

## Responses to Questions on Notice or further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Witness	Jo de Morton
Committee member	Bev McArthur
Topic	Roadside Weed and Pest Maintenance
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**Danny O'BRIEN:** Secretary, can I ask maybe, is the allocation per council available?

**Jo de MORTON:** We might need to take that on notice if we do not have the answer here.

**Bev McARTHUR:** And if all rural and regional councils are receiving funding.

**Jo de MORTON:** Mr O'Brien, we could certainly get you that information.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Thank you.

**Jo de MORTON:** And it is not all, Ms McArthur, it is the 45.

**Bev McARTHUR:** Right. So they are all getting funding?

**Jo de MORTON:** We will double-check the list that we provide back to the committee.

### Question

Can you provide the list of which councils are getting funding, and the level of funding? Allocation by council?

### Answer

The 45 councils that have received funding under the 2023-24 Roadside Weeds and Pests Program are as follows:

Alpine (S)	\$21,329
Ararat (RC)	\$71,769
Bass Coast (S)	\$20,055
Baw Baw (S)	\$54,936
Benalla (RC)	\$41,956
Buloke (S)	\$85,000
Campaspe (S)	\$85,000
Cardinia (S)	\$32,502
Central Goldfields (S)	\$39,140
Colac Otway (S)	\$47,824
Corangamite (S)	\$69,665
East Gippsland (S)	\$78,734
Gannawarra (S)	\$68,717
Glenelg (S)	\$77,311
Golden Plains (S)	\$49,128
Greater Bendigo (C)	\$71,266
Greater Shepparton (C)	\$67,265
Hepburn (S)	\$37,659
Hindmarsh (S)	\$85,000
Horsham (RC)	\$85,000

Indigo (S)	\$46,994
Latrobe (C)	\$36,740
Loddon (S)	\$85,000
Macedon Ranges (S)	\$43,023
Mansfield (S)	\$26,901
Mildura (RC)	\$85,000
Mitchell (S)	\$39,318
Moirra (S)	\$85,000
Moorabool (S)	\$45,275
Mount Alexander (S)	\$39,259
Moyne (S)	\$81,519
Murrindindi (S)	\$36,325
Northern Grampians (S)	\$85,000
Pyrenees (S)	\$62,078
South Gippsland (S)	\$59,293
Southern Grampians (S)	\$85,000
Strathbogie (S)	\$67,176
Surf Coast (S)	\$29,123
Swan Hill (RC)	\$85,000
Towong (S)	\$37,540
Wangaratta (RC)	\$57,248
Wellington (S)	\$85,000
West Wimmera (S)	\$85,000
Yarriambiack (S)	\$85,000
Yarra Ranges (S)	\$38,933

## Responses to Questions on Notice or further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Witness	Nicole Rich
Committee member	Danny O'Brien
Topic	Rent review requests
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**Danny O'BRIEN:** Yes. Speaking of rents, you mentioned in your presentation 5448 rent increase review requests last year. How many of those were upheld in the sense of, presumably, the rent increase was knocked back?

**Jo de MORTON:** Well, the outcomes go back to the customer to take action. I might refer to Ms Rich and ask whether she has got any indication about that?

**Nicole RICH:** I was asked this at the rental inquiry as well. I understand why. It is a really important question. We are not the end part of the process, so it is difficult for us to answer that. The way that the legislative process works is a rent increase is only valid if you are given a formal notice. It takes 60 days before that comes into effect. The renter has 30 days in which to ask us if they would like a report or investigation, I should say, into whether the rent increase is excessive. They can use the report as essentially evidence in an application that they have a certain amount of time to bring to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. It is only the tribunal that has the power to declare that they find the rent excessive, and they can make an order setting a maximum rent.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** The department cannot do that.

**Nicole RICH:** We cannot do that. We can only give an assessment which the renter can take, so it makes it hard for us to report on the outcome

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Do you have data for how many requests you have had this year? As in, since –

**Nicole RICH:** I do not have the data in front of me about what the running total is but happy to take that on notice.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** That would be good.

### Question

Do you have data for how many (rent review) requests you have had this year?

### Answer

From 1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023, Consumer Affairs Victoria received 2,751 requests to investigate rent increases.