

## RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE – PAEC Inquiry into the 2022-23 Budget Estimates (Regulatory Reform)

Monday 16 May 2022

*(Asked by Mrs McArthur, page 2 of the transcript)*

### 1. Please provide additional information on the Better Regulation Victoria Commissioner's budget.

Transcript extract:

Mr PEARSON: The government has not stopped there. The Better Approvals for Regulators program, being led by the commissioner for better regulation, has implemented several initiatives to speed up regulatory approval processes in the building, electrical and meat processing industries. Our Better Approvals for Business program is reducing the time and cost for industry to get approvals for telecommunications infrastructure, to support better delivery of telecommunications services in Victoria.

Mrs McARTHUR: Thank you, Chair; thank you, Minister. I am so glad something is going off. To just go back to the commissioner for better regulation—

Mr PEARSON: Yes.

Mrs McARTHUR: how much does that cost—that area? What is the commissioner's budget?

Mr PEARSON: I might need to come back to you and see if I can provide some additional information to you. The commissioner for better regulation—Ms Cronin, I think, would be known to you—has worked extremely well in that role for a number of years now. It is a small team, it is a nimble team, but they are delivering terrific outcomes based on a very modest and targeted investment. One of the really important things that Anna has done, which I am really grateful for, is have the ability to try and look at bringing together all the different regulators to look at best practice. You want to collaborate. You want an agile environment. You want a collaborative environment, if people are doing interesting things in a particular location, to share that information and share those learnings. So, look, the commissioner is doing a great job; her team is doing a great job. I think they have significantly looked at improving the operational efficiency of regulators across the state, and if I can provide additional information to you in relation to the funding, I am happy to do so. But pound for pound they are a great team, and they are performing really well.

### Response:

The budget for the Commissioner for Better Regulation is \$3.123 million for the full financial year to June 30, 2022.
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*(Asked by Mr Mass, page 5 of the transcript)*

**2. Please provide further clarification on the proposed processes for funding under the Regulatory Reform Incentive Fund, are they going to be similar in the Business Acceleration Fund?**

Transcript extract:

Mr MAAS: Indeed. Processes around priorities in funding—so there would have been processes under the RIF. Are those processes going to be similar under the Business Acceleration Fund?

Mr PEARSON: Under the RIF it is all about harvesting the very best ideas put forward by departments and local councils, and in the first instance this was about working with departments and councils on their ideas. We wanted them to submit, formally, their proposals, covering what they would like to be funded. In order to do that we held a number of regulatory reform round tables, and again I am grateful for Mr Dimopoulos for his work in assisting me here. First, we saw representatives of larger businesses, like the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, AIG, AHA; second, it was with representatives of smaller businesses, such as the ARA, restaurant and catering Victoria and the Council of Small Business Organisations Australia; and third, it was with local councils. So again, in addition to Mr Dimopoulos, the Minister for Small Business and the Minister for Local Government also assisted me as well. It was about trying to get those ideas that they had and then have them reviewed and assessed by the regulatory reform team in the Department of Treasury and Finance. I am happy to provide further information for you, Mr Maas, on notice.

**Response:**

The process for prioritising funding for projects through the Business Acceleration Fund (BAF) is similar to the process for the Regulation Reform Incentive Fund and is as follows:

- The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) has commenced engaging with departments, regulators and councils about the fund.
- Departments, agencies and councils will be requested to submit proposals to DTF, who will assess the proposals to ensure alignment with the fund's objectives and value-for-money.
- Funding will be approved by a relevant Cabinet committee.