

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
13, 14 and 15 February 2007  
(Extract from book 2)**

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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 Council.  
 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, 13 February 2007**

**Water, environment and climate change: threatened native animal species**

- 29. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change): In relation to Mr Justice Marshall’s decision on the Wielangta Forest case in the Federal Court on Tuesday, 19 December 2006:
- (1) What are the implications of the decision for forestry operations in Victoria’s native forests.
  - (2) What action has the government taken or plans to take in response to the decision.
  - (3) Will the government take immediate action to suspend logging in Victorian forests inhabited by threatened species including the Spot-tailed Quoll, Leadbeater’s Possum and Baw Baw Frog.
  - (4) Will the government act to protect all of Victoria’s remaining old growth and high conservation value forests.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Victoria’s forest management regime — including the forest reserve system and management prescriptions — have been designed to protect threatened species. These species include the Spot-tailed Quoll, Leadbeater’s Possum and Baw Baw Frog.

The forest management regime provides Government with sufficient flexibility to ensure the protection of threatened species, whilst allowing it to meet its obligations to third parties on sawlog supply. Consequently we currently have no plans to alter our management regime.

In November 2006, the Government committed to protect the last significant stands of Victoria’s old growth forests currently available for logging under the National Parks Act. Work on this is now commencing.



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**Wednesday, 14 February 2007**

**Water, environment and climate change: mining and extractive industries**

- 31. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for the Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the EPA's Draft Protocol of Environmental Management (PEM) for the Mining and Extraction Industry released for public comment in 2006:
- (1) How many submissions were received, and —
    - (a) have all received submissions been acknowledged; and
    - (b) can a list be provided.
  - (2) What is the process and timetable for reviewing submissions and finalising the PEM.
  - (3) What further opportunities will there be for public input to the PEM.
  - (4) Does the draft PEM have any formal status.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Nineteen submissions were received;
  - a. Submissions have not been acknowledged, however the final PEM and a copy of summary comment and response document will be forwarded to those who prepared a written submission once the PEM has been tabled in Parliament and gazetted in the Government Gazette.
  - b. A list is provided.
- (2) A summary of comment and response document is currently being prepared and will be forwarded with the final PEM when tabled in Parliament. The final PEM together with the summary of comment and response document and a document outlining the consultative process undertaken, will be tabled in Parliament and gazetted in the Government Gazette as an incorporated document to SEPP (AQM). It is anticipated that the PEM will be completed later this year.
- (3) Consultation on the PEM has occurred and no further consultation process is planned.
- (4) Once incorporated and gazetted the PEM has the same statutory power as a State environment protection policy.

**PROTOCOL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT — MINING AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES**

**LIST OF SUBMISSIONS**

1. Mary Markey — Community member
2. Minerals Council Australia — Victorian Branch
3. Boral Quarries
4. AWN Consultants

5. Community submission — request to keep confidential
6. SMOG—Cath Jones
7. Geelong Community for the Good Life — Suzanne McLean
8. Friends of the Howqua Hills
9. GHD Consultants
10. Limestone Quarries Association
11. Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand
12. CCA
13. RMIT
14. Mr Mark Hedricks—Coffey Geosciences
15. Nevelt Ford Solicitors
16. Department of Primary Industries
17. Department of Human Services
18. Department of Infrastructure
19. Construction Materials Processors Association

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**Thursday, 15 February 2007**

**Treasurer: demand growth contingency**

4. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Education (for the Treasurer): In relation to the line item ‘Contingencies not allocated to departments’ shown in Note 10 on page 44 of Budget Paper 4: Statement of Finance 2006-07, how much is allocated to demand growth contingency, in each of the following years —
- (a) 2006-07 Budget;
  - (b) 2007-08 Estimate;
  - (c) 2008-09 Estimate; and
  - (d) 2009-10 Estimate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As disclosed in PAEC, the most recent estimates of the aggregate amount of demand growth contingency are:

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010
Amount (\$m)	145	343	527

**Premier: Horton International**

5. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Education (for the Premier): In relation to the Department of Premier and Cabinet:
- (1) How many positions were recruitment agency Horton International engaged to fill.
  - (2) How much was paid to Horton International, in each of the following periods —
    - (a) 2000 to 2002 inclusive; and
    - (b) 2003 to present.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The number of positions recruitment agency Horton International were engaged to fill and the amount paid to them for the following periods, 2000 to 2002 inclusive and 2003 to the date the question was asked, is nil.

