

CHAPTER 6: DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT HEARINGS

6.1 Introduction

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development is responsible for the administration of ten portfolios:

- Innovation;
- Financial Services;
- Information and Communication Technology;
- Small Business;
- Tourism and Major Events;
- Major Projects;
- Regional and Rural Development;
- Skills and Workforce Participation (with Department of Planning and Community Development);
- Industry and Trade; and
- Industrial Relations.

6.2 Key budget themes for 2009-10

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development advised the Committee that it developed its budget with reference to:²⁰

- Government priorities;
- Departmental strategies as contained in its *2008-11 Corporate Plan*; and
- savings requirements.

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

The Department Innovation, Industry and Regional Development advised the Committee that the following assumptions were made in developing the Department's projections for the 2009-10 financial year:²¹

- estimated carryover of \$35.1 million;
- budget escalation factor as applied by the Department of Treasury and Finance;

²⁰ Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, *Response to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Questionnaire*, May 2009, p.2

²¹ Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, *Response to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Questionnaire*, May 2009, p.2

- new initiatives endorsed by the Expenditure Review Committee; and
- cumulative savings of \$40 million.

6.4 Major Expenditure Policy Shifts in the 2009-10 Budget

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development advised the Committee that the Government's recently announced overhaul of Victoria's training sector had affected an expenditure policy shift for the Department in 2009-10. Key features of the training overhaul include:²²

- establishment of a *Victorian Training Guarantee* - an Australian first that gives people the entitlement to access Government subsidised training at any time on the condition they keep moving up the qualification scale for skills;
- funding for hiring of an extra 900 teachers and 500 non-teaching staff;
- supporting greater student choice - by enabling students to train at either public or community providers, including a much broader range of private providers;
- creating the opportunity (for the first time) for students to access finance to study in TAFE and private registered training organisations;
- \$52 million to deliver *Skills for Growth* - a new workforce development program to assist Victorian businesses develop the skills of their workforce; and
- \$20 million investment into boosting broadband capacity in TAFE.

Assumptions underpinning the policy shift include:

- while Victoria has recently enjoyed strong economic growth, skills shortages are already presenting a constraint on the capacity of the economy. Growth in productivity has slowed and we face some significant challenges in maintaining and improving economic outcomes;
- there is now a shortage of skilled workers across a range of industries, and these shortages constrain capacity, slow growth and restrict the ability of businesses to stay competitive;
- beyond the immediate shortages, Victoria needs capable workers with skills in the right areas and the right levels for the future, a workforce able to meet changing industry needs and the needs of businesses operating in the global market;
- for businesses to be competitive globally, and for individuals to be competitive in the labour market, individuals need a post-school qualification, beyond Year 12 or Certificate II. Indeed, by 2015 it is estimated that Victoria will have a shortfall of approximately 123,000 Diploma and Advanced Diploma qualified workers; and
- there are 1.64 million working age Victorians with no post-school qualification. This weakens their attachment to the labour force, and for many leads to poor outcomes outside the labour force, underemployment or unemployment.

²² Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, *Response to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Questionnaire*, May 2009, pp.20-21

6.5 Innovation Portfolio

6.5.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Gavin Jennings MLC, on 8 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of the portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary; Mr Randall Straw, Deputy Secretary, Innovation and Technology; and Mr Jim Strilakos, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.5.2 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 6.5.4) are available on the Committee's website. Written answers to questions on notice should be submitted to the Committee by 15 June 2009. These answers will be considered by the Committee for inclusion in a further report.

6.5.3 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 6.1):

- new capital allocations to the Docklands Film and Television Studios (p.3);
- climate change and growth forecasts in the *2009-10 State Budget* (pp.3-4);
- new science projects and programs, including industry led projects (pp.4-5);
- *Victorian Innovation Strategy* funding (pp.5-6); and
- biotechnology projects and programs in the *2009-10 State Budget* (pp.6-7).

6.5.4 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.

6.5.5 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 15 June and will be considered for publication in a further report.

6.6 Financial Services Portfolio

6.6.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr John Lenders MLC, Treasurer, in his capacity as Minister for Financial Services, on 12 May 2009. The Treasurer provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Peter Collens, Executive Director, International Investment; and Mr Hugh Moor, Manager Financial Services, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Treasurer and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.6.2 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 6.6.4) 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.

6.6.3 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 6.2):

- development of financial services initiatives (pp.3-4);
- financial services initiatives – jobs, exports and skills (pp.4-5);
- attracting the carbon market to Melbourne (pp.5-6); and
- reduction in the compensated injury rate and WorkCover premiums (p.6).

6.6.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

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

6.6.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

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

- Federal Government grants; and
- financial services initiatives – jobs and exports.

A written response by the Treasurer to the Committee on these questions is due by 15 June and will be considered for publication in a further report.

6.7 Information and Communication Technology Portfolio

6.7.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Mr John Lenders MLC, Treasurer, in his capacity as Minister for Information and Communication Technology, on 12 May 2009. The Treasurer provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Randall Straw, Deputy Secretary, Innovation and Technology, and Mr Jim Strilakos, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Treasurer and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.7.2 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 6.7.4) 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.

6.7.3 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 6.3):

- interaction between ICT projects and the broadband revolution (pp.2-3);
- Victorian broadband demand report (pp.3-5);
- impact on output projections if the national broadband network's corporation headquarters were to be located in Victoria (pp.5-6); and
- access to high speed broadband by communities of less than 1,000 (p.6).

6.7.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

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

6.7.5 Questions taken on notice at the budget estimates hearing

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

- Federal Government grants; and
- access by nearby communities to broadband connected to government schools.

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

6.8 Small Businesses Portfolio

6.8.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Hon. Joe Helper MP, Minister for Agriculture and Small Business, on 14 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary; Mr Jim Strilakos, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development; and Mr David Latina, Executive Director, Small Business Victoria;. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.8.2 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 6.8.4) 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.

6.8.3 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, Section 6.4):

- payroll and land taxes on small business in comparison to other states (pp.3-4);
- *Reducing the Regulatory Burden* initiative (pp.3-4 and 6-7);
- *Skills for Growth* program (pp.4-5); and
- *World Class Service* initiative (pp.5-6).

6.8.4 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.

6.8.5 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; and
- removal of regulations under the small business portfolio.

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

6.9 Tourism and Major Events Portfolio

6.9.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Tim Holding MP, Minister for Tourism and Major Events, on 15 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Gregory Hywood, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Victoria. The Committee thanks the Minister and the accompanying officer for their attendance and assistance.

6.9.2 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 6.9.4) 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.

6.9.3 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 6.5):

Tourism

- investment in the Victorian tourism industry (p.3-4);
- assistance to bushfire affected regions (pp.4-5); and
- the impact of the global financial crisis on international tourism (pp.5-6).

Major Events

- transfer of major events funds to Department of Planning and Community Development (p.4); and
- total funding per year budgeted for major events (p.4).

6.9.4 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.

6.9.5 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
- bushfire recovery package, including promotion of the Falls Creek Easter Festival and Myrtleford Festival.

6.10 Major Projects Portfolio

6.10.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Tim Pallas MP, Minister for Major Projects, on 15 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of the Major Projects portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary; Mr Alf Smith, Deputy Secretary; Mr John Hall, Acting Deputy Secretary, Major Projects Victoria, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development; and Mr Sean Sweeney, Executive Director, Major Projects Victoria. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.10.2 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 6.10.4) 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.

6.10.3 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 6.6):

Major projects

- major project allocation (pp.4-5);
- Clarification around the output measures for the delivery of nominated major projects Victoria projects complies with agreed plans (pp.6-7 and 8);
- *E-Gate* redevelopment planning (pp.7-8);
- *Princess Pier Restoration* project (pp.8-10);
- Melbourne Fruit and Vegetable and Flower Markets relocation (pp.14-16); and
- Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development's role in responding to the Victorian Bushfires (pp.12-13).

Economic benefits of major projects

- Melbourne Convention Centre income generation (pp.11-12); and
- Melbourne Rectangular Stadium construction jobs (pp.13-14).

Other issues

- continuation of historical investment in infrastructure (pp.5-6); and
- Melbourne Rectangular Stadium environmental features and green building standards (pp.10-11).

6.10.4 Documents tabled at the budget estimates hearing

The Minister provided an introductory slide presentation at the budget estimates hearing. The Minister also provided the Committee with a handout in relation to the Princess Pier restoration project. The slides and handout are available on the Committee's website.

6.10.5 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;
- rating system used by the Green Building Council of Australia; and
- completion of question 9.1 of the Committee's *2009-10 Budget Estimates Questionnaire*.

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

6.11 Regional and Rural Development Portfolio

6.11.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Regional and Rural Development, on 20 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of her portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary; Mr Justin Hanney, Chief Executive, Regional Development Victoria; Mr Brad Ostermeyer, Executive Director, Infrastructure, Regional Development Victoria; Mr Jim Strilakos, Acting Chief Financial Officer; and Mr Carey Marsden, Manager, Business Improvement, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.11.2 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 6.11.4) 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.

6.11.3 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 6.7):

- *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund* – expenditure to date and allocation of funding by June 2010 (pp.5-6);
- *Regional Development* output group – increased funding (p.7);

- Projects under the *Regional Infrastructure Investment Program* – the Satyam Computer Services development and Huyck Australia in Geelong (p.7);
- *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund* – investment leverage (pp.8-9);
- allocation of funds from the *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund* to local government (pp.9-10);
- boosting regional economies over the forward estimates period (pp.10-11);
- funding of programs through the *Provincial Victoria Growth Fund* (pp.11-12);
- projection of population growth in regional Victoria (pp.12-13);
- regional aviation activities (pp.13-14); and
- appropriations allocated for bushfire recovery relating to regional development (pp.14-15).

6.11.4 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 agreed to email the department's website link in order to be able to access a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers regarding its evaluation of the *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund* (p.10 of transcript). The Minister also provided the Committee with a regional breakdown of investments according to various types (p.12 of transcript) and a handout explaining funding and support aimed at bushfire rebuilding in terms of regional development (p.16 of transcript).

6.11.5 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;
- funding breakdown from the *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund*;
- additional funding for airports; and
- financial assistance and support for bushfire rebuilding.

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

6.12 Skills and Workforce Participation Portfolio

6.12.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from Ms Jacinta Allan MP, Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation, on 20 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of her portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary; Mr Philip Clarke, Acting Deputy Secretary, Skills Victoria; Mr Stephen Ward, Director of Workforce Participation, Skills Victoria and Mr Jim Strilakos, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.12.2 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 6.12.4) 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.

6.12.3 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 6.8):

- youth allowance (pp.3-5);
- uptake of higher education by country students (pp.5-6);
- priorities under the *Securing jobs for your future – skills for Victoria* statement (pp.6-7);
- revenue from the new fee structure applicable to all qualification levels (pp.7-9);
- fee arrangements for students required to pay the full cost of a TAFE course (pp.7-9);
- budget initiatives to support Victorians through the current economic challenges (pp.9-10); and
- market contestability between TAFEs and private providers – monitoring, teaching and course delivery standards; information campaigns about courses; and course selection and career advice (pp.10-11).

6.12.4 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.

6.12.5 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;
- additional revenue from new fee structure for students;
- reconciliation between *Skills and Workforce Participation* output cost variances provided in the Committee's *2009-10 Budget Estimates Questionnaire* and *Budget Paper No.3*;
- funding arrangements with the Commonwealth; and
- market contestability between TAFEs and private providers.

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

6.13 Industry and Trade Portfolio

6.13.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Mr Martin Pakula MLC, Minister for Industry and Trade, on 21 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his Portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Dr Alf Smith, Deputy Secretary, Investment and Major Projects, Mr Wayne Lewis, Deputy Secretary, Industry and Trade, Mr Jim Strilakos, Acting Chief Financial Officer and Mr Carey Marsden, Manager, Business Improvement, Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.13.2 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 6.13.4) 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.

6.13.3 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 6.9):

Promoting Victorian industry

- events promoting investment in local industry (pp.5-6);
- improving export performance (pp.7-9);
- future trade fairs (p.12);
- encouraging competitiveness within the local transport rolling stock industry (pp.11-12);
- aerospace industry (pp.9-10);
- defence industry acceleration program (pp.14-15); and
- sustainable urban development (pp.10-11).

Other issues

- international and regional aviation (p.10); and
- *Industry Transition Fund* reporting (pp.13-14).

6.13.4 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.

6.13.5 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 questions is due by 15 June 2009 and will be considered for publication in a further report.

6.14 Industrial Relations Portfolio

6.14.1 Introduction

The Committee received evidence from the Hon. Mr Martin Pakula MLC, Minister for Industrial Relations, on 21 May 2009. The Minister provided an overview of his Portfolio at the start of the hearing, assisted by Mr Howard Ronaldson, Secretary, Mr Jim Strilakos, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Ms Bernadette O’Niell, Acting Deputy Secretary, Workforce Victoria, and Mr Matthew O’Connor, Acting Deputy Secretary, Workforce Victoria; Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee thanks the Minister and accompanying officers for their attendance and assistance.

6.14.2 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 6.14.4) 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.

6.14.3 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 6.10):

- union involvement in construction of the planned desalination plant (pp.3-4);
- national industrial relations system (pp.4-5);
- Building Industry Consultative Council (pp.6 and 9);
- industrial dispute resolution and ministerial involvement (pp.6-9);
- public sector wages policy (pp.8-9); and
- power of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner (p.9).

6.14.4 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.

6.14.5 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;
- union demarcation; and
- Victorian government construction contracts.

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