

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

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER

1. Please indicate how many staff will be re-employed in the climate change section of the department.

(Pages 16-17 and 31 of the Environment, Climate Change and Water portfolio transcript)

The cumulative impact of savings measures imposed by the previous government since 2012-13, including the Sustainable Government Initiative, combined with minimal new investment in climate change initiatives over the same period, has diminished the department's capacity to lead on climate change.

As part of the Victorian Government's focus on strengthening the state's response to climate change, since November 2014 the department has commenced work on a range of initiatives and is currently undertaking merit-based recruitment actions to build capacity and better support the government's aim to position Victoria as a leader in climate change.

The independent review of the *Climate Change Act 2010* is one of the first steps towards restoring Victoria's status as a leader and model for other governments in tackling climate change.

The 2015-16 Budget also provides \$12 million for the Climate Change Action Package. Part of this funding will maintain momentum on local climate change action through local government working with businesses and communities on mitigation and adaptation activities. This funding will also ensure Victoria is prepared for drought and climate change by understanding and planning for the water-related impacts of drought, climate change, population growth and changing land use.

In addition, by bringing together the three portfolios of: Environment, Climate Change and Water; Planning; and Local Government, to create the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in January 2015, the department is better positioned to seize opportunities and partner with all levels of government to respond to climate change through risk mitigation and adaptation strategies.