

**BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 2011-12 FURTHER INFORMATION –
INNOVATION, SERVICES AND SMALL BUSINESS PORTFOLIO
TOURISM AND MAJOR EVENTS PORTFOLIO**

**ATTACHMENT 1: QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION
AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE HEARINGS**

INNOVATION, SERVICES AND SMALL BUSINESS PORTFOLIO

1. How much is left in the budget from the Victorian Innovation Statement (eg Victoria's Science Agenda and the Strategic Projects Fund) and what are the Government's intentions as to how to spend that sum over the estimates period?
(Page 11 of the Innovation, Services and Small Business portfolio transcript)

Response

An uncommitted balance of \$26.5 million remains in the Strategic Project Fund (Victorian Innovation Statement). Commitments will only be made after careful consideration of the alignment of new investment opportunities with the government's desire to sustain the State's competitive advantage in translating research outcomes to economic and community benefits.

2. Please provide details of the budget cuts to the Victorian government business offices in the out years.
(Page 18 of the Innovation, Services and Small Business portfolio transcript)

Response

The overseas network of 13 Victorian Government Business Offices is a whole-of-Government resource, focused on attracting investment, supporting exports and managing whole-of-Government activities for Victoria, including building the State's relationships with key international regions.

In 2011-12 the offices will have tighter performance targets for facilitating export and investment opportunities and promoting job creation, to deliver real economic benefits to the State and to Victorian businesses and organisations.

The network of overseas offices has benefited from the strong Australian dollar over the past year and the Budget did not continue a lapsing program of \$630,000 in 2011-12.