

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page/s of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

1. Departmental Secretary, the Victorian Government receives a significant discount on electricity from the purchasing contract with Red Energy. In a written response to PAEC from the February 2018 hearings, the former DEDJTR confirmed that for the 2016/17 financial year rates, that despite having a reduction in electricity usage, the Departments electricity bills increased 25%. Has your Department seen a similar rise in the Departments electricity bills?

Answer:

The Department's electricity expenditure has not seen a similar rise.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
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Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page/s of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

2. Can you provide the committee with your Departments:
 - a. Units of electricity usage (excluding green power) in megajoules
 - b. Units of electricity usage (excluding green power) converted to kilowatt hours
 - c. Total financial cost of electricity
 - d. And how that compares with the previous financial year.

Answer:

- a) Electricity usage in megajoules is provided within the Department's Annual Report.
- b) Kilowatt hours is not used as a reporting metric for electricity usage.
- c) Total electricity costs for the 2018-19 financial year are still being calculated.
- d) See above.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Inquiry into the 2019-20 Budget Estimates

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

3. Departmental Secretary, for 2017/18 and for 2018/19 so far, can you please provide the committee with the number of Departmental staff that reported incidents of bullying to your Department.

Answer:

The number of staff that reported incidents of bullying in 2017/18 was 5, and for 2018/19 was 9.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Inquiry into the 2019-20 Budget Estimates

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

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4. For the same timeframe, 2017/18 and for 2018/19 so far, can you please provide the committee with the number of Ministerial staff that reported incidents of bullying to your Department?

Answer:

There have been no reported incidents of bullying made by Ministerial staff to the Department in 2017-18 or 2018-19.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Inquiry into the 2019-20 Budget Estimates

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

5. Are able to provide a breakdown of all bullying incidents by category identified, whether gender, sexuality, physical for those two previous questions as well.

Answer:

Details of individual matters are confidential and not publicly disclosed.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

6. Secretary, are you able to please provide the committee with a copy of the latest People Matters Survey results for your Department and, in addition, the itemised results for each portfolio agency under your Department.

Answer:

The Victorian Public Sector Commissioner (VPSC) is currently releasing the data of the recent 2019 People Matter Survey to all participating public sector organisations.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee | Inquiry into the 2019-20 Budget Estimates

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

7. Secretary, BP2 PG 57 identifies \$685 million in Reprioritisations and revenue offsets and \$251 million in savings. This follows on from reprioritisations and savings in last year's budget.

Answer:

See next answer.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

8. Can you please detail the reprioritisations which have occurred in your Department during 2018/19, for which unit of your Department they applied to and for which programs or policy areas?

Answer:

Table 4.5 in BP2 page 57 outlines the net impact of new output initiatives from 2019-20 to 2022-23. Page 54 from BP2 in the 2018-19 budget lists \$575 million in reprioritisations and revenue offsets for the 2018-19 year. The reprioritisation component was \$40.2 million across Government. Reprioritisations from 2018-19 did not impact adversely on the delivery of programs by the Department.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

9. One Department has set a target of reducing their workforce from 13,000 to around 7,000 in 2019/20. What is your Department's headcount reduction target to achieve employee savings?

Answer:

The Department does not have a headcount reduction target to achieve employee savings in 2019-20.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

10. Can you please provide the committee with a list of how many fixed terms contracts are not going to be renewed in each unit of your Department?

Answer:

Renewal of fixed term contracts is considered on a case by case basis. The Department does not have a list of fixed term contracts that are not going to be renewed.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

11. The budget forecasts \$2.5 billion in reprioritisations over the forward estimates. How much of the \$2.5 billion will impact your Department?

Answer:

The \$2.5 billion refers to reprioritisations and revenue offsets and is one component of the policy variations which account for the net impact of new budget initiatives. These variations also include adjustments and savings. The final allocation of policy variations to Departments across the forward estimates will not be known until the conclusion of the base review process.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

12. The budget forecasts \$1.97 billion in savings over the forward estimates. How much of that \$1.97 billion will impact your Department?

Answer:

The allocation of savings across Departments has not yet been finalised. This will be decided as part of the Base Review process.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

13. Has the Department's Base Review begun? If not, when will it begin?

Answer:

The Department has commenced its base review.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Mr John Bradley, Secretary
Committee member:	Mr Richard Riordan
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

14. Has anyone been contracted to conduct the Base Review at your Department? If so who and at what cost?

Answer:

Management consultants were contracted centrally to conduct the Base Reviews. Consultancy expenditure details will be published in DPC's 2018-19 Annual Report.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Ms Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Solar Homes
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

- Solar Victoria has a target of approving 42,000 eligibility applications for solar panels in the next financial year. How much energy do you expect the resulting solar panel installations to generate?

Answer:

- Solar Victoria has a target of approving 42,000 eligibility applications for solar panels in the 2019-20 financial year. It is estimated that once these 42,000 solar PV systems are installed, approximately 320GWh will be generated annually.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Ms Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Solar Homes
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

- What is the target for the number of rental properties accessing the Solar homes program in 2019/20?

Answer:

- From 1 July 2019, the Solar Homes program will also support Victorian renters, with up to 50,000 rebates to be made available over the life of the ten-year program. To ensure a sensible and orderly expansion of the program, up to 2,000 solar PV rebates will be made available to rental properties in the first year.

Portfolio:	Solar Homes
Witness:	Ms Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change <i>*This question was included in the Solar Homes Written Questions on Notice but is actually for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change</i>
Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
Page of transcript:	Written Questions on Notice

Relevant text:

- Will responsibility of maintenance of new parks be sit with local councils or the state government?

Answer:

- The Suburban Parks Program administered by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning consists of approximately 60 parks of varying sizes and for different uses. Individual projects range in scope from investigation, planning, land acquisition and development. Projects will be delivered in partnership with a range of stakeholders. Depending on the individual park, management and maintenance will either be the sole or joint responsibility of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, local council and water authorities.