

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 6 February 2013

(Extract from book 1)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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

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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.

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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.

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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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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, 6 February 2013

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Cheltenham station

8557. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Cheltenham Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There was one unfilled shift at the Cheltenham Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
1	1	17

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Mordialloc station

8559. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Mordialloc Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 16 unfilled shifts at the Mordialloc Ambulance Station during 2011.

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Chelsea station

8561. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Chelsea Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 13 unfilled shifts at the Chelsea Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
13	6	14

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Seaford station

8563. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Seaford Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 18 unfilled shifts at the Seaford Ambulance Station during 2011.

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Frankston station

8564. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Frankston Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 11 unfilled shifts at the Frankston Ambulance Station during 2011.

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Waverley station

8565. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Waverley Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 7 unfilled shifts at the Waverley Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
7	2	11

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Skye station

8566. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Skye Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 4 unfilled shifts at the Skye Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
4	4	12

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Patterson Lakes station

8567. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Patterson Lakes Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 5 unfilled shifts at the Patterson Lakes Ambulance Station during 2011.

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Chelsea station

8568. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at MICA SR 27 (Chelsea) Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 11 unfilled shifts at the MICA 27 (Chelsea) Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
11	10	N/A

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Baxter station

8569. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Baxter Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 3 unfilled shifts at the Baxter Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
3	1	5

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Frankston station

8570. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at MICA 6 (Frankston) Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 9 unfilled shifts at the MICA 6 (Frankston) Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
9	11	7

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Karingal station

8571. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Karingal Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 8 unfilled shifts at the Karingal Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
8	13	11

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Langwarrin station

8572. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Langwarrin Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 2 unfilled shifts at the Langwarrin Ambulance Station during 2011. For comparison, unfilled shifts for 2010 and 2009 are listed below:

2011	2010	2009
2	4	3

Health: Ambulance Victoria — Keysborough station

8573. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: How many unfilled shifts were there by Ambulance Victoria staff at Keysborough Ambulance Station during 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were six unfilled shifts at the Keysborough Ambulance Station during 2011.

Health: childhood obesity — funding

8714. MR LEANE — To ask the Minister for Health: With regard to government funded projects aimed to fight childhood obesity:

- (1) What projects is the government currently undertaking.
- (2) How much funding did the government spend on the projects in 2011–12.
- (3) For 2011–12, what amounts were spent in the municipalities of —
 - (a) Whitehorse;
 - (b) Maroondah;
 - (c) Knox;
 - (d) Monash; and
 - (e) Manningham.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Victorian government is working in partnership with the Australian government, local government and communities to build a dynamic health and wellbeing system to support healthy lifestyles and prevent chronic disease. This includes a particular focus on children, including increasing healthy eating and physical activity and decreasing overweight and obesity. One component of this effort includes a concentrated investment in a select number of communities (the Prevention Community Model), jointly funded by the Victorian government and Australian government under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health (NPAPH). A range of other statewide initiatives also contribute to preventing childhood obesity.

- (2) Tens of millions of dollars has been allocated to these programs in 2011–12.
- (3) There is no doubt that childhood obesity is a serious concern. The government is responding through a range of initiatives in education, early childhood, sport and recreation and health. Responding with precise detail would unreasonably distract several departments.

The government has in the case of 14 municipalities introduced the PCM.

- (a) Whitehorse; (see 3)
- (b) Maroondah; (see 3)
- (c) Knox: Knox City Council and Knox Community Health Service are participating in the PCM and as part of this partnership received \$551 755 funding in 2011–12.
- (d) Monash; (see 3)
- (e) Manningham; (see 3)

Higher education and skills: agriculture courses — Gordon Institute of TAFE

8738. **MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to The Gordon TAFE, during the 2011 calendar year —

- (1) How many agriculture courses were available for students to study.
- (2) How many students undertook study in agriculture courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) There were 42 agriculture courses available for students to study.
- (2) There were 1969 students who undertook study in agriculture courses.

Higher education and skills: agriculture courses — University of Ballarat

8739. **MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to the University of Ballarat, during the 2011 calendar year —

- (1) How many agriculture courses were available for students to study.
- (2) How many students undertook study in agriculture courses.
- (3) At which campuses were agriculture courses offered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) There were 22 agriculture courses available for students to study.
- (2) There were 382 students who undertook study in agriculture courses.
- (3) Agriculture courses were offered at the Ballarat (Camp Street), Ballarat (SMB), Mt Helen, Ararat and Horsham campuses. There was also off-campus delivery.

Higher education and skills: agriculture courses — South West Institute of TAFE

8740. **MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to the South West Institute of TAFE, during the 2011 calendar year —

- (1) How many agriculture courses were available for students to study.

- (2) How many students undertook study in agriculture courses.
- (3) At which campuses were agriculture courses offered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) There were 38 agriculture courses available for students to study.
- (2) There were 954 students who undertook study in agriculture courses.
- (3) Agriculture courses were offered at the Glenormiston, Hamilton, Portland and Warrnambool (Timor Street) campuses.

Higher education and skills: agriculture courses — Gordon Institute of TAFE

8741. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to The Gordon TAFE, during the 2012 calendar year —

- (1) How many agriculture courses were available for students to study.
- (2) How many students undertook study in agriculture courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In the year to October 2012

- (1) There were 35 agriculture courses available for students to study.
- (2) There were 1840 students who undertook/are undertaking study in agriculture courses.

(October 2012 information is preliminary and subject to change.)

Higher education and skills: agriculture courses — University of Ballarat

8742. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to the University of Ballarat TAFE, during the 2012 calendar year —

- (1) How many agriculture courses were available for students to study.
- (2) How many students undertook study in agriculture courses.
- (3) At which campuses were agriculture courses offered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In the year to October 2012

- (1) There were 20 agriculture courses available for students to study.
- (2) There were 344 students who undertook/are undertaking study in agriculture courses.
- (3) Agriculture courses were offered at the Ballarat (Camp Street), Ballarat (SMB), Mt Helen, Ararat and Horsham campuses. There was also off-campus delivery.

(October 2012 information is preliminary and subject to change.)

Higher education and skills: agriculture courses — South West Institute of TAFE

8743. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to the South West Institute of TAFE, during the 2012 calendar year —

- (1) How many agriculture courses were available for students to study.
- (2) How many students undertook study in agriculture courses.
- (3) At which campuses were agriculture courses offered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In the year to October 2012

- (1) There were 34 agriculture courses available for students to study.
- (2) There were 734 students who undertook/are undertaking study in agriculture courses.
- (3) Agriculture courses were offered at the Glenormiston, Hamilton, Warrnambool (Timor Street) and Warrnambool (Caramut Road) campuses.

(October 2012 information is preliminary and subject to change.)

Agriculture and food security: wine industry — smoke taint

8972. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security): What progress has been made on committing to \$4 million over four years for the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to set up a centre for expertise in addressing the threat of smoke taint in wine.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has established an experimental wine making facility at Mildura in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation. I officially opened this facility in May 2012.

DPI organised a national smoke taint symposium in Melbourne in June 2012, which show cased research being undertaken by the Victorian centre of expertise in smoke taint and in other Australian states. The symposium was well attended by the grape and wine industry, staff of the Department of Sustainability and Environment who work in fuel reduction burns and other wine researchers.

In the 2011 grape growing season, grape samples from north east Victoria were exposed to smoke and made into wine. The first of these samples will be analysed in mid 2013 (12 months post bottling).

Samples have been collected from a range of different grape varieties to investigate varietal differences in susceptibility to smoke taint. In 2013, DPI expects to begin using results from this testing to validate a web-based smoke risk assessment tool that will help grape growers and wine makers to better identify and manage risks associated with smoke taint.

Agriculture and food security: Department of Primary Industries — food and fibre producers

8973. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security): When will the Baillieu government establish a unit within the Department of Primary Industries to coordinate an international exchange program for food and fibre producers under 25 years of age.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) has appointed a Young Farmer Coordinator to support young food and fibre producers. As part of the suite of initiatives that deliver on the election commitment, the DPI Grow Your Food and Fibre Career website was launched. The website promotes opportunities for young people to expand their agricultural knowledge overseas and undertake international exchanges.

The government has also delivered on its commitment to:

- reinvigorate the Victorian Young Farmers organisation by providing seed funding; and
- employ a secretariat to drive activities that support the next generation of rural leaders.

Exchanging information and building stronger national and international networks has been a key feature for the Victorian Young Farmers reinvigoration. To date, members have travelled to Tasmania, Western Australia, New South Wales, Korea and New Zealand to learn from other successful young farmer organisations.

Agriculture and food security: game hunting — economic benefits

8977. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the minister’s statement in his media release of 11 September 2012 that game hunting generates around \$96 million of economic activity annually:

- (1) What are the sources or evidence for the contribution of game hunting to the economy in Victoria.
- (2) What is the economic contribution of game hunting in each city or town when game hunting takes place in Victoria.
- (3) What are the economic activities generated by game hunting and what is the contribution of these activities to each city or town.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 20 December 2012, there were approximately 43 000 people licensed to hunt game animals in Victoria. Of these:

25 000 are licensed to hunt deer;

27 500 are licensed to hunt quail; and,

25 000 are licensed to hunt duck.

A survey conducted by the Department of Sustainability and Environment on hunting activity in 2006–07 estimated that game hunters spent approximately \$2396 each per annum and hunting-related goods and services. By multiplying the current number of Game Licence holders by the average annual spend, it is estimated that game hunters generate approximately \$103 million in expenditure per annum. This figure is for direct expenditure only and does not take into account the economic activity generated by the creation of jobs and other flow-on benefits to industries that support game hunting. The report arising from the survey is titled *Game Hunting in Victoria: Summary of the 2006–07 Victorian Hunter Mail Survey* and was published by the Department of Sustainability and Environment in 2008.

- (2) While general economic expenditure by hunters has been estimated, there have been no studies conducted by the Department of Primary Industries into specific expenditure in individual regional towns or centres.

- (3) Game hunting contributes to the economy through the importation, retail sale, manufacture and maintenance of firearms and ammunition, camping, hunting, boating and four-wheel drive equipment, the sale of food, fuel and accommodation and the sale and maintenance of hunting dogs and equipment.

Agriculture and food security: game hunting — licence fees

8978. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the minister’s statements in his media release of 11 September 2012 that there are 42 000 licensed hunters in Victoria, an increase of 41 per cent during the past decade:

- (1) What was the number of game licensees, by licence category, for the years:
- (a) 2002–03;
 - (b) 2003–04;
 - (c) 2004–05;
 - (d) 2005–06;
 - (e) 2006–07;
 - (f) 2007–08;
 - (g) 2008–09;
 - (h) 2009–10;
 - (i) 2010–11; and
 - (k) 2011–12.
- (2) What was the total revenue raised by game licence fees in these years.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Total number of Licensed hunters in Victoria for the end of the financial year

	Breakdown by type of licence			
	Total Licensed hunters	with Duck entitlement	with Quail entitlement	with Deer entitlement
2002–03	25 900	17 609	19 491	11 533
2003–04	30 592	21 715	23 751	12 798
2004–05	31 394	22 161	24 272	13 335
2005–06	32 832	22 800	24 922	14 553
2006–07	29 329	18 593	20 693	14 710
2007–08	31 541	19 141	21 357	17 755
2008–09	30 074	18 348	20 294	16 261
2009–10	37 008	21 967	24 407	20 622
2010–11	40 217	23 835	26 481	22 580
2011–12	40 893	24 539	27 294	23 062

It should be noted that the total number of hunters entitled to hunt each category (deer, duck or quail) of game cannot be tallied as some hunters hold a Game Licence which entitles them to hunt multiple categories of game.

At the time of my media release on 11 September 2012, the total number of licensed game hunters in Victoria was approximately 42 000. The total number of licensed hunters at the end of the 2001–02 financial year (a figure not requested and not included in the table) was approximately 29 500. Using these figures, the percentage increase for the period was 42 per cent. If the 2002–03 figure of 25 900 was used, the percentage increase would be 62 per cent.

- (2) The annual revenue raised through the sale of Game Licences fluctuates depending on the number of licence holders, the percentage of hunters who hold single or multiple species categories and the total number of concession holders. The total Game Licence revenue for the years 2002 to 2012 can be seen in the following table:

Year	Total approximate revenue
2002–2003	\$1 044 288
2003–2004	\$1 261 286
2004–2005	\$1 325 453
2005–2006	\$1 423 029
2006–2007	\$1 324 076
2007–2008	\$1 443 234
2008–2009	\$1 415 884
2009–2010	\$1 782 555
2010–2011	\$1 979 206
2011–2012	\$2 027 522

Agriculture and food security: game hunting — funding

- 8979.** **MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): How much government funding has been directed to the following organisations in 2010–11, 2011–2012 and 2012–13:

- (a) Australian Bowhunters Association;
- (b) Australian Deer Association;
- (c) Field and Game Australia Inc.;
- (d) Game, Environment and Conservation Office Inc.;
- (e) Game Management Council of Victoria;
- (f) Gippsland Deer Stalkers' Association;
- (g) North East Deer Stalkers Association;
- (h) Para Park Co-operative Game Reserve;
- (i) Shooting Sports Council of Victoria;
- (j) Sporting Shooters' Association of Australia (Victoria);
- (k) South West Victoria Deer Advisory Group;
- (l) Victorian Deer Association;
- (m) Victorian Hound Hunters Inc.;
- (n) Victorian Game and Deerstalkers Association;
- (o) Working Gundog Association of Australia (SSAA);
- (p) Victorian Hunting Advisory Committee (HAC); and
- (q) any other organisation predominantly involved in game hunting in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

No funding was provided through my portfolio to the organisations listed.

Agriculture and food security: deer hunting — game reserves

8980. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the breeding of deer for release into state game reserves in Victoria, in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07, 2007–08, 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12:

- (1) What species of deer were bred.
- (2) How many deer were bred.
- (3) Where were deer bred.
- (4) Where were deer released.
- (5) How many deer were released in each area.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Government policy does not support the breeding and release of deer onto public land. Between the years 2003 to 2012, no deer have been bred and released into state game reserves by the government.

Further, regulations 19(1) and (2) of the Wildlife Regulations 2002, prohibit the possession, breeding, release or sale of deer for the purpose of hunting.

Public transport: buses — Point Cook

8981. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Point Cook bus services connecting with the soon to be open Williams Landing train station:

- (1) Will the bus services begin when the train station opens in late 2012.
- (2) Is the government funding the bus services.
- (3) How many different bus routes will there be.
- (4) What are the travel routes.
- (5) What will be the frequency of service.
- (6) Will new roadworks be required to provide for the bus services and prioritisation; if so —
 - (a) what are those roadworks; and
 - (b) when will they be completed.
- (7) Will traffic signal systems be installed/altered to allow for bus prioritisation; if so, when will they be completed.
- (8) When will bus services be reviewed to assess the need for alterations to service newly built areas.

ANSWER:

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

(1–2) Public Transport Victoria is reviewing bus services in the Point Cook area as part of the network planning for the new Williams Landing station.

(3–5) Detailed service planning will be finalised closer to the completion of the station.

- (6a) As part of the Williams Landing Project, Palmers Road is being extended to provide access to the new station. Additional roads to provide station access are being constructed by developer Cedar Woods, as part of the delivery of the new Williams Landing town centre.
- (6b) Construction of road infrastructure is currently underway and expected to be completed to coincide with the opening of the station.
- (6) The extension of Palmers Road includes traffic signals, and the road infrastructure being constructed by Cedar Woods provides allowance for bus priority.
- (7) Assessments of the need for bus services to newly built areas, such as Point Cook, are undertaken regularly in line with metropolitan priorities and available funding.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — Department of Primary Industries

9004. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the \$205 million future farming strategy which was replaced by the new \$61 million agricultural industry programs, representing a \$144 reduction in spending on farming and agriculture in Victoria: Are the comments of Mr Hugh Delahunty, MP, that ‘the new DPI project (Red Meat Innovation Centre) would expand the department’s scope in the Hamilton region’ accurate, and if they are, how will the Red Meat Innovation Centre expand the department’s scope in Hamilton.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Growing Food and Fibre and capital investment is to establish a new Red Meat Innovation Centre at Hamilton, which will have a primary focus on increasing lamb productivity.

DPI will focus its staff, equipment and infrastructure to support research for the red meat industries at Hamilton research centre. The Growing Food and Fibre Initiative investment for research staff and projects is on top of the \$2.4 million announced in 2011 for capital works at Hamilton.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9005. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to an article in the *Weekly Times* on 25 May 2012 written by Terry Sim entitled ‘Red meat centre mystery’: Have there been further developments in relation to the Red Meat Innovation Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In May 2012, I announced \$3.45 million to fund researchers and research projects at the Red Meat Innovation Centre at Hamilton.

This funding for researchers and research projects was in addition to \$2.4 million announced in 2011 for capital works.

A number of new researchers have been recruited to Hamilton, and new research projects have started.

Construction of covered sheep yards has been completed and construction of a new animal house is well advanced.

More than \$2 billion worth of meat, skins and hides was exported from Victoria in 2011–12.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9006. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the comments Mr Hugh Delahunty, MP, made in a media release on 28 June 2012 that ‘we are also investing \$3.45 million to establish DPI’s Hamilton research facility as a Southern Red Meat Innovation Centre, which will build on recent capital investment supporting lamb research at the site’: How will the \$3.45 million be spent at the Hamilton research facility.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The government has invested \$3.45 million per annum to fund researchers and research projects to address high priorities for the lamb industry.

The Department of Primary Industries research activities will be delivered at the Red Meat Innovation Centre in Hamilton.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9007. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to comments made in Hansard by Mr Hugh Delahunty, MP, on the Appropriation (2012–2013) Bill on 23 May 2012 where he said ‘The minister last week announced, on top of the \$61 million from the budget, another \$3.4 million to be invested in research and development in the red meat industry and to establish a new Red Meat Innovation Centre at Hamilton’: What percentage of the \$3.4 million will be spent on establishing a new red meat innovation centre at Hamilton.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Red Meat Innovation Centre was established by the coalition government to position Victoria as a national leader in lamb research.

In May 2012, I announced \$3.45 million to fund researchers and research projects at the Red Meat Innovation Centre at Hamilton.

This funding for researchers and research projects was in addition to \$2.4 million announced in 2011 for capital works.

DPI will focus its research efforts to improving lamb production at the Red Meat Innovation Centre at Hamilton. Extension activities will be delivered from Hamilton and other DPI locations.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9008. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to comments made by Mr Simon Ramsay, MLC and separate statements made by Mr Hugh Delahunty, MP, with regard to funding for a new red meat innovation centre at Hamilton: Will part of the \$3.4 million be spent on establishing a new Red Meat Innovation Centre at Hamilton and, if so, what percentage will be spent on infrastructure at the Red Meat Innovation Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In May 2012, I announced \$3.45 million over four years to fund researchers and research projects at the Red Meat Innovation Centre. In 2011, an additional \$2.4 million was announced for capital works. Capital works included covered sheep yards, construction of a new animal house and purchase of associated equipment.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9009. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to confusion which arose following your comments to DPI staff with regard to the Red Meat Innovation Centre in Hamilton as outlined in the *Hamilton Spectator* articles ‘Meat’s mights and mays mean misunderstanding’ and ‘Mutton dressed up as lamb’: What did you tell Hamilton DPI research staff about a proposed laboratory development at the Hamilton DPI Red Meat Innovation Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The state government cannot be held responsible for articles that appear in the *Hamilton Spectator*. Despite what the *Hamilton Spectator*’s articles have suggested, funding for the Red Meat Innovation Centre has not been cut. Nor is the centre ‘cancelled’ as claimed. In May 2012, I announced \$3.45 million to fund researchers and research projects at the centre. This is on top of \$2.4 million announced in 2011 for capital works. More than \$2 billion worth of meat, skins and hides were exported from Victoria in 2011–12.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9010. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to your comments made to DPI staff about the Red Meat Innovation Centre: Is the minister satisfied with the clarity of his comments to The Rural Press Club in May 2012 concerning the nature of the \$3.5 million funds for the Red Meat innovation Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The global demand for food and fibre is rising steadily and Victoria has already responded with higher growth in production levels.

To support agriculture to meet this target the coalition government announced the Growing Food and Fibre Initiative, a \$61.4 million investment.

As part of the Growing Food and Fibre Initiative, \$8.9 million over four years was for research and extension for the red meat industries.

This investment is in addition to \$2.4 million announced in 2011 for capital works at Hamilton which are underway.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9011. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to your comments made to DPI staff about the Red Meat Innovation Centre: When will the proposed laboratory complex at Hamilton DPI be included in the state budget and given a development schedule.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In 2011, \$2.4 million was announced for capital works to develop the Red Meat Innovation Centre at Hamilton. Works have been completed on covered sheep yards and is well advanced on building a new animal house. In 2012, government has committed a further \$160 000 to design and scope the next stage of capital works at Hamilton. These reports have not yet been received by the Department of Primary Industries.

Agriculture and food security: Red Meat Innovation Centre — funding

9012. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to your comments made to DPI staff about the Red Meat Innovation Centre: Is it realistic to continue to promote the goal of doubling food and fibre production in Victoria by 2020 given the agricultural budget cuts and a lack of laboratory facilities in a major lamb production region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

It is widely acknowledged that global demand for food is expected to double over the next few decades. In response to this demand, Victoria’s agriculture industries will need to respond to changes in technology and innovation to increase market share and competitiveness. The government is committed to supporting the continued development of Victoria’s agricultural and food industries and through the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), has been assisting agricultural producers to increase productivity.

In line with the government’s \$61.4 million investment in Growing Food and Fibre over four years and our leadership role in the National Primary Industries Research Development and Extension Framework (RD&E), DPI has increased its science capability in key areas such as sheep meat and dairy.

Under this framework, there will be a more coordinated and collaborative approach to rural RD&E, enabling us to target our investment in research and development to areas where we have expertise. DPI’s research capability will be focused on achieving the best productivity outcomes for primary industries. DPI, with industry support and in collaboration with other providers, will engage with industry, along the value chain, to achieve faster productivity growth and a more competitive agricultural sector.

This collaboration under the National Primary Industries RD&E Framework has built upon existing relationships between DPI and industry. These relationships are vital in delivering joint government/industry initiatives, such as the building of state of the art dairy research and development facilities at Ellinbank, and by establishing DPI Hamilton as a Southern Red Meat Innovation Centre focusing on lamb.

Health: heatwave alerts — Keeping in Touch

9014. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the ‘Keeping in Touch’ program, which provides weekly calls to public housing residents over the age of 75 years and living alone, and which has been identified by the Department of Human Services in the ‘Heatwave plan for Victoria’ (2009) as a means to disseminate heatwave alerts and information to isolated residents at risk:

- (1) Why is it only available to residents 75 and over, when people 65 and over are identified as being vulnerable to heat.
- (2) Why is it only available to older residents, and not available to residents with heat sensitive diseases, disabilities, and other high risk groups.
- (3) Are special calls made on days exceeding heat health temperature thresholds to ensure residents are okay.
- (4) Are special calls made on heatwave emergency days to ensure residents are okay.
- (5) Has the government considered expanding the service of the ‘Keeping in Touch’ program to develop a heat-vulnerable contact list that might not be contacted weekly, but would be contacted in the case of days exceeding the heat health temperature threshold.
- (6) How much did this program cost to run in total in 2011–12.

- (7) How much did this program cost to run per person registered in 2011–12.
- (8) How many residents were registered with the program in 2011–12.

ANSWER:

The program you are asking about is not the responsibility of the Minister for Health. It is suggested that you direct this question to the Minister of Housing.

Health: heatwave alerts — local government

9017. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Heatwave Planning in Victoria, and considering no ongoing funding has been provided to local governments for heatwave responses, planning or reviewing:

- (1) Will the government review local government heatwave plans across Victoria to ensure they meet the guidelines provided in the Heatwave Planning Guide; if so, when.
- (2) Will the government review local government heatwave responses and the ongoing capacity of local governments to implement their heatwave plans; if so, when.
- (3) Will the government provide funding to local governments to ensure they have the capacity to implement their heatwave plans this summer; if so, when.
- (4) Will the government be providing heatwave safety advice via a public communications campaign this summer; If so, what communication tools will be used, what coverage, target audiences, and budget will be allocated to this.
- (5) Will the government's new Emergency Management Victoria body oversee heatwave planning and responses.

ANSWER:

- (1) The Department of Health has prepared a Heatwave Plan Review Tool to assist local government and health and community service providers to maintain a heatwave plan that reflects the current needs of clients and local communities. The Review Tool provides guidance, templates and tools to enable health and community service providers, including local councils, to periodically review their heatwave plans. The Department of Health's Environmental Health program is available to assist local councils if requested.
- (2) The Department of Health provides tools and assistance to local government to review heatwave responses. All municipal councils in Victoria have developed a heatwave plan as part of their existing municipal planning process. The Review Tool encourages heatwave plans to be reviewed early in the summer season after the first heat health alert is issued, following a major heatwave event or at the end of each summer. Each plan has been developed by councils to address the needs of local communities.
- (3) The Department of Health does not currently provide funding to local governments to implement heatwave plans. The department provided funding for the initial pilot projects and further funding and support to all remaining councils to develop their heatwave plans. Local councils develop heatwave plans as part of their normal municipal planning process.
- (4) The Department of Health actively provides heatwave safety advice to all internal and external stakeholders prior to summer as part of its core business. This is carried out annually and upon request. Communication resources and information packs are sent to all stakeholders for education and dissemination to local communities and vulnerable groups. The department provides various resources including Staying healthy in the heat brochures (available in 17 other languages), posters with key messages, a telephone script for service providers and call centres to use when talking to people at increased risk of heat related illness and fact sheets for clinicians. The department is also responsible for issuing heat health alerts when temperature thresholds are exceeded. The department works with stakeholders such as Ambulance Victoria and the Bureau of Meteorology to ensure consistent messages are provided to the community. Messages are targeted to everyone as heatwaves can affect anyone, however some groups of people are more at risk of heat-related

illness. The department also provides information to the community via the Better Health Channel and on the department's website.

- (5) The Department of Health currently has robust plans for heatwave supported by stakeholder engagement and a detailed communications strategy. The department would endeavour to support cooperative arrangements for future heatwave planning and response.

Higher education and skills: Chisholm Institute of TAFE — staff

9234. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to Chisholm TAFE:

- (1) How many redundancies have the TAFE issued in the 2012 calendar year.
- (2) What is the dollar amount of the TAFE's 2012–2013 budget that was used for these redundancy payments.
- (3) What is the total reduction in FTE staff from the TAFE for 2012–2013.
- (4) What is the number of courses that were closed at the TAFE for the 2013 year by campus.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Institutes are not required to routinely report this data to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Some information was provided in TAFE Business Transition Plans, but this information is commercial-in-confidence.

I note that the Institute has made a public announcement on this matter.

- (2) As at 30 September 2012, the Institute's YTD redundancy cost was \$308 662.
- (3) The State Services Authority publishes TAFE institute FTE data. Data for 2012–13 has not yet been reported, as the 2012–13 year has not yet concluded.
- (4) All institutes are continuing to revise their course offerings in 2013 in response to demand. It is therefore too early to provide a response to this question. Furthermore, institutes are not required to routinely report this data to the department.

Higher education and skills: Holmesglen TAFE — staff

9235. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to Holmesglen TAFE:

- (1) How many redundancies have the TAFE issued in the 2012 calendar year.
- (2) What is the dollar amount of the TAFE's 2012–2013 budget that was used for these redundancy payments.
- (3) What is the total reduction in FTE staff from the TAFE for 2012–2013.
- (4) What is the number of courses that were closed at the TAFE for the 2013 year by campus.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Institutes are not required to routinely report this data to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Some information was provided in TAFE Business Transition Plans, but this information is commercial-in-confidence.
- (2) As at 30 September 2012, the Institute's YTD redundancy cost was \$755 342.

- (3) The State Services Authority publishes TAFE institute FTE data. Data for 2012–13 has not yet been reported, as the 2012–13 year has not yet concluded.
- (4) All institutes are continuing to revise their course offerings in 2013 in response to demand. It is therefore too early to provide a response to this question. Furthermore, institutes are not required to routinely report this data to the department.