

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE PAEC HEARINGS

Police

- 1. Please provide the data from the report on why people attend police stations to the Committee.**

(Page 7 of the Police portfolio transcript)

Victoria Police advises that based on internal research conducted, data suggests that more than 80 per cent of enquiries handled at police station counters are related to either public support and administrative functions. These include matters such as witnessing affidavits, statutory declarations, document certification, or justice procedures (such as reporting for bail).

- 2. Regarding the establishment of task force to address the problems of theft of cars or theft from cars in the south east region, please advise:**
 - a. Details on the success of the task force**
 - b. Whether such a task force is ready to be replicated across the state.**

(Page 11-12 of the Police portfolio transcript)

Victoria Police established Taskforce Tense in the southern metropolitan region to target violent aggravated burglary, robbery, carjacking, vehicle crime, evading police and arson offences. In early May 2016, Taskforce Tense was incorporated into Operation Cosmas, which has a broader focus on gang activity across Victoria and is centrally coordinated across all four Victoria Police regions by Victoria Police Crime Command.

In its first month, Operation Cosmas had investigated 42 incidents in total, including theft of motor vehicle, theft from motor vehicle/criminal damage, burglary, aggravated burglary, armed robbery/attempted armed robbery and robbery.

Operation Cosmas has had an impact. As of 8 June 2016, Victoria Police have charged over 116 offenders with over 300 offences and executed 24 warrants.

Victoria Police will conduct ongoing reviews of the operation's success and value. As an organisation, Victoria Police continues to engage with stakeholders to identify the factors behind increased offending and explore intervention strategies towards preventing further offending.

- 3. Please advise, for the Cowes police station, numbers of:**
 - a. VPS staff**
 - b. Sworn staff.**

(Page 12-13 of the Police portfolio transcript)

Victoria Police advises that Cowes has a full time personnel of two sergeants, nine senior constables and one VPS staff member. A Senior Sergeant oversees the station. In addition, during events such as Moto GP, New Year's Eve and Christmas Holidays, additional members operate from the station as necessary.

4. Please provide the analysis of the evaluation undertaken by the Department of Justice and Regulation into the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council to the Committee.

(Pages 27 of the Police portfolio transcript)

Despite funding of more than \$325,000 a year to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council, car theft rates in Victoria have been going up, not down.

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council provided an analysis of its performance, set out in the Benefits of Theft Reform – Technical Working Paper, October 2014, prepared by MM Starrs Pty Ltd, which estimated the total economic benefit of motor vehicle theft reform over the past five years, and forecast for the next five years, as \$276 million.

The department noted that this \$276 million estimate included the value of all motor vehicle theft reform initiatives in Australia, irrespective of the role, if any, the Council played. It also included the future value of initiatives previously introduced. For example, the major economic benefits identified in the analysis relates to the flow on impact of the introduction of mandatory immobilisers in new vehicles, which was implemented prior to the establishment of the Council in 1999.

The department noted that inconsistent identification and naming of activities in the work plans and annual reports, together with poorly focused KPIs that often failed to correlate with activities in the work plans, made it difficult to accurately track or assess the Council's progress or achievements.

However, the department's analysis of the Council's work plans since 2010-11 identified that nearly 60 per cent of activities have either been delayed, deferred or not completed, or their progress has not been reported against. The Council's annual reports and annual strategic plans are available on its website.

The Government was also advised by the department that under the Council's then proposed 2014 to 2017 work plan, Victoria's funding would be cross-subsidising one-off activities in other states that will have no benefit for Victorians without additional investment.

This Government is focused on evidence-based approaches to preventing car thefts and we are giving the police and the community the resources they need to tackle the issue.

The Government has delivered a \$19.4 million funding injection for the Community Crime Prevention Program, with an increased focus on addressing the root causes of crime.

This funding will deliver a package of grant programs to build community engagement and capability for real evidence-based crime prevention.

As part of this investment, there will be an increased number of grants to assist communities to target the underlying causes of crime and to address crime trends, including car thefts.

The Government has written to the Council advising that they will be able to apply for these targeted grants once they open later this year for specific projects which are in line with the needs of the Victorian people.