



## Legislative Assembly Parliament of Victoria

# Fact Sheet 13

## Tracking Legislation on the Internet

Parliament's website provides a wide range of information. One useful feature is the ability to track the progress of bills (proposed legislation). You can find out what laws Parliament is proposing, the status of legislation and what members say about a bill.


Parliament's internet site is [www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au). Each link features a series of drop-down boxes, under which you will find useful information.



## Notice paper

To find the agenda for the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) or the Legislative Council (Upper House) check the notice papers for each House. The notice papers list business in progress for each House.

The order business is listed in is a useful guide but, during a sitting day, items can be called forward or postponed.

 [Choose Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly] → Documents → Chamber Documents → Notice Papers → [Select relevant day]

Business to be considered is listed under the headings ‘Government Business’ and ‘General Business’. Within each of these categories ‘Orders of the Day’ and ‘Notices of Motion’ are shown separately.


For Government bills which have already been introduced and are at a stage where they may be considered further, check the details under the headings ‘Government Business’ ‘Orders of the Day’. Bills which cannot be considered until future dates are listed later in the notice paper under the heading ‘Business Listed for Future Days’ and this can be found towards the back of the notice paper.

An extract from a notice paper

<b>GOVERNMENT BUSINESS</b>	
<b><i>ORDERS OF THE DAY</i></b>	
1	<b>EDUCATION AND TRAINING AMENDMENT BILL 2008</b> — <i>Second reading.</i>
2	<b>ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AMENDMENT (LANDFILL LEVIES) BILL 2008</b> — Second reading — <i>Resumption of debate (Ms Green).</i>
3	<b>LAND (REVOCATION OF RESERVATIONS) BILL 2008</b> — Second reading — <i>Resumption of debate (Mr Langdon).</i>

### **Minutes**


You can also find the minutes of both Houses. In the Assembly these are called *Votes and Proceedings*. They are the official record of decisions made on a particular day.

 [Choose Legislative Council or Legislative Assembly] → Documents → Chamber Documents → [Choose Minutes or Votes and Proceedings] → [Choose relevant day]

For more information on the *Votes and Proceedings*, see *Fact Sheet 35: Votes and Proceedings*.

### **Assembly Abridged**

Assembly Abridged is a summary of each sitting day in the Assembly, listing key decisions, documents, progress on legislation and debate.

 Legislative Assembly → Documents → Chamber Documents → Assembly Abridged → [Choose relevant day]

## Bills

Once a bill has had its second reading the introduction print becomes available on Parliament's website. The explanatory memorandum is also available and gives a useful explanation of the bill.



Legislation & Bills → Parliamentary Documents → Bills → [Choose relevant bill]

If amendments are made to the bill before it is sent to the second House, another version is produced called the amended print. This will also be available online. Amendments proposed are available online, even if they are not agreed to.

### Online bills

The screenshot shows the website for the Police Integrity Bill 2008. It provides links to download the Introduction Print (561267bi1.doc, 641024 bytes), the Introduction Print Explanatory Memorandum (561267exi1.pdf, 244775 bytes), the Amended Print (561267bi1.pdf, 605348 bytes), and the Amended Print Explanatory Memorandum (561267exi1.doc, 384512 bytes). A table below details the bill's progress:

First House Details: Legislative Assembly	
<b>First Reading</b>	
Introduced By:	Hon R. Cameron
First Reading Passed Date:	11/03/2008
<a href="#">Click Here to View the Statement of Compatibility</a>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	
Date Moved:	13/03/2008
<a href="#">Click Here to View the Second Reading Speech</a>	
Under the Government Business Program agreed to by the House 08/04/2008, debate on this bill must be completed by 4.00 pm on Thursday 10/04/2008. Debate resumed 09/04/2008.	
<b>Second Reading Completed:</b>	
Date:	09/04/2008
<b>Third Reading</b>	
Date Moved:	09/04/2008

### Bills status list

The bills status list provides the names and status of all bills before Parliament at the end of each sitting day. The list is cumulative for each sitting period.



Legislation & Bills → Parliamentary Documents → Bills Status List → [Choose relevant day]

Extract from a Bills Status List

Short Title	Status in Assembly	Status in Council	Assent Date	Act No
Motor Car Traders Amendment Bill 2007	passed 4/12/2007	passed 26/2	4/3	4/08
Police Integrity Bill 2008	passed 9/4	2 <sup>nd</sup> reading moved 10/4		

## Bill status report

If your interest is in tracking a particular bill, it is quicker to use the status report for the specific bill. The status report also includes direct links to the second reading speech and statement of compatibility for the bill.



Legislation & Bills → Parliamentary Documents → Bills → [Choose relevant bill]

Example of a status report — Motor Car Traders Amendment Bill 2007

<b>First House Details: Legislative Assembly</b>	
<b>First Reading</b>	
Introduced By:	Mr A Robinson
First Reading Passed Date:	30/10/2007
<a href="#">Click Here to View the Statement of Compatibility</a>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	
Date Moved:	01/11/2007
<a href="#">Click Here to View the Second Reading Speech</a>	
	Under the Government Business Program agreed to by the House 4/12/2007 debate on this bill must be completed by 4.00 pm on Thursday 06/12/2007. Debate resumed 04/12/2007.
Second Reading Completed:	Passed
Date:	04/12/2007
<b>Third Reading</b>	
Date Moved:	04/12/2007
Third Reading Completed:	Passed
Date:	04/12/2007
<b>Message to Second House</b>	
Date:	04/12/2007

<b>Second House Details: Legislative Council</b>	
<b>Message Received</b>	
Date:	05/12/2007
<b>First Reading</b>	
Introduced By:	Hon. Justin Madden
First Reading Passed Date:	05/12/2007
<a href="#">Click Here to View the Statement of Compatibility</a>	
<b>Second Reading</b>	
Date Moved:	06/12/2007
<a href="#">Click Here to View the Second Reading Speech</a>	
	Debate resumed 26/02/2008
Second Reading Completed:	Passed
Date:	26/02/2008
<b>Third Reading</b>	
Date Moved:	26/02/2008
Third Reading Completed:	Passed
Date:	26/02/2008
<b>Royal Assent</b>	
Date:	04/03/2008
Act Number:	4/2008

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For an explanation of the stages of a bill, see *Fact Sheet 2: Stages of a Bill*.

## Acts

When a bill is given royal assent it becomes an Act. The Act becomes operational upon assent, as proclaimed by the Governor or on a fixed date, or indeed, any combination of these options.

Assent and proclamation dates are published in the Victorian Government Gazette.


 [www.gazette.vic.gov.au](http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au)

*A database of commencement dates from 1958 onwards is available on the website of the Office of Chief Parliamentary Counsel.*


 [www.ocpc.vic.gov.au](http://www.ocpc.vic.gov.au) → Acts Commencement Information

## Current legislation

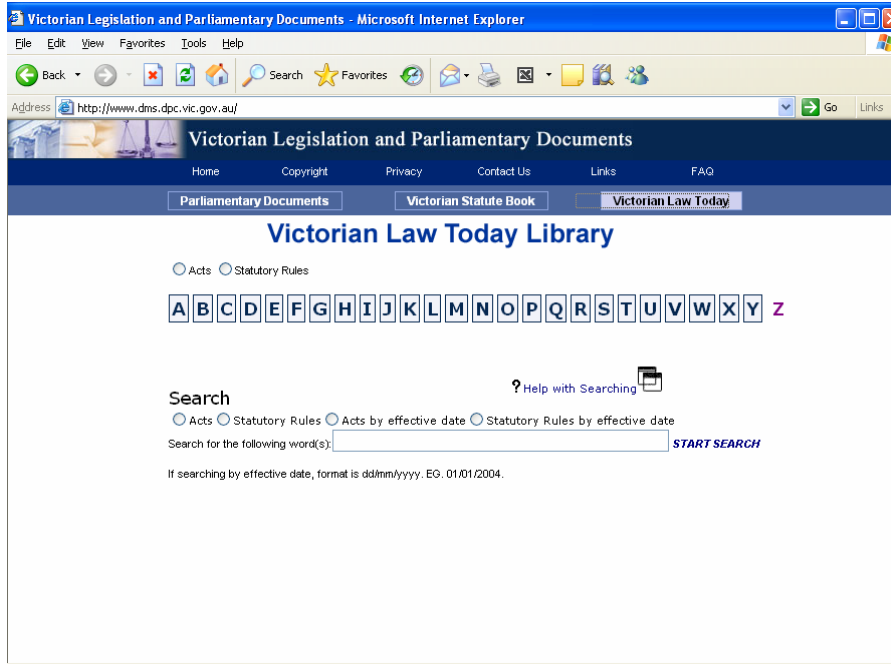
At royal assent the Act appears in the Statute Book on the website. The Statute Book contains, by years, the original versions of Acts passed and regulations made.

 Legislation & Bills → Victorian Statute Book → [List Acts by title or List Statutory Rules by title] → [Choose relevant year] → [Choose relevant Act/statutory rule]

Acts are amended frequently. To ensure you are using the latest version, which includes all operative amendments, use the Law Today option. Acts and statutory rules are stored alphabetically.

 Legislation & Bills → Victorian Law Today → [Select Acts or Statutory Rules and click the relevant letter] → [Select the Act or statutory rule]

## Victorian Law Today



## Archives

Parliamentary documents from sitting periods back to 1996 are available.



Legislation & Bills → Parliamentary Documents → Archive → [select relevant document from menu on left] → [select sitting period]

## Hansard

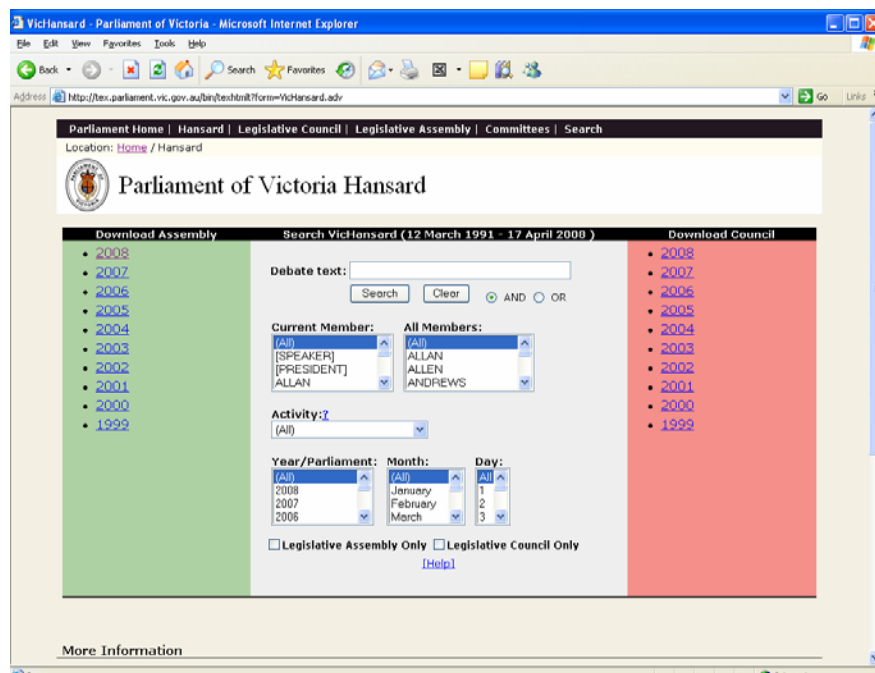
Hansard records what is said during the debates in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. It is not an exact word for word account of everything that was said, but it is an accurate representation of speeches and statements with corrections made for redundancies, obvious grammatical errors, slips of the tongue and factual errors.

Hansard produces two versions of the debates. Daily Hansard, a proof version, is available by 8.30 am the next day and weekly Hansard is available approximately one week after the completion of each sitting week. The books are later incorporated into bound sessional volumes.



Hansard records from 1991 onwards can be searched online by selecting the Hansard link on Parliament's website.

## Hansard search screen



Issued by the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, May 2008

## Fact Sheets

The Legislative Assembly Procedure Office has produced a series of Fact Sheets that explain parliamentary procedure and terminology. All Fact Sheets are available on Parliament's website [www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au) or through the Procedure Office.

## Contact Details

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