

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

INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO

- 1. What amount of funding allocated to the Future Industries Fund had been expended so far in the 2015-16 financial year?**

(Page 6 of the Industry portfolio transcript)

Reply

The following program funding has been committed to date in the 2015–16 financial year:

- \$1,532,036 in grant funding to seven companies has been committed under the \$5 million Future Industries Manufacturing Fund.
- Round One of the \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund closed on 16 March 2016 and applications are currently being assessed.
- The \$20 million Future Industries Sector Growth Program was launched on 17 March 2016 and no funding has been committed at this stage.
- In the 2015-16 financial year, as at 20 May 2016 \$477,701.03 had been spent by the department in developing the Future Industries initiative.
- In addition, \$26.4 million was invested in the 2015-16 State Budget in strategic initiatives in the medical technologies and pharmaceuticals sector that will help drive growth in that sector.

- 2. Please provide the Committee with an example of a successful applicant that received funding under the Future Industries Fund.**

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Reply

- A Future Industries Manufacturing Program grant of \$195,247 was given to Southern Cross Ceramics Pty Ltd as part of a \$802,439 project to improve its manufacturing capabilities.
- The grant will support the ceramics tile manufacturer to employ 15 new workers, help transition 14 existing staff to new roles, and purchase new digital printing equipment.

3. What amount of the \$5.5 million funding allocated to the *Melbourne's North Innovation Investment Fund* initiative for 2015-16 has been expended so far and how many jobs have been created as part of this initiative?

(Page 12 of the Industry portfolio transcript)

Reply

- The \$5.5 million referred to is part of the \$10.6 million additional funding the Victorian Government committed to Melbourne's North as an election commitment to build on and improve the \$24.5 million Melbourne's North and Geelong Region's Innovation and Investment Funds (MNIIF and GRIIF).
- MNIIF and GRIIF are joint Commonwealth Government, Victorian Government, Ford Australia and Alcoa programs managed by the Commonwealth Government.
- In 2015, the Commonwealth Government decided not to continue contributing to MNIIF and GRIIF, and subsequently the Victorian Government developed the \$33.1 million Local Industry Fund for Transition (LIFT) under the \$46.5 million Towards Future Industries: Victoria's Automotive Transition Plan.
- LIFT was launched on 7 December 2015 and was expanded to include Melbourne's West and South-East in addition to Melbourne's North and the Geelong region to assist the communities most affected by the impending closure of passenger car manufacturing in Victoria.
- LIFT is currently open for expressions of interest and a number of applications are under assessment.

4. Please provide a list of the successful applicants who have received funding under the *Victoria's Automotive Transition Plan*.

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Reply

- *I note that the question from the transcript requests 'Can you tell us how many applications you have had for funding support from that program (ASCTP) and how many companies have been successful in their applications and have benefited from that funding to date?'*
- In response to this question, twenty seven applications have been submitted to the \$5 million Automotive Supply Chain Transition Program and eleven of these have been supported for funding. These companies are:
 - Belmatic Industries Pty Ltd.
 - Perroplas Australia Pty Ltd.
 - Woodbridge Australia Group Pty Ltd.
 - MHG Glass Pty Ltd.
 - Entegro Group Pty Ltd.
 - Composite Materials Engineering Pty Ltd.

- Venture Campbellfield Pty Ltd.
- Boge Elastmetall Australia Pty Ltd.
- Roehlen Industries Pty Ltd.
- Dolphin Products Pty Ltd.
- Venture DMG Pty Ltd.

In addition one company, Recyclable Packaging Pty Ltd, has been supported under the Local Industry Fund for Transition.

5. What is the purpose and role of the automotive task force overseeing the implementation of *Victoria's Automotive Transition Plan*?

(Page 15 of the Industry portfolio transcript)

Reply

- The \$46.5 million *Towards Future Industries: Victoria's Automotive Transition Plan* will be overseen and coordinated by a Victorian Automotive Taskforce.
- The Taskforce will provide advice to the Victorian Government on the transition process and will include representation from industry, unions, community organisations and state government.