

**ATTACHMENT: PAEC INQUIRY INTO THE 2016–17 BUDGET ESTIMATES —
QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION
AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT HEARINGS**

ENERGY PORTFOLIO

1. Regarding the economic modelling undertaken by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) into the impact of the increase in the Brown coal royalty on jobs and energy prices, please provide:
 - a. the cost of the modelling
 - b. the name of the contractor who provided this if it was not undertaken by DEDJTR.

(Page 8 of the Energy and Resources portfolio transcript)

Response

- Decisions of government are underpinned by a range of analysis, including modelling.
 - If the requisite expertise cannot be identified for a particular work program, governments will engage consultants.
 - In relation to the change to the coal royalty, additional expertise was sought from Ernst and Young and ACIL Allen Consulting. This was paid from existing budget allocations for 2015-16.
2. How much funding has been committed to establish and meet the government's 20 per cent VRET target by 2020?

(Page 15–16 of the Energy and Resources portfolio transcript)

Response

- In the 2016–17 State Budget, the Victorian Government has allocated \$12.3 million to the *Driving Growth in Renewable Energy* initiative.
 - This initiative will help implement the Victorian Renewable Energy Action Plan which includes funding to support delivery of Victorian renewable energy targets for 2020 and 2025.
3. What was the total amount spent on modelling and consultation for the VRET, and what organisations received this funding?

(Page 16 of the Energy and Resources portfolio transcript)

Response

- Last year, the Victorian Government released its Renewable Energy Roadmap.
- In the Roadmap, the Government committed to assessing policy options to deliver wholesale market transition.
- The Government engaged economists from Ernst and Young and communication specialists from Kathy Jones and Associates to achieve this commitment.

- Funding was allocated from the Facilitating Low Emissions Transition work program to deliver on this commitment.

4. What are the current or future initiatives or strategies the Government is considering concerning the reduction of energy price pressure for people living in public housing?

(Page 18 of the Energy and Resources portfolio transcript)

Response

- In the 2016–17 State Budget, the Victorian Government has committed \$10 million over three years under the *Saving Energy, Growing Jobs* initiative to retrofit public housing stock and homes of Victorians who have complex health conditions over the next three years.
- This program will provide vulnerable households with tailored energy efficiency advice, retrofits and appliance upgrades to make their homes more energy efficient and help reduce energy bills.

5. If the information is available, please indicate to the Committee when the most recent meeting was held between the Minister for Energy and Resources and AGL.

(Page 20 of the Energy and Resources portfolio transcript)

Response

- The most recent meeting between the Minister for Energy and Resources and AGL was held on 22 April 2016.