

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings

Portfolio:	Veterans
Witness:	Mr Robin Scott, Minister for Veterans
Committee member:	Mr Danny O'Brien
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Relevant text:

Mr D O'BRIEN: Minister, very briefly, you had a number of pictures of RSLs in your presentation, but there is no mention whatsoever of support for RSLs in the budget. Will RSLs still be able to apply for grants to upgrade their facilities to serve our veterans?

Mr SCOTT: Yes, the major capital works program, which continues.

Mr D O'BRIEN: So are those programs ongoing—funded ongoing?

Mr SCOTT: Well, there is certainly funding in the coming—

Mr D O'BRIEN: Minister, sorry. Can I get that on notice? I am going to run out of time. And perhaps also what the funding profiles for all those profiles are on notice, if I could, please.

The CHAIR: That is a good segue, Mr O'Brien. Thank you very much for wrapping that up.

Mr D O'BRIEN: Sorry, can I just get a yes from the minister?

Mr SCOTT: Well, I am certainly happy to provide some further formation on notice, but I would note that it is quite normal for there to be programs over, say, a four-year or two-year period, and that does not imply that there would be future funding cuts beyond that period.

Mr D O'BRIEN: Just what the future funding is would be welcomed.

Answer:

The Victorian Government has a strong reputation for delivering important grant funding to the veteran community. Grants available to the veteran community cover a range of activities including education and commemoration, community infrastructure and welfare support.

In the Victorian Budget 2018/19, the Government allocated \$2.242 million over two years to deliver the Veterans Capital Works Program. The Veterans Capital Works Program is available to all ex-service organisations, with the current round closing on 4 July 2019.

The demand and outcomes will be evaluated to inform future funding programs.

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Committee member:	Mr Sam Hibbins
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Relevant text:

Mr HIBBINS: All right. Thank you. Just in terms of people attending the Shrine, which is in the Prahran electorate, obviously there is a construction site with the Domain station going on next door. There are probably going to be trucks regularly using, I think it is, Birdwood Avenue as one of the main thoroughfares. Is there anything being done to ameliorate any negative impacts on the Shrine or attendance at the Shrine?

Mr SCOTT: Yes, and that is a good question. I have had some discussion with the Shrine trustees in part, but I understand that the Shrine trustees have been in close consultation with the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority about the works and the potential impact on the Shrine of Remembrance and Shrine reserves. They have undertaken to provide me with regular updates on the project's progress and any potential impacts on the activities at the Shrine of Remembrance. The planned works have a lower impact on the Domain precinct compared to other proposals in relation to a number of trees being removed and the continued use of St Kilda Road during the duration of works. Of course this is a very significant project, so I cannot say there will be no impact on the Shrine, but there certainly were consultation processes in place between the Shrine and the—

The CHAIR: Minister, unfortunately I will have to interrupt and ask you to take the rest of that answer on notice. Can I thank you very much for appearing before the committee today. The committee will follow up on any questions taken on notice in writing, and responses will be required within 10 working days of the committee's request.

Answer:

Under *the Shrine of Remembrance Act (1978)*, the Shrine Trustees are responsible for the care, management, maintenance and preservation of the Shrine of Remembrance and the Shrine Reserve land.

The Shrine Trustees and management are in regular contact with the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) about the works and impacts. No works on the construction of Anzac Station take place on ANZAC Day or Remembrance Day.

The Shrine Trustees broadly support the Metro Tunnel project and will continue to monitor and advise me if there is any significant impact during the works.

Anzac Station will provide an important interchange between train and tram services and will improve public access to the Shrine of Remembrance.