

## ATTACHMENT: QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE HEARINGS

Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

### ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO

1. Please provide a breakdown of what Mr Mulder and Mr Thwaites were paid for the review, 'Independent Review into the Electricity & Gas Retail Markets in Victoria' released in August 2017.

*(Asked by Mr O'Brien, pages 6 and 8 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

- Following the Government's announcement of an independent bipartisan review into Victoria's retail gas and electricity retail markets, the department engaged Professor Thwaites, Mr Mulder and Ms Faulkner as contractors under departmental procurement policies.

<b>Terence Mulder</b>	\$37,500
<b>John Thwaites</b>	\$36,375
<b>Patricia Faulkner</b>	\$46,625

- The sum value for supplier services was \$120,500 GST incl.
2. Please provide information on whether the Victorian Government is going to implement the recommendation from the report into the Leadbeater's possum regarding the 200-metre exclusion zones.

*(Asked by Ms Pennicuik, pages 10-11 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

- In 2017, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) finalised the *Review of the effectiveness and impact of establishing timber harvesting exclusion zones around Leadbeater's Possum colonies*.
- The review was initiated in June 2016 once the milestone that was recommended in the 2015 Leadbeater's Possum Advisory Group report was met (i.e. two years of intensive surveying and at least 200 new colonies verified in areas of State forest available for timber harvesting). Detections now total more than 600, including 140 records identified before 2014.
- The Victorian Government is responding to the review by implementing all recommendations.
- This 200-metre exclusion zone will remain in force. 141 new verified records of Leadbeater's Possums have been received from a range of sources to date in 2017-18. This has resulted in the creation of 124 new Timber Harvesting Exclusion Zones.

3. Please provide information about Metro Trains' electricity usage and the associated greenhouse emissions from this.

*(Asked by Ms Patten, page 16 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

- Metro Trains Melbourne consumed 454,636 megawatt hours of electricity<sup>#</sup> across all operations for the 12 months from June 2017 to May 2018. The estimated greenhouse gas emissions from this consumption was 491,007 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e\*.

<sup>#</sup> Data provided by Public Transport Victoria (PTV)

\* Calculated using a Victorian electricity emissions factor of 1.08 kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub>-e (carbon dioxide equivalent) per kilowatt hour published by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy in its National Greenhouse Accounts Factors, July 2017

4. With respect to Budget Paper No. 3 (p. 60) referencing 'Meeting the Government's climate change obligations', please provide information on what emissions reductions have been achieved in 2017-2018, and what reductions are expected in forward estimates. How is the money actually being spent?

*(Asked by Ms Pennicuik, pages 23-24 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

- Trends in Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions are ascertained from state-level greenhouse gas inventory data provided by the Commonwealth as part of the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI). Due to data collection and processing, state-level NGGI data is published with a lag of greater than 18 months. The most recent inventory data available for Victoria is for 2015-16.
- Total emissions in Victoria in 2015-16 were 115.1 megatonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e. This compared with emissions of 118.2 megatonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2014-15 – a reduction of 3.1 megatonnes or 2.6 per cent.
- 2017-18 inventory data will not be available until the first half of calendar year 2020 – as such, it is not possible to provide information on emissions reductions in 2017-18 at this point in time.
- Victoria's *Climate Change Act 2017* (the Act) requires the Government to prepare an annual greenhouse gas emissions report which:
  - sets out an overview and collation of the best practicably available information about the State's greenhouse gas emissions; and
  - sets out the extent to which the amount of the State's greenhouse gas emissions has been reduced in relation to the amount of the State's greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2005.
- The first annual greenhouse gas emissions report to be produced under the provisions of the Act must be prepared by 31 October 2018 and laid before each House of the Parliament within 10 sitting days following completion of the report. For the reasons stated above, this report will present emissions data for 2015-16.
- Although not required by the Act, I intend that the report will also include a projection of Victoria's emissions to 2020. This information is important for informing the Victorian community as to how the State's emissions are tracking in relation to the Government's target to reduce emissions by 15-20 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020.

**Expenditure under 'Meeting the Government's climate change obligations'**

- The 2018-19 Budget provides \$1 million over two years for 'meeting the Government's climate change obligations'. This includes:

- i. **\$0.8 million** to support the preparation of sector mitigation pledges. The Act requires sector pledges to be prepared by 1 August 2020. The pledges will include a description of actions to be undertaken by the Government over the ensuing five years to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and an estimate of the level of emissions reduction expected from implementation of the actions.

Pledges will be prepared for sectors across the economy including energy, transport, agriculture, industry, waste and land use/land use change/forestry. Ministers with portfolio responsibility for these sectors will be responsible for preparing the pledges. Funding in the 2018-19 Budget will be used for the analytical work and stakeholder consultation required to prepare the sector pledges. Resourcing required to implement the pledges will be considered by the Government as part of the process to prepare the pledges.

- ii. **\$0.2 million** to ensure Victoria can continue to foster partnerships for action on climate change where such partnerships deliver benefits to Victoria. This funding will be used for activities including:
  - o Continuation of Victoria’s membership of the Climate Group and facilitation of Victoria’s engagement in the Under2 Coalition – the Coalition is driven by a group of ambitious state and regional governments committed to keeping global temperature rise to under 2°C and involves more than 200 governments who represent over 1.3 billion people and nearly 40 per cent of the global economy.
  - o Sponsorship of events that bring together governments, business and other stakeholders to engage on climate change policy issues – the annual Carbon Markets Institute Conference held in Melbourne is an example of such important and influential events that have been supported to date under this area of funding.
  - o New partnership opportunities with business and other stakeholders that arise during 2018-19 and 2019-20.

5. Please provide details of what the \$70 million has been spent on over the past four years regarding investment in climate change.

*(Asked by Ms Pennicuik, page 24 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

Budget	Key Initiative	Amount Invested
2018-19	Maintaining momentum on climate change action in Victoria. This will be used to ensure pledges are developed for all major sources of emissions across the economy, including energy, transport, industry and agriculture. This money will also go towards building partnerships for effective responses to climate change	\$1.0 million
	Building Barwon South’s capacity to respond to climate change impacts by identifying vulnerable locations and assets to inform future investment and adaptation plans	\$4.8 million
	<b>2018-19 Budget Total</b>	<b>\$5.8 million</b>
2017-18	Understanding the impacts of climate change and helping Victoria to adapt, including protecting our coasts – including	\$17.0 million

	improved climate change projections, vulnerability assessments, addressing climate change risks in land use planning, supporting regions to adapt, and developing a local coastal hazard assessment for Port Philip Bay	
	Establishing Victoria's state-wide emissions reduction targets for 2025 and 2030 and tracking the impact of policies to reduce emissions	\$1.4 million
	Action to reduce emissions from Government operations and support the Government to meet its 2020 operational emissions target to reduce emissions by 30% from 2015	\$2.0 million
	Harnessing world's best practice for climate change mitigation through seed funding for productive partnerships	\$0.8 million
	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from landfills through greater council recovery of household waste	\$0.6 million
	Leveraging local government action to reduce emissions	\$3.4 million
	<b>2017-18 Budget Total</b>	<b>\$25.4 million</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	Replace and upgrade critical coastal protection assets	\$15.0 million
	Protection of priority Victorian beaches and foreshores	\$2.4 million
	Monitor coastal flooding, erosion and land stability and undertake work to support State of the Bay reporting	\$4.0 million
	Virtual Centre for Climate Change Innovation, based on the successful European Union Climate Knowledge Innovation Community (Climate KIC) model	\$5.6 million
	Leverage private investment in Waste to Energy facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	\$2.0 million
	Modelling, feasibility and assessment frameworks to support climate change work	\$1.1 million
	<b>2016-17 Budget Total</b>	<b>\$30.1 million</b>
<b>2015-16</b>	Package of initiatives to ensure Victoria is prepared for climate change and support industry, local government and community organisations to invest in actions to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change	\$12.1 million
	<b>2015-16 Budget Total</b>	<b>\$12.1 million</b>
<b>Total Budget commitment 2015-2019</b>		<b>\$73.4 million</b>

6. With respect to Budget Paper No. 3 (p. 201) and departmental objective indicators of ‘reduction in emissions from government operations’ and ‘percentage reduction in Victoria’s greenhouse gas emissions relative to 2005’, why do we not use those reductions as budget paper performance measures? Please provide information on where these indicators are reported on.

*(Asked by Ms Patten, pages 29-30 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

- i) *‘Reduction of emissions from government operations’* is not included as a budget paper performance measure for the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) due to the fact that although DELWP has responsibility for developing the framework and strategic approach for pursuing this objective, individual departments and agencies covered by the target are responsible for taking steps to reduce their operational emissions and for reporting on these emissions.

Reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by departments and agencies is mandated under the Financial Management Act (FMA) Financial Reporting Directive (FRD) 24D: ‘Reporting of office based environmental data by government entities’.

Under this Directive, all departments and environment agencies (Environment Protection Authority and Sustainability Victoria) must, at a minimum, disclose information on office-based greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use, waste disposal, transportation (including vehicle fleet and air travel) as well as any greenhouse gas offsets purchased.

Departmental/agency reporting on any known greenhouse gas emissions associated with other activities is optional under FRD24D.

This information is reported in the relevant entities’ Annual Reports. The information is audited by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability each year as part of the strategic audit of the implementation of Environmental Management Systems in the Victorian Government.

- ii) *‘Percentage reduction in Victoria’s greenhouse gas emissions relative to 2005’* is not included as a budget paper performance measure for DELWP due to the time lag involved in obtaining state-level greenhouse gas emissions data. State-level emissions data – which is sourced from the Commonwealth’s National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (NGGI) – is not available until more than 18 months after the year to which the data relates. For example, the most recent inventory data available for Victoria is for 2015-16. Consequently, it is not possible to establish an outcome-based performance measure in Budget Paper No. 3 relating to greenhouse gas emissions in 2018-19 given that emissions data for 2018-19 will not be available until the first half of calendar year 2021.

Victoria’s *Climate Change Act 2017* (the Act) requires the Government to prepare an annual greenhouse gas emissions report which:

- sets out an overview and collation of the best practicably available information about the State’s greenhouse gas emissions; and
- sets out the extent to which the amount of the State’s greenhouse gas emissions has been reduced in relation to the amount of the State’s greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2005.

The first annual greenhouse gas emissions report to be produced under the provisions of the Act must be prepared by 31 October 2018 and laid before each House of the Parliament within 10 sitting days following completion of the report. For the reasons stated above, this report will present emissions data for 2015-16.

7. Please provide information on what overall volunteer support is given by the State to help people involved with Landcare and other community initiatives.

*(Asked by Ms Ward, page 32 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

- The Victorian Government recognises the importance and value of Landcare and other environmental volunteers and is working to strengthen and support environmental volunteering for the future.
- There are now around 600 Landcare groups and 67 Landcare networks throughout Victoria, plus 500 other community-based natural resource management groups such as Coastcare and 'Friends of' groups. These groups and networks collectively have more than 60,000 members. Around 80,000 volunteers participate in Landcare activities each year in Victoria.
- Environmental volunteers are an important partner in the delivery of the Victorian Government's biodiversity plan *Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037* and are supported through a range of programs and initiatives, including the following:

#### **Victorian Landcare Program**

- The Victorian Government committed **\$18 million** over four years in the 2016-17 budget to increase support for Landcare, bringing the annual investment for Landcare support to over \$9 million. This funding supports Landcare and other environmental volunteer groups through:
  - **Victorian Landcare Grants** - approximately \$1.9 million in 2018-19 will support environmental volunteer groups to protect and restore Victoria's environment.
  - **Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants** - partnership with Landcare Australia to deliver \$0.4 million in 2017-18 to support schools, kindergartens, and other youth groups to engage young people in caring for the environment.
  - **Community Skills Development Grants** - \$0.5 million in funding in 2017-18 to 59 environmental volunteer groups to undertake training and activities that will strengthen the capacity of volunteer community-based groups and networks
  - **Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program** – a \$4 million investment in 2018-19 for the employment of 78 Landcare Facilitators at the local level, who support environmental volunteer groups with planning, securing funding, building partnerships, community capacity and engagement.
  - Statewide support including a statewide Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator, 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators based in CMAs, corporate investment partnership with Landcare Australia, the Victorian Landcare magazine where volunteering stories are shared, the Victorian Landcare Gateway website where volunteer groups can access and share information.

#### **Biodiversity On-Ground Actions**

- \$2.4 million in 2017-18 to fund 73 groups for the Community Volunteer & Actions Grants which support community to continue to help protect, improve and expand habitats for our native plants and animals.

#### **Wildlife Rehabilitator Grants**

- In 2017-18 the Victorian Government has provided Victoria's wildlife rehabilitators with \$0.17 million to 107 successful applicants in funding to help them care for sick, injured and

orphaned wildlife. New round of grants was launched on 1 July 2018, with \$0.17 million in 2018-19.

#### **Port Phillip Bay Fund**

- The Port Phillip Bay Fund (\$10 million over four years) was established through funding in the 2016-17 State budget and targets a variety of local community actions in the bay and bay catchment area.
  - 75 projects totalling **\$7.6 million** have been funded through round one and round two of the fund.
- Additionally, the Victorian Government provides support to Victoria's environmental volunteers to enable their success through projects such as:

#### **Connecting Communities**

- The project will:
  - establish additional networking opportunities to connect all sectors interested in biodiversity actions and knowledge sharing through face to face discussions, webinars/ video-conferencing, regional and state seminars and on-line forums;
  - provide training opportunities across the sector to improve use of the tools available (such as the Biodiversity Portal) and resources and sharing of information between various stakeholder groups for biodiversity projects;
  - enable DELWP biodiversity and technical specialists to engage more directly to support 'community at centre', including via citizen science; and
  - evaluate success, share learnings and profile achievements.

#### **Citizen Science**

- DELWP has completed a comprehensive analysis of the citizen science sector, particularly across Victoria and is leading some citizen science programs, and evaluating both the value of the contributed data and the value of the experience to the participants; these results are helping us learn more about best practice citizen science which we will share with the sector, to provide 'scaffolding' support.
- One of these current programs involves training citizens to capture key features when photographing whales, and upload these photos to a website to enable individual whale identification for matching and inclusion in the existing national whale catalogue. Another program invites recreational fishers to contribute fish ear bones to improve our knowledge about how native fish are responding to environmental water delivery in Victoria's northern rivers.

#### **VBA Go** (Victorian Biodiversity Atlas)

- VBA Go is a mobile version of the statewide Victorian Biodiversity Atlas that enables the public with an interest in wildlife and wildflowers to discover what has been recorded around them and to record and share their own observations.
- For the first-time people have access to the state's observation dataset on their mobile phones with images and descriptive information to aid identification and engage our citizen scientist to contribute to our collective knowledge of where species are now and how that is changing over time.

8. With respect to Budget Paper No. 3 (p. 59) and the 'Recycling industry assistance package', please provide a breakdown of funds that each local council has received.

*(Asked by Mr Smith, page 32 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)*

- A total of 78 out of 79 councils have been funded under the Recycling Services Temporary Relief Funding Program. (Please note, at the date of the PAEC hearing 77 out of 79 councils had been funded).
- Southern Grampians Shire Council has opted not to take up the funding.
- A total of \$11,935,812 has been allocated to the 78 councils, calculated at \$60 per tonne for comingled recyclables collected between 1 March 2018 and 30 June 2018.
- Total forecast tonnage for the 78 councils for the period 1 March 2018 to 30 June 2018 is 198,930 tonnes.
- All 78 councils have now received 50 per cent of their allocated funding.
- The following table shows a breakdown of funding allocations to councils, with forecast tonnage and funding received as at 30 June 2018.

#### Recycling Services Temporary Relief Funding to Local Governments

Council	Estimated Tonnage from 1 March 2018 until 30 June 2018	Committed Funding	Funding Received as at 30 June 2018
Alpine Shire Council	584	\$35,048	\$17,524
Ararat Rural City Council	300	\$18,000	\$9,000
Ballarat City Council	3,120	\$187,200	\$93,600
Banyule City Council	4,180	\$250,800	\$125,400
Bass Coast Shire Council	1,445	\$86,670	\$43,335
Baw Baw Shire Council	1,696	\$101,752	\$50,876
Bayside City Council	3,666	\$219,960	\$109,980
Benalla Rural City Council	564	\$33,840	\$16,920
Boroondara City Council	6,750	\$405,000	\$202,500
Borough of Queenscliffe	181	\$10,860	\$5,430
Brimbank City Council	5,200	\$312,000	\$156,000
Buloke Shire Council	277	\$16,594	\$8,297
Campaspe Shire Council	1,414	\$84,840	\$42,420
Cardinia Shire Council	3,406	\$204,360	\$102,180
Casey City Council	8,959	\$537,540	\$268,770
Central Goldfields Shire Council	480	\$28,800	\$14,400
Colac Otway Shire Council	740	\$44,400	\$22,200
Corangamite Shire Council	522	\$31,320	\$15,660
Darebin City Council	4,859	\$291,540	\$145,770
East Gippsland Shire Council	1,418	\$85,054	\$42,527
Frankston City Council	5,235	\$314,100	\$157,050
Gannawarra Shire Council	394	\$23,640	\$11,820
Glen Eira City Council	4,370	\$262,200	\$131,100
Glenelg Shire Council	712	\$42,710	\$21,355
Golden Plains Shire Council	795	\$47,700	\$23,850



<b>Council</b>	<b>Estimated Tonnage from 1 March 2018 until 30 June 2018</b>	<b>Committed Funding</b>	<b>Funding Received as at 30 June 2018</b>
Greater Bendigo City Council	4,000	\$240,000	\$120,000
Greater Dandenong City Council	4,136	\$248,160	\$124,080
Greater Geelong City Council	9,200	\$552,000	\$276,000
Greater Shepparton City Council	2,232	\$133,920	\$66,960
Hepburn Shire Council	555	\$33,300	\$16,650
Hindmarsh Shire Council	140	\$8,400	\$4,200
Hobsons Bay City Council	3,410	\$204,600	\$102,300
Horsham Rural City Council	600	\$36,000	\$18,000
Hume City Council	6,400	\$384,000	\$192,000
Indigo Shire Council	560	\$33,600	\$16,800
Kingston City Council	6,000	\$360,000	\$180,000
Knox City Council	5,105	\$306,300	\$153,150
Latrobe City Council	3,000	\$180,000	\$90,000
Loddon Shire Council	200	\$12,000	\$6,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	1,560	\$93,600	\$46,800
Manningham City Council	3,561	\$213,660	\$106,830
Mansfield Shire Council	440	\$26,400	\$13,200
Maribyrnong City Council	2,500	\$150,000	\$75,000
Maroondah City Council	3,779	\$226,740	\$113,370
Melbourne City Council	3,450	\$207,000	\$103,500
Melton City Council	4,100	\$246,000	\$123,000
Mildura Rural City Council	1,787	\$107,220	\$53,610
Mitchell Shire Council	1,353	\$81,180	\$40,590
Moira Shire Council	960	\$57,600	\$28,800
Monash City Council	5,187	\$311,192	\$155,596
Moonee Valley City Council	3,685	\$221,100	\$110,550
Moorabool Shire Council	1,061	\$63,672	\$31,836
Moreland City Council	5,659	\$339,540	\$169,770
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	7,168	\$430,080	\$215,040
Mount Alexander Shire Council	640	\$38,400	\$19,200
Moyne Shire Council	404	\$24,240	\$12,120
Murrindindi Shire Council	480	\$28,818	\$14,409
Nillumbik Shire Council	2,101	\$126,060	\$63,030
Northern Grampians Shire Council	386	\$23,160	\$11,580
Port Phillip City Council	3,470	\$208,200	\$104,100
Pyrenees Shire Council	184	\$11,040	\$5,520
South Gippsland Shire Council	710	\$42,624	\$21,312
Stonnington City Council	3,150	\$189,000	\$94,500

Council	Estimated Tonnage from 1 March 2018 until 30 June 2018	Committed Funding	Funding Received as at 30 June 2018
Strathbogie Shire Council	460	\$27,600	\$13,800
Surf Coast Shire Council	1,368	\$82,080	\$41,040
Swan Hill Rural City Council	640	\$38,400	\$19,200
Towong Shire Council	230	\$13,804	\$6,902
Wangaratta Rural City Council	1,200	\$72,000	\$36,000
Warrnambool City Council	1,192	\$71,492	\$35,746
Wellington Shire Council	1,320	\$79,200	\$39,600
West Wimmera Shire Council	65	\$3,908	\$1,954
Whitehorse City Council	5,400	\$324,000	\$162,000
Whittlesea City Council	5,601	\$336,060	\$168,030
Wodonga City Council	1,200	\$72,000	\$36,000
Wyndham City Council	6,565	\$393,900	\$196,950
Yarra City Council	3,200	\$192,000	\$96,000
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	5,731	\$343,834	\$171,917
Yarriambiack Shire Council	180	\$10,800	\$5,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198,930</b>	<b>\$11,935,812</b>	<b>\$5,967,906</b>

9. Will you make publicly available the report into the use of departmental credit cards prepared by McGrathNicol?

(Asked by Mr O'Brien, p 24 of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change portfolio transcript)

I provided a copy of this report to PAEC in September 2017. I have attached another copy of the report and accompanying fact sheet for your reference.