



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
60TH PARLIAMENT
Nos. 153, 154 and 155

No. 153 — Tuesday, 17 February 2026

- 1 The President took the Chair at 12.02 pm, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.

- 2 **THE LATE HONOURABLE ALAN HENRY SCANLAN** — Jaclyn Symes moved, That this House expresses its sincere sorrow at the death, on 22 December 2025, of the Honourable Alan Henry Scanlan, and places on record its acknowledgement of the valuable services rendered by him to the Parliament and the people of Victoria as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Electoral District of Oakleigh from 1961 to 1979, and as Minister of Health from 1973 to 1976 and as Minister of Special Education from 1976 to 1979.

Other members addressed the House.

Members rose in their places for one minute's silence as a mark of respect and the question was agreed to unanimously.

As a further mark of respect, the sitting was suspended for one hour.

[Sitting suspended from 12.13 pm to 1.13 pm]

- 3 **ASSENT TO ACTS** — The President read Messages from the Governor informing the Council that she had, on the following dates, given the Royal Assent to the following Acts presented to her by the Clerk of the Parliaments:

On 10 February 2026 —

Justice Legislation Amendment (Family Violence, Stalking and Other Matters) Act 2026

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Amendment (Financial Assurance) Act 2026

On 17 February 2026 —

Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Act 2026.

- 4 **ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE — DISCONTINUATION OF SELF-REFERRAL — INQUIRY INTO THE VICTORIAN ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION GRID** — The President announced that he received a letter from the Chair of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee advising that the Committee have agreed to

no longer proceed with their self-referenced Inquiry into the Victorian electrical transmission grid due to insufficient time.

5 QUESTION TIME —

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

* * * * *

ANSWERS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION — Ordered that the following answers be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting —

- On the motion of David Davis, the answers given by Jaclyn Symes to questions relating to corruption payments on Big Build sites (QwN 1217).
- On the motion of Richard Welch, the answers given by Jaclyn Symes to questions relating to Incolink grants (QwN 1219).

* * * * *

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

6 PAPERS —

COMMITTEE REPORT — SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE —

Pursuant to section 35 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Sonja Terpstra tabled Alert Digest No. 2 of 2026 (including Appendices) from the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (*Ordered to be published*).

* * * * *

PAPERS PRESENTED UNDER ACTS OF PARLIAMENT — The Clerk tabled the following papers:

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 — Orders of 10 February 2026 giving approval to the granting of two leases at Albert Park.

Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 — Notice under section 32(3)(a)(iii) in relation to Statutory Rule No. 146/2025 (*Gazette S74, 12 February 2026*).

Maryborough District Health Service — Report, 2024-25 (*replacement for copy tabled on Thursday, 30 October 2025*).

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — Notices of approval of the —
Alpine Planning Scheme — Amendment C56.

Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme — Amendment C133.

Monash Planning Scheme — Amendment C173.

Victoria Planning Provisions — Amendments VC245 and VC271.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament —

Australian Grands Prix Act 1994 — No. 7.

Residential Tenancies Act 1997 — Nos. 5 and 6.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule Nos. 146/2025, 1/2026, 2/2026, 3/2026, 4/2026 and 6/2026.

* * * * *

PAPERS PRESENTED UNDER STANDING ORDERS — The Clerk tabled the following papers:

Response from the Minister for Energy and Resources to petition titled Allow electricity smart meter communications capabilities to be disabled (Petition No. 694) (presented by Jeff Bourman on 12 November 2025) (*released on 5 February 2026*).

Response from the Minister for Skills and TAFE to petition titled Funding for the 'Tools For The Trade' program (Petition No. 655) (presented by Ann-Marie Hermans on 9 December 2025) (*released on 6 February 2026*).

* * * * *

PROCLAMATION — The Clerk tabled a proclamation of the Governor in Council fixing operative dates for the following Act:

Social Services Regulation Amendment (Child Safety, Complaints and Worker Regulation) Act 2025 — sections 75, 83(1), 115 and 125, Division 10 of Part 3.2, Part 3.3 (other than section 131), Part 4.5 and Schedule 2 — 9 February 2026 — Part 3.1, section 131 and Schedule 1 — 23 February 2026 (*Gazette S50, 3 February 2026*).

7 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL — Aiv Puglielli moved, by leave, That the following general business take precedence on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 —

- (1) notice of motion No. 1199 standing in Aiv Puglielli's name referring matters relating to the scale and scope of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes occurring in Victoria to the Legal and Social Issues Committee;
- (2) notice of motion given this day by David Limbrick referring matters relating to claims made through the Transport Accident Commission to the Legal and Social Issues Committee; and
- (3) notice of motion given this day by David Davis on corruption on Victorian Government Big Build sites.

Question — put and agreed to.

8 ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE — EXTENSION TO REPORTING DATES — INQUIRY INTO ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLES — INQUIRY INTO TRANSURBAN'S CATEGORISATION AND TOLLING OF PRIVATE USE OF UTILITY VEHICLES — Georgie Purcell moved, by leave, That —

- (1) the reporting date for the Economy and Infrastructure Committee's Inquiry into electricity supply for electric vehicles be extended to 31 May 2026; and
- (2) the reporting date for the Economy and Infrastructure Committee's Inquiry into Transurban's categorisation and tolling of private use of utility vehicles be extended to 30 September 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

9 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

10 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1250, be postponed until later this day.

11 JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR CHILD ABUSE) BILL 2025 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Katherine Copsey (*KC71C*) and Rachel Payne (*RP22C*) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

Bill reported without amendment, the Report was adopted, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

Bill returned to the Assembly with a Message informing them that the Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

12 ADJOURNMENT — Lizzie Blandthorn moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 6.16 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD

Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 154 — Wednesday, 18 February 2026

1 The President took the Chair at 9.32 am, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PETITIONS —

REJECT CHANGES TO FIREARMS LEGISLATION WITHOUT PROPER CONSULTATION —

Melina Bath presented a petition bearing 12,570 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to commit to enforcing existing firearm laws, including identifying gaps in compliance, enforcement and resourcing, ensure that the review of legislation is evidence-led and without a pre-determined assumption that further restrictions on lawful owners are required, reject any new firearm regulations unless there is clear, publicly available evidence that it will improve public safety, guarantee genuine consultation with law-abiding firearm owners, sporting and hunting organisations before any policy or legislative changes are drafted and ensure the review separates law-abiding firearms owners from acts of terror so the response is fair and proportionate (*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).

* * * * *

IMPROVE SAFETY OF ELMORE-RAYWOOD ROAD AND NORTHERN HIGHWAY

INTERSECTION — Gaelle Broad presented a petition bearing 609 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to urgently review the safety of the Northern Highway and Elmore-Raywood Road intersection in Elmore, consult with local residents and prioritise safety improvements (*Ordered to be tabled*).

3 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AMENDMENT (MEDICAL TREATMENT) BILL 2026 —

David Ettershank introduced *A Bill for an Act to amend the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 in relation to medical treatment for disabilities and for other purposes*.

On the motion of David Ettershank, the Bill was read a first time and ordered to be read a second time on the next day of meeting.

4 PAPERS PRESENTED UNDER ACTS OF PARLIAMENT — The Clerk tabled the following papers:

Auditor-General — Ravenhall Correctional Centre: Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Prisoners — Part 2, February 2026 (*Ordered to be published*).

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — Notices of approval of the —

Ballarat Planning Scheme — Amendment C255.

Boroondara Planning Scheme — Amendment C413 (Part 1).

Greater Geelong Planning Scheme — Amendment C414.

Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme — Amendment C146.

Murrindindi Planning Scheme — Amendment C78.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

6 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — GREATER AVALON EMPLOYMENT PRECINCT — Sarah Mansfield moved, That this House —

- (1) notes that the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) engaged Alluvium consultants to prepare a Drainage and Flood Strategy for the proposed future development area known as the Greater Avalon Employment Precinct (GAEP), including undertaking a drainage and flood assessment for the proposed growth areas, and determining existing and future drainage and flooding issues and/or constraints affecting the site and surrounds;
- (2) further notes that apart from a brief memo by Alluvium published on the VPA project website titled 'Greater Avalon Employment Precinct – Existing Conditions Flood Modelling Report – Technical Memorandum (Alluvium) May 2024', none of the other reporting completed by Alluvium has been publicly released, including work that details potential future impacts of proposed developments in the precinct on the RAMSAR wetland in the vicinity of the GAEP; and
- (3) in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Council, within three weeks of the House agreeing to this resolution, all reports prepared by Alluvium related to the GAEP.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

7 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — CORRUPTION IN THE CFMEU — Gaelle Broad (for David Davis) moved, That this House —

- (1) notes —
 - (a) that the *Rotting from the Top* report on corruption by Mr Geoffrey Watson SC, tendered to Queensland's Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry includes redacted sections;
 - (b) the significant cost of corruption to the Victorian taxpayers outlined in Mr Watson's report;
 - (c) that Mr Watson has said that had the Victorian Government acted earlier much of this cost could have been avoided;
- (2) in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Council, within three weeks of the House agreeing to this resolution, the following documents —
 - (a) warnings or advice from the Department of Transport and Planning, staff in the ministerial office and/or external agencies, provided to the

Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, now Premier, but previously the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, from 1 January 2020;

- (b) emails, including attachments, between the then Minister for Transport Infrastructure, her office and the Department of Transport and Planning concerning the CFMEU and corruption from 1 January 2020; and
- (c) full briefs including attachments of BMIN-1-23-1378 and BMIN-1-23-3809 concerning CFMEU corruption provided to the then Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon. Jacinta Allan MP.

Debate ensued.

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

Question — put and agreed to.

- 8 LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE — ANTI-LGBTQIA+ HATE CRIMES** — Aiv Puglielli moved, That this House requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 1 September 2026, on the scale and scope of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes occurring in Victoria, including but not limited to —

- (1) the communication methods of anti-LGBTQIA+ influencers and hate groups, including those sharing far right, misogynistic, and homophobic ‘alpha-male’ content;
- (2) strategies to counter anti-LGBTQIA+ influence, particularly among young people;
- (3) the adequacy of current responses to preventing these crimes; and
- (4) the adequacy of current supports for victim survivors and ways to improve public safety and e-safety for LGBTQIA+ community members.

Debate ensued.

Michael Galea moved, as an amendment — **Omit** all words and expressions in paragraphs (1) to (4), and **insert** the following in their place:

- “(1) the communication and recruitment methods of anti-LGBTQIA+ influencers and hate groups that endorse anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, including those creating and sharing online content steeped in racism, misogyny, transphobia, homophobia, far-right ideology and unhealthy masculinities;
- (2) current strategies to counter anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, particularly among young people and how these could be strengthened;
- (3) current anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crime prevention initiatives, and how these could be strengthened;
- (4) existing public and online safety initiatives supporting LGBTQIA+ community members who have experienced hate crimes, including how these supports could be strengthened;
- (5) the role and responsibilities of social media and digital platform owners in preventing and responding to anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes;
- (6) existing empirical data regarding the prevalence and trends of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes Australia-wide;
- (7) the impact of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes on diverse LGBTQIA+ communities, including Rainbow Mob, people with disability, and multifaith and multicultural community members;
- (8) interjurisdictional strategies and methods to combat anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes across borders; and

- (9) the relevant work of the Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities, relevant government advisory groups, including but not limited to relevant community, health and law enforcement organisations to combat anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes.”.

Debate ensued.

Evan Mulholland moved, as amendments —

1. Before paragraph (1), **omit** the words and expressions “scope of anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes” and **insert** in their place “scope of multicultural, antisemitic and LGBTIQ+ hate crimes”.
2. In paragraph (1), **omit** all words and expressions after “methods of” and **insert** in their place “anti-multicultural, antisemitic and anti-LGBTIQ+ influencers and hate groups, including those sharing misogynistic, antisemitic, xenophobic and homophobic content;”.
3. In paragraph (2), after “anti-LGBTIQ+” **insert** “, xenophobic and antisemitic”.
4. In paragraph (4), after “LGBTIQ+” **insert** “, multicultural and multifaith”.

Debate ensued.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon, pursuant to Sessional Orders.

9 QUESTION TIME —

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

* * * * *

ANSWERS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION — On the motion of Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Jaclyn Symes to questions relating to flow of taxpayer’s funds to organised crime (QwN 1228) were ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

* * * * *

QUESTIONS DIRECTED FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE — The President directed a minister to provide a written response to questions without notice pursuant to Standing Order 8.07 as follows:

- **Support for the homeless on catastrophic danger fire days (QwN 1225)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell — response from Gayle Tierney due Friday, 20 February 2026.

* * * * *

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

10 LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE — ANTI-LGBTIQ+ HATE CRIMES — Debate continued on the question, That this House requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 1 September 2026, on the scale and scope of anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes occurring in Victoria, including but not limited to —

- (1) the communication methods of anti-LGBTIQ+ influencers and hate groups, including those sharing far right, misogynistic, and homophobic ‘alpha-male’ content;
- (2) strategies to counter anti-LGBTIQ+ influence, particularly among young people;
- (3) the adequacy of current responses to preventing these crimes; and

- (4) the adequacy of current supports for victim survivors and ways to improve public safety and e-safety for LGBTQIA+ community members — *and on the amendment moved by Michael Galea* — **Omit** all words and expressions in paragraphs (1) to (4), and **insert** the following in their place:

- “(1) the communication and recruitment methods of anti-LGBTQIA+ influencers and hate groups that endorse anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, including those creating and sharing online content steeped in racism, misogyny, transphobia, homophobia, far-right ideology and unhealthy masculinities;
- (2) current strategies to counter anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, particularly among young people and how these could be strengthened;
- (3) current anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crime prevention initiatives, and how these could be strengthened;
- (4) existing public and online safety initiatives supporting LGBTQIA+ community members who have experienced hate crimes, including how these supports could be strengthened;
- (5) the role and responsibilities of social media and digital platform owners in preventing and responding to anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes;
- (6) existing empirical data regarding the prevalence and trends of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes Australia-wide;
- (7) the impact of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes on diverse LGBTQIA+ communities, including Rainbow Mob, people with disability, and multifaith and multicultural community members;
- (8) interjurisdictional strategies and methods to combat anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes across borders; and
- (9) the relevant work of the Commissioner for LGBTQIA+ Communities, relevant government advisory groups, including but not limited to relevant community, health and law enforcement organisations to combat anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes.” — *and on the amendments moved by Evan Mulholland* —
 - 1. Before paragraph (1), **omit** the words and expressions “scope of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes” and **insert** in their place “scope of multicultural, antisemitic and LGBTQIA+ hate crimes”.
 - 2. In paragraph (1), **omit** all words and expressions after “methods of” and **insert** in their place “anti-multicultural, antisemitic and anti-LGBTQIA+ influencers and hate groups, including those sharing misogynistic, antisemitic, xenophobic and homophobic content;”.
 - 3. In paragraph (2), after “anti-LGBTQIA+” **insert** “, xenophobic and antisemitic”.
 - 4. In paragraph (4), after “LGBTQIA+” **insert** “, multicultural and multifaith”.

Question — That amendment No. 1 moved by Evan Mulholland be agreed to — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 15

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

(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; David Ettershank; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Harriet Shing; Ingrid Stitt; 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.

Question — That the amendment moved by Michael Galea be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Question — That the motion, amended as follows, be agreed to — That this House requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 1 September 2026, on the scale and scope of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes occurring in Victoria, including but not limited to —

- (1) the communication and recruitment methods of anti-LGBTQIA+ influencers and hate groups that endorse anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, including those creating and sharing online content steeped in racism, misogyny, transphobia, homophobia, far-right ideology and unhealthy masculinities;
- (2) current strategies to counter anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes, particularly among young people and how these could be strengthened;
- (3) current anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crime prevention initiatives, and how these could be strengthened;
- (4) existing public and online safety initiatives supporting LGBTQIA+ community members who have experienced hate crimes, including how these supports could be strengthened;
- (5) the role and responsibilities of social media and digital platform owners in preventing and responding to anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes;
- (6) existing empirical data regarding the prevalence and trends of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes Australia-wide;
- (7) the impact of anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes on diverse LGBTQIA+ communities, including Rainbow Mob, people with disability, and multifaith and multicultural community members;
- (8) interjurisdictional strategies and methods to combat anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes across borders; and
- (9) the relevant work of the Commissioner for LGBTQIA+ Communities, relevant government advisory groups, including but not limited to relevant community, health and law enforcement organisations to combat anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crimes — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 22

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; 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)

NOES, 15

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

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

Question agreed to.

11 LEGAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE — TRANSPORT ACCIDENT COMMISSION

CLAIMS — David Limbrick moved, That this House requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 11 August 2026, on issues related to claims made through the Transport Accident Commission, including but not limited to —

- (1) processes around legitimate claims, including disputed claims;
- (2) circumstances and systems related to fraudulent claims; and
- (3) interactions with other services, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Debate ensued.

John Berger moved, as amendments —

1. Before paragraph (1), after “Transport Accident Commission”, **insert** “(TAC)”.
2. After paragraph (2), **insert** the following new paragraph:
“(3) private provider discretion to set fees exceeding the Medicare Benefits Schedule rate;”.
3. In paragraph (3) **omit** “Scheme.” and **insert** the following in their place:
“Scheme (NDIS), and how TAC clients have been impacted by federal reforms to —
(a) the National Disability Insurance Agency and the NDIS; and
(b) restrictions on health privacy and information sharing between state and federal agencies.”.

Debate ensued.

Question — That the amendments moved by John Berger be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Question — That the motion, amended as follows, be agreed to — That this House requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 11 August 2026, on issues related to claims made through the Transport Accident Commission (TAC), including but not limited to —

- (1) processes around legitimate claims, including disputed claims;
- (2) circumstances and systems related to fraudulent claims;
- (3) private provider discretion to set fees exceeding the Medicare Benefits Schedule rate;

- (4) interactions with other services, such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and how TAC clients have been impacted by federal reforms to —
 - (a) the National Disability Insurance Agency and the NDIS; and
 - (b) restrictions on health privacy and information sharing between state and federal agencies — put and agreed to.

12 CORRUPTION ON VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT BIG BUILD SITES — David Davis moved, That this House notes —

- (1) the *Rotting from the Top* report on corruption by Mr Geoffrey Watson SC tendered to Queensland's Commission of Inquiry into the CFMEU and Misconduct in the Construction Industry;
- (2) the commentary on Victoria by Mr Watson was redacted from the released report despite indicating that up to 15 per cent of payments on Victorian Big Build sites may have been corrupt payments;
- (3) these corrupt payments would see the loss of billions of dollars of taxpayers money;

and calls on the Allan Labor Government to institute a Royal Commission into corruption on Victorian Government Big Build sites.

Debate ensued.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 24

Melina Bath; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Sarah Mansfield; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Nick McGowan; Evan Mulholland; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Richard Welch.

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

NOES, 15

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; Michael Galea; Shaun Leane; Tom McIntosh; 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 agreed to.

13 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of the remaining notices of motion and orders of the day, general business, be postponed until later this day.

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

15 PETITIONS (QUALIFYING FOR DEBATE) — WASTE INCINERATOR IN SUNBURY — David Ettershank moved, That the petition be taken into consideration.

Debate ensued.

The President advised that the time allocated for debate had concluded.

Question — put and agreed to.

16 ADJOURNMENT — Gayle Tierney moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 6.49 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD

Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 155 — Thursday, 19 February 2026

1 The President took the Chair at 9.33 am, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PETITION — PROTECT MONTESSORI EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS — Nick McGowan presented a petition bearing 232 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to protect Montessori education in public schools ensuring families continue to have access to diverse, evidence-based teaching approaches; recognise Montessori, Steiner and Reggio Emilia as legitimate, valuable public education options; require the Department of Education to work with schools, experts, and families to maintain and support such programs; pause further closures of public alternative education streams until a transparent, community review is in place; and ensure funding and compliance frameworks support alternative pedagogies (*Ordered to be tabled*).

3 PAPERS PRESENTED UNDER ACTS OF PARLIAMENT — The Clerk tabled the following papers:

Education and Training Reform Act 2006 — Order in Council of 9 December 2025 for the amalgamation of the Wodonga Institute of Technical and Further Education and the Goulburn Ovens Institute of Technical and Further Education, under section 3.1.11 of the Act (*Gazette S691, 9 December 2025*).

Family Violence Protection Act 2008 — Report on the implementation of the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework, 2024-25.

Office of Public Prosecutions — Report, 2024-25*.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rules Nos. 10 and 12.

Victims of Crime Commissioner — Report, 2024-25.

* * * * *

PROCLAMATION — The Clerk tabled a proclamation of the Governor in Council fixing an operative date for the following Act:

Transport Legislation Amendment Act 2025 — Parts 1, 2 and 5 and sections 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 20 — 1 March 2026 (*Gazette S88, 17 February 2026*).

4 SITTING OF THE COUNCIL — Gayle Tierney moved, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 3 March 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

* together with the Minister's reported date of receipt.

- 5 BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — PETITIONS (QUALIFYING FOR DEBATE)** — Sarah Mansfield moved, by leave, That this House authorises the petition tabled by Bev McArthur on 5 February 2026, titled ‘Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Service at The Royal Children’s Hospital’, to be given precedence over all other items listed under Petitions (qualifying for debate) on Wednesday, 4 March 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 6 MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS** — Members made statements.

- 7 BUSINESS POSTPONED** — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1280, be postponed until later this day.

- 8 HEALTH SAFEGUARDS FOR PEOPLE BORN WITH VARIATIONS IN SEX CHARACTERISTICS BILL 2025** — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Georgie Crozier (GC83C) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Georgie Crozier moved, as a reasoned amendment, That all the words after “That” be omitted and replaced with “the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to reflect further consultation with the medical sector.”.

Debate ensued.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon.

- 9 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:

- **Greyhound racing industry self-regulation (QwN 1230)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Georgie Purcell — response from Enver Erdogan due Monday, 23 February 2026.
- **Firearm laws (QwN 1236)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Jeff Bourman — response from Enver Erdogan due Monday, 23 February 2026.

* * * * *

CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

- 10 HEALTH SAFEGUARDS FOR PEOPLE BORN WITH VARIATIONS IN SEX CHARACTERISTICS BILL 2025** — Debate continued on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time — and on the reasoned amendment moved by Georgie Crozier — That all the words after “That” be omitted and replaced with “the Bill be withdrawn and redrafted to reflect further consultation with the medical sector.”.

Question — That the reasoned amendment moved by Georgie Crozier be agreed to — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 17

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

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

NOES, 22

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; 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.

Question — That the Bill be now read a second time — put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

Bill reported without amendment, the Report was adopted.

Ingrid Stitt moved, That the Bill be now read a third time and do pass.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 24

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

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

NOES, 15

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

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

Question agreed to.

Bill read a third time and passed.

Bill returned to the Assembly with a Message informing them that the Council have agreed to the Bill without amendment.

11 JUSTICE LEGISLATION FURTHER AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2025 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

David Limbrick (*DL37C*) and Sarah Mansfield (*SMA60C, SMA61C and SMA63C*) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

On the motion of Lee Tarlamis, the debate was adjourned until the next day of meeting.

12 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AMENDMENT (SUPPORTING STABLE AND STRONG FAMILIES) BILL 2025

— The Acting President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 to provide for responsibilities of supporting stable and strong families partners in relation to supporting stable and strong families and to consequentially amend the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Gayle Tierney (for Lizzie Blandthorn), the Bill was read a first time and, by leave, ordered to be read a second time forthwith.

Gayle Tierney laid on the Table the statement of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Gayle Tierney moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Gayle Tierney incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of Renee Heath (for Georgie Crozier), the debate was adjourned for one week.

13 ENERGY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RESILIENCE REFORMS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026

— The Acting President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Electricity Safety Act 1998, the Electricity Industry Act 2000, the Gas Industry Act 2001, the National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005, the Energy and Land Legislation Amendment (Energy Safety) Act 2025, the Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Amendment (Energy Upgrades for the Future) Act 2025, the National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Act 2025 and the Advancing the Treaty Process with Aboriginal Victorians Act 2018 and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Gayle Tierney (for Ingrid Stitt), the Bill was read a first time and, by leave, ordered to be read a second time forthwith.

Gayle Tierney laid on the Table the statement of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Gayle Tierney moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Gayle Tierney incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of Renee Heath (for David Davis), the debate was adjourned for one week.

14 ENTITIES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (CONSOLIDATION AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2025

— The Acting President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, the Environment Protection Act 2017, the Marine and Coastal Act 2018, the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003, the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990, the Public Administration Act 2004, the Financial Management Act 1994, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022, the Local Government Act 1989, the Essential Services Commission Act 2001, the Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Act 2017, the Accident Towing Services Act 2007, the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020 and the Parliamentary Workplace Standards and Integrity Act 2024, to repeal the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001 and the Road Safety Camera Commissioner Act 2011 and to make consequential amendments to other Acts and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Gayle Tierney (for Jaclyn Symes), the Bill was read a first time and, by leave, ordered to be read a second time forthwith.

Gayle Tierney laid on the Table the statement of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Gayle Tierney moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Gayle Tierney incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of Renee Heath, the debate was adjourned for one week.

15 ADJOURNMENT — Ingrid Stitt moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 6.58 pm until Tuesday, 3 March 2026.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

Published under the authority of the Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Supplement to Minutes Nos. 153, 154 and 155

JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR CHILD ABUSE) BILL 2025

Committed Tuesday, 17 February 2026

Amendments circulated: Katherine Copsey (KC71C) (p. 1471) and Rachel Payne (RP22C) (p. 1471)

Clauses 1 and 2 — put and agreed to.

Clause 3 — Rachel Payne moved amendment No. 1 (RP22C).

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 8

Jeff Bourman; Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio;
Sarah Mansfield; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell.

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

NOES, 31

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Gaelle Broad;
Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora;
Michael Galea; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Shaun Leane; David Limbrick;
Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Nick McGowan; Tom McIntosh;
Evan Mulholland; Harriet Shing; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; Sonja Terpstra;
Gayle Tierney; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Sheena Watt; Richard Welch.

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

Question negated.

Katherine Copsey moved amendment No. 1 (KC71C).

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 7

Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Sarah Mansfield;
Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell.

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

NOES, 32

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad;
Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Moira Deeming; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora;
Michael Galea; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Shaun Leane; David Limbrick;
Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Nick McGowan; Tom McIntosh;
Evan Mulholland; Harriet Shing; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; Sonja Terpstra;
Gayle Tierney; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Sheena Watt; Richard Welch.

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

Question negatived.

Clause 3 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 4 to 10 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

* * * * *

HEALTH SAFEGUARDS FOR PEOPLE BORN WITH VARIATIONS IN SEX CHARACTERISTICS BILL 2025

Committed Thursday, 19 February 2026

Amendments circulated: Georgie Crozier (GC83C) (pp. 1471-2)

Clause 1 — Georgie Crozier moved amendment No. 1 (GC83C).

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 17

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

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

NOES, 22

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan;
Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane;
Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; 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.

Clause 1 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 18 — put and agreed to.

Clause 19 — Georgie Crozier moved amendment Nos. 7 and 8 (GC83C).

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 16

Melina Bath; Jeff Bourman; 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; Richard Welch.

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

NOES, 23

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; David Limbrick; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; 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.

Clause 19 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 33 — put and agreed to.

Clause 34 — Georgie Crozier moved amendment No. 9 (GC83C).

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 17

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

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

NOES, 22

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; 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.

Clause 34 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 35 to 55 — put and agreed to.

Clause 56 — Georgie Crozier moved amendment Nos. 12 and 13 (GC83C).

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 16

Melina Bath; Jeff Bourman; 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; Richard Welch.

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

NOES, 23

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Shaun Leane; David Limbrick; Sarah Mansfield; Tom McIntosh; 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 negated.

Clause 56 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 57 to 60 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

AMENDMENTS CIRCULATED IN RELATION TO —**1. JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (VICARIOUS LIABILITY FOR CHILD ABUSE) BILL 2025***Amendment circulated by Katherine Copsey (KC71C)*

1. Clause 3, page 4, lines 30 to 32, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

Amendment circulated by Rachel Payne (RP22C)

1. Clause 3, page 4, line 22, omit "integral" and insert "ordinary".

2. HEALTH SAFEGUARDS FOR PEOPLE BORN WITH VARIATIONS IN SEX CHARACTERISTICS BILL 2025*Amendments circulated by Georgie Crozier (GC83C)*

1. Clause 1, page 2, lines 5 and 6, omit all words and expressions on these lines.
2. Clause 3, page 6, lines 21 and 22, omit all words and expressions on these lines.
3. Part heading preceding clause 7, omit this heading.
4. Clause 7, omit this clause.
5. Clause 8, omit this clause.
6. Clause 9, omit this clause.
7. Clause 19, page 23, line 11, omit "law." and insert "law;".
8. Clause 19, page 23, after line 11 insert—
 - "(f) paediatric and adolescent endocrinology, paediatric and adolescent urology, paediatric and adolescent gynaecology and paediatric and adolescent psychology."
9. Clause 34, page 35, after line 22 insert—
 - "(5) The assessment committee for an approval decision about an individual treatment plan must also provide each medical treatment decision maker for the protected person with an opportunity to meet with the committee to discuss the decision."
10. Clause 37, before line 7 insert—
 - "(1) The assessment committee for an individual treatment plan must not decide whether or not to approve the plan under section 32 unless the committee has provided each medical treatment decision maker for the protected person with an opportunity to meet with the committee to discuss the treatment proposed in the plan."

11. Clause 37, line 7, before "The" insert "(2)".
12. Clause 56, line 29, omit "fifth" and insert "third".
13. Clause 56, line 31, omit "sixth" and insert "fourth".
14. Clause 58, omit this clause.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

15. Long title, omit ", prohibiting the medical treatment in certain circumstances".