

PAEC Inquiry into the 2018-19 Budget Estimates – Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearing

Minister Dalidakis, Trade and Investment, Friday 1 June 2018

Question 1

The 2018-19 Budget Paper No. 3 (p. 121) shows the Trade line item substantially less than what was referred to for the 2014-15 year at \$37.3 million in the 2015–16 Budget (BP3 pp. 15-16). As the 2018-19 Budget Papers indicated an output expenditure of \$28.2 million, please provide the reasons for the difference.

Response

The Government has increased budget funding for trade programs by over 50 per cent from the 2015-16 budget to the 2018-19 budget.

Trade output funding in the 2015-16 budget was impacted by a re-allocation of funding by the Government to the Employment and Investment Output, primarily to the Premier's Jobs and Investment Fund (PJIF). The objective of this re-allocation was to reform the approach to economic development and prioritise programs that enhance jobs.

The PJIF has facilitated over 18,600 new jobs since 1 December 2014 and indirectly contributes to trade outcomes through the attraction of new globally focussed international organisations to Victoria.

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Question 2

What is the rate of return on government investment in trade? To achieve the \$600 million, how much did we invest for that return?

Response

The Government's Trade Engagement initiatives fund several programs designed to assist Victorian organisations achieve their international trade objectives including:

- inbound and outbound trade mission programs
- capability building programs (training workshops and voucher programs including the Asia Capability Voucher program)
- bespoke in-market export assistance through the Access program; and
- eCommerce capability building programs.

The expected expenditure of these programs for the 2017-18 financial year is \$28.2 million as detailed on BP3 page 147. This figure is \$2 million higher than target, which is due to additional funding for the Positioning Victoria as a Leader in Asia Capabilities initiative.

The Government's trade programs also contribute the following BP3 measures, all of which have been met or exceeded for the 2017/18 financial year:

- clients engaged in export and trade programs – 2,500 (2017-18 Target Met)
- international delegates participating in the inbound mission program – 550 (2017-18 Target Met)
- significant interactions with Victorian agri-food companies and exporters – 250 (2017-18 Target Met); and
- actual export sales generated for regional businesses as a result of participation in government programs - \$55 million (2017-18 target met).