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FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

21 and 23 August 2007

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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, 21 August 2007

Roads and ports: Aboriginal assistance

395. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): What additional support is given to Indigenous Victorians to assist them to gain drivers licences.

ANSWER:

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

VicRoads provides support to Indigenous Victorians to gain drivers licences through a number of initiatives, including:

- Supporting local activities such as the Mildura Aboriginal Corporation Driver Licensing Program, which provides applicants with driving lessons towards gaining a probationary licence.
- Managing a TAC funded pilot community based Community Learner Driver Access program to assist learner drivers, including Indigenous Victorians, who would otherwise find it difficult to gain the minimum 120 hours driving experience, which was introduced on 1 July 2007 as part of the Graduated Licensing System. The pilot is being run through local government, in conjunction with community agencies, which are generally youth focused. The pilot program is currently being trialled in a small number of local government areas, but will gradually be offered to all local government areas across Victoria.

VicRoads also

- Provides information on available community support programs;
- Provides assistance in arranging suitable test appointment times and advising that the learner permit test can be undertaken orally; and
- Participates in driver licence information sessions run through local Indigenous communities, where requested.

Agriculture: native waterbird shooting

435. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Agriculture): When will the Government implement the recommendation of the Victorian Government's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee that the recreational shooting of native waterbirds be banned because of cruelty.

ANSWER:

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

The Victorian Animal Welfare Advisory Committee's recommendation made in 2002 to ban recreational hunting of waterbirds would require a change to Government policy and an amendment to legislation. I am advised that the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change intends to continue to allow duck hunting, as long as it remains sustainable and humane.

Health: hospital emergency services

481. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the table showing the percentage of hospital (emergency) patients who do not wait for treatment at hospital on page 45 of the Auditor-General’s Report on *Follow-up of Selected Performance Audits Tabled in 2003 and 2004*: Could the Minister provide a table indicating the actual numbers of patients, by hospital, who did not wait for treatment after presenting at the hospital emergency department for the periods 1 January to 30 June 2006 and 1 July to 31 December 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- Government is committed to improving services for patients who attend emergency departments. Approximately 5 per cent of patients leave Victorian emergency departments without treatment each year.
- The rate of patients who leave after treatment starts, but against medical advice, is less than 1 per cent.
- People choose to leave without treatment for a variety of reasons, for example, feeling better, choosing to defer treatment or deciding to see their general practitioner.
- In 2005–06, the government provided \$8.3m over 4 years to support the implementation of the *Improving the patient experience* program. This funding will support initiatives to improve the patient experience in the emergency department.
- Data for the 13 metropolitan hospitals show the rate of patients that DNW during 1 January to 30 June 2006 was 4.45 per cent. The DNW rate for 1 July and 31 December 2006 was 5.65 per cent.
- Victorian Emergency Departments consistently record waiting times within the recommended benchmarks, and perform better than in any other State in Australia.

	PRESENTATIONS	DNW	PRESENTATIONS	DNW
	01 JAN-30 JUN 2006		01 JUL-31DEC 2006	
Angliss Hospital	19,747	676	20,879	987
Austin Hospital	24,425	1,063	26,748	1,472
Box Hill Hospital	20,099	1,239	20,647	1,346
Dandenong Hospital	20,779	798	22,570	939
Frankston Hospital	24,139	1,105	25,222	1,747
Maroondah Hospital	22,834	824	24,085	1,452
Monash Medical Centre	28,187	1,098	30,057	1,277
Royal Melbourne Hospital	24,728	954	26,435	1,259
St Vincents Hospital	17,683	750	18,898	790
Sunshine Hospital	29,966	2,057	31,373	2,600
The Alfred	21,808	1,170	22,609	1,284
The Northern Hospital	32,755	872	32,209	2,031
Western Hospital	15,510	853	16,645	794
Sum:	302,660	13,459	318,377	17,978
		<u>4.45%</u>		<u>5.65%</u>

DNW: Left at own risk without treatment

Police and emergency services: police weapons

- 517. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): How many weapons issued to police are currently unaccounted for or have been recovered from persons, including criminals, not authorised to be in their possession.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Current Victoria Police data held by the Operational Safety Tactics and Training Co-ordination Unit dates back to 1 January 2002. From 1 January 2002 to the date of the question all firearms are accounted for.

Education: Eastwood Primary School — bus service

- 560. MR P. R. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Education: What is the Government doing to alleviate the concerns of the Eastwood Primary School Administration and those families who are dissatisfied with the current provision of the Government provided bus service.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Some families who were previously receiving a taxi service to the Eastwood Primary School deaf facility have expressed some dissatisfaction with the bus service being offered mainly as a result of increased travel time.

The service being provided is, however, consistent with the bus service being provided to eligible students at all other special schools in Victoria and allows more students to access transport to the Eastwood Primary School as would have otherwise been possible without the introduction of the bus service. With that in mind there are no plans to change the service at present.

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Thursday, 23 August 2007

Public transport: timber railway sleepers

305. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Mildura rail corridor freight upgrade project tender No. T13218, which was due to close on 16 January 2007, and the Government's media release of 13 May 2006 which announced that it would use concrete sleepers on the upgrade of the Mildura line:

- (1) When was the decision taken to tender for timber sleepers rather than concrete ones.
- (2) What work or studies have been undertaken to determine that this was the best option.
- (3) What were the conclusions with respect to price, quality, longevity and environmental impact including CO2 emissions.
- (4) What consultations external to the Department of Infrastructure were taken in this process.
- (5) Has the Department or the Minister (or the previous Minister) received any representations from external groups with respect to the use of concrete versus timber in rail track replacement.
- (6) Is the Minister aware of the Australian Rail Track Corporation study on the CO2 emissions associated with concrete sleepers versus multiple replacements of timber sleepers.
- (7) Has the Minister asked the Department to examine this study.

ANSWER:

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

1. The decision was made in late 2006.
2. The business case developed by the Department of Infrastructure considered relevant factors and available research.
3. Using full depth concrete sleepers for the entire Mildura rail corridor upgrade would add approximately \$118 million to the project because of additional sleeper costs and changes to track formation required for concrete sleepers.

No analysis was undertaken of the greenhouse gas emissions of timber sleepers compared with concrete sleepers.

4. The Department consulted with relevant community stakeholders, industry representatives and received advice from the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Forests NSW, the NSW Government's public forest management agency. The advice indicated that timber harvesting in state forests complies with relevant state and federal legislation and is undertaken in a legal and legitimate manner consistent with sustainable forest management practices.

DSE advises that timber harvesting of Victoria's state forests is undertaken with a high level of compliance with the Code of Practices for Timber Production.

5. Yes.

- 6. Yes.
- 7. Yes

Public transport: V/Line passenger numbers

345. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (1) During February 2007, March 2007 and April 2007 respectively, how many passengers made a journey on a V/Line long distance train and what was their direction of travel on the following lines:
 - (a) Albury;
 - (b) Ararat;
 - (c) Bairnsdale;
 - (d) Echuca;
 - (e) Shepparton;
 - (f) Swan Hill; and
 - (g) Warrnambool.
- (2) On each of these lines and directions of travel, how passengers made reservations.

ANSWER:

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

(1) Passengers journeys on V/Line long distance trains during February, March and April 2007:

	Feb-07		Mar-07		Apr-07	
Service	Down	Up	Down	Up	Down	Up
Albury	9,184	7,967	11,595	11,065	13,101	12,475
Ararat	8,566	8,592	12,310	10,959	12,193	10,553
Bairnsdale	10,107	10,934	12,681	12,852	14,752	15,176
Echuca	3,906	2,132	11,916	9,393	10,593	9,453
Shepparton	6,644	7,346	9,807	9,238	9,792	9,515
Swan Hill	8,356	9,188	11,710	12,774	12,397	13,031
Warrnambool*	5,923	5,153	19,312	19,116	19,448	18,387
	52,686	51,312	89,331	85,397	92,276	88,590

Notes:

* Coaches replaced some Warrnambool train services in February 2007.

Down = Services from Melbourne

Up = Services to Melbourne

(2) Reservations on V/Line long distance trains during February, March and April 2007:

	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Service	Reservations	Reservations	Reservations
Albury	8,765	15,795	14,057
Ararat	705	3,558	3,531

	Feb-07	Mar-07	Apr-07
Service	Reservations	Reservations	Reservations
Bairnsdale	6,277	10,757	10,612
Echuca	546	2,967	2,839
Shepparton	1,287	8,786	7,763
Swan Hill	5,279	9,048	9,242
Warrnambool*	776	18,445	16,473
	23,635	69,356	64,517

Information relating to reservations made in each direction of travel is not readily available and would require an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide.

Note:

* Coaches replaced certain train services in February 2007.

Public transport: train drivers

390. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Connex Melbourne and V/Line Passenger:

- (1) As at 1 May 2007 and 31 May 2007 how many of the following did each company have —
 - (a) fully qualified train drivers; and
 - (b) trainee drivers.
- (2) How many train drivers does each company require to fill all shifts available to operate its scheduled timetable on a seven days a week, 24 hours a day basis.
- (3) How many train drivers were attached to each depot, outstation or location that has a complement of train drivers and what were the names of such depots, outstations or locations as at the 1 May 2007 and the 31 May 2007.

ANSWER:

(1) (a)

	1 May 2007	31 May 2007
Connex Melbourne—fully qualified train drivers	646	649
V/Line—fully qualified train drivers	285	285

(1) (b)

	1 May 2007	31 May 2007
Connex Melbourne—trainee drivers	92	84
V/Line—trainee drivers	24	24

(2) Connex 694
V/Line 287

(3)

1 May 2007

Connex: Total = 646

Flinders Street 272	Belgrave 9	Broadmeadows 18	Carrum 13
Dandenong 27	Eltham 13	Epping 35	Frankston 18
Glen Waverly 18	Hurstbridge 18	Lilydale 18	Macleod 9
Mordialloc 9	Pakenham 18	Ringwood 35	Sandringham 18
Sydenham 22	Upfield 18	Westall 18	Werribee 22
Upper Ferntree Gully 18			

31 May 2007

Connex: Flinders Street 275, all other outstations remain as above.

1 May 2007

V/Line: Total = 275

Melbourne 142	Geelong 38	Ballarat 24	Bendigo 24
Traralgon 17	Sale 2	Bairnsdale 3	Kyneton 3
Seymour 15	Wodonga 7		

10 Driver Training Supervisors are not assigned to a depot

31 May 2007

No change.

Public transport: train drivers

391. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Connex Melbourne and V/Line Passenger:

- (1) On a typical weekday how many train drivers are expected to be rostered off —
 - (a) on annual leave;
 - (b) in training;
 - (c) on sick leave;
 - (d) on long service leave;
 - (e) on stress leave;
 - (f) on other types of leave, such as compassionate leave;

- (2) On a typical Saturday how many train drivers are expected to be rostered off —
 - (a) on annual leave;
 - (b) in training;
 - (c) on sick leave;
 - (d) on long service leave;
 - (e) on stress leave;
 - (f) on other types of leave, such as compassionate leave;

- (3) On a typical Sunday how many train drivers are expected to be rostered off —
- (a) on annual leave;
 - (b) in training;
 - (c) on sick leave;
 - (d) on long service leave;
 - (e) on stress leave;
 - (f) on other types of leave, such as compassionate leave;
- (4) How many drivers from each company were —
- (a) on annual leave;
 - (i) on 1 May 2007;
 - (ii) on 31 May 2007;
 - (b) in training;
 - (i) on 1 May 2007;
 - (ii) on 31 May 2007;
 - (c) on sick leave;
 - (i) on 1 May 2007;
 - (ii) on 31 May 2007;
 - (d) on long service leave;
 - (i) on 1 May 2007;
 - (ii) on 31 May 2007;
 - (e) on stress leave;
 - (i) on 1 May 2007;
 - (ii) on 31 May 2007;
 - (f) on other types of leave, such as compassionate leave; and
 - (i) on 1 May 2007;
 - (ii) on 31 May 2007;
 - (g) rostered off;
 - (i) on 1 May 2007;
 - (ii) on 31 May 2007.

ANSWER:

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

V/Line has advised that the provision of resources at this time to interrogate and export the data that is required to answer the questions cannot be justified.

- (1)
- (a) Connex 64
- (b) Connex 7
- (c) Connex 25
- (d) Connex 4
- (e) Sick leave is not differentiated by the type of illness.
- (f) Connex 5.

- (2)
- (a) Connex 64
 - (b) Connex nil
 - (c) Connex 12
 - (d) Connex 4
 - (e) Sick leave is not differentiated by the type of illness.
 - (f) Connex 2.

- (3)
- (a) Connex 64
 - (b) Connex nil
 - (c) Connex 6
 - (d) Connex 4
 - (e) Sick leave is not differentiated by the type of illness.
 - (f) Connex 2.

- (4)
- (a) (i) Connex 58
 - (ii) Connex 56
 - (b) (i) Connex 2
 - (ii) Connex 2
 - (c) (i) Connex 29
 - (ii) Connex 35
 - (d) (i) Connex 5
 - (ii) Connex 4
 - (e) Sick leave is not differentiated by the type of illness.
 - (f) (i) Connex 13
 - (ii) Connex 6
 - (g) (i) Connex 74
 - (ii) Connex 83.

Public transport: train drivers

392. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Connex Melbourne and V/Line Passenger:

- (1) What were the dates of the commencement and conclusion of the pay fortnights wholly within the month of May 2007.
- (2) For each of the above payroll fortnights —
 - (a) How many train drivers worked fewer than 10 shifts;
 - (b) How many train drivers worked 11 shifts;
 - (c) How many train drivers worked 12 shifts;
 - (d) How many train drivers worked 14 shifts;
 - (e) How many train drivers worked 15 shifts;

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- (f) How many train drivers worked 16 shifts; and
 - (g) How many train drivers worked 17 shifts.
- (3) For each of the above payroll fortnights how many train drivers took sick leave of —
- (a) less than one day;
 - (b) one day;
 - (c) three days;
 - (d) four days; and
 - (e) five or more days.
- (4) For each of the above payroll fortnights how many train drivers were on annual leave for —
- (a) one day;
 - (b) two days;
 - (c) three days;
 - (d) four days; and
 - (e) five or more days.
- (5) For each of the above payroll fortnights how many train drivers were on long service leave for —
- (a) one day;
 - (b) two days;
 - (c) three days; and
 - (d) four days;
 - (e) five or more days.
- (6) For each of the above payroll fortnights how many train drivers were off on stress related illness for —
- (a) one day;
 - (b) two days;
 - (c) three days;
 - (d) four days; and
 - (e) five or more days.

ANSWER:

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

(1-6)

V/Line:

V/Line has advised that the provision of resources at this time to interrogate and export the data that is required to answer these questions cannot be justified.

Connex:

(1)

Fortnight	Commenced	Concluded
1	29-Apr-07	12-May-07
2	13-May-07	26-May-07

(2)

Shifts Worked	12/05/07	26/05/07
(a) Fewer than 10	206	239
(b) 11	139	149
(c) 12	175	163
(d) 14	0	0
(e) 15	0	0
(f) 16	0	0
(g) 17	0	0

(3)

Sick Leave Days Taken	12/05/07	26/05/07
(a) Less than 1	13	17
(b) 1	189	171
(c) 3	36	40
(d) 4	1	7
(e) 5 or more days	10	13

(4)

Annual Leave Days Taken	12/05/07	26/05/07
(a) 1	4	12
(b) 2	1	3
(c) 3	4	5
(d) 4	8	9
(e) 5 or more days	88	94

(5)

Long Service Leave Days Taken	12/05/07	26/05/07
(a) 1	0	0
(b) 2	1	0
(c) 3	0	1
(d) 4	0	1
(e) 5 or more days	6	9

(6) Sick leave is not differentiated by the type of illness.

Public transport: train drivers

394. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Connex Melbourne and V/Line Passenger:

- (1) What allowances or emoluments additional to base salary or wages did train drivers receive as at 31 May 2007 and how much was each type of allowance —
 - (a) per hour;

- (b) per annum; or
 - (c) as a percentage of base salary or wages.
- (2) What was the current base salary or wage per fortnight and per annum for —
- (a) trainee train drivers commencing at classes —
 - (i) on 1 July 2000;
 - (ii) on 1 July 2006; and
 - (iii) on 31 May 2007.
 - (b) train drivers with five years' experience —
 - (i) on 1 July 2000;
 - (ii) on 1 July 2006; and
 - (iii) on 31 May 2007.

ANSWER:

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

(1-2) The Certified Agreements between Connex, V-Line, their respective employees and their representatives are publicly available documents.

These, along with any applicable Awards, outline the information on wages and allowances.

Planning: local council control

440. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to local councils' control over planning schemes:

- (1) What conversations did the Government engage in with the Housing Industry Association (HIA) in relation to *Hasan v Moreland* CC [2004] VCAT 1931 (16 September 2005).
- (2) Will the Government strip out Moreland City Council's Environmentally Sustainable Development requirements in the planning scheme amendment for the Central Coburg structure plan.
- (3) Is it a requirement of the Government's memorandum of understanding with the HIA that Environmentally Sustainable Development requirements which impose more stringent requirements than the Government's 5 star energy rating system be rejected.
- (4) In light of the recent finding that the Government's 5 star energy rating system for housing has failed to adequately address energy consumption, what does the State Government propose to do in order to address the growing contribution of domestic housing to global warming.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Government did not engage with the Housing Industry Association (HIA) in relation to *Hasan v Moreland* CC [2004] VCAT 1931 (16 September 2005).
- (2) The matter is currently under consideration.
- (3) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the HIA was negotiated in 2003 in recognition of industry concerns regarding Victoria's transition to 5 Star in 2004 (ahead of other states). The MOU agreed some flexibility to allow the building industry time to adjust to the new requirements. It relates specifically to 5 Star requirements and has not prevented the widespread adoption of 5 Star by builders in the last few years.
- (4) Since July 2005 all new Victorian homes have been required to:

- achieve a 5 star energy rating for the building fabric;
- meet maximum flow rates for showerheads and taps;
- restrict water pressure to a maximum 500kPa; and
- Install a rainwater tank or solar hot water system; or connect to a reticulated recycled water (dual pipe) system; or equivalent performance based measures.

A recent Government report (the Wilkenfeld Report) revealed that factors including increased floor area and inefficient lighting contribute to greater energy use in new houses. However, it confirmed that without the 5 Star standard, greenhouse emissions would have been 33 per cent higher. The standard has also reduced mains water consumption by 22 per cent

The Government is currently developing a performance based extension of the 5 Star standard to further improve the sustainability of new and existing housing. The standard will set new greenhouse benchmarks for water and energy efficiency and consider fixed appliances including heating and lighting. Development of the standard will involve comprehensive industry and stakeholder consultation, training and education.

The new Standard will help to meet our target of reducing Victoria's household emissions by 10 per cent by 2010.

Planning: accessible housing

448. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to the first draft of the 'Accessible Housing in Australia' report:

- (1) When did the Government receive the first draft of the report.
- (2) When did the Government receive the final report.
- (3) When and how will the completed report (as required by the Request for Tender closing 16 December 2004) be made available for "consultation with the community and building industry".
- (4) If it is proposed that the final report will not be made public in full, what is it about the report which prevents its full disclosure and what part(s) of it will be made public for "consultation with the community and building industry" and when.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to the first draft of the 'Accessible Housing in Australia' report

- (1) The first draft was provided to the Victorian Government in July 2005 and a second draft was provided in October 2005.
- (2) The final report was received in February 2006.
- (3) The decision to release the report for consultation will be made at federal level through the Australian Building Codes Board.
- (4) I am not aware of any matter which will prevent the release of the report.

Planning: accessible housing

449. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to the 'Accessible Housing in Australia' Request for Tender (closing 16 December 2004), where it states: "It is expected that the contract will commence in January 2005" and Stages 1 to 5 in the guide for tenderers (Proposed Timetable) estimates completion within 6 and a half months:

- (1) What prevented the research being completed on time (i.e., by July/ August 2005).

- (2) What measures are under way to prevent any further delay in implementing the report.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In relation to the 'Accessible Housing in Australia' Request for Tender

- (1) The draft report provided in July 2005 highlighted areas that required further consideration and analysis. As a result, a second draft was provided in October 2005 and the final report presented in February 2006. The level of consultation and issue analysis required led to an extension of the timetable for the report.
- (2) The report has been referred to the State and Territory governments for their advice its release. When the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) receives agreement from all States and Territories, the report will be released. No further delay is anticipated.

Planning: accessible housing

450. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to the 'Accessible Housing in Australia' report:

- (1) When was the final 'Accessible Housing in Australia' report referred to the Victorian government by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB).
- (2) When did the Victorian Government respond to the ABCB in regard to this report.
- (3) If the Government has not responded, when will it do so and why has there been a delay.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The 'Accessible Housing in Australia' report was referred to the Victorian Government in May 2006. The former Minister for Planning, Hon. Rob Hulls, referred the report to the Ministerial Taskforce on Housing Accessibility for consideration and advice.
- (2) The Victorian Government is still considering its response.
- (3) The Victorian Government will respond to the Australian Building Codes Board when all matters raised in the report have been fully considered

Planning: accessible housing

452. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to the 'Accessible Housing in Australia' report:

- (1) How many times did the Accessible Housing Taskforce meet, and on what dates.
- (2) By when was the Accessible Housing Taskforce requested to provide their interim and final reports, and on what date were they actually transmitted to the Planning Minister.
- (3) What were the recommendations of the interim and final report of the Accessible Housing Taskforce.
- (4) What recommendations of the interim and final report of the Accessible Housing Taskforce have been implemented, or are going to be implemented, and what were/are the timelines.
- (5) If any of the recommendations relate to local or State planning policy or building regulation, will this be implemented state wide (to avoid a piecemeal or inconsistent approach across Victoria).
- (6) When will copies of the interim and final report of the Accessible Housing Taskforce be made public and, if this is not proposed to be done, why not.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Accessible Housing Taskforce met 8 times. Meeting dates were: 14 October 2005, 28 October 2005, 10 November 2005, 23 November 2005, 15 December 2005, 9 February 2006, 2 March 2006 and 24 March 2006.
- (2) The Terms of Reference required the Taskforce to provide an interim report to the Minister for Planning by 31 December 2005 and a final report in early 2006. The Taskforce delivered an interim report to the Minister in December 2005 and the Final Report was submitted in May 2006.
- (3) The recommendations of the Taskforce have not yet been released.
- (4) A decision on the implementation of the Taskforce recommendations will follow the Government's consideration of the *Accessible Housing in Australia* report.
- (5) The Victorian Government supports regulatory consistency at both State and national levels. A piecemeal approach would not be favoured.
- (6) A decision on the release of the final report of the Accessible Housing Taskforce will be made following its consideration by the Government.

Planning: accessible housing

- 453. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to accessible housing: Are there any agreements or understandings by the Victorian government with the Property Council of Australia, the Housing Industry Association or the Master Builders Association or any of their affiliates, branches or officers, or anyone at all, which would prevent the Government from implementing changes in relation to accessible housing policy, local or State planning policy, or building regulation.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to working with the peak industry bodies. We are in continuing conversation with industry representatives to seek optimum outcomes for the Victorian community.

I am not aware of any impediment to our continuing efforts to recognise and respond to the needs of all Victorians, including those with special requirements for accessible housing.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

- 458. MRS KRONBERG** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): How many sexual assault victims have attended or been referred to the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region during the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding sexual assault victims in hospitals.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

459. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the numbers of sexual assault victims attending the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region:

- (1) How many females were treated in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.
- (2) How many males were treated in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding sexual assault victims in hospitals.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

460. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation the operation of the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region: How many forensic medical officers were located at the Maroondah Hospital 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding staffing in hospitals.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

461. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the operation of the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region: How many forensic medical officers attended cases concerning rape victims at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region in 2002; 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding staffing in hospitals.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

462. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the operation of the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region: How many forensic medical officers attended after hours cases concerning rape victims at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding staffing in hospitals.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

463. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the operation of the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region:

- (1) How many rape victims have needed to be transferred from the Maroondah Hospital to hospitals in the Southern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.
- (2) How many rape victims have needed to be transferred from the Maroondah Hospital to hospitals in the Northern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding sexual assault victim transfers between hospitals.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

464. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the operation of the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region:

- (1) What are the reasons given for rape victims having to be transferred from the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region to hospitals in the Southern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.
- (2) What are the reasons given for rape victims have being transferred from the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region to hospitals in the Northern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding sexual assault victim transfers between hospitals.

Police and emergency services: Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

465. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the operation of the Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault located at the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region:

- (1) What are the reasons given for after hours rape victims being transferred from the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region to hospitals in the Southern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.
- (2) What are the reasons given for after hours rape victims being transferred from the Maroondah Hospital in the Eastern Region to hospitals in the Northern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding sexual assault victim transfers between hospitals.

Police and emergency services: sexual assault centres

466. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the operation of the sexual assault centres in metropolitan Melbourne which operate in public hospitals:

- (1) How many forensic medical officers dealt with rape cases in the Southern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.
- (2) How many forensic medical officers dealt with rape cases in the Northern Region in 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding staffing in hospitals.

Police and emergency services: sexual assault centres

467. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the operation of the sexual assault centres in metropolitan Melbourne which operate in public hospitals: How many forensic medical officers deal with rape cases in metropolitan Melbourne.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Human Services collects information regarding staffing in hospitals.

Public transport: train delays

492. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the categorisation of delays affecting Connex and V/Line trains in documents provided under Freedom of Information requests:

- (1) For the respective companies, divided according to operating line (such as Alamein–Camberwell or Melbourne–Warrnambool), how many trains were delayed in March 2007 by —
 - (a) between 6 minutes and 10 minutes 59 seconds; and
 - (b) 11 minutes or more.
- (2) Of the delays in (1), how many were attributed to a cause of ‘others’.
- (3) What were the 10 most common ‘others’ reasons (such as a train-motor vehicle collision) and how many trains in each of the categories in (1) were affected by each reason.

ANSWER:

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

- (1-3) A comprehensive report on the performance, punctuality and reliability of Victoria’s public transport services is released quarterly. Copies of Track Record can be found at www.doi.vic.gov.au/trackrecord.

A supplementary bulletin providing line-by-line punctuality and reliability information is released monthly.

Planning: Melbourne 2030 — email update service

499. MR GUY — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to the Melbourne 2030 email update service on the Department of Sustainability and Environment website:

- (1) How many subscriptions to this service existed as at May 2007.
- (2) What was the total number of emails sent each month to the subscriber list from December 2006 to May 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There were 3,096 subscribers to the email update service when the May email update was sent out on 6 June 2007.
- (2) Generally, one email is sent each month to all subscribers on the Melbourne 2030 mailing list. There were a total of 6 email updates sent to the subscriber list between December 2006 to May 2007.

Planning: urban improvement stream

500. MR GUY — To ask the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Which councils responded to the Department of Sustainability and Environment's mid term review of the Urban Improvement Stream.
- (2) What is the completion date of the mid term review of the Urban Improvement Stream.
- (3) How many staff were allocated to conduct the Urban Improvement Stream.
- (4) Does the Urban Improvement Stream have an allocated budget.
- (5) What are the terms of reference for the Urban Improvement Stream.
- (6) Will the results of the Urban Improvement Stream be made public and if not, why not.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- 1) An electronic questionnaire was sent to all councils eligible for the Creating Better Places (CBP) program. 64 per cent of all eligible councils responded to the survey, which included 24 councils from metropolitan Melbourne and 3 councils from the networked cities corridor.
- 2) The review was completed in March 2007.
- 3) There are two staff at 1.6 FTE allocated to manage the Urban Improvement stream of CBP.
- 4) \$13.5 million is allocated for the CBP program of which up to \$2 million is allocated each year for the Urban Improvement stream.
- 5) Funding criteria and guidelines are published each year prior to the opening of the funding rounds for the Urban Improvement stream. The outcome of the mid-term review of the CBP Urban Improvement stream has been incorporated in the current round funding guidelines.
- 6) The projects funded through the Urban Improvement stream are publicly announced and published on the Department's website after each round.

Planning: Melbourne 2030 — audit

502. MR GUY — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to the first stage of the Melbourne 2030 audit:

- (1) Which stakeholders were invited to take part in the first stock take stage of the Melbourne 2030 audit as at 18 June 2007.
- (2) What are the protocols for stakeholder participation in meetings with the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- (3) Are stakeholders required to sign confidentiality agreements.
- (4) How many full-time, part-time and casual staff, respectively, are currently allocated to the first stage of the audit.
- (5) What is the expected allocation of full-time, part-time and casual staff, respectively, to the audit.
- (6) What is the breakdown of money allocated in the 2007–08 State Budget for the audit.
- (7) What are the terms of reference of the audit.
- (8) What is the expected completion date of the audit.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Meetings have been held with most members of the Melbourne 2030 Implementation Reference Group, generally in September and October 2006. Further discussions that have provided information to assist the audit have continued to occur as part of DSE's ordinary business.
- (2) There are no formal protocols.
- (3) No confidentiality agreements have been required of stakeholders as part of the M2030 Audit
- (4) and (5)

A core group of a Project Director, two Senior Project Managers and two Project Officers have been coordinating Stage 1 of the audit. They are assisted by other staff as needed from DSE and other government agencies.

- (6) \$600,000 was allocated to the audit in the 2007–08 State budget, which will be supplemented by existing DSE resources. The \$600,000 will be primarily used to meet the cost of providing and supporting the work of the Audit Expert Group, including community consultation and stakeholder engagement.
- (7) The Terms of Reference to guide the work of the Audit Expert Group are available at www.melbourne2030.vic.gov.au/planning.
- (8) The Audit Expert Group is expected to complete its report at the end of 2007. The audit will be finalised in 2008.

Agriculture: harvesting and haulage contractors

764. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Agriculture): In relation to changes in management of harvesting and haulage contractors, as described in the Department of Sustainability and Environment media release dated 1 August 2007:

- (1) How often will Department of Sustainability and Environment or VicForests staff inspect harvesting and haulage contractors.
- (2) What was the method of inspection before the change in management.
- (3) What will be the method of inspection after the change in management.

ANSWER:

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

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change is responsible for the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), and questions regarding DSE operations should be directed to him.

The Treasurer is the responsible Minister for VicForests, and questions regarding the organisational structure of VicForests should be addressed to him.