

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**5, 6 and 7 June 2012**

**(Extract from book 10)**

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## Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. Davis, Mr P. Davis, Mr Hall, Ms Lovell, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Scheffer.

**Procedure Committee** — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney

## Legislative Council standing committees

**Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, #Mr Lenders, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

**Economy and Infrastructure References Committee** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Mr Leane, #Mr Lenders, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

**Environment and Planning Legislation Committee** — Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Environment and Planning References Committee** — Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

**Legal and Social Issues References Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

# Participating member

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**Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mr Foley, Mr Noonan and Mr Shaw.

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**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis. (*Assembly*): Ms Ryall and Mrs Victoria.

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Koch. (*Assembly*): Mr Bull, Ms Duncan, Mr Pandazopoulos and Ms Wreford.

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*Assembly* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

*Council* — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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Mr D. DRUM

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# CONTENTS

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2012

170.	Agriculture and food security: aerial baiting — threatened species .....	3037
172.	Agriculture and food security: aerial baiting — locations.....	3038
1033.	Roads: rail — Bayswater level crossing .....	3038
3255.	Public transport: multipurpose taxi program .....	3038
8275.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding.....	3039
8276.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding.....	3039
8277.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding.....	3040
8278.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — travelling teacher service.....	3040
8279.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — travelling teacher service.....	3040
8280.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — waiting list .....	3040
8281.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — travelling teacher service.....	3041
8282.	Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding.....	3041
8283.	Regional and rural development: gas — Heathcote supply .....	3041
8284.	Regional and rural development: gas — Huntly supply.....	3042
8285.	Regional and rural development: gas — Maldon supply .....	3043
8286.	Regional and rural development: gas — Marong supply .....	3044
8287.	Regional and rural development: gas — Wandong-Heathcote Junction supply .....	3045
8320.	Public transport: Department of Transport — sustainable government initiative .....	3046
8387.	Racing: greyhound owners and breeders incentive scheme.....	3047

### WEDNESDAY, 6 JUNE 2012

389.	Ageing: minister's office — public transport tickets .....	3049
405.	Health: minister's office — public transport tickets .....	3049
3267.	Health: Ballarat Health Services — dental services .....	3049
3273.	Health: Ballarat Health Services — dental services .....	3049
4499.	Innovation, services and small business: Bosch — Clayton jobs .....	3050
8219.	Health: Ballarat Health Services — dental services .....	3050

8222.	Health: Ballarat helipad — implementation group meetings.....	3051
8240.	Police and emergency services: police — Geelong and Surf Coast regions .....	3051
8313.	Attorney General: Department of Justice — sustainable government initiative .....	3052
8317.	Innovation, services and small business: Department of Business and Innovation — sustainable government initiative.....	3052
8356.	Housing: dwellings — Western Metropolitan Region .....	3052
8381.	Education: Keysborough Secondary College — redevelopment .....	3053

### THURSDAY, 7 JUNE 2012

373.	Roads: minister's office — staff.....	3055
416.	Public transport: minister's office — public transport tickets.....	3057
420.	Roads: minister's office — public transport tickets .....	3057
450.	Public transport: minister's office — staff .....	3058
454.	Roads: minister's office — staff .....	3058
747.	Public transport: buses — new or extended routes.....	3058
755.	Public transport: minor community commitments.....	3058





**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, 5 June 2012**

**Agriculture and food security: aerial baiting — threatened species**

**170. Ms PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the government’s intention to commence aerial baiting of wild dogs and the issue of ‘secondary kill’ of the tiger quoll and the dingo (*canis lupus*), both of which are threatened species:

- (1) Has the minister conducted a review of existing research on the impact of aerial baiting on other species, including of the findings by the New South Wales Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water that ‘even a few deaths caused by aerial baiting may have a significant impact on a small population of quolls’ and that ‘1080 may have other impacts on quolls that survive after eating baits — such as infertility and birth defects’.
- (2) What conclusions has the minister reached in relation to the threats posed to other species.
- (3) What guidelines has the minister put in place to protect threatened species from aerial baiting.
- (4) What formal procedures and processes has the minister proposed for the ongoing monitoring of the impact of aerial baiting on other species.
- (5) Will the findings of the monitoring process be publicly available.
- (6) Who will assess the findings of the monitoring process.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) have undertaken an extensive review of existing research on the impact of aerial baiting on non-target species, including the spot-tailed quoll (tiger quoll). The experience out of New South Wales is that aerial baiting of wild dogs does not negatively impact quoll populations.
- (2) Wild dog control is likely to have a positive impact on quoll populations. Wild dogs pose a greater threat to other species in the targeted area.
- (3) All potential non-target impacts were considered in design of the aerial baiting program, which did not proceed due to commonwealth interference. DPI conducts wild dog baiting using best practice standards that include monitoring for the potential impact to non-target species.
- (4) Wildlife monitoring was a key component of the planning for the proposed aerial baiting program.
- (5) Like all monitoring and evaluation, the plan was to use any information obtained through monitoring to inform an adaptive management program.
- (6) Appropriately qualified wildlife experts were proposed to undertake the monitoring and assess the outcomes of the aerial baiting program.

**Agriculture and food security: aerial baiting — locations**

**172. Ms PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the government’s intention to commence aerial baiting of wild dogs:

- (1) What location limits have been set for aerial baiting.
- (2) What locations will be targeted for aerial baiting.
- (3) Will aerial baiting be conducted more than 3 kilometres into public land.
- (4) What strength bait will be used.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Considerable government and community consultation was undertaken as part of the planning process for the aerial baiting operation. This process identified 10 baiting areas within the wild dog affected regions of Victoria.
- (2) Locations targeted will include those that complement permanent baiting lines within 3 kilometres of the public land boundary and that support community baiting programs.
- (3) No, all identified baiting zones are within 3 kilometres of a public land boundary.
- (4) Six-milligram 1080 baits are currently used for control of wild dogs in Victoria. However, as new technologies become available this may be subject to change.

**Roads: rail — Bayswater level crossing**

**1033. MR LEANE** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads): In relation to the coalition’s election promise to grade separate level crossings in Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road, Bayswater:

- (1) When will plans for the grade separations be made public.
- (2) Will consultation with the public and local businesses occur, and when will this consultation occur.
- (3) What is the project’s time line, including the beginning of construction and the completion of the grade separation.
- (4) Will the project require the acquisition of private property.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The government is advancing the implementation of its election commitment to commence a rail grade separation project at Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road, Bayswater. Initial consultation with stakeholders will commence in the 2011–12 financial year. Further information about this initiative will be available after development work is completed.

**Public transport: multipurpose taxi program**

**3255. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the multipurpose taxi scheme, how many members are there of the multipurpose taxi program in each of the following postcodes —

- (a) 3350;
- (b) 3351;
- (c) 3352;
- (d) 3355; and
- (e) 3356.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

- (a) There are 2128 multipurpose taxi program members in 3350.
- (b) There are 57 multipurpose taxi program members in 3351.
- (c) There are 146 multipurpose taxi program members in 3352.
- (d) There are 788 multipurpose taxi program members in 3355.
- (e) There are 777 multipurpose taxi program members in 3356.

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding**

**8275. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What funding was allocated by the government in the 2010–11 budget for the Mansfield Autism Statewide Service.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services (MASS) is provided funding from both commonwealth and state governments.

The Victorian government committed additional support for non-government schools through its fair funding for non-government schools policy. The government provides over \$550 million per annum in recurrent funding for non-government schools through the non-government schools financial assistance model (FAM). This funding is untied, to enable each non-government school to manage its funds to meet the school’s educational priorities and student needs.

The FAM funding for MASS in 2010 was \$74 901 (based on 26 enrolments).

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding**

**8276. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What funding was allocated by the government in the 2011–12 budget for the Mansfield Autism Statewide Service.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The financial assistance model funding budget for Mansfield Autism Statewide Services: 2011 was \$79 928 (based on 22.4 enrolments).

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding**

**8277. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): Will the government funding for the Mansfield Autism Statewide Service be retained at its current levels in 2012–13.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The financial assistance model indicative funding budget for Mansfield Autism Statewide Services for 2012 is \$85 679 (based on 22.4 enrolments).

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — travelling teacher service**

**8278. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What is the current government budget for the travelling teacher service at the Mansfield Autism Statewide Service.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The travelling teacher service is provided by Mansfield Autism Statewide Service (MASS) from within its total budget. As MASS is an independent organisation it would be a matter for them to decide the current budget for the travelling teacher service.

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — travelling teacher service**

**8279. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): Will the government retain its current funding for the travelling teacher service at Mansfield Autism Statewide Service.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

As long as Mansfield Autism Statewide Service (MASS) remains registered they will be eligible to receive funding. The travelling teacher service is provided by MASS from within its total budget. As MASS is an independent organisation it would be a matter for them to decide the current budget for the travelling teacher service.

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — waiting list**

**8280. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What is the current waiting list for the Mansfield Autism Statewide Service.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Mansfield Autism Statewide Service (MASS) is an independent organisation. Their administration and business practice, including a waiting list for MASS is a matter for that organisation.

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — travelling teacher service**

**8281. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What is the current waiting list for the travelling teacher service at Mansfield Autism Statewide Service.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Mansfield Autism Statewide Service (MASS) is an independent organisation. Their administration and business practice, including a waiting list for the travelling teacher service is a matter for that organisation.

**Education: Mansfield Autism Statewide Service — funding**

**8282. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): Will the government increase funding for the Mansfield Autism Statewide Service or the travelling teacher service in the 2012–13 budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services (MASS) is provided with funding from both commonwealth and state governments. The Victorian government has committed additional support for the non-government schools through its fair funding for non-government schools policy.

This additional funding began flowing to schools in July 2011 (backdated to 1 January 2011) and consists of an additional \$239.5 million in recurrent funding over the five financial years 2010–11 to 2014–15.

MASS will continue to receive funding according to the financial assistance model (FAM). The FAM 2012 indicative budget for Mansfield Autism Statewide Services is \$85 679 (based on 22.4 enrolments).

**Regional and rural development: gas — Heathcote supply**

**8283. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the government’s commitment to provide natural gas to Heathcote:

- (1) Has the minister been advised on what date construction will begin.
- (2) What progress has been made to implement this commitment.
- (3) Has the minister consulted with the City of Greater Bendigo regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (4) When did the minister last have a briefing with the City of Greater Bendigo regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (5) Has the minister met with residents of Heathcote regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (6) When did the government last hold a community information session in Heathcote regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (7) Has the minister been advised of the dollar value of the investment required from the Energy for the Regions Program to extend natural gas to Heathcote; if so, what is the cost.
- (8) Has the minister been advised of the connection cost per household of extending natural gas to Heathcote; if so, what will the amount be.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the State and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Mildura and Huntly. Heathcote is not one of the towns to be connected under this first stage of program delivery.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Heathcote under the direct negotiation phase of the program.

On 12 May 2012, I announced the next stage for delivering the program, which involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

The next stage, which will commence in the second half of 2012, includes a plan to offer incumbent gas distributors a fixed subsidy 'bounty' amount to supply priority towns.

In addition, bids will be invited from the market for a compressed (CNG) or liquefied (LNG) natural gas delivery system and local town reticulation networks.

As a priority town, Heathcote will have the opportunity to be considered for connection to natural gas under the next phase of the program.

I can advise that RDV met with the City of Greater Bendigo at a council forum conducted on 1 April 2011, and has been in regular communications with the councils of all regional towns identified under this program. These communications include:

- presentations to individual councils and industry and business groups, by RDV's program director, Energy for the Regions as requested;
- working in partnership with council officers to aggregate local demand, capture local intelligence and provide a strategic context to support distributor interest in the subject towns;
- provision of a program status report for internal and external communications, by RDV's program director, Energy for the Regions as requested; and
- a letter from RDV to council CEOs on the status of the program at the close of the direct negotiation stage.

I look forward to the delivery of the program in partnership with City of Greater Bendigo and the gas industry to bring natural gas to Heathcote. Consultation with all stakeholders will continue as the program enters the next phase of delivery.

### **Regional and rural development: gas — Huntly supply**

**8284. Ms BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the government's commitment to provide natural gas to Huntly:

- (1) Has the minister been advised on what date construction will begin.
- (2) Can the minister advise what progress has been made to implement this commitment.
- (3) Has the minister consulted with the City of Greater Bendigo regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (4) When did the minister last have a briefing with the City of Greater Bendigo regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (5) Has the minister met with residents of Huntly regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (6) When did the government last hold a community information session in Huntly regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (7) Has the minister been advised of the dollar value of the investment required from the Energy for the Regions Program to extend natural gas to Huntly; if so, what is the cost.

- (8) Has the minister been advised of the connection cost per household of extending natural gas to Huntly; if so, what will the amount be.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the state and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects, including Huntly.

I am pleased to advise that on 2 May 2012, SP AusNet accepted an offer for a state contribution from the Regional Growth Fund towards a \$4.5 million project for the supply of natural gas to Huntly. This offer is subject to the execution of a development agreement and approval by the Australian Energy Regulator.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the Huntly project and negotiation process, the government is not in a position to comment further on the project until all negotiations are concluded.

On 9 March 2011, the Minister for Energy and Resources and I had the pleasure to address a forum consisting of key energy industry representatives who will need to partner with the government to deliver the program.

I can also advise that RDV met with the City of Greater Bendigo at a council forum conducted on 1 April 2011, and has been in regular communications with the councils of all regional towns identifies under this program. These communications include:

- presentations to individual councils and industry and business groups, by RDV’s program director, Energy for the Regions as requested;
- working in partnership with council officers to aggregate local demand, capture local intelligence and provide a strategic context to support distributor interest in the subject towns;
- provision of a program status report for internal and external communications, by RDV’s program director, Energy for the Regions as requested; and
- a letter from RDV to council CEOs on the status of the program at the close of the direct negotiation stage.

I look forward to the delivery of the program in partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo and SP AusNet to bring natural gas to Huntly.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Maldon supply**

**8285. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the government’s commitment to provide natural gas to Maldon:

- (1) Has the minister been advised on what date construction will begin.
- (2) Can the minister advise what progress has been made to implement this commitment.
- (3) Has the minister consulted with the Shire of Mount Alexander regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (4) When did the minister last have a briefing with the Shire of Mount Alexander regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (5) Has the minister met with residents of Maldon regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (6) When did the government last hold a community information session in Maldon regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (7) Has the minister been advised of the dollar value of the investment required from the Energy for the Regions Program to extend natural gas to Maldon; if so, what is the cost.

- (8) Has the minister been advised of the connection cost per household of extending natural gas to Maldon; if so, what will the amount be.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the State and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Mildura and Huntly. Maldon is not one of the towns to be connected under this first stage of program delivery.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Maldon under the direct negotiation phase of the program.

On 12 May 2012, I announced the next stage for delivering the program, which involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

The next stage, which will commence in the second half of 2012, includes a plan to offer incumbent gas distributors a fixed subsidy 'bounty' amount to supply priority towns.

In addition, bids will be invited from the market for a compressed (CNG) or liquefied (LNG) natural gas delivery system and local town reticulation networks.

As a priority town, Maldon will have the opportunity to be considered for connection to natural gas under the next phase of the program.

I can advise that while Mount Alexander Shire Council was an apology at a council forum conducted by RDV on 1 April 2011 on the delivery of the program, RDV has been in regular communications with the councils of all regional towns identified under this program. These communications include:

- presentations to individual councils and industry and business groups, by RDV's program director, Energy for the Regions as requested;
- working in partnership with council officers to aggregate local demand, capture local intelligence and provide a strategic context to support distributor interest in the subject towns;
- provision of a program status report for internal and external communications, by RDV's program director, Energy for the Regions as requested; and
- a letter from RDV to council CEOs on the status of the program at the close of the direct negotiation stage.

I look forward to the delivery of the program in partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council and the gas industry to bring natural gas to Maldon. Consultation with all stakeholders will continue as the program enters the next phase of delivery.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Marong supply**

**8286. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the government's commitment to provide natural gas to Marong:

- (1) Has the minister been advised on what date construction will begin.
- (2) Can the minister advise what progress has been made to implement this commitment.
- (3) Has the minister consulted with the City of Greater Bendigo regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (4) When did the minister last have a briefing with the City of Greater Bendigo regarding the implementation of this commitment.



- (5) Has the minister met with residents of Marong regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (6) When did the government last hold a community information session in Marong regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (7) Has the minister been advised of the dollar value of the investment required from the Energy for the Regions Program to extend natural gas to Marong; if so, what is the cost.
- (8) Has the minister been advised of the connection cost per household of extending natural gas to Marong; if so, what will the amount be.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the State and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Mildura and Huntly. Marong is not one of the towns to be connected under this first stage of program delivery.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Marong under the direct negotiation phase of the program.

On 12 May 2012, I announced the next stage for delivering the program, which involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

The next stage, which will commence in the second half of 2012, includes a plan to offer incumbent gas distributors a fixed subsidy 'bounty' amount to supply priority towns.

In addition, bids will be invited from the market for a compressed (CNG) or liquefied (LNG) natural gas delivery system and local town reticulation networks.

As a priority town, Marong will have the opportunity to be considered for connection to natural gas under the next phase of the program.

I can advise that RDV met with the City of Greater Bendigo at a council forum conducted on 1 April 2011, and has been in regular communications with the councils of all regional towns identified under this program. These communications include:

- presentations to individual councils and industry and business groups, by RDV's program director, Energy for the Regions as requested;
- working in partnership with council officers to aggregate local demand, capture local intelligence and provide a strategic context to support distributor interest in the subject towns;
- provision of a program status report for internal and external communications, by RDV's program director, Energy for the Regions as requested; and
- a letter from RDV to council CEOs on the status of the program at the close of the direct negotiation stage.

I look forward to the delivery of the program in partnership with the City of Greater Bendigo and the gas industry to bring natural gas to Marong. Consultation with all stakeholders will continue as the program enters the next phase of delivery.

**Regional and rural development: gas — Wandong-Heathcote Junction supply**

**8287. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the government's commitment to provide natural gas to Wandong-Heathcote Junction:

- (1) Has the minister been advised on what date construction will begin.
- (2) Can the minister advise what progress has been made to implement this commitment.
- (3) Has the minister consulted with Mitchell shire regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (4) When did the minister last have a briefing with Mitchell shire regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (5) Has the minister met with residents of Wandong-Heathcote Junction regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (6) When did the government last hold a community information session in Wandong-Heathcote Junction regarding the implementation of this commitment.
- (7) Has the minister been advised of the dollar value of the investment required from the Energy for the Regions Program to extend natural gas to Wandong-Heathcote Junction; if so, what is the cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is delivering the Energy for the Regions Program (the program) for the State and has implemented a staged approach. The first stage of implementation, that is the direct negotiation phase, is now complete with agreement reached on two regional gas projects in Huntly and Mildura. Wandong-Heathcote Junction is not one of the towns to be connected under this first stage of program delivery.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Wandong-Heathcote Junction under the direct negotiation phase of the program.

On 12 May 2012, I announced the next stage for delivering the program, which involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional pipeline and alternative delivery markets.

The next stage, which will commence in the second half of 2012, includes a plan to offer incumbent gas distributors a fixed subsidy 'bounty' amount to supply priority towns.

In addition, bids will be invited from the market for a compressed (CNG) or liquefied (LNG) natural gas delivery system and local town reticulation networks.

As a priority town, Wandong-Heathcote Junction will have the opportunity to be considered for connection to natural gas under the next phase of the program.

I look forward to the delivery of the program in partnership with Mitchell Shire Council and the gas industry to bring natural gas to Wandong-Heathcote Junction. Consultation with all stakeholders will continue as the program enters the next phase of delivery.

**Public transport: Department of Transport — sustainable government initiative**

**8320. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): How many fewer staff will be employed in Ballarat by the Department of Transport as a result of the 'sustainable government initiative'.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Department of Transport had no plan to reduce employment numbers in Ballarat.

**Racing: greyhound owners and breeders incentive scheme**

**8387. Ms PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Racing:

- (1) How many greyhounds are purpose bred in Victoria each year.
- (2) What measures is the government taking to ensure that greyhounds are found suitable homes after retiring from racing and how many greyhounds are currently re-homed after racing.
- (3) How many greyhounds purpose bred in Victoria are exported each year and to which destinations.
- (4) Does the government anticipate that the greyhound owners and breeders incentive scheme (GOBIS) initiative will increase gaming revenues derived from greyhound racing; if so, what additional annual revenue is forecast.
- (5) Have any offset costs to government or the community been identified and/or quantified for additional problem gambling arising from increased gambling on greyhound racing; if so, what additional annual costs are forecast for relevant agencies in the government funded sector.
- (6) Is government funding to the GOBIS initiative capped on an annual basis.
- (7) Is there any risk to the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) of claims made under GOBIS exceeding the funding available; if so, who would be responsible for meeting any shortfall.
- (8) Has the minister or Greyhound Racing Victoria or any other relevant body conducted any feasibility study or business case during the GOBIS initiative approval process; if not, why not.
- (9) Has or will the minister or Greyhound Racing Victoria or any other relevant body conduct any evaluation or other study into the GOBIS initiative; if not, why not.
- (10) Does the GOBIS initiative comply fully with VRIF guidelines.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) advise that the number of greyhounds bred in Victoria over the past three calendar years is as follows:

2009 — 6161  
 2010 — 6486  
 2011 — 6206.

- (2) GRV is recognised internationally for establishing the greyhound adoption program (GAP), which is dedicated to finding homes for greyhounds who have retired from racing. Since its inception in 1996, GAP has rehoused more than 4000 greyhounds.

The government fully supports this initiative, and has committed \$1 million over four years from the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) to increase the capacity of the program. This is the first time such assistance has been provided by government to this program. This funding is entirely derived from unclaimed dividends from the Victorian totalisator — that is, winning bets that have not been claimed within six months.

- (3) GRV advise that a total of 93 Victorian greyhounds were exported in the 2011 calendar year. Destinations for these exports are outlined below:

Argentina	1
Austria	1
China	3
Germany	1
Macau	44
New Zealand	42
Pakistan	1.

- (4) The prime objective of VRIF funding for the three breeding industries, including greyhounds through an enhanced GOBIS, is to grow the economic benefits and employment opportunities within the racing industry. This initiative is not directed at increasing gambling revenues derived from racing.
- (5) The additional funding from the VRIF for GOBIS does not produce any additional races therefore any connection with increased problem gambling is redundant.
- (6) The government has committed \$10 million over four years to further boost the already successful owners and breeders incentive schemes for horses and greyhounds that are bred and raced in Victoria.  
  
GRV will receive \$1.55 million over four years from the government to support GOBIS. This funding is entirely derived from unclaimed dividends from the Victorian totalisator — that is, winning bets that have not been claimed within six months.
- (7) There is no risk to the VRIF should the GOBIS program be more successful than anticipated. GRV will be responsible for payment of any GOBIS bonuses over and above the government's funding commitment.
- (8) GRV has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the existing GOBIS program, including a review of the distribution of GOBIS bonuses. Discussions were conducted with key industry stakeholders, including the Greyhound Breeders Advisory Body and the Greyhound Owners, Trainers and Breeders Association. The GRV board reviewed and approved strategies that formed its submission to the VRIF.
- (9) As part of the VRIF funding arrangements, GRV is required to undertake an evaluation at the end of each financial year. The report on the evaluation will include information on the outcome of the funded initiatives, expenditure details and proposals for the following year/s.
- (10) Yes.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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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.*

**Wednesday, 6 June 2012**

**Ageing: minister's office — public transport tickets**

**389. HON. M. P. PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Ageing: What was the total cost for public transport tickets allocated to staff employed in the minister's office between the period 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

No public transport tickets were allocated to staff employed in the minister's office during this period.

**Health: minister's office — public transport tickets**

**405. HON. M. P. PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Health: What was the total cost for public transport tickets allocated to staff employed in the minister's office between the period 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

No public transport tickets were allocated to staff employed in the minister's office during this period.

**Health: Ballarat Health Services — dental services**

**3267. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: How many children in each of the following postcodes received professional dental services from Dental Health Services Victoria at the Ballarat Health Services clinic in 2011:

- (a) 3350;
- (b) 3351;
- (c) 3352;
- (d) 3355; and
- (e) 3356

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

– Data for 2011 is not yet available.

**Health: Ballarat Health Services — dental services**

**3273. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: How many adults in each of the following postcodes received professional dental services from Dental Health Services Victoria at the Ballarat Health Services clinic in 2011:

- (a) 3350;
- (b) 3351;
- (c) 3352;
- (d) 3355; and
- (e) 3356

I am informed that:

– Data for 2011 is not yet available.

**Innovation, services and small business: Bosch — Clayton jobs**

**4499. Mr TARLAMIS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business): In relation to the loss of approximately 380 jobs at Bosch in Clayton that became public knowledge on or about 26 March 2011:

- (1) On what date was the minister's office advised or made aware of these job losses.
- (2) On what date was the minister advised or made aware of these job losses.
- (3) Who advised or made the minister aware of these job losses.
- (4) Who advised or made the minister's office aware of these job losses.
- (5) If the minister was advised or made aware of these job losses other than personally by a representative of Bosch, did the minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Bosch; if so, on what date did the minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses did the minister instruct the department to make contact with Bosch; if so, on what date did the minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the minister make any public comments or statements about these job losses; if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) What action did the minister take to try and maintain these jobs at Bosch.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian government recognises the contribution that Bosch makes to the Victorian economy.

The Department of Business and Innovation has a very close relationship with Bosch and meets with the company regularly to discuss current issues. In these discussions it has been clear that Bosch is facing difficult trading conditions.

It was regrettable that Bosch made the decision to reduce its workforce.

**Health: Ballarat Health Services — dental services**

**8219. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to dental services provided by Ballarat Health Services:

- (1) What is the number of vouchers for private dental treatment available for the 2011–12 financial year.
- (2) What is the financial allocation made by Ballarat Health Services for the provision of vouchers for private dental treatment in the 2011–12 financial year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The state budget allocation for dental services in 2011–12 is \$167.1 million. Agencies receive a global allocation for dental service delivery including vouchers.

**Health: Ballarat helipad — implementation group meetings**

**8222. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to meetings of the Ballarat helipad implementation group:

- (1) How many meetings did Mr Nathan Robinson, adviser to the Minister for Health, attend.
- (2) Was the Minister for Health present at each of these meetings.
- (3) Did Mr Nathan Robinson provide the minister with any information or briefings on the work of the Ballarat helipad implementation group prior to the minister officially receiving the implementation group's report.
- (4) Did Mr Nathan Robinson provide any assistance to Mr Koch in the drafting of the report by the Ballarat helipad implementation group.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Members of ministerial private office staff attend portfolio meetings on a daily basis to assist ministers in their ministerial duties and, consistent with the practice under successive governments including the previous government, provide advice on those meetings, particularly when the minister has been unable to be personally present.

Members of ministerial private office staff also assist other members of Parliament on portfolio matters, regardless of the political party the member of Parliament represents.

**Police and emergency services: police — Geelong and Surf Coast regions**

**8240. Ms TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services: In relation to the current shortage of police officers in the Geelong and Surf Coast region —

- (1) What is the minister currently doing to directly address this significant shortage.
- (2) When will the minister explain to the Geelong community why the Baillieu government has failed on its promise for more police in the region.
- (3) When will the Baillieu government fulfil its promise of over 70 new police officers to the Geelong region.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) The government is conscious of the needs of the Greater Geelong area and is committed to making our communities safer so families can feel safe on our streets, on public transport and in their homes. The provision of \$602 million to deliver 1700 extra front-line police members by November 2014 plays a key part in this commitment and further funding of \$56 million was announced in the recent 2012–13 state budget to upgrade police station infrastructure to accommodate the additional police and PSOs. In addition to the 450 extra front-line police deployed during 2010–11 and already out working in their communities, 400 additional police allocated in 2011–12 will be on the beat by the end of June 2012.

The government also announced \$13.6 million funding for the completion of the new police station and VICSES combined facility at Waurm Ponds in the 2012–13 budget. The purchase of land for this facility is already under way.

- (2) Division 1 of western region, which includes the Greater Geelong and Surf Coast police service areas (PSA), received an additional eight police officers in 2010–11, and is receiving a further six officers in 2011–12. Victoria Police also recently announced the allocation of an additional 20 general duty police officers to the Geelong PSA in 2012–13.
- (3) The timing and size of any further increases in the number of police officers assigned to the Geelong PSA, and across Victoria, are the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner of Police. His determinations will take into account matters such as local requirements resulting from the opening of new police stations.

**Attorney General: Department of Justice — sustainable government initiative**

**8313.** Ms PULFORD — To ask the Attorney-General: How many fewer staff will be employed in Ballarat by the Department of Justice as a result of the ‘sustainable government initiative’.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The contribution of the Department of Justice towards the government’s sustainable government initiative will be achieved by departmental managers consistent with the objectives of the policy, which includes that no front line service delivery roles will be affected. Departments are developing their business plans to implement administrative savings and reductions of non-front-line personnel through attrition, non-renewal of contract roles and voluntary departure packages over the next two years. The number or location of staff affected will not be determined until business plans are finalised.

**Innovation, services and small business: Department of Business and Innovation — sustainable government initiative**

**8317.** Ms PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Manufacturing, Export and Trade (for the Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business): How many fewer staff will be employed in Ballarat by the Department of Business and Innovation as a result of the ‘sustainable government initiative’.

**ANSWER:**

The Department of Business and Innovation operates a network of Victorian government business offices throughout regional Victoria with trained business development managers available to support and engage with business on a range of matters including information and referral services, investment attraction and facilitation, job creation and export growth.

I am informed that there are no planned changes to the level of Department of Business and Innovation staff in the Ballarat Victorian government business office as a result of the sustainable government initiative.

**Housing: dwellings — Western Metropolitan Region**

**8356.** MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What is the projected increase in revenue expected from the decision to include the \$30 per week pension increase in public rent calculations in the following financial years:
  - (a) 2011–12;
  - (b) 2012–13; and



- (c) 2013–14.
- (2) What public housing improvements or developments will this revenue be spent on in each financial year.
- (3) How many public housing dwellings are there currently in the Western Metropolitan Region.
- (4) How many public housing dwellings in the Western Metropolitan Region have the following:
  - (a) eaves on windows;
  - (b) external shading on windows, including blinds and trees;
  - (c) ceiling insulation;
  - (d) ceiling fans;
  - (e) conditioning; and
  - (f) other equipment or design features which provide summer cooling.
- (5) How many public housing dwellings in the Western Metropolitan Region will be provided with the above features in the financial years stated in question (1).

**ANSWER:**

I can advise that:

- (1) The projected increase in revenue expected from the decision to include the \$30 per week pension increase in public rent calculations in:
  - (a) 2011–12 is approximately \$5 million;
  - (b) 2012–13 is approximately \$13.25 million;
  - (c) 2013–14 is approximately \$13.25 million.
- (2) This revenue will be used to invest in further maintenance and acquisition programs.
- (3) There is no recognised housing area known as the Western Metropolitan Region.
- (4) There is no recognised housing area known as the Western Metropolitan Region.
- (5) There is no recognised housing area known as the Western Metropolitan Region.

**Education: Keysborough Secondary College — redevelopment**

**8381. MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): When will the Keysborough Secondary College redevelopment commence, when will it be completed and from what date will students be able to utilise the upgraded facilities.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian coalition government is committed to upgrading government primary and secondary schools across the state. The government must also responsibly balance and prioritise the capital needs of over 1500 government schools in Victoria.

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Plan for Education identifies a number of capital projects to be undertaken in the first term of government. Additional schools identified for capital funding are announced in the budget.

Keysborough Secondary College’s capital project involves major redevelopment of both the Banksia and Acacia campuses, to be undertaken in four stages on each site.

Stage 1 work at both campuses is complete, providing a learning neighbourhood for years 7 to 9 students, including part of the library. Each stage 1 project cost \$10 million.

Completion is due this month on each of the stage 2 projects, which include part of the senior student village and completion of the library. Each of these projects cost \$5 million.

Funding for stages 3 and 4 to provide administration facilities, part of the senior student village and specialist centres on each campus will be considered within the Victorian government's capital program planning and state budget process.

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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**Thursday, 7 June 2012**

**Roads: minister’s office — staff**

**373. HON. M. P. PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads): What is the total number of staff employed in their ministerial office as at 5 April 2011 and the total number of staff (including ministerial staff and staff seconded from departments) that have worked in the minister’s private office at any time during the period between 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Further to the answer to question no. 673 tabled on 13 October 2011, the following information is provided.

The total number of ministerial staff and seconded departmental staff employed in the private offices of all ministers and parliamentary secretaries is summarised as follows:

- a. As at 30 June 2006, there was a total of 212 staff
- b. As at 30 June 2007, there was a total of 214 staff
- c. As at 30 June 2008, there was a total of 210 staff
- d. As at 30 June 2009, there was a total of 210 staff; and
- e. As at 30 June 2010, there was a total of 212 staff.

The total number of ministerial staff and seconded departmental staff employed in each private office is as follows (please note that data as at 30 June 2006 can only be identified per portfolio rather than as individual ministerial offices):

<b>Minister</b>	<b>30-Jun-06</b>
Premier’s office	72
Arts, Women’s Affairs	4
Aged Care, Aboriginal Affairs	6
Agriculture	3
Attorney-General, Industrial Relations	10
Community Services, Children	5
Deputy Premier	7
Educational Services, Employment & Youth	8
Education & Training	7
Energy, Industry & Resources	6
Finance, Major Projects	10
Gaming & Racing, Tourism	7

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

3056

COUNCIL

Thursday, 7 June 2012

<b>Minister</b>	<b>30-Jun-06</b>
Health	9
Information & Communications, Consumer Affairs	6
Local Government	6
Manufacturing & Exports, Small Business	7
Police & Emergency Services	9
Sport & Recreation, Commonwealth Games	7
Transport	10
Treasurer, Innovation, S&RD	10
Parliamentary Secretary to Cabinet	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>

<b>Minister</b>	<b>30-Jun-07</b>	<b>30-Jun-08</b>	<b>30-Jun-09</b>	<b>30-Jun-10</b>
Premier's office	73	49	49	52
Hon. Jacinta Allan	8	8	7	8
Hon. Daniel Andrews	5	10	10	9
Hon. Peter Batchelor	10	10	10	9
Hon. John Brumby	9			
Hon. Bob Cameron	5	6	6	7
Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio				6
Hon. Joe Helper	7	7	9	8
Hon. Tim Holding	8	11	11	12
Hon. Rob Hulls	8	10	9	9
Hon. Gavin Jennings	7	11	10	9
Hon. Lynne Kosky	8	6	7	
Hon. John Lenders	9	8	10	10
Hon. Justin Madden	7	9	9	9
Hon. James Merlino	6	6	7	7
Hon. Maxine Morand		5	5	6
Hon. Lisa Neville	7	10	9	8
Hon. Martin Pakula			6	8
Hon. Tim Pallas	5	8	9	8
Hon. Bronwyn Pike	8	9	9	9
Hon. Tony Robinson		8	8	8
Hon. Theo Theophanous	9	9		
Hon. John Thwaites	7			
Hon. Richard Wynne	5	8	8	8
Parliamentary Secretary to Cabinet	3	2	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>212</b>

For ease of comparison, the total number of ministerial staff employed in the private offices of all ministers is summarised as follows, as at 5 April 2011:

Premier's office	29
Hon. Peter Ryan	10
Hon. Louise Asher	5
Hon. Robert Clark	3
Hon. Richard Dalla-Riva	4
Hon. David Davis	5
Hon. Hugh Delahunty	3
Hon. Martin Dixon	4
Hon. Matthew Guy	4
Hon. Peter Hall	4
Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras	5
Hon. Wendy Lovell	5
Hon. Andrew McIntosh	4
Hon. Terry Mulder	4
Hon. Dr Denis Naphine	4
Hon. Michael O'Brien	5
Hon. Jeanette Powell	4
Hon. Gordon Rich-Phillips	2
Hon. Ryan Smith	5
Hon. Peter Walsh	5
Hon. Kim Wells	4
Hon. Mary Wooldridge	4
Cabinet office	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>

**Public transport: minister's office — public transport tickets**

**416. HON. M. P. PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What was the total cost for public transport tickets allocated to staff employed in the minister's office between the period 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I have been advised by the appropriate contacts within the department that there have been no costs for public transport tickets allocated to staff employed in the minister's office between the period 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**Roads: minister's office — public transport tickets**

**420. HON. M. P. PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads): What was the total cost for public transport tickets allocated to staff employed in the minister's office between the period 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

This has been responded to by question number 416.

**Public transport: minister's office — staff**

- 450. HON. M. P. PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the minister's private office and their position titles as at 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

The total number of department staff seconded to the minister's private office as at 5 April 2011 was two and both were departmental liaison officers.

**Roads: minister's office — staff**

- 454. HON. M. P. PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the minister's private office and their position titles as at 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

This has been responded to by question number 450.

**Public transport: buses — new or extended routes**

- 747. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the money committed in the 2011–12 state budget, can the minister provide a list of each new or extended local bus routes in Melbourne or regional towns for each financial year up until 2014–15.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

In the 2011-12 state budget, the government has focused on delivering the commitments it made to the people of Victoria in the lead-up to the state election 2010. The 2011–12 state budget includes a commitment to introduce a Traralgon NightRider bus service, including security guards, for an initial 12 months at a cost of \$80 000.

**Public transport: minor community commitments**

- 755. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to page 80 of 2011-12 budget paper no. 3, which shows \$100 000 dedicated in the next financial year to 'minor community commitments' including 'tram and bus shelters and improvements to railway station ramps, footbridges and crossings':

- (1) What are the precise locations to be serviced through this money.
- (2) Will all upgrades be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The \$0.1 million in operating funding on page 80 of the 2011–12 budget paper no. 3 relates to a pre-feasibility study on potential service improvements for Frankston rail.