

DEPARTMENT OF JOBS,
SKILLS, INDUSTRY AND
REGIONS

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
ON NOTICE

2021-22 & 2022-23 FINANCIAL
AND PERFORMANCE
OUTCOMES

OFFICIAL
 Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
 Inquiry of the 2021-22 & 2022-23 Financial and Performance Outcomes

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Skills and TAFE
Witness:	Lill Healy, Deputy Secretary, Skills & Employment, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien, MP
Page/s of transcript:	15

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. Could I get a breakdown for the out years related to that 2021–22 budget as to what the total was spent on the Victorian Skills Authority –

Lill HEALY: We can follow that up –

Danny O'BRIEN: given that it is slightly different?

Lill HEALY: Yes, certainly we can take that on notice, Mr O'Brien.

Answer:

The following table provides a breakdown of the Victorian Skills Authority's actual expenditure against budget.

\$ million	2020–21		2021–22		2022–23		2023–24		2024–25		Cumulative totals	
	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals	Budget	Actuals to date	Budget	Actuals to date	Budget	Actuals to date
Operating funding												
Salaries & oncosts ¹	0.2	0.3	5.6	3.8	6.1	4.5	6.1	2.0	6.1	0.0	24.1	10.6
Operating expenses	0.4	1.2	12.0	13.5	16.1	18.6	16.4	1.5	16.8	0.0	61.7	34.8
Total	0.6	1.4	17.7	17.4	22.2	23.1	22.5	3.5	22.9	0.0	85.9²	45.4

¹ Also known as 'employment costs', 'oncosts' refer to the additional expenses that the entity incurs beyond the base salary of an employee. These costs include mandatory expenses associated with employing someone: superannuation, payroll, leave, workcover, and long service leave.

² Variation of 0.1 in total is due to rounding of figures contributing to total.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Employment
Witness:	Lill Healy, Deputy Secretary, Skills & Employment, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Meng Heang Tak MP
Page/s of transcript:	22

Question:

Meng Heang TAK: You already alluded to this in terms of data, but what other demographic data do you have about those who are using the program?

Lill HEALY: We collect a whole range of data, and we are currently preparing an evaluation of the program, as it is a pilot. That evaluation is in process now, so I will take that question on notice in terms of the detail. But suffice to say as it is a pilot, and a pilot on an area that is really critical to the health of individuals and therefore our economy, we are looking at a very complex evaluation looking at productivity measures and a range of benefits that will come from that. So it is important that we do collect that data over a range of cohorts as well in terms of age and gender and ethnicity et cetera, as you would expect. If I can take on notice what I cannot tell you now, and then when we will actually have some more knowledge of that –

Answer:

As at 24 November 2023, 99,831 people have signed up for the Victorian Sick Pay Guarantee. Young people make up over a third (40.3%) of the workers who have signed up.

Age group	Registered workers
15-17	2.4%
18-25	37.9%
26-35	27.3%
36-55	25.1%
Over 55	7.3%

Further demographic data is collected through an opt-in survey administered by the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions. As at 24 November 2023, approximately 10% of workers who have signed up have participated in the survey. Those who have responded have the following characteristics:

Category	Survey responses
Women	67.1%
Culturally and linguistically diverse (defined as born overseas from a non-English speaking country.)	34.3%
People with disability	5.0%
LGBTIQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer plus)	9.1%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1.4%

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Portfolio:	Skills and TAFE
Witness:	Lill Healy, Deputy Secretary, Skills & Employment, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien, MP
Page/s of transcript:	15

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Thank you. And just to clarify too, there are 10 additional staff listed as part of a Treasurer's advance of \$1.5 million on page 73 of the questionnaire. Could you just clarify whether those 10 are included in the 57 FTE that I just referred to?

Lill HEALY: Again I will do that. That was for the regional specialists. I will follow up with some detail for you.

Answer:

The 10 Local Engagement Officers referred to on page 73 of the department's Questionnaire are not included in the 57.8 FTE for the Victorian Skills Authority for FY 2021–22 shown on page 232 of the Questionnaire, as the funding of \$1.52 million for these officers was provided through a Treasurer's Advance in the following financial year, 2022–23.

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Portfolio:	Skills and TAFE
Witness:	Lill Healy, Deputy Secretary, Skill and TAFE, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	16

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. Page 28 of 2021–22 budget paper 3 refers to the Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy review, and former federal MP Jenny Macklin was appointed to chair that review. Can I ask: was that a paid position?

Lill HEALY: I would actually have to take that on notice. That was prior to my time in the role. Ms Macklin did lead that review, which then resulted in the improvements to the skills portfolio and in fact the creation of the skills authority, as you have just identified. I will take that on notice, Mr O'Brien.

Danny O'BRIEN: Naturally, of course, my next question is: if it was a paid position, how much was it?

Lill HEALY: Thank you. I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The 'Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy' review was conducted during the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years, with its final report released on 3 February 2021. Jenny Macklin was appointed to lead the review and Ms Macklin's remuneration was consistent with the government's Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines and was commensurate with previous government reviews of this type.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Commonwealth Games Delivery/Commonwealth Games Legacy
Witness:	Tim Ada, Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Mrs Bev McArthur MP
Page/s of transcript:	4

Question:

Bev McARTHUR: How many are still on the payroll?

Tim ADA: For the cohort of what was 91 Office of the Commonwealth Games staff, about 40 staff have either left the Office of the Commonwealth Games for other roles within the Victorian public service or outside of government, which leaves about 50 staff from the former Office of the Commonwealth Games. Mrs McArthur, indeed all Office of the Commonwealth Games staff were redeployed very soon after the government's decision to support the mobilisation of the government's regional package. Indeed some former Office of the Commonwealth Games staff are now supporting the close out of Commonwealth Games activities, including the support for a number of inquiries and audits that are underway.

Bev McARTHUR: Can we get a list of all those staff? On notice?

Answer:

The department has confirmed there were 94 staff in the Office of the Commonwealth Games when it disbanded in July 2023 (not 91 as stated).

As at 28 November 2023, 47 individuals remain in their Office of the Commonwealth Games role, which have been reassigned to other areas of the department:

- SES2 x 4
- SES1 x 3
- VPS6 x 18
- VPS5 x 18
- VPS4 x 4

47 individuals are currently not working in their Commonwealth Games role:

- 9 are in non-Commonwealth Games roles but remain employed by the department, and
- 38 are not in the department, having either left their roles permanently or having taken secondments to other departments.

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Portfolio:	Commonwealth Games Delivery/Commonwealth Games Legacy
Witness:	Tim Ada, Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Mrs Bev McArthur MP
Page/s of transcript:	4

Question:

Bev McARTHUR: What about the Indigenous affairs director? I think that was a quarter-of-a-million-dollar package. Is that person still – or did they just have the contract paid out?

Tim ADA: The Indigenous affairs –

Bev McARTHUR: Director, for the Commonwealth Games.

Tim ADA: Oh, the Indigenous affairs director. The board of the organising committee, Mrs McArthur, would have overseen the payments made to staff when they left the organisation. I would have to take that question on notice. I am not familiar with that position.

Answer:

Victoria 2026 Pty Ltd (Organising Committee) commenced operations independent of the then Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on 6 December 2022.

The department understands the position of Director, First Peoples Engagement was classified as a Senior Executive Services Level 1 (SES-1). The total remuneration package for an SES-1 position for the 2022-23 financial year was \$207,116 - \$267,445 inclusive of superannuation.

The department understands the Director, First Peoples Engagement role was terminated, as were other employees of the Organising Committee, following the cancellation of the Games in accordance with their employment contract.

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Portfolio:	Trade and Investment (former)
Witness:	Danni Jarrett, Deputy Secretary, Industry, Trade and Investment
Committee Member:	Ms Ellen Sandell MP
Page/s of transcript:	35

Question:

Ellen SANDELL: My understanding – and you might have more information than me – was that the pilot did not actually transport as much hydrogen as it had intended and that it had to be supplemented. Is that correct?

Danni JARRETT: I could not comment on that. My answer would be it met the requirements of the pilot, the requirements of the project.

Ellen SANDELL: Okay. I guess your threshold for success, or your definition of success, did not include how much was liquefied and transported. It was just that some was liquefied and transported?

Danni JARRETT: There may have been an amount. I would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The HESC pilot project was a demonstration project. The pilot project success was measured by the successful production of pure hydrogen from Victorian coal and liquefaction and loading for transport to Japan.

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Portfolio:	Commonwealth Games Delivery/Commonwealth Games Legacy
Witness:	Tim Ada, Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Mrs Bev McArthur MP
Page/s of transcript:	6

Question:

Bev McARTHUR: What role did DJSIR have in preparing brief to Treasurer described as Budget Supplementation - Commonwealth Games resourcing, dated 22 February 2023?

...

Bev McARTHUR: And when did you learn it had been successful – or your department, if it was before your time?

Tim ADA: Which –

Danny O'BRIEN: Unsuccessful.

Bev McARTHUR: Unsuccessful, sorry.

Tim ADA: The submission in April was not endorsed, and as I have said to the select committee previously, we were asked to go away and do further work. I would have been told the outcome of that following the meeting; I just do not recall the day. I just do not have that in front of me, but again, I can let you know.

Answer:

1. The department did not prepare a brief to the Treasurer dated 22 February 2023. The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions supports Minister Pallas in his capacity as the Minister for Economic Growth. The department does not brief Minister Pallas on matters outside that portfolio, briefings to the Treasurer are a matter for the Department of Treasury and Finance.
2. I learned of the outcome of the April 2023 submission on Thursday 20 April 2023.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Commonwealth Games Delivery/Commonwealth Games Legacy
Witness:	Tim Ada, Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Mr Nick McGowan MP
Page/s of transcript:	26

Question:

Nick McGOWAN: I suppose the serious point is: to the extent that you know in the reporting period, how much was spent on projects like the mascot and other things, where we actually bought – that is, we purchased – goods and/or services that were then not actually used in any way, shape or form? What concerns me is that we have got some warehouses somewhere full of – I do not know – key ring chains and pens that are never going to be used and these kinds of things, because presumably some people are very efficient and got on and did their job very efficiently. I am just keen to know whether we have got any taxpayer merch that perhaps we can flog at some point in the future.

Tim ADA: On that particular question, I would have to take that on notice. On the broader question about the funds that have been allocated, I think I made the point at the select committee last month that I anticipate the total cost incurred by the department, including grants to third parties like the organising committee and said commercial payments, will be up to \$200 million as of the end of August. The actual expenditure is about \$173 million. Now, some of the effort, Mr McGowan, has obviously continued under some of the initiatives that the government has supported as part of the regional package. But as to your question on merchandise, of which there will be some, I will just have to take that question on notice.

Answer:

During the reporting period, 2021-22 and 2022-23, the department understands that \$69,385.75 was spent on Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games related merchandise.

This merchandise was used by the Victorian delegation to the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony, and by the Organising Committee during their operations to promote the Games to stakeholders.

Following the cancellation of the Games, the department understands the Organising Committee took steps to dispose of remaining merchandise.

A small quantum of residual stock and some signage is currently held by the department and will be disposed of responsibly.

At the time of the cancellation, the Organising Committee was undertaking a procurement process for design of the Commonwealth Games mascot. The mascot had not been determined or manufactured.

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Portfolio:	Trade and Investment (former)
Witness:	Danni Jarrett, Deputy Secretary, Industry, Trade and Investment
Committee Member:	Ms Ellen Sandell MP
Page/s of transcript:	35 and 36

Question

Ellen SANDELL: The 2022–23 budget papers state there have been delays in finalising contracts supporting the regulatory work program for CarbonNet. Could you tell us what the cause of those delays in finalising contracts was?

Danni JARRETT: I would need to take that on notice.

Ellen SANDELL: Okay. And who those contracts were with?

Danni JARRETT: If I could add that to the –

Ellen SANDELL: Add that to the list on notice, thank you. What is the current status of the project?

Skip to page 36

Ellen SANDELL: Yes, sure. Could you tell us how much, over those two years, was spent on CarbonNet?

Danni JARRETT: It is a joint project with the Australian government. The budget for 2021–22 was \$5.4 million and in 2022–23, \$7.8 million.

Answer:

The delay in finalising contracts which support the regulatory work program was due to the complexity of contractual negotiations. The contracts for the regulatory work package are with RPS AAP Consulting Pty Ltd and GHD Pty Ltd.

Further Information - record to be corrected.

Ms Jarrett wishes to correct the record in relation to the budget costings she provided to Ms Sandell. The figures of \$5.4 million in 2021-22 and \$7.8 million in 2022-23 relate to funds from the Australian Government.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Creative Industries
Witness:	Claire Febey, Chief Executive Officer, Creative Victoria, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Michael Galea MP
Page/s of transcript:	13

Relevant text:

Question:

Michael GALEA: I am sorry, I did say that was the last question, but you have just prompted in my mind me to ask one more, and that is about regional Victoria specifically. With the great example of *The Dry*, I know there have been other shows such as *Glitch* that have also been filmed in regional Victoria. What is the landscape looking like for regional productions specifically and any particular projects that Creative Victoria has supported out in regional and rural Victoria?

Claire FEBEY: I wish I had at my fingertips – and I do not – the pipeline of exciting opportunities across regional Victoria. You can pop onto the VicScreen website and you can see there the immense list of towns, places, halls – even a local hall in my community – that are listed there as opportunities to film and to create content. I know there is a really rich pipeline, and perhaps with the committee’s support I could table some further details of what we can see coming up ahead.

Answer:

Twenty-nine VicScreen-supported projects were filmed in rural and regional Victoria in financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23. These projects spent approximately 585 days shooting and generated an estimated:

- \$16 million in regional Victorian production expenditure, supporting regional businesses and communities, and
- 895 job opportunities for regional Victorians.¹

Key projects filmed over this period included:

- *Force of Nature*, the sequel to the smash hit *The Dry*, which is estimated to have injected up to \$16 million into the state’s regional economy and will showcase Victoria’s regions to the world.
- Science fiction psychological thriller, *Foe*, which was directed by Victorian Garth Davis and spent 27 days filming in the Winton Wetlands near Benalla, employing three local production assistants and 40 background artists from Wangaratta, as well as engaging local businesses for security and catering.

¹ As some projects filmed over the 2021-22 and 2022-23 periods have not yet acquitted, the figures quoted for projects across these periods are estimates only (an approach consistent with VicScreen Annual Reports)

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- Crime series, *Scrublands*, spent seven weeks shooting in Gisborne, Newstead, Maldon, Baringhup, Castlemaine, Nyah West, Little River and Truganina. The production generated an estimated expenditure in Victoria of \$6 million and 250 job opportunities.

In addition to the above, three projects are expected to commence this financial year in regional and rural Victoria. While project details are currently under embargo, these projects combined are expected to spend 31 days shooting in rural and regional Victoria, generating an estimated \$1.9 million in regional Victorian production expenditure and 375 job opportunities for regional Victorians.

A list of VicScreen-supported rural and regional productions over the 2021-22 and 2022-23 periods is included at **Attachment 1** (excluding projects currently under embargo).

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Attachment 1 – VicScreen supported projects in rural and regional Victoria 2021-23*

2021/22	
Production	Location/s
<i>Savage River</i>	Myrtleford, Alpine Shire
<i>Foe</i>	Winton Wetlands, Benalla Rural City
<i>Aussie Gold Hunters S7 & S8</i>	Newbridge, Loddon Shire
<i>Bad Behaviour</i>	Macedon Ranges Shire
<i>Force of Nature</i>	Warburton, Yarra Ranges Shire
<i>Counter Girls</i>	City of Greater Geelong
<i>Volcano Man</i>	Koroitgundidj pbarwan kollar (Tower Hill), Moyne Shire
<i>Run Rabbit Run</i>	Jan Juc, Surf Coast Shire
<i>Summer Love</i>	Aireys Inlet, Surf Coast Shire
<i>Southern Ocean Live</i>	Phillip Island, Bass Coast Shire
<i>People’s Republic of Mallacoota</i>	Mallacoota, East Gippsland Shire
2022/23	
Production	Location/s
<i>After The Smoke</i>	Morwell and Latrobe Valley, City of Latrobe
<i>Bromley</i>	Daylesford, Hepburn Shire
<i>Flunk S5</i>	Lilydale and Yarra Ranges, Yarra Ranges Shire
<i>Gold Diggers</i>	Porcupine Village and Maldon, Mount Alexander Shire
<i>High Country</i>	Mt Buller, Mansfield and Jamieson, Mansfield Shire
<i>Jewish Singles In The Snow</i>	Mt Buller, Mansfield Shire
<i>Out Of The City</i>	Maryborough, Central Goldfields Shire
<i>Scrublands</i>	Gisborne, Macedon Ranges Shire Newstead, Maldon, Baringhup and Castlemaine, Mount Alexander Shire Nyah West, Rural City of Swan Hill
<i>Surviving Summer Season 2</i>	Great Ocean Road including Anglesea, Fairhaven, Lorne, Cumberland River, Torquay and Aireys Inlet, Surf Coast Shire
<i>The Rooster</i>	Castlemaine, Mount Alexander Shire
<i>This Is Going To Be Big</i>	Mount Macedon, Macedon Ranges Shire
<i>Videoland</i>	Moe, City of Latrobe

*This list excludes projects currently under embargo for which projects details cannot be released.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Witness:	Peter Betson, Deputy Secretary, Sport and Experience Economy, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mrs Bev McArthur MP
Page/s of transcript:	7

Question:

Bev McARTHUR: So did Victoria's contract renegotiation contribute to this increase? In other words, were you not any good at negotiating a better deal for Victoria?

Peter BETSON: The contributors to the cost were the introduction of F2 and F3 and the freight fees. They led to a program that led to a significant increase in attendances for the event –

Bev McARTHUR: In what area? How much did it increase by, that particular –

Peter BETSON: I do not have the breakdown in terms of the difference between the F2 and F3 costs in freight fees, but I am happy to –

Bev McARTHUR: Provide it? That would be terrific. And would you expect the government – in other words, the taxpayers – contribution to rise again in 2024?

Peter BETSON: In terms of the AGPC, we follow an annual budgeting process, so it is a bit premature to forecast the effect of future costs and how they might affect the gross or net result for AGPC. But that will be published, as it always is annually, in the annual report.

Bev McARTHUR: But given inflation and all these other factors – if they want improvement in their contract or something – surely you would be factoring in what might be happening in the future. It is not very far away.

Peter BETSON: They would be factoring in a number of things, including trying to grow attendances and grow revenue and looking at efficiency savings within the business, so it would be a combination of factors driving revenue and cost, one would expect, yes.

Answer:

The expenses incurred by the Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC) in delivering its events is published in its Annual Report each year and made publicly available on the AGPC website.

An extract of AGPC's 2023 Annual Report outlining the costs of the 2022 and 2023 F1 Grand Prix is shown below:

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7.3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of events

(\$ thousand)

	2022-23 Financial year			2021-22 Financial year				
	2023 Formula 1® Grand Prix	2022 Motorcycle Grand Prix	Future Grand Prix	2022-23 Financial year total	2022 Formula 1® Grand Prix	2021 Motorcycle Grand Prix	Future Grand Prix	2021-22 Financial year total
Expenses from transactions^(a)								
Event management and staging ^(b)	119,285	17,762	-	137,047	79,821	2,244	-	82,065
Recurrent engineering	68,354	17,376	-	85,730	43,006	337	-	43,343
Marketing and promotion	3,188	1,582	-	4,770	3,627	80	-	3,707
Catering	10,921	2,318	-	13,239	11,015	-	-	11,015
Administration ^(b)	21,784	2,581	-	24,365	15,124	1,760	-	16,884
Total expenses from transactions	223,532	41,619	-	265,151	152,593	4,421	-	157,014

Notes:

(a) The expenses above relating to the Formula 1® Grand Prix do not include resources consumed free of charge from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) relating to the provision of free public transport. Refer to Note 7.9.4.

(b) Includes depreciation and amortisation. Refer to Note 7.4.1 for further details.

Event management and staging include costs relating to venue and event operations.

Recurrent engineering expenses include costs relating to the assembly, dismantling and servicing of event infrastructure. It includes any non-capital expenditure on areas in and around the Albert Park and Phillip Island circuits.

Marketing and promotion expenses are costs incurred in ensuring that the event is promoted to the general public and corporate clients thereby increasing sales revenue.

Catering costs are predominantly incurred in the provision of high-class facilities to hospitality clients.

Employee salaries and benefits have been allocated against the appropriate category in the above table.

The specific costs relating to F2 and F3 races and freight fees are paid under the AGPC's contractual arrangements to host the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix.

These costs are commercial-in-confidence and cannot be publicly disclosed.

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Portfolio:	Trade and Investment (former)
Witness:	Danni Jarrett, Deputy Secretary, Industry, Trade and Investment, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Nick McGowan MP
Page/s of transcript:	27

Question:

Nick McGOWAN: International investment outcomes – Secretary, can you tell us why the innovation expenditure generated from international investment secured through government facilitation services and assistance dropped from \$596 million in 2021–22 to an expected outcome of \$135 million in 2022–23.

Tim ADA: Have you got a reference, Mr McGowan?

Nick McGOWAN: Budget paper 3, page 247.

Tim ADA: Is it the 2022–23 budget paper?

Nick McGOWAN: Yes.

Tim ADA: Have you got the question, Ms Jarrett, or we might ask –

Danni JARRETT: No. I am just still looking for it.

Tim ADA: Could you repeat the question, sorry? I think I have got the table now in front of me.

Nick McGOWAN: Yes, sure. I am curious as to why the innovation expenditure generated from the international investment has dropped from \$596 million in 2021–22 to an expected outcome of \$135 million in 2022–23.

Danni JARRETT: Mr McGowan, are you comparing the actual to the expected?

Tim ADA: I am happy to take the question on notice. I cannot quite interpret the question from the table on that page reference, sorry, Mr McGowan.

Nick McGOWAN: That is okay. No, that is fine, if you could take it on notice.

(Confusion on page reference – Mr McGowan said Pg.247, subsequent conversation referenced pg.257 – DJSIR’s Trade and Global Engagement output, but figures do not align with his question.

Note that BP3 page 364 – DTF’s Departmental Performance Statement mostly aligns to Mr McGowan’s question)

Answer:

The innovation expenditure expected outcome in 2022-23 is lower than the 2021-22 actual outcome due to a narrower definition of innovation expenditure and a subsequent revision in the methodology to calculate innovation expenditure in 2022-23.

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Portfolio:	Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Witness:	Peter Betson, Deputy Secretary, Sport and Experience Economy, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mrs Bev McArthur MP
Page/s of transcript:	7

Question:

Bev McARTHUR: So you have told us that you increased the number of patrons attending the event, but on page 39 of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation 2023 annual report it shows there was an operating outcome for the Australian Grand Prix suffering a \$90 million collapse, from a profit of \$60.5 million to a staggering \$30.8 million loss. So you have increased the patrons, but they have gone down the gurgler a bit.

Peter BETSON: Well, in terms of sales revenue, they have increased sales revenue by \$20 million, and they have had increases in expenditure, which I said has led to that net result in terms of the government investment. In terms of the particular matters to which you are referring in the annual report, I would have to take that away on notice and refer that question to the AGPC.

Answer:

The net operating loss of \$30.837 million in the financial year 2022-23 reported on page 39 of the Australian Grand Prix Corporation's (AGPC) 2023 Annual Report relates to the timing of recognised revenue and expenditure in accordance with accounting standards.

Each financial year the AGPC is provided the funds that it is expected to require for the year. In 2021-22, the amount that was provided to the AGPC included significant COVID-19 contingency funds, some of which were not used. In order to comply with accounting standards, this was recognised as revenue in 2021-22 and is reported as an operating surplus.

In 2022-23, the AGPC used this surplus, along with other funds, to meet its expenses and is recorded as a net operating loss.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Outdoor Recreation
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development
Committee Member:	Ms Beverley McArthur MP
Page/s of transcript:	9

Question

Bev McARTHUR: Perhaps they should not have taxpayer investment then. Let us go to fishing. In March 2022 the then Premier announced that the state government would deliver Australia's first offshore wind farm. Given wind farms have the capacity to impact key commercial fishing grounds, what discussions have taken place with the commercial fishing sector on the potential impacts of offshore wind farms?

Tim ADA: I might refer the question to Ms Jones.

Beth JONES: Thanks, Ms McArthur. I would need to get back to you on the specifics of that question. Fisheries came into the department this year. I can certainly take on notice the specifics of that question, but what I would say is that it is very much a part of the work of the VFA to be having those sorts of conversations in relation to interface with commercial development and recreational issues.

Answer:

Assessment and consultation obligations are built into both Commonwealth and State laws relevant to major projects such as offshore wind farms. These include a legislative commitment under the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* (Cmth) that the Australian Government consult prior to declaring areas as offshore wind zones, and a requirement for proponents to prepare and consult on Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) under the *Commonwealth's Environment Protection and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and Environment Effects Statements (EES) under the *Victorian Environment Effects Act 1978* (where the windfarm infrastructure enters Victorian coastal waters and land).

The EIS/EES process encompasses informal consultation by the proponent with stakeholders during development of an EES/EIS, formal opportunities for public input into the scoping requirements for an EES/EIS, and review of an EES/EIS released for public comment.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) made a submission to the proposed declaration of the Gippsland wind farm zone in October 2022 requesting that the Australian Government consult with relevant recreational boating and fishing and commercial fishing representative bodies on the proposed declaration.

The VFA also participates on several Technical Reference Groups, convened by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning, that are assisting proponents with the preparation of their EISs/ESSs. The VFA continues to reiterate to proponents that the interests of the fishing sectors must be considered in the development of any offshore development, including:

- short-term and cumulative impacts of the proposed structures on fish, fish habitat and fish migration

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- patterns of commercial and recreational fishing activity and the likelihood of displacement
- historic catches of species prior to deployment of any structures
- impacts on port or boating infrastructure to support the proposals, and
- suitable mitigation measures to protect against detrimental effects on recreational fishing and boating and commercial fishing.

The VFA continue to direct project proponents to key fishing representative bodies in Victoria, including VRFish, Seafood Industry Victoria, Abalone Council of Victoria, Rock Lobster Advisory Group and the Boating Industry of Victoria.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Outdoor Recreation
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Ms Beverly McArthur MP
Page/s of transcript:	9

Question

Bev McARTHUR: Well, just because we are running out of time, for instance, the Lakes Entrance fishing fleet and the cooperative have the highest seafood input of any port in the state. What discussions or consultations have been made with that sector? If you could get back to me –

Beth JONES: Yes, Ms McArthur.

Answer:

The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) made a submission to the proposed declaration of the Gippsland wind farm zone, which encompasses Lakes Entrance, in October 2022 requesting that the Australian Government consult with relevant recreational boating and fishing, and commercial fishing representative bodies on the proposed declaration.

The VFA participates on several Technical Reference Groups, convened by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning, and continues to advise proponents that the interests of the fishing sector must be considered in any offshore wind development.

The VFA continues to direct all offshore wind project proponents to key fishing representative bodies in Victoria including VRFish, Seafood Industry Victoria, Abalone Council of Victoria, Rock Lobster Advisory Group and the Boating Industry of Victoria.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Industry, Trade and Investment (formally Trade and Investment)
Witness:	Tim Ada, Secretary, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	14

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. The questionnaire indicates that over the two years there was an additional \$66.8 million added to the mRNA vaccine manufacturing capability via Treasurer's advances. That is well over twice the original \$30 million budget allocation. What was that for, and was it provided to Moderna for this facility? Pages 41–42 of the questionnaire if you are looking.

Danni JARRETT: Thank you.

Danny O'BRIEN: But I am sure you can trust me; I am a politician.

The CHAIR: I am not laughing!

Danny O'BRIEN: Endorsement – thanks, Chair.

Tim ADA: Just looking for the reference, Mr O'Brien.

Danny O'BRIEN: There are broad references to what it was for, but I am just trying to get to an understanding of – literally double the original amount – what it went to.

Tim ADA: The Treasurer's advance was required to support the establishment of the mRNA vaccine and therapeutic manufacturing, and it really goes to the contingency release based on the government's prior decision.

Danny O'BRIEN: So that is entirely for the Moderna facility?

Tim ADA: I am not sure. Do you know, Ms Jarrett?

Danni JARRETT: Yes. There were additional projects that were also supported that are mRNA related. It is really about building up the ecosystem in the state around mRNA capability in production and working with research institutes and the like and again to be very complementary to when the Moderna facility is up and running. That is a commercial-scale manufacturing site, and we are really wanting to lean in to mRNA being a leading medical research capability, not just for vaccines but also for RIP cancer and the like.

Danny O'BRIEN: Sorry, can I just clarify – because I think you just answered my question as yes, that money went to the Moderna facility.

Danni JARRETT: No, no, it went to other research projects that are complementary and will be aligned with the Moderna manufacturing facility.

Danny O'BRIEN: It refers to 18 investment and research projects in 2021–22 and a further 32 in 2022–23. That is where that money went?

Danni JARRETT: That is correct.

Danny O'BRIEN: Can we get a breakdown of the projects and the recipients of that money?

Danni JARRETT: We can provide you with more detail on that, yes.

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Danny O'BRIEN: We can? Really?

Danni JARRETT: Yes.

Answer:

The complete list of projects in *Attachment 1 – List of 50 Projects* for a breakdown of the 50 projects and the recipients.

Attachment 1 – List of 50 projects

Number	Grant Program	Leading Organisation	Project Partner	Total Funds	Project Title	Stream
1	mRNA Victoria Research Project Fund	Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences	Doherty Institute	\$5,000,000	Manufacture of Monash COVID-19 Vaccine Candidate for Clinical Trials	Research Grant
2	mRNA Victoria Research Project Fund	Hudson Institute of Medical Research		\$100,000	RNate Platform	Research Grant
3	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Monash University	Alfred Health	\$266,620	Development of a lipopeptide-based nanoparticle RNA delivery system for the treatment of muscular dystrophy or acquired musculoskeletal conditions	Research Grant
4	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health	Swinburne University of Technology	\$75,000	A new mRNA-exosome gene therapy for Niemann-Pick Disease Type C1	Research Grant
5	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	University of Melbourne	Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute	\$500,000	mRNA-based antiviral therapeutics for SARS-CoV-2 using Cas13	Research Grant
6	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	RAGE Biotech	Monash University	\$500,000	Accelerating the development of an inhaled RNA therapeutic for the management of chronic lung disease	Research Grant
7	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health	Monash University	\$16,298	Developing a mRNA vaccine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease	Research Grant
8	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	Monash University	\$100,000	Anti-inflammatory and anti-thrombotic mRNA therapeutics: Potential game-changers for the therapy of cardiovascular diseases	Research Grant
9	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	St Vincent's Institute	Monash University	\$100,000	Reversing autoimmune diabetes with mRNA therapy	Research Grant
10	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Pharmorage Pty Limited	\$100,000	Development of RNA based therapeutics for the management of TLR7-driven autoimmunity	Research Grant

Number	Grant Program	Leading Organisation	Project Partner	Total Funds	Project Title	Stream
11	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	RMIT University	Austin Hospital	\$99,687	Novel mRNA therapeutic strategies for reprogramming tumour associated macrophages in lung cancer	Research Grant
12	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Monash University	Ensign (CHINA) Medical Teck. Co Ltd.	\$100,000	A novel mRNA-based therapy for chronic kidney injury treatment	Research Grant
13	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Monash University	Children's Medical Research Institute	\$99,802	Combining mRNA delivery with viral gene delivery to treat metabolic liver disease in infants and children using in vivo gene editing	Research Grant
14	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology	Royal Melbourne Hospital	\$100,000	Developing novel mRNA vaccines for high-risk groups	Research Grant
15	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	Monash University	University of Melbourne/ Doherty Institute	\$5,400,149	The Victorian Pre-clinical mRNA Innovation Incubator (VPMII)	Research Grant
16	mRNA Victoria Investment Attraction Program	InterVenn BioSciences		CIC	Investment project	Investment
17	mRNA Victoria Investment Attraction Program	Ginkgo Bioworks		CIC	Investment project	Investment
18	mRNA Victoria Investment Attraction Program	St Vincent's Hospital		CIC	Investment project	Investment
19	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	Burnet Institute	Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences	\$3,082,122	Burnet Institute Vaccine Initiative: mRNA vaccines to tackle global pandemic pathogens that provide broad immunity.	Research Grant
20	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	University of Melbourne	\$690,000	Re-defining the RNA that activates innate immune sensors to produce safer and more effective RNA therapies	Research Grant
21	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	Messenger Bio Pty Ltd	GeneOne Life Science	\$495,600	High-throughput Automation and Scale-up of Preclinical mRNA Manufacturing	Research Grant

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Number	Grant Program	Leading Organisation	Project Partner	Total Funds	Project Title	Stream
					and Expansion of the RNA Engineering Toolbox	
22	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	Monash University		\$427,000	RaRtech: a novel and rapid mRNA manufacturing technology for pandemics preparedness and therapeutics.	Research Grant
23	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	Monash University		\$472,000	A universal platform for affinity purification of RNA	Research Grant
24	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	Monash University	University of Western Australia/ ANU	\$606,435	Novel enzymes to transform the manufacturing of mRNA in Victoria.	Research Grant
25	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	University of Melbourne	Monash University	\$788,377	mRNA BEATs technology to enhance CAR T cell therapy of cancer	Research Grant
26	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	University of Melbourne	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre/ Monash University/ Melbourne Health/ St Vincent's Hospital	\$1,759,342	Developing a novel RNA therapeutic for chronic hepatitis B	Research Grant
27	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	University of Melbourne	Doherty Institute/ Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre	\$1,306,536	Leveraging mRNA technology to improve adoptive cell therapy for cancer	Research Grant
28	mRNA Victoria Activation Program	University of Melbourne, The Sir Peter MacCallum Dept of Oncology		\$1,565,420	Sequence-Specific Silencing of Oncogenic Drivers with Personalized Cas13 RNA Therapeutics	Research Grant
29	Moderna Package	Moderna		CIC	Component 1	Investment
30	Moderna Package	Moderna		CIC	Component 2	Investment
31	Moderna Package	Moderna		CIC	Component 3	Investment
32	Moderna Package	Moderna		CIC	Component 4	Investment
33	Moderna Package	Monash University		\$10,000,000	Establishment of the Monash Centre for Advanced mRNA Medicines Manufacturing and Workforce Training	Project Grant

Number	Grant Program	Leading Organisation	Project Partner	Total Funds	Project Title	Stream
34	mRNA Victoria Special Research Project Fund	Hudson Institute of Medical Research		\$400,000	RNate Screening Platform	Research Grant
35	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Murdoch University	\$100,000	ASO against SRY as a potential therapeutic for Male Parkinson's Disease	Research Grant
36	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Hudson Institute of Medical Research	Silence Therapeutics	\$100,000	Modulation of Iron Overload in the Myelodysplastic Syndromes using siRNA therapy	Research Grant
37	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Monash University	University of Dublin	\$100,000	A modular platform for the development of mRNA-based epigenetic drugs: a pilot.	Research Grant
38	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Monash University	PTNG Bio	\$100,000	Structure-based antigen design as a novel strategy for precision mRNA vaccines.	Research Grant
39	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Monash University	First Affiliated hospital/ Ensign (CHINA) Medical Teck. Co. Ltd	\$100,000	Cardiac-homing Lipid Nanoparticles for Relaxin-2 mRNA Delivery	Research Grant
40	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Murdoch Children's Research Institute	Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)	\$99,471	Development of a novel ASO-based therapeutic for TRAPPC4-related disorder	Research Grant
41	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute	WEHI	\$500,000	Development of nuclear mRNA targeting therapeutics to treat cancer	Research Grant
42	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute	Storm Therapeutics	\$500,000	Therapeutically targeting mRNA methylation to enhance anti-tumour immunity	Research Grant
43	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research	Monash University/ RAGE Biotech	\$100,000	The use of mRNA therapy for blood cell cancers	Research Grant
44	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research	Royal Childrens Hopsital/ Maddie Riewoldt's Vision	\$100,000	RNA delivery of therapeutic gene editing to blood stem cells	Research Grant

Number	Grant Program	Leading Organisation	Project Partner	Total Funds	Project Title	Stream
45	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	WEHI	The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity	\$75,000	Using lipid nanoparticles to deliver novel combination RNA therapeutics for pulmonary bacterial infections	Research Grant
46	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	WEHI	Monash University	\$81,000	mRNA-encoded nanobody therapy against COVID-19	Research Grant
47	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	WEHI	Mermaid Bio Pty Ltd	\$100,000	Harnessing mRNA delivery for intracellular antibody therapies	Research Grant
48	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	University of Melbourne	Children's Cancer Institute Australia	\$98,659	Building predictive power to fast-track the evaluation and prioritisation of nanocarriers for therapeutic RNA delivery in brain cancer	Research Grant
49	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	University of Melbourne	Denteric Pty Ltd	\$500,000	Development of an mRNA vaccine for a human bacterial pathogen Porphyromonas gingivalis involved in Periodontitis and Alzheimer's Disease.	Research Grant
50	mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund	University of Melbourne	Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand	\$93,296	A mRNA vaccine for preventing liver-stage malaria	Research Grant

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien, MP
Page/s of transcript:	16 and 17

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. I think this will be for you too. The Ready to Grow program – page 8 of the questionnaire talks about the Ready to Grow program creating local employment opportunities, addressing disadvantage and supporting local businesses and supply chains. Are you able to tell me how many jobs in total the program created?

Beth JONES: I would need to take the total number of jobs that that program created on notice, because they are created through about five different GROWs across the state, Mr O'Brien. But yes, I will take it on notice.

Danny O'BRIEN: My next question, and perhaps you might take this a notice too, is: how many did it create in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Shepparton and the Latrobe Valley?

Beth JONES: Correct. That is correct.

Danny O'BRIEN: If you can provide that breakdown, if you have it as well –

Beth JONES: Can do, yes.

Answer:

GROW has advised that the program facilitated 1,774 jobs in the following GROW project locations:

- Ballarat/Central Highlands (136)
- Bendigo (174)
- Geelong (697)
- Shepparton (587)
- Gippsland/Latrobe Valley (180).

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Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien, MP
Page/s of transcript:	17

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: The questionnaire mentions there was an evaluation of that program completed. Is that able to be provided to the committee?

Beth JONES: I would need to take that on notice, Mr O'Brien. That was an internal evaluation done within the department, so I just need to take on notice whether that is something that could be released.

Answer:

The lapsing program evaluation of the Ready to Grow program was appended to a Cabinet committee submission and is classified as Cabinet-in-Confidence.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	20

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Just very quickly, regional car parks – the department received a Treasurer's advance for 1149 car parks in Ballarat and Latrobe Valley across 13 sites. How many of those car parks have actually been delivered in Ballarat and how many in the Latrobe Valley?

Beth JONES: Just bear with me, Mr O'Brien. I will get the exact numbers for you. As of this date, Mr O'Brien, there are 306 car spaces that are now available for use in the Latrobe Valley and Ballarat.

Danny O'BRIEN: 306?

Beth JONES: 306.

Danny O'BRIEN: Yes.

Bev McARTHUR: How many in Ballarat and how many in the Latrobe Valley?

Beth JONES: Let me just –

Tim ADA: 113 in Ballarat and the balance in the Latrobe Valley.

Beth JONES: Thank you. 113 at Ballarat.

Danny O'BRIEN: When are the rest going to be delivered?

Beth JONES: There will be a further 34 spaces available in Ballarat at the end of January 2024.

Danny O'BRIEN: If you have the opportunity to provide that data on notice, because my time has run out, that would be great.

Beth JONES: Certainly, yes. I can give you a breakdown.

Answer:

Of the 1149 car spaces funded by the Treasurer's Advance:

- 113 have been delivered across 2 sites in Ballarat and 193 have been delivered across 4 sites in Latrobe.
- A further 707 spaces are presently under design or construction in the Latrobe Valley with all sites due for completion by mid-2026.
- 36 spaces are under construction in Ballarat due for delivery by August 2024.
- A further 100 spaces are under construction to be delivered at Bacchus Marsh in February 2024.

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400 car spaces are under construction at the Ballarat Base Hospital by the Victorian Health Building Authority.

Sites for the remaining 451 Ballarat car parks at Ballarat are currently under consideration in consultation with key stakeholders.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page of transcript:	19 and 20

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: \$149,000. Thank you. Ms Jones, you mentioned some support with the LVA for the timber industry. I think there is a Treasurer's advance mentioned of \$700,000 for the LVA to deliver services to the timber industry and its workers. Are you able to provide a breakdown of what that money was used for and who it went to?

Beth JONES: I can take that on notice, Mr O'Brien, yes.

Danny O'BRIEN: So looking literally at the criteria for allocating that funding and also whether there will be an evaluation of the success of that funding when it is completed.

Beth JONES: Yes, Mr O'Brien.

Danny O'BRIEN: If you can provide me a breakdown of who and what it went to, that would be useful.

Beth JONES: Yes.

Answer:

The \$700,000 has been provided in full as a grant to the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council (GTLC). The Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) is administering this grant.

It will fund worker transition support for more than 220 non-Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union (CFMEU) workers and their families affected by the discontinuation of white paper production at Opal Australian Paper's Maryvale Mill in Morwell.

Under the conditions of the grant, the GTLC will be required to report on the outcomes of the program on its completion.

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Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
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Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. Thank you. Moving to my old favourite, the Latrobe Valley Authority, the questionnaire indicates the department took an independent lapsing program evaluation of the Latrobe Valley Authority. Can that be provided to the committee?

Beth JONES: I would need to take that away and find out, Mr O'Brien. It is a practice that is common when a program is lapsing that there is an evaluation done to inform what has occurred and what may occur in the future. I would need to take away whether that is something that I can provide to you, Mr O'Brien.

Tim ADA: It just would have been appended to a budget submission, Mr O'Brien, so we can consult the government and come back to you.

Answer:

The lapsing program evaluation of the Latrobe Valley Authority is classified as Cabinet-in-Confidence and therefore cannot be released.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page of transcript:	18 -19

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: I think it may actually say that it was an internal review – or was it an external review?

Beth JONES: It was done externally but as an internal evaluation. But it was done by an external person.

Danny O'BRIEN: By a consultant?

Beth JONES: Correct.

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. So you will come back to me whether it can be released. Can I ask how much it cost?

Beth JONES: I would need to come back to you on that as well, Mr O'Brien, in terms of the exact cost of that, unless –

Danny O'BRIEN: The Secretary is looking for it madly, so you never know –

Beth JONES: There you go.

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Tim ADA: And I have found the cost of that external evaluation.

Danny O'BRIEN: Yes?

Tim ADA: It is \$149,949.

Danny O'BRIEN: Am I allowed to know who did it?

Tim ADA: I do not have that here, Mr O'Brien.

Answer:

The evaluation cost \$149,949 (excluding GST) and was undertaken by KPMG.

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Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Beth Jones, Deputy Secretary, Regional and Suburban Development, DJSIR
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	17 and 18

Question:

Danny O'BRIEN: Yes, I understand that. Has the department done any analysis now of the ability of those programs individually in the regions to go ahead without the ongoing state government funding?

Beth JONES: Mr O'Brien, there has been work that has gone on with the secretariat of the community leadership program across the state to explore different pathways for how those programs can continue. I know that that looks different in different places across the 10 leadership programs. But, sorry, if I could just go back to your specific question –

Danny O'BRIEN: Has the department done any analysis of whether they will be able to continue?

Beth JONES: No. We have just been working with the local providers to try, as best we can, to support the remainder of the delivery of the program and look at what other funding pathways there might be that could support that.

Danny O'BRIEN: Is there any indication from the 10 that any of them will have to fold?

Beth JONES: I am not aware of that, Mr O'Brien. I would expect there may be some folding of those leadership programs. I would expect that some would continue. But in terms of the exact decision for each one individually, I do not know that those decisions have been reached. I would need to take that away.

Answer:

The Regional Community Leadership Statewide Secretariat has advised the department that all 9 (not 10, as stated in the hearing) Regional Community Leadership Programs are committed to running a Regional Community Leadership Program in 2024, adapted to local settings.