LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

60TH PARLIAMENT

Nos. 162, 163 and 164

No. 162 — Tuesday, 31 March 2026

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

2 **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 24 March 2026 —

National Gas (Victoria) Amendment Act 2026

On 31 March 2026 —

Entities Legislation Amendment (Consolidation and Other Matters) Act 2026.

3 **QUESTION TIME** —

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

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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 the impacts of fuel shortages on the Victorian economy (QwN 1285).
- On the motion of Georgie Crozier, the answers given by Gayle Tierney to questions relating to Metropolitan Melbourne water restrictions (QwN 1289).

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

4 **ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2025** — The President read a Message from the Assembly informing the Council that they have agreed to the amendments made by the Council in this Bill.

5 **PETITIONS** —

RESTORE FUNDING FOR WRITERS VICTORIA — David Davis presented a petition bearing 10,989 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the

Legislative Council call on the Government to reverse the decision to cut state funding to Writers Victoria *(Ordered to be tabled).*

The petition having received the required number of signatures, David Davis listed the petition for future debate during Petitions (qualifying for debate).

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SAVE VICHEALTH — Sarah Mansfield presented a petition bearing 3,889 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to save VicHealth, protect its funding and independence and reverse the plan to absorb it into the Department of Health *(Ordered to be tabled).*

The petition having received the required number of signatures, Sarah Mansfield listed the petition for future debate during Petitions (qualifying for debate).

6 PAPERS —

COMMITTEE REPORTS —

SCRUTINY OF ACTS AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE — Pursuant to section 35 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Sonja Terpstra tabled Alert Digest No. 5 of 2026 (including Appendices) from the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee *(Ordered to be published)*.

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE — Pursuant to section 35 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, Michael Galea tabled a Report on the 2024-25 financial and performance outcomes (including Extracts of Proceedings) from the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, and presented Transcripts of Evidence *(Transcripts of Evidence ordered to be tabled and the Report published).*

Michael Galea moved, That the Council take note of the Report.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE SECTOR IN VICTORIA — Pursuant to Standing Order 23.22, Anasina Gray-Barberio tabled the Select Committee's Interim Report on the Inquiry into the early childhood education and care sector in Victoria (including an Appendix) *(Ordered to be published)*.

Anasina Gray-Barberio moved, That the Council take note of the Report.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

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

Auditor-General — Results of 2024-25 Audits: Local Government, March 2026 *(Ordered to be published) (released on 30 March 2026 – a non-sitting day).*

Members of Parliament (Standards) Act 1978 — Register of Interests — Returns submitted by Members of the Legislative Council — Ordinary Returns, 1 July 2025 to 31 January 2026 *(Ordered to be published)*.

Parliamentary Budget Office — Operational Plan 2026-27: Priorities and protocols.

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

Banyule Planning Scheme — Amendment C172.

Glen Eira Planning Scheme — Amendment C278.
Melbourne Planning Scheme — Amendment C494.
Victoria Planning Provisions — Amendments VC300 and VC304.
Safe Drinking Water Act 2003 — Report, 2024-25.
Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament —
Bail Act 1977 — No. 18.
Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Act 2007 — No. 19.
Wildlife Act 1975 — No. 20.
Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule Nos. 16 and 18.

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

Responses from the Minister for Health to petitions titled —
Colorectal and Pelvic Reconstruction Service at The Royal Children's Hospital (Petition No. 627) (presented by Bev McArthur on 5 February 2025) *(released on 26 March 2026).*
Train GPs to diagnose and treat ADHD (Petition No. 681) (presented by Sarah Mansfield on 3 February 2026) *(released on 19 March 2026).*
Responses from the Minister for Roads and Road Safety to petitions titled —
Pedestrian and cyclist safety on Moreland Road (Petition No. 691) (presented by Anasina Gray-Barberio on 3 March 2026) *(released on 23 March 2026).*
Retain Maryborough VicRoads services (Petition No. 744) (presented by Bev McArthur on 3 March 2026) *(released on 23 March 2026).*
Response from the Minister for Transport Infrastructure to petition titled Noise wall at Diamond Creek westbound ramp (Petition No. 670) (presented by Aiv Puglielli on 2 December 2025) *(released on 23 March 2026).*

7 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL — Bev McArthur moved, by leave, That the following general business take precedence on Wednesday, 1 April 2026 —

(1) notice of motion given this day by Renee Heath on crime;

(2) notice of motion given this day by David Davis on the rejection of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Follow the Money) Bill 2026; and

(3) order of the day No. 1, listed for Wednesday, 1 April 2026, resumption of debate on the second reading of the Equal Opportunity Amendment (Medical Treatment) Bill 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

8 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

9 JUSTICE LEGISLATION FURTHER AMENDMENT (MISCELLANEOUS) BILL 2025 — The President read a Message from the Assembly informing the Council that they have agreed to the amendments made by the Council in this Bill.

10 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1367, be postponed until later this day.

11 EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (FREE TAFE GUARANTEE) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Richard Welch *(RW21C)* circulated an amendment 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 REGULATORY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Ingrid Stitt (for Jaclyn Symes) *(JS82C)* and Richard Welch *(RW24C)* 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.

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

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 6.37 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 163 — Wednesday, 1 April 2026

1 The President took the Chair at 9.31 am, read the Prayer and made an Acknowledgement of Country.

2 PAPERS —

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

Auditor-General — Supporting the Transition from Native Timber Harvesting, April 2026 *(Ordered to be published).*

Municipal Association of Victoria — Report, 2024-25.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — Notice of approval of the Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Darebin, Glen Eira, Maribyrnong, Merri-bek, Monash and Stonnington Planning Schemes — Amendment GC270.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule No. 17.

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PAPER PRESENTED UNDER STANDING ORDERS — The Clerk tabled the following paper:

Response from the Attorney-General to petition titled Stop further changes to gun laws (petition No. 730) (presented by Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell on 3 March 2026) *(released on 31 March 2026).*

3 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS —

ISIS BRIDES — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 27 March 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 4 March 2026 (on the motion of Evan Mulholland), relating to ISIS brides, advising that there was insufficient time to respond and that a final response to the Order would be provided as soon as possible.

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REVIEW OF WATER-USE POLICIES FOR LARGE INDUSTRIAL USERS — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 27 March 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 4 March 2026 (on the motion of David Ettershank), relating to the review of water-use policies for large industrial users advising that there was insufficient time to respond and that a final response to the Order would be provided as soon as possible.

4 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

5 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT — Melina Bath moved, That this House —

(1) notes that —

(a) the Allan Labor Government has refused to release Victoria's full Bushfire Risk Management Report, 2024-25;

(b) localised fuel-driven bushfire risk information for the 2025-26 season has been withheld;

(c) these actions raise significant concerns regarding the Government's transparency and Victoria's bushfire preparedness;

(d) Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) withdrew up to 290 G-Wagons and 59 Unimogs prior to the 2025-26 bushfire season, reducing rapid-response capacity;

(2) in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, requires the Leader of the Government to table in the Council, within ten weeks of the House agreeing to this resolution, all documents held by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), FFMVic or the responsible ministers relating to Victoria's bushfire management, including but not limited to —

(a) Victoria's complete Bushfire Risk Management Report, 2024-25;

(b) all summer bushfire outlook reports prepared by FFMVic, DEECA or ministerial offices for the current 2025-26 bushfire season;

(c) correspondence and briefings between DEECA, FFMVic and relevant ministers and their offices relating to the 2025-26 bushfire season, including fuel-driven bushfire risks at the state, regional, and district levels; and

(d) documents and briefings between DEECA, FFMVic and relevant ministers and their offices relating to the withdrawal of the G-Wagon and Unimog vehicles due to structural and safety defects, including repair timelines and operational impacts.

Debate ensued.

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

Question — put and agreed to.

6 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — RENTAL CONTROLS — Aiv Puglielli moved, That this House —

(1) notes —

(a) that according to the *Homes Victoria Rental Report, September Quarter 2025*, average annual median rents for a one bedroom flat have risen 17.5 per cent in Flemington-Kensington, 21.6 per cent in Burwood-Ashburton, 23.6 per cent in Brighton, 14.6 per cent in Yarraville-Seddon, 17.6 per cent in Sebastopol-Delacombe, 29.6 per cent in North Bendigo, 32.6 per cent in Benalla, and 32.7 per cent in Portland;

(b) the report also indicates that only 9.7 per cent of rental dwellings in Metropolitan Melbourne are classified as 'affordable', including 1.1 per cent of rental dwellings in Melbourne, 0.9 per cent rental dwellings in Boroondara, and 0.0 per cent of rental dwellings in Bayside;

(c) that research from Cotality, using ABS data, found that rents in Victoria have increased at almost double the rate of wages in over the five years to September 2025;

(d) that in comparison, Cotality's research shows the ACT was the only Australian jurisdiction where wage growth kept up with rents over the five years to September 2025;

(e) that the ACT is the only Australian jurisdiction that caps rent increases; and

(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, all briefings and correspondence provided to the Minister for Consumer Affairs regarding policy options to impose rental controls to cap rent increases.

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.

7 CRIME — Renee Heath moved, That this House —

(1) notes that according to current crime statistics, crime in Victoria is at an all-time high, in just two years, December 2023 to December 2025, with —

(a) all incidents up 23 per cent;

(b) total aggravated burglaries up 24 per cent;

(c) motor vehicle theft up 56 per cent;

(d) family violence serious assaults up 47 per cent;

(e) youth incidents up 13 per cent;

(f) unsolved crimes up 47 per cent;

(2) further notes that Labor's newfound tough-on-crime positioning is just a sham and its —

(a) machete laws are not getting knives off streets;

(b) bail laws are not keeping criminals behind bars;

(c) protest laws are not keeping violent or intimidatory demonstrations under control;

(d) so-called youth justice reforms are a pale imitation of other jurisdictions;

(e) criminal association and industrial relations laws are enabling corruption and costing taxpayers $15 billion;
(f) funding cuts mean more unfilled police shifts and more closed or reduced hours at police stations;

(3) calls on the Government to immediately —
(a) restore move-on laws and introduce a protest registration system;
(b) give police the necessary powers to protect Victorians, including introducing Jack's Law and implementing a 'Break Bail Face Jail' policy;
(c) better protect women by implementing a 'Right to Ask, Right to Know' scheme and criminalising coercive control;
(d) invest in early-intervention initiatives to divert at-risk youths from a life of crime; and
(e) properly fund Victoria Police and keep police stations open.

Debate ensued.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon, pursuant to Sessional Orders.

8 VICTORIAN STATE BUDGET 2026-27 — The President read a Message from the Assembly informing the Council that under section 52 of the *Constitution Act 1975*, approval has been granted for Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC, Treasurer, to attend the Assembly on Tuesday 5 May 2026 to give a speech on the Annual Appropriation Bill.

9 QUESTION TIME —

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

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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:

- **Data Centres development guidelines (QwN 1293)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by David Ettershank — response from Jaclyn Symes due Tuesday, 7 April 2026.
- **Animal protection laws (QwN 1295)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Georgie Purcell — response from Jaclyn Symes due Tuesday, 7 April 2026.
- **Investment in Public and Active Transport (QwN 1299)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Katherine Copsey — response from Harriet Shing due Tuesday, 7 April 2026.

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

10 CRIME — Debate continued on the question, That this House —

(1) notes that according to current crime statistics, crime in Victoria is at an all-time high, in just two years, December 2023 to December 2025, with —
(a) all incidents up 23 per cent;
(b) total aggravated burglaries up 24 per cent;
(c) motor vehicle theft up 56 per cent;
(d) family violence serious assaults up 47 per cent;
(e) youth incidents up 13 per cent;
(f) unsolved crimes up 47 per cent;

(2) further notes that Labor's newfound tough-on-crime positioning is just a sham and its —
  (a) machete laws are not getting knives off streets;
  (b) bail laws are not keeping criminals behind bars;
  (c) protest laws are not keeping violent or intimidatory demonstrations under control;
  (d) so-called youth justice reforms are a pale imitation of other jurisdictions;
  (e) criminal association and industrial relations laws are enabling corruption and costing taxpayers $15 billion;
  (f) funding cuts mean more unfilled police shifts and more closed or reduced hours at police stations;

(3) calls on the Government to immediately —
  (a) restore move-on laws and introduce a protest registration system;
  (b) give police the necessary powers to protect Victorians, including introducing Jack's Law and implementing a 'Break Bail Face Jail' policy;
  (c) better protect women by implementing a 'Right to Ask, Right to Know' scheme and criminalising coercive control;
  (d) invest in early-intervention initiatives to divert at-risk youths from a life of crime; and
  (e) properly fund Victoria Police and keep police stations open.

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, 15

Melina Bath; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; 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, 22

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; 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.

11 REJECTION OF THE INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AMENDMENT (FOLLOW THE MONEY) BILL 2026 — David Davis moved, That this House —

(1) notes —
  (a) the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Follow the Money) Bill 2026 was passed by the Legislative Council on 18 March 2026;
  (b) the Bill was rejected by the Legislative Assembly on 18 March 2026 at first reading;

(c) the broad community acceptance that the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) powers need to be strengthened to ensure that follow the money powers are available for IBAC to fully investigate corruption involving government contracts and contractors and subsequent contracts emanating from lead contracts;

(2) requests that —

(a) the Dispute Resolution Committee meet, consider the rejection of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Follow the Money) Bill 2026 and conciliate the disagreement between the Legislative Council and the Legislative Assembly and report to the Houses within 30 days; and

(b) the Clerk of the Legislative Council write to the members appointed to the Dispute Resolution Committee to convey the terms of this resolution.

Debate ensued.

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

Question — put and agreed to.

12 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AMENDMENT (MEDICAL TREATMENT) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

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

14 PETITIONS (QUALIFYING FOR DEBATE) — REJECT CHANGES TO FIREARMS LEGISLATION WITHOUT PROPER CONSULTATION — Melina Bath moved, That the petition be taken into consideration.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

15 ADJOURNMENT — Enver Erdogan moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 7.03 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 164 — Thursday, 2 April 2026

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

2 PETITION — INTRODUCE THE DRAFT ANIMAL CARE AND PROTECTION BILL — Georgie Purcell presented a petition bearing 10,410 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to immediately introduce the draft Animal Care and Protection Bill which seeks to replace the current *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (Ordered to be tabled)*.

The petition having received the required number of signatures, Georgie Purcell listed the petition for future debate during Petitions (qualifying for debate).

3 PAPERS —

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

Parliamentary Committees Act 2003 — Government response to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's Report on the 2025-26 Budget Estimates.

Statutory Rule under the Wrongs Act 1958 — No. 21.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule No. 19.

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

Response from the Minister for Community Sport to petition titled Support the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation (petition No. 668) (presented by Georgie Purcell on 17 March 2026) *(released on 1 April 2026)*.

Response from the Minister for Police to petition titled Reject changes to firearms legislation without proper consultation (petition No. 733) (presented by Melina Bath on 18 February 2026) *(released on 1 April 2026)*.

4 SITTING OF THE COUNCIL — Gayle Tierney moved, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 12 May 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

5 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

6 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1397, be postponed until later this day.

7 REGULATORY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Jaclyn Symes *(JS87C)* circulated an amendment proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Acting President advised that the President ruled certain amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole by Jaclyn Symes *(JS82C)* are outside the scope of the Bill.

Jaclyn Symes moved, That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have the power to consider amendments and New Clauses to amend the *Fuel Emergency Act 1977* to confer a power on the Minister to direct persons to give the Minister information relating to the production, supply, distribution, sale, use or consumption of a fuel and create related offences and to increase the penalty for certain existing offences against that Act.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon.

8 QUESTION TIME —

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

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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:

- **Food relief funding (QwN 1306)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Jeff Bourman — response from Gayle Tierney due Wednesday, 8 April 2026.

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

9 REGULATORY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2026 — Bill further considered in Committee of the whole.

Bill reported with amendments, the Report was adopted.

Jaclyn Symes moved, That the Bill be now read a third time and do pass.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 34

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Shaun Leane; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Sarah Mansfield; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Evan Mulholland; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; 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)

NOES, 1

David Limbrick.

(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 with amendments and requesting their agreement.

10 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of order of the day, government business, No. 2, be postponed until later this day.

11 STANDING ORDERS — TABLING OF STATEMENTS — Jaclyn Symes moved, That the following changes to Standing Orders take effect from next sitting week —

(1) **omit** all the words and expressions in Standing Order 14.06(1)(c) and **replace** with "will table any statements required by an Act of Parliament and the statements will be incorporated in Hansard;"; and

(2) **omit** all the words and expressions in Standing Order 14.07(1)(d) and **replace** with "will table any statements required by an Act of Parliament and the statements will be incorporated in Hansard;".

Debate ensued.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 20

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; 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; Jeff Bourman; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Evan Mulholland; Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell; Richard Welch.

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

Question agreed to.

12 SAFE FOOD VICTORIA BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Melina Bath *(MB21C)* and Georgie Purcell *(GP23C)* circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The Acting President advised that the President ruled certain amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole by Melina Bath *(MB21C)* are outside the scope of the Bill.

Melina Bath moved, That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have the power to consider an amendment and a New Clause to amend the *Food Act 1984* in relation to the use of certain terms in the advertising, packaging and labelling of certain foods.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

Business interrupted at 6.30 pm.

On the motion of Harriet Shing, the meal break scheduled for this day was suspended.

Bill further considered in Committee of the whole.

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.

13 CLADDING SAFETY VICTORIA REPEAL BILL 2026 — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to repeal the Cladding Safety Victoria Act 2020 and abolish Cladding Safety Victoria, to make related amendments to the*

Building Act 1993 including in relation to the building permit levy, to consequentially amend the Public Administration Act 2004 and for other purposes and requesting the agreement of the Council.

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

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

Ingrid Stitt moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Ingrid Stitt incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of Bev McArthur, the debate was adjourned for one week.

14 BUILDING AND PLUMBING ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT BILL 2026 — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to re-enact with amendments the law relating to the regulation of the building and plumbing industries, the enforcement of building and plumbing work standards and the discipline of building practitioners, plumbers and endorsed building engineers, to impose a levy in relation to building work requiring a building permit, to make consequential amendments to other Acts and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

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

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

Ingrid Stitt moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Ingrid Stitt incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of Bev McArthur, the debate was adjourned for one week.

15 REGULATORY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2026 — The President read a Message from the Assembly informing the Council that they have agreed to the amendments made by the Council in this Bill.

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

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 7.39 pm until Tuesday, 12 May 2026.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL
Supplement to Minutes Nos. 162, 163 and 164

EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (FREE TAFE GUARANTEE) BILL 2026

Committed Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Amendment circulated: Richard Welch (RW21C) (p. 1574)

Clauses 1 to 18 — put and agreed to.

Clause 19 — Richard Welch moved amendment No. 1 *(RW21C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 14

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; 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; 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; 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 24 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

* * * * *

REGULATORY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2026

Committed Thursday, 2 April 2026

Amendments circulated: Jaclyn Symes (JS82C and JS87C) (pp. 1574-7) and Richard Welch (RW24C) (p. 1577)

Clause 1 — Jaclyn Symes moved amendment Nos. 1 and 2 *(JS82C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 36

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Jeff Bourman; Gaelle Broad; Katherine Copsey; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; Michael Galea; Anasina Gray-Barberio; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Shaun Leane; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Sarah Mansfield; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Tom McIntosh; Evan Mulholland; Rachel Payne; Aiv Puglielli; Georgie Purcell; 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)

NOES, 1

David Limbrick.

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

Question agreed to.

Clause 1, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 19 — put and agreed to.

Clause 20 — Richard Welch moved amendment No. 1 *(RW24C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 12

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Evan Mulholland; 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; Jeff Bourman; Katherine Copsey; 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; 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)

Question negatived.

Clauses 20 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 33 — put and agreed to.

Clause 34 — Question — That Clause 34 stand part of the Bill — put and negatived.

Clauses 35 to 58 — put and agreed to.

New Clauses 58A to 58F — Jaclyn Symes moved amendment No. 3 *(JS82C)*.

Question — That the Part heading preceding New Clauses 58A to 58F and New Clauses 58A to 58F stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Clause 59 — put and agreed to.

Long title — Jaclyn Symes moved amendment No. 4 *(JS82C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Question — That the long title, as amended, be the long title of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

* * * * *

SAFE FOOD VICTORIA BILL 2026

Committed Thursday, 2 April 2026

Amendments circulated: Melina Bath (MB21C) (pp. 1577-86) and Georgie Purcell (GP23C) (p. 1586)

Clause 1 — Melina Bath moved amendment No. 1 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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, 21

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; 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; 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 and 3 — put and agreed to.

Clause 4 — Melina Bath moved amendment Nos. 2 and 3 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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, 21

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; 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; Gayle Tierney; Sheena Watt.

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

Question negatived.

Clause 4 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 13 — put and agreed to.

Clause 14 — Melina Bath moved amendment Nos. 4 and 5 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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, 21

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; 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; Gayle Tierney; Sheena Watt.

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

Question negatived.

Georgie Purcell moved amendment No. 1 *(GP23C)*.

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, 27

Ryan Batchelor; Melina Bath; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Shaun Leane; David Limbrick; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; Tom McIntosh; Evan Mulholland; Harriet Shing; Ingrid Stitt; Jaclyn Symes; Lee Tarlamis; 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 14 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 15 to 24 — put and agreed to.

Clause 25 — Melina Bath moved amendment Nos. 6 to 8 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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, 21

Ryan Batchelor; John Berger; Lizzie Blandthorn; Katherine Copsey; Enver Erdogan; Jacinta Ermacora; David Ettershank; 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; Gayle Tierney; Sheena Watt.

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

Question negatived.

Clause 25 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 34 — put and agreed to.

Clause 35 — Melina Bath moved amendment No. 9 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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; 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 35 — put and agreed to.

Clause 36 — Melina Bath moved amendment Nos. 10 and 11 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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; 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 36 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 37 to 43 — put and agreed to.

New Clause 43A — Melina Bath moved amendment No. 14 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That New Clause 43A stand part of the Bill — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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; 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.

Clauses 44 to 81 — put and agreed to.

Clause 82 — Melina Bath moved amendment No. 19 *(MB21C)*.

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 13

Melina Bath; Gaelle Broad; Georgie Crozier; David Davis; Renee Heath; Ann-Marie Hermans; Wendy Lovell; Trung Luu; Bev McArthur; Joe McCracken; 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; 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 82 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 83 to 273 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

AMENDMENTS CIRCULATED IN RELATION TO —

1. EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (FREE TAFE GUARANTEE) BILL 2026

Amendment circulated by Richard Welch (RW21C)

1. Clause 19, after line 19 insert—

"(3A) The Minister must include in a report of the operations of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions that is prepared under section 45 of the **Financial Management Act 1994** the number of students (expressed as a percentage and in whole numbers) who, in the previous calendar year, completed each course of vocational education and training that the Minister determined under subsection (1) was to be provided free of tuition fee.".

2. REGULATORY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (REFORM) BILL 2026

Amendments circulated by Jaclyn Symes (JS82C)

1. Clause 1, page 3, line 13, omit "amendments." and insert "amendments;".

2. Clause 1, page 3, after line 13, insert—

"(l) the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977**—

(i) to confer a power on the Minister to direct persons to give the Minister information relating to the production, supply, distribution, sale, use or consumption of a fuel and create related offences; and

(ii) to increase the penalty for certain existing offences against the Act.".

NEW CLAUSES

3. Insert the following New Part after Part 12—

'Part 12A—Amendment of Fuel Emergency Act 1977

58A Definitions

In section 2 of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977 insert** the following definitions—

"***Commonwealth Minister*** means the Minister administering the Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 of the Commonwealth;

information direction means a direction under section 2A;".

58B New sections 2A to 2D inserted

After section 2 of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977 insert**—

"**2A Directions for the giving of information relating to the production, supply, distribution, sale, use or consumption of a fuel**

(1) The Minister, by written notice, may direct a person to give the Minister information, in the person's possession or control, relating to the production, supply, distribution, sale, use or consumption of a fuel.

(2) A notice under subsection (1) must specify—

(a) the kind of fuel (the ***specified fuel***); and

(b) the kind of information that the person must give the Minister; and

(c) the manner and form in which the person must give the Minister the information; and

(d) the date by which the person must give the information to the Minister.

(3) A notice under subsection (1) may be given during a period of emergency.

(4) In addition, a notice under subsection (1) may be given when there is no period of emergency if and only if the Minister is of the view that—

(a) there is or is likely to be a threat to the production, supply or distribution of the specified fuel; and

(b) the kind of information specified in the notice is relevant for the planning of, and preparation for, the production, supply, distribution or sale of the specified fuel to ensure a sufficient amount of the specified fuel will remain available to meet the reasonable requirements of the community.

(5) To avoid doubt, section 41A of the **Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984** applies to this section.

2B Compliance with information direction

A person who is given an information direction must comply with the direction unless the person has a lawful excuse.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 60 penalty units.

In the case of a body corporate, 2500 penalty units.

2C False and misleading information

A person must not, in purported compliance with an information direction, give information to the Minister that the person knows is false or misleading in a material particular.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 60 penalty units.

In the case of a body corporate, 2500 penalty units.

2D Confidentiality

(1) A person given confidential or commercially sensitive information under an information notice must not disclose that information.

Penalty: 120 penalty units.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a disclosure of confidential or commercially sensitive information of the following kind—

(a) a disclosure made with the consent of the person who gave the confidential or commercially sensitive information; or

(b) a disclosure made for the purposes of the exercise of a power or the performance of a function under, or in connection with, this Act or the regulations; or

(c) a disclosure made to the Commonwealth Minister for the purpose of administering the Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 of the Commonwealth; or

(d) a disclosure made by the Minister for the purposes of any arrangement entered into by the Minister and the Commonwealth Minister under section 15(1) of the Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 of the Commonwealth; or

(e) a disclosure made in the performance of a function or exercise of a power under the Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984 of the Commonwealth that is delegated, under section 49 of that Act, to—

(i) the Minister; or

(ii) an officer or employee of the State; or

(iii) a person who constitutes, is a member of, or is employed by, an authority established by or under a law of Victoria; or

(f) a disclosure made to a court or tribunal in the course of legal proceedings; or

(g) a disclosure made pursuant to an order of a court or tribunal; or

(h) a disclosure of confidential or commercially sensitive information that is in the public domain at the time of the disclosure.".

58C Compliance with directions etc. of Minister

In section 5(1) of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977**, after "direction" (where first occurring) **insert** "(other than an information direction)".

58D Application and operation of directions etc.

In section 7(1) and (2) of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977**, after "direction" **insert** "(other than an information direction)".

58E Provision for compensation to persons complying with directions

In section 8(1) of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977**, after "direction" (where first occurring) **insert** "(other than an information direction)".

58F Section 9 amended

(1) **Insert** the following heading to section 9 of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977**—

"**General offence**".

(2) In section 9(1) of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977**, after "direction" **insert** "(other than an information direction)".

(3) In section 9(2) of the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977**, for "50 penalty units" **substitute** "in the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units and in the case of a body corporate, 2500 penalty units.".'.

AMENDMENT OF LONG TITLE

4. Long title, after "**Restricting Non-disclosure Agreements (Sexual Harassment at Work) Act 2025**" insert ", the **Fuel Emergency Act 1977** to confer a power on the Minister to direct persons to give the Minister information relating to the production, supply, distribution, sale, use or consumption of a fuel and create related offences and to increase the penalty for certain existing offences against that Act".

Amendment circulated by Jaclyn Symes (JS87C)

1. Clause 34, omit this clause.

Amendments circulated by Richard Welch (RW24C)

1. Clause 20, lines 4 to 9, omit all words and expressions on these lines.

2. Clause 34, omit this clause.

3. SAFE FOOD VICTORIA BILL 2026

Amendments circulated by Melina Bath (MB21C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, after line 9 insert—

"(ca) to amend the **Food Act 1984** in relation to the use of certain terms in the advertising, packaging and labelling of certain foods; and".

2. Clause 4, line 28, before "The" insert "(1)".

3. Clause 4, page 4, after line 11 insert—

"(2) Without limiting subsection (1), it is the intention of the Parliament that Victoria's food industry is to be regulated under this Act in a way that—

(a) ensures a level of food safety that is not less than the level of food safety that was provided for by the laws under which that industry was regulated before the commencement of this Act; and

(b) supports that industry to no lesser degree than it was supported, before the commencement of this Act, under the laws referred to in paragraph (a).".

4. Clause 14, after line 11 insert—

"(1A) In appointing persons as members of the Board under subsection (1), the Minister must ensure that for each of the following industries the Board includes one person who has substantial experience in that industry and who is appointed in respect of that industry—

(a) the dairy industry;

(b) the meat and livestock industry;

(c) the seafood industry;

(d) the horticulture industry;

(e) the egg industry.

(1B) A person may not be appointed in respect of more than one industry specified in subsection (1A).

(1C) In appointing persons as members of the Board under subsection (1), the Minister must ensure that the Board includes one person who—

(a) resides in rural or regional Victoria; and

(b) has experience in food production in rural or regional Victoria.".

5. Clause 14, after line 28 insert—

"(4) A member of the Board appointed in accordance with subsection (1C) does not cease to hold office as a member by reason only of the fact that the member no longer resides in rural or regional Victoria.

(5) In this section—

rural or regional Victoria has the same meaning as it has in section 3(1) of the **Regional Development Victoria Act 2002**.".

6. Clause 25, page 15, line 10, before "appoint any person" insert "subject to subsection (2B),".

7. Clause 25, page 15, after line 14 insert—

"(2A) In establishing consultative committees under subsection (2), the Board must establish—

(a) a consultative committee in respect of the dairy industry; and

(b) a consultative committee in respect of the meat and livestock industry; and

(c) a consultative committee in respect of the seafood industry; and

(d) a consultative committee in respect of the horticulture industry; and

(e) a consultative committee in respect of the egg industry.

(2B) In appointing persons as members of a consultative committee established in accordance with subsection (2A), the Board must ensure that at least a majority of the members of that committee have substantial experience in the industry in respect of which the consultative committee is established.".

8. Clause 25, page 15, after line 16 insert—

"(3A) In referring a matter to a consultative committee under subsection (3), the Board must—

(a) if the matter relates to the dairy industry, refer the matter to the consultative committee established in accordance with subsection (2A)(a); and

(b) if the matter relates to the meat and livestock industry, refer the matter to the consultative committee established in accordance with subsection (2A)(b); and

(c) if the matter relates to the seafood industry, refer the matter to the consultative committee established in accordance with subsection (2A)(c); and

(d) if the matter relates to the horticulture industry, refer the matter to the consultative committee established in accordance with subsection (2A)(d); and

(e) if the matter relates to the egg industry, refer the matter to the consultative committee established in accordance with subsection (2A)(e).".

9. Clause 35, after line 17 insert—

"(ca) the number of inspections undertaken—

(i) during that financial year; and

(ii) under food legislation; and

(iii) by an authorised officer who is—

(A) authorised under section 20(1D) of the **Food Act 1984**; or

(B) appointed under section 43 of the **Dairy and Food Innovation Act 2000**; or

(C) a person who, under the **Meat Industry Act 1993**, is appointed as, or has the powers of an inspector; or

(D) a person who, under the **Meat Industry Act 1993**, is authorised to be an inspector by an inspection service approved under section 7 of that Act;

(cb) the number of occasions during that financial year on which an authorised officer referred to in paragraph (ca)(iii) has given a direction under food legislation to—

(i) ensure compliance with food legislation; or

(ii) address a potential danger to public health;

(cc) the food safety incidents that occurred during that financial year;

(cd) the fees collected by Safe Food Victoria during that financial year;

(ce) trends occurring during that financial year in relation to illnesses, conditions and diseases that are or may be related to food;".

10. Clause 36, line 3, before "Safe" insert "(1)".

11. Clause 36, after line 4 insert—

"(2) The General Fund is to be divided into—

(a) the Dairy and Food Innovation account; and

(b) the Food Act account; and

(c) the Meat Industry account; and

(d) the Seafood Safety account; and

(e) the general account.".

12. Clause 37, lines 6 to 13, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

"(1) There must be paid into the Dairy and Food Innovation account—

(a) all fees received by Safe Food Victoria, or on its behalf, under the **Dairy and Food Innovation Act 2000**; and

(b) any money derived from any investment of the Dairy and Food Innovation account.

(2) There must be paid into the Food Act account—

(a) all fees received by Safe Food Victoria, or on its behalf, under the **Food Act 1984**; and

(b) any money derived from any investment of the Food Act account.

(3) There must be paid into the Meat Industry account—

(a) all fees received by Safe Food Victoria, or on its behalf, under the **Meat Industry Act 1993**; and

(b) any money derived from any investment of the Meat Industry account.

(4) There must be paid into the Seafood Safety account—

(a) all fees received by Safe Food Victoria, or on its behalf, under the **Seafood Safety Act 2003**; and

(b) any money derived from any investment of the Seafood Safety account.

(5) There must be paid into the general account—

(a) all other money received by Safe Food Victoria, or on its behalf, in respect of, or in connection with, the carrying out of its functions, duties or powers under this Act or any other Act; and

(b) any money derived from any investment of the general account.".

13. Clause 38, lines 15 to 30, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

"(1) Safe Food Victoria may pay money out of the Dairy and Food Innovation account—

(a) to enable Safe Food Victoria to carry out its functions in administering the **Dairy and Food Innovation Act 2000**; or

(b) for the remuneration and allowances that are payable to the following persons, and for the expenses incurred by the following persons, in respect of those functions—

(i) members of the Board; and

(ii) the chief executive officer; and

(iii) Safe Food Victoria staff; or

(c) to pay the amounts (if any) payable to consultants, contractors and agents engaged by Safe Food Victoria in respect of those functions; or

(d) to discharge any liabilities that become liabilities of Safe Food Victoria under Part 6.

(2) Safe Food Victoria may pay money out of the Food Act account—

(a) to enable Safe Food Victoria to carry out its functions in administering the **Food Act 1984**; or

(b) for the remuneration and allowances that are payable to the following persons, and for the expenses incurred by the following persons, in respect of those functions—

(i) members of the Board; and

(ii) the chief executive officer; and

(iii) Safe Food Victoria staff; or

(c) to pay the amounts (if any) payable to consultants, contractors and agents engaged by Safe Food Victoria in respect of those functions.

(3) Safe Food Victoria may pay money out the Meat Industry account—

(a) to enable Safe Food Victoria to carry out its functions in administering the **Meat Industry Act 1993**; or

(b) for the remuneration and allowances that are payable to the following persons, and for the expenses incurred by the following persons, in respect of those functions—

(i) members of the Board; and

(ii) the chief executive officer; and

(iii) Safe Food Victoria staff; or

(c) to pay the amounts (if any) payable to consultants, contractors and agents engaged by Safe Food Victoria in respect of those functions; or

(d) to discharge any liabilities that become liabilities of Safe Food Victoria under Part 6.

(4) Safe Food Victoria may pay money out the Seafood Safety account—

(a) to enable Safe Food Victoria to carry out its functions in administering the **Seafood Safety Act 2003**; and

(b) for the remuneration and allowances that are payable to the following persons, and for the expenses incurred by the following persons, in respect of those functions—

(i) members of the Board; and

(ii) the chief executive officer; and

(iii) Safe Food Victoria staff; or

(c) to pay the amounts (if any) payable to consultants, contractors and agents engaged by Safe Food Victoria in respect of those functions; or

(d) to discharge any liabilities that become liabilities of Safe Food Victoria under Part 6.

(5) Safe Food Victoria may pay money out of the general account—

(a) to pay any costs or expenses incurred by Safe Food Victoria in relation to its functions, duties or powers; or

(b) for the remuneration, allowances and expenses of—

(i) members of the Board; and

(ii) the chief executive officer; and

(iii) Safe Food Victoria staff; or

(c) to pay the amounts (if any) payable to consultants, contractors and agents engaged by Safe Food Victoria; or

(d) for any other prescribed purpose.".

NEW CLAUSE

14. Insert the following New Clause before clause 44—

"**43A Review of Act**

(1) For each of the first 3 years in which this Act is in operation, the Minister must cause—

(a) an independent review to be conducted of the operation and effectiveness, during that year, of this Act and the amendments made by this Act; and

(b) a report of that review to be prepared.

(2) A review—

(a) is to be commenced as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the year to which the review relates; and

(b) must examine—

(i) the effectiveness of the regulatory scheme provided for by this Act; and

(ii) the costs imposed on industry under that scheme; and

(iii) the impact of that scheme on food safety; and

(iv) the impact of that scheme relating to accreditations issued for the export of food produced in Victoria; and

(c) is to be completed no later than 3 months after it commences.

(4) The report of a review is to be given to the Minister as soon as practicable after it is completed.

(5) The Minister must cause a copy of the report of a review to be laid before each House of the Parliament no later than 14 sitting days after receiving it.".

15. Clause 54, line 6, omit "General Fund." and insert "Dairy and Food Innovation account.".

16. Clause 62, line 13, before "On" insert "(1)".

17. Clause 62, line 16, omit "General Fund." and insert "Meat Industry account.".

18. Clause 62, after line 16 insert—

"(2) The Safe Food Victoria CEO must determine without delay how much of the money transferred under subsection (1) was collected under, or was held for the purposes of, the **Seafood Safety Act 2003** before the commencement day.

(3) The Safe Food Victoria CEO must transfer without delay the amount of money determined under subsection (2) from the Meat Industry account to the Seafood Safety account.".

19. Clause 82, lines 28 to 30, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

'"***declared food*** means—

(a) any food or class of food that—

(i) is permitted for sale under Part 1.5 of the Food Standards Code; and

(ii) is not meat regulated under the **Meat Industry Act 1993**; and

(iii) is not seafood regulated under the **Seafood Safety Act 2003**; and

(iv) is prescribed by the regulations; or

Note

Special provisions apply to the making of regulations for the purposes of this paragraph—see section 61(1A).

(b) meat that is cell-cultured food (within the meaning of Standard 1.1.2 of the Food Standards Code);'.

20. Clause 85, omit this clause.

NEW CLAUSES

21. Insert the following New Clauses to follow clause 110—

'**110A Regulations**

After section 61(1) of the **Dairy Act 2000 insert**—

"(1A) The Minister may recommend the making of regulations for prescribing food or a class of food for the purposes of paragraph (a)(iv) of the definition of ***declared food*** in section 3 only if the Minister is satisfied that the food or class of food—

(a) has not traditionally been produced or processed for human consumption in Victoria; or

(b) is to be produced or processed using new technologies.".

110B New section 62 inserted

After section 61 of the **Dairy Act 2000 insert**—

"**62 Disallowance of certain regulations**

(1) Regulations for or with respect to prescribing food or a class of food for the purposes of paragraph (a)(iv) of the definition of ***declared food*** in section 3 are subject to disallowance by a House of Parliament.

(2) If a regulation is disallowed by a House of Parliament under subsection (1), no regulation which is the same in substance as the disallowed

regulation may be made within 6 months after the date of the disallowance, unless—

(a) if the regulation was disallowed by one House of Parliament, that House approves the making of a regulation the same in substance as the disallowed regulation; or

(b) if the regulation was disallowed by both Houses of Parliament, each House approves the making of a regulation the same in substance as the disallowed regulation.

(3) Any regulation made in contravention of subsection (2) is void and of no effect.".'.

NEW CLAUSE

22. Insert the following new Subdivision after Subdivision 2 of Division 2 of Part 7—

'Subdivision 2A—Restrictions related to use of certain dairy and meat terminology

171A False descriptions of food

After section 17A(2) of the **Food Act 1984 insert**—

"(3) Without limiting subsection (1), food is falsely described for the purposes of sections 13(1), 13(2) and 13(3) if—

(a) a protected dairy term is used in the advertising, packaging or labelling of the food and—

(i) the food is neither milk nor directly derived from milk; and

(ii) the advertisement, packaging or labelling does not—

(A) include the description "plant-based beverage" or "dairy alternative beverage" in at least the same font size as the font size of the protected dairy term; and

(B) comply with any other requirement prescribed by the regulations; or

(c) a protected meat term is used in the advertising, packaging or labelling of the food and—

(i) the food is not, and does not contain, meat from a consumable animal or cell-cultivated meat; and

(ii) the advertisement, packaging or labelling does not—

(A) include the description "plant-based imitation product" in at least the same font size as the font size of the protected meat term; and

(B) comply with any other requirement prescribed by the regulations; or

(d) a protected meat term is used in the advertising, packaging or labelling of the food and—

(i) the food is or contains cell-cultivated meat; and

(ii) the advertisement, packaging or labelling does not—

(A) include the description "cell-cultivated meat" or "lab-grown meat" in at least the same font size as the font size of the protected meat term; and

(B) comply with any other requirement prescribed by the regulations.

(4) In this section—

cell-cultivated meat means meat that is cell-cultured food (within the meaning of Standard 1.1.2 of the Food Standards Code)

meat from a consumable animal—

(a) has the same meaning that it has in section 3(1) of the **Meat Industry Act 1993**; and

(b) does not include cell-cultivated meat.

milk has the same meaning as it has in section 3 of the **Dairy and Food Innovation Act 2000**;

protected dairy term means any of the following terms—

(a) milk;

(b) cream;

(c) butter;

(d) cheese;

(e) yogurt;

(f) any other term prescribed to be a protected dairy term for the purposes of this definition;

protected meat term means any of the following terms—

(a) meat;

(b) beef;

(c) lamb;

(d) pork;

(c) chicken;

(f) bacon;

(g) steak;

(h) sausage;

(i) any other term prescribed to be a protected meat term for the purposes of this definition.".'.

Amendment circulated by Georgie Purcell (GP23C)

1. Clause 14, after line 21 insert—

"(fa) animal welfare;".