



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

#### No. 99 — Wednesday, 5 February 2025

*Proof Version*

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- 1 The President took the Chair at 9.32 am, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.
  - 2 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** — The President advised the House that David Davis resigned from the Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee, effective from 4 February 2025.
  - 3 **PETITION — SAVE SILVERLEAVES FROM COASTAL EROSION** — Melina Bath presented a petition bearing 4,370 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to urgently fund and implement the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action’s proposed geotextile revetment to protect homes, public infrastructure and public land in the short term, and work collaboratively with the Silverleaves community to plan and fund long-term solutions to mitigate and manage coastal erosion (*Ordered to be tabled*).  
The petition having received the required number of signatures, Melina Bath listed the petition for future debate during Petitions (qualifying for debate).
  - 4 **PAPER PRESENTED UNDER AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT** — The Clerk tabled the following paper:  
Auditor-General — Reporting on Local Government Performance: Follow-up, February 2025 (*Ordered to be published*).
  - 5 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** — David Davis moved, by leave, That David Davis be a participating member of the Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee.  
Question — put and agreed to.
  - 6 **MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS** — Members made statements.
  - 7 **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT (ABORTION) BILL 2024** — Sarah Mansfield laid on the Table the statement of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.  
Sarah Mansfield moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.  
On the motion of Lee Tarlamis, the debate was adjourned for two weeks.

**8 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — SUBURBAN RAIL LOOP RISK REGISTER —** David Davis

moved, That this House —

(1) notes —

- (a) the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) project is the largest infrastructure project in Victoria's history and is not yet fully funded;
  - (b) the SRL project has already seen the cost of the project escalate from \$50 billion for three stages to at least \$34.5 billion for stage one alone;
  - (c) an early version of the SRL Risk Register, a strategic risks spreadsheet created prior to March 2020, was released by the Suburban Rail Loop Authority under the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal's direction of 12 December 2024 in case Z773/2022;
- (2) in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Council —
- (a) within three weeks of the House agreeing to this resolution, the most recent SRL Risk Register; and
  - (b) every three months commencing from the date of tabling of the register in paragraph (2)(a) until the expiration of the project or the expiration of the 60th Parliament, the most current version of the SRL Risk Register.

Debate ensued.

*The Acting President advised that the total time allocated for debate, pursuant to Sessional Order 6, had elapsed.*

Question — put and agreed to.

**9 CRIME IN PRAHRAN —** David Davis moved, That this House notes —

- (1) the resignation of the Victorian Greens party member Mr Sam Hibbins as the Member for Prahran;
- (2) the by-election is to be held in Prahran on 8 February 2025;
- (3) that despite the significant increase in local population, between 2020 and 2023 the Prahran Police Station experienced a fall of 16 per cent in the total number of weekday staff and a fall of 27 per cent in the total number of weekend staff, and all too often the Prahran Police Station has not been open and fully staffed;
- (4) independent Crime Statistics Agency data for the year ending 30 September 2024 shows total recorded criminal incidents in the Prahran electorate to be rising to record highs, including the increase of —
  - (a) residential burglaries in Prahran by 39 per cent;
  - (b) motor vehicle theft in Prahran by 68 per cent;
  - (c) thefts from motor vehicles in South Yarra by 64 per cent;
  - (d) residential burglaries in South Yarra by 43 per cent;
  - (e) retail theft in Windsor by 158 per cent; and
- (5) the tolerance bordering on acquiescence of the Victorian Greens for the rising incidence of crime, particularly violent crime in Prahran.

Debate ensued.

*Business interrupted at 12.00 noon, pursuant to Sessional Orders.*

**10 QUESTION TIME —**

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE AND MINISTERS' STATEMENTS —** Members asked questions without notice and ministers made statements.

**QUESTIONS DIRECTED FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE** — The President directed ministers to provide written responses to questions without notice pursuant to Standing Order 8.07 as follows:

- **Animals impacted by Grampians bushfires (QwN 783)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Georgie Purcell — response from Gayle Tierney due Friday, 7 February 2025.
- **WorkCover modernisation scheme (QwN 787)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Aiv Puglielli — response from Jaclyn Symes due Friday, 7 February 2025.

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**CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS** — Members asked constituency questions.

- 11 CRIME IN PRAHRAN** — Debate resumed on the question, That this House notes —
- (1) the resignation of the Victorian Greens party member Mr Sam Hibbins as the Member for Prahran;
  - (2) the by-election is to be held in Prahran on 8 February 2025;
  - (3) that despite the significant increase in local population, between 2020 and 2023 the Prahran Police Station experienced a fall of 16 per cent in the total number of weekday staff and a fall of 27 per cent in the total number of weekend staff, and all too often the Prahran Police Station has not been open and fully staffed;
  - (4) independent Crime Statistics Agency data for the year ending 30 September 2024 shows total recorded criminal incidents in the Prahran electorate to be rising to record highs, including the increase of —
    - (a) residential burglaries in Prahran by 39 per cent;
    - (b) motor vehicle theft in Prahran by 68 per cent;
    - (c) thefts from motor vehicles in South Yarra by 64 per cent;
    - (d) residential burglaries in South Yarra by 43 per cent;
    - (e) retail theft in Windsor by 158 per cent; and
  - (5) the tolerance bordering on acquiescence of the Victorian Greens for the rising incidence of crime, particularly violent crime in Prahran.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Nick McGowan; Evan Mulholland; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell.

*(Recorded by Clerks-at-the-Table, pursuant to an order of the Council on 23 April 2020)*

NOES, 21

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; Sarah Mansfield; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Harriet Shing; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; Sonja Terpstra; Gayle Tierney; Sheena Watt.

*(Recorded by Clerks-at-the-Table, pursuant to an order of the Council on 23 April 2020)*

Question negatived.

**12 INFRASTRUCTURE IN WERRIBEE** — Evan Mulholland moved, That this House notes —

- (1) the resignation of the Hon. Tim Pallas, former Treasurer, as the Member for Werribee;
- (2) the by-election is to be held in Werribee on 8 February 2025;
- (3) that Labor has taken Werribee and other western Melbourne seats for granted for too long, failing to provide adequate infrastructure given the massive population growth, including —
  - (a) electrifying lines to Wyndham Vale, despite promising to do so;
  - (b) neglecting Werribee's bus network which will suffer another blow after manufacturers were banned by Labor from ordering replacement diesel buses;
  - (c) building adequate road infrastructure, forcing the growing local community to wait endlessly in traffic;
  - (d) the Suburban Rail Loop West which has no estimated construction and completion dates and is simply a cynical ploy by Labor to string along the long-suffering people of the west;

and calls on the Labor Government to finally prioritise the people of Werribee over Premier Jacinta Allan's Suburban Rail Loop.

Debate ensued.

*The Acting President advised that the total time allocated for debate, pursuant to Sessional Order 3, had elapsed.*

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Nick McGowan; Evan Mulholland; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell.

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*(Recorded by Clerks-at-the-Table, pursuant to an order of the Council on 23 April 2020)*

Question negatived.

**13 BUSINESS POSTPONED** — Ordered — That the consideration of notice of motion, general business, No. 790, be postponed until later this day.**14 ACCESS TO ABORTION** — Sarah Mansfield moved, That this House —

- (1) notes that it was 17 years since abortion was decriminalised in Victoria;
- (2) acknowledges the many decades of advocacy by fearless individuals that preceded abortion reforms;
- (3) recognises that significant barriers still exist for people seeking to terminate a pregnancy, including —
  - (a) social stigma;

- (b) some healthcare providers' refusal to participate in abortion provision;
  - (c) costs associated with surgical and medication treatment options as well as employment leave, travel and childcare arrangements;
  - (d) the complete lack of service provision in many local government areas across Victoria;
- (4) further notes the recent efforts in multiple parliaments across Australia seeking to limit and/or repeal reproductive freedoms and access to abortion services;
- (5) reaffirms its commitment to abortion as essential, routine healthcare and a basic right; and
- (6) commits to actively guard against current and future threats to abortion and Victorians' reproductive freedoms, including but not limited to consideration of amendments to the *Constitution Act 1975*.

Debate ensued.

*Business interrupted at 5.15 pm, pursuant to Sessional Orders, the debate stood adjourned in the name of Harriet Shing.*

**15 STATEMENTS ON TABLED PAPERS AND PETITIONS** — Members made statements on reports, papers and petitions.

*Business interrupted at 5.48 pm, pursuant to Sessional Orders.*

**16 PETITIONS (QUALIFYING FOR DEBATE) — RESTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DAYS FOR VIOLENT AND HIGH-RISK PRISONERS** — Renee Heath moved, That the petition be taken into consideration.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

**17 ADJOURNMENT** — Harriet Shing moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 7.00 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD  
*Clerk of the Legislative Council*