



Estimates and Financial Operations Committee

Department of Planning

Hon Jacqui Boydell MLC asked:

- 1) On page 6 of the former Department of Planning's annual report for 2016/17 under the heading "Our Workforce" it refers to "The Department's 436 employees (441 full-time equivalents)". Can you please advise:

- a) why is the figure for FTE is higher than the number of employees;

Answer:

The figure of 436 refers to the Department of Planning's permanent workforce. It does not include those employees engaged on fixed-term contracts. The full-time equivalent (FTE) figure is an average calculated for the 2016/17 financial year based on a combination of permanent and fixed term employees. Further contributing to the increased FTE was the number of employees, both permanent and fixed term, increasing their rostered hours of work.

- b) what is the number of employees (and the total FTE) working in regional Western Australia, broken down by location, as at December 2017; and

Answer:

Bunbury: 20 employees, 18.73 FTE

Albany: 11 employees, 9.9 FTE

Mandurah: 11 employees, 10.35 FTE

- c) what is the total FTE required to be cut as part of the State Government's Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme?

Answer:

The Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme (VTSS) is a Budget repair tool to assist agencies in meeting Machinery of Government (MoG) savings resulting from the amalgamation of a number of government departments as well as assist in achieving workforce renewal by enabling agencies to retain 20% of the savings. The VTSS is open to all general government employees, though priority is being given to agencies impacted by the MoG changes (which took effect from 1 July 2017).

Agency targets are Cabinet-in-confidence and were provided as a guide to assist agencies and Ministers with implementation of the scheme. While the reductions will vary between agencies depending on factors like MoG changes, the size and role of individual agencies and other impacts, all agencies are expected to contribute in order to meet the overall reduction target of 3,000 employees.

Agencies are currently working with the Public Sector Commission to progress the scheme via individual expression of interest (EOI) processes. The

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agency EOIs are currently at various stages, with all exits expected to occur by 31 March 2018. Progress will be reported to Cabinet during the 2018-19 Budget process, with the aim of achieving the 3,000 separations and reflecting the actual savings and costs from the VTSS in the 2018-19 Budget

- 2) Table 4 on page 6 of the former Department of Planning's annual report for 2016/17 shows the number of regionally-based employees and their locations. Can you please advise the number of employees (and the total FTE) working in regional Western Australia, broken down by location, as at December 2017?

Answer:

Please see response to 1(b).