



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

2013-14 BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Strategic priorities

Question 1

- (a) What are the Department's key strategic priorities underpinning its budget for 2013-14 and over the forward estimates to 2016-17?

The Department's objectives for 2013-14 and over the forward estimates are:

- Effective management of water resources to meet future urban, rural and environmental needs
- The community benefits from effective management of Victoria's assets
- Effective environment and adaptation policy, investment and regulation
- Reduced impact of major bushfires and other extreme events on people, infrastructure and the environment
- Create productive and competitive agricultural industries
- Sustainably manage fish, game and forest resources.

- (b) If applicable, how do these priorities differ from the previous year?

As a result of Machinery of Government (MOG) changes, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) has been created by merging together components of the former Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

Outside of the structural changes as a result of the MOG, the objectives of DEPI remain largely consistent with the objectives of the components of DSE and DPI that have been merged.

- (c) What are the impacts of any differences in the Department's strategic priorities between 2012-13 and 2013-14 on funding and resource allocation in the 2013-14 Budget?

As indicated above, the Department's objectives largely align with its objectives in 2012-13. As such, there has been no substantial impact on funding and resource allocation as a result of a change in departmental objectives.

- (d) Please identify any programs or initiatives (asset or output) over \$2 million relevant to the Department that have been curtailed, deferred, discontinued or completed as a result of changes in strategic priorities between 2012-13 and 2013-14. In describing the programs or initiatives, please use the same names as are used in the budget papers where applicable.

There have been no programs or initiatives (asset or output) over \$2 million relevant to the department that have been curtailed, deferred, discontinued or completed as a result of changes in departmental objectives between 2012-13 and 2013-14.

Question 2

Please identify any programs or initiatives that have lapsed in 2012-13 (i.e. will not be continued in 2013-14). For each program or initiative, please indicate the expenditure on this program/initiative in 2012-13 and the impact on the community of the lapsing. In describing the programs or initiatives, please use the same names as are used in the budget papers where applicable.

DEPI has one program that lapsed in 2012-13. This program was Sustainable Farm Families and the 2012-13 funding amount was \$0.29 million.

The primary focus of this initiative was to improve the health and wellbeing of farming families in flood affected areas. Physical and mental health and wellbeing are key factors influencing resilience and the program evaluation has demonstrated significant gains.

In November 2011 the Minister for Agriculture determined that future funding for this program should be initiated by Department of Health (DoH). Liaison with DoH has occurred to support the change process.

Question 3

What are the key Government policies applicable to the Department in 2013-14?

There are a range of Government policies applicable to the Department, such as:

- Environmental Partnerships - November 2012
- Government's Plan for Water
- Implementing the Government Response 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission - May 2011
- Growing Victoria's Food and Fibre – double Victoria's food and fibre production by 2030
- Victorian Timber Industry Action Plan
- Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria
- The Right to Farm
- Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

All policies are publically available.

Question 4 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

Please outline how the recommendations made by the Independent Review of State Finances in its April 2011 Interim Report and 2012 Final Report have been reflected in the development of the 2013-14 Budget and forward estimates.

Question 5 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

The VCEC released its final report on its Inquiry into a State-Based Reform Agenda in January 2012. Please outline how the recommendations emanating from the VCEC inquiry have been reflected in:

- (a) strategic priority formulation;

--

- (b) budget strategies; and

--

- (c) the development of the 2013-14 Budget and forward estimates.

--

2. Budget preparation**Question 6 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)**

Please detail the economic forecasts which had the most significant impact on framing the 2013-14 Budget, detailing for each the major revenue and expenditure items in the budget that have been affected.

Economic forecast	Affected items in the budget

Question 7 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

In relation to the line item 'Contingencies not allocated to departments' (in the note to the estimated operating statement on total expenditure by department) for the general government sector, please explain the reasons for any differences between:

- the amount provided for 2012-13 in the 2012-13 Budget; and
- the amount provided for 2013-14 in the 2013-14 Budget

--

Question 8 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

In relation to the estimated financial statements for the general government sector (estimated operating statement and estimated balance sheet), please explain any variations of more than 10 per cent (or greater than \$100 million) between the

estimates for 2013-14 published in the 2012-13 budget papers, and the budget forecasts for 2013-14 shown in the 2013-14 budget papers.

Line item	Reason for variation

Question 9 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

- (a) What new features have been incorporated in the budget papers for 2013-14 and why?

- (b) What previous features have been modified and why?

3. Spending

Question 10

For your department, please explain any variations of more than 10 per cent (or greater than \$100 million) between the revised estimate for 2012-13 and the target for 2013-14 for expenses from transactions (as presented in the Department's operating statement in the Statement of Finances budget paper) that relate to the following line items:

- (a) 'Employee benefits';
- (b) 'Grants and other transfers';
- (c) 'Other operating expenses' in aggregate; and
- (d) the major components of 'other operating expenses' for your department (please supply categories as appropriate).

	2012-13 (Revised estimate) (\$ million)	2013-14 (Budget) (\$ million)	Explanation for any variances greater than ±10% (or greater than \$100 million)
Employee benefits	488.7	400.7	The 2012-13 revised estimate has been constructed from components of the former Department of Sustainability and Environment and Department of Primary Industries as they existed prior to the Machinery of Government changes. The 2013-14 budget information is based on the new Department of Environment and Primary Industries. As such, the 2012-13 revised and the 2013-14 budget information is not directly comparable and any trends in expenditure may be incidental.
Grants and other transfers	612.9	646.2	
Other operating expenses	524.3	455.8	
Major components of 'other operating expenses' (please supply categories):	The only major component of other operating expenses with a variance close to 10% is listed below.		

Purchases Supplies and Services	501.2	432.7	<p>The 2012-13 revised estimate has been constructed from components of the former Department of Sustainability and Environment and Department of Primary Industries as they existed prior to the Machinery of Government changes.</p> <p>The 2013-14 budget information is based on the new Department of Environment and Primary Industries.</p> <p>As such, the 2012-13 revised and the 2013-14 budget information is not directly comparable and any trends in expenditure may be incidental.</p>
---------------------------------------	-------	-------	---

If the Department is unable to provide estimates for the expenditure on the components of 'other operating expenses' in 2013-14, please explain how the amount of 'other operating expenses' listed for 2013-14 in the budget papers was calculated.

Not applicable.

Question 11 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

With respect to the line item 'Net cash flows from investments in financial assets for policy purposes' in the general government sector cash flow statement, please identify:

- (a) the main projects facilitated through this expenditure in 2013-14 and the forward estimates;
- (b) the amount of funding for each of those projects in 2013-14; and
- (c) what policy objectives underlie the choice of investments.

Project	Value of funding (\$ million)	Policy objectives

4. Efficiencies and savings

Question 12

For each of the savings initiatives detailed in the table below, please detail (on the same basis of consolidation as the budget papers):

- (a) what actions the Department will take in 2013-14 to meet the savings targets;
- (b) any impact that these actions will have on the delivery of services; and
- (c) please identify the Department's savings target for 2013-14, with an explanation for any variances between the current target and what was originally published in the budget papers when the initiative was released.

Please note that the figures provided below represent the consolidated figure for DEPI post Machinery of Government changes. As such, these figures will not align with the figures published in previous budget papers.

Initiative	Actions the Department will take in 2013-14	Impact of these actions on service delivery	Savings target for 2013-14 (\$ million)	Explanation for variances to the original target
Government election commitment savings (2011-12 Budget)	These measures will continue to be achieved, through implementation of efficiency initiatives and corporate reform.	No material impact on service delivery.	\$24.1 million	No variation.
Measures to offset the GST reduction (2011-12 Budget)	These measures will continue to be achieved, through implementation of efficiency initiatives and corporate reform.	No material impact on service delivery.	\$11.1 million	No variation.
Capping departmental expenditure growth (2011-12 Budget Update)	These measures will continue to be achieved, through implementation of efficiency initiatives and corporate reform.	No material impact on service delivery.	\$38.1 million	No variation.

Maintain a sustainable public service (2011-12 Budget Update)	<p>DEPI reduced growth in non-service delivery and back-office roles through a range of measures including natural attrition, a freeze on recruitment, the lapsing of some fixed-term positions, as well as a Voluntary Departure Program.</p> <p>DEPI will undertake a constrained approach to recruitment, to ensure that growth in public service numbers are aligned to government service delivery priorities.</p>	No material impact on service delivery.	\$42.6 million	No variation.
Savings (2012-13 Budget)	These measures will continue to be achieved, through implementation of efficiency initiatives and corporate reform.	No material impact on service delivery.	\$40.2 million	No variation.
Efficiency measures (2012-13 Budget Update)	Reducing duplication in Government's Energy Efficiency Programs	No material impact on service delivery.	\$2.0 million	No variation.
	Supporting Sustainability Victoria's functions more efficiently	No material impact on service delivery.	\$7.0 million	No variation.

	Early progress of the Sustainable Government Initiative/ Adoption of an efficiency dividend to non-frontline departmental expenditure	No material impact on service delivery.	\$15.4 million	No variation.
Any savings or efficiency initiatives in the 2013-14 Budget	As part of Refocussing the Public Service, DEPI have flagged efficiencies through the restructure of the Department as MOG changes are progressed. 2013-14 efficiency dividend	No material impact on service delivery.	TBA TBA	No variation.

Question 13

Budget Paper No.2 for 2011-12 and 2012-13 indicated that funding previously allocated to departments for expenditure in 2013-14 was 'reprioritised or adjusted' to fund new initiatives. Please provide the following information about your department's share of the funding reprioritised and adjusted in these budgets and the 2013-14 Budget:

Budget in which funding was reprioritised or adjusted	What the reprioritised and adjusted funding was initially provided for	How much of the Department's funding was reprioritised or adjusted (\$ million)
2011-12	\$4.6 million in Forests and Parks Output base funding	A proportion of this funding was reprioritised. In total, \$4.6 million of the \$9.6 million for the 2011-12 budget initiative Intensive Management of Victoria's Parks was sourced from funding reprioritised from Forests and Parks Output base funding.

		(Page 70, Budget Paper No.3, 2011-12 Budget)
	\$0.15 million in Forests and Parks Output base funding	A proportion of this funding was reprioritised. In total, \$0.15 million was provided for Putting the buzz back into agriculture from reprioritised Forests and Parks Output base funding. (Page 139, Budget Paper No.3, 2011-12 Budget – please note that the Budget Papers indicate \$0.2 million. This is due to rounding)
	\$0.70 million Biodiversity Output base funding	A proportion of this funding was reprioritised. In total, \$0.70 million was provided for Shotgun Education Program and this was reprioritised from Biodiversity Output base funding (Page 139, Budget Paper No.3, 2011-12 Budget)
	Corporate support for Agriculture and Food Security programs.	\$1.4 million
2012-13	None	Not applicable
2013-14	Energy Efficient Rebates for Low Income Homes Rebates for Water Efficient Items and Appliances Agricultural and Food Security programs, including the Marketing Co-operative grant program	\$3.1 million for Energy Efficient Rebates for Low Income Homes \$25.9 million for Rebates for Water Efficient Items and Appliances \$4.9 million for Agricultural and Food Security Programs.

5. Asset and output initiative funding

Question 14

Please break down the Department's total output funding for 2013-14 (as provided in the Service Delivery budget paper) according to the amounts from:

- (a) output initiatives in the 2013-14 Budget;
- (b) non-ongoing initiatives released in previous budgets; and
- (c) base funding/ongoing funding.

Funding for initiatives released in the 2013-14 Budget	Funding for non-ongoing initiatives released in previous budgets	Base funding/ongoing funding	Total output cost (as in Service Delivery budget paper)
(\$ million)	(\$ million)	(\$ million)	(\$ million)
\$140.3	\$126.3	\$1,452.8	\$1719.4

Please note that the funding for non-ongoing initiatives represents the proportion of funding provided in 2013-14 that lapses by the end of the forward estimates (2013-14 to 2016-17).

A minor proportion of additional funding that lapses beyond the forward estimates (2017-18 and beyond) may be included in the base funding amount indicated above.

Question 15

The Department of Treasury and Finance has indicated to the Committee that '*the service benefits delivered through the asset investment are reflected in changes to the Budget Paper 3 Performance Measures*'.¹ Please list all performance measures that have been adjusted in 2013-14 as a result of recently completed asset investment projects.

NA.

Question 16 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

Please provide details of the estimated amount of expenditure on commissioned PPP projects each year across the forward estimates. For each year, please also indicate all PPP projects for which payments are expected to start in the year.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17

¹ Department of Treasury and Finance, response on the Committee's 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial and performance outcomes Questionnaire — Part Two, received 24 January 2012, p.9

Value of payments for PPP projects (\$ million)				
Projects for which payments will start in the year				

6. Revenue initiatives, departmental income (fees, fines, taxation measures, concessions and subsidies) and tax expenditures

Question 17

In relation to 2013-14, please outline any new revenue-raising initiatives and/or major changes to existing revenue initiatives. For each initiative/change, please explain:

- (a) the reasons for the initiative/change;
- (b) the assumptions underlying the analysis;
- (c) alternative scenarios considered;
- (d) the impact of any changes on service delivery (i.e. please detail all programs/projects that have been revised as a result of changes to existing revenue initiatives);
- (e) any performance measures or targets altered as a result of the initiative/change; and
- (f) the anticipated total value of revenue gained/foregone as a result of the initiative/change.

In describing initiatives, please use the same names as are used in the budget papers where applicable.

Initiative/ change	Reasons for the initiative/ change	Underlying assumptions	Alternative scenarios	Impact of changes on service delivery	Performance measures or targets altered	Anticipated total value of revenue gained/foregone
In relation to 2013-14, the Department does not have any new revenue-raising initiatives and/or major changes to existing revenue initiatives.						

Question 18

In relation to 2013-14, please outline any new tax expenditures or concession/subsidy initiatives and/or major changes to existing tax expenditures or concession/subsidy initiatives. For each initiative/change, please explain:

- (a) the reasons for the initiative/change;
- (b) the assumptions underlying the analysis;
- (c) alternative scenarios considered;
- (d) the impact of any initiatives/changes on service delivery (i.e. please detail all programs/projects that have been revised as a result of changes to existing revenue initiatives);
- (e) any performance measures or targets altered as a result of the initiative/change; and
- (f) the anticipated total value of revenue gained/foregone as a result of the initiative/change.

In describing initiatives, please use the same names as are used in the budget papers where applicable.

Initiative/ change	Reasons for the initiative/ change	Underlying assumptions	Alternative scenarios	Impact of changes on service delivery	Performance measures or targets altered	Anticipated total value of revenue gained/foregone
In relation to 2013-14, the Department does not have any new tax expenditures or concession/subsidy initiatives and/or major changes to existing tax expenditures or concession/subsidy initiatives.						

Question 19

For the Department's income categories (as appear in the Department's operating statement in the Statement of Finances budget paper), please provide an explanation for any items that have a variance of greater than 10 per cent or \$100 million between the revised estimate for 2012-13 and the budget for 2013-14.

Income category	Explanation
Output Appropriations	The increase reflects the Government decision of restructuring some activities via machinery of government.
Special Appropriations	Once off appropriation provided in 2012-13 for the Goulburn-Murray Connections Project – On Farm Irrigation Project.
Interest	The increase reflects the Government decision of restructuring some activities via machinery of government.
Grants	Reduction reflects the conclusion of the majority of the Victorian flood projects.

7. Grants from the Commonwealth**Question 20**

What impact have developments at the Commonwealth level had on the Department's component of the 2013-14 State Budget?

The most significant development at the Commonwealth level that impacts the Department is the expiration of phase one of the Commonwealth Government's natural resource management program '*Caring for Our Country*'. *Caring for our Country* commenced in 2008 and will expire in June 2013.

While phase two of the program is due to commence in July 2013, further information on this program will not be known for some time until after the Commonwealth Government budget.

There are two other inter-governmental agreements of significance:

1. Under the *Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed & Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement*, Victoria leads on Chestnut Blight. Two further years of surveillance is to be conducted, to be facilitated in 2013-14 by Commonwealth funding of \$0.15 million.
2. DEPI has a portfolio of many small to medium sized research, development and extension (RD&E) agreements, with co-funding from DEPI and a number of different Rural Research and Development Corporations matched by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The total value of Commonwealth investment for 2013-14 is expected to be at least \$12.5 million, to be expended on dairy, meat, grains and horticulture productivity RD&E.

Additionally, through its participation in a number of consortium bids, DEPI will

receive approximately \$1 million per annum over the next three years for a range of agricultural mitigation research projects for livestock, soils and cropping through the second funding round of the Federal Government's Clean Energy Future - *Filling the Research Gap* program.

Question 21 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

Please explain how any major changes between financial agreements with the Commonwealth have impacted on the State Budget for 2013-14, e.g. health and hospitals reform.

Question 22 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

What has been the impact of any changes to Victoria's share of the GST pool for 2013-14 and beyond? Please detail any actions that the State Government has taken in response to changes in the value of general purpose grants in 2013-14.

8. Net debt

Question 23 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

In relation to the net debt projections for the non-financial public sector for the 2013-14 budget year and over the forward estimates to 2016-17, please provide a break-down of the spread of net debt between the general government sector (GGS) and each of the main public non-financial corporations (PNFCs) concerned.

GGG/PNFC entity	Net debt, 30 June 2013	Net debt, 30 June 2014	Net debt, 30 June 2015	Net debt, 30 June 2016	Net debt, 30 June 2017

Question 24 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

What factors or assumptions have led to changes to the estimates of borrowings and net debt for 2013 and the forward estimates between the 2012-13 Budget and the 2013-14 Budget?

9. Geographic considerations

Question 25

Please complete the following table for up to five of the Department's largest projects (in terms of expenditure) benefiting:

(a) regional and rural Victoria; and

Project benefiting regional and rural Victoria	Budget allocation for 2013-14 (\$ million)	New or existing project?	Purpose of the project	How is the funding to be spent?	What performance measures are in place?	Expected net benefits	Net present value (in 2013 dollars), where applicable
DEPI's planned burning program	Planned burning is a state-wide program and actual expenditure in rural and regional Victoria is dependent upon the location of burns, which is in turn dependent on weather conditions.	This is an existing project. However additional funding is provided in the 2013-14 Budget.	DEPI's planned burn program is the use of planned fire to protect life, property and the environment, by reducing fuel levels and maintaining the health of plants and animals.	The funding supports the planning, preparation, and delivery of planned burns.	BP3 Performance Measures: "Fuel reduction burning completed to protect key assets" and "Personnel with accreditation in a fire role."	The protection of communities, property and the local environment.	N/A

Macalister Irrigation District 2030	6.20 million	New budget initiative, with funding announced as part of the 2013-14 budget.	The Government, in partnership with irrigators, will modernise the Macalister Irrigation District to in order to enhance farm productivity, save water and improve waterway health by reducing outflows.	Works to be completed include channel automation projects and outlet rationalisations in areas being modernised.		The project is expected to deliver 12,300ML of water savings	TEI of \$32.0 million.
Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Program	71.1 million in asset funding	Existing	The GMW Connections Project is investing more than \$2 billion to develop a water delivery network to match these changing needs and to support the many, varied and exciting opportunities for irrigated agriculture across Northern Victoria. The Project will also provide important opportunities and benefits for environmental and urban water users and will ensure the ongoing contribution of irrigated agriculture to our regional, state and national economies.	Strategic connections and backbone modernisation.	Performance measures are being managed by Goulburn-Murray Water. However, this project contributes to expected water savings as reported in the Department's output statement.	The GMW Connections Project is funded by the Victorian Government, Commonwealth Government and Melbourne Water and each investor will receive a defined share of the water savings achieved from improving the efficiency of the channel delivery network. The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments' shares of the water savings will deliver environmental benefits.	The project has an original TEI of \$2.063 billion.

Invasive Plants & Animals (IPA) program	21.5 million	Existing	To minimise the impact of IPA that threaten the productivity of the state's primary industries, natural resources, public amenity and community wellbeing.	Direct salary and operating costs.	<p>Number of properties inspected for invasive plant and animal priority species</p> <p>Known state prohibited weed sites monitored and treated in line with the relevant weed action plan</p>	<p>New high risk IPA are prevented from establishing in Victoria</p> <p>High risk IPA in the early stage of establishment are eradicated from Victoria</p> <p>High risk IPA of limited distribution are contained</p> <p>Community defined assets are protected by reducing the impact of widespread IPA</p>	N/A
---	--------------	----------	--	------------------------------------	--	--	-----

Securing and Developing Services to Farmers	18.4 million	Existing	To develop innovation technologies for the sustainable development of Victoria's food and agriculture.	Broadly, funding for this initiative is to be spent on delivering a refreshed baseline government service offer to Victorian farmers in light of the urgent challenges and emerging opportunities facing the farm sector; and recommending a new model of investment, to better enable the effective delivery of required services.	Reflected in a number of performance measures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new key enabling technologies and core science capacity competencies established/ upgraded by DEPI; and • postgraduate level/PhD students in training by DEPI. 	Benefits include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased productivity and competitiveness for the sector; • access to new markets; • improved response to climate, water and biosecurity risks; • improvements in animal welfare; and • increased effectiveness at enabling sector adjustment. 	Not available
--	--------------	----------	--	---	---	---	---------------

(b) metropolitan Melbourne.

Project benefiting metropolitan Melbourne	Budget allocation for 2013-14 (\$million)	New or existing project?	Purpose of the project	How is the funding to be spent?	What performance measures are in place?	Expected net benefits	Net present value (in 2013 dollars), where applicable
DEPI's planned burning program	Planned burning is a state-wide program and actual expenditure in metropolitan Melbourne is dependent upon the location of burns, which is in turn dependent on weather conditions.	This is an existing project. However additional funding is provided as part of the 2013-14 budget.	DEPI's planned burning program is the use of planned fire to protect life, property and the environment, by reducing fuel levels and maintaining the health of plants and animals.	The funding supports the planning, preparation, and delivery of planned burns.	BP3 Performance Measures: "Fuel reduction burning completed to protect key assets" and "Personnel with accreditation in a fire role."	The protection of Melbourne communities, property and the local environment.	N/A

<p>Office of Living Victoria</p>	<p>\$10.5 million (\$3.0 million from 2012-13 budget initiative and \$7.5 million from 2013-14 budget initiative). Please note that OLV also is responsible for the Integrated Water Cycle Management Grants project, which has a budget of \$24.15 million in 2013-14.</p>	<p>Existing</p>	<p>To help guide Victoria, its Water industry, associated sectors and community towards integrated water cycle management.</p>	<p>Research and planning. Also direct salary and operating costs.</p>	<p>BP3 performance measure - "Living Victoria Program recommendations implemented".</p>	<p>Lead the transformation of the way Victoria's water cycle is managed.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
----------------------------------	---	-----------------	--	---	---	--	------------

Modernising Farm Service and Science Assets – Melbourne Metropolitan Consolidation Strategy Project (Consolidating Accommodation – Metro, Attwood)	22.8 million	Existing	Funding will be utilised from divested property and land to create a consolidated metropolitan site for a biosecurity centre of excellence and service activities not conducted at the Biosciences Research Centre at Bundoora.	Development of a consolidated metropolitan site at Attwood.	There are no direct performance measures in place as the funding provided for this initiative is capital funding.	The project will create operational efficiencies, improved staff interactions, reduction of DEPI's property and environmental footprint, and better utilisation of the owned property portfolio.	Not available
Modernising Farm Service and Science Assets – Controlled Environments for developing new crops – Bundoora	5.1 million	Existing	Funding will be utilised from divested property and land for research facility upgrades (for agricultural sector).	Development of controlled environment (glasshouses) in Bundoora.	There are no direct performance measures in place as the funding provided for this initiative is capital funding.	The project will create operational efficiencies, improved staff interactions, reduction of DEPI's property and environmental footprint, and better utilisation of the owned property portfolio.	Not available

10. Performance measures

Question 26

For each initiative (asset or output) in the 2013-14 Budget with a total cost over the forward estimates greater than \$20 million (or a TEI over \$20 million), please list all new and existing performance measures in the budget papers related to the initiative. In describing initiatives, please use the same names as are used in the budget papers.

Initiative	Related performance measures
Increased Planned Burning	<p>Fuel reduction burning completed to protect key assets</p> <p>Community engagement plans developed and implemented in response to social research findings on community consultation needs of the Planned Burning Program</p> <p>Strategic engagement forums held to enhance community understanding and sustain support for the Planned Burning Program</p> <p>District fire operations plans completed</p>
Macalister Irrigation District 2030	None. However, the Department has a Departmental Objective Indicator which relates to this initiative – being “Proportion of properties directly connected to the modernised irrigation delivery system (in the Goulburn-Murray and Macalister Irrigation District).”
Office of Living Victoria	Living Victoria Program recommendations implemented

Question 27

Please indicate any changes that the Department has made since the 2012-13 Budget to increase the number of its performance measures that are outcomes-based.

In line with DTF's Strategic Management Framework, DEPI has developed a new set of outcome based Departmental Objective Indicators which are designed to measure progress against the Department's objectives.

The indicators have now been included as part of DEPI's output performance statement in the 2013-14 Budget Paper No.3.

Question 28 (Department of Treasury and Finance only)

Please outline any changes since the 2012-13 Budget to the Department of Treasury and Finance's processes of quality assuring other departments':

(a) performance targets in the budget papers;

(b) expected outcomes published in the budget papers; and

(c) the comprehensiveness of performance measures published in the budget papers.

Question 29

Please detail the processes undertaken by the Department to ensure that the '2012-13 expected outcome' for each performance measure published in the 2013-14 budget papers is a reasonable estimate.

The '2012-13 expected outcome' is based on the actual performance to date, as monitored, recorded and reported by DEPI, together with an up-to-date estimate for the remainder of the financial year. Consultation with internal and external stakeholders occurs during this process.

Question 30

In setting targets for performance measures in the 2013-14 budget papers, to what extent did the Department consider the '2012-13 expected outcomes' that were provided for the 2013-14 budget papers?

DEPI reviews its performance measures and targets on an annual basis to ensure that all performance measures and targets are still relevant and appropriate. This includes taking into account the '2012-13 expected outcome,' and adjusting the 2013-14 target if appropriate.

11. Staffing matters**Question 31**

Please fully complete the table below, providing actual FTE staff numbers at 30 June 2012 and estimates of FTE staff numbers (broken down by the categories listed below) at 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014 for the Department. Please provide figures consolidated on the same basis as the expenditure for the Department in the budget papers.

Grade	30 June 2012 (FTE number)	30 June 2013 (FTE number)	30 June 2014 (FTE number)
Secretary	2.0	1.0	The Government has historically not provided forecasts of future VPS levels.
EO-1	1.0	1.0	
EO-2	28.0	29.6	
EO-3	29.7	29.6	

VPS Grade 7 (STS)	19.4	17.4	
VPS Grade 6	517.7	415.7	
VPS Grade 5	698.4	549.3	
VPS Grade 4	779.8	643.5	
VPS Grade 3	849.3	707.7	
VPS Grade 2	422.4	349.1	
VPS Grade 1	26.7	22.9	
Other*	1258.0	1078.5	
Total	4632.3	3846.9	

Note:

"Other" includes Fire Crew, Legal Adaptives, Science Adaptives, Cadets, Trainees and Ministerial Drivers.

Note: Since February 2013, counting rules for Ongoing and Fixed Term employees have been revised to align with Financial Reporting Directions (FRD) 29. Under these whole of government counting rules, Ongoing and Fixed term employees on Leave Without pay (LWOP) are not included in the FTE staff number. Hence, the FTE staff number will vary from previous estimates.

The FTE staff number includes Ongoing, Fixed Term and Casual employees.

Question 32

Please break down the actual staff numbers in your department as at 30 June 2012 and the estimates as at 30 June 2013 and 2014 according to the number of staff that are ongoing, fixed-term or casual

	30 June 2012	30 June 2013	30 June 2014
	(FTE number)	(FTE number)	(FTE number)

Ongoing	4206.3	3554.9	The Government has historically not provided forecasts of future VPS levels.
Fixed-term	402.9	261.0	
Casual	23.1	30.9	
Total	4632.3	3846.9	

Note:

As per SSA Annual Reporting standards, Executives are classified as "Ongoing" staff

Note: Since February 2013, counting rules for Ongoing and Fixed Term employees have been revised to align with FRD 29. Under these whole of government counting rules, Ongoing and Fixed term employees on LWOP are not included in the FTE staff number. Hence, the FTE staff number will vary from previous estimates.

Question 33

Please indicate, for 2012 and each year of the forward estimates, the estimated total number of VPS positions and non-VPS positions that the Department expects to have as at 30 June.

	30 June 2012	30 June 2013	30 June 2014	30 June 2015	30 June 2016	30 June 2017
	(FTE number)	(FTE number)	(FTE number)	(FTE number)	(FTE number)	(FTE number)
VPS positions	3374.3	2750.5	The Government has historically not provided forecasts of future VPS levels.			
Non-VPS positions	1258.0	1096.4				

Note: Since February 2013, counting rules for Ongoing and Fixed Term employees have been revised to align with FRD 29. Under these whole of government counting rules, Ongoing and Fixed term employees on LWOP are not included in the FTE staff number. Hence, the FTE staff number will vary from previous estimates.

The FTE staff number includes Ongoing, Fixed Term and Casual employees.

VPS positions includes: VPS Grades 1-6, STS level, EO level and Secretary level.

"Non-VPS" positions include Fire Crew, Legal Adaptives, Science Adaptives, Cadets, Trainees and Ministerial Chauffeurs

Question 34

Please detail any expected impacts on the Department of changes to staff numbers in 2013-14 and how they will be mitigated.

As a result of Machinery of Government changes, Land Victoria will be transferred to the new Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure. Additionally, components of the Department of Primary Industries are being transferred into the Department as of 1 July 2013.

Question 35

Please detail the actual amount that the Department spent on contractors and consultants in 2011-12 and the estimated expenditure in 2012-13 to 2016-17 (for a definition on the difference between consultants and contractors, see FRD 22B – Standard Disclosures in the Report of Operations). Please provide figures on the same basis of consolidation for the Department as used in the budget papers.

	2011-12 (\$ million)	2012-13 (\$ million)	2013-14 (\$ million)	2014-15 (\$ million)	2015-16 (\$ million)	2016-17 (\$ million)
Consultants	0.8	0.7	0.7	The Government has historically not provided forecasts of future VPS levels.		
Contractors	180.9	174.3	131.1			

Dependent upon the 2013-14 fire season the number of contractors utilised by the Department may vary from this estimate.

12. Previous recommendations**Question 36**

This question does not apply to your department.