

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 11 December 2013

(Extract from book 17)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
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Cabinet Secretary	Mr N. Wakeling, MP

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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, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

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

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

Environment and Planning References Committee — Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #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, #Mr Leane, Ms Mikakos, Mrs Millar, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

Legal and Social Issues References Committee — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Ms Mikakos, Mrs Millar, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

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Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Mr O'Brien and Mr Walsh.

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Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Mrs Coote, Ms Crozier and Mr O'Brien. (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McGuire and Mr Wakeling.

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Rural and Regional Committee — (*Council*): Mr Drum. (*Assembly*): Mr Howard, Mr Katos, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Barker, Ms Campbell, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella, Dr Sykes and Mr Watt.

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Mr M. VINEY

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Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. W. A. LOVELL

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Mr J. LENDERS

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

Mr G. JENNINGS

Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. R. HALL

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Mr D. DRUM

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Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise ⁴	Northern Victoria	LP
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Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
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Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP

¹ Resigned 26 March 2013

² Appointed 8 May 2013

³ Resigned 1 July 2013

⁴ Appointed 21 August 2013

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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.*

Wednesday, 11 December 2013

Children and early childhood development: kindergarten and preschool participation

8595. MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: In relation to Victoria’s kindergartens and preschools, I seek the kindergarten participation rate in each local government area in Victoria for:

- (a) 2011; and
- (b) 2012.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (a) The information on the participation rate in each local government area in Victoria for 2011 is provided in attachment 1.
- (b) The information on the participation rate in each local government area in Victoria for 2012 is provided in attachment 2.

Attachment 1

Participation Rate by Local Government Area 2011

Care should be taken in interpreting the participation rate data as it is based on location of kindergarten services, not the residential location of a child attending the service. Families can use kindergarten services in local government areas outside their local area of residence.

Each year, the ABS releases a preliminary population estimate followed by a revised estimate. Following the Census of Population and Housing, a final estimate is released for the previous five years. The participation rate for 2011 is therefore based on the ABS preliminary population estimate for 2011 which is derived from the 2006 census data. These figures may change in the future once the 2011 census data is released.

Local Government Area	Participation Rate (%)
Alpine	84.2
Ararat	118.1
Ballarat	106.8
Banyule	101.5
Bass Coast	97.9
Baw Baw	99.2
Bayside	97.4
Benalla	103.6
Boroondara	99.6
Brimbank	90.8
Buloke	103.8

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Local Government Area	Participation Rate (%)
Campaspe	81.7
Cardinia	102.4
Casey	87.8
Central Goldfields	105.1
Colac-Otway	112.6
Corangamite	99.2
Darebin	78.6
East Gippsland	103.2
Frankston	89.1
Gannawarra	79.2
Glen Eira	91.4
Glenelg	101.8
Golden Plains	100.4
Greater Bendigo	99.5
Greater Dandenong	89.2
Greater Geelong	93.7
Greater Shepparton	107.8
Hepburn	89.9
Hindmarsh	92.1
Hobsons Bay	93.4
Horsham	96.5
Hume	84.7
Indigo	100.5
Kingston	83.6
Knox	92.8
Latrobe	102.8
Loddon	70.4
Macedon Ranges	101.2
Manningham	93.5
Mansfield	94.1
Maribyrnong	81.2
Maroondah	104.5
Melbourne	141.3
Melton	89.5
Mildura	86.2
Mitchell	105.8
Moira	99.5
Monash	112.5
Moonee Valley	112.8
Moorabool	99.2
Moreland	90.2
Mornington Peninsula	94.1

Local Government Area	Participation Rate (%)
Mount Alexander	106.6
Moyne	92.7
Murrindindi	96.6
Nillumbik	104.7
Northern Grampians	87.0
Port Phillip	85.3
Pyrenees	95.7
Queenscliffe	260.0
South Gippsland	109.8
Southern Grampians	109.3
Stonnington	106.5
Strathbogie	104.4
Surf Coast	95.5
Swan Hill	92.4
Towong	103.8
Wangaratta	95.4
Warrnambool	97.1
Wellington	94.7
West Wimmera	83.3
Whitehorse	87.2
Whittlesea	91.5
Wodonga	102.1
Wyndham	82.5
Yarra	123.2
Yarra Ranges	97.9
Yarriambiack	104.1

Attachment 2

Participation Rate by Local Government Area 2012

Care should be taken in interpreting the participation rate data as it is based on location of kindergarten services, not the residential location of a child attending the service. Families can use kindergarten services in local government areas outside their local area of residence.

Each year, the ABS releases a preliminary population estimate followed by a revised estimate. Following the Census of Population and Housing, a final estimate is released for the previous five years. The participation rate for 2012 is based on the ABS preliminary population estimate of three-year-olds for 2011 (four-year-olds in 2012) which is derived from the 2011 census data. These figures may change in the future once the confirmed 2011 census data is released.

Local Government Area	Participation Rate (%)
Alpine	104.2
Ararat	102.8
Ballarat	105.1
Banyule	105.5

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Local Government Area	Participation Rate (%)
Bass Coast	92.7
Baw Baw	96.4
Bayside	110.7
Benalla	100.7
Boroondara	108.5
Brimbank	96.9
Buloke	104.1
Campaspe	96.1
Cardinia	104.2
Casey	90.3
Central Goldfields	92.8
Colac Otway	103.1
Corangamite	106.0
Darebin	80.9
East Gippsland	94.5
Frankston	91.5
Gannawarra	93.1
Glen Eira	94.8
Glenelg	103.6
Golden Plains	70.8
Greater Bendigo	102.9
Greater Dandenong	99.0
Greater Geelong	100.8
Greater Shepparton	94.6
Hepburn	91.0
Hindmarsh	103.3
Hobsons Bay	106.6
Horsham	107.4
Hume	92.8
Indigo	114.8
Kingston	87.6
Knox	96.3
Latrobe	98.7
Loddon	83.7
Macedon Ranges	98.4
Manningham	101.5
Mansfield	106.4
Maribyrnong	88.5
Maroondah	102.3
Melbourne	126.2
Melton	77.3
Mildura	98.7

Local Government Area	Participation Rate (%)
Mitchell	99.4
Moira	92.6
Monash	114.8
Moonee Valley	108.7
Moorabool	99.3
Moreland	89.4
Mornington Peninsula	101.4
Mount Alexander	120.1
Moyne	80.2
Murrindindi	102.6
Nillumbik	105.1
Northern Grampians	89.0
Port Phillip	89.6
Pyrenees	74.3
Queenscliffe	294.1
South Gippsland	111.7
Southern Grampians	117.9
Stonnington	116.7
Strathbogie	91.8
Surf Coast	92.6
Swan Hill	97.4
Towong	96.7
Wangaratta	109.0
Warrnambool	112.8
Wellington	94.7
West Wimmera	74.0
Whitehorse	97.0
Whittlesea	95.2
Wodonga	99.1
Wyndham	93.2
Yarra	137.5
Yarra Ranges	93.4
Yarriambiack	100.0

Treasurer: Victorian Funds Management Corporation

8969. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Treasurer): In relation to the Victorian Funds Management Corporation’s investments in the tobacco industry:

- (1) What is the extent and size of the corporation’s investments in the tobacco industry, including any indirect or passive tobacco investments made via fund managers, as a breakdown of share holdings by companies.
- (2) What rates of return have been obtained by the corporation on investments in each of these tobacco companies.

- (3) Does the corporation have an environmental, social and governance (ESG) strategy to guide investment.
- (4) Will the government review its investments in tobacco companies within six months.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

VFMC does not invest directly in companies in the tobacco industry.

As the VFMC engages external investment managers and pooled unit trusts, it is possible that, from time to time, VFMC has an indirect and slight exposure to such companies, however VFMC is unable to individually quantify the returns that are attributable to any such exposure.

VFMC is an independent statutory body. The VFMC's governing statute specifically prohibits the Treasurer from issuing any direction to VFMC in relation to investment decisions.

VFMC considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues in its investment decision-making processes in accordance with its ESG policy. VFMC is also a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment.

Premier: Geelong Shell refinery

9478. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Premier): In relation to the recent announcement that the Geelong Shell refinery has been put up for sale:

- (1) Were there any preliminary indications made to the government that Shell was contemplating the sale of its Geelong refinery.
- (2) Were there any meetings between the Victorian government and Shell prior to the public announcement regarding the sale of the refinery.
- (3) When was the government advised that Shell would be selling the Geelong refinery.
- (4) What are the figures of full time, part time and casual workers currently employed at the refinery.
- (5) What resources will the government use to mitigate the impact of the announcement on Shell workers, contractors as well as the wider Geelong community.
- (6) What benchmarks has the government set itself in finding solutions to retain the refinery and the current level of employment at the refinery.

ANSWER:

The Premier:

- (1) Shell advised me shortly before its public announcement in early April 2013 that its Geelong refinery would be put up for sale.
- (2) See response to question (1).
- (3) See response to question (1).
- (4) Shell employs 450 full-time workers and 150 contractors at the refinery.
- (5) Shell advised that following the announcement it implemented a program to assist with any staff concerns as a result of the announcement that the refinery is for sale. Regional Development Victoria is working closely with Shell regarding its Geelong workforce.

The government continues to work to attract new investment and generate jobs in Geelong, working closely with business and local stakeholders.

The government's \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is investing in projects to strategically drive jobs, investment and innovation in regional Victoria. In Geelong, the RGF has provided \$26.1 million in funding for 27 projects, leveraging total investment of \$360 million and generating hundreds of jobs. This funding has assisted important Geelong projects including the new Geelong Epworth Hospital, which will create 780 health-care jobs, the new Geelong Library and Heritage Centre, and infrastructure for Deakin University and the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal.

The government is supporting major job creation projects in Geelong. This includes securing, through a \$25 million state government commitment, the national disability insurance scheme (NDIS) headquarters, known as DisabilityCare Australia. The DisabilityCare Australia headquarters will, combined with the scheme's Barwon region office, bring around 450 new jobs to Geelong and create an additional 160 jobs indirectly. If the government is re-elected, it will also relocate the Victorian WorkCover Authority head office along with 550 jobs to Geelong. Combined with the TAC and NDIS headquarters, this will create a cluster of insurance and disability-related services in Geelong.

Government support for Cotton On, to create a global headquarters in Geelong and 400 new jobs, is another example of significant job creation. The expansion by Cotton On positions the company to service its rapidly growing international business from Geelong.

The \$11 million Geelong Advancement Fund and the \$4 million Greater Geelong Industry Fund are also playing an important role in facilitating new jobs and investment in Geelong. The Greater Geelong Industry Fund has supported almost \$5 million in new investment by business and over 90 new jobs, from businesses including Carbon Revolution, Express Promotions, IXL Metal Castings and Farm Foods Retail Services.

The first two Geelong Advancement Fund projects were recently announced and will facilitate almost \$70 million of new investment and significant new jobs, including investment to help revitalise central Geelong.

The government is supporting the continued development of the Geelong region by contributing to the \$24.5 million Geelong Region Innovation and Investment Fund, which will attract new investment and create jobs. In addition, through the Skilling the Bay initiative, the Government has made a \$4.6 million investment in training to grow future employment opportunities in Geelong.

The government has also made major investments in infrastructure and service provision in the Geelong region, including a new \$22 million train station at Grovedale, \$93 million for the upgrade of the Geelong Hospital, \$50 million for new Waurm Ponds Community Hospital, \$15 million for the new Library and Heritage Centre, \$27 million for Simonds Stadium major upgrades, \$16 million for new facilities at Northern Bay College, \$16 million for a new police station and SES complex in Waurm Ponds and many other key projects.

The final section of the Corio to Waurm Ponds Geelong Ring Road was opened to traffic earlier this year and the construction of a \$90 million link between Geelong Ring Road and the Surf Coast Highway is about to start.

The port of Geelong is already achieving record trade throughputs and the government is investing millions of dollars to upgrade the port rail loop and to improve channel access for bulk cargo ships, which will secure local jobs and drive new investment in the region.

- (6) Shell's decision to sell the Geelong refinery is a commercial decision. The government stands ready to work with Shell and any potential buyers and investors to attract new investment in oil refining and other activities in Geelong.

Children and early childhood development: early intervention places

- 9523.** MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: With regard to the 500 early childhood intervention service (ECIS) places announced on 30 November 2012: Which

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service providers were granted contracts to provide these places and what was the number of new places received by each successful service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

With regard to the 500 ECIS places announced in November 2012, the organisations which received additional places are detailed in the column labelled 'Total ECIS places allocated March 2013' in the table attached.

Attachment to response to questions on notice 9521, 9522, 9523 and 9524.

Community service organisation	Total ECIS places as at 1 January 2013	Total ECIS places allocated March 2013	Total ECIS places as at 1 June 2013	Total funding per provider as at 30 June 2013 (\$)
Alexandra District Hospital	9		9	66 465
Anglicare — Gippsland	3		3	22 155
Bendigo Community Health Services Limited	82		82	601 878
Biala Box Hill Incorporated	64		64	472 640
Biala Peninsula Incorporated	117		117	864 045
Castlemaine Health	40	5	45	307 585
Central Gippsland Health Service	17		17	125 545
Cerebral Palsy Education Centre Inc.	53		53	391 405
Child & Family Care Network	77		77	568 645
Cobaw Community Health Services Limited	40		40	298 354
Dianella Community Health	199		199	1 465 923
EACH	71		71	524 335
Early Education Program for Hearing Impaired Children Inc.	32		32	236 320
Education Program for Infants & Children Inc.	115	18	133	882 508
Gateways Support Service Inc.	133	6	139	993 283
Gippsland Lakes Community Health	15		15	110 775
Goulburn Valley Health	30	10	40	236,320
Inner South Community Health Service Limited	15		15	110 775
Irabina Childhood Autism Services	151		151	1 115 135
Kalparrin Early Childhood Intervention Program Inc.	142		142	1 048 670
Knox City Council	104		104	768 040

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Community service organisation	Total ECIS places as at 1 January 2013	Total ECIS places allocated March 2013	Total ECIS places as at 1 June 2013	Total funding per provider as at 30 June 2013 (\$)
Kyrabram & District Health Services	49		49	363 342
Latrobe Community Health Services	12		12	88 620
Learning, Education & Play Centre for Early Intervention Inc.	20		20	147 700
Mallee Family Care Inc.	73	15	88	563 106
Manningham Community Health Services Ltd	55		55	406 175
Melbourne Citymission	98	10	108	742 193
Melton City Council	42		42	310 170
Merri Community Health Services Limited	123		123	908 355
Mitchell Community Health	13		13	96 005
Monash University	67		67	493 540
Mooroolbark Early Childhood Education Centre Inc.	30		30	221 550
MPOWER	81		81	598 185
Noah's Ark Inc.	1059	234	1293	8 251 113
Norparrrin Centre for Children with Special Needs Inc.	131		131	967 435
Orbost Regional Health	6		6	44 310
Peninsula Health	7		7	51 695
Pinarc Disability Support Inc.	221	10	231	1 646 929
Resource, Information, Support & Education Centre Inc.	2		2	12 776
Scope (Vic.) Ltd	742	90	832	5 644 356
Shire of Yarra Ranges	34		34	251 090
Sunbury Community Health Centre	50	15	65	396 944
The Advisory Council for Children with Impaired Hearing (Victoria)	162	15	177	1 224 064
The Royal Children's Hospital	132		132	974 820
Villa Maria Early Childhood Intervention Service	85	10	95	646 188
Vision Australia Limited	154	10	164	1 155 753
West Gippsland Early Intervention for Children with Additional Needs Inc.	31		31	228 935

Community service organisation	Total ECIS places as at 1 January 2013	Total ECIS places allocated March 2013	Total ECIS places as at 1 June 2013	Total funding per provider as at 30 June 2013 (\$)
Windermere Child & Family Services Inc.	162		162	1 196 370
Yooralla	504	52	556	3 818 045
TOTAL (External)	5651.65	500	6151.65	42 660 561

Environment and climate change: Department of Environment and Primary Industries staff

9784. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change): In relation to a 31 July 2013 article in the *Weekly Times* which detailed the Department of Environment and Primary Industries cuts of 785 staff, 185 staff more than was initially planned —

- (1) Why did the department cut more staff than its own intended quota.
- (2) Which internal areas of the department were staff cut from.
- (3) Which offices around the state have staff been cut from.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Changes to staff numbers in the workforce are not all as a result of workforce strategies implemented under the Sustainable Government Initiative but also include a combination of factors including normal fluctuations in the workforce due to project, industry and community requirements and natural attrition.

In the article on 31 July 2013, the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security and Water, Peter Walsh, advised that: ‘the numbers were only estimates and the actual numbers would not be available until the annual reports were published’.

The staffing numbers detailed in the *Weekly Times* on 1 July 2013 of 785 were sourced from staffing estimates provided to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC). The figure of 785 was derived from actual staffing numbers as at 30 June 2012 of 4632.3 FTE and estimated staffing figures projected to 30 June 2013 of 3846.9 FTE.

The actual staffing figures as at 30 June 2013 were 4045.4 FTE resulting in an actual staffing reduction of 586.9 FTE.

The reason for the difference between the estimated and actual figures by 198.5 FTE was that the projected numbers provided to PAEC were estimates only of expected staffing numbers transferring to new departments as a result of the machinery of government changes.

Minister Walsh also advised the newspaper that: ‘like all government departments, the former DPI and DSE contributed to efficiency savings implemented across the Victorian public sector’.

The reductions were across the department and various locations across the state. In the development of the Voluntary Departure Package program, exemptions were determined to ensure important frontline service delivery was maintained including critical fire and emergency management roles.

Public transport: Southland railway station

9835. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): With regard to the member for Mordialloc’s claims in her media release of 7 May 2013 that funding has been set aside to build Southland station in the 2013–14 state budget:

- (1) How much money has been set aside in the 2013–14 state budget to build Southland station.
- (2) How many meetings have been held between the department of transport and the owners of Southland station about funding arrangements for the construction of Southland station this calendar year.
- (3) When does the minister expect the commercial negotiations with the owners of Southland station to be finalised.
- (4) When will the minister inform the public about the outcome of those negotiations.
- (5) How many times has the minister for transport visited the proposed Southland station site.
- (6) Has the local member, Ms Lorraine Wreford, MP, attended any of the commercial negotiations with the owner of Southland.

ANSWER:

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

Funding was allocated in the 2013–14 state budget for the construction of a new train station at Southland; however, release of this funding is subject to finalisation of satisfactory commercial negotiations with Ventana Pty Ltd, the owners of Southland Shopping Centre.

The Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure is leading negotiations with the owners of the Southland Shopping Centre. I am advised that there have been a number of meetings this year with the owners of the shopping centre. The department is being supported by an expert commercial negotiator in these matters.

The substance of these meetings are commercial in nature and should remain confidential.

The final scope and investment of the station are contingent on the outcomes of negotiations with Ventana Pty Ltd. The negotiations are ongoing and an announcement will be made on the outcomes in due course.

Environment and climate change: biodiversity funding

9841. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the federal coalition government’s intention to dismantle funding programs for federal clean energy projects, has the full amount of federal funding been secured and how much of the funding has been expended to date for the —

- (a) Biodiversity Fund administered by Parks Victoria with federal funding of \$3 004 000;
- (b) Biodiversity Fund administered by the former Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment with federal funding of \$850 000;
- (c) Biodiversity Fund administered by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$2 897 000;
- (d) Biodiversity Fund administered by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$2 673 000;
- (e) Biodiversity Fund administered by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$2 655 000;
- (f) Biodiversity Fund administered by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$1 075 000;
- (g) Biodiversity Fund administered by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$2 522 000;

- (h) Biodiversity Fund administered by North Central Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$2 468 400;
- (i) Biodiversity Fund administered by Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$1 460 700;
- (j) Biodiversity Fund administered by Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$1 393 500;
- (k) Biodiversity Fund administered by Mallee Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$416 600;
- (l) Biodiversity Fund administered by Mallee Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$122 000;
- (m) Biodiversity Fund administered by North East Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$1 514 500; and
- (n) Carbon Farming Initiative — Biochar Research and Development administered by North East Catchment Management Authority with federal funding of \$250 000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Organisations that were successful in securing Australian Government Round 1 Biodiversity Funding and Carbon Farming Initiative Funding are still under contract. There is no indication from the Australian coalition government that contracts will not be honoured. In line with the signed contracts, funding for years one and two of the projects have been paid to organisations. Details of the projects mentioned are:

- (a) Biodiversity Fund administered by Parks Victoria with Australian government funding of \$3 004 000 over six years. Parks Victoria has received \$1 001 334 of funding.
- (b) Biodiversity Fund administered by the former Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment with federal funding of \$850 000 over five years. The former Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment has received \$340 000 of funding.
- (c) Biodiversity Fund administered by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority with Australian Government funding of \$2 897 000 over six years. Corangamite Catchment Management Authority has received \$965 666 of funding.
- (d) Biodiversity Fund administered by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$2 673 000 over six years. Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has received \$891 000 of funding.
- (e) Biodiversity Fund administered by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$2 655 000 over six years. Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has received \$885 000 of funding.
- (f) Biodiversity Fund administered by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$1 075 000 over six years. Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has received \$358 334 of funding.
- (g) Biodiversity Fund administered by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$2 522 000 over six years. Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has received \$840 666 of funding.
- (h) Biodiversity Fund administered by North Central Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$2 468 400 over six years. North Central Catchment Management Authority has received \$822 800 of funding.

- (i) Biodiversity Fund administered by Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$1 460 700 over three years. Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority has received \$973 800 of funding.
- (j) Biodiversity Fund administered by Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$1 393 500 over three years. Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority has received \$929 000 of funding.
- (k) Biodiversity Fund administered by Mallee Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$416 600 over six years. The Mallee Catchment Management Authority has received \$138 866 of funding.
- (l) Biodiversity Fund administered by Mallee Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$122 000 over three years. The Mallee Catchment Management Authority has received \$81 334 of funding.
- (m) Biodiversity Fund administered by North East Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$1 514 500 over four years. The North East Catchment Management Authority has received \$757 250 of funding.
- (n) Carbon Farming Initiative — Biochar Research and Development administered by North East Catchment Management Authority with Australian government funding of \$250 000 over two years. North East Catchment Management Authority has received the full amount.

Public transport: Moolort rail infrastructure

9843. MS BROAD — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): With regard to the Australian government’s offer to provide funding for the repair of public rail infrastructure damaged by the 2011 floods and the grants made available:

- (1) Has the damage caused to the publicly owned rail infrastructure at Moolort been repaired.
- (2) If the publicly owned rail infrastructure at Moolort has not been repaired, can the minister advise why.
- (3) Has Public Transport Victoria applied for Australian government grant funding to have the flood damage caused to the grain terminal and ballast siding at Moolort repaired.
- (4) Has V/Line applied for Australian government grant funding to have the flood damage caused to the grain terminal and ballast siding at Moolort repaired.
- (5) Has VicTrack applied for Australian government grant funding to have the flood damage caused to the grain terminal and ballast siding at Moolort repaired.
- (6) If applications have not been made for Australian government grants to repair the flood damage to the grain terminal and ballast siding at Moolort, can the minister advise why not.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) No.
- (2) The Castlemaine–Maryborough line has not been used for passenger services since 1977 or for freight services since 10 August 2010.
- (3) No. Public Transport Victoria has not applied for federal government grant funding as the Maryborough to Moolort line has not been in use since 10 August 2010.
- (4) No. V/Line has not applied for federal government grant funding as the Maryborough to Moolort line has not been in use since 10 August 2010.

- (5) Any application for federal grant funding to address any flooding damage is the responsibility of the tenant. VicTrack has not been advised by the tenant of any flooding damage.
- (6) The Maryborough to Moolort line, including the grain terminal and ballast siding, has not been in use since 10 August 2010, prior to the 2011 floods. Furthermore, the Castlemaine to Maryborough line is not part of the National Land Transport Network. Consequently, it would not be a priority for funding from the federal government under the Nation Building program.

Technology: information and communications technology government assistance

- 9848.** **MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Minister for Technology: In relation to the press release on 28 August 2013, ‘Super Trade Mission Delivers Results for Victorian ICT Companies’, what specific role did the Victorian government play in assisting Victorian print management software company PaperCut Software International Pty Ltd to sign a letter of appointment with Bizmann (Singapore) to be the Authorised Solution Centre for South-East Asia, aside from establishing the trade mission.

ANSWER:

PaperCut Software International has utilised the Victorian government’s export facilitation services to build its contacts and develop its export business.

I am informed that during 2012–13, PaperCut Software received two grants through the Technology Trade and International Partnering Program, providing funding support of \$5653 to enable the company to attend and exhibit at trade events in Asia.

Information on all grants is publicly available in the department’s 2012–13 annual report on our website at dsdbi.vic.gov.au.

Technology: information and communications technology government assistance

- 9849.** **MR SOMYUREK** — To ask the Minister for Technology: In relation to the press release on 28 August 2013, ‘Super Trade Mission Delivers Results for Victorian ICT Companies’, what specific role did the Victorian government play in assisting Streamline Solutions in securing its first customer, Singapore Mercantile Co-Operative, to use Conet2.0 for its members’ core processing system in Singapore, aside from establishing the trade mission.

ANSWER:

Streamline Solutions has utilised the Victorian government’s export facilitation services to build connections and develop its export business. It participated on a Victorian government trade mission to CommunicAsia, in Singapore, in June 2012.

I am informed that during this mission Streamline Solutions made a number of valuable new connections and nurtured existing relationships in the Singapore market.

During 2012–13 Streamline Solutions received two grants through the Technology Trade and International Partnering Program providing total funding support of \$6500.

Information on all grants is publicly available in the department’s 2012–13 annual report on our website at dsdbi.vic.gov.au.

Technology: information and communications technology government assistance

9850. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Technology: In relation to the press release on 28 August 2013, ‘Super Trade Mission Delivers Results for Victorian ICT Companies’, what specific role did the Victorian government play in assisting Geelong’s Sky Software in establishing a collaboration with Singapore based Inchone to offer Blue Sky to the Singaporean market, aside from establishing the trade mission.

ANSWER:

Sky Software participated on a Victorian government trade mission to CommunicAsia, in Singapore, in June 2012.

I am informed that the government’s export facilitation services, delivered through the 2012 mission, resulted in a connection between Sky Software, Inchone and the client, Singapore IDA.

As part of the 2012 trade mission, Sky Software received funding through the Technology Trade and International Partnering (TRIP) program to enable the company to exhibit on the Australian pavilion.

I understand that in October 2012, Sky Software received funding through the TRIP program to return to Singapore expressly for the purpose of following up on the connections made with Inchone and IDA.

In 2012–13 Sky Software received two grants and a total of \$5272.00 through the TRIP program. Information on all grants is publicly available in the department’s 2012–13 annual report on our website at dsdbi.vic.gov.au.

Sky Software was able to confirm and announce its collaboration with Inchone during the 2013 Super Trade Mission to South-East Asia.

Technology: information and communications technology government assistance

9851. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Technology: In relation to the press release on 28 August 2013, ‘Super Trade Mission Delivers Results for Victorian ICT Companies’, what specific role did the Victorian government play in assisting Rectifier Technologies Pacific Pty Ltd (RTP) and business partner ADC Power Concept in securing an order from Petronas Malaysia of unique modular hot swappable power supplies for oil field refining and gas processing plants, aside from establishing the trade mission.

ANSWER:

Rectifier Technologies Pacific (RTP) Pty Ltd has utilised the Victorian government’s export facilitation services to build connections and develop its export business around the world.

I am informed that in 2012 RTP received funding through the Technology Trade and International Partnering (TRIP) program to enable the company to attend the Tenaga Expo and Forum in Malaysia. RTP’s attendance at the Tenaga Expo led to its first significant order with Petronas Malaysia.

A later visit to Malaysia in 2012, to attend Intrade Malaysia, with funding support through the Technology Trade and International Partnering (TRIP) program, enabled RTP to confirm its business relationship with ADC.

During 2012–13 RTP received three grants through the TRIP program which provided the company with total funding of \$5551.00. Information on all grants are publicly available in the department’s 2012–13 annual report on our website at dsdbi.vic.gov.au.

I understand that RTP successfully negotiated its second order from Petronas Malaysia during the 2013 Super Trade Mission to South-East Asia.

Technology: iAwards funding

9856. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Technology: Having secured the national iAwards in Melbourne for the next five years with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), the Australian Computer Society (ACS) and the Pearcey Foundation, how much funding is the Victorian government providing to sponsor this event.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the government has agreed to a five-year sponsorship of the national iAwards involving a funding commitment of \$100 000 (GST exclusive) per annum.

Beyond the 2014 iAwards program, funding will be adjusted annually in accordance with CPI.

This funding is in line with the commitment made by the previous government which provided support to the iAwards for five years from 2008.

Agriculture and food security: genetically modified canola

9908. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to GM canola weeds:

- (1) Does the department carry out testing for incidence of GM canola weeds on private or public land in Victoria and, if so, what is the frequency of testing and what are the results.
- (2) Does the department require the owner of the patent for the GM canola (that is Monsanto or its licensee) to carry out testing for incidence of GM canola weeds on public land in Victoria and, if so, what is the frequency of testing and what are the results.
- (3) Does the department require removal of trespassing GM canola weeds by the owner of the patent for the GM canola (that is, Monsanto) and, if so, how many times in each of the last five years has the Department called on Monsanto or its licensee to take action on weed removal.
- (4) How far from the nearest silo or growing area have GM canola weeds been discovered.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) No.
- (2) See answer (1).
- (3) See answer (1).
- (4) The department does not hold this information.

Public transport: incident notification

9909. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In reference to the five gazetted categories determined in relation to section 228H of the Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983 on page 2244 of the Victorian *Government Gazette* dated 22 September 2011, how many incidents and occurrences have been recorded against each specific category in the year 2012–13.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, for the requested financial year, 1 July 2012–30 June 2013 the following answers apply:

Disciplinary action = 3.

Use of force (includes lawful arrests) = 529.

Injury = 1.

Damage = 1.

Criminal offence = 1.

Housing: KPMG consultancy

9914. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Housing: In relation to the Department of Human Services annual reports 2011–12 and 2012–13, where the department has not reported any spending in relation to engaging KPMG’s consultancy services for housing and homelessness policy development in the consultancies section:

- (1) Can the government confirm that KPMG has provided consulting services for the following research, project and policy areas —
 - (a) Pathways to a Fair and Sustainable Social Housing System;
 - (b) Victorian Homelessness Action Plan System Reform Project; and
 - (c) Social Housing: a discussion paper on the Options to Improve the Supply of Quality Housing.
- (2) Has KPMG been engaged for any other work for the department in relation to housing and homelessness policy.
- (3) Where are consultancy fees for KPMG’s services itemised in the annual reports.
- (4) If consultancy expenditure on KPMG and other parties’ services do not appear in the department annual report, where is expenditure on these consultancies outlined.
- (5) How much has the department spent on KPMG consultancy fees in the 2012–13 financial year.
- (6) Are there other consultancy services relating to housing that are not included in the department’s annual report, and, if so, who provided the services, for what purpose were they hired and at what cost.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1)
 - (a) No. The engagement was assessed as being a contractor engagement.
 - (b) No. The engagement was assessed as being a contractor engagement.
 - (c) No. The engagement was assessed as being a contractor engagement.
- (2) Yes. There were three such engagements each of value less than \$100 000.
- (3) No KPMG engagements were reported in the 2011–12 and 2012–13 annual reports as no KPMG engagements during these periods were assessed as being a consultancy
- (4) Further information on consultancies and contractors is referenced in 2011–12 and 2012–13 annual reports under ‘Additional departmental information’. Refer pages 113 and 106 respectively.
- (5) None. No KPMG engagements during 2012–13 were assessed as being a consultancy.
- (6) No. All consultancy engagements for a particular reporting period were included in the relevant annual report.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9917. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Bannockburn of \$6 640 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9489:

- (1) How many tenders were received for the project.
- (2) How much was the ‘bounty payment’ to SP AusNet.
- (3) What is the estimated cost of connection to each domestic residence in Bannockburn.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of each small commercial and/or industrial connection in Bannockburn.
- (5) What is the estimated cost of each large commercial and/or industrial connection in Bannockburn.
- (6) What is the forecast number of properties to be connected at —
 - (a) 27 November 2014;
 - (b) 27 November 2018;
 - (c) 27 November 2022; and
 - (d) 27 November 2026.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, on 29 August 2012 I made fixed subsidy offers to supply priority towns, including Bannockburn, with reticulated natural gas. As a result of this process, the state was able to reach agreement with gas distributor SP AusNet to connect Bannockburn to the Victorian natural gas network with a Victorian government subsidy of \$8.976 million.

The project to supply natural gas to Bannockburn includes approximately 8700 metres of supply mains, and a minimum of 42 040 metres of reticulation mains. This network is expected to pass more than 1400 properties in Bannockburn. As such, the cost to government per potential connection is approximately \$6400.

Subject to demand, the initial design of the Bannockburn natural gas reticulation area provides sufficient capacity and flexibility to satisfy future growth of the town.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Bannockburn under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9918. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Winchelsea of \$3 940 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9500:

- (1) How many tenders were received for the project.
- (2) How much was the ‘bounty payment’ to SP AusNet.
- (3) What is the estimated cost of connection to each domestic residence in Winchelsea.
- (4) What is the estimated cost of each small commercial and/or industrial connection in Winchelsea.
- (5) What is the estimated cost of each large commercial and/or industrial connection in Winchelsea.
- (6) What is the forecast number of properties to be connected at —
 - (a) 27 November 2014;
 - (b) 27 November 2018;
 - (c) 27 November 2022; and
 - (d) 27 November 2026.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, on 29 August 2012 I made fixed subsidy offers to supply priority towns, including Winchelsea, with reticulated natural gas. As a result of this process, the state was able to reach agreement with gas distributor SP AusNet to connect Winchelsea to the Victorian natural gas network with a Victorian government subsidy of \$4.156 million.

The project to supply natural gas to Winchelsea includes approximately 3300 metres of supply mains, and a minimum of 14 700 metres of reticulation mains. This network is expected to pass more than 600 properties in Winchelsea. As such, the cost to government per potential connection is approximately \$6925.

Subject to demand, the initial design of the Winchelsea natural gas reticulation area provides sufficient capacity and flexibility to satisfy future growth of the town.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Winchelsea under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9919. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Heathcote of \$13 860 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9490:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Heathcote will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Heathcote, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government’s commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Heathcote under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9920. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Invermay of \$3 370 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9491:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Invermay will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Invermay, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government’s commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Invermay under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9921. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Koo Wee Rup of \$3 640 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9492:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Koo Wee Rup will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Koo Wee Rup, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government’s commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Koo Wee Rup under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9922. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Lakes Entrance of \$14 260 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9493:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Lakes Entrance will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Lakes Entrance, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government’s commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Lakes Entrance under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9923. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Maldon of \$5 840 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9494:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Maldon will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Maldon, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government's commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Maldon under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9924. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Marong of \$2 240 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9495:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Marong will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy 'bounty' offers to Victoria's incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Marong, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government's commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Marong under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9925. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Orbost of \$8 060 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9496:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Orbost will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Orbost, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government’s commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Orbost under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9926. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Terang of \$6 520 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9497:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Terang will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Terang, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government’s commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Terang under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9927. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Wandong-Heathcote Junction of \$3 970 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9498:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Wandong-Heathcote Junction will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Wandong-Heathcote Junction, with reticulated natural gas.

On 19 June 2013, I announced that the state government had reached agreement with Envestra to connect Wandong-Heathcote Junction to Victoria’s natural gas network. Details of the project are subject to the outcome of a Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) study.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of the negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offer process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Wandong-Heathcote Junction under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Regional and rural development: gas supply

9928. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the fixed subsidy offer for Warburton of \$7 880 000 and the answer provided to question no. 9499:

- (1) Have tenders been received for the area; if so, how many.
- (2) By what date will the government award the tender.
- (3) Is the government confident that Warburton will have gas as at November 2014.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In delivering the Energy for the Regions program, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) has implemented a staged approach. The current stage for delivering the program involves a broadened strategy to engage natural gas suppliers in both the conventional and alternative delivery markets.

Consistent with this strategy, on 29 August 2012, I made fixed subsidy ‘bounty’ offers to Victoria’s incumbent gas distributors to supply priority towns, including Warburton, with reticulated natural gas.

RDV expects to finalise the fixed subsidy offer process soon. Priority towns not connected under this process are included in a Request for Tender (RfT) for the provision of natural gas utilising a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and/or Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivery solution. An outcome to the RfT is expected in early 2014.

A CNG or LNG delivery solution has the potential to deliver on the government’s commitment to provide a lower cost energy alternative to regional Victoria.

Due to the commercial-in-confidence nature of negotiations with the gas distributors on the fixed subsidy offers, and the RfT process, the government is not in a position to provide further information on the connection of Warburton under this stage of the Energy for the Regions program.

Teaching profession: language teachers

9937. MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession: How many teachers are currently employed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development who are fully qualified by the Victorian Institute of Teaching as a registered language teacher.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Whilst the Victorian Institute of Teaching registers school teachers, it does not register teachers for individual learning areas or subjects. Therefore, I am unable to advise you how many teachers are currently employed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development who are fully qualified by the Victorian Institute of Teaching as a registered language teacher.