

CHAPTER 8: DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT HEARINGS

8.1 Introduction

The Department of Planning and Community Development is responsible for the administration of nine portfolios:

- Veterans' Affairs;
- Aboriginal Affairs;
- Local Government;
- Senior Victorians;
- Community Development;
- Planning;
- Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs;
- Women's Affairs; and
- Skills and Workplace Participation (with Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development see Section 6.12).

8.2 Key budget themes for 2009-10

The Department of Planning and Community Development advised the Committee that:²⁶

- its key budget themes support the goal of leading and supporting the development of liveable communities in Victoria through improved planning and design for sustainable communities. This ensures better access to housing, infrastructure, jobs and services and increasing opportunities for participation;
- key budget themes identified in the *2009-10 State Budget* were an increased focus on strategies to assist in the management of population growth and minimise the pressure it places on communities and services. It is intended that these strategies will create economic stimulus and more resilient communities that are better able to respond to the impacts of the global financial crisis, the Victorian bushfires, drought and climate change;
- key strategies reflected in the budget include facilitating development and renewal of critical infrastructure, leveraging investment in communities and jobs, creating opportunities for volunteering and participation and preserving the heritage of local communities; and
- the budget continues the Department's role in delivering the goals of *Growing Victoria Together* and contributes to a range of key government policy directions, including the *Melbourne @ 5 million*, the *Victorian Transport Plan*, *A Fairer Victoria*, *Women's Policy Framework 2008-11* and a response to the *Veterans' Sector study*.

²⁶ Department of Planning and Community Development, *Response to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Questionnaire*, May 2009, p.1

8.3 Key assumptions that have been used to develop the Department's projections for 2009-10

The Department of Planning and Community Development identified the following four key assumptions upon which its projections for 2009-10 are based:²⁷

- the implementation and timing of payments for grant programs and infrastructure projects;
- staffing levels within the Department's budget projection;
- revenue paid into the *Community Support Fund*; and
- the Department's overall costs are managed within inflation.

8.4 Major Expenditure Policy Shifts in the 2009-10 Budget

The Department of Planning and Community Development stated that there were no significant expenditure shifts in 2008-09. The department indicated that two exceptions were the machinery of government change that resulted in The Victorian Multicultural Commission being located within the Department of Premier and Cabinet and required saving of \$3 million in 2008-09 to help fund the Government's response to drought.²⁸

8.5 Veterans' Affairs Portfolio

8.5.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. John Brumby MP, Premier in his capacity as Minister for Veterans Affairs on 11 May 2009. The Premier provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Tony Robinson MP, Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs; Ms Helen Silver, Secretary; Mr Philip Reed, Deputy Secretary; Mr Adam Fennessy, Executive Director, Policy and Cabinet Group, Department of Premier and Cabinet; and Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Premier, the Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.5.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.5.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

²⁷ Department of Planning and Community Development, *Response to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Questionnaire*, May 2009, p.2

²⁸ *ibid.* p.16

8.5.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Section 8.1):

- funding of the Veterans' Affairs portfolio (pp.5-6); and
- Shrine of Remembrance development and education programs (p.6).

8.5.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Premier provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.5.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions were taken on notice by the Premier at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants; and
- details of annual variations within departmental estimates.

A written response by the Premier to the Committee on this question is due by 15 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.6 Aboriginal Affairs Portfolio

8.6.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, on 18 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary; Mr Ian Hamm, Director; Mr Terry Healy, Deputy Secretary, People and Community Advocacy Division, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria; and Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Organisational Development and Communications, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.6.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.6.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.6.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Section 8.2):

- Victoria's response to the *Senate inquiry on stolen wages* (pp.3-4);
- implementation of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* (p.4);
- total output cost for the *Indigenous Community and Cultural Development* output (pp.4-5);
- funding of Reconciliation Victoria (pp.4-7); and
- the land and economic development program (pp.5-6).

8.6.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website. The Minister also tabled a listing of members that comprise a new task force on employment issues.

8.6.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

One question was taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants.

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on this question is due by 22 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.7 Local Government Portfolio

8.7.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Local Government, on 18 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary; Ms Prue Digby, Deputy Secretary, Planning and Local Government; and Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Organisational Development and Communications, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.7.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.7.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.7.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Section 8.3):

- municipal investigator of Brimbank Council (pp.4-7);
- *Councils Reforming Business* initiative (p.7); and
- accountability in local government (pp.7-9).

8.7.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.7.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions were taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants;
- strategy for the acquisition and disposal of properties; and
- social housing property data.

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 22 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.8 Senior Victorians Portfolio

8.8.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Senior Victorians on 19 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of her portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Ms Fran Thorn, Secretary; Mr Alan Hall, Executive Director, Financial and Corporate Services; Dr Chris Brook, Executive Director, Rural and Regional Health Aged Department; Ms Jane Herington, Director, Aged Care Branch, Department of Human Services; and Mr James MacIssac, Executive Director, People and Communities, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.8.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.8.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.8.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Sections 8.4):

- *Men's Sheds* program (pp.3-4);
- condition of, and funding for, category 1, 2 and 3 residential aged-care facilities (pp.4-5);
- *Seniors Register* initiative (pp.5-6); and
- Cognitive Dementia and Memory Services (pp.6-7).

8.8.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.8.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions were taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants;
- details of residential aged care fabric survey;
- Federal Government and third-party revenue;
- residential aged care facility redevelopments; and
- funding for cognitive dementia and memory services.

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 22 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.9 Community Development Portfolio

8.9.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Peter Batchelor MP, Minister for Community Development, on 19 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary; Ms Gillian Miles, Deputy Secretary, Community Development; Mr Damian Ferrie, Executive Director, Community Programs; and Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.9.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.9.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.9.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Section 8.5):

Community Development output measures

- *Community Development* output group - new and discontinued performance measures (pp.6-7); and
- *Community Development* output – breakdown of output cost (pp.10-11).

Community Support grants and Funds

- no-interest loan schemes (pp.4-5);
- the *Victorian Community Support* grants program (pp.5-6);
- appropriation funding for the indigenous program met by the *Community Support Fund* (pp.7-8);
- disclosure of projects funded by community support grants and allocation criteria (pp.9-10);
- the *Community Support Fund* – reconciliation between estimated revenue and the appropriation under the *Gambling Regulation Act* (p.12); and
- the *Community Support Fund* balance – unexpended but committed (pp.13-14).

Other Community Support Initiatives and Issues

- bushfire response (p.4);
- new commitments to support communities (p.7);
- the whole-of-government volunteering strategy (pp10-11);
- support for community enterprises and impact on social traders (pp.11-12);
- the Office for the Community Sector (pp.12-13); and
- community renewal projects (pp.8-9).

8.9.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The slides are available on the Committee's website.

8.9.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions were taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants; and
- cost of the *Community Development* output group.

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 22 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.10 Planning Portfolio

8.10.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Justin Madden MLC, Minister for Planning on 20 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Yehudi Blacher, Secretary; Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer; Mr Jeffrey Gilmore, Executive Director, Planning, Policy and Reform; and Mr David Hodge, Executive Director, Planning Services and Development Facilitation, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.10.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.10.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.10.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included matters unrelated to the Budget Estimates on Brimbank City Council, a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Section 8.6):

Victorian bushfire response

- new building standards (pp.9-11 and 17-18); and
- use of the planning system in assisting communities to rebuild (pp.13-14).

Development issues

- Development Assessment Committees (pp.15-17); and
- development and facilitation of strategic priority projects and its impact on Victoria during the Global Financial Crisis (pp.19-20).

Planning issues

- design of ecological and sustainable social housing (pp.17-19);
- *Central Activity Districts* (pp.22-23); and
- improvements to the planning system (pp.24-25).

8.10.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided the following documents at the budget estimates hearing:

- introductory slide presentation;
- *Development Assessment Committee's Delegate Model*;
- fact sheet - *Development Assessment Committees*;
- bushfire replacement buildings – Amendment VC57;
- pamphlet – *Volunteering for the bushfire rebuild*;
- *a guide to a safe return to your property*;
- *a guide to building in Victoria after the bushfires*;
- *bushfire Bulletin – March 2009*;
- *Temporary homes and buildings in bushfire affected areas*; and
- *A guide to assessing your property's Bushfire Attack Level*.

These documents are available on the Committee's website.

8.10.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions were taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants; and
- rebuilding currently underway in bushfire affected communities.

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 22 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.11 Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs Portfolio

8.11.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr James Merlino MP, Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, on 20 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Terry Healy, Deputy Secretary, People and Community Advocacy; Dr Peter Hertan, Executive Director, Sport and Recreation Victoria; Mr Stephen Gregory, Chief Financial Officer; and Ms Kati Krsevan, Director, Office for Youth, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.11.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.11.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.11.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Section 8.7):

Development of sporting facilities

- *Melbourne and Olympic Park Redevelopment* (pp.4-6);
- development of facilities in rural and regional Victoria (pp.6-7); and
- State Basketball Centre in Knox (pp.12-13).

Sport and major events

- support for sports clubs and community facilities affected by the bushfires (pp.7-8);
- major events (pp.9-10); and
- funding for local sport (pp.15-16).

Youth

- *Vulnerable Youth Framework* (pp.8-9);
- equitable access to tertiary education for rural and regional youth (pp.11-12);
- respect agenda and community support for youth (pp.13-14); and
- youth mentoring program (pp.14-15).

8.11.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation and an overhead on the Melbourne Park redevelopment at the budget estimates hearing. These documents are available on the Committee's website.

8.11.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

One question was taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants.

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on this question is due by 22 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.12 Women's Affairs Portfolio

8.12.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Maxine Morand MP, Minister for Women's Affairs, on 21 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of her portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Terry Healy, Deputy Secretary, People and Community Advocacy; Ms Fiona Mort, Manager, Policy Development; and Ms Rachael Green, Manager, Family Violence, Department of Planning and Community Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

8.12.2 General comments

At the budget estimates hearing, the Committee raised various matters concerning the budget estimates for 2009-10 (see Volume Two for the transcript of proceedings). Transcripts of the budget estimates proceedings are also accessible on the Committee's website at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/paec. Documents provided at the hearings of the budget estimates (see Section 8.12.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 22 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

8.12.3 Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing

Key matters raised at the budget estimates hearing included a standard question on Federal Government grants and the following (page references refer to the transcript in Volume Two, Section 8.8):

Violence against women

- evaluation of the *Women's Safety Strategy* (pp.3-4);
- women's safety programs (p.4); and
- impact of drought on family violence (pp.4-5).

Other issues

- women's leadership program (p.3);
- programs aimed at the attitudes of men in sporting organisations to women (p.5);
- Queen Victoria Women's Centre (pp.5-7)
- *Rural Women Leading Change* program (p.7); and
- impact of the Global Financial Crisis on women's employment (pp.7-8).

8.12.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The presentation is available on the Committee's website.

8.12.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

A number of questions were taken on notice by the Minister at the budget estimates hearing (see Appendix 2 - Questions on Notice, and the transcript in Volume Two) relating to:

- Federal Government grants;
- website information regarding the *Women's Safety Strategy*; and
- occupation details for the Queen Victoria Women's Centre.

A written response by the Minister to the Committee on these questions is due by 22 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

8.13 Skills and Workplace Participation Portfolio

The administration of this portfolio is managed in conjunction with the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. Full details for this portfolio are located in Section 6.12.