



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
60TH PARLIAMENT
Nos. 156, 157 and 158

No. 156 — Tuesday, 3 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 a Message from the Governor informing the Council that she had, on 24 February 2026, given the Royal Assent to the following Acts presented to her by the Clerk of the Parliaments:

Health Safeguards for People Born with Variations in Sex Characteristics Act 2026
Justice Legislation Amendment (Vicarious Liability for Child Abuse) 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 — On the motion of Evan Mulholland, the answers given by Harriet Shing to questions relating to Suburban Rail Loop sub-contractors (QwN 1239) were ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

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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:

- **Victims of Crime Commissioner (QwN 1240)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Rachel Payne — response from Enver Erdogan due Thursday, 5 March 2026.
- **ISIS brides resettlement (QwN 1241)** — substantive question asked by Georgie Crozier — response from Ingrid Stitt due Thursday, 5 March 2026.

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

4 PETITIONS —

PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLIST SAFETY ON MORELAND ROAD — Anasina Gray-Barberio presented a petition bearing 864 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to implement reduced speed limits, protected bike lanes, more signalised pedestrian crossings throughout the length of Moreland Road and a safe and well-lit connection across Merri Creek where Moreland Road meets Normanby Avenue (*Ordered to be tabled*).

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RETAIN MARYBOROUGH VICROADS SERVICES — Bev McArthur presented a petition bearing 2,336 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to ensure that all services currently provided by the Maryborough VicRoads remain and that the new funding model is reversed (*Ordered to be tabled*).

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

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SELECT COMMITTEE ON FIRE SERVICES FUNDING AND RESOURCES — Nick McGowan presented a petition bearing 12,994 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to establish a Select Committee to inquire into, consider and report by 28 July 2026 on fire services funding and resources, including (a) CFA and Fire Rescue Victoria fire appliances; (b) the distribution of the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund and its predecessor to fund fire agencies and expenditure on matters other than operational; (c) mandatory requirements on the Government to provide monies to fire agencies; (d) the effectiveness of, and transparency around, current budget setting processes for fire agencies, additional funding, grant request processes for fleet replacement; (e) compliance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*; (f) the mental health impacts from fires; (g) the impacts on livestock, farmers, industry and insurance; (h) implementation of recommendations from the 2009 Royal Commission and other inquiries; and (i) recruitment and retention of volunteers (*Ordered to be tabled*).

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

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STOP FURTHER CHANGES TO GUN LAWS — Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell presented a petition bearing 25,552 signatures from certain citizens of Victoria requesting that the Legislative Council call on the Government to halt the proposed changes to gun legislation and push for tougher measures against non-Australian citizens who do not have the same opinion as Australian citizens and do not want to participate in the country's values and freedoms (*Ordered to be tabled*).

The petition having received the required number of signatures, Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell listed the petition for future debate during Petitions (qualifying for debate).

5 INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AMENDMENT (FOLLOW THE MONEY) BILL 2026 — Evan Mulholland introduced *A Bill for an Act to amend the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011 to expand the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission's jurisdiction and provide further for public hearings and for other purposes.*

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

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. 3 of 2026 (including Appendices) from the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee (*Ordered to be published*).

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ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE — Pursuant to Standing Order 23.22, Ryan Batchelor tabled a Report on the Inquiry into community consultation practices (including an Appendix and Extracts of Proceedings) from the Environment and Planning Committee, and presented Transcripts of Evidence (*Transcripts of Evidence ordered to be tabled and the Report published*).

Ryan Batchelor 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:

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 — Education and Care Services National Further Amendment Regulations 2025, under section 303 of the Act.

Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 — Notice under section 32(3)(a)(iii) in relation to Statutory Rule No. 145/2025 (*Gazette G8, 19 February 2026*).

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

Alpine, Alpine Resorts, Ararat, Ballarat, Banyule, Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Bayside, Benalla, Boroondara, Brimbank, Buloke, Campaspe, Cardinia, Casey, Central Goldfields, Colac Otway, Corangamite, East Gippsland, Frankston, French Island and Sandstone Island, Gannawarra, Glen Eira, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Greater Dandenong, Greater Geelong, Hepburn, Hindmarsh, Hobsons Bay, Horsham, Hume, Indigo, Kingston, Knox, Latrobe, Loddon, Macedon Ranges, Manningham, Mansfield, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Merri-bek, Mildura, Mitchell, Moira, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moorabool, Mornington Peninsula, Mount Alexander, Moyne, Murrindindi, Nillumbik, Northern Grampians, Port of Melbourne, Queenscliffe, South Gippsland, Southern Grampians, Stonnington, Strathbogie, Surf Coast, Swan Hill, Towong, Wangaratta, Warrnambool, Wellington, West Wimmera, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wodonga, Wyndham, Yarra, Yarra Ranges and Yarriambiack Planning Schemes — Amendment GC269.

Frankston Planning Scheme — Amendment C148.

Moonee Valley Planning Scheme — Amendment C240.

Yarra Planning Scheme — Amendment C333.

Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament —

Conservation, Forest and Lands Act 1987 — No. 13.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 — No. 9.

Road Safety Act 1986 — Nos. 11 and 12.

Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983 — No. 10.

Unclaimed Money Act 2008 — No. 8.

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 —

Documents under section 15 in relation to Statutory Rule Nos. 5, 7, 8, 9 and 11.

Legislative instrument and related documents under section 16B in respect of the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice Amendment 2026 under the Essential Services Commission Act 2001.

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

President's Report on overdue government responses to standing committee reports, as at 28 February 2026.

Response from the Attorney-General to petition titled Legalise the purchase and use of pepper spray (petition No. 674) (presented by David Limbrick on 3 February 2026) (*released on 2 March 2026*).

7 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS —

CFA BOARD STATEMENT — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 18 February 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 4 February 2026 (on the motion of Bev McArthur), relating to the CFA Board statement, 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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WITHDRAWAL OF COMPRESSED NATURAL GAS — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 18 February 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 4 February 2026 (on the motion of David Davis), relating to the withdrawal of compressed natural gas, advising that there was insufficient time to respond and that a final response to the Order would be provided as soon as possible.

8 BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL — Bev McArthur moved, by leave, That the following general business take precedence on Wednesday, 4 March 2026 —

- (1) order of the day made this day, second reading of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Follow the Money) Bill 2026;
- (2) notice of motion given this day by Bev McArthur on small businesses;
- (3) order of the day No. 6, resumption of debate on the second reading of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Ending Political Corruption) Bill 2024;
- (4) notice of motion given this day by Sarah Mansfield on implementing the recommendations of the Integrity and Oversight Committee's Inquiry into the operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*; and
- (5) notice of motion given this day by David Davis referring matters relating to the funding of integrity agencies to the Integrity and Oversight Committee.

Question — put and agreed to.

9 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP — David Limbrick moved, by leave, That David Limbrick be a participating member of the Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee.

Question — put and agreed to.

10 MEMBERS' STATEMENTS — Members made statements.

11 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1287, be postponed until later this day.

12 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AMENDMENT (SUPPORTING STABLE AND STRONG FAMILIES) BILL 2025 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Anasina Gray-Barberio (AG26C) 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.

13 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AMENDMENT (STABILITY) BILL 2025 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Anasina Gray-Barberio (AG05C) 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.

[Sitting suspended from 6.29 pm to 7.31 pm]

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.

14 CRIMES AMENDMENT BILL 2026 — The Deputy President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Crimes Act 1958 to make further provision in relation to who can commence a prosecution for an offence against section 195N(1) or 195O(1) of that Act and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Lizzie Blandthorn (for Enver Erdogan), the Bill was read a first time.

Pursuant to Standing Order 14.35, Lizzie Blandthorn declared the Bill to be an urgent bill and moved, That the Bill be treated as an urgent bill.

Question — put and agreed to.

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

Lizzie Blandthorn moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Lizzie Blandthorn incorporated the second reading speech in Hansard.

On the motion of David Davis, the debate was adjourned until the next day of meeting.

15 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of order of the day, government business, No. 3, be postponed until later this day.

16 ENERGY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RESILIENCE REFORMS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

David Davis (*DD194C*) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

On the motion of Gaelle Broad, the debate was adjourned until the next day of meeting.

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

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 9.40 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 157 — Wednesday, 4 March 2026

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

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

Auditor-General — Major Projects Performance Reporting 2025, March 2026 (*Ordered to be published*).

Major Events Act 2009 — Major Sporting Event Order for the Formula 1 Australian Grands Prix 2026 to 2030, dated of 3 March 2026, under section 22 of the Act.

3 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — GREATER AVALON EMPLOYMENT PRECINCT — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 2 March 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 18 February 2026 (on the motion of Sarah Mansfield), relating to the Greater Avalon Employment Precinct, 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 INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AMENDMENT (FOLLOW THE MONEY) BILL 2026 — Evan Mulholland laid on the Table the statement of compatibility as required by the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Evan Mulholland moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

On the motion of Lee Tarlamis, the debate was adjourned for two weeks.

6 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — ISIS BRIDES — Evan Mulholland moved, That this House —

(1) notes that it has been reported that —

(a) most of the 11 so-called ISIS brides and their 23 children returning from Syria will be resettling in Victoria;

- (b) the Premier, Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, has admitted that the Government has known about the group's possible return as far back as September 2025;
- (2) requires the Leader of the Government, in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, to table in the Council, within three weeks of the House agreeing to this resolution, in full and unredacted —
 - (a) all briefs and correspondence between the Premier and the Department of Premier and Cabinet relating to the resettlement of ISIS brides; and
 - (b) all briefs and correspondence received from the Commonwealth Government relating to the resettlement of ISIS brides.

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 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — REVIEW OF WATER-USE POLICIES FOR LARGE INDUSTRIAL USERS — David Ettershank moved, That this House —

- (1) notes that —
 - (a) the recent announcement of the Government's intention to ruthlessly attract more data centres to Victoria has raised concerns about the strain this will place on the State's energy system and water resources;
 - (b) the Government is fast-tracking planning approval for data centres with little or no sustainability or planning policies in place for them;
 - (c) local councils are seeing data centre companies seeking ministerial approval in order to bypass local council approval;
 - (d) on 17 February 2026, the Minister for Water stated that "An expert review is being undertaken by DEECA [Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action] with VicWater, the industry peak body, to ensure existing water-use policies for large industrial users, including data centres, keep pace with this rapidly emerging sector";
- (2) requires the Leader of the Government, in accordance with Standing Order 10.01, to table in the Council, within 30 days of the House agreeing to this resolution, documents relating to the expert review, including —
 - (a) correspondence from the relevant minister to DEECA and VicWater instructing these agencies to undertake the review;
 - (b) the terms of reference for the review;
 - (c) any interim reports; and
 - (d) the reporting date for the final report of the review.

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.

8 SMALL BUSINESSES — Bev McArthur moved, That this House —

- (1) notes that —
 - (a) small businesses across Victoria face escalating pressures including rising taxes, soaring energy costs, regulatory burden and increasing retail theft in shopping strips and town centres;

- (b) the Business Council of Australia Regulation Rumble 2025 again ranks Victoria last in the nation for cost and regulatory burden, while nearly 40 per cent of surveyed regional business have experienced their worst performance in history over the last six months according to Victorian Regional Chamber Alliance's Business Health Survey Report October 2025;
- (c) the Allan Labor Government has now confirmed it will spend approximately \$40 million of taxpayers' money defending a class action brought by around 16,000 small businesses;
- (d) the Government has reportedly paid approximately \$2.8 million to a California-based economist, engaged at rates of about \$US950 per hour, to argue that affected businesses should have insured themselves against pandemic losses, that compensation would create a "moral hazard", and that lockdowns were economically beneficial for many traders, a proposition widely regarded by small business owners as bizarre, insulting and dismissive of their experience;
- (e) small and medium businesses are the backbone of communities across metropolitan and regional Victoria and employ the overwhelming majority of Victorians;
- (2) expresses its regret that, at a time of mounting pressure on small enterprises, the Government has prioritised significant non-Victorian legal and consultancy expenditure over practical support; and
- (3) calls on the Government to restore conditions in which small businesses can operate with confidence, fairness and security.

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.

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ANSWERS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION — On the motion of David Davis, the answers given by Harriet Shing to questions relating to the public housing waiting list (QwN 1250) were ordered to be taken into consideration on the next day of meeting.

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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:

- **Rochester outdoor pool (QwN 1245)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell — response from Gayle Tierney due Friday, 6 March 2026.
- **Victoria Police use of less-lethal weapons (QwN 1251)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Katherine Copsey — response from Enver Erdogan due Friday, 6 March 2026.

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

10 SMALL BUSINESSES — Debate continued on the question, That this House —

(1) notes that —

- (a) small businesses across Victoria face escalating pressures including rising taxes, soaring energy costs, regulatory burden and increasing retail theft in shopping strips and town centres;
 - (b) the Business Council of Australia Regulation Rumble 2025 again ranks Victoria last in the nation for cost and regulatory burden, while nearly 40 per cent of surveyed regional business have experienced their worst performance in history over the last six months according to Victorian Regional Chamber Alliance's Business Health Survey Report October 2025;
 - (c) the Allan Labor Government has now confirmed it will spend approximately \$40 million of taxpayers' money defending a class action brought by around 16,000 small businesses;
 - (d) the Government has reportedly paid approximately \$2.8 million to a California-based economist, engaged at rates of about \$US950 per hour, to argue that affected businesses should have insured themselves against pandemic losses, that compensation would create a "moral hazard", and that lockdowns were economically beneficial for many traders, a proposition widely regarded by small business owners as bizarre, insulting and dismissive of their experience;
 - (e) small and medium businesses are the backbone of communities across metropolitan and regional Victoria and employ the overwhelming majority of Victorians;
- (2) expresses its regret that, at a time of mounting pressure on small enterprises, the Government has prioritised significant non-Victorian legal and consultancy expenditure over practical support; and
- (3) calls on the Government to restore conditions in which small businesses can operate with confidence, fairness and security.

Question — 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 negated.

11 INDEPENDENT BROAD-BASED ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION AMENDMENT (ENDING POLITICAL CORRUPTION) BILL 2024 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Katherine Copsey (*KC70C, KC75C and KC76C*) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

On the motion of Sonja Terpstra, the debate was adjourned until the next day of meeting.

12 BUSINESS POSTPONED — Ordered — That the consideration of notice of motion, general business, No. 1304, be postponed until the next day of meeting.

13 INTEGRITY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE — FUNDING OF INTEGRITY AGENCIES — David Davis moved, That this House requires the Integrity and Oversight Committee to inquire into, consider and report, as soon as practicable given the State Budget is scheduled to be delivered on 5 May 2026, on the adequacy of the annual budget for the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, the Ombudsman and Integrity Oversight Victoria, and requires the Committee in undertaking and reporting on this inquiry to —

- (1) hold public hearings with the agencies listed in this referral;
- (2) provide advice on what settings are appropriate for the funding of these agencies in the 2026-27 State Budget; and
- (3) provide advice on the likely consequences if the funding provided by the Government is inadequate.

Debate ensued.

Ryan Batchelor moved, as amendments —

1. Before paragraph (1), **omit** “as soon as practicable given the State Budget is scheduled to be delivered on” and **insert** in their place “by”.
2. In paragraph (1), after “referral;” **insert** “and”.
3. In paragraph (2), **omit** “Budget; and” and **insert** in their place “Budget.”.
4. **Omit** paragraph (3).

Debate ensued.

Question — That the amendments moved by Ryan Batchelor be agreed to — put and agreed to.

Question — That the motion, amended as follows, be agreed to — That this House requires the Integrity and Oversight Committee to inquire into, consider and report, by 5 May 2026, on the adequacy of the annual budget for the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission, the Ombudsman and Integrity Oversight Victoria, and requires the Committee in undertaking and reporting on this inquiry to —

- (1) hold public hearings with the agencies listed in this referral; and
- (2) provide advice on what settings are appropriate for the funding of these agencies in the 2026-27 State Budget — put and agreed to.

14 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.

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

- 16 PETITIONS (QUALIFYING FOR DEBATE) — COLORECTAL AND PELVIC RECONSTRUCTION SERVICE AT THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL** — Bev McArthur moved, That the petition be taken into consideration.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 17 BUSINESS POSTPONED** — Ordered — That the consideration of notices of motion, government business, Nos. 278 to 1287, be postponed until later this day.

- 18 ENERGY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RESILIENCE REFORMS AND OTHER MATTERS) 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.

- 19 ADJOURNMENT** — Gayle Tierney moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 7.35 pm until tomorrow.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

No. 158 — Thursday, 5 March 2026

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

2 PAPERS —

COMMITTEE REPORT — ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE — Pursuant to Standing Order 23.22, Ryan Batchelor tabled a Report on the Inquiry into climate resilience (including an Appendix, Extracts of Proceedings and Minority Reports) from the Environment and Planning Committee, a replacement for the copy tabled on Tuesday, 12 August 2025 (*Ordered to be published*).

Ryan Batchelor moved, That the Council take note of the Report.

Question — put and agreed to.

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PAPER PRESENTED UNDER AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT — The Clerk tabled the following paper:

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005 — Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards scheme — Report, 2024-25.

- 3 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS — CORRUPTION IN THE CFMEU** — The Clerk tabled a letter from the Attorney-General, dated 4 March 2026, in response to a resolution of the Council on 18 February 2026 (on the motion of David Davis), relating to corruption in the CFMEU, advising that there was insufficient time to respond and that a final response to the Order would be provided as soon as possible.

- 4 ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE — EXTENSION TO REPORTING DATE — INQUIRY INTO THE 2026 SUMMER FIRES ACROSS VICTORIA** — Ryan Batchelor moved, by leave, That the reporting date for the Environment and Planning Committee's Inquiry into the 2026 summer fires across Victoria be extended to 28 July 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 5 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP** — Gayle Tierney moved, by leave, That Sheena Watt be a participating member of the Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee.

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 1322, be postponed until later this day.

- 8 **ENERGY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RESILIENCE REFORMS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026** — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Ingrid Stitt (*IS27C*) circulated amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole.

Question — 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, 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)

Question agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

The President ruled certain amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole by David Davis (*DD194C*) are outside the scope of the Bill.

David Davis moved, That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have the power to consider amendments and a New Clause to amend the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* to impose on electricity retailers, by statutory licence condition, a requirement to itemise on the first electricity bill of a customer issued in a calendar year, the proportion of that customer's charges (and the amount of that proportion) referable to amounts paid by a transmission company to VicGrid for payment into the Traditional Owners Fund, or to traditional owners or certain traditional owner entities, that the transmission company recovers through its charges.

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.

The President ruled certain amendments proposed to be moved during Committee of the whole by Ingrid Stitt (*IS27C*) are outside the scope of the Bill.

Ingrid Stitt moved, That it be an instruction to the Committee that they have the power to consider amendments and a New Clause to amend the *Electricity Industry Act 2000* to make further provision in relation to the compulsory acquisition of easements which are, or may be, required for the purposes of erecting or laying power lines (or both) and maintaining power lines.

Question — put and agreed to.

Bill committed to a Committee of the whole.

House in Committee.

Business interrupted at 12.00 noon.

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:

- **Greyhound welfare (QwN 1255)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Georgie Purcell — response from Enver Erdogan due Tuesday, 10 March 2026.
- **1080 poison baiting program (QwN 1258)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Jeff Bourman — response from Gayle Tierney due Tuesday, 10 March 2026.
- **'Just in case' forensic examinations funding (QwN 1260)** — substantive and supplementary questions asked by Anasina Gray-Barberio — response from Ingrid Stitt due Friday, 6 March 2026.

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CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS — Members asked constituency questions.

10 ENERGY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RESILIENCE REFORMS AND OTHER MATTERS) BILL 2026 — Bill further considered in Committee of the whole.

Bill reported with amendments, 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, 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, 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)

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.

11 CRIMES AMENDMENT BILL 2026 — Debate resumed on the question, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 31

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; 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)

NOES, 8

Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio; David Limbrick; 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)

Question agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Enver Erdogan moved, by leave, That the Bill be now read a third time and do pass.

Question — put.

The Council divided — The President in the Chair.

AYES, 31

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; 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)

NOES, 8

Katherine Copsey; David Ettershank; Anasina Gray-Barberio; David Limbrick; 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)

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.

- 12 SESSIONAL ORDER — VARIATION OF SCOPE OF ORDERS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS** — Sonja Terpstra (for Lizzie Blandthorn) moved, That until the end of the Session, unless otherwise ordered by the Council, the following Sessional Order be adopted, to come into operation at the end of the sitting week:

X. Variation of scope of orders for the production of documents

After Standing Order 10.01 insert:

- (1) The Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, may write to the Clerk at any time up to and including the seventh day prior to the date for the return of documents and request that the scope of an order be varied.
- (2) A request to vary the scope of an order for the production of documents must include reasons why the scope of the order should be varied, which may include but are not limited to —
 - (a) why the timeframe for the production of the documents cannot be met; and/or
 - (b) why the terms of the order are likely to result in the production of a large number of documents reasonably believed to be irrelevant to the intent of the order for documents.
- (3) The Clerk will provide the request and any accompanying documents to the President and the member who moved the original order for documents. The Clerk will advise all members and publish notification that a request has been received.
- (4) When a request under this Sessional Order is received —
 - (a) the original order and the date for return of documents is suspended; and
 - (b) if —
 - (i) the request is rejected, the original order stands and the documents ordered are to be produced to the House by the original due date, or if that date has passed, within a further seven calendar days, and the Clerk will advise all members and publish any correspondence received relating to the rejection;

- (ii) agreement is not reached within 14 calendar days, the original order stands and the documents ordered are to be produced to the House by the original due date, or if that date has passed, within a further seven calendar days, and the Clerk will advise all members and publish notification that the request has lapsed;
 - (iii) an agreement is reached between the member and the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, and is certified by the President, the Clerk will advise all members and publish the terms of the agreement, the President's certification, and any correspondence received relating to the agreement.
- (5) On the next sitting day, at the start of formal business, the President will report the agreement to the House and table all relevant documents.
 - (6) The President will then propose the question to the House "That the varied terms of the order be agreed to". This question may not be amended or debated except for the member who moved the original order and a Minister may make a statement of up to 5 minutes each.
 - (7) If the question is resolved in the negative, the original order remains in force.

Debate ensued.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 13 SITTING OF THE COUNCIL** — Gayle Tierney moved, That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday, 17 March 2026.

Question — put and agreed to.

- 14 EDUCATION AND TRAINING REFORM AMENDMENT (FREE TAFE GUARANTEE) BILL 2026** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 in relation to the TAFE network, to guarantee the provision of certain courses of vocational education and training free of tuition fee, to provide for the TAFE Funding Guarantee and for other purposes* and requesting the agreement of the Council.

On the motion of Gayle Tierney, 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 Evan Mulholland, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 15 ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL 2025** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act 2002 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 Evan Mulholland, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 16 NATIONAL GAS (VICTORIA) AMENDMENT BILL 2025** — The President read a Message from the Assembly presenting *A Bill for an Act to amend the National Gas (Victoria) Act 2008 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 Evan Mulholland, the debate was adjourned for one week.

- 17 ENERGY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (RESILIENCE REFORMS AND OTHER MATTERS) 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.

- 18 ADJOURNMENT** — Gayle Tierney moved, That the House do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

The Council adjourned at 6.35 pm until Tuesday, 17 March 2026.

ROBERT McDONALD
Clerk of the Legislative Council

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE COUNCIL

Supplement to Minutes Nos. 156, 157 and 158

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

Committed Tuesday, 3 March 2026

Amendments circulated: Anasina Gray-Barberio (AG26C) (p. 1493)

Clauses 1 to 3 — put and agreed to.

Clause 4 — Anasina Gray-Barberio moved amendment No. 1 (AG26C).

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

Anasina Gray-Barberio moved amendment Nos. 2 and 3 (AG26C).

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put and negatived.

Anasina Gray-Barberio moved amendment Nos. 4 and 5 (AG26C).

Question — That the amendments be agreed to — put and negatived.

Clause 4 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 8 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

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CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AMENDMENT (STABILITY) BILL 2025

Committed Tuesday, 3 March 2026

Amendments circulated: Anasina Gray-Barberio (AG05C) (pp. 1493-4)

Clause 1 — Anasina Gray-Barberio moved amendment No. 1 (AG05C).

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

Anasina Gray-Barberio moved amendment No. 2 (AG05C).

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

Clause 1 — put and agreed to.

Clauses 2 to 17 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported without amendment.

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

Committed Thursday, 5 March 2026

Amendments circulated: David Davis (DD194C) (pp. 1495-6) and Ingrid Stitt (IS27C) (p. 1496)

Clause 1 — Ingrid Stitt moved amendment No. 1 (IS27C).

Question — That the amendment be agreed to — put.

The Committee divided — The Deputy President in the Chair.

AYES, 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)

NOES, 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)

Question agreed to.

David Davis moved amendment No. 1 (DD194C).

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

David Davis moved amendment No. 2 (DD194C).

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

Clause 1, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clause 2 — Ingrid Stitt moved amendment No. 2 (IS27C).

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

Clause 2, as amended — put and agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 12 — put and agreed to.

New Clause 12A — Ingrid Stitt moved amendment No. 3 (IS27C).

Question — That New Clause 12A stand part of the Bill — put and agreed to.

Clauses 13 to 34 — put and agreed to.

Bill reported with amendments.

AMENDMENTS CIRCULATED IN RELATION TO —**1. CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AMENDMENT (SUPPORTING STABLE AND STRONG FAMILIES) BILL 2025***Amendments circulated by Anasina Gray-Barberio (AG26C)*

1. Clause 4, page 10, lines 9 to 13, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—
"SSSF Group, a SSSF partner must—
 - (i) make all efforts to demonstrate compliance with the recognition principles; and
 - (ii) actively enable the right of Aboriginal children to develop and maintain a connection with their family, community, culture, Country and language;"
2. Clause 4, page 13, before line 1, insert—
"(4) For the purposes of preparing a SSSF plan, a SSSF partner who is a Minister must consult the First Peoples' Assembly and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, including in relation to how the First Peoples' Assembly and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People will assess the performance of actions of the SSSF partner under the SSSF plan in relation to Aboriginal children and families."
3. Clause 4, page 13, line 1, omit "(4)" and insert "(5)".
4. Clause 4, page 16, line 28, omit "areas)." and insert "areas); and".
5. Clause 4, page 16, after line 28 insert—
"(c) include assessments made by the First Peoples' Assembly and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in relation to whether the SSSF partner is meeting their responsibilities to Aboriginal children and their families through the performance of actions under the SSSF plan."

2. CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES AMENDMENT (STABILITY) BILL 2025*Amendments circulated by Anasina Gray-Barberio (AG05C)*

1. Clause 1, lines 5 to 6, omit "and the extension of that order".
2. Clause 1, after line 6 insert—
 - "(ab) to enable permanent care orders to provide for contact with a child's parent more than 4 times a year if it is in the best interests of the child; and
 - (ac) to enable the variation of care by Secretary orders and the conditions of those orders; and"

3. Clause 8, omit this clause.

NEW CLAUSE

4. Insert the following New Clause before clause 9—

"8A Section 276A repealed

Section 276A of the Principal Act is **repealed**."

5. Clause 10, lines 18 to 32 and page 4, lines 1 to 20, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert—

'For section 287A of the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005** substitute—

"287A Determining the period of a family reunification order

The Court may determine that the period of a family reunification order is any period that the Court considers to be in the best interests of the child.".'

6. Clause 11, omit this clause.

7. Clause 12, omit this clause.

8. Clause 14, lines 21 to 22, omit "a period of up to 12 months" and insert "any period that the Court considers to be in the best interests of the child".

NEW CLAUSES

9. Insert the following New Clauses after clause 14—

'14A Application of Division

After section 299(a) of the Principal Act **insert**—

"(ab) a care by Secretary order;".

14B Permanent care order

In section 321(1)(d) of the Principal Act **omit** "which may provide for contact up to 4 times a year".'

10. Clause 15, omit this clause.

NEW CLAUSE

11. Insert the following New Clause before clause 16—

"15A Content of disposition report

Section 558(ca) of the Principal Act is **repealed**."

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

Amendments circulated by David Davis (DD194C)

1. Clause 1, page 2, lines 16 and 17, omit all words and expressions on these lines.
2. Clause 1, page 2, after line 24 insert—
 - "(ca) to amend the **Electricity Industry Act 2000** to impose on electricity retailers, by statutory licence condition, a requirement to itemise on the first electricity bill of a customer issued in a calendar year, the proportion of that customer's charges (and the amount of that proportion) referable to amounts paid by a transmission company to VicGrid for payment into the Traditional Owners Fund, or to traditional owners or certain traditional owner entities, that the transmission company recovers through its charges; and".
3. Clause 16, omit this clause.
4. Clause 17, omit this clause.
5. Clause 18, omit this clause.
6. Clause 19, omit this clause.

NEW CLAUSE

7. Insert the following New Division after Division 4 of Part 6—

'Division 5—Other amendments to the Electricity Industry Act 2000

33A New section 40EC inserted

After section 40EB of the **Electricity Industry Act 2000** insert—

"40EC Certain amounts payable by customers to be itemised on customer electricity bills

- (1) Without limiting the generality of section 20(2) or (3) or 21, the conditions to which a licence to sell electricity held by a retailer is subject include a condition that the retailer must itemise on the first electricity bill of a customer issued in a calendar year, the proportion of that customer's charges (and the amount of that proportion) referable to amounts—
 - (a) paid by a transmission company in the previous calendar year to—
 - (i) VicGrid for payment into the Traditional Owners Fund; or
 - (ii) traditional owners; or
 - (iii) a Traditional Owner group; or
 - (iv) Gellung Warl; and
 - (b) recovered by a transmission company through its charges as a pass through event or otherwise.

(2) In this section—

Gellung Warl has the same meaning as in the **Statewide Treaty Act 2025**;

pass through event has the meaning given by Chapter 10 of the National Electricity Rules for a transmission determination;

traditional owner means has the same meaning as in the **Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006**;

Traditional Owners Fund means the fund established under section 94 of the **National Electricity (Victoria) Act 2005**;

Traditional Owner group has the same meaning as in the **Statewide Treaty Act 2025**;

transmission determination has the same meaning as in the National Electricity (Victoria) Law.".'.

Amendments circulated by Ingrid Stitt (IS27C)

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

"(ba) to amend the **Electricity Industry Act 2000** to make further provision in relation to the compulsory acquisition of easements which are, or may be, required for the purposes of erecting or laying power lines (or both) and maintaining power lines; and".

2. Clause 2, line 20, after "5," insert "section 12A,".

NEW CLAUSE

3. Insert the following New Clause to follow clause 12—

'12A Power to acquire easements with approval of Governor in Council

(1) In section 86(1) of the **Electricity Industry Act 2000**, after "easement" insert "which is, or may be, required".

(2) After section 86(2) of the **Electricity Industry Act 2000** insert—

"(2A) Nothing in section 8C(1) of the **Environment Effects Act 1978** prevents—

(a) the Governor in Council approving an acquisition of an easement under this section; or

(b) the acquisition of an easement under this section.".'.