerial staffing budget was 0.5.

Racing: minister's office — secondments

7969. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Racing): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The number of public servants on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and not counted within the ministerial staffing budget was 0.5.

Corrections: minister's office — secondments

7973. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were no public servants on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 that were not counted within the Ministerial staffing budget.

Police and emergency services: minister's office — secondments

7976. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were no public servants on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 that were not counted within the Ministerial staffing budget.

Tourism: minister's office — secondments

7984. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In my capacity as Minister for Tourism, one public servant from the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development was seconded to my office at 1 March 2006.

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Wednesday, 3 May 2006

Treasurer: Gascor Pty Ltd — external legal advice

5670. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance (for the Treasurer): How much has been spent by Gascor Pty Ltd on external legal advice since 1 June 2004.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Gascor Pty Ltd (Gascor) is no longer a State owned entity. In September 2003 the ownership of Gascor was transferred to Victoria's gas retailers Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd, AGL Victoria Pty Ltd and TXU Pty Ltd pursuant to put options exercised by the State in December 2002.

Treasurer: Gascor Pty Ltd — freedom of information requests

6157. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance (for the Treasurer): In relation to Freedom of Information requests received by Gascor Pty Ltd for 2004-05:

- (1) How many requests were received.
- (2) Of these requests, how many were —
 - (a) denied in full;
 - (b) released in part;
 - (c) released in full; and
 - (d) given to the Minister before being given to the applicant.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Gascor Pty Ltd (Gascor) is no longer a State owned entity. In September 2003 the ownership of Gascor was transferred to Victoria's gas retailers Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd, AGL Victoria Pty Ltd and TXU Pty Ltd pursuant to put options exercised by the State in December 2002. Prior to this transfer Gascor was exempt from the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)* pursuant to the *Gas Industry (Residual Provisions) Act 1995 (Vic)*.

Treasurer: Gascor Pty Ltd — interstate travel

6383. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance (for the Treasurer): In relation to interstate travel by Gascor Pty Ltd for 2004-05:

- (1) How many trips were undertaken.
- (2) What were the destinations.
- (3) What was the purpose of each visit.
- (4) What costs were associated with the travel, including —

- (a) airfares;
 - (b) car rental and hire cars, including the type of cars rented or hired;
 - (c) taxis;
 - (d) accommodation, including the name of the establishment and itemised costs;
 - (e) entertainment, including its nature, the venue and itemised costs; and
 - (f) other expenses.
- (5) Did family members, associates, or guests accompany the traveller(s) on each trip; if so, at what cost.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Gascor Pty Ltd (Gascor) is no longer a State owned entity. In September 2003 the ownership of Gascor was transferred to Victoria's gas retailers Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd, AGL Victoria Pty Ltd and TXU Pty Ltd pursuant to put options exercised by the State in December 2002.

Police and emergency services: Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board — capital works

6476. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board's allocation of funds to major capital works, including major maintenance, replacement and upgrades, what were the priority major projects that were approved for the year 2004-05 and were each of these priority projects achieved.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were two major projects approved for the 2004/05 year as follows:

- (1) the construction of the Burnley training complex at a total cost of \$34.227 million;
- (2) the Fire Appliance replacement program costing \$6.648 million.

While the majority of the fire appliance construction has been completed, the program has some roll-over into the 2005/06 period. Construction of the Burnley complex commenced in the 2004/05 period and is well under way with expected completion in late 2006.

Treasurer: Gascor Pty Ltd — capital works

6621. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance (for the Treasurer): In relation to the Gascor Pty Ltd's allocation of funds to major capital works, including major maintenance, replacement and upgrades, what were the priority major projects that were approved for the year 2004-05 and were each of these priority projects achieved.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Gascor Pty Ltd (Gascor) is no longer a State owned entity. In September 2003 the ownership of Gascor was transferred to Victoria's gas retailers Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd, AGL Victoria Pty Ltd and TXU Pty Ltd pursuant to put options exercised by the State in December 2002.

Women's affairs: minister's office — mobile telephones

6653. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA— To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Women's Affairs): What was the cost of providing mobile telephone services to the Minister's staff for 2004-05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Staff assisting me in my capacity as Minister for Women's Affairs have incurred mobile telephone costs in the order of \$500.00 for the first half of 2005.

Costs prior to this time are unable to be isolated.

Treasurer: Gascor Pty Ltd— overseas travel

7033. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance (for the Treasurer): In relation to overseas travel by Gascor Pty Ltd for 2004-05:

- (1) How many trips were undertaken.
- (2) What were the destinations.
- (3) What was the purpose of each visit.
- (4) What costs were associated with the travel, including —
 - (a) airfares;
 - (b) car rental and hire cars, including the type of cars rented or hired;
 - (c) taxis;
 - (d) accommodation, including the name of the establishment and itemised costs;
 - (e) entertainment, including its nature, the venue and itemised costs; and
 - (f) other expenses.
- (5) Did family members, associates, or guests accompany the traveller(s) on each trip; if so, at what cost.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Gascor Pty Ltd (Gascor) is no longer a State owned entity. In September 2003 the ownership of Gascor was transferred to Victoria's gas retailers Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd, AGL Victoria Pty Ltd and TXU Pty Ltd pursuant to put options exercised by the State in December 2002.

Police and emergency services: Country Fire Authority— stress-related leave

7121. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to staff members of the Country Fire Authority on stress-related leave in 2004-05, what was the — (i) number of days taken; (ii) estimated cost; and (iii) total number of staff involved.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (i) The number of days taken was 462;

- (ii) The estimated cost was \$79,159.40; and
- (iii) The total number of staff involved was 6.

Police and emergency services: Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board— stress-related leave

7126. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to staff members of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board on stress-related leave in 2004-05, what was the — (i) number of days taken; (ii) estimated cost; and (iii) total number of staff involved.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (i) The number of days taken in relation to these claims was 435.
- (ii) The estimated cost of these claims was \$450,000.
- (iii) A total of nine Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board employees were involved.

Treasurer: Gascor Pty Ltd— stress-related leave

7262. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Finance (for the Treasurer): In relation to staff members of Gascor Pty Ltd on stress-related leave in 2004-05, what was the — (i) number of days taken; (ii) estimated cost; and (iii) total number of staff involved.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Gascor Pty Ltd (Gascor) is no longer a State owned entity. In September 2003 the ownership of Gascor was transferred to Victoria's gas retailers Origin Energy (Vic) Pty Ltd, AGL Victoria Pty Ltd and TXU Pty Ltd pursuant to put options exercised by the State in December 2002.

Gaming: ministerial staff — cost

7883. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Gaming): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Corrections: ministerial staff — cost

7889. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Police and emergency services: ministerial staff — cost

7892. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Tourism: ministerial staff — cost

7900. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Gaming: ministerial staff — number

7925. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Gaming): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

I refer you to the response to Question on Notice number 7883.

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Thursday, 4 May 2006

Gaming: minister's office — furnishings

7462. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Gaming): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004-05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, the answer is nil.

Racing: minister's office — furnishings

7464. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Racing): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004-05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, the answer is nil.

Tourism: minister's office — furnishings

7479. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004-05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The following items were purchased for my office in 2004-05:

4 clerical chairs Total cost: \$282.60.

Tourism: chartered flights

7564. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): In relation to all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes used by the Minister in 2004-05 what was the —

- (a) date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Nil.

Tourism: media research and public opinion polling

7606. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): For each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004-05, including —

- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
- (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
- (c) the cost;
- (d) the personnel conducting the project;
- (e) whether it was put to tender;
- (f) recommendations made; and
- (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

My office does not seek or receive this information.

Tourism: minister's office — international travel

7648. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004-05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

Tourism: minister's office — interstate travel

7690. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004-05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

Tourism: minister's office — intrastate travel

7732. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004-05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

Tourism: minister's office — entertainment expenses

7774. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

Tourism: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7816. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

Tourism: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7858. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs (for the Minister for Tourism): What expenses were incurred by each Department and Agency for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004-05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.