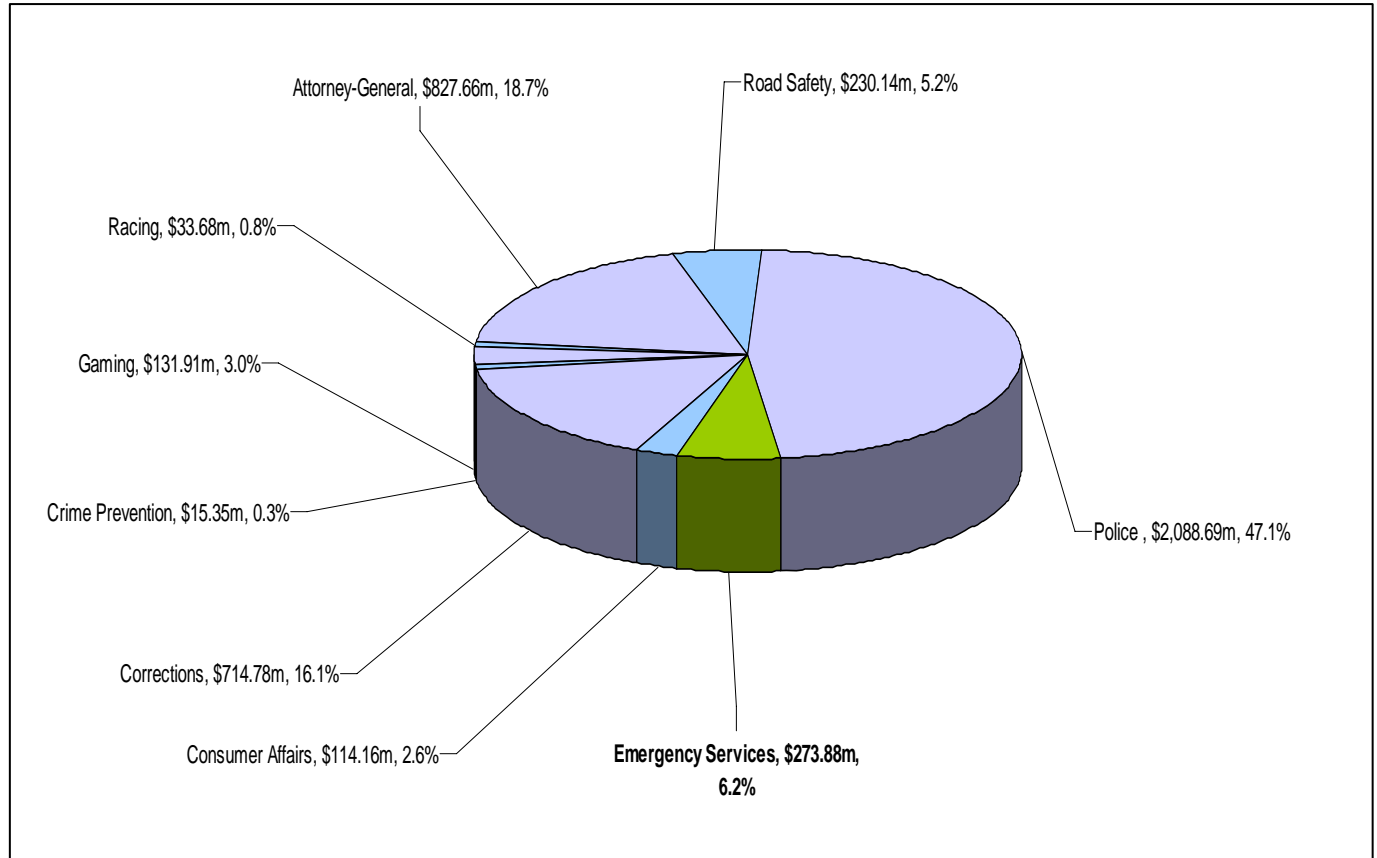


Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearing

Mr Peter Ryan MP
Minister for Bushfire Response

Emergency Services Budget Breakdown



Achievements – Implementation

- Placed Implementation Monitor on an independent statutory footing
- Appointed Mr Neil Comrie AO APM as the Implementation Monitor.
- Well advanced in development of Implementation Plan to be tabled in Parliament by 31 May 2011.

Achievements –

Fire Services Commissioner

- Issued Victoria's first Bushfire Safety Policy Framework to improve bushfire safety for all Victorians;
- Developed and implemented revised *State Command and Control Arrangements for Bushfire in Victoria*;
- Issued strategic control priorities, which focus on the primacy of life and issuing community information and warnings;
- Reviewed State Control Centre procedures and made initial changes to processes and systems;
- Acted as State Fire Controller over the 2010–11 bushfire season.

Achievements – Local Government Support

- The Commission recognised the importance of:
 - local planning for local needs and
 - boosting some Councils' capacity to perform their emergency management roles.
- \$11.3m for 30 staff - 5 for MAV and 25 for 34 Councils.
- Invested \$5.5m to accelerate development of municipal fire management plans and \$6.1m to improve efficacy and extend reach of Township Protection Plans

Achievements - Shelter

- 171 Neighbourhood Safer Places designated
 - 31 new NSPs since November
- \$13m to assist Councils to undertake works to establish NSPs in locations where it has proved difficult
- Developing a new refuges policy with interim State construction standards expected in July 2011.

Achievements – Buy Back

- Aim to have operating by next fire season
- \$5m as first stage of \$50m investment
- Voluntary acquisition as a last resort where other mitigation measures are not feasible;
- Non-compulsory acquisition of land – the owners must be willing to sell and the Government willing to buy;
- Criteria being finalised to assess what constitutes an “unacceptably high bushfire risk”.
- The Government will consult the community on the proposed program before it commences.