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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers

Wednesday, 7 May 2008

Gaming: Cardinia

Raised with: Gaming

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 5 February 2008

REPLY:

Since coming to office, the Government has introduced a range of strategies to combat problem gambling. Victoria now has a comprehensive network of 17 Gambler's Help services operating from around 100 locations throughout Victoria and some of the most stringent regulations controlling gambling of any Australian state or territory.

From 2010, the Government will require all gaming machines to contain new mechanisms giving players the option to pre-commit the amount of time and money they spend with the aim to reduce gambling related harm. As part of a new package to reduce problem gambling, the Government will introduce the following measures during 2008:

- More than doubling the penalties for allowing minors to gamble. From a current minimum penalty of \$1,100, fines will increase to a possible maximum of over \$13,000;
- Issuing graphic new player information warnings on every machine about the effects of problem gambling;
- Halving the maximum betting limit on gaming machines from \$10 to \$5 a spin, with the new lower limits to be introduced for all new machines from 1 July, 2008 and for existing machines from 1 January, 2010 (does not apply to machines at the Melbourne casino); and
- New powers for the Minister for Gaming and the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation to ban products or practises that undermine the Government's responsible gambling strategies or encourage risky behaviours.

The Government has recently announced that it will remove ATMs from gaming venues by 2012, as part of the ongoing efforts to tackle problem gambling. Cash withdrawals from ATM and EFTPOS facilities in venues have already been limited to \$200 per debit transaction (no credit withdrawals are permitted) and a maximum per customer per day withdrawal limit of \$400 for all ATMs in gaming venues or within 50 metres of an entrance to the Melbourne casino gaming floor, will apply from 2010. Gaming venues are also required to pay all winnings in excess of \$1000 in full by cheque.

This Government derives proportionally far less from gambling taxes than the previous Government. In 1998-99, gambling taxes constituted 7.1 per cent of all government revenues and by 2006-07 this had fallen to 4.5 per cent. In 2007-08, the Government expects to have spent \$24.5 million in delivering commitments in *Taking Action on Problem Gambling* and we are almost to a point where this Government spends more in a year than the previous Government spent in seven years.

The Victorian Government is committed to effectively managing the distribution of gaming opportunities and has amended the Victorian planning provisions to give local councils greater control over gaming machines by requiring a planning permit for the placement of any additional gaming machines in their communities. This means that in order to move new gaming machines into any uncapped local government area, such as Cardinia, the

gaming venue operator must now have a planning permit from the local council as well as approval from the independent regulator, the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation (VCGR).

The stringent approval processes in the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* require the VCGR to consider the social and economic impact of the installation of additional gaming machines on the local community.

In addition, the Government is currently reviewing the gaming machine approval process with a view to enhancing the regulatory process. The review includes the range of matters that the VCGR must take into account when determining an application for a new gaming venue or for an increase in the number of machines at an existing venue.

We are committed to ensuring that the gambling industry operates in a balanced way that minimises the harm from problem gambling while creating an environment where those who choose to gamble responsibly are able to do so.

Mental health: South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Raised with: Mental Health

Raised by: Mr Rich-Phillips

Raised on: 6 February 2008

REPLY:

The Government intends to deliver its election commitment by funding the proposals featured in Labor's election policy during the current parliamentary term.

Police: Port Phillip and Stonnington

Raised with: Police and Emergency Services

Raised by: Mrs Coote

Raised on: 6 February 2008

REPLY:

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 \$1.6 billion in 2007-08, and funded the construction and refurbishment of 149 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.

Decisions on the placement of police throughout the state are operational matters and are made by police command on the basis of assessed need. It is important that this process is not subject to political interference. I am assured by the Chief Commissioner of Police that the level of policing across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective Regional Command Officers, with a view to maintaining optimum policing effectiveness.

The Brumby Government has recognised the trend towards alcohol-related violence in Melbourne's entertainment precincts. In December 2007, the Government introduced legislation to provide police with the power to issue banning notices to individuals who are drunk and disorderly to prevent them from remaining in or re-entering a

licensed premises or designated area for a 24 hour period. During January 2008, police issued 49 banning notices bringing the total issued since the introduction of legislation to 104.

The Chief Commissioner of Police has recently launched *The Way Ahead 2008-2013*, the Victoria Police strategic plan for the next five years. *The Way Ahead* acknowledges the challenges for police in keeping the community safe and tackling crime. The focus of the strategy is to reduce crime by 12 per cent by prioritising the response to high volume crimes including burglary, drink-driving and assault. As part of the strategy, incidents of street assault will receive an immediate and highly visible police presence.

In addition, Victoria Police has established the Safe Streets Task Force to combat alcohol related assaults in the Melbourne central business district and inner-city precincts on Friday and Saturday nights. The task force responds to public order and alcohol-related antisocial problems and can be deployed anywhere it is needed.

Abortion: decriminalisation

Raised with: Premier

Raised by: Ms Broad

Raised on: 7 February 2008

REPLY:

On 20 August 2007, I announced that the Victorian Government would seek advice from the Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) on options for reform of the law relating to abortion, in keeping with community standards and current clinical practice. The VLRC will provide its advice to Government by 28 March 2008. After consideration of the advice, the Government will put a Bill before Parliament, to be subject to conscience vote, to modernise Victoria's abortion laws.

In undertaking its review the VLRC met with over thirty individuals and organisations including medical practitioners, health service providers, churches and faith groups, decriminalisation proponents and opponents, legal practitioners, medical ethicists and academics. In addition, the VLRC sought the advice of an expert medical panel on current clinical practice.

The VLRC invited and received over 500 submissions from the public. I understand this was one of the largest ever number of submissions received in a call for submissions. Submissions were received from many individuals as well as a range of organisations, representing a spectrum of views.

Health: preventive care

Raised with: Premier

Raised by: Ms Darveniza

Raised on: 7 February 2008

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

Victoria is in a healthy state. Victorians born today can expect to live until they are almost 81 years old, placing Victoria above the Australian average, and the best in the world for men, and in the top three for women. We must build on this platform so that each generation is healthier than the last.

We face significant challenges. Rising rates of obesity and chronic diseases such as diabetes and common cancers require that we maintain efforts to promote life-long healthy living and reduce behaviours such as smoking,

overexposure to the sun and excessive alcohol consumption. Securing the mental health of all Victorians is also a priority.

Meeting these challenges means that we must take a broad approach to our health by continuing to promote the social, economic and environmental conditions that are conducive to a healthy society.

In July 2007 I announced that tackling cancer and the epidemic of preventable chronic diseases, including diabetes, would be a priority for this Government.

The Victorian Government is investing heavily in a range of initiatives and developing a number of strategies to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce the burden of chronic disease. Major initiatives include:

- ‘Go for your life’, a \$200 million plus initiative promoting healthy eating and an active lifestyle.
- A new WorkHealth Initiative, which will invest \$200 million over five years to support the wellbeing and health of Victorian employees.

Further information on these initiatives is attached below.

The Government supports broader preventative health partnerships and programs including VicHealth, SunSmart and Quit.

Work is also underway on a range of Victorian Government strategies to promote healthy lifestyles and reduce risky behaviours including a new Victorian Tobacco Control Strategy, and Alcohol Action Plan.

A mental health reform strategy is currently under development. Prevention and early intervention, particularly for children, youth and families, have been identified as key areas for action.

Further information regarding ‘Go for your life’ and Workhealth Initiative

‘Go for your life’

The Government’s major preventative health care initiative is ‘Go for your life’. Since its inception in 2003, the Victorian Government has invested over \$200 million in a range of programs to promote healthy eating and increase levels of physical activity.

‘Go for your life’ recognises that establishing healthy habits and positive behaviours in childhood can have life long benefits:

- Kids – ‘Go for your life’ supports the development of healthy habits early on in life to set children up for a healthy adulthood. This state-wide program works with over 1000 early childhood services and primary schools to create healthier environments for children, promote physical activity and support healthy eating.
- ‘Go for your life’ positive body image programs targets teenagers, young people and communities in order to raise awareness and provide support in the promotion of positive body image.

Other school based ‘Go for your life’ programs include

- Free Fruit Friday aimed at boosting fruit and vegetable consumption by young Victorians;
- Healthy Start – School Grants to assist schools to take up opportunities to promote healthy eating and physical activity;
- Healthy Start – Kitchen Gardens Project support for 40 primary schools to establish and maintain a kitchen garden program; and
- ‘Go for your life’ Healthy Canteens Kits a resource to assist schools to develop healthy canteens and other food services.

WorkHealth initiative

WorkHealth marks a generational investment in the Victorian economy. WorkSafe Victoria in conjunction with the Department of Human Services will provide services and incentives for workplaces to introduce health and wellbeing programs and ensure at risk workers get the support they need.

Under the initiative, over \$200 million is being provided over five years to improve the health of workers through a series of programs, including:

- \$30 million for free on-site voluntary screening of Victorian workers in small businesses to enable early detection of at risk individuals and provide advice and assistance in responding to those risks.
- \$24 million in dollar for dollar grants for large employers to put in place formal health and well being programs in consultation with workers.
- \$36 million for medium sized employers in a mix of grants and free on-site screening dependent on an individual employer's capacity.
- \$96 million in establishing and operating a Diabetes Prevention Service to provide professional screening, advice on results and access to self-management programs for at risk workers.

Family violence: legislation

Raised with: Attorney-General

Raised by: Ms Mikakos

Raised on: 7 February 2008

REPLY:

I refer to the matter you raised in the Adjournment Debate on 7 February 2008 asking that I engage the community in an extensive consultation process on the proposed family violence bill as this will provide an opportunity to reinforce the message to the community that family violence is a crime.

The proposed Family Violence Bill is being developed in response to recommendations made by the Victorian Law Reform Commission (VLRC) in its *Review of Family Violence Report*. This report was based on extensive community consultation by the VLRC across Victoria over a two-year period.

Substantial work has already been undertaken to consult on the form and scope of the new family violence bill announced in the Premier's statement of legislative intent. A number of forums have been held to explore the best way to implement recommendations. Many organisations have made submissions about the content of the Bill and participated in the forums. These organisations include No To Violence, the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Women's Legal Service Victoria, Domestic Violence Victoria, and the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre. Further consultation will take place as the Bill nears introduction.

Government is also exploring ways in which the community can be further educated about the nature of family violence and its unacceptability. The introduction of new legislation will provide an ideal way to highlight the problem of family violence and enable the justice system and the community to support and build consistent and shared understandings of the nature of family violence.

Thank you for drawing attention to this need and opportunity.

Housing: dependent persons unit

Raised with: Housing

Raised by: Mr Rich-Phillips

Raised on: 11 March 2008

REPLY:

The Department of Human Services, Office of Housing hires "Dependent Person's Units" to eligible people who require close independent accommodation and who are dependent on a resident of an existing household.

All installations of a "Dependent Person's Unit", whether by the Office of Housing or by private application must comply with relevant planning rules, setback requirements and the requirements of a Building Permit.

Electricity: multiple sclerosis concession

Raised with: Community Services

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 13 March 2008

REPLY:

The Victorian Government has a strong commitment to assisting low-income households with the cost of essential services by providing a range of concessions on services such as housing, water, energy, health education and transport. This is evidenced by the one billion dollars spent on concessions and concession related programs in 2006-2007 benefiting 1.28 million low-income Victorians.

Targeted relief for concession cardholders ensures access to vital public services, improved affordability and support for essential household goods and services and promotes participation and opportunity in schools and kindergarten. The concessions program is part of the Brumby Government's plan to make Victoria a fairer, better place to live.

Work is currently underway to ensure that our concessions programs continue to be effective in dealing with the impact of climate change. This work involved a concessions stakeholder workshop held on 30 January 2008, where a number of stakeholders were invited to present their views on concessions within Victoria. The Disability Advisory Council of Victoria were represented at the workshop. The discussion was wide ranging, and included themes similar to the issues that you have presented.

Your recommendation to extend the Summer Multiple Sclerosis Concession has been noted and is being considered along with a range of other issues.

Disability services: adaptive technologies

Raised with: Community Services

Raised by: Mr Thornley

Raised on: 13 March 2008

REPLY:

The Commonwealth Government has the primary responsibility for the planning, policy setting and management of specialist disability employment services as outlined in the Commonwealth State Disability Agreement (CSTDA).

The Commonwealth provides a number of schemes to support people with a disability to seek employment including the Workplace Modifications Scheme and Disability Employment Networks.

- The Workplace Modifications Scheme funds adaptive technologies to assist people with a disability in the workplace. It pays for the cost involved in modifying the workplace or purchasing special or adaptive equipment. Modifications include communication technology, disability specialist IT software, adaptive workplace tools, adapted workplaces and vehicle related modifications. This scheme is administered by Job Access.
- Disability Employment networks are specialist employment services that support people with a disability to find and keep a job by providing training and job placements with ongoing support in the open labour market.

The Brumby Government is committed to supporting people with a disability to live independently in the community. Completing school is a key transition time within the life of a young person with a disability.

The Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) is a program funded by the Department of Human Services that provides focused support for young people with a disability to make the transition to a range of post school options. The support is available for up to three years.

Young people with a disability who meet the eligibility criteria for FFYA may be provided with:

- assistance from a FFYA transition planner to explore a range of post school options which may include employment, further study or community participation
- information and support to access disability supports, if required

Information and communications technology: broadband access

Raised with: Information and Communication Technology

Raised by: Mr P. Davis

Raised on: 8 April 2008

REPLY:

Under the Victorian Government's Broadband Framework, the Government provides funding for strategic programs that maximise the benefits of broadband access and innovative use for the State, often complementing Commonwealth programs. For example, the Government recently announced \$2.1 million in complementary funding for broadband enabled innovation projects in regional Victoria in collaboration with the Municipal Association of Victoria, local councils and the Commonwealth Government.

The Victorian Government does not directly subsidise universal broadband access or ADSL deployment. Under long standing constitutional, funding and regulatory arrangements the Commonwealth Government is ultimately responsible for ensuring telecommunications services, including broadband, are accessible on a reasonably equal basis and meet community and business needs.

Consistent with these arrangements, the Commonwealth Government's provides subsidised broadband services under the Australian Broadband Guarantee (ABG) program in areas where broadband infrastructure is not otherwise delivered on a commercial basis.

I understand that an ABG subsidised satellite service is available in Leongatha South. Satellite plans in Leongatha South start from \$39.95 per month for service that provides speeds up to 16 times faster than dial-up and is defined as metropolitan-comparable under the ABG.

Libraries: Colac

Raised with: Local Government

Raised by: Ms Hartland

Raised on: 9 April 2008

REPLY:

Colac Otway Shire Council has recently voted to move the Colac library from the current location to the new Beechy Centre. Local governments are responsible for the provision of library services and the decision making relating to the location and design of library facilities.

The Victorian Government supports local governments in providing library services to the community through the Public Library Grants Program, the Premier's Reading Challenge Book Fund and the Living Libraries Program. This year a record \$35.12 million has been provided to library services across Victoria.

Emergency services: storm damage

Raised with: Energy and Resources

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 15 April 2008

REPLY:

As a former electrician, the member for Eastern Metropolitan Region has a strong interest in protecting the State's electrical distribution infrastructure and ensuring a safe and reliable energy supply for all Victorians. I thank him for his comments.

All Victorians should be thankful for the efforts of emergency workers, electricity distributors and retailers and others during and after the recent storms. However, we can always improve.

On 16 April 2008 I announced a wide-ranging review of the response to the recent wind storm by electricity distributors and retailers, emergency services and government departments and agencies.

This review will further improve the ability of government, industry and the community to deal with such incidents and identify ways to improve emergency response procedures. It will also examine how we can better use the media before, during and after these events and opportunities for ongoing community education and awareness.

The review will be conducted by the Emergency Services Commissioner Bruce Esplin. The review will report jointly to myself and Police and Emergency Services Minister Bob Cameron by mid-August.

As Mr Leane noted, extreme weather events are predicted to become more frequent as climate change impacts occur. The Esplin review will help identify opportunities to build greater community resilience for such events. These weather events have the power to significantly disrupt communities so it is important to continually review and improve our performance to ensure we can minimise the impact on all Victorians.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers

Thursday, 8 May 2008

Water: Hamilton supply

Raised with: Water

Raised by: Mr Koch

Raised on: 7 February 2008

REPLY:

Modelling completed at the time the project was approved showed that it will, on average, save 103 billion litres of water per year. These savings will be allocated to the environment (83 billion litres) and new development (20 billion litres).

When the Northern Mallee Pipeline Project was completed in 2003, it generated savings of 50 billion litres in addition to the 103 billion litres mentioned above. The savings have already been allocated to improve the reliability of supplies to existing users (10 billion litres), to the environment (35 billion litres) and to new development (five billion litres).

The bulk water entitlements will be adjusted as savings are made so that the additional water can be included in the annual allocation process that shares the water available in the storages between entitlement holders. Allocations to all water users (including for environmental flows in the Glenelg and Wimmera rivers) have been very low in recent years because of the unprecedented drought.

The impact of climate change on the volumes of savings generated will be reviewed as part of developing the Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy, which will commence this year.

Wannon Water will purchase two billion litres for Hamilton from the Wimmera-Mallee Pipeline savings earmarked for new development, not those earmarked for the environment. The water for Hamilton will be sourced from Rocklands or Moora Moora reservoirs, which are in the Glenelg River catchment, as is Hamilton.

Wannon Water investigated sourcing water from the Condah Bores to supply Hamilton, along with 56 other options, in its water supply demand strategy (WSDS), and found this option to be less feasible than a pipeline from Rocklands or Moora Moora.

The supply options for Hamilton were made available for comment via three rounds of public consultation, the first of which began in February 2006 and the third of which is still occurring. The consultation process has involved three public website releases of the WSDS in March 2006, August 2006 and June 2007, three public workshops (February 2006, July 2006 and July 2007), media releases, radio announcements, an open day, engagement sessions and ongoing collection of customer feedback. The WSDS is still available for public comment.

Biofuel: federal excise

Raised with: Environment and Climate Change

Raised by: Mr Thornley

Raised on: 28 February 2008

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is strongly supportive of renewable energy, as is evidenced by the *Biofuels Road Map*¹ released 18 April 2007. In it, a range of commitments have been made to help ensure a sustainable supply of energy for Victoria and in doing so assist innovation in this area.

Accordingly, efforts on behalf of companies such as Ozmotech are to be applauded. Through innovation such as this, economic, social and environmental benefits for all Victorians can be secured.

In support of this, the Victorian Government remains engaged with efforts nationally aimed at ensuring a sustainable energy supply for the nation's transport needs. The current and future excise arrangements for transport fuels form a major part of the overall energy supply and distribution framework, and in recognition of this the Victorian Government maintains an ongoing dialog with all stakeholders.

In extension of this, it is critical that the views of all stakeholders are represented to the Commonwealth. It is important therefore that innovative companies such as Ozmotech continue to engage with the Commonwealth to ensure that a thorough understanding of all issues is maintained by those responsible for the administrative framework.

Planning: residential zones

Raised with: Planning

Raised by: Mr Pakula

Raised on: 11 March 2008

REPLY:

On 4 March 2008, the Hon John Brumby MP, Premier of Victoria, announced the creation of the new Urban Growth Zone, which will fast-track the provision of land for urban purposes in Melbourne's declared growth areas within the Urban Growth Boundary. The new zone will streamline the planning process for growth areas. The Growth Areas Authority in conjunction with Councils will prepare Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) which will guide new urban development and identify:

- areas to be developed for housing, employment areas and activity centres;
- the nature and location of community facilities such as schools and community amenities;
- public transport routes, major roads, and cycling and walking trails; and
- open space networks and any areas that are to be retained for environmental or other reasons.

The Urban Growth Zone merges strategic planning (PSPs) and land rezoning into one step. The Growth Areas Authority will be working with Councils to prepare PSPs for the land that is included in the Urban Growth Zone. The PSP is the master plan to design new communities and is the formal requirement for the development of an area. New urban development will be able to proceed if it is consistent with the PSP that has been approved by me as Minister for Planning.

It is proposed that all land currently located within the Urban Growth Boundary in the declared growth areas not already in an urban zone would be rezoned to the newly announced Urban Growth Zone. The provisions of the Urban Growth Zone and its application are currently being finalised.

I understand that the Bonello land is currently inside the Urban Growth Boundary, and is within a Farming Zone and will therefore be considered for the application of the Urban Growth Zone.

¹ "The *Biofuels Road Map*" is the well-known abbreviation for "*Driving Growth: A Road Map and Action Plan for the Development of the Victorian Biofuels Industry*"

The Department has advised the Bonellos that on the basis that the Urban Growth Zone is applied to their land, they would no longer be required to apply for rezoning on individual blocks of land. Instead, planning permits will be able to be issued if proposals comply with PSPs established for the land and prepared in consultation with local communities.

Planning: Seymour development

Raised with: Planning

Raised by: Mr Drum

Raised on: 12 March 2008

REPLY:

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) and Mitchell Shire Council introduced updated flooding controls into the Mitchell Planning Scheme in January 2006. Various areas throughout the municipality were affected to reflect current flood risk mapping prepared by the GBCMA through the *Floodplain Management Flood Data Transfer Project, Goulburn Broken Project Area, August 2000* and to reflect flood risk identified for the Seymour township and environs in the report *Flood Inundation Mapping, WBM Oceanics Australia, 2001*.

The land in question located in Emily St, Seymour is within the Business 4 Zone (B4Z) and the Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ). Part of the land is also subject to the Floodway Overlay (FO). The proposal to construct a habitable building is prohibited under the provisions of the UFZ.

At no time has the responsible authority, Mitchell Shire Council, received an application from the current land owners for a planning permit for use and/or development of the land in question.

Planning: St Kilda triangle development

Raised with: Planning

Raised by: Mrs Coote

Raised on: 13 March 2008

REPLY:

Port Phillip City Council is the Responsible Authority for administering the planning scheme for the St Kilda Triangle site. Port Phillip City Council resolved to approve the St Kilda Triangle Development Plan on 7 February 2008.

The Development Plan details how the St Kilda Triangle Site will be developed as an integrated entertainment, arts, tourism and retail precinct.

The decision to approve the development plan for the St Kilda Triangle Site was made by the elected local councillors of Port Phillip City Council. Their decision followed a thorough and transparent process, in full knowledge of the views of the community and with the knowledge of specialist expert advice.

Port Phillip City Council, as the Responsible Authority, is well equipped to facilitate the development of the Triangle site. Therefore, I will not intervene in this approval process but will continue to monitor the progress of the development.

Billanook College: extension

Raised with: Planning

Raised by: Mr Guy

Raised on: 13 March 2008

REPLY:

I refer to your question during the adjournment debate in the Legislative Council on 13 March 2008, relating to the approval of Amendment C69 to the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme.

I have recently approved Amendment C69 to the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme. Amendment C69 rezones the Billanook College land to a Special Use Zone and incorporates a master plan for the future development of the school, giving certainty to the local community and the school itself.

Planning: St Kilda triangle development

Raised with: Planning

Raised by: Ms Pennicuik

Raised on: 13 March 2008

REPLY:

Port Phillip Council resolved to approve the Development Plan for the St Kilda Triangle site at Council's Statutory Planning Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2008. The Council's approval of the development plan includes extensive restoration and refurbishment of the Palais Theatre.

The decision to approve the development plan for the St Kilda Triangle Site was made by the elected local councillors of Port Phillip Council.

I am satisfied that the process established by Port Phillip Council to facilitate and assess the development of the St Kilda Triangle site is sound. The Council, as the Responsible Authority, is well equipped to facilitate the development of the Triangle Site.

The restoration, refurbishment and regeneration of the heritage listed Palais Theatre is a central component of the approved development plan. In fact, the approved development plan includes a \$20 million upgrade of the Palais Theatre to be funded by the developer. I consider this outcome to be of significant benefit to the community.

Port Phillip Bay: monitoring project

Raised with: Environment and Climate Change

Raised by: Mr D. Davis

Raised on: 8 April 2008

REPLY:

There is a comprehensive set of monitoring programs under the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the Channel Deepening Project (the Project).

The EMP has been designed to be 'fit-for-purpose' to control the Project activities and is based on the outcomes of the environmental assessment.

The environmental assessment provided a comprehensive review of environmental risk and took into account over 2,300 different risks.

The EMP bay-wide monitoring programs will monitor over 100 'vital sign' indicators on timescales ranging from every minute, for indicators that respond quickly, through to daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually, for changes that happen more slowly.

The EMP has been approved under the *Coastal Management Act 1995* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Weeds: control

Raised with: Environment and Climate Change

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 9 April 2008

REPLY:

As agreed between myself and the Minister for Agriculture in November of 2007, the responsibility for weeds and pests now falls under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture and this question should be redirected accordingly.

