

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

Portfolio:	Jobs, Innovation and Trade
Witness:	Hon Martin Pakula MP
Committee member:	Mr R Riordan
Page/s of transcript:	5 - 6

Relevant text:

Mr RIORDAN: Are there any other current trade or investment agreements between Victoria and China and can you provide a list of those on notice?

Mr PAKULA: Well, as I indicated just a moment ago, we signed an MOU with the Shanghai sports administration. If you are asking whether there are any other trade and investment agreements apart from Belt and Road, I will take that on notice, and if it is something that I can enlighten the Committee with I will do so.

Answer:

As part of our work to build relationships in China, promote Victorian exports and attract investment to Victoria, the Victorian Government has signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding with Chinese partners. On other occasions, Ministers support Victorian businesses by witnessing them sign agreements with Chinese counterparts.

Significant agreements relevant to my portfolio of Jobs, Innovation and Trade portfolio that DEDJTR/DJPR reached on behalf of the Victorian Government in its first and second terms are:

- Innovation and Technology Agreement with Jiangsu Province (2015)
- State Government of Victoria and Boao Forum for Asia (August 2015)
- Letter of intent on cooperation between the State Government of Victoria and the China Education Association for International Exchange (November 2016)
- State Government of Victoria and the Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park (May 2017)
- Visit Victoria with Ctrip.com (July 2017)
- State Government of Victoria and the Chengdu High-Tech Zone (May 2018)
- State Government of Victoria and the Sichuan Department of Education (May 2018)
- State Government of Victoria and the State Administration for Foreign Experts Affairs (May 2018)
- Letter of intent on Shanghai Sports Administration (2019)

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Committee member:	Mr T Richardson
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Relevant text:

Mr RICHARDSON: There are only 20 seconds left, Minister, so this might have to be taken on notice, but if you are able to outline some of the achievements that have arisen from this program.

Mr PAKULA: I will take that on notice and will provide some more information to the committee.

Answer:

Under the *Towards Future Industries: Victoria's Automotive Transition Plan* (Automotive Transition Plan), the Victorian Government has supported former auto workers and the automotive supply chain with targeted assistance to address structural change in the industry caused by the closure of manufacturing plants by Ford, Holden and Toyota.

The \$5 million Automotive Supply Chain Transition Program (ASCTP) was a key element of the Automotive Transition Plan. The ASCTP provided two phases of funding to supply chain businesses; support for developing a Business Transition Plan and then further support, if required, to implement the plan.

Key achievements under ASCTP includes assisting 52 supply chain businesses to identify and capture new opportunities in other markets. For example, Ace Wire Works in Hallam used funding support to diversify into furniture manufacturing to keep the businesses sustainable.

A further example, relates to Australian Performance Vehicles (APV), based in Campbellfield. This company was provided with support to implement a plan to transition into new markets such as industrial product safety testing and further integrate its business into global supply chains. APV now derives 50 per cent of its revenue from exports and most of its customers are global multinationals.

The Automotive Transition Plan also included the \$45.1 million Local Industry Fund for Transition (LIFT). LIFT supports communities impacted by the closure of car manufacturing by providing grants to projects that create jobs in Melbourne's north, west, south-east and in Geelong. 65 Victorian businesses have been awarded funding through LIFT which will create an anticipated 1,970 jobs, including 1,412 roles suitable for former automotive workers.

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Committee member:	Mr D O'Brien
Page/s of transcript:	16

Relevant text:

Minister, just one more question. You are responsible, I believe, as the shareholder for the Heyfield mill, ASH, as it is known locally. Does the government expect the mill to return a profit in either of 18–19 or 19–20?

Mr PAKULA: I think, Mr O'Brien, that in regards to—obviously in regards to 2019–20, you are asking me to make predictions about things that might occur in the future—

Mr D O'BRIEN: Like what?

Mr PAKULA: Well, I think that is always a perilous thing for anyone to do.

Mr D O'BRIEN: Well, it is in relation to dividends, which is budget paper 5, page 23.

Mr PAKULA: So I think I will resist the temptation to make a prediction about what might happen next year. In regard to 18–19, I will take that on notice and we will provide some information to the committee in regards to that if we can.

Answer:

The Mill is forecast to turn a profit in 2018-19. Details regarding dividends payable to the state are recorded in the State Budget Papers.

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Relevant text:

Mr D O'BRIEN: Okay. I have a question for the secretary, which I will give you on notice, if I could, Secretary. BP3, page 237 has a criterion of companies or new entrants supported through LaunchVic. Could I just ask on notice: what information does LaunchVic report to the department in addition to this measure in the budget? Also, does the department or LaunchVic formally evaluate the outcomes or impact of any of the funding rounds and, if so, in what form? If I can have that on notice, if I could, that would be great

Answer:

What information does LaunchVic report to the department in addition to this measure in the budget?

- LaunchVic operates under a Funding Agreement administered by the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (the Department). This Agreement requires several reports as financial milestone deliverables against the Funding Agreement as well as non-financial reporting.
- LaunchVic also prepares an annual report which is available on the company's website.

Does the department or LaunchVic formally evaluate the outcomes or impact of any of the funding rounds and, if so, in what form?

- The Department commissioned an independent evaluation of LaunchVic during 2018.