

VERIFIED VERSION

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Inquiry into budget estimates 2013–14

Melbourne — 21 May 2013

Members

Mr N. Angus
Ms J. Hennessy
Mr D. Morris
Mr D. O'Brien

Mr C. Ondarchie
Mr M. Pakula
Mr R. Scott

Chair: Mr D. Morris
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Witnesses

Mr H. Delahunty, Minister for Sport and Recreation;
Mr D. Yates, Secretary, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure;
Mr P. Hertan, Deputy Secretary,
Mr G. Forck, Chief Finance Officer, and
Ms S. George, Director, Community Sport and Recreation, Department of Planning and Community Development

The CHAIR — I declare open the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearing on the 2013–14 budget estimates for the portfolios of sport and recreation and veterans’ affairs. On behalf of the committee, I welcome the Honourable Hugh Delahunty, MP, minister for these portfolios, together with the following witnesses: Mr Dean Yates, Secretary of the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure; Mr Peter Hertan, Deputy Secretary, Department of Planning and Community Development; Mr Greg Forck, Chief Finance Officer, Department of Planning and Community Development; and Ms Susan George, Director, Community Sport and Recreation, Department of Planning and Community Development. Members of Parliament, departmental officers and members of the public and the media are also welcome.

In accordance with the guidelines for public hearings, I remind members of the public gallery that they cannot participate in any way in the committee’s proceedings. Only officers of the PAEC secretariat are to approach PAEC members. Departmental officers, as requested by the minister or his chief of staff, can approach the table during the hearing to provide additional information to the minister by leave of myself as Chair. Written communications to witnesses can only be provided by officers of the PAEC secretariat. Members of the media are requested to observe the guidelines for filming or recording of proceedings in the Legislative Council Committee Room.

All evidence is taken by this committee under the provisions of the Parliamentary Committees Act, attracts parliamentary privilege and is protected from judicial review. Any comments made outside the precincts of the hearing are not protected by parliamentary privilege, including any comments made on social media from the hearing itself. This committee has determined that there is no need for evidence to be sworn. However, witnesses are reminded that all questions must be answered in full, with accuracy and truthfulness. Any persons found to be giving false or misleading evidence may be in contempt of Parliament and subject to penalty.

All evidence given today is being recorded. Witnesses will be provided with proof versions of the transcript for fact verification within two working days of this hearing. Unverified transcripts and PowerPoint presentations will be placed on the committee’s website immediately following receipt, to be replaced by verified transcripts within five days of receipt.

Following a presentation by the minister, committee members will ask questions relating to this inquiry. Generally the procedure to be followed will be that relating to questions in the Legislative Assembly. Sessional orders provide a time limit for answers to questions without notice of 4 minutes, while standing orders do not permit supplementary questions. It is my intention to exercise discretion in both matters; however, I do request witnesses answer each question as succinctly as is reasonable, recognising that many responses may include a degree of complexity. I ask that all mobile telephones be turned off or turned to silent, and I call on the minister to give a brief presentation of no more than 10 minutes on the more complex and performance information that relates to the budget estimates.

Overheads shown.

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thank you, Chair, and members of the committee. The coalition government recognises that sport and recreation help build a strong and healthy Victoria. They play an important role in the lives of individual Victorians, provide health benefits, help to shape local identity and make an important contribution to our economy. Our priorities for the sport and recreation portfolio can be summarised into five key areas.

The first key priority is to work towards active and healthy communities. We want to get more people more active more often. The government is supporting people to be more active through a range of programs. To increase participation rates it is important to have facilities for active communities. The government is providing assistance to local councils and clubs to improve community sport and recreation facilities with at least 180 new projects approved during 2012–13.

Victoria is renowned for its major sports infrastructure and its sporting events. The government is committed to maintaining support for our world-class facilities. Reaching Your Potential is about providing improved support for our athletes through new and existing programs. There have been many achievements in relation to active and healthy communities in 2012–13. The Victorians More Active program continues to support state sporting associations’ progress the four key pillars to community sport and recreation: participation, membership,

coaches and officials, and club capacity. Sixty-six state sporting associations are currently funded and delivering a wide range of projects that enhance participation.

We have continued to implement our election commitment to invest \$1.75 million over four years to increase the skills of volunteers, coaches and sports administrators through initiatives such as Target 1000, which has now resulted in the SSAs committing to accredit over 1500 new coaches.

The sporting uniform grants program continued to make a difference with grassroots sporting clubs, with over 600 new grants approved. Over 60 000 Victorians visited SRV's five residential camps in 2012. The camps are run by the YMCA, provide Victorians with access to quality sport and recreation activities and facilities.

Under the Women in Sports and Recreation program, SRV has funded Gymnastics Victoria, Football Federation Victoria, Motorcycling Victoria, Touch Victoria, AFL Victoria, Softball Victoria, Canoeing Victoria and Cycling Victoria for projects that support the professional development of organisational change and increased participation. Over 83 900 Victorians registered to participate in the 2013 Premier's Active Families Challenge, almost 4000 more than 2012.

I have approved 83 projects under the country action grant scheme this financial year. These included \$4000 for the Lucknow Junior Cricket Club for a program to introduce cricket to local Indigenous children. The January 2013 VICSWIM Summer Kidz program saw the program delivered at 115 venues, with 7456 participants.

There have also been major developments in relation to facilities for active communities. Grants for 112 projects have been approved through the community facility funding program. It is estimated that these grants will support a total investment of over \$160 million. New projects to provide facilities for football and soccer have been approved, such as \$100 000 for floodlights at Jefferson Hutley Reserve, Bendigo. I have also approved a range of projects through the country football and netball program, including funding for the construction of netball facilities at Corryong.

Many projects have been delivered under the small-scale facility program. For example, I have approved \$120 000 towards the replacement of a turf bowling green with a synthetic green at the Pakenham Bowls Club. And 2012–13 has seen further progress in the application of the universal design principles across sport and recreation facility funding programs. Universal design is based on social inclusion and is applied holistically to the built environment to encourage design that provides maximum amenity for the maximum number of people.

I would now like to show the committee, on slides on the screen here, two maps that illustrate the location of funded community facility projects across regional Victoria and also metropolitan Melbourne, under the categories of CFFP, the soccer facilities category, the country football and netball program, and the small-scale facilities program.

Another key achievement in relation to community facilities that I would like to inform the committee about is the development of a new facilities database. Sport and Recreation Victoria has developed a new interactive facilities map, featuring 4687 recreation sites statewide. Forty-four per cent of these sites serve multisports. Details of their condition; age; access to male, female and unisex change rooms; the sports played there and the surface types are all included in the database. Data can be filtered by various criteria and heat maps can be generated, showing the density of specific sporting facilities in LGAs.

I would like briefly to demonstrate some of the features of the database for the committee. The first slide shows the location of basketball facilities with the surrounding 5 kilometres highlighted. The second slide shows soccer facilities with the surrounding 2 kilometres highlighted, using the heat map function to indicate the density of sporting facilities. In this case, the concentrated provision of facilities is shown with red and yellow colours; sparse distribution is indicated by dark green. The final slide provides a detailed information view centred on the area between Geelong, Torquay and Ocean Grove. Data such as this can be overlaid with plans for growth to assist new facility development or expansion of existing facilities to meet population growth.

The year 2013 has also been a very successful year in relation to major sporting infrastructure the redevelopment of Melbourne Park continued strongly; the new eastern plaza and National Tennis Centre were completed in December 2012, ahead of schedule and on budget. The state sporting facilities project at Lakeside Stadium was completed in early 2012–13, delivering a new state athletic centre and the home of the Victorian Institute of Sport, South Melbourne Football Club and a number of athletics organisations. Refurbishment of the

Great Southern Stand at the MCG was completed on time and within budget. Installation of the water-recycling facilities as part of the Yarra Park master plan was completed in October 2012. As members of the committee would be aware, Simonds Stadium is very important to Geelong and the broader western region.

The CHAIR — Hear, hear!

Mr DELAHUNTY — The government has allocated \$26.5 million to the third stage of redevelopment of the stadium, which is due for completion this month. I would like to return to Simonds Stadium at the end of the presentation.

Sport and Recreation Victoria recently received the Australian Baseball Federation's highest award, the Chairman's Award, which was provided to the state government for extensive support to baseball, including funding to improve the State Baseball Softball Centre at Altona and facilitate the Melbourne Aces move there.

This has been a magnificent year for sporting events. In addition to the outstanding events that are held in Victoria each year, I would like to highlight the events that are shown on the slide — and you will see them up there on the board — the Ironman Asia-Pacific Championship Melbourne, the British and Irish Lions coming here shortly, and other significant sporting events programs, such as the men's and women's golf opens, the Melbourne world track challenge and the international netball series held in Ballarat. You will see other ones on the slide there.

Our key priorities in relation to facilities for active communities in 2013–14 will include completing the delivery of the small-scale facilities program. We will also continue to support soccer facilities through the 2014–15 community facility funding program. Soccer facilities are now a specific category in that funding program and can also be funded through other categories of the CFFP, such as major facilities and minor facilities categories. The country football and netball program will continue to support major and important projects across country Victoria.

There will be a busy program of work during 2013–14, developing and upgrading major sporting infrastructure to maintain Victoria's competitive advantage in this area. The key priority will be works at the State Sport Centres Trust properties, as detailed in the budget papers. The government has committed \$6.4 million in the state budget to upgrade the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, the State Netball and Hockey Centre and Lakeside Stadium. The Melbourne Park redevelopment will again be a priority in the coming year: a major upgrade will fully enclose Margaret Court Arena; it was commenced in 2012 and is estimated to be completed by the 2015 Australian Open. A review of the master plan for Melbourne Park that was funded by the government in last year's budget is ongoing, with \$2.8 million allocated in 2013–14. Additional landscaping and infrastructure works will be implemented over the next year at Yarra Park, in line with the Yarra Park master plan.

There are some terrific sporting events lined up for 2013–14. Winning the right to host the 2013 World Cup of Golf was a real coup for Victoria. The Liverpool Football Club match against Melbourne Victory on 24 July has proved immensely popular, and tickets sold out in a very short time. Geelong will host the Australian Masters Games later this year, and there will also be a range of events supported by the significant sporting events program, including the Victoria Police and Emergency Services Games, the Oceania Masters Athletics Championships, the Athletics Australia championships and the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup.

As I indicated earlier in my presentation, I would like to just finish my presentation on the subject of Simonds Stadium. This is a major project that will be finished this month. To give committee members a better appreciation of the project, I would like to show this video. It only goes for about a minute and a half.

Video shown.

Mr DELAHUNTY — What you are watching is time-lapse footage of Simonds Stadium over the last 16 months. Works started in January last year, and will be completed next month. The video shows seating plans taking shape at ground level, and a level 2 seating structure undergoing construction. At this time works were undertaken on the undercroft area, which houses a new Deakin–Cats community centre. The facility will be used by the club, Deakin University and other community groups to host training and education programs to the benefit of the wider Geelong community.

The design is similar to the premiership stand, which you can see on the right of the screen. The lighting project, funded by the commonwealth, was run concurrently with the stage 3 upgrade. I look forward to the first game under the lights in the new stand on 1 June between the Cats and the Gold Coast Suns. And that ends my presentation.

Mr ONDARCHIE — It just needs a premiership cup, really, doesn't it?

Mr DELAHUNTY — It does. They win it every second year, so it is likely they will get it this year. You will see the lights go up very quickly, and they are enormous. There are four of those big light towers. That will be opened on 1 June, so it is not far away.

The CHAIR — Thank you, Minister. We have right on an hour left for questions in this portfolio, and I will ask the first one. In the context of the 2013–14 budget, can you outline for the committee examples of capital infrastructure projects in the portfolio which will be either commenced or completed in the coming year?

Mr DELAHUNTY — As sport continues to evolve at an international level and the events market becomes more and more competitive it is important that our world-renowned sporting facilities are not just keeping pace but remain the best in the world. With this aim the government has a range of capital infrastructure projects under way in the sport and recreation portfolio. I am pleased to advise that the government will provide new support to the State Sport Centres Trust; as I said earlier, \$6.4 million in capital funding in this budget. The State Sport Centres Trust manages three of Victoria's most important sporting venues — the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre, known as MSAC; the State Netball and Hockey Centre, behind the Royal Children's Hospital; and Lakeside Stadium — which provide opportunities for major events, representative teams, elite athletes developing pathways and support systems and participation at a grassroots level. The initiatives announced in the budget papers will see an expenditure of \$6.4 million in capital funds during 2013–14 across a suite of these trust centres to ensure that they are able to provide quality facilities for elite-level athletes and members of the general community.

Some of these works include new fitness equipment, scoreboards and aquatic equipment, curtains for the basketball courts and score benches, and improvements to the outdoor areas and turf upgrades, as well as rectification of building works to improve safety and access for people with a disability. This investment will help the trust venues to maintain a perfect balance of serving both elite and grassroots sport.

I will be pleased to be at the opening, along with the Premier, of the third stage of Simonds Stadium at Geelong. As I said, the final payment of the government's \$26.5 million contribution will be made during the budget year of 2013–14. This project is a demonstration of this government's commitment to improving event opportunities for regional Victoria and gives a \$3 million boost to the Geelong community for each AFL game that is played there.

The government is also delivering and paying \$363 million for stage 1 of the Melbourne Park master plan, including improving access between Rod Laver Arena and Hisense Arena and significant upgrades of the landscape of the oval, including installation of a water tank. A new eastern plaza at the National Tennis Centre incorporates 8 new indoor courts and 13 outdoor courts for elite training, including 8 clay courts. As the French Open is about to start, it is important for our Australian athletes to get the opportunity to train on clay. This will be able to be used by the general public and include changing rooms and a gymnasium. There is additional car parking and bus parking and the Edwin Flack footbridge linking Melbourne Park to AAMI Park. Work commenced in March 2011 and was completed in December 2012, ahead of schedule and on budget.

There will be a major upgrade to fully enclose the Margaret Court Arena, including the installation of a retractable roof and additional seating to increase the capacity by 1500 seats, to approximately 7500. Work on this \$180 million upgrade commenced in February 2012 and is estimated to be completed before the 2015 Australian Open. In addition to the \$363 million contribution to the stage 1 works, a further \$5.5 million was announced in last year's budget to undertake scoping, early work design and a business case for the construction of stage 2 which will be completed during 2013–14.

The Melbourne Park redevelopment is an important project for the state, not only because of the 1400 full-time jobs it creates during construction but also because of its central role in delivering the Australian Open and the \$238 million of economic benefit it creates for Victoria, along with the 356 events held at the Melbourne and Olympic Park precinct each year. I think that covers a lot of the works we have been doing.

Mr PAKULA — Minister, if you could turn to page 242 of budget paper 3, which shows the output summary for Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, which is obviously the successor department to DPCD. It shows under table 2.23, the ‘Output summary’, that the revised outputs for sport and recreation for 2012–13 are 112.5 million but for 13–14 only 77.2 million, which is a reduction of \$35.3 million, which is substantial over the course of just one year. Can you take us through which programs will be affected by that reduction in output spending over the 2013–14 year?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thank you, Mr Pakula. You said ‘only \$77.2 million’.

Mr PAKULA — Compared to 112.

Mr DELAHUNTY — Compared to back in 2007–08 when it was only \$55.8 million.

Mr PAKULA — Why would you compare it to that year?

Mr DELAHUNTY — That is when you were in government.

Mr PAKULA — We were also in government in 2010.

Mr DELAHUNTY — But in relation to the question you have asked, the nature of the portfolio dictates that there will be a large variation from year to year in the sport and recreation budget. Principally this is due to Victoria hosting different major events and major capital works projects. The major changes in the output funding across the two years are due to, firstly, the completion of the funding for the MCG southern stand redevelopment, which was \$10 million; the completion of stage 3 of the Skilled Stadium redevelopment, which is \$12.5 million this year; fluctuations in the major events funding due to the timing and the type of events each year and the cash flow variations which vary from year to year for a number of major events depending on the payment milestones; and also changes to the cash flow estimates for the community facility funding program CSF-approved projects which fluctuate from year to year based on the timing and delivery of the construction projects.

In relation to that, we have a schedule of payments that in the majority of times go through councils. There is a schedule of payments, and depending on how fast the councils and the community clubs build these facilities sometimes there are large fluctuations in these payments. That is the reason for the amount that is on page 242.

Mr PAKULA — Just to follow up, you see, normally, Minister, in these circumstances we would have a departmental questionnaire which would give us answers about what programs have lapsed but because of the machinery-of-government changes we have only DTPLI rather than DPCD, which you are still operating inside. So we do not have that categorisation, that breakdown, of lapsing programs. If that could be provided to the committee, which would be the normal situation, that would be good.

Just in response to your answer, you talked about the MCG and Skilled Stadium ceasing. They are capital expenditures. Are you saying that includes both capex and opex in that output summary?

Mr YATES — They are grant payments to those entities, so that is why they get classified as output funding.

Mr DELAHUNTY — That is right.

Mr FORCK — Some of them are for capital purposes, but they are allocated as output funding as far as the state is concerned.

Mr PAKULA — If we could get that list.

Mr DELAHUNTY — Yes.

The CHAIR — We will take it on notice.

Mr DELAHUNTY — Mr Pakula, there are no programs that have lapsed. This is all to do with, as you said, the capital programs that we have talked about, about the variations in the major events programs which are sometimes funded out of major events but the sport and recreation portfolio runs, particularly the sporting

events — obviously major events for arts and that are run by other people — but the cash flow variations depend on that. Also, as I have said, the changes to the estimated community facility funding program also mean that there could be variations in payments.

Mr ANGUS — Minister, I refer you to budget paper 3, page 273, and the item under the ‘Sport and Recreation’ heading there, ‘Events facilitated — sport and recreation’, with the expected outcome for 2012–13 of 63 events. Can you advise and outline the achievements in your portfolio in relation to the major sporting events of 2012–13?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thanks to Mr Angus for his very important question. As we know, Melbourne/Victoria is the sporting capital of the world in a lot of people’s eyes, and Victoria’s major sporting events industry is what sets us apart from the rest of Australia — in fact the rest of the world. Melbourne has been awarded the crown of the world’s ultimate sports city three consecutive times and was only beaten by the Olympics host city, London, in the 2012 awards.

The expected outcome of 63 events includes both major events and events funded under my program called the significant sporting events program. Our annual program of major events is one of the most prestigious and successful in the world. Collectively the events work together over the year to provide constant positioning and profile for Victoria, both within Australia and overseas. They are a major driver of tourism, employment, industry development, business linkages, sports development and community outcomes for the benefit of the state.

In 2012–13 Victoria hosted a number of major sporting events, including the Jayco Herald Sun Tour, the Sailing World Cup, the men’s masters hockey event, the Australian Dancesport Championship, the Australian Masters golf, the Festival of Sails at Geelong, the world superbike championships at Phillip Island, the Rip Curl Pro at Bells Beach, the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix at Phillip Island, the Australian Goldfields Open — which is coming up in Bendigo again shortly — and the lawn bowls Australian open at Darebin. All of that is on top of the five prestigious annual events, as we all know: the Australian Open tennis, the grand prix, the Boxing Day test, the Spring Racing Carnival and, of course, the AFL Grand Final — that Essendon will win this year.

Over the next couple of years an outstanding variety of sporting events will continue to enhance Victoria’s reputation, including, as I spoke about earlier, the British and Irish Lions Rugby tour, the Liverpool Football Club soccer match, the Australian Masters Games at Geelong, and the 2013 World Cup of Golf. We have the masters down at Geelong and we also have the 2014 World Rowing Masters championships. Matches include the 2015 Asian Cup and the 2015 Cricket World Cup.

So there is a lot happening in the major sporting area. It is a great profile from my point of view as the minister for sport. It inspires the next generation to be involved in sport. It is a great part of our economy, it is a great part of our culture, and I am proud to be the minister for sport and delivering some of these events.

Mr SCOTT — Minister, I have searched through the budget papers. I understand that there was a program, the community sporting code of conduct, which was subject to some discussion after the last budget and you indicated on 3AW that it was continuing even though it appeared that it had lapsed. I would just like to clarify whether that has been funded in this budget for the year 2013–14.

Mr DELAHUNTY — I thank Mr Scott for his question. From a Victorian government point of view, welcoming and inclusive sporting clubs create environments where everyone is encouraged to participate, regardless of their ability, their background or personal attributes. These sporting environments are friendly and safe places that are free of harassment and discrimination. Initial activity by Sport and Recreation Victoria focused on working with the state’s sporting associations to implement the Victorian code of conduct for community sport and raise awareness of the minimum standards of acceptable behaviour at community sport. This has now been completed, and all sports have incorporated the code of conduct in their policies and practices. Ongoing adherence to the code is also a requirement for sports to receive funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Following the development and implementation of the code, the next step was to continue to support the clubs, associations and leagues to build friendly, safe and inclusive sporting environments by providing training and resources to develop practical skills and knowledge and understanding of inclusive practices within sports clubs

and sporting codes, the developing of skills within sports, and conciliation, mediation and complaint management, and also supporting the state's sporting associations to implement projects that maintain positive behaviour and promote safe and inclusive environments.

I approved funding of over \$320 000 for projects in 2012–13 which built on the code of conduct and support for clubs, association and leagues to develop and maintain welcoming and inclusive sporting environments. The funded projects include \$20 000 for Football Federation Victoria to employ a part-time community engagement officer to support and educate clubs, reduce misconduct and promote positive behaviour. Twenty thousand also went to Cricket Victoria to promote harmony in cricket by supporting the participation of new arrivals or the establishment of CALD communities. Fifty thousand dollars was allocated for Fair go, sport!, a project in partnership with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission. SRV is now consulting with the state sporting associations on the outcomes of the welcoming and inclusive club projects and will shortly be holding a development day for all sports to discuss the project outcomes and learn best practices. Following advice from these sports, a new range of programs will be initiated to further enhance the importance of the code and ensure sporting clubs of Victoria are welcoming and inclusive.

Mr SCOTT — I have a supplementary. Minister, you just indicated that it would be a new range of programs to build on the code. How much money will be spent on those programs for the 2013–14 year?

Mr DELAHUNTY — That has not been defined. We have a budget in sport and recreation, and the final level of funding will depend on the advice from the sports and their requirement for the future years, so I cannot be definitive on the exact amount of dollars.

Mr O'BRIEN — Minister, I ask you to turn to budget paper 3, page 273 in relation to the 2012–13 expected outcome for the performance measure Community Facility Grants — number approved. You will see there that the number approved is 180. Minister, could you please inform the committee about the government's support for community facility projects?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thank you, Mr Chairman, and thank you, Mr O'Brien, who I know is very active in his community and is still playing the game of Aussie rules — well done. As you know, the Victorian government is committed to the support and development of quality community sport and recreation facilities that provide more opportunities for our communities to get physically active. Increasing participation in sport and recreation is a key priority of the Victorian government. While most of these projects support facilities that benefit both men and women, approximately 36 projects are specifically targeted at the provision of facilities for females. These include the provision of change rooms for females, female umpires facilities, floodlighting for female sporting teams, and the provision of facilities such as courts for netball. I am a strong supporter of increasing participation opportunities for women, and these investments are an important step forward. Examples of these projects that specifically benefit women include extensions to the change rooms at St Georges Reserve in Sebastopol to include two multi-use female change facilities with accessible amenities, and installation of competition-standard floodlighting to two netball courts at Quandong Park, Red Cliffs, near Mildura. These 36 projects were funded through the community facility funding program — 23 of them; and through the country football and netball program — the other 13. The community facility funding program aims to increase participation to community sports by providing accessible high-quality facilities. The Victorian government is committed to funding the 2013–14 CFFP to support the development of community sport and recreation infrastructure that increases participation.

The funding complements the government's election promise for a further \$5 million over four years to fund additional minor facilities projects across Victoria. This additional money will focus on the upgrading of existing or developing new community facilities to assist those clubs most in need. We have recently announced funding for 129 projects from all categories of the 2013–14 CFFP. Examples of the projects I have recently approved include \$3 million for the better pools category for the Baw Baw recreation reserve; \$1 million for the better pools category towards a Colac Otway warm water pool; \$650 000 towards the Hume Regional Tennis and Community Centre at Craigieburn; and \$200 000 for the seasonal pools category towards the Mansfield swimming pool upgrade; \$100 000 from minor facilities towards a Clifton Park BMX and skate facility; and \$100 000 from the soccer facilities category towards sportsground lighting at Beaumaris Reserve. We have also put in \$50 000 from the planning category towards a western metropolitan regional trail study. So you can see this funding ensures that local councils and community sporting and recreation clubs will have improved facilities that support physically active and healthy Victorians.

Ms HENNESSY — Minister, I refer you to page 273 of budget paper 3. That is the output measure for combat sports licences, registrations and permits issued. I wanted to ask a question about the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board. Are you able to confirm whether or not you are aware of any potential misappropriation of funds associated with that board? Is the government aware of that issue?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Since 1975 the Victorian government has regulated the professional boxing and combat sports industry in order to reduce risks of malpractice and to promote safety. At present the principal tools for control of the industry are the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Act and the subordinate regulations. The act also establishes a Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board, which has the following key functions: the issuing of permits to conduct events — these are called promotions; the supervision of all permit promotions; licensing promoters, trainers, matchmakers, referees and judges and registering professional contestants. The licensing and registration are issued for three years while permits are issued per promotion.

To support the board we have a departmental staff person. I was made aware last year that there was an irregularity of some of the finances in that area. My memory is that we called in the auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers to check on these discrepancies, and I have been advised and it has been confirmed that there were discrepancies in the collection of these licence fees I have spoken about. The former secretary, who was the person assisting the board, admitted to the misappropriation of funds and fully repaid all funds as calculated by the department's auditor. Whilst I have been advised that there may be unfortunate personal circumstances that led to this situation, there is no justification for what occurred. The board has referred this matter to the Victoria Police, and the deputy secretary of sport and recreation has provided a statement to the Victoria Police. I cannot further comment on the matter because this is an ongoing police matter, but I was made aware of this matter during last year, and we did the appropriate thing — getting the appropriate auditors in there to check on the details — and the matter now has been referred to the police.

The CHAIR — Given the legal considerations, do you have a supplementary question?

Ms HENNESSY — I have one not related to the legal considerations but to the governance considerations. Minister, what did we learn from the audit about how to treat the fraud risk that occurred?

Mr DELAHUNTY — The department, through this process, have some recommendations given to us by the auditors, and the board has had consultation with my department, looking at ways where we can improve the process and ensure that this does not go on again. One of the things we have put in place now is that nearly all payments are made by credit card rather than cash and receipts, so there have been some recommendations. I do not have the details in front of me, but the recommendation made by the auditors and the review that was done by Sport and Recreation Victoria have been implemented to ensure this does not happen again.

Mr ONDARCHIE — Minister, I also want to talk about page 273 of budget paper 3, specifically under the area 'Events facilitated — sport and recreation'. I note that the 2013–14 target for performance in this area is higher than the 2012–13 target. Clearly the strong uptake of the significant sporting events program is expected to continue. Would you be able to tell the committee more about that program?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thank you, Chair, and also Mr Ondarchie, whom I know is very passionate about his Melbourne Heart, and I was expecting that question. As outlined in the 2012 budget, the significant sporting events program was extended for another two years through to 30 June 2014, with \$1.2 million allocated in each year. The program aims to support events that are of national or international level or that are unique and significant to a particular region in Victoria.

In the past 11 months more than \$1.2 million has been awarded to 74 events. An example of these includes the 2013 and 2014 men's and women's Victorian open golf championship at Barwon Heads. This is only the second time that the Victorian women's golf open has been played. It was played last year in Melbourne, but it had not been played for about 18 or 19 years before that, so the combining of these two together, run concurrently, was a sensational event in Melbourne, but even bigger when it was taken down to Barwon Heads last year.

The 2012 netball events package at Ballarat and Hisense Arena was another event. The 2013 Melbourne IAAF world athletic challenge was held at Albert Park — that fantastic facility down there at the old South Melbourne footy ground — and the 2013 Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles were run at Bells Beach in the lead-up to the Rip Curl Pro there, and I know Mr O'Brien attended that event last year. We also have the 2014 Police and

Emergency Services Games across Melbourne, and also the 32nd Australian Goalball Championships, just to pick a few.

I was particularly pleased to provide an increased level of support for the 2013–14 men’s and women’s open golf event. As I said, it was a sensational event, and importantly it will be again staged at Thirteenth Beach down there at Barwon Heads. It was also pleasing that the program was able to provide \$30 000 to Netball Victoria to assist them to stage a trans-Tasman netball league pre-season tournament in February this year, replacing one that was scheduled to be held in New Zealand but had to be cancelled due to financial concerns. This funding assisted in attracting new or retaining existing events to Victoria, enhancing the skills of the officials and the volunteers, increasing the economic stimulus through visitations to Victoria and providing ongoing benefits to junior sporting and community programs.

This program compliments Victoria’s highly successful major events strategy, which has seen Melbourne become recognised internationally as a sports pre-eminent events city. Sporting events in Melbourne and Victoria play an enormous role in delivering social and economic benefits to the state and also provide inspiration to young Victorians to participate and get active in sports.

Mr PAKULA — Minister, I do not expect you to have this in front of you, but you can take my word for it, or I can hand it across the table, but in last year’s budget paper 3 at page 47 there was a funding line item extending support for soccer facilities at \$1.5 million, and it was only funded for the 12 months and then it lapsed. So it was a 2012–13 only amount. Try as I might, in this year’s budget I cannot find any renewal of that allocation, so I am trying to understand from this year’s budget papers where is the support for soccer and what amount is allocated to soccer out of the departmental outputs?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Soccer is a big sport, as has been highlighted by Mr Ondarchie in every conversation I have had with him. It is a growing sport, particularly in relation to women’s soccer and providing facilities for them. I am pleased to inform the committee of the outcomes of the government’s commitment to provide \$1.45 million to extend the support to soccer facilities in the 2012–13 program. This has been a strategic initiative designed to help cater for the massive growth in soccer participation in Victoria in recent years. The funding assists local soccer clubs and their local government authorities to upgrade existing or develop new facilities with a focus on junior and women’s participation.

The funding is one of a suite of Victorian government funding opportunities available to local communities to develop facilities provided through the various categories of the CFFP program. Types of projects that have been funded in 2012–13 include change rooms for both male and female players and referees; flood lighting, as I spoke about earlier, to maximise use of soccer pitches; and building new pitches or upgrading existing pitches. The government recently announced funding towards 17 new projects from this initiative for a total amount of \$1.41 million. Projects included: \$100 000 to the Hume City Council to build a new pavilion with four change rooms, accessible amenities, storage and first aid areas; \$100 000 to Southern Grampians Shire Council to construct a full-sized competition-standard soccer pitch and competition-standard lighting and construct two additional pitches at Pedrina Park in Hamilton; \$100 000 to Greater Bendigo City Council to deliver competition-standard floodlighting at pitch 5 at Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve.

The government has continued to support soccer facilities, with up to \$1.45 million committed to the administration under the 2014 community facility funding program, which was opened for applications this month. This recognises the important role of grassroots soccer clubs in the Victorian sporting landscape. The government is committed to providing support for these clubs to promote and cater for a growing participation in soccer.

For Mr Pakula’s information, and the members of the committee, these are the new guidelines for the community facility funding program. If you want a copy, I think there are a couple of copies here. On page 17 we have a particular category for soccer, and that is there for you to have a look at. There is a specific funding program for soccer, as I said, of \$1.45 million, but also there are the other opportunities for soccer facilities, where they can go into the minor facilities category, which is up to \$100 000, or into the major facilities category, of up to \$650 000. The amount of money is not specified in the CFF program, because it depends on the applications we get in, but it is around about the \$20 million over all the categories of CFFP. I cannot definitively say that there will be X amount of dollars, except for the soccer facilities, where, as I said, under that specific category there is \$1.45 million.

Mr O'BRIEN — Also better pools.

Mr DELAHUNTY — You cannot play soccer on pools — that is the trouble, Mr O'Brien.

Mr PAKULA — To the best extent you can, Minister — we talked earlier about that \$77.2 million in output funding in sport and rec — are you able to tell us how much of that goes to soccer?

Mr DELAHUNTY — As I said, the only definitive amount is in this category, which we have put in there. Under the CFFP we have a specific category for soccer facilities; there is \$1.45 million per annum. There are also other opportunities for soccer facilities through the other categories of major facilities, which is up to \$650 000 per project, or minor facilities, for up to \$100 000. But I cannot give you the definitive amount, because it depends on what comes in from the councils. The councils can put in for one major project per year, so it depends on whether — if we get three applications for soccer, we will have to judge them in an assessment process that is done by my department. I cannot give it to you, because it is just not available. In the CFFP there is around about \$20 million in total.

Mr ANGUS — Minister, I refer you to budget paper 3, page 273, and the output description under sport and recreation, which states 'enhances participation in sport and active recreation'. Can you outline for the committee how the government's support for the VICSWIM Summer Kidz program contributes to this objective?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thanks, Mr Angus. Unfortunately there have been some tragedies in our pools and across Victoria. We have been very keen to do some work in this area, and we have. We made an election commitment; there was a strong commitment by the previous Premier, the member for Hawthorn, Ted Baillieu.

I will just give you a couple of key points. The VICSWIM Summer Kidz learn-to-swim holiday program equips children with the basic skills and confidence they need to enjoy swimming safely across a variety of aquatic disciplines and conditions. This program allows children who would not otherwise be able to access swimming lessons to learn how to swim, particularly children in rural and regional areas, new arrivals and refugees, children from indigenous communities and those with non-English speaking backgrounds. The coalition government has committed \$1.6 million over four years to enhance the VICSWIM Summer Kidz learn-to-swim holiday program as part of the new push to improve water safety by increasing the participation of Victorian children in learn-to-swim programs.

Water-based learning helps to reduce the number of tragic drowning deaths of youngsters. This is every bit as important for kids playing in dams, creeks and rivers throughout regional Victoria as it is for children swimming at Melbourne's pools and beaches. This new funding allows for the re-establishment of the delivery of the program from the summer of 2011–12 to introduce young people to safe aquatic recreation.

This important learn-to-swim program commenced in 1976 but did not run in the 2010–11 summer due to the lack of funding. The January 2012 program was delivered in 84 venues, with 4763 children enrolled in the program. The January 2013 program was delivered at 115 venues, with 7456 participants, an increase of 31 venues and over 2400 children. Furthermore, of the 115 venues used in 2013, 92 were in rural Victoria, ensuring young people right across the state have access to basic water safety awareness training. The government has fulfilled its commitment to save the VICSWIM Summer Kidz learn-to-swim holiday program, and the commitment has proved to be extremely successful, with already over 12 000 young children receiving basic water safety awareness. I expect this to continue. It has been a very, very worthwhile and productive program.

Mr SCOTT — Minister, I refer you to budget paper 3, page 274, and the performance measure 'Number of projects in progress that relate to the planning and development of state-level facilities'. There is a decline from the actual to the expected outcome to the target. The actual is 11 in 2011–12, the expected outcome is 8 in 2012–13 and the target is greater than 3. Could you explain why there has been a decline in the investment in state-level facilities?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thank you, Mr Scott. Against the budget performance measures, projects related to the state-level facilities in progress, a target greater than six was set for 2012–13. This target has been met. I am pleased to be able to report that this year a number of projects have been ongoing and providing great outcomes for the Victorian community. I spoke about a few of them earlier.

The capital works upgrade of MSAC and the Lakeside Stadium has been undertaken to support its ongoing operation in providing a competitive facility. Significant works are continuing around the Melbourne Park precinct, with a number of components of stage 1 of the development under construction or completed. The significant contribution we are investing to upgrade this key sporting and entertainment precinct will assist in the continuing delivery of one of Australia's most loved sporting events, the Australian Open.

The Victorian public's love for this event was demonstrated once again this year when the event again achieved over 684 000 attendees. The eastern plaza works commenced in March 2011 and were completed in December 2012, well ahead of schedule and on budget. The Margaret Court Arena refurbishment started in February 2012 and is anticipated to be completed prior to the 2015 Australian Open. I am pleased to advise that this project continues to be on program and on budget.

The MCG Great Southern Stand refurbishment was completed at the end of 2012 and has achieved some impressive outcomes in providing improved food and beverage areas, spectator amenities and improved public viewing areas. We are continuing our working partnership with the Melbourne Cricket Club on the sustainable management of Yarra Park, and I am pleased to say that an underground water recycling facility was completed in October 2012 and is currently providing a sustainable water source for Yarra Park, the MCG and Punt Road Oval. Landscape upgrades to Yarra Park will continue to improve the amenity of one of Melbourne's most loved and recognisable parks.

At Simonds Stadium in Geelong the new players stand will be completed, as I said, by the end of this month, ready for the first home game for Geelong on 1 June. The coalition government's investment in this project has a significant financial benefit for the local Geelong community, with a recent Deloitte study identifying that each AFL game is estimated to inject \$3 million into the local economy of Geelong. Funding was provided for the redevelopment of the Melbourne Ballpark at Altona to assist in the relocation of the Melbourne Aces from the Melbourne showgrounds. I am sure the member for Altona has been to have a look at that excellent facility.

Ms HENNESSY — In fact I was there when you opened it, Minister.

Mr DELAHUNTY — We did a great job.

Ms HENNESSY — I can't believe you don't remember.

Mr DELAHUNTY — This investment has been a partnership between the committee of management and the Melbourne Aces, both of whom contributed funds to the reinvigorating of this fantastic facility. If any of the other members get the opportunity, please go and have a look at it. It is a great facility. Altona is once again considered one of the finest baseball venues in the country and was successful in attracting the ABL All-Star Game to Melbourne in January of this year. This event showcased baseball and Melbourne to the world, with the event being broadcast to 35 countries in Asia.

The budget performance measure relevant to state sporting facilities for 2012–13 was 'Number of projects in progress that relate to the planning and development of state-level facilities'. It has a target for 2012–13 of greater than six. That gives you an outline of what is going on in our department.

The CHAIR — Is there a supplementary, Mr Scott?

Mr SCOTT — There is. Could you provide a rationale why you have not chosen, as I understand it, to invest in support of other statewide facilities that need upgrades, such as the Junction Oval as a specific?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thank you, Mr Scott, again. The Junction Oval is a project that has been talked about for many years. We as the Victorian government are committed to providing increased opportunities for participation in sport and increasing Victoria's representation in the national teams. We might need more of them in the Australian team. I have met with Cricket Victoria regarding their proposal for potential redevelopment of the Junction Oval into an alternative first-class cricket venue and high-performance centre. My department has also been working in partnership with Cricket Victoria and Major Projects Victoria in the further development and costing of different options for the project proposal for Junction Oval.

I understand that this development could provide outcomes for both cricket and football, including resolving the potential requirement of the MCG for both cricket and the AFL in March each year and the provision of a

high-performance training venue for Cricket Victoria. This proposal is a complex project that involves many stakeholders. This proposed project, which would involve the relocation of Victorian cricket to Junction Oval, would therefore solve a number of issues for the cricket, for the AFL and the MCC. Cricket Victoria as a project proponent is now working with all potential beneficiaries of the project, including the AFL and the MCC, to establish the contribution that may be available from all parties to the project's construction costs. Discussions with cricket are continuing at this stage.

Mr O'BRIEN — Just returning to the presentation, and also to budget paper 3, page 273, where you mentioned the women in sport and recreation program. Could you please outline to the committee more about this important program?

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thanks, Mr O'Brien. The Victorian government, as you have heard me say many times, is committed to increasing the number of women who participate in all aspects of community sport. The Victorian government's policy platform focuses on continuing to support women in sport by giving women a greater say in developing programs and funding. We are also supporting the appointment of women to administrative and managerial roles in Victorian sports with the diversity register and ensuring that their views, knowledge and skills are included in the administration of sport. This is not only a matter of creating opportunities to participate in sport and recreation but also ensuring that the sector is able to capitalise on the valuable contribution women can make in the management and decision making when offered the opportunity to share their views, their knowledge and their skills.

The government is committed to giving women a greater say in the development of programs and supporting the appointment of women to boards and decision-making roles by promoting Victoria's women's register, utilisation of existing networks across the sector and associated professional development opportunities to advance the profile of women in sport. The government is providing \$1.282 million over three years to focus on these commitments through the Women in Sport and Recreation program, known as WISAR, which will deliver new initiatives related to three themes: lead — supporting leadership initiatives and professional development opportunities for women; influence, which is supporting organisational change and governance structures; and change — supporting program initiatives that will increase participation levels across all streams of sport and recreation involvement.

In April 2012 I announced eight projects that will deliver on these themes. They will be led by Gymnastics Victoria, Football Federation Victoria, motorcycling, touch, AFL Victoria, Softball Victoria, Canoeing Victoria and Cycling Victoria. Highlights to date from the WISAR projects include Cycling Victoria implementing an online community of female branch leaders through their Breeze program and upskilling 35 females to take on leadership roles. Gymnastics Victoria has successfully delivered a good governance program to female club members, and Football Federation Victoria successfully trained over 140 female coaches to deliver programs to over 10 000 female school students.

Vicsport is also funded to the tune of \$100 000 per annum, from 2011–14, from the WISAR program to develop a strategic platform for women in sport. This includes delivering a program initiative, such as a guest speaker and Champions of Change programs, the female administrative networks and the professional development and mentoring program.

In October 2012 the government provided funding of \$10 000 to assist with the Asia Pacific World Sport and Women Conference to secure Jenny Williams and Kim Morrison as speakers and organise a leadership and coaching workshop for each of these speakers in parallel with the conference. They were well attended by state sporting associations and SRV stakeholders. The government has identified the need and the demand for professional development and networking activities for women in the sport and recreation sector. This presents a clear opportunity for continuing and evolving the government's support for women in sport and recreation.

In 2012–13 the government also approved approximately 36 facilities projects that specifically target the promotion and participation of females, and I spoke about them earlier. This support, as we have talked about, was achieved through a range of grant programs that were delivered through the community facility funding program and the country football/netball program I outlined earlier.

Ms HENNESSY — Minister, I do not expect you to be able to answer questions about the east–west tunnel.

The CHAIR — Well outside the scope of the portfolio.

Ms HENNESSY — I understand that is in the domain of others. There has been some media coverage about how the sporting organisations that utilise Royal Park particularly may or may not be affected by that project, and I wanted to ask: is your department doing any work around sporting clubs that might be affected by the project or which may have to be relocated?

Mr DELAHUNTY — I am trying to work out which page of the budget paper that is.

Ms HENNESSY — I can take you to your community facilities budget outputs. I was going to take you to a range of your budget allocations, but I thought I would pitch it straight up to you.

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thanks, Ms Hennessy. Look, obviously the east–west tunnel, which I am pleased to see you are talking about — it means you might be even supporting it. It is a pity we cannot get your federal colleagues to support — —

Ms HENNESSY — Come on, we have been playing very nice here!

Mr DELAHUNTY — It would be super, very good of your federal government to support this.

Ms HENNESSY — It is just about what is going to happen with the sporting clubs.

Members interjecting.

The CHAIR — Order!

Mr DELAHUNTY — I have seen the maps, and where there is a possibility of the tunnel exiting near some of the sporting facilities over there, which are controlled by the State Sports Centre Trust, which is the netball and hockey facilities we have had very early discussions with my staff on the development of this proposal, but it is far too early to make any decisions on those things.

Again, as minister for sport, I want to see, as I have said before and many times, more people more active. We need to provide quality facilities, and therefore the facilities that are there are very important for the people who do use those facilities. Again, if it does go there and impact on the sport there, we will be looking for ways to mitigate that disruption and also any other opportunities for maybe the relocation of them while the redevelopment does take place, but, again, it is very early in the discussions. There is a lot of work to be done. Again, we are still looking for the federal Labor government to come on board and support this very worthwhile project.

Mr ONDARCHIE — Minister, I would like to talk to you about something that I know is dear to you and to me, and that is volunteers and coaches. Page 273, which others have referred to, says:

... provides strategic leadership to the Victorian sport and recreation industry through innovation, sector development and funding support.

I wonder if you could tell the committee how the government is supporting industry in relation to volunteers and coaches.

The CHAIR — Thank you, Mr Ondarchie. Minister.

Mr DELAHUNTY — Thanks, Chair, and also to Mr Ondarchie. Mr Ondarchie knows, like most of the people here, that volunteers are a very important component of sport and recreation. About 580 000 volunteers on an annual basis support sport and recreation. Governments and local governments can provide facilities, but unless we have volunteers, coaches and administrators there to run the sports and give people the opportunity to play sport, it would not happen.

As we said in our lead-up to the election, in the Victorian Liberal-Nationals coalition plan for sport and recreation we announced a commitment of \$1.75 million from 2011–12 to 2014–15 to increase the skills of the volunteers and to increase the skills of the coaches and sports administrators while working in partnership with stakeholders. We want to establish a sports volunteer resource program and establish, through Sport and Recreation Victoria, a program to disseminate modern coaching techniques and new developments in sports science to community sports clubs and organisations right across this fantastic state of Victoria.

Volunteers are crucial to the operation of sporting clubs and associations. They are an essential component in the delivery of both community and elite sporting activities. The types of initiatives that have been supported by our Victorian coalition government include Target 1000. This is \$200 000 that was invested to increase the number of coaches at the grassroots level. This has resulted in state sporting associations committing to accrediting over 1500 new coaches by increasing the availability of the workforce at the grassroots. The capacity of clubs to provide opportunities for participation in sport and active recreation will also increase.

We are also supporting the regions. Some \$250 000 has been allocated to engage regional volunteers and assist them to better understand the challenges of running successful sports clubs. This includes \$200 000 for the development of Club Help, a web-based health check and resource library being used by regional sports assemblies to identify where clubs require support to meet local sporting needs and opportunities. Mr Pakula has got his BlackBerry over there; he might look up Club Help. It is a very important resource for volunteer clubs right across the state.

Our other programs include the School Sport Victoria leadership program, which is a year-long leadership program for middle secondary students, equipping them to become a new generation of volunteers. We gave \$10 000 to that program. We are putting \$300 000 from 2011 to 2013 into a volunteer innovation program involving small grants for state sporting associations to develop or pilot a range of initiatives that attract, support, retain and recognise volunteers within their sport. We have a partnership program with the Office for the Community Sector to support state sporting associations in utilising a workforce capability framework to build sector capacity for professional development and learning. We have also got a partnership with the Victorian Institute of Sport to deliver a seminar program highlighting best practice in elite coaching and sports science to the wider coaching program. Five seminars have been delivered to date in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

This investment in these volunteer and coaching initiatives will deliver the following strategic outcomes: we will be engaging key stakeholders across the sector, we will be providing a platform to evaluate the success or otherwise of a range of different approaches, we will be supporting individuals and organisations to contribute to volunteering across the sport and recreation sector, we will be forming partnerships with key sector agencies, and we will be responding to the needs of the broad cross-section of the community that is involved in volunteering.

I have to say, Mr Ondarchie, that like you I think that in giving you receive. These volunteers give enormous amounts of their time, sometimes their talents and sometimes their money. They are a very important component of the sport and recreation sector. I say two words to those people, and those are 'Thank you'. I thank them for the work they do, but in giving they receive a lot back, I am sure. Thanks for the very important question about supporting volunteers in the state of Victoria.

The CHAIR — Thank you, Minister. That concludes the hearing on the sport and recreation portfolio. I thank Mr Yates and Ms George for their attendance. There will be a 5-minute break, and we will resume with the veterans' affairs portfolio at 2.15 p.m.

Witnesses withdrew.